



Request for Public Records of the Attorney General's Office

(Please note that requests for records of other State or local agencies must be directed to those agencies.)

Person Requesting: Hart Wood

Representing: American Oversight

Address: 1030 15th Street NW, Suite B255, Washington, DC 20005

Phone: (202) 873-1743

Email: records@americanoversight.org

Documents requested (please be as clear and concise as possible): _____

Please see the attached Public Records Act Request (MS-AG-21-1434).

Review Requested: _____ Personally Inspect: _____

Copy of Materials: _____ Electronic Copy (if available):

Additional Instructions: _____

Requestor's Signature: /s/ Hart Wood Date of Request: 10/14/2021

Please submit this request by U.S. Mail:
Office of the Attorney General
Attn: Opinions and Policy Division
P.O. Box 220
Jackson, MS 39205

Or email:
openrecords@ago.ms.gov

Note: Actual costs of gathering, reviewing, and reproducing requested materials will be the responsibility of the requestor. Pursuant to Section 25-61-7 of the Mississippi Code, these costs must be paid in advance. If you do not receive a response from our office within seven (7) business days of submitting your request, please contact our office to confirm that we have received your request.



October 14, 2021

VIA EMAIL

Office of the Attorney General
P.O. Box 220
Jackson, MS 39205
openrecords@ago.ms.gov

Re: Mississippi Public Records Act Request

Dear Public Records Officer:

Pursuant to the Mississippi Public Records Act, Miss. Code §§ 25-61-1 *et seq.*, American Oversight makes the following request for records.

Requested Records

American Oversight requests that the Mississippi Attorney General's Office produce the following records within seven working days:

1. Records sufficient to identify the Mississippi Attorney General's Office's actual or prospective budget for matters concerning election law (including, but not limited to, budgets for relevant employee salaries, election integrity initiatives, and election fraud investigations). For purposes of this request, please understand "matters concerning election law" to include, but not be limited to, election integrity initiatives and election fraud investigations.

For request item 1, please provide all responsive records reflecting the described budgets for fiscal years 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022.

2. Records sufficient to identify all costs and expenses incurred for matters concerning election law (including, but not limited to, relevant employee salaries, election integrity initiatives, and election fraud investigations).

For request item 2, please provide all responsive records reflecting the described costs and expenses for fiscal years 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022.

3. Records sufficient to identify the total number of pending cases concerning alleged election law violations.

For request item 4, please provide all responsive records for each month spanning January 2019 through October 2021 (*i.e.*, January 2019, February 2019, March 2019, April 2019, May 2019 [. . .] July 2021, August 2021, September 2021, and October 2021).



4. Records sufficient to identify the total number of resolved cases (including, but not limited to, cases resulting in a finding of guilt or liability, cases resolved by plea or stipulation, or dismissed cases) concerning election law violations and the final disposition of each case, regardless of the outcome.

For request item 5, please provide all responsive records for each month spanning January 2019 through October 2021 (*i.e.*, January 2019, February 2019, March 2019, April 2019, May 2019 [. . .] July 2021, August 2021, September 2021, and October 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. 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.
- 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. 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 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.

- 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.

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 agency on this request. If you do not

¹ American Oversight currently has approximately 15,635 page likes on Facebook and 108,500 followers on Twitter. American Oversight, Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/> (last visited Oct. 14, 2021); American Oversight (@weareoversight), Twitter, <https://twitter.com/weareoversight> (last visited Oct. 14, 2021).

understand any part of this request, please contact Hart Wood at records@americanoversight.org or (202) 873-1743.

Sincerely,

/s/ Hart Wood
Hart Wood
on behalf of
American Oversight