



May 26, 2021

VIA EMAIL

Public Records Coordinator
Florida Senate
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
publicrecordsrequests@flsenate.gov

Senate President Walter Simpson
409 The Capitol
404 South Monroe Street,
Tallahassee, FL 32399
simpson.wilton.web@flsenate.gov

Office of General Counsel, Jeremiah Hawkes
302 The Capitol
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
hawkes.jeremiah.web@flsenate.gov

Re: Public Records Request

Dear Public Records Officer:

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- 1) A complete copy (including any attachments) of any unpublished formal or informal guidance, directives, memoranda, or other policy and procedure documents issued to GIS Shop by the Florida State Senate regarding services relevant to state and congressional redistricting processes.

According to the contract between the Florida Senate and GIS Shop, “[a]ll notices or other communications required or permitted under this Contract must be sent to the respective Contract Managers via electronic mail with email receipt confirmation.”¹ The contract identifies Jay Ferrin, Program

¹ Contract for Consulting Services with the GIS Shop Inc, Florida Senate (Oct. 11, 2020)



Administrator, as Contract Manager for the Senate. Accordingly, American Oversight requests that your search for records responsive to this request includes, at a minimum, a search of Jay Ferrin's email account.

Please provide all responsive records from October 1, 2020, through date of search.

- 2) A complete copy (including any attachments) of any unpublished formal or informal guidance, notes, proposals, memoranda, invoices and other documents provided by GIS Shop to the Florida State Senate.

Please provide all responsive records from October 1, 2020, through date of search.

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

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.

https://www.flsenate.gov/UserContent/Reference/PublicRecords/PDF/The_GIS_Shop_Inc_SE2004.pdf.

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.²

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

² 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 May 24, 2021); American Oversight (@weareoversight), Twitter, <https://twitter.com/weareoversight> (last visited May 24, 2021).

releasing the requested records, please contact Christine H. Monahan at records@americanoversight.org or (202) 869-5244.

Sincerely,

/s/ Christine Monahan

Christine Monahan
on behalf of
American Oversight