

# OPEN RECORDS ACT REQUEST

## Oklahoma Office of the Attorney General

☐ Media ☐ General Public

**Records Requested:** Please state with specificity the nature of your request, the records you seek, and the applicable time frames.

E-MAIL ADDRESS

**Purpose of Request:** ☐ Personal ☐ Commercial ☐ Public Interest

NAME OF PERSON MAKING REQUEST (Please Print Name)

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

PHONE

FAX

If this is a media request, who are you affiliated with.

*/s/ Zachery Morris*

SIGNATURE

DATE

You will be notified of any applicable fees pursuant to the Oklahoma Open Records Act, 51 O.S. §§ 24A.1 - 24A.30. Do **NOT** send money prior to receiving notification of applicable fees and the exact amount due.

**Note:** We can process requests pertaining **only** to records of the Oklahoma Office of the Attorney General. If you seek records from another agency, please direct your request to the specific agency.

**RETURN FORM TO:** Oklahoma Office of the Attorney General

Julie Pittman, Deputy General Counsel  
313 N.E. 21st St.  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105  
Phone: (405) 522-4400 Fax: (405) 522-0669  
Email: [openrecordsrequest@oag.ok.gov](mailto:openrecordsrequest@oag.ok.gov)





May 03, 2022

**VIA EMAIL**

Oklahoma Office of the Attorney General  
Julie Pittman, Deputy General Counsel  
313 N.E. 21st Street  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105  
[openrecordsrequest@oag.ok.gov](mailto:openrecordsrequest@oag.ok.gov)

**Re: Open Records Act Request**

Dear Records Access Officer:

Pursuant to the Oklahoma Open Records Act, O.S. tit. 51, §§ 24A.1 et seq., American Oversight makes the following request for records.

**Requested Records**

American Oversight requests that your office produce the following records within five business days:

1. All email communications (including emails, email attachments, complete email chains, and calendar invitations) and text messages or messages on messaging platforms (such as Slack, GChat or Google Hangouts, Lync, Skype, Twitter direct messages, Facebook messages, WhatsApp, Signal, Telegram, The Buzz, or Parler) between (a) Attorney General John O'Connor, Solicitor General Mithun Mansighani, or anyone communicating on their behalf such as a Chief of Staff, scheduler, or assistant and (b) any of the outside entities listed below:

Outside Entities:

- a. Anyone communicating from America First Legal, including Stephen Miller, Ken Starr, Mark Meadows, Gene Hamilton, Jim DeMint, Matthew Whitaker, Russ Vought, Reed Rubenstein, or anyone communicating from an email address ending in [@aflegal.org](mailto:@aflegal.org)
- b. Anyone communicating from the Conservative Partnership Institute, including Ed Corrigan, Wesley Denton, or anyone communicating from an email address ending in [@conservativepartnership.org](mailto:@conservativepartnership.org) or [@cpi.org](mailto:@cpi.org)
- c. Anyone communicating on behalf of the Alaska Attorney General's office, including anyone communicating from an email address ending in [@alaska.gov](mailto:@alaska.gov)
- d. Anyone communicating on behalf of the Arkansas Attorney General's office, including anyone communicating from an email address ending in [@arkansasag.gov](mailto:@arkansasag.gov)



- e. Anyone communicating on behalf of the Texas Attorney General's office, including anyone communicating from an email address ending in @texasattorneygeneral.gov or @oag.texas.gov
- f. Anyone communicating on behalf of the Indiana Attorney General's office, including anyone communicating from an email address ending in @atg.in.gov
- g. Anyone communicating on behalf of the Missouri Attorney General's office, including anyone communicating from an email address ending in @ago.mo.gov
- h. Anyone communicating on behalf of the Montana Attorney General's office, including anyone communicating from an email address ending in @mt.gov
- i. Anyone communicating on behalf of the Florida Attorney General's office, including anyone communicating from an email address ending in @myfloridalegal.com
- j. Anyone communicating on behalf of the South Carolina Attorney General's office, including anyone communicating from an email address ending in @scag.gov
- k. Jonathan Bronitksy ([jonathan@athospr.com](mailto:jonathan@athospr.com))
- l. Alexei Woltornist ([alexei@athospr.com](mailto:alexei@athospr.com))

Please note that American Oversight does not seek, and that this request specifically excludes, the initial mailing of news clips or other mass-distribution emails. However, subsequent communications forwarding such emails are responsive to this request. In other words, for example, if Attorney General O'Connor received a mass-distribution news clip email from the Conservative Partnership Institute, that initial email would not be responsive to this request. However, if O'Connor responded to that email with his own commentary, that subsequent message would be responsive to this request and should be produced.

