# Chapter 5 Public Opinions Reflected in Prefectural Politics

The Hiroshima Prefectural Government has established the following systems so that opinions and suggestions from residents of Hiroshima Prefecture, regardless of their nationality, can be reflected in prefectural politics. Please make use of these systems.

#### (1) Hiroshima Prefectural Government Feedback website

The Hiroshima Prefectural Government Feedback website has been set up to reflect constructive opinions and suggestions from residents of Hiroshima Prefecture in prefectural politics. In principle, replies to the opinions and suggestions that we receive will be sent by the division or office in charge within 10 days from the date of receipt.

For opinions and suggestions related to educational administration and police practices, dedicated pages have been added to the website. There is another page for you to send your opinions and suggestions directly to the division or office in charge. You may also send them by mail, fax or email.

Contact

Branding and Communication Strategy Team, General Affairs Bureau,

Hiroshima Prefectural Government Tel: 082-513-2378

URL: <a href="https://www.pref.hiroshima.lg.jp/soshiki/19/1171540420003.html">https://www.pref.hiroshima.lg.jp/soshiki/19/1171540420003.html</a>

#### (2) Disclosure System for Administrative Documents

The Hiroshima Prefectural Government has established the following system through which information on prefectural politics in written form is disclosed to residents of Hiroshima Prefecture, in order to deepen their understanding of and trust in prefectural politics, and further facilitate their participation in politics.

- $\Diamond \Diamond$  Outline of the system  $\Diamond \Diamond$
- ① Documents/materials subject to disclosure request

Documents, drawings, photographs, and electromagnetic records created or obtained by staff of implementing agencies in the course of their duties and possessed by the agencies for organizational purposes

- 2 Persons/organizations that can request disclosure
   Any person or organization can request the disclosure of administration
- Any person or organization can request the disclosure of administrative documents and materials by implementing agencies.
- ③ How to disclose documents/materials
  Documents and materials are made available for inspection and copying.

## 4 Procedures from disclosure request to disclosure

### A | Contact points for disclosure request

Prefectural Government Administrative Information Corner (1st floor, Prefectural Office South Building) and local administrative organs

## B | How to request disclosure

A person or organization wishing to request disclosure must fill out a disclosure request form and submit it to the relevant contact point. An official seal is not required to make a request. Submission also possible via post or the Hiroshima Prefecture Online Application System.

#### C Determination of disclosure

If documents and materials subject to disclosure contain personal information or other nondisclosure information, a portion of the documents and materials that contain such information cannot be disclosed.

The determination of whether or not the documents and materials are disclosed will be made within 15 days from the date that the request is accepted, and will be notified in writing (Notice of Determination) to the person or organization that made the request. The determination may be delayed for unavoidable reasons.

In the case of disclosure, the date, time, and location of disclosure will be notified. In the case of nondisclosure or delay of determination, the reasons for these results will be notified.

### D Implementation of disclosure

For the implementation of disclosure, the person or organization that made the request must bring the Notice of Determination to the appointed location at the appointed date and time. An official seal is not required.

There is no charge for inspection of the disclosed documents and materials, while there is a fee charged for copying them (10 yen per sheet up to A3 size, black-and-white). Postage will be charged if copies are sent by mail.

For more information on the implementing agencies and procedures of this system, please contact the division below.

In addition, please check the Hiroshima Prefecture website(\*\*).

\*\*Please search "Hiroshima Prefecture request for disclosure of information"[h1] <a href="https://www.pref.hiroshima.lg.jp/soshiki/6/1253773478458.html">https://www.pref.hiroshima.lg.jp/soshiki/6/1253773478458.html</a>

Contact

Information Disclosure Group, General Affairs Division, General Affairs Bureau, Hiroshima Prefectural Government

Tel: 082-513-2380

(\*) For request for the disclosure of administrative documents and materials to the Public Safety Commission and the prefectural police chief, please contact the Information Disclosure Center, Hiroshima Prefectural Police.

#### (3) Disclosure System for Personal Information

The Hiroshima Prefectural Government has established the following system through which personal information (private information) possessed by prefectural organs is disclosed to the person in question.

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#### ① Personal information

Personal information refers to information that pertains to private affairs of an individual and that can identify the particular individual.

