



February 12, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Sen. Jeff Brandes
416 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100
(850) 487-5024
brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov

Laquisha Persak
Public Records Coordinator
Florida Senate
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
publicrecordsrequests@flsenate.gov

Re: Public Records Request

Dear Public Records Officer:

Pursuant to Florida’s public records laws, as codified at Fla. Stat. Chapter 119, Florida Senate Rule 1.48, American Oversight makes the following request for records.

Requested Records

American Oversight requests that your office promptly produce the following:

All communications (including emails, email attachments, text messages, calendar invitations, letters, memoranda, or other communications) sent by the individuals listed below in Column A, and which contain any of the keywords listed below in Column B.

Column A: Sen. Brandes & His Staff	Column B: Search Keywords:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sen. Jeff Brandes, and anyone on his staff communicating on his behalf, including schedulers and assistants 2. Zachary Hubbard, Legislative Assistant 3. Melissa Meshil, Legislative Assistant 4. Vanessa Thompson, Legislative Assistant 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. “elections” 2. “legal residence” 3. “watcher” 4. “tabulating equipment” 5. “ATE” 6. “VBM” 7. “vote-by-mail” 8. “canvass” 9. “contributions” 10. “restriction” 11. “1372”

American Oversight requests all communications including, but not limited to, email communications. With regard to your search for responsive email communications, American Oversight agrees that the search may be limited to emails sent by the listed individuals in an effort to accommodate the office and reduce the number of potentially



responsive records. Despite this search accommodation, American Oversight still requests that complete email chains be produced, displaying both sent and received messages.

Please provide all responsive records from October 1, 2019, to 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 fees.

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

In addition, 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, 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 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 Christine H. 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

¹ American Oversight currently has approximately 15,400 page likes on Facebook and 101,500 followers on Twitter. American Oversight, FACEBOOK, <https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/> (last visited Feb. 7, 2020); American Oversight (@weareoversight), TWITTER, <https://twitter.com/weareoversight> (last visited Feb. 7, 2020).