



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-21-1658).

Review Requested: _____ Personally Inspect: _____

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

Additional Instructions: _____

Requestor's Signature: /s/ Hart Wood Date of Request: 11/22/2021

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.



November 22, 2021

VIA EMAIL

Office of the Attorney General
Attn: Opinions and Policy Division
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 your office produce the following records within seven working days:

All email communications (including emails, email attachments, complete email chains, and calendar invitations) and text messages or messages on messaging platforms (such as Slack, GChat or Google Hangouts, Lync, Skype, Twitter direct messages, Facebook messages, WhatsApp, Signal, Telegram, The Buzz, or Parler) between (a) Attorney General Lynn Fitch, Solicitor General Scott Stewart, or anyone communicating on Fitch's or Stewart's behalf such as a Chief of Staff, scheduler, or assistant and (b) any of the outside entities listed below:

Outside Entities:

- a. Anyone communicating from America First Legal, including Stephen Miller, Ken Starr, Mark Meadows, Gene Hamilton, Jim DeMint, Matthew Whitaker, Russ Vought, Reed Rubenstein, or anyone communicating from an email address ending in @aflegal.org
- b. Anyone communicating from the Conservative Partnership Institute, including Ed Corrigan, Wesley Denton or anyone communicating from an email address ending in @conservativepartnership.org or @cpi.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 Attorney General Fitch received a mass-distribution news clip email from Stephen Miller, that initial email would not be responsive to this request. However, if Fitch



responded to that email with his own commentary, that subsequent message would be responsive to this request and should be produced.

Please provide all responsive records from March 15, 2021, through the date the request is received.

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. 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 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

¹ American Oversight currently has approximately 16,200 page followers on Facebook and 109,100 followers on Twitter. American Oversight, Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/> (last visited Nov. 18, 2021); American Oversight (@weareoversight), Twitter, <https://twitter.com/weareoversight> (last visited Nov. 18, 2021).