



September 9, 2022

**VIA EMAIL**

Justin Riches  
Public Records Counsel  
Arizona House of Representatives  
1700 W. Washington St.  
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.

**Requested Records**

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

Posts and comments by the official Facebook account of Rep. Joseph Chaplik in the following Facebook groups:

- a. Arizonans for the Second Amendment
- b. AZ Patriotic Businesses
- c. Moms for Liberty – Maricopa County, AZ

Please provide all responsive records from January 1, 2022, through the date the search is conducted.

**Statement of Noncommercial Purpose**

This request is made for noncommercial purposes. American Oversight seeks records regarding the level of involvement of their state representatives in social media communities with strong ideological leanings.<sup>1</sup> Records with the potential to shed light on this matter would contribute significantly to public understanding of operations of the government, including the extent of their engagement with social media in an official capacity associated with their representative office.

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>1</sup> See e.g., *Breaching the Mainstream: A National Survey of Far-Right Membership in State Legislatures*. Institute for Research and Education on Human Rights (updated May 13, 2022), <https://www.irehr.org/reports/breaching-the-mainstream/>.



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>2</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>3</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:

- 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.

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<sup>2</sup> 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 Jul. 19, 2022); American Oversight (@weareoversight), Twitter, <https://twitter.com/weareoversight> (last visited Jul. 19, 2022).

<sup>3</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.

## 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 Khalilia Shaw at [records@americanoversight.org](mailto:records@americanoversight.org) or (202) 539-6507.

Sincerely,

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