



October 25, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Open Records Custodian
Office of the Governor
206 Washington Street
111 State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
open.records@georgia.gov

Re: Open Records Request

Dear Records Custodian:

Pursuant to the Georgia Open Records Law (O.C.G.A. § 50-18-70 et seq.), American Oversight makes the following request for records.

Requested Records

American Oversight requests that the Office of the Governor produce the following within three business days, or provide a written description of any responsive records with a timetable for their production within three business days:

1. All email communications (including emails, email attachments, and calendar invitations) sent by (a) any of the officials in the Governor’s Office listed below in Column A to (b) any of the outside individuals or entities listed below in Column B:

Column A: Governor’s Office Officials	Column B: Outside Individuals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Governor Nathan Deal b) Chief of Staff Chris Riley c) Deputy Chief of Staff for policy Erin Hames d) Deputy Chief of Staff for Legislative and External Affairs Michael Shaffer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Matthew Raymer, Republican State Leadership Committee 2. Edith Jorge, Republican State Leadership Committee 3. David Abrams, Republican State Leadership Committee 4. David Kanevsky, Republican State Leadership Committee 5. Stami Williams, Republican State Leadership Committee



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> e) Executive Counsel Ryan Teague f) Chief Operating Officer Bart Gobeil g) Executive Assistant Carrie Ashbee h) Deputy Executive Counsel David Werner i) Deputy Chief Operating Officer Blake Ashbee j) Deputy Chief Operating Officer Sean Casey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Dee Duncan, Republican State Leadership Committee 7. Austin Chambers, Republican State Leadership Committee 8. Adam Kincaid, National Republican Redistricting Trust 9. Scott Walker, National Republican Redistricting Trust 10. Guy Harrison, National Republican Redistricting Trust 11. Jason Torchinsky, National Republican Redistricting Trust 12. Gail Gitcho, National Republican Redistricting Trust 13. Lauren Bryan, National Republican Redistricting Trust 14. Ronald Keith Gaddie, Ph.D. 15. Dale Oldham, Geographic Strategies 16. Eric Opiela 17. Debra Levine, Skyline Consulting 18. Doug Johnson, National Demographics Corporation 19. Jeff Timmer, Two Rivers Public Affairs 20. Janet Thornton, Ph.D. 21. Nicholas Goedert, Ph.D. 22. Sean Trende 23. Clark Benson, Polidata 24. Cleta Mitchell 25. John Morgan 26. Thomas Farr 27. Chris Jankowski 28. Karl Rove 29. Ed Gillespie 30. Mike (or Michael) Wild 31. Joel Raupe 32. Thomas Hofeller 33. Lynn Westmoreland 34. J. Christian Adams 35. Hans von Spakovsky, Heritage Foundation 36. Anyone communicating on behalf of Geographic Strategics LLC
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	<p>37. Anyone communicating on behalf of Fair Lines America</p> <p>38. Anyone communicating with an email address ending in @polidata.org</p>
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Please provide all responsive records from February 1, 2011 to October 6, 2011.

In an effort to accommodate the Governor’s office and reduce the number of responsive records to be processed and produced, American Oversight has limited its request to emails sent by these custodians. To be clear, however, American Oversight still requests that complete email chains be produced, displaying both the sent messages and the prior received messages in each email chain. This means, for example, that both Governor Nathan Deal’s response to an email and the initial received message are responsive to this request and should be produced.

2. All email communications (including emails, email attachments, and calendar invitations) sent by any official in Governor’s office to any email address ending in @gop.com or @rnchq.org that contain any of the following key terms in the subject line, body of the communication, or attachments:
 - a. Redistrict
 - b. Gerrymander
 - c. District lines
 - d. Map
 - e. Maptitude
 - f. Split
 - g. Crack
 - h. VTDs
 - i. Reock

Please provide all responsive records from January 14, 2019, through the date the search is conducted.

Please notify American Oversight of any anticipated fees or costs in excess of \$100 prior to incurring such costs and fees.

American Oversight seeks all responsive records regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics. In conducting your search, please understand the term “record” in its broadest sense, to include any written, typed, recorded, graphic, printed, or audio material of any kind. We seek records of any kind, including electronic records, audiotapes, videotapes, and photographs, as well as letters, emails, facsimiles, telephone messages, voice mail messages and transcripts, notes, or minutes of any meetings, telephone conversations or discussions. Our request includes any

attachments to these records. **No category of material should be omitted from search, collection, and production.**

In addition, American Oversight insists that your office use the most up-to-date technologies to search for responsive information and take steps to ensure that the most complete repositories of information are searched. American Oversight is available to work with you to craft appropriate search terms. **However, custodian searches are still required; your office may not have direct access to files stored in .PST files, outside of network drives, in paper format, or in personal email accounts.**

In the event some portions of the requested records are properly exempt from disclosure, please disclose any reasonably segregable non-exempt portions of the requested records. If it is your position that a document contains non-exempt segments, but that those non-exempt segments are so dispersed throughout the document as to make segregation impossible, please state what portion of the document is non-exempt, and how the material is dispersed throughout the document. If a request is denied in whole, please state specifically that it is not reasonable to segregate portions of the record for release.

Please take appropriate steps to ensure that records responsive to this request are not deleted by your office before the completion of processing for this request. If records potentially responsive to this request are likely to be located on systems where they are subject to potential deletion, including on a scheduled basis, please take steps to prevent that deletion, including, as appropriate, by instituting a litigation hold on those records.

To ensure that this request is properly construed, that searches are conducted in an adequate but efficient manner, and that extraneous costs are not incurred, American Oversight welcomes an opportunity to discuss its request with you before you undertake your search or incur search or duplication costs. By working together at the outset, American Oversight and your office can decrease the likelihood of costly and time-consuming litigation in the future.

Where possible, please provide responsive material in electronic format by email or in PDF or TIF format on a USB drive. Please send any responsive material being sent by mail to American Oversight, 1030 15th Street NW, Suite B255, Washington, DC 20005. If it will accelerate release of responsive records to American Oversight, please also provide responsive material on a rolling basis.

Conclusion

American Oversight is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with the mission to promote transparency in government, to educate the public about government activities, and to ensure the accountability of government officials. American Oversight uses the information gathered, and its analysis of it, to educate the public through reports, press releases, or other media. American Oversight also makes

materials it gathers available on its public website and promotes their availability on social media platforms, such as Facebook and Twitter.¹

We share a common mission to promote transparency in government. American Oversight looks forward to working with your office on this request. If you do not understand any part of this request, have any questions, or foresee any problems in fully releasing the requested records, please contact Khahilia Y. Shaw at records@americanoversight.org or 202.539.6507.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Austin R. Evers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Austin R. Evers
Executive Director
American Oversight

¹ American Oversight currently has approximately 12,250 page likes on Facebook and 54,900 followers on Twitter. American Oversight, FACEBOOK, <https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/> (last visited Oct. 16, 2019); American Oversight (@weareoversight), TWITTER, <https://twitter.com/weareoversight> (last visited Oct. 16, 2019).