



August 22, 2022

VIA EMAIL

Deputy Public Information Officer
Attorney General's Office
2005 North Central Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85004
publicrecords@azag.gov

Re: Public Records Request

Dear Public Information Officers:

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 your office promptly produce the following records:

All email communications (including emails, complete email chains, email attachments, calendar invitations, and calendar invitation attachments), text messages (including complete text message threads or conversations), and messages on messaging platforms (such as Slack, GChat, Google Hangouts, Lync, Skype, or WhatsApp between (a) Attorney General Mark Brnovich, Chief of Staff Joseph Kanefield, and (b) any of the external individuals or entities listed below (including, but not limited to, at the listed email addresses or domains):

External Individuals and Entities:

- i. Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall, or anyone communicating on his behalf (@alabamaag.gov)
- ii. Catherine Engelbrecht, or anyone from True the Vote (@truethevote.org or @truethevote.com)
- iii. Cleta Mitchell, Ed Corrigan, or anyone from Conservative Partner Institute (@conservativepartnership.org, cpi.org, or @cletamitchell.com)
- iv. James Bopp, Jr. (jboppjr@aol.com), or anyone from the Bopp Law Firm (@bopplaw.com)
- v. Hans von Spakovsky, or anyone from the Heritage Foundation (@heritage.org or @heritageaction.com)
 - i. Jason Torchinsky (jtorchinsky@hvjt.law), or anyone from Holtzman, Vogel, Baran, Torchinsky & Josefiak (@holtzmanvogel.com)
 - ii. J. Christian Adams (a@electionlawcenter.com, adams@electionlawcenter.com, and jadams@usccr.gov), Maureen Riordan, or anyone from Public Interest Legal Foundation (@publicinterestlegal.org)



- iii. Jenna Ellis (jenna.ellis.esq@gmail.com), Phillip Kline (phillklineva@gmail.com), Ian Northon, Erick Kaardal (kaardal@mklaw.com), Peter Breen, or anyone from Thomas More Society Amistad Project (@thomasmoresociety.org)
- iv. John Eastman (jeastman@claremont.org, jeastman@chapman.edu, john.eastman@colorado.edu, jeastman@ccg1776.com, or jeastman562@gmail.com), or anyone from the Claremont Institute (@claremont.org)
- v. Ken Blackwell (kennethblackwell693@gmail.com), Hogan Gidley, or anyone from America First Policy Institute (@americafirstpolicy.com)
- vi. Matt Braynard (matt@braynard.com), Ian Camacho, Carolina Craze, Ken Bennett or anyone from Look Ahead America (@lookaheadamerica.org)
- vii. Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt, or anyone communicating on his behalf (@ago.mo.gov)
- viii. Montana Attorney General Austin Knudsen, or anyone communicating on his behalf (@mt.gov)
- ix. Peter Bisbee, anyone from Rule of Defense Law Fund, or anyone from the Republican Attorneys General Association (@rldf.org, @ruleofdefensefund.org, or @republicanags.com)
- x. South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson, or anyone communicating on his behalf (@scag.gov)

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 Brnovich received a mass-distribution news clip email from an external individual or entity, that initial email would not be responsive to this request. However, if Attorney General Brnovich forwarded that email to another individual with his own.

For this request, please provide all records from April 25, 2022, through the date the search is conducted. **Please consider this a standing request, the response to which should be updated promptly each time new information is added to any responsive records or new responsive records are created.**¹

Statement of Noncommercial Purpose

This request is made for noncommercial purposes. American Oversight seeks records regarding interactions Attorney General Mark Brnovich or his staff may have had with influential third-party actors with vested interests in election integrity. Records with the potential to shed light on this matter would contribute significantly to public

¹ See *W. Valley View, Inc. v. Maricopa Cty. Sheriff's Off.*, 216 Ariz. 225, 228 (App. 2007).

understanding of operations of the government, including whether and to what extent these external actors may have attempted to influence official election integrity efforts.

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 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:

- 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

² American Oversight currently has approximately 16,000 followers on Facebook and 118,400 followers on Twitter. American Oversight, Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/> (last visited August 9, 2022); American Oversight (@weareoversight), Twitter, <https://twitter.com/weareoversight> (last visited August 9, 2022).

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.

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 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,

/s/ Khahilia Shaw
Khahilia Shaw
on behalf of
American Oversight