



July 20, 2021

**VIA EMAIL**

Rep. Keith Kidwell  
16 West Jones Street, Rm. 1206  
Raleigh, NC 27601  
[Keith.Kidwell@ncleg.gov](mailto:Keith.Kidwell@ncleg.gov)

Rep. Jeffrey McNeely  
16 West Jones Street, Rm. 606  
Raleigh, NC 27601  
[Jeffrey.McNeely@ncleg.gov](mailto:Jeffrey.McNeely@ncleg.gov)

Rep. Kyle Hall  
16 West Jones Street, Rm. 305  
Raleigh, NC 27601  
[Kyle.Hall@ncleg.gov](mailto:Kyle.Hall@ncleg.gov)

Rep. George Cleveland  
16 West Jones Street, Rm. 417A  
Raleigh, NC 27601  
[George.Cleveland@ncleg.gov](mailto:George.Cleveland@ncleg.gov)

**Re: Public Records Act Request**

Dear Representatives Kidwell, Hall, McNeely, and Cleveland:

Pursuant to the North Carolina Public Records Act, as codified at North Carolina General Statutes ch. 132, American Oversight makes the following request for records.

**Requested Records**

American Oversight requests that your office produce the following records as promptly as possible:

1. All email communications (including emails, email attachments, complete email chains, calendar invitation, and calendar attachments) sent by any of the individuals listed below concerning the manufacturing of hardware or software used in election voting systems, including, but not limited to, proposed requirements that the hardware or software be developed or manufactured in the United States or by American companies.

Office of Representative Kidwell

- i. Representative Keith Kidwell
- ii. Joy Albright, Legislative Assistant

Office of Representative Hall

- i. Representative Kyle Hall
- ii. Michael Fairrington, Legislative Assistant

Office of Representative McNeely

- i. Representative Jeffrey McNeely
- ii. Barbara Gaiser, Legislative Assistant



Office of Representative Cleveland

- i. Representative George Cleveland
- ii. Pamela Ahlin, Legislative Assistant

In an effort to accommodate your offices and reduce the number of potentially responsive records to be processed and produced, American Oversight has limited its request to emails sent by the listed custodians. 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 Rep. Kidwell's response to an email concerning foreign-manufactured voting machines 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 invitation, and calendar attachments) and text messages or messages on messaging platforms (such as Slack, GChat, Google Hangouts, Lync, Skype, Twitter direct messages, Facebook Messenger, WhatsApp, Signal, Telegram, or Parler) between Representatives Kidwell, Hall, McNeely, Cleveland, or their staff members listed in Part 1 above, and any of the individuals listed below (including, but not limited to, at the listed email addresses).

External Individuals:

- i. TX Rep. Cole Hefner ([Cole.Hefner@house.texas.gov](mailto:Cole.Hefner@house.texas.gov))
- ii. TX Rep. Briscoe Cain ([Briscoe.Cain@house.texas.gov](mailto:Briscoe.Cain@house.texas.gov))
- iii. TX Rep. Jacey Jetton ([Jacey.Jetton@house.texas.gov](mailto:Jacey.Jetton@house.texas.gov))
- iv. TX Rep. Valoree Swanson ([Valoree.Swanson@house.texas.gov](mailto:Valoree.Swanson@house.texas.gov))
- v. PA Rep. Matt Dowling ([mdowling@pahousegop.com](mailto:mdowling@pahousegop.com))
- vi. PA Rep. David Rowe ([drowe@pahousegop.com](mailto:drowe@pahousegop.com))
- vii. PA Rep. Michael Peifer ([mpeifer@pahousegop.com](mailto:mpeifer@pahousegop.com))
- viii. PA Rep. Aaron Bernstine ([abernstine@pahousegop.com](mailto:abernstine@pahousegop.com))
- ix. PA Rep. David Millard ([dmillard@pahousegop.com](mailto:dmillard@pahousegop.com))
- x. PA Rep. Carrie Lewis DelRosso ([clewisdelrosso@pahousegop.com](mailto:clewisdelrosso@pahousegop.com))
- xi. PA Rep. Rob Kauffman ([rkauffman@pahousegop.com](mailto:rkauffman@pahousegop.com))
- xii. PA Rep. Perry Stambaugh ([pstambaugh@pahousegop.com](mailto:pstambaugh@pahousegop.com))
- xiii. PA Rep. Daryl Metcalfe ([dmetcalfe@pahousegop.com](mailto:dmetcalfe@pahousegop.com))
- xiv. PA Rep. Ryan Warner ([rwarner@pahousegop.com](mailto:rwarner@pahousegop.com))
- xv. PA Rep. Russ Diamond ([rdiamond@pahousegop.com](mailto:rdiamond@pahousegop.com))
- xvi. PA Rep. Jim Cox ([jcox@pahousegop.com](mailto:jcox@pahousegop.com))
- xvii. PA Rep. Joe Hamm ([jhamm@pahousegop.com](mailto:jhamm@pahousegop.com))

3. All email communications (including emails, email attachments, complete email chains, calendar invitation, and calendar attachments) between Representatives Kidwell, Hall, McNeely, Cleveland, or their staff members listed in Part 1 above, and any representatives of the organizations listed below (including, but not limited to, anyone communicating from an email address ending with the listed domains).

External Organizations:

- i. The Heritage Foundation (@heritage.org)
- ii. Heritage Action for America (@heritageaction.com)
- iii. American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) (@alec.org)
- iv. Public Interest Legal Foundation (@publicinterestlegal.org)
- v. True the Vote (@truethevote.org)
- vi. Republican State Leadership Committee (@rslc.gop)
- vii. Family Research Council (frc.org)
- viii. Susan B. Anthony List (sba-list.org)
- ix. American Principles Project (americanprinciplesproject.org)
- x. FreedomWorks (freedomworks.org)
- xi. Tea Party Patriots (teapartypatriots.org)

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 Rep. Kidwell received a mass-distribution press release from The Heritage Foundation, that initial email would not be responsive to this request. However, if Rep. Kidwell forwarded that email to another individual with his own commentary, that subsequent message would be responsive to this request and should be produced.

For all parts of this request, please provide all responsive records from January 1, 2021, through June 17, 2021.

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

**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.
- In conducting your search, please understand the terms “record,” “document,” and “information” in their broadest sense, to include any written, typed, recorded, graphic, printed, or audio material of any kind.<sup>1</sup> 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

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<sup>1</sup> N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 132-1(a) (public records consist of documentary material “regardless of physical form or characteristics.”).

transcripts, notes, or minutes of any meetings, telephone conversations or discussions.

- 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. Records of official business conducted using unofficial systems or stored outside of official files are subject to the Public Records Act.<sup>2</sup>
- 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 basis, please take steps to prevent that deletion, including, as appropriate, by instituting a litigation hold on those records.

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.

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<sup>2</sup> See Atty. Gen. Josh Stein, *North Carolina Open Government Guide* at 22 (2019), <https://ncdoj.gov/download/141/files/17891/2019-open-government-guide> (“Emails about official business are public records even if they are sent using the personal email account of an employee or official.”).

## 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.<sup>3</sup>

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 Zachery Morris at [records@americanoversight.org](mailto:records@americanoversight.org) or (202) 897-4213.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Zachery Morris*  
Zachery Morris  
on behalf of  
American Oversight

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<sup>3</sup> American Oversight currently has approximately 16,300 page follows on Facebook and 106,600 followers on Twitter. American Oversight, Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/> (last visited July 19, 2021); American Oversight (@weareoversight), Twitter, <https://twitter.com/weareoversight> (last visited July 19, 2021).