- 2. All email communications (including emails, email attachments, complete email chains, and calendar invitations) sent by Attorney General John O'Connor, Solicitor General Mithun Mansighani, or anyone communicating on their behalf such as a Chief of Staff, scheduler, or assistant containing the key terms listed below:
  - a. AFL
  - b. "America First Legal"
  - c. "Stephen Miller"
  - d. Meadows
  - e. Whitaker
  - f. Vought
  - g. Hamilton
  - h. Corrigan
  - i. Denton
  - j. Athos

In an effort to accommodate the Office of the Attorney General 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 custodians. 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 O'Connor's response to an email from containing a key term and the initial received message are responsive to this request and should be produced.

For both parts of this request, please provide all responsive records from September 21, 2021, through January 27, 2022.

### **Fee Waiver Request**

In accordance with 51 O.S. tit. 51, § 24A.5(4), American Oversight requests that your office charge no search fees in connection with processing this request for records. Release of the requested records "is in the public interest," because American Oversight, in accordance with its organizational mission, makes this request "to determine whether those entrusted with the affairs of the government are honestly, faithfully, and competently performing their duties as public servants."<sup>1</sup> Specifically, the requested records have the potential to shed light on communications officials from the Office of the Attorney General may be having with individuals from America First Legal.<sup>2</sup> Records with the potential to shed light on this matter would contribute significantly to public understanding of whether and to what extent public servants are fulfilling their duties, including officials from the Office of the Attorney General are communicating with individuals from America First Legal.

American Oversight's work is aimed solely at serving the public interest.<sup>3</sup> 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. Rather, 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. Similar to members of the news media, 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>4</sup> American Oversight has also demonstrated its commitment to

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<sup>1</sup> O.S. tit. 51, § 24A.5(4).

<sup>2</sup> See e.g., KOCO Staff, *Oklahoma Among States Suing Biden Administration Claiming Abuse of Immigration Program*, KOCO (Jan. 28, 2022, 4:42 PM), <https://www.koco.com/article/oklahoma-multistate-lawsuit-biden-administration-immigration-program/38928104>.

<sup>3</sup> See O.S. tit. 51, § 24A.5(4).

<sup>4</sup> American Oversight currently has approximately 15,700 page likes on Facebook and 118,100 followers on Twitter. American Oversight, Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/> (last visited Apr. 27, 2022); American

the public disclosure of documents and creation of editorial content through regular substantive analyses posted to its website.<sup>5</sup>

American Oversight is committed to transparency and makes the responses public bodies provide to public records requests publicly available, and the public's understanding of the government's activities—including whether public servants are honestly, faithfully, and competently performing their duties—would be enhanced through American Oversight's analysis and publication of these records.

Therefore, in accordance with O.S. tit. 51, § 24A.5(4), American Oversight respectfully requests that you limit any copying fees to the reasonable, direct costs of record copying, or mechanical reproduction, if any such costs are incurred.

American Oversight asks that if its request for a fee waiver is denied in whole or in part, that you contact us prior to incurring any costs.

### **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.
- 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

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Oversight (@weareoversight), Twitter, <https://twitter.com/weareoversight> (last visited Apr. 27, 2022).

<sup>5</sup> See generally *News*, American Oversight, <https://www.americanoversight.org/blog>; *State Investigations*, American Oversight, <https://www.americanoversight.org/states>; see also, 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>; *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>.

files, email accounts, or devices in the personal custody of your officials, such as personal email accounts or text messages.

- 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.<sup>6</sup> 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 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

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<sup>6</sup> O.S. tit. 51, § 24A.5(2).