

Construction of Evaluation Index System of the Openness of Government Affairs

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Keywords: openness of government affairs, evaluation index, decision making, policy analysis.

Abstract: At present, although the evaluation of government affairs information in various regions is in the stage of deepening the promotion, the construction of the evaluation system is not mature enough. This paper mainly focuses on the openness of government affairs from the unique perspective of the third party, combined with the experience in the actual assessment, and based on relevant policy documents. In-depth analysis, openness of administrative power, openness of information in key areas, openness according to application, policy interpretation and response concerns, and protection mechanism of the openness of government affairs as five first-level indicators, each level of indicators continues to subdivide five levels. Established five levels of indicators, and developed feasible assessment methods and scoring methods, and finally formed a complete set of government evaluation work systems and methods.

1. Background of the Construction of the Openness of Government Affairs System

The openness of government affairs began in the 1980s and originated from the openness of village affairs. On this basis, in the 1990s, the village affairs were gradually transferred to the government party and government organs, and there was certain formativeness. The openness of government affairs is in the exploratory period. In the 20th century, the openness of government affairs was gradually recognized and valued by the central government. The openness of government affairs began to enter a stage of steady progress. At this stage, the openness of government affairs has undergone tremendous changes. First, there have been significant changes in the system. During this period, the State Council issued the "Regulations on the Openness of Government Information of the People's Republic of China", and implemented a system of public disclosure in the administrative region in accordance with the application, which indicated that there were further clear regulations on the system. Secondly, there has been a huge change in the form of publicity. Due to the rapid development of the Internet, various regions have established their own e-government platforms, and the means of the openness of government affairs have been further enriched. By 2010, most provinces in the country have established systematic e-government open platforms. Since 2010, the openness of government affairs has entered a deepening stage. With the

deepening of the central government, local governments have also begun to explore and practice the openness of government affairs. The main body of open government affairs has also grown, and the party and government organs have gradually begun to develop toward the judicial organs, enterprises and institutions. In order to better supervise the opening of government affairs in various regions, departments and units, the regional governments have introduced third-party assessments to give an objective and impartial assessment of the openness of government affairs from a professional perspective in a neutral manner. This not only evades the embarrassing status of the government department as both an athlete and a referee, but also enhances the gold content and persuasiveness of the assessment conclusions. The openness of government affairs is publicly assessed. As a result, the government openness supervision system is gradually formed.

2. The Assessment Object and Purpose of the Openness of Government Affairs

The openness of government affairs is an important institutional arrangement for modern public administration, and an important way to develop democratic politics and enhance the ability of state governance. In order to protect the public's right to know, participate, express and supervise, and prevent dereliction of duty and corruption in government affairs, local governments in China began to practice open government affairs in the 1980s. After more than 30 years of exploration, the localities have initially constructed the main framework of openness of government affairs and achieved certain results [1,2].

At present, the establishment of evaluation indicators for government information disclosure is mostly conducted only for a certain industry or field. Furthermore, there is a lack of research and analysis on the overall systemic indicators of government affairs disclosure, and the formulation of indicators is not detailed enough. In order to supervise the implementation of the openness of government affairs, it is urgent to establish a complete set of government evaluation indicators system. Based on the profound analysis of the research status at home and abroad, this paper establishes an evaluation index system for the three levels of government information disclosure in provinces, cities and counties.

3. The Evaluation Index System of the Openness of Government Affairs

The basis for the establishment of the indicator system is mainly the “Regulations on the Openness of Government Information”, the “Opinions of the General Office of the CPC Central Committee and the General Office of the State Council on Comprehensively Promoting the Openness of Government Affairs”, and the “Implementation Rules on the Opinions on Comprehensively Promoting the Openness of Government Affairs” by the General Office of the State Council. , "Notice of the General Office of the State Council on Printing and Distributing the Main Points of the Openness of Government Affairs in 2018", and a series of policy and documents on the openness of government affairs issued by the State Council in recent years.

The evaluation index adopts a five-level tree structure, including five first-level indicators: public operation of administrative power, disclosure of information in key areas, disclosure according to application, policy interpretation and response concerns, and open government guarantee mechanism; 15 secondary indicators: open decision-making, openness of implementation, reforms to streamline administration, delegate powers, and improve regulation and services, financial information, major construction project approval and implementation, public resource allocation, social welfare construction, public supervision information, channel smoothness, reply according to law, platform construction, infrastructure construction, organization and management.

