



August 14, 2023

VIA EMAIL

Office of the Secretary of State
600 West Main Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101
info@sos.mo.gov

Re: Sunshine Law Request

Dear Custodian of Records:

Pursuant to the Missouri Sunshine Law, Mo. Rev. Stat. § 610.010 et seq., American Oversight makes the following request for records.

Requested Records

American Oversight requests that the Missouri Office of the Secretary of State produce copies of the following records within three business days:

1. All email communications (including emails, email attachments, complete email chains, calendar invitations, and calendar invitation attachments) between (a) the Missouri Secretary of State officials listed below, and (b) any of the external entities or individuals listed below or anyone communicating on their behalf (including, but not limited to, at the listed email addresses and/or domains).

Missouri Secretary of State Officials:

- i. Jay Ashcroft, Secretary of State
- ii. Anyone serving as an assistant or scheduler to Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft
- iii. Trish Vincent, Executive Deputy Secretary of State & Chief of Staff
- iv. Scott Clark, Deputy Chief of Staff
- v. Chrissy Peters, Director of Elections

External Entities or Individuals:

- i. Wyoming Secretary of State Chuck Gray (chuck.gray@wyo.gov), or anyone from the Office of the Wyoming Secretary of State
- ii. Senator Andrew Koenig (andrew.koenig@senate.mo.gov)
- iii. Senator Denny Hoskins (denny.hoskins@senate.mo.gov)
- iv. Senator Jill Carter (jill.carter@senate.mo.gov)
- v. Representative Michael O'Donnell (michael.odonnell@house.mo.gov)
- vi. Byron Keelin (freedomprinciplestl@protonmail.com), or anyone from Freedom Principle MO
- vii. Dale Vaslow (vaslowd@health.missouri.edu)



- viii. Family Research Council (frc.org, frcaction.org, washingtonstand.com)
- ix. Heather Honey (heather@verityvote.us, hhoney@haystackinvestigations.com, h2osint@protonmail.com)
- x. Jewell Patek (jewell@patekandassociates.com)
- xi. Jodi Wilhalm
- xii. Patrice Johnson (patricejohnson11@gmail.com)
- xiii. Patricia Chandler (jsia34765@gmail.com)
- xiv. Pure Integrity Michigan Elections (mifairelections@gmail.com)
- xv. Robert Popper (rpopper@judicialwatch.org), or anyone from an email address ending in judicialwatch.org
- xvi. Ron Calzone (ron@mofirst.org), Anne Calzone, or anyone from Missouri First (mofirst.org)
- xvii. Susan Klein (susan.k@missourilife.org), or anyone from an email address ending in missourilife.org
- xviii. ThriVe St. Louis (thrivestlouis.org)
- xix. Verity Vote (verityvote.us)

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 an official received a mass-distribution news clip email from the Family Research Council, that initial email would not be responsive to this request. However, if the official forwarded that email to another individual with their own commentary, that subsequent message would be responsive to this request and should be produced.

- 2. All email communications (including emails, email attachments, complete email chains, calendar invitations, and calendar invitation attachments) sent by the Missouri Secretary of State officials listed in part 1 of this request and containing any of the key terms listed below.

Key Terms:

- a. “Eagle AI”
- b. EagleAI
- c. “Omega 4 America”
- d. Omega4America
- e. Cleta

For part 2 of this request, in an effort to accommodate your office and reduce the number of potentially responsive records to be processed and produced, American Oversight has limited request item 2 to emails sent by the specified individuals. To be clear, however, American Oversight still requests that complete email chains be produced, displaying both sent and received messages. This means, for example, that both an individuals’ response to an email and the initial received message are responsive to this request and should be produced.

3. Any records reflecting the substance or participants of a meeting between, at a minimum, Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft and Heather Honey of Verity Vote, that occurred on February 8, 2023, including agendas, meeting minutes or summaries (including handwritten notes and information email summaries), participant lists, and any materials exchanged by parties attending the meeting.

An email thread referencing the February 8, 2023 meeting and a “working group reform document” shared for the meeting is included as Exhibit A to aid in your search.

