



October 28, 2021

VIA EMAIL

Attn: Jotonna Tulloch
Open Records Custodian
40 Capitol Square SW
Atlanta, GA 30334
open_records@law.ga.gov

Re: Open Records Request

Dear Open Records Custodian Tulloch:

Pursuant to the Georgia Open Records Law (O.C.G.A. §§ 50-18-70 et seq.), American Oversight makes the following request for records.

Requested Records

American Oversight requests that the Office of the Attorney General produce the following within three business days:

1. All email communications (including emails, complete email chains, calendar invitations, and attachments thereto) and text message threads/conversations between (a) any of the state officials listed in Column A below, and (b) any of the external individuals identified in Column B below:

Column A: Georgia State Officials	Column B: External Individuals
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Christopher Carr, Attorney General, or anyone communicating on his behalf (such as a scheduler or assistant) ii. Travis Johnson, Chief of Staff iii. W. Wright Banks, Jr., Chief Deputy, or anyone serving as Chief Deputy 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Pete Bisbee, RAGA Executive Director (including, but not limited to, at pbisbee@republicanags.com or pbisbee@rldf.org) ii. Alan Wilson, South Carolina Attorney General (including, but not limited to, at agwilson@scag.gov) iii. Jeff Landry, Louisiana Attorney General (including, but not limited to, at landryj@ag.louisiana.gov) iv. Eric Schmitt, Missouri Attorney General (including, but not limited to, at ag@ago.mo.gov) v. Steve Marshall, Alabama Attorney General (including, but not limited to, at ag@ago.al.gov)



	<p>to, at steve.marshall@alabamaag.gov)</p> <p>vi. Any employee or representative of the Republican Attorneys General Association (including, but not limited to, anyone communicating from an email address ending in @republicanags.com)</p> <p>vii. Any employee or representative of the Rule of Law Defense Fund (including, but not limited to, anyone communicating from an email address ending in @rldf.org or @ruleoflawdefensefund.org)</p>
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2. All (a) email communications (including emails, complete email chains, calendar invitations, and attachments thereto) sent by and (b) text message threads/conversations sent or received by any of the individuals specified in Column A, above, that contain any of the key terms listed below:

Search Terms:

- i. “Rule of Law”
- ii. RLDF
- iii. “Republican Attorneys General Association”
- iv. RAGA
- v. Piper
- vi. Bisbee

For Item 2(a) of this request, in an effort to accommodate your office and reduce the number of potentially responsive records to be processed and produced, American Oversight has limited its request to emails sent by the specified officials in the Office of the Attorney General. To be clear, however, American Oversight still requests that complete email chains be produced, displaying both sent and received messages. This means, for example, that both Attorney General Carr’s response to an email containing one of the key terms listed above and the initial received message are responsive to this request and should be produced.

For Item 2(b) of this request, American Oversight requests that complete text message threads/conversations be produced. This means, for example, that if Attorney General Carr sent or received a text message containing any of the key terms listed above, American Oversight requests that the complete text conversation for the timeframe listed below should be produced, and not just the message containing the key term.

For all parts of this request, please provide all responsive records from January 19, 2021, to the date the request is received.

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.
- In conducting your search, please understand the terms “record,” “document,” and “information” in their 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 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. Records of official business conducted using unofficial systems or stored outside of official files are subject to the Open Records Act.¹
- 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.

¹ O.C.G.A. § 50-18-70(b)(2).

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.

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 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

² American Oversight currently has approximately 15,630 page likes on Facebook and 108,900 followers on Twitter. American Oversight, Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/> (last visited Oct. 26, 2021); American Oversight (@weareoversight), Twitter, <https://twitter.com/weareoversight> (last visited Oct. 26, 2021).