3.1 The Openness of Administrative Power Operation

The open indicators of administrative power operation include secondary indicators: “open decision-making” and “openness of implementation”. The decision-making public indicators include the sub-level indicators: “major decision-making pre-opening”, “the openness of conference” and “the result of the proposed proposal”. Major decision-making pre-publication evaluates the feedback to the community for comments during the decision-making process of the evaluation target and the feedback on whether the collected opinions are adopted. When it comes to major people's livelihood issues or high social concerns, the openness of the meeting is to evaluate whether the subject of the assessment invites stakeholders, public representatives, experts, media, etc. to attend the meeting ; The result of the proposed proposal is to evaluate the full text or summary of the replies and the overall situation of the appraisal of the NPC deputies and the CPPCC members' proposals. The indicators of the openness of implementation include the subordinate indicators: “national and provincial government major decision-making and policy deployment and government work report, development planning, reform tasks or livelihood projects, government decisions” and “audit result”. National and provincial government's major decision-making and policy deployment, as well as government work reports, development plans, reform tasks or livelihood projects, and government decisions is the assessment of the implementation of major decision-making and policy deployments for government and provincial governments, as well as government work reports, development plans, and reform tasks or the livelihood projects of the people's livelihood, the implementation of the government's decisions. The audit results are mainly to evaluate the publicity of audit report on budget execution at the corresponding level and other financial revenue and expenditure reports, special audit reports and the results of the rectification of the audit findings.

3.2. The Openness of Information in Key Areas

The indicators of the openness of information in key areas include “reforms to streamline administration, delegate powers, and improve regulation and services, financial information, major construction project approval and implementation, public resource allocation, social welfare construction,” and “public supervision information”.

The indicators of reforms to streamline administration, delegate powers, and improve regulation and services include the subordinates index, namely, "rights and responsibilities list", "normative document clean-up", "double random, one open" supervision, "credit information" double publicity", "tax reduction and fee reduction", "government services". The list of powers and responsibilities includes the disclosure of the list of administrative powers and responsibilities of the government at the same level and its departments, as well as the situation of reorganization and deregulation, adjustment of institutions and functions according to laws and regulations, and timely adjustment and disclosure. The standard document clean-up is to evaluate the marking results of the normative documents, the abolition of policy documents, and the invalidation of each evaluation object. The “double random, one open” supervision is to evaluate the publicity of the random sample of the evaluation objects, the spot checks, and the results of the investigation. The “double publicity” of credit information mainly assesses the disclosure of “double publicity” catalogues and administrative licenses and administrative punishment information at all levels of government. Tax reductions and reductions include a list of administrative fees, government pricing or guidance prices, and a list of government fees. The assessment of government services includes the service portal, the list of matters, the normative guidelines, and the status of the results.

The financial information indicators include the sub-indicators of “financial budget and final accounts” and “information on government debt”. The financial budget and final accounts are the

assessment of the setting of the unified platform or column of the financial budget and final accounts, the disclosure of the financial statements of the previous year (including the “three public” funds final accounts) ,the current fiscal budget (including the “three public” budget), and the monthly financial revenue and expenditure information of all levels of government. The government debt field information is an assessment of the disclosure of the government's debt limits and balances, as well as the size, type, interest rate, duration, debt service, and use of government debt at the same level.

The indicators for the approval and implementation of major construction projects include the subordinate indicators of “Project Approval Information” and “Project Implementation Information”. The project approval information is an evaluation of the disclosure of the approval service information and the approval result information of each evaluation object. The project implementation information is to evaluate the disclosure of the bidding information, land acquisition information, major design change information, construction related information, quality and safety supervision information, and information on the completion of the relevant information.

The indicators of public resource allocation include the subordinate indicators of “housing security field”, “state-owned land use right and mining rights transfer field”, “government procurement field”, “state-owned property rights transaction field” and “project construction project bidding and bidding field” [3]. The field of housing security mainly focuses on the construction information of the urban security housing projects, the allocation of affordable housing and the annual report of the housing provident fund. The field of housing security mainly focuses on the construction information of the urban security housing projects, the allocation of affordable housing and the annual report of the housing provident fund. State-owned land use rights and mining rights transfer areas include the disclosure of land supply plans, transfer announcements, transaction announcements, supply results, public notice announcements, approval results information, project information, and so on. The government procurement field mainly includes the disclosure of information on government procurement projects and financial department supervision and punishment information. The field of state-owned property rights transactions mainly evaluates the information disclosure of property rights trading decisions and approval information, transaction project information, transfer prices, transaction prices, and audit results of relevant intermediaries. The bidding and tendering areas of engineering construction projects mainly include the disclosure of information on the examination and approval of record information for legally required bidding projects, credit information of market entities, and the disclosure of information such as bidding announcements, winning bid winners, winning bid results, contract conclusion and performance.

Indicators in the construction of social public welfare undertakings include eight sub-indicators: poverty alleviation, social assistance and welfare, education, basic health care, public culture and sports, food and drug safety, environmental protection and disaster rescue[4]. Indicators in the construction of social public welfare undertakings involve all aspects of people's livelihood. By evaluation, citizens'sense of well-being and acquisition is increasing.