4. Any records reflecting the substance or participants of a meeting between, at a minimum, Director of Elections Chrissy Peters and Amanda Grandjean of the Ohio Secretary of State’s Office, that occurred on April 4, 2023, including agendas, meeting minutes or summaries (including handwritten notes and information email summaries), participant lists, and any materials exchanged by parties attending the meeting.

An entry from Chrissy Peters’ calendars referencing the April 4, 2023 meeting is included as Exhibit B to aid in your search.

For all parts of this request, please provide all responsive records from January 1, 2023, through the date the search is conducted.

If American Oversight’s request for a fee waiver or reduction, below, is not granted in full, please contact us immediately upon making such a determination. **Please notify us of any anticipated fees or costs in excess of \$50 prior to incurring such costs or fee.**

Fee Waiver Request

In accordance with Mo. Rev. Stat. § 610.026.1(1), American Oversight requests a waiver or reduction of fees associated with processing this request for records. Disclosure of the requested records is in the public interest because it will likely contribute to a better understanding of relevant government procedures by the general public in a significant way. Moreover, the request is primarily and fundamentally for non-commercial purposes.

American Oversight requests a waiver or reduction of fees because disclosure of the requested information “is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of [a] public governmental body.”¹ The public has a significant interest in meetings between the Missouri Secretary of State’s Office and election activists.² Records with the potential to shed light on this matter would

¹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 610.026.1(1).

² See, e.g., Jason Hancock, *Jay Ashcroft Withdraws Missouri from Group Designed to Help Combat Voter Fraud*, Mo. Independent (Mar. 6, 2023, 3:00 PM),

contribute significantly to public understanding of operations of the government, including the scope of influence of election activists on the Missouri Secretary of State. American Oversight is committed to transparency and makes the responses agencies provide to public records requests publicly available, and the public's understanding of the government's activities would be enhanced through American Oversight's analysis and publication of these records.

This request is primarily and fundamentally for non-commercial purposes.³ As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, American Oversight does not have a commercial purpose and the release of the information requested is not in American Oversight's financial interest. 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.⁴

American Oversight has also demonstrated its commitment to the public disclosure of documents and creation of editorial content through regular substantive analyses posted to its website.⁵ Examples reflecting this commitment to the public disclosure of documents and the creation of editorial content include the posting of records and analysis related to the organization's investigations into misconduct and corruption in state governments;⁶ posting records and analysis of federal and state governments' responses to the Coronavirus pandemic;⁷ posting records received as part of American

<https://missouriindependent.com/2023/03/06/jay-ashcroft-withdraws-missouri-from-group-designed-to-help-combat-voter-fraud/>.

³ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 610.026.1(1).

⁴ American Oversight currently has approximately 16,000 followers on Facebook and 111,900 followers on Twitter.com. American Oversight, Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/> (last visited Aug. 9, 2023); American Oversight (@weareoversight), Twitter.com, <https://twitter.com/weareoversight> (last visited Aug. 9, 2023).

⁵ See generally *News*, American Oversight, <https://www.americanoversight.org/blog>.

⁶ See generally *State Investigations*, American Oversight, <https://www.americanoversight.org/states>; see, e.g., *State Government Contacts with Voting-Restriction Activists*, American Oversight, <https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/state-government-contacts-with-voting-restriction-activists>; *Georgia's Voting Machines and Election Security*, American Oversight, <https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/georgias-voting-machines-and-election-security>.

⁷ See, e.g., *The Trump Administration's Response to Coronavirus*, American Oversight, <https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/the-trump-administrations-response-to-coronavirus>; *Tulsa Health Officials Initially Estimated Trump Rally Would Directly Lead to 2 to 9 Deaths*, American Oversight, <https://www.americanoversight.org/tulsa-health-officials-initially-estimated-trump-rally-would-directly-lead-to-2-to-9-deaths>; *Wisconsin Documents Offer Window into Early Uncertainty over COVID-19*, American Oversight,

Oversight’s “Audit the Wall” project to gather and analyze information related to the Trump administration’s proposed construction of a barrier along the U.S.-Mexico border, and analyses of what those records reveal;⁸ and the posting of records related to an ethics waiver received by a senior Department of Justice attorney and an analysis of what those records demonstrated regarding the Department’s process for issuing such waivers.⁹

Accordingly, American Oversight qualifies for a fee waiver or reduction.

