



September 29, 2020

**VIA EMAIL**

Director, Office of Open Government  
Executive Office of the Governor  
400 S. Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
[desantis.opengov@eog.myflorida.com](mailto:desantis.opengov@eog.myflorida.com)

**Re: Public Records Request**

Dear Public Records Officer:

Pursuant to Article I, section 24(a), of the Florida Constitution, and Florida's public records laws, as codified at Fla. Stat. Chapter 119, American Oversight makes the following request for records.

**Requested Records**

American Oversight requests that your office promptly produce the following:

1. All email communications (including emails, complete email chains, calendar invitations, and attachments thereto) among any of the Florida Governor's Office officials listed below concerning the security clearance level of the Secretary of State or the state's elections director, and any changes thereto.

Florida Governor's Office Officials:

- Ron DeSantis, Governor
  - Shane Strum, Chief of Staff
  - David Clark, Deputy Chief of Staff
  - Adrian Lukis, Deputy Chief of Staff
  - Amelia Keaton, Executive Assistant
  - Stephanie Kopelousos, Legislative Affairs Director
  - Brenda Burdette, Executive Assistant
  - Joe Jacquot, General Counsel
  - Erin Kraeft, Executive Assistant
  - Diane Moulton, Director of Executive Staff
  - Mara Gambineri, Director of External Affairs
  - Fredrick Piccolo, Director of Communications
2. All email communications (including emails, complete email chains, calendar invitations, and attachments thereto) between (a) any of the Florida Governor's Office officials listed in Column A below, and (b) any of the external parties listed in



Column B below, concerning the security clearance level of any Secretary of State or state elections director, and any changes thereto.

<b>Column A: Florida Governor's Office Officials</b>	<b>Column B: External Parties</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Ron DeSantis, Governor, or anyone communication on his behalf (such as an assistant or scheduler)</li> <li>ii. Shane Strum, Chief of Staff</li> <li>iii. David Clark, Deputy Chief of Staff</li> <li>iv. Adrian Lukis, Deputy Chief of Staff</li> <li>v. Amelia Keaton, Executive Assistant</li> <li>vi. Stephanie Kopelousos, Legislative Affairs Director</li> <li>vii. Brenda Burdette, Executive Assistant</li> <li>viii. Joe Jacquot, General Counsel</li> <li>ix. Erin Kraeft, Executive Assistant</li> <li>x. Diane Moulton, Director of Executive Staff</li> <li>xi. Mara Gambineri, Director of External Affairs</li> <li>xii. Fredrick Piccolo, Director of Communications</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Anyone communicating on behalf of the Department of Homeland Security (including anyone communicating from an email address ending in @dhs.gov or @hq.dhs.gov)</li> <li>ii. Anyone communicating on behalf of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (including any representative communicating from an email address ending in @hq.dhs.gov or @cisa.gov)</li> <li>iii. Anyone communicating on behalf of the Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency (including any representative communicating from an email address ending in @mail.mil)</li> <li>iv. Anyone communicating on behalf of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (including anyone communicating from an email address ending in @dni.gov)</li> <li>v. Maria Matthews, Division of Elections Director, Department of State (maria.matthews@dos.myflorida.com)</li> <li>vi. Laurel Lee, Secretary of State (laurel.lee@dos.myflorida.com)</li> <li>vii. John Merrill, Alabama Secretary of State (john.merrill@sos.alabama.gov)</li> <li>viii. Kevin Meyer, Alaska Lieutenant Governor (kevin.meyer@alaska.gov)</li> <li>ix. John Thurston, Arkansas Secretary of State (arsos@sos.arkansas.gov)</li> <li>x. Brad Raffensperger, Georgia Secretary of State (brad@sos.ga.gov)</li> <li>xi. Lawrence Denney, Idaho Secretary of State (ldenney@sos.idaho.gov)</li> <li>xii. Connie Lawson, Indiana Secretary of State (sos@sos.in.gov or clawson@sos.in.gov)</li> </ul>

