



May 4, 2021

**VIA EMAIL**

Public Records Coordinator  
Florida Senate  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
[publicrecordsrequests@flsenate.gov](mailto:publicrecordsrequests@flsenate.gov)

Sen. Joe Gruters  
Florida Senate  
324 Senate Building  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
[gruters.joe@flsenate.gov](mailto:gruters.joe@flsenate.gov)

**Re: Public Records Request**

Dear Public Records Coordinator:

Pursuant to Article I, section 24(a), of the Florida Constitution, and Florida Senate Rule 1.48, 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 calendar invitation attachments) and text messages between (a) Sen. Joe Gruters or any members of his staff, and (b) the individuals listed below:<sup>1</sup>
  - i. Kris Kobach (including, but not limited to, communications with the email [kkobach@gmail.com](mailto:kkobach@gmail.com), [kris@kriskobach.com](mailto:kris@kriskobach.com), or any email address ending in ks.gov)
  - ii. J. (John) Christian Adams or any person communicating from an email address ending in [@publicinterestlegal.org](mailto:@publicinterestlegal.org) or [@electionlawcenter.com](mailto:@electionlawcenter.com))
  - iii. Hans von Spakovsky or any person communicating from an email address ending in [@heritage.org](mailto:@heritage.org)

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that while American Oversight has provided email addresses of the listed individuals for your convenience, this request is not limited to email communications. Text messages with the listed individuals are also responsive to this request.



- iv. Cleta Mitchell, or any person communicating from an email address ending in @freedomworks.org
  - v. Catherine Engelbrecht, or any person communicating from an email address ending in @truethevote.org
  - vi. Trent England, or any person communicating from an email address ending in @saveourstates.com
  - vii. Ken Cuccinelli
  - viii. Leonard Leo, Jason Snead, or any person communicating from an email address ending in @honestelections.org
  - ix. Stephen Miller, Gene Hamilton, or any person communicating from an email address ending in @aflegal.org or @conservativepartnership.org
  - x. Adam Kincaid, or any person communicating from an email address ending in @fairlines.org
  - xi. Ashley MacLeay, or any person communicating from an email address ending in @iwf.org
  - xii. Any person communicating from an email address ending in @alec.org
  - xiii. Any person communicating from an email address ending in @alec.org
  - xiv. Any person communicating from an email address ending in @gop.com, @rnchq.com or @florida.gop.
  - xv. Any person communicating from an email address ending in @publicinterestlegal.org
2. All email communications (including emails, complete email chains, email attachments, calendar invitations, and calendar invitation attachments) containing any of the following terms:
- a. "American Legislative Exchange Council"
  - b. "ALEC"
  - c. "Public Interest Legal"
  - d. "Heritage Foundation"
  - e. "Freedom Works"
  - f. "True the Vote"
  - g. "Save our States"
  - h. "Honest Elections"
  - i. "Conservative Partnership"
  - j. "Fair Lines"

For both items, please provide all responsive records from November 1, 2020, through the date of the search.

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 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.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> American Oversight currently has approximately 15,500 page likes on Facebook and 102,200 followers on Twitter. American Oversight, Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/> (last visited April 23, 2021); American Oversight (@weareoversight), Twitter, <https://twitter.com/weareoversight> (last visited April 23, 2021).

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 Christine Monahan at [records@americanoversight.org](mailto:records@americanoversight.org) or (202)-869-5244.

Sincerely,

/s/ Christine Monahan

Christine Monahan  
on behalf of  
American Oversight