

DAVID M. LAWRENCE

Open Meetings

and Local Governments in North Carolina

SOME QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Seventh Edition 2008



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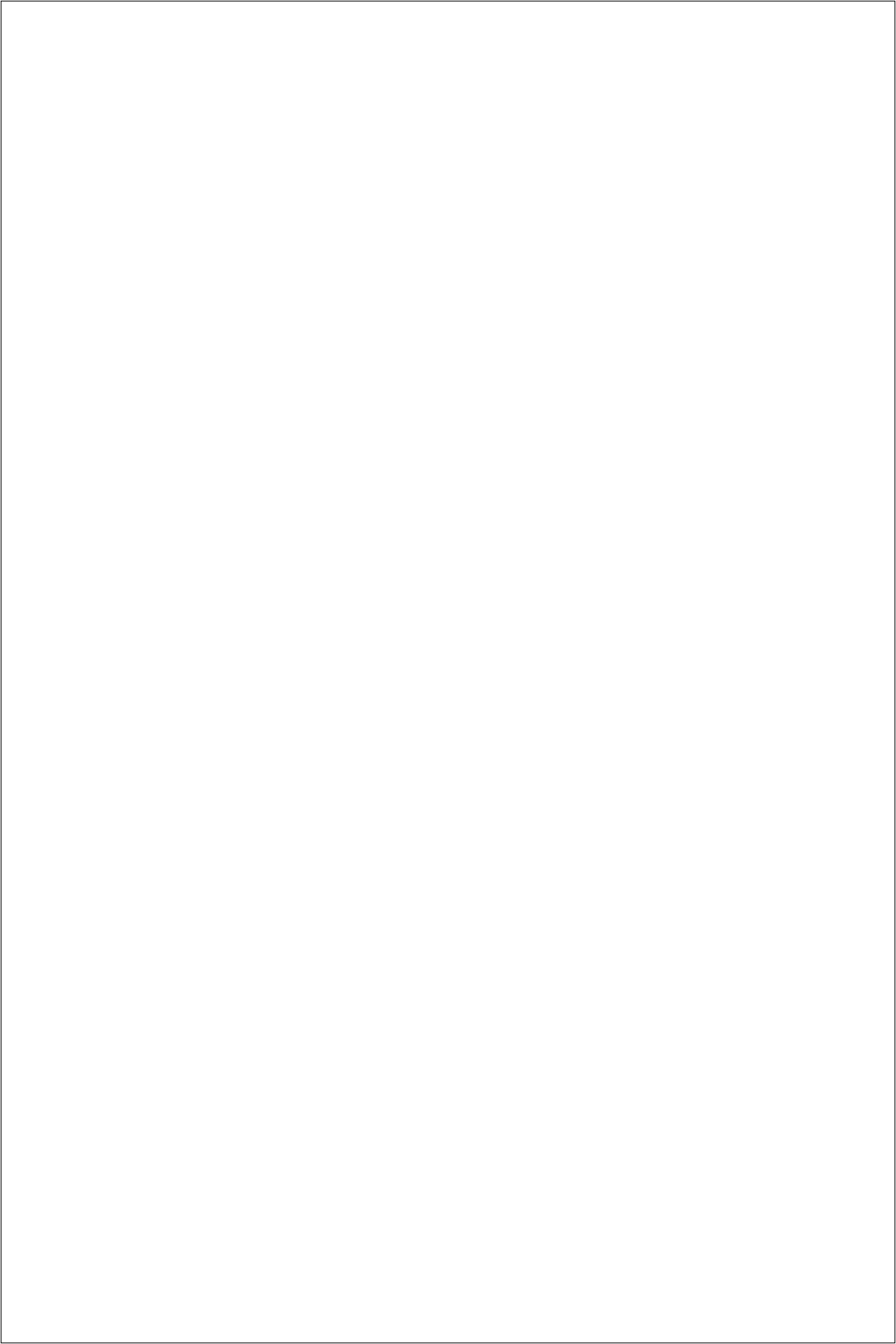
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Preface

Earlier editions of this booklet were published in 1976, 1979, 1986, 1991, 1994, 1998, and 2002. Since the 2002 edition, the North Carolina Court of Appeals has decided several cases that address issues under the open meetings statute, and this new edition reflects those decisions. In addition, I have continued to receive hundreds of inquiries each year about the law, and the recurrence of some of those inquiries has suggested matters of sufficiently general interest and importance to warrant coverage in this edition. For these reasons I have added twenty new questions and significantly modified another ten.

As with the earlier editions, this booklet is intended for people who are not lawyers but still must deal on a recurring basis with the state's open meetings statute: members of local government governing boards, local government administrators, reporters, and others. It discusses the statute through a series of questions and short answers, with no attempt at extended argument or analysis. Nor is it encumbered by footnotes. Rather, for those who need documentation, the series of questions and answers is followed by a citation section that sets out the cases and other materials on which the discussion relies. To assist readers in using the citations, each question and answer for which a citation exists is marked by an asterisk. The booklet concludes with the text of the statute itself.

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