



June 30, 2022

**VIA EMAIL**

Justin Riches  
Public Records Counsel  
Arizona House of Representatives  
1700 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007-2844  
[jriches@azleg.gov](mailto:jriches@azleg.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.

Despite a lack of evidence of widespread election fraud, efforts to alter the results of the November 2020 presidential election persist,<sup>1</sup> including in Arizona, where Representative Mark Finchem has introduced legislation proposing to set aside Arizona's presidential electors.<sup>2</sup> In March 2022, election conspiracist Ivan Raiklin purports to have met with "approximately a dozen" Arizona legislators, including a forty minute conversation with Senate President Karen Fann, laying out a legal justification for decertification.

American Oversight seeks records regarding ongoing efforts by public officials and activists to cast doubt on the results of the November 2020 presidential election.

**Requested Records**

American Oversight requests that the Arizona House of Representatives promptly produce the following records:

All records reflecting communications (including emails, email attachments, text messages, messages on messaging platforms (such as Slack, GChat or Google Hangouts, Lync, Skype, or WhatsApp), telephone call logs, calendar invitations,

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<sup>1</sup> Maggie Haberman, *et al.*, *Trump Allies Continue Legal Drive to Erase His Loss, Stoking Election Doubts*, N.Y. Times, Apr. 18, 2022,

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/04/18/us/politics/trump-allies-election-decertify.html>.

<sup>2</sup> Mary Jo Pitzl, *House Speaker: Finchem's Bill to Set Aside 2020 Presidential Results 'Profoundly Unwise'*, AZ Republic (updated Feb. 7, 2022, 8:35 PM),

<https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/politics/legislature/2022/02/07/house-speaker-rusty-bowers-mark-finchem-election-denial-bill/6699257001/>.



calendar entries, meeting notices, meeting agendas, informational material, talking points, any handwritten or electronic notes taken during any oral communications, summaries of any oral communications, or other materials) sent or received by the officials specified below, regarding a March 2022 meeting with Ivan Raiklin.

In the case of emails and texts, the search should include those sent or received from the specified officials' personal accounts and/or devices if they were used to conduct official business, as well those sent from their official email addresses or government-issued devices.

Responsive records should be interpreted to include, but not be limited to:

- A. Records reflecting communications between organizers or attendees of the March 2022 meeting, including, but not limited to, communications with Ivan Raiklin (including [ivan@raiklin.com](mailto:ivan@raiklin.com), [ivan.raiklin@gmail.com](mailto:ivan.raiklin@gmail.com), [socialmediaraiklin@gmail.com](mailto:socialmediaraiklin@gmail.com), and other known addresses), or with other individuals or entities regarding the content of the meeting.
- B. Any handouts, agenda, summaries, or notes provided in connection with the meeting, including but not limited to: (i) electronic or hard-copy records provided by attendees, participants, or organizers of the commission meeting, or (ii) formal or informal notes, descriptions, or analyses of the event created by the listed officials.

Listed Officials:

- 1. Representative Russell Bowers, or his aides Shannon Rivington or Jan Mullenaux
- 2. Representative Mark Finchem, or his aide April Riggins
- 3. Representative Jake Hoffman, or his aide Minerva Arvizu
- 4. Representative Leo Biasiucci, or his aide Jennifer Johnson

Please provide all responsive records from February 28, 2022, through March 21, 2022.

**Statement of Noncommercial Purpose**

This request is made for noncommercial purposes. American Oversight seeks records regarding efforts to overturn or otherwise cast doubt on the November 2020 presidential election.<sup>3</sup> Records with the potential to shed light on this matter contribute significantly to public understanding of operations of the government, including the extent to which Arizona legislators communicated with specific individuals advocating the decertification of the election.

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

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<sup>3</sup> See *supra*, notes 1 & 2.

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.<sup>4</sup>

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.<sup>5</sup> 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.
- 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

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<sup>4</sup> American Oversight currently has approximately 16,000 followers on Facebook and 117,700 followers on Twitter. American Oversight, Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/> (last visited June 22, 2022); American Oversight (@weareoversight), Twitter, <https://twitter.com/weareoversight> (last visited June 22, 2022).

<sup>5</sup> 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.

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 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 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