



April 22, 2021

VIA EMAIL

Deputy Public Information Officer
Attorney General's Office
2005 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85004
publicrecords@azag.gov

Re: Public Records Request

Dear Public Records Officer:

Pursuant to the Arizona Public Records Law, A.R.S. §§ 39-121 et seq., American Oversight makes the following request for records.

On February 12, 2021, the Census Bureau announced that population data used to determine congressional apportionment would be delivered to states by March 31, 2021, and that block-level data for redistricting would be delivered by September 30, 2021.¹ Many states, including Arizona, face impending deadlines, such as brief legislative sessions or statutorily determined dates to approve maps or accept registrations for partisan primaries,² raising concerns that delays will exacerbate existing tensions over the redistricting process.³

American Oversight seeks records with the potential to shed light on efforts to prepare for the redistricting process in Arizona.

Requested Records

American Oversight requests that the Office of the Attorney General promptly produce the following records:

¹ *Census Bureau Statement on Redistricting Data Timeline*, U.S. Census Bureau, Feb. 12, 2021, https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2021/statement-redistricting-data-timeline.html?utm_campaign=20210212msc20s2ccnwsrs&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery.

² *State Redistricting Deadlines*, Nat'l Conf. of State Legislatures, Jan. 12, 2021, <https://www.ncsl.org/research/redistricting/state-redistricting-deadlines637224581.aspx>.

³ Zach Montellaro & Ally Mutnick, *Census Data Snafu Upends 2022 Elections*, Politico (Mar. 1, 2021, 4:30 AM), <https://www.politico.com/news/2021/03/01/census-data-elections-471882>.



- 1) A complete copy (including any attachments) of any contract, amendment, memorandum of understanding, or other written agreement in possession of Attorney General Mark Brnovich's office regarding external entities providing services relevant to state and congressional redistricting processes, including but not limited to providers of map drawing software, consultants or advisors, or legal counsel.

This request should be interpreted to include any copies of contractual documents pertaining to redistricting in possession of Attorney General Brnovich's office, including those to which Attorney General Brnovich is not party.

Please provide all responsive records from October 1, 2020, through the date the search is conducted.

- 2) A complete copy of any unpublished formal or informal guidance, directives, memoranda, or other policy documents pertaining to redistricting issued by or in possession of Attorney General Brnovich's office.

Please provide all responsive records from January 1, 2021, through the date the search is conducted.

Statement of Noncommercial Purpose

This request is made for noncommercial purposes. American Oversight seeks records regarding redistricting and related actions of Arizona's government officials. Records with the potential to shed light on this matter would contribute significantly to public understanding of operations of the government.

Because American Oversight is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, this request is not in American Oversight's financial interest and is not made for a commercial purpose. American Oversight's mission is 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.⁴

Because this request is made for noncommercial purposes, American Oversight requests that any fees charged in connection with processing this request be limited to copying

⁴ American Oversight currently has approximately 15,700 page likes on Facebook and 106,200 followers on Twitter. American Oversight, Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/> (last visited Apr. 19, 2021); American Oversight (@weareoversight), Twitter, <https://twitter.com/weareoversight> (last visited Apr. 19, 2021).

and postage charges, if applicable.⁵ Please notify American Oversight of any anticipated fees or costs in excess of \$100 prior to incurring such costs or fees.

Guidance Regarding the Search & Processing of Requested Records

In connection with its request for records, American Oversight provides the following guidance regarding the scope of the records sought and the search and processing of records:

- Our request for records includes any attachments to those records or other materials enclosed with those records when they were previously transmitted. To the extent that an email is responsive to our request, our request includes all prior messages sent or received in that email chain, as well as any attachments to the email.
- Please search all relevant records or systems containing records regarding agency business. Do not exclude records regarding agency business contained in files, email accounts, or devices in the personal custody of your officials, such as personal email accounts or text messages.
- If any records are withheld in full or in part, pursuant to A.R.S. § 39-121.01(D)(2), please provide an index of records or categories of records that have been withheld and the reasons the records or categories of records have been withheld.
- 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 a request is denied in whole, please state specifically why 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 the agency 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.

Conclusion

If you have any questions regarding how to construe this request for records or believe that further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate a more efficient production of records of interest to American Oversight, please do not hesitate to contact American Oversight to discuss this request. American Oversight welcomes

⁵ A.R.S. § 39-121.01(D)(1); *see also Hanania v. City of Tucson*, 128 Ariz. 135, 624 P.2d 332 (Ct. App. 1980). Furthermore, because this request is for noncommercial purposes, additional fees provided for under A.R.S. § 39-121.03(A) are not applicable and should not be assessed.

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 an electronic format by email. Alternatively, please provide responsive material in native format or in PDF 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.

We share a common mission to promote transparency in government. American Oversight looks forward to working with you 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 Shaw at records@americanoversight.org or 202.539.6507.

Sincerely,

/s/ Khahilia Shaw

Khahilia Shaw
on behalf of
American Oversight