



June 18, 2020

VIA EMAIL

Florida Department of Health
4052 Bald Cypress Way-BinA02
Tallahassee, FL 32399
PublicRecordsRequest@flhealth.gov

Re: Public Records Request

Dear Public Records Officer:

Pursuant to Florida's public records laws, as codified at Fla. Stat. Chapter 119, American Oversight makes the following request for records.

On June 11, 2020, the Republican National Committee announced that it would hold its 2020 national convention in Jacksonville, Florida, after disputes over coronavirus precautions with officials in North Carolina, where the convention was previously scheduled to take place.¹

American Oversight requests records to better help the public understand why the Republican National Convention is being held in Jacksonville, Florida.

Requested Records

American Oversight requests that your office promptly produce the following:

All email communications (including emails, email attachments, and calendar invitations) between (1) any representatives or employees of the Republican National Convention, the Republican National Committee, or the campaign of President Donald J. Trump (including communications with email addresses ending in gop.com, 2020gopconvention.com, RNCHQ.org, gilesparscale.com, parscale.com, parscaldigital.com, donaldtrump.com, donaldjtrump.com) and (2) any of the Florida officials listed below.

- a. Surgeon General Scott A. Rivkees
- b. Chief of Staff Courtney F. Coppola
- c. Deputy Secretary for Operations Michele Tallent
- d. Deputy Secretary for Health Shamarial Roberson

¹ Dartunorro Clark, *Republicans Pick Jacksonville, Florida, as Convention Site for Trump to Accept Nomination*, NBC News (June 11, 2020, 11:24 PM), <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2020-election/rnc-picks-jacksonville-florida-convention-site-trump-accept-gop-nomination-n1230326>.



Please provide all responsive records from May 20, 2020, to the date the search is conducted.

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 Deputy Secretary for Health Shamarial Roberson received a mass-distribution news clip email from one of the email domains listed above, that initial email would not be responsive to this request. However, if Deputy Secretary for Health Shamarial Roberson forwarded that email to another individual with her own commentary, that subsequent message would be responsive to this request and should be produced.

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 agency 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, in paper format, 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 agency 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.²

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, have any questions, or foresee any problems in fully releasing the requested records, please contact Christine Monahan at records@americanoversight.org or (202) 869-5244.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Austin R. Evers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

Austin R. Evers
Executive Director
American Oversight

² American Oversight currently has approximately 15,500 page likes on Facebook and 103,000 followers on Twitter. American Oversight, FACEBOOK, <https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/> (last visited June 18, 2020); American Oversight (@weareoversight), TWITTER, <https://twitter.com/weareoversight> (last visited June 18, 2020).