



May 26, 2023

VIA EMAIL

Director of Open Government
Florida House of Representatives
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
opengovernment@myfloridahouse.gov

Representative Douglas Michael “Doug” Bankson
1301 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
doug.bankson@myfloridahouse.gov

Re: Public Records Request

Dear Public Records Officer:

Pursuant to Article I, section 24(a), of the Florida Constitution, and Florida House Rule 14, Part One, American Oversight makes the following request for records.

Requested Records

American Oversight requests that the Florida House of Representatives and the Office of Representative Douglas Michael “Doug” Bankson promptly produce the following:

1. All email communications (including emails, email attachments, complete email chains, and calendar invitations) sent by Representative Douglas Michael “Doug” Bankson or anyone communicating on their behalf, such as a chief of staff, scheduler, or assistant, containing any of the following key terms:

Key Terms

- a. “House Bill 543”
- b. HB543
- c. “HB 543”
- d. “Senate Bill 150”
- e. SB150
- f. “SB 150”
- g. “permitless carry”
- h. “concealed carry”
- i. “open carry”
- j. “constitutional carry”
- k. “concealed-carry weapons license”



- l. CWL
- m. “concealed weapons permit”
- n. “concealed weapons license”
- o. “public safety bill”
- p. “Second amendment”
- q. “2nd amendment”
- r. “2A”

For part 1 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 Representative Bankson. 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 Bankson’s response to an email containing a key term and the initial received message are responsive to this request and should be produced.

2. All email communications (including emails, email attachments, complete email chains, calendar invitations, and calendar invitation attachments) between Representative Douglas Michael “Doug” Bankson or anyone communicating on their behalf, such as a chief of staff, scheduler, or assistant, and any of the specified external individuals listed below (including, but not limited to, communications from email addresses ending with any domains specified below).

External Individuals:

- a. Art Thomm, or anyone communicating on behalf of the National Rifle Association, NRA Foundation, or NRA’s Institute for Legislative Action (nra.org, nrahq.org, nrafoundation.org, nraila.org, and nrapvf.org)
- b. Keith Touchberry, or anyone communicating on behalf of the Florida Police Chiefs Association (fpca.com)
- c. Steve Casey, Bob Gualtieri, or anyone communicating on behalf of the Florida Sheriffs Association (flsheriffs.org)
- d. Luis Valdes, Gerald Edwin Carroll, or anyone communicating on behalf of Gun Owners of America (gunowners.org)
- e. Matt Collins, or anyone communicating on behalf of Florida Gun Rights (floridagunrights.org)
- f. Sean Caranna, or anyone communicating on behalf of Florida Carry (floridacarry.org)

For part 2 of this request, 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 Representative Bankson received a mass-distribution news clip email from the National Rifle Association, that initial email would not be responsive to this request. However, if Representative Bankson forwarded that email to

another individual with their own commentary, that subsequent message would be responsive to this request and should be produced.

For both parts of this request, please provide all responsive records from September 30, 2022, through the date of the search.

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

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, 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.

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.¹

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 releasing the requested records, please contact Taylor Stoneman at records@americanoversight.org or (202) 848-1319.

Sincerely,

/s/ Taylor Stoneman
Taylor Stoneman
on behalf of
American Oversight

¹ American Oversight currently has approximately 16,000 followers on Facebook and 112,700 followers on Twitter. American Oversight, Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/> (last visited May 24, 2023); American Oversight (@weareoversight), Twitter, <https://twitter.com/weareoversight> (last visited May 24, 2023).