The indicators of public supervision information include two subordinate indicators of “state-owned enterprise information” and “safe production information”. The information of state-owned enterprise is an assessment of the disclosure of state-owned enterprise and state-owned enterprise supervision information. Safety production information includes the disclosure of safety accident information and safety warning information, accident hidden danger supervision information, accident investigation report and other safety accident warning information, and routine inspection law enforcement, concealed unannounced visits, surprise inspection, random sampling, and safe production bad records "blacklist" , the construction market supervision information, and so on.

3.3. The Openness According to Application

The openness according to application is an important system to protect the public's access to government information in order to meet the special needs of society for government information. The focus of the assessment is on the smooth flow of channels handled by various government agencies in accordance with the application. The assessment includes two aspects: channel accessibility and legal response. Channel accessibility is primarily to assess the smoothness of online and letter channels. The legal response is mainly the evaluation letter, online channel response time limit, formal normality and content normality [5].

3.4. Policy Interpretation and Response Concerns

Policy Interpretation and response concerns indicators include the secondary indicators: policy interpretation and response concerns. The assessment of policy interpretation includes whether to set up a column on the government website, the timeliness of interpretation of document release, the relevance of policy documents and interpretation materials, whether to implement the interpretation of leading cadres, and the requirements for expanding the scope through mainstream media. At the same time, it also evaluates whether the evaluation objects use a variety of methods such as digitization, graphic illustration, audio and video to interpret policy documents [6]. Response concerns include both public opinion response and interactive communication. The public opinion response is mainly to assess the smoothness, diversity, timeliness of the response channels and response content. The interactive communication is mainly to evaluate the construction of the interactive communication platform, as well as the interactive communication content design, interactive feedback, and results disclosure [7].

3.5. The Protection Mechanism of the Openness of Government Affairs

The protection mechanism of the openness of government affairs includes the secondary indicators: platform construction, infrastructure construction, and organization management. The platform construction indicators include the subordinate indicators: the government website, government microblog, government WeChat and client. And the municipal government and county government also include the subordinate indicator of the government bulletin. The evaluation content of the government website includes the setting of website column, the quality of government website information publishing (name specification, typos, content accuracy, etc.), website information query convenience and accessibility browsing service. The evaluation contents of government microblog, government WeChat and client include the opening of each platform, the timeliness of content update, the originality of content release and the interaction with the public. The government bulletin is an assessment of the availability and its periodic publication of this year's government bulletin, and the digitization and availability of the bulletin over the years. According to the "Notice of the General Office of the State Council on Doing a Good Job in the Government Gazette" (Guo Ban Fa [2018] No. 22), "Other people's governments at the city and county levels can actively explore the establishment of government bulletin, local government departments and township governments, the street office do not hold a government bulletin." Therefore, for the assessment of the county government, the government bulletin is used as a guiding indicator to encourage innovation. The infrastructure indicators include three subordinate indicators of the public catalogue and guidelines, the annual report on government information disclosure in the previous year, and the disclosure of public enterprises and institutions information. The public catalogue and guideline assesses whether the assessment object sets the public catalog and directory query convenience. Furthermore, the municipal government and the county government should

evaluate the integration of the municipal and county-level departmental catalogues. The evaluation of the public guide includes whether to publish the guide, the completeness of the content, and the update. The assessment of the government information disclosure annual report indicators includes the availability of the previous annual report, whether it will be released before the end of March of the following year and whether it covers all the requirements of the “Regulations on the Openness of Government Information”. The evaluation of disclosure of public enterprises and institutions information includes guiding and supervising the public affairs of public enterprises and institutions, as well as the disclosure of public enterprises and institutions information [7]. Organizational management indicators include the secondary indicators: business training, assessment and supervision, and work promotion. Business training mainly assesses the development and disclosure of training programs for the current year, as well as the organization and implementation. The assessment of work promotion includes whether to issue key documents for the annual openness of government affairs, formulate supporting systems, and organize implementation within the prescribed time limit.

4. Conclusion

For the government, the introduction of the supervision mechanism to a certain extent to form a downward pressure, which contributes to the mobilization of its subjective initiative. The effect of any government decision-making and policy implementation needs to be evaluated from an objective and fair perspective. This is a concrete manifestation of scientific decision-making and legal governance. Therefore, we will strengthen the assessment of open government affairs, strengthen the combination of daily monitoring and year-end assessment, establish and improve the normalized evaluation and follow-up monitoring mechanism for open government affairs, effectively play a guiding and stimulating role, and continuously open the level of government affairs.

Conflicts of Interests

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interests regarding the publication of this paper.

Acknowledgements

The authors are grateful to the anonymous referees for their valuable comments and suggestions for improving the presentation of this paper. This paper is one of the phased achievements of the Shandong Key Research and Development Program “Research and Application of the Third Evaluation Index System of Shandong Province's Government Openness” (2018GSF122001) and the National Key research and development Program “Research on Standardization of Administrative Licensing and Measurement Technology” (2017YFF0207702).

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