



October 14, 2021

**VIA EMAIL**

Public Records Coordinator  
Office of the Attorney General  
1885 North Third Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
[publicrecords@ag.louisiana.gov](mailto:publicrecords@ag.louisiana.gov)

**Re: Public Records Law Request**

Dear Records Custodian:

Pursuant to the Louisiana Public Records Law, La. Rev. Stat. Ann. 44:1 *et seq.*, American Oversight makes the following request for records.

**Requested Records**

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

1. Records sufficient to identify the following staffing information for the Louisiana Attorney General's Office employees working on matters concerning election law (including, but not limited to, election integrity initiatives and election fraud investigations).
  - a. The names<sup>1</sup> and job titles of each employee temporarily or permanently assigned to matters concerning election law, or of those permanently or temporarily working in support of those assigned to matters concerning election law.

For request item 1, please provide all responsive records for each month spanning January 2019 through October 2021 (*i.e.*, January 2019, February 2019, March 2019, April 2019, May 2019 [. . .] July 2021, August 2021, September 2021, and October 2021).

2. Records sufficient to identify the Louisiana Attorney General's Office's actual or prospective budget for matters concerning election law (including, but not limited to, relevant employee salaries, election integrity initiatives, and election fraud investigations).

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<sup>1</sup> In lieu of names of individual employees, American Oversight would also accept records sufficient to identify the total number of employees assigned to matters concerning election law.



For request item 2, please provide all responsive records reflecting the described budgets for fiscal years 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022.

3. Records sufficient to identify all costs and expenses incurred for matters concerning election law (including, but not limited to, relevant employee salaries, election integrity initiatives, and election fraud investigations).

For request item 3, please provide all responsive records reflecting the described costs and expenses for fiscal years 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022.

4. Records sufficient to identify the total number of pending cases concerning alleged election law violations.

For request item 4, please provide all responsive records for each month spanning January 2019 through October 2021 (*i.e.*, January 2019, February 2019, March 2019, April 2019, May 2019 [. . .] July 2021, August 2021, September 2021, and October 2021).

5. Records sufficient to identify the total number of resolved cases (including, but not limited to, cases resulting in a finding of guilt or liability, cases resolved by plea or stipulation, or dismissed cases) concerning election law violations and the final disposition of each case, regardless of the outcome.

For request item 5, please provide all responsive records for each month spanning January 2019 through October 2021 (*i.e.*, January 2019, February 2019, March 2019, April 2019, May 2019 [. . .] July 2021, August 2021, September 2021, and October 2021).

### **Fee Waiver Request**

In accordance with La. Rev. Stat. Ann. 44:32(C)(2), American Oversight requests a waiver of fees associated with processing this request for records. A waiver of fees for this request is appropriate, because American Oversight's use of the requested records "will be limited to a public purpose."<sup>2</sup>

This request is made solely for a public purpose.<sup>3</sup> The public has a significant interest in Louisiana's election integrity efforts and related allegations of voter fraud.<sup>4</sup> Records with the potential to shed light on this matter would contribute significantly to public understanding of operations of the government, including the extent to which the Attorney General's Office is designating resources toward election integrity initiatives. American Oversight is committed to transparency and makes the responses agencies

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<sup>2</sup> La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 44:32(C)(2).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> *See, e.g.*, Chris McCrory, *Louisiana State Legislators Urge Congress to Reject Electoral College Vote Despite No Credible Proof of Fraud*, WWL (Jan. 2, 2021, 8:36AM CST), <https://www.wwltv.com/article/news/politics/state-lawmakers-call-for-la-delegation-to-reject-electoral-college-vote/289-e4f1f556-4a8a-4bce-a968-c7ad219b8268>.

provide to public records requests publicly available, and the public's understanding of the government's activities would be enhanced through American Oversight's analysis and publication of these records.