Personal information includes all information from which a particular individual can be ascertained, including the person's name, address, date of birth, family status, occupation, and income.

## 2 Personal information subject to disclosure request

Personal information recorded in documents, drawings, and photographs created or received by staff of implementing agencies in the course of their duties and managed by the agencies after the procedures for approval and display are completed, and personal information recorded in magnetic media, such as magnetic tapes and discs, that contain information created or obtained by staff of the agencies in the course of their duties and are managed by the agencies

- ③ Persons who can request disclosure Any person whose personal information is possessed by implementing agencies
- 4 How to disclosure personal information Personal information is made available for inspection and copying.

## ⑤ Procedures from disclosure request to disclosure

A Contact points for disclosure request

Prefectural Government Administrative Information Corner (1st floor, Prefectural Office South Building) and local administrative organs that possess the personal information subject to disclosure

B | How to request disclosure

A person wishing to request disclosure must fill out a disclosure request form and submit it to the relevant contact point. Some form of documentation, such as a driver's license and a health insurance card, proving that the person requesting the disclosure of personal information is the same as the person in question, must also be submitted or presented. A personal seal is not required to make a request.

#### C Determination of disclosure etc.

If personal information subject to disclosure contains other people's personal information or other nondisclosure information, the portion of the personal information that contains such information cannot be disclosed.

The determination of whether or not the personal information is disclosed will be made within 15 days from the date that the request is accepted, and will be notified in writing (Notice of Determination) to the person that made the request. The determination may be delayed for unavoidable reasons.

In the case of disclosure, the date, time, and location of disclosure will be notified. In the case of nondisclosure or delay of determination, the reasons for these results will be notified.

## D Implementation of disclosure

For the implementation of disclosure, the person that made the request must bring the Notice of Determination to the appointed location at the appointed date and time. Some form of documentation, such as a driver's license and a health insurance card, proving that the person requesting the disclosure of personal information is the same as the person in question, must also be submitted or presented. A personal seal is not required.

There is no charge for inspection of the disclosed personal information, while there is a fee charged for copying it (10 yen per sheet up to A3 size, black-and-white).

For more information on the implementing agencies and procedures of this system, please contact the division below.

In addition, please check the Hiroshima Prefecture website (\*).

\*\*Please search "Hiroshima Prefecture request for disclosure of self-information" https://www.pref.hiroshima.lg.jp/soshiki/6/1172054604288.html

Contact

Information Disclosure Group, General Affairs Division, General Affairs Bureau, Hiroshima Prefectural Government

Tel: 082-513-2380

(\*) For request for the disclosure of personal information to the Public Safety Commission and the prefectural police chief, please contact the Information Disclosure Center, Hiroshima Prefectural Police

## (4) Observation of Prefectural Assembly Regular Sessions and Committee Meetings

# ① Observation of regular sessions

Regular sessions of the prefectural assembly are generally held four times a year in February, June, September and December, and special sessions are held as needed. The regular sessions are, in general, open to the public for observation. (Sessions are also broadcast over the internet.)

# ② Observation of regular session records

Meeting minutes that record questions, answers, and views exchanged at prefectural assembly sessions are available for inspection at the Prefectural Government Administrative Information Corner, Archives, Prefectural Library, municipal government offices, Hiroshima City Central Library and other locations. Meeting minutes of the past (from the special session of May 1991) can also be viewed on the website of the Hiroshima Prefectural Assembly.

## ③ Observation of committee meetings

Meetings of standing committees are held during the period of regular sessions of the prefectural assembly and are generally held on the 19th of each month when the regular sessions are closed. Special meetings are also held as needed. The deliberations of these meetings can be viewed via TV monitor in a meeting room on the first floor of the assembly building. (General review meetings of the special committees on budget and on account settlement are also broadcast over the internet.)

#### 4 Petitions and appeals

Petitions and appeals may be submitted to the prefectural assembly to voice your opinions and requests regarding prefectural administration.

The prefectural assembly examines the submitted petitions and appeals from various perspectives and asks executive agencies to take appropriate measures when these petitions and appeals are deemed beneficial to prefectural politics and residents of Hiroshima Prefecture.

Petitions must be submitted through the referral of a prefectural assembly member, while appeals may be submitted without it.

Contact

Proceedings Division, Hiroshima Prefectural Assembly Secretariat

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