



November 15, 2018

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Director, Office of Public Records
Office of the Attorney General
107 West Gaines Street, Suite 228
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1050
PublicRecordsRequest@myfloridalegal.com

Re: Public Records Request

Dear Director:

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

On November 7, 2018, President Trump announced that Jeff Sessions was stepping down as Attorney General to be replaced on an acting basis by Mr. Sessions's Chief of Staff, Matthew Whitaker.¹ Commentators and reporters have speculated that Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi, among others, is a potential permanent replacement for Mr. Sessions.² American Oversight seeks records to shed light on the nature and extent of any relationships between Attorney General Bondi and various federal officials.

Requested Records

American Oversight requests that the Office of the Attorney General promptly produce the following:

All records reflecting communications (including emails, email attachments, text messages, messages on messaging platforms (such as Slack, GChat or Google Hangouts, Lync, Skype, or WhatsApp), telephone call logs, calendar invitations, calendar entries, meeting notices, meeting agendas, informational material, draft legislation, talking points, any handwritten or electronic notes taken during any oral communications, summaries of any oral communications, or other materials) between (a) the immediate Office of the Attorney General and (b) anyone with an email address ending in any of the following extensions:

¹ Donald J. Trump (@realdonaldtrump), TWITTER (Nov. 7, 2018, 2:44 PM), <https://twitter.com/realdonaldtrump/status/1060256619383193601>.

² See, e.g., Peter Nicholas & Rebecca Ballhaus, *Leading Candidates to Replace Jeff Sessions as Attorney General*, WALL ST. J., Nov. 7, 2018, <https://www.wsj.com/articles/leading-candidates-to-replace-jeff-sessions-as-attorney-general-1541636592>.



1. @usdoj.gov
2. @ed.gov
3. @hhs.gov

Please provide all responsive records from January 20, 2017, through the date the search is conducted.

American Oversight seeks all responsive records regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics. In conducting your search, please understand the term “record” in its 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 includes any attachments to these records. **No category of material should be omitted from search, collection, and production.**

In addition, American Oversight insists that the Office of the Attorney General 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; agencies 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.

You should institute a preservation hold on information responsive to this request. American Oversight intends to pursue all legal avenues to enforce its right of access under Florida’s public records laws, including litigation if necessary. Accordingly, the Office of the Attorney General is on notice that litigation is reasonably foreseeable.

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 the Office of the Attorney General 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.³

We share a common mission to promote transparency in government. American Oversight looks forward to working with the Attorney General's 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 Katherine Anthony at foia@americanoversight.org or 202.897.3918.

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

³ American Oversight currently has approximately 11,900 page likes on Facebook and 45,800 followers on Twitter. American Oversight, FACEBOOK, <https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/> (last visited Nov. 15, 2018); American Oversight (@weareoversight), TWITTER, <https://twitter.com/weareoversight> (last visited Nov. 15, 2018).