



June 2, 2023

VIA ONLINE PORTAL

La Paz County Elections Department
1108 Joshua Ave.
Parker, AZ 85344

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 the La Paz Elections Department promptly produce the following records:

1. All email communications (including emails, complete email chains, calendar invitations, and calendar invitation attachments) between (a) former La Paz County Elections Director Bob Bartelsmeyer, and (b) any of the specified entities or individuals listed below (including, but not limited to, at the listed email addresses and domains).

Specified Entities and Individuals:

- i. Any member or staff of the Arizona Legislature (azleg.gov)
- ii. Anyone communicating on behalf of the Election Fairness Institute (electionfairnessinstitute.org or GoEFI.org)
- iii. Former Arizona Representative Mark Finchem (markfinchem@me.com, markfinchem@protonmail.com)
- iv. Former Arizona Senator Karen Fann (karenefann@outlook.com, fannm@cableone.net)
- v. Former Arizona Senator Kelly Townsend (kellyjtownsend@yahoo.com, kune_fish@yahoo.com)
- vi. Cochise County Recorder David Stevens (recorder@cochise.az.gov)
- vii. Kari Lake (karilake.com)
- viii. Christine Bauserman (cb12221@gmail.com)
- ix. Jeff DeWit (azgop.com)
- x. Ken Bennett (kbazos@gmail.com, kjbennettaz@gmail.com, arizonaaudit@gmail.com)
- xi. Michael Schafer (mcsaz42@protonmail.com)
- xii. Pete McGinnis (pmcginnis0@protonmail.com)
- xiii. Randy Pullen (rpullen13@gmail.com)



- xiv. Mike Lindell (mike@mypillow.com), Michele Replogle (micrep@protonmail.com, micrep@pm.me), or anyone communicating from an email address ending in mypillow.com
 - xv. Emily Newman (enewman@protonmail.com)
 - xvi. Patrick Byrne, Mike Roman (mikeroman@protonmail.com), or anyone communicating on behalf of the America Project (americaproject.com or theamericaproject.com)
 - xvii. Former Arizona GOP Chair Kelli Ward (kelli@kelliward.com, drkelliward@gmail.com)
 - xviii. David Clements (davidkclements13@protonmail.com, dkc@theprofessorsrecord.com)
 - xix. Erin Hughs (erin.hughs@yahoo.com)
 - xx. Jovan Hutton Pulitzer (jovanhuttonpulitzer@gmail.com)
 - xxi. Doug Frank (drdougglasfrank@outlook.com, drdougglasfrank@protonmail.com)
 - xxii. Kurt Olsen (kurtols@protonmail.com)
 - xxiii. Seth Keshel (skeshel@protonmail.com, skeshel@gmail.com, bookings@captk.com)
 - xxiv. Shawn Smith (luftsas@gmail.com, ratioinvictus@protonmail.com)
 - xxv. Shiva Ayyadurai (vashiva@vashiva.com)
 - xxvi. Tim Griffin, or anyone communicating on behalf of the Thomas More Society (thomasmoresociety.org)
 - xxvii. Todd Sanders (todd@krknsys.com, todd@americaproject.com, t@bonfiresearch.org)
 - xxviii. Catherine Engelbrecht, or anyone communicating on behalf of True the Vote (truethevote.org)
 - xxix. Gregg Phillips, or anyone communicating on behalf of OPSEC Group (opsec.group)
 - xxx. Doug Logan, or anyone communicating on behalf of Cyber Ninjas (cyberninjas.com)
2. All text messages or messages on messaging platforms (such as Slack, GChat or Google Hangouts, Lync, Skype, Twitter direct messages, Facebook Messenger, WhatsApp, Signal, Telegram, or Parler) between (a) former La Paz County Elections Director Bob Bartelsmeyer, and (b) any of the individuals listed below.

Individuals:

- i. Former Arizona Representative Mark Finchem
- ii. Former Arizona Senator Karen Fann
- iii. Former Arizona Senator Kelly Townsend
- iv. Former Arizona GOP Chair Kelli Ward
- v. Cochise County Recorder David Stevens
- vi. Kari Lake
- vii. Christine Bauserman
- viii. David Perkins
- ix. Jeff DeWit
- x. Ken Bennett
- xi. Michael Schafer

- xii. Pete McGinnis
- xiii. Randy Pullen
- vii. Mike Lindell
- viii. Michele Replogle
- x. Emily Newman
- xi. Patrick Byrne
- xii. Mike Roman
- xv. David Clements
- xvi. Erin Hughs
- xviii. Jovan Hutton Pulitzer
- xix. Doug Frank
- xx. Kurt Olsen
- xxiii. Seth Keshel
- xxiv. Shawn Smith
- xxv. Shiva Ayyadurai
- xxvi. Todd Sanders
- xxvii. Catherine Engelbrecht
- xxviii. Doug Logan

3. Records reflecting any final formal or informal directives, guidance, assessments, reports, analyses, or recommendations concerning La Paz County elections authored, edited, issued, ordered, or approved by former La Paz County Elections Director Bob Bartelsmeyer.

For all parts of this request, please provide all responsive records from April 1, 2022, through May 26, 2023.

Statement of Noncommercial Purpose

This request is made for noncommercial purposes. American Oversight seeks records regarding former Elections Director Bob Bartelsmeyer's role in the administration or potential reform of La Paz County's elections. Records with the potential to shed light on this matter would contribute significantly to public understanding of operations of the government, including whether and to what extent former Elections Director Bob Bartelsmeyer communicated with external entities or individuals to reform La Paz County's elections.¹

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

¹ Jen Fifield, *Cochise County Ready to Hire Elections Director Who Spread False Claims of 2020 Election Rigging*, Votebeat (Apr. 24, 2023 6:39 PM), <https://arizona.votebeat.org/2023/4/24/23696789/bob-bartelsmeyer-cochise-county-elections-director-hiring>.

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:

- 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.
- 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 112,800 followers on Twitter. American Oversight, Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/> (last visited May 31, 2023); American Oversight (@weareoversight), Twitter, <https://twitter.com/weareoversight> (last visited May 31, 2023).

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 Ben Sparks at records@americanoversight.org or 202.873.1741.

Sincerely,

/s/ Ben Sparks

Ben Sparks
on behalf of
American Oversight