Furthermore, this request is fundamentally made for non-commercial purposes. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, American Oversight does not have a commercial purpose and the release of the information requested is not in American Oversight's financial interest. 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>5</sup>

American Oversight has also demonstrated its commitment to the public disclosure of documents and creation of editorial content through regular substantive analyses posted to its website.<sup>6</sup> Examples reflecting this commitment to the public disclosure of documents and the creation of editorial content include the posting of records and analysis related to the organization's investigations into misconduct and corruption in state governments;<sup>7</sup> posting records and analysis of federal and state governments' responses to the Coronavirus pandemic;<sup>8</sup> posting records received as part of American Oversight's "Audit the Wall" project to gather and analyze information related to the

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<sup>5</sup> American Oversight currently has approximately 15,635 page likes on Facebook and 108,500 followers on Twitter. American Oversight, Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/> (last visited Oct. 14, 2021); American Oversight (@weareoversight), Twitter, <https://twitter.com/weareoversight> (last visited Oct. 14, 2021).

<sup>6</sup> See generally *News*, American Oversight, <https://www.americanoversight.org/blog>.

<sup>7</sup> See generally *State Investigations*, American Oversight, <https://www.americanoversight.org/states>; see, e.g., *State Government Contacts with Voting-Restriction Activists*, American Oversight, <https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/state-government-contacts-with-voting-restriction-activists>; *Georgia's Voting Machines and Election Security*, American Oversight, <https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/georgias-voting-machines-and-election-security>.

<sup>8</sup> See, e.g., *The Trump Administration's Response to Coronavirus*, American Oversight, <https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/the-trump-administrations-response-to-coronavirus>; *Tulsa Health Officials Initially Estimated Trump Rally Would Directly Lead to 2 to 9 Deaths*, American Oversight, <https://www.americanoversight.org/tulsa-health-officials-initially-estimated-trump-rally-would-directly-lead-to-2-to-9-deaths>; *Wisconsin Documents Offer Window into Early Uncertainty over COVID-19*, American Oversight, <https://www.americanoversight.org/wisconsin-documents-offer-window-into-early-uncertainty-over-covid-19>; *In the Documents: Florida Health Department Efforts to Suppress Release of Coronavirus Records*, American Oversight, <https://www.americanoversight.org/in-the-documents-florida-health-department-efforts-to-suppress-release-of-coronavirus-records>.

Trump administration’s proposed construction of a barrier along the U.S.-Mexico border, and analyses of what those records reveal;<sup>9</sup> and the posting of records related to an ethics waiver received by a senior Department of Justice attorney and an analysis of what those records demonstrated regarding the Department’s process for issuing such waivers.<sup>10</sup>

Accordingly, American Oversight qualifies for a fee waiver.

### **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. Public business communications

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<sup>9</sup> See generally *Audit the Wall*, American Oversight, <https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/audit-the-wall>; see, e.g., *Border Wall Investigation Report: No Plans, No Funding, No Timeline, No Wall*, American Oversight, <https://www.americanoversight.org/border-wall-investigation-report-no-plans-no-funding-no-timeline-no-wall>.

<sup>10</sup> *DOJ Records Relating to Solicitor General Noel Francisco’s Recusal*, American Oversight, <https://www.americanoversight.org/document/doj-civil-division-response-noel-francisco-compliance>; *Francisco & the Travel Ban: What We Learned from the DOJ Documents*, American Oversight, <https://www.americanoversight.org/francisco-the-travel-ban-what-we-learned-from-the-doj-documents>.

conducted on private email accounts and devices are public records subject to the Public Records Law.<sup>11</sup>

- 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 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 Khahilia Shaw at [records@americanoversight.org](mailto:records@americanoversight.org) or (202) 539-6507. Also, if American Oversight's

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<sup>11</sup> La. Atty. Gen. Op. No. 01-155.

request for a fee waiver is not granted in full, please contact us immediately upon making such a determination.

Sincerely,

/s/ Khahilia Shaw

Khahilia Shaw

on behalf of

American Oversight