



January 19, 2021

VIA EMAIL

Deputy Public Information Officer
Attorney General’s Office
2005 N Central Ave.
publicrecords@azag.gov

Re: Public Records Request

Dear Public Records Officer:

Pursuant to the Arizona Public Records Law, A.R.S. §§ 39-121 et seq., American Oversight makes the following request for records.

Requested Records

American Oversight requests that the Attorney General’s Office promptly produce the following records:

1. All email communications (including emails, complete email chains, calendar invitations, and attachments thereto) and text message threads/conversations between (a) any of the state officials listed in Column A below, and (b) any of the external individuals identified in Column B below:

Column A: Arizona State Officials	Column B: External Individuals
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mark Brnovich, Attorney General 2. Rachele Lump, Executive Assistant 3. Joe Kanefield, Chief Deputy & Chief of Staff 4. Alyson Flanagan, Executive Assistant 5. Jason Isaak, Advisor to the Attorney General 6. Ryan Anderson, Director of Communications 7. Katie Conner, Director of Media Relations 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adam Piper, Executive Director (including, but not limited to, at apiper@republicanags.com or adampiper1@gmail.com) 2. Chris Carr, Georgia Attorney General (including, but not limited to, at agcarr@law.ga.gov or ccarr@law.ga.gov) 3. Eric Schmitt, Missouri Attorney General (including, but not limited to, at ag@ago.mo.gov) 4. Steve Marshall, Alabama Attorney General (including, but not limited to, at steve.marshall@alabamaag.gov) 5. Any employee or representative of the Republican Attorneys General



	<p>Association (including, but not limited to, anyone communicating from an email address ending in @republicanags.com)</p> <p>6. Any employee or representative of the Rule of Law Defense Fund (including, but not limited to, anyone communicating from an email address ending in @rldf.org or @ruleoflawdefensefund.org)</p>
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2. All (a) email communications (including emails, complete email chains, calendar invitations, and attachments thereto) sent by and (b) text message threads/conversations sent or received by any of the individuals specified in Column A, above, that contain any of the key terms listed below:

Key Terms:

- i. "Rule of Law"
- ii. RLDF
- iii. "Republican Attorneys General Association"
- iv. RAGA
- v. "Save America"
- vi. "stop the steal"
- vii. Patriot
- viii. Patriots
- ix. "election fraud"
- x. "integrity of our election"
- xi. "election integrity"
- xii. Rally
- xiii. MAGA
- xiv. "great again"
- xv. Piper

For item 2(a) 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 the specified officials in the Office of the Attorney General. 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 Brnovich's response to an email containing one of the key terms listed above and the initial received message are responsive to this request and should be produced.

For item 2(b) of this request, American Oversight requests that complete text message threads/conversations be produced. This means, for example, that if Attorney General Brnovich sent or received a text message containing any of the key terms listed above, American Oversight requests that the complete text

conversation for the timeframe listed below should be produced, and not just the message containing the key term.

For both items of this request, please provide all responsive records from November 3, 2020, to the date the search is conducted.

Statement of Noncommercial Purpose

This request is made for noncommercial purposes. American Oversight seeks records with the potential to shed light on whether and to what extent officials in the Attorney General's Office were aware of robocalls reportedly made by the Rule of Law Defense Fund urging supporters to travel to Washington, D.C., to "fight" Congress over President Trump's election fraud claims. This matter is a subject of substantial public interest in Arizona and nationwide.¹ Records with the potential to shed light on this matter would contribute significantly to public understanding of operations of the government.

Because American Oversight is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, this request is not in American Oversight's financial interest and is not made for a commercial purpose. 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. 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

Because this request is made for noncommercial purposes, American Oversight requests that any fees charged in connection with processing this request be limited to copying

¹ Andrea Salcedo, *Republican AGs Group Sent Robocalls Urging Protestors to the Capitol. GOP Officials Now Insist They Didn't Know About It.*, Wash. Post (Jan. 11, 2021, 7:30AM), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2021/01/11/gop-robocalls-trump-rally-capitol/>; Lindsay Walker, *Arizona Capitol Increases Security After U.S. Capitol Riots*, Patch (Jan. 12, 2021, 5:29PM), <https://patch.com/arizona/phoenix/arizona-capitol-increases-security-after-u-s-capitol-riots>.

² American Oversight currently has approximately 15,600 page likes on Facebook and 105,900 followers on Twitter. American Oversight, Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/> (last visited Jan. 8 2021); American Oversight (@weareoversight), Twitter, <https://twitter.com/weareoversight> (last visited Jan. 8, 2021).

and postage charges, if applicable.³ Please notify American Oversight of any anticipated fees or costs in excess of \$100 prior to incurring such costs or fees.

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. For instance, if the request seeks “communications,” please search all locations likely to contain communications, including relevant hard-copy files, correspondence files, appropriate locations on hard drives and shared drives, emails, text messages or other direct messaging systems (such as iMessage, WhatsApp, Signal, or Twitter direct messages), voicemail messages, instant messaging systems such as Lync or ICQ, and shared messages systems such as Slack.
- 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 files, email accounts, or devices in the personal custody of your officials, such as personal email accounts or text messages.
- If any records are withheld in full or in part, pursuant to A.R.S. § 39-121.01(D)(2), please provide an index of records or categories of records that have been withheld and the reasons the records or categories of records have been withheld.
- 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 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

³ A.R.S. § 39-121.01(D)(1); *see also Hanania v. City of Tucson*, 128 Ariz. 135, 624 P.2d 332 (Ct. App. 1980). Furthermore, because this request is for noncommercial purposes, additional fees provided for under A.R.S. § 39-121.03(A) are not applicable and should not be assessed.

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 Khahilia Shaw at records@americanoversight.org or 202.539.6507.

Sincerely,



Austin R. Evers
Executive Director
American Oversight