

Open Data Review Board

COMMITTEE MEETING

~AGENDA~

Tuesday, September 24, 2024

5:30PM

Ackermann Room (& Zoom)

Call of the Meeting

The Open Data Review Board (ODRB) advises the City Manager on rules and standards for implementation of an Open Data policy, including a means by which to determine the data or datasets that are appropriate for public accessibility and a timeline for policy implementation. During this meeting, the ODRB will discuss how Cambridge might use open data to further the City's strategic initiatives.

Welcome & Introductions

- Welcome to our newest public Board Member, Avanti Tilak

Avanti Tilak is a Senior Data Scientist at HealthFirst, where she leverages her expertise in data science to address disparities in healthcare. She has a robust background in machine learning, data mining, and the application of open data for various analytical models and visualizations. Avanti has a strong commitment to community engagement, having successfully coordinated and facilitated community feedback forums, organized affinity group meetings, and conducted outreach to diverse family groups across Cambridge.

- Introducing our guest speaker, Christopher Kenny.

Chris Kenny is a PhD candidate at Harvard University in the Department of Government. He researches democratic reform in the United States, with a focus on redistricting institutions. He is a founding member of the Algorithm-Assisted Redistricting Methodology Project and is an affiliate of the Institute for Quantitative Social Science and Center for American Political Studies at Harvard University.

(We will defer other updates and agenda items until after our guest speaker's presentation.)

Guest Presentation

Political actors frequently manipulate redistricting processes to gain an advantage for their party. To address this problem, several states have implemented institutional reforms, such as map-drawing commissions. Yet, these are implemented as complex reforms which change multiple pieces of the process. I'll discuss our approach to reduce the dimensionality of these processes to causally assess institutional reforms. Our team (the ALARM Project) finds that restrictive reforms, like commissions, have a positive effect on democratic outcomes, like increasing the number of competitive districts.

Other Agenda Items

- New and pending datasets
- Other metrics of data portal health and growth
- Open Data Newsletter: third issue went out. Quarterly cadence.
- Public trainings: workshop at the Cambridge Science Festival in partnership with the Cambridge Public Library. Next workshop will be virtual. Also quarterly cadence.
- Other outreach thoughts?

- What Works Cities: status of 2024 application
- Strategic plan: our current 3-year plan will need a refresh for FY 2026.
- Speakers/Topics for future ODRB meetings

Open Discussion

- All

Public Comment

Adjournment