	xiii.	Paul Pate, Iowa Secretary of State (sos@sos.iowa.gov or paul.pate@iowa.gov)
	xiv.	Scott Schwab, Kansas Secretary of State (sos@ks.gov or schwab@scottschwab.com)
	xv.	Michael Adams, Kentucky Secretary of State (sos.secretary@ky.gov)
	xvi.	R. Kyle Ardoin, Louisiana Secretary of State (kyle.ardoin@sos.la.gov or admin@sos.la.gov)
	xvii.	John Wobensmith, Maryland Secretary of State (mdsos@sos.state.md.us or john.wobensmith@maryland.gov)
	xviii.	Michael Watson, Mississippi Secretary of State (michael@michaelwatson.ms or michael.watson@sos.ms.gov)
	xix.	Jay Ashcroft, Missouri Secretary of State (john.ashcroft@sos.mo.gov)
	xx.	Corey Stapleton, Montana Secretary of State (secretary@mt.gov)
	xxi.	Robert Evnen, Nebraska Secretary of State (robert.evnen@nebraska.gov)
	xxii.	Barbara Cegavske, Nevada Secretary of State (bknevada@aol.com)
	xxiii.	Alvin Jaeger, North Dakota Secretary of State (sos@nd.gov or ajaeger@nd.gov)
	xxiv.	Frank LaRose, Ohio Secretary of State (flarose@ohiosos.gov)
	xxv.	Michael Rogers, Oklahoma Secretary of State (Michael.Rogers@sos.ok.gov)
	xxvi.	Bev Clarno, Oregon Secretary of State (oregon.sos@oregon.gov)
	xxvii.	Mark Hammond, South Carolina Secretary of State (mhammond@sos.sc.gov)
	xxviii.	Steve Barnett, South Dakota Secretary of State (steve.barnett@state.sd.us or sdsos@state.sd.us)
	xxix.	Tre Hargett, Tennessee Secretary of State (tre.hargett@tn.gov)
	xxx.	Ruth Hughs, Texas Secretary of State (secretary@sos.tx.gov)

	xxxi. Spencer Cox, Utah Lieutenant Governor (spencercox@utah.gov)
	xxii. Kim Wyman, Washington Secretary of State (kim.wyman@sos.wa.gov)
	xxiii. Mac Warner, West Virginia Secretary of State (mwarner@wvsos.gov)
	xxiv. Edward Buchanan, Wyoming Secretary of State (secofstate@wyo.gov)

For both items of this request, American Oversight believes that records containing the terms below are likely to be responsive records, and requests that your office, at a minimum, employ these search terms to identify responsive records.

Key Terms:

- “Security clearance”
- “Higher clearance”
- “Lower clearance”
- “Clearance level”
- “USAP”
- “ACCM”
- “Eligibility for access”
- “Personnel vetting”
- “Fitness determination”

Please note that American Oversight does not seek, and that this request specifically excludes, the initial mailing of news clips or other mass-distribution emails. However, subsequent communications forwarding such emails are responsive to this request. In other words, for example, if Governor DeSantis received a mass-distribution news clip from the Department of Homeland Security, that initial email would not be responsive to this request. However, if Governor DeSantis forwarded that email to another individual with his own commentary, that subsequent message would be responsive to this request and should be produced.

For both items of this request, please provide all responsive records from December 1, 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 or fee.

American Oversight insists that your agency 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 agency 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.<sup>1</sup>

We share a common mission to promote transparency in government. American Oversight looks forward to working with your agency 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 Christine Monahan at [records@americanoversight.org](mailto:records@americanoversight.org) or (202) 869-5244.

Sincerely,



Austin R. Evers  
Executive Director  
American Oversight

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<sup>1</sup> American Oversight currently has approximately 15,600 page likes on Facebook and 105,400 followers on Twitter. American Oversight, FACEBOOK, <https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/> (last visited September 22, 2020); American Oversight (@weareoversight), TWITTER, <https://twitter.com/weareoversight> (last visited September 22, 2020).