



October 28, 2021

**VIA EMAIL**

Justin Riches  
Public Records Counsel  
Arizona House of Representatives  
1700 W. Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
[jriches@azleg.gov](mailto:jriches@azleg.gov)

**Re: Public Records Request**

Dear Public Records Counsel Riches:

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

**Requested Records**

American Oversight requests that the Arizona House of Representatives promptly produce the following records:

1. Any handouts, agendas, presentation materials, summaries, or notes (electronic or handwritten) provided to or created by Representative Leach as part of or in relation to the Honest Elections Project Academy event held between July 26 and July 28, 2021 in Salt Lake City, Utah.<sup>1</sup>
2. Any model legislation in Representative Leach's possession originating from or distributed by the Honest Elections Project.
3. All email communications (including emails, complete email chains, calendar invitations, and attachments thereto) between (a) Representative Leach, and (b) Jason Snead (including, but not limited to, at [jason@jasonsnead.com](mailto:jason@jasonsnead.com)), Gary Marx (including, but not limited to, at [gary@madisonstrategiesllc.com](mailto:gary@madisonstrategiesllc.com)), or anyone communicating on behalf of the Honest Elections Project (including, but not limited to, anyone communicating from an email address ending in @honestelections.org).
4. All email communications (including emails, complete email chains, calendar invitations, and attachments thereto) between (a) Representative Leach, and (b) anyone communicating on behalf of the American Legislative Exchange

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<sup>1</sup> David Armiak, *Dark Money Voter Suppression Group Holds "Academy" for Lawmakers Before ALEC Annual Meeting*, PR Watch (Aug. 2, 2021, 1:55PM), <https://www.prwatch.org/news/2021/08/13743/dark-money-voter-suppression-group-holds-%E2%80%9Cacademy%E2%80%9D-lawmakers-alec-annual-meeting>.



Council (ALEC) (including, but not limited to, anyone communicating from an email address ending in @alec.org).

5. All email communications (including emails, complete email chains, calendar invitations, and attachments thereto) sent or received by Representative Leach containing the terms “Honest Elections Project,” “HEP,” “ALEC,” “Legislative Exchange,” or “Grand America.”

For all parts of this request, please provide all responsive records from May 1, 2021, through September 1, 2021.

### **Statement of Noncommercial Purpose**

This request is made for noncommercial purposes. American Oversight seeks records regarding Representative Leach’s affiliation with Honest Elections Project, a leading advocate for restrictive voting laws. Honest Elections Project’s influence on lawmakers is a topic of substantial public interest.<sup>2</sup> Records with the potential to shed light on this matter would contribute significantly to public understanding of operations of the government, including whether and to what extent Arizona state legislators have been influenced in their official duties by Honest Elections Project.

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.<sup>3</sup>

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

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<sup>2</sup> Nicholas Riccardi, *Conservative Group Pushes Proposals to Tighten Voting Laws*, Associated Press, Mar. 2, 2021, <https://apnews.com/article/donald-trump-voting-voting-rights-elections-us-news-6ad139a7299bbc524fbcc9d2233ea1b2>.

<sup>3</sup> American Oversight currently has approximately 15,635 page likes on Facebook and 108,400 followers on Twitter. American Oversight, Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/> (last visited Oct. 6, 2021 American Oversight (@weareoversight), Twitter, <https://twitter.com/weareoversight> (last visited Oct. 6, 2021).

and postage charges, if applicable.<sup>4</sup> 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:

- Please search all locations and systems likely to have responsive records, regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics. For instance, if the request seeks “communications,” please search all locations likely to contain communications, including relevant hard-copy files, correspondence files, appropriate locations on hard drives and shared drives, emails, text messages or other direct messaging systems (such as iMessage, WhatsApp, Signal, or Twitter direct messages), voicemail messages, instant messaging systems such as Lync or ICQ, and shared messages systems such as Slack.
- 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

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<sup>4</sup> 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.

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 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 your agency on this request. If you do not understand any part of this request, please contact Zachery Morris at [records@americanoversight.org](mailto:records@americanoversight.org) or (202) 897-4213.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Zachery Morris*  
Zachery Morris  
on behalf of  
American Oversight