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.¹⁰
- 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

<https://www.americanoversight.org/wisconsin-documents-offer-window-into-early-uncertainty-over-covid-19>; *In the Documents: Florida Health Department Efforts to Suppress Release of Coronavirus Records*, American Oversight, <https://www.americanoversight.org/in-the-documents-florida-health-department-efforts-to-suppress-release-of-coronavirus-records>.

⁸ See generally *Audit the Wall*, American Oversight, <https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/audit-the-wall>; see, e.g., *Border Wall Investigation Report: No Plans, No Funding, No Timeline, No Wall*, American Oversight, <https://www.americanoversight.org/border-wall-investigation-report-no-plans-no-funding-no-timeline-no-wall>.

⁹ *DOJ Records Relating to Solicitor General Noel Francisco’s Recusal*, American Oversight, <https://www.americanoversight.org/document/doj-civil-division-response-noel-francisco-compliance>; *Francisco & the Travel Ban: What We Learned from the DOJ Documents*, American Oversight, <https://www.americanoversight.org/francisco-the-travel-ban-what-we-learned-from-the-doj-documents>.

¹⁰ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 610.010(6).

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.¹¹ 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 Rachel Baron at records@americanoversight.org or 202.897.2465. Also, if American Oversight's request

¹¹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 610.024.1.

for a fee waiver is not granted in full, please contact us immediately upon making such a determination.

Sincerely,

/s/ Rachel Baron

Rachel Baron
on behalf of
American Oversight

EXHIBIT A

From: [Clark, Scott <scott.clark@sos.mo.gov>](mailto:scott.clark@sos.mo.gov)
To:
Date: 2/8/2023 8:05:16 PM
Subject: Missouri ERIC Discussion
Attachments: meeting-93977898506.ics
national-ERIC-data-sharing_VerityVote.pdf
The Left's Taxpayer-Funded Voter Registration Machine_ ERIC's Origins - Capital Research Center.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from OUTSIDE of the SOS organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the email and know that the content is safe. If you believe this to be a malicious or phishing email, please use Phish Alert to report it.

Dear Secretary Ashcroft ,

Thank you for taking the time to both listen to our presentation and share your own working group reform document.

It's clear that we share the same broad vision for better, cheaper, and safer data management for our voter rolls and DMV private data.

We're pleased to see you understand that Missouri really has two legitimate choices:

1. Reform ERIC
2. Return Control and Management of State Data Back to the States

We believe with a more detailed understanding of the available alternatives today combined with an effective messaging campaign, states who champion path 2 will have better results.

We will follow up with you on a short presentation focused on available alternatives.

We are also willing to do more research on available alternatives to layout as seamless a transition plan as is possible for states.

And we are going to try to get an invite next week to the Heritage event with other conservative SOSs.

We'll keep you posted.

All the best,

Patty

Patricia Chandler
312-720-1232

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <heather@verityvote.us>
Date: Fri, Feb 3, 2023 at 2:15 PM
Subject: ERIC Discussion Link

To: <John.R.Ashcroft@sos.mo.gov>, <Scott.Clark@sos.mo.gov>
Cc: Patricia Chandler <jsia34765@gmail.com>, Patrice Johnson <patricejohnson11@gmail.com>

Good afternoon,

Thank you for making the time for this discussion .
Below is a link for the Zoom meeting. As background, I have attached a report about ERIC data sharing and EBUs.
I have also attached an article from Capital Research Center on the origins of ERIC.

Time: February 8, 2023,
2:00 PM Eastern (1:00 PM Central)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93977898506?pw> [REDACTED]

Meeting ID: 939 7789 8506

Passcode: [REDACTED]

We look forward to speaking with you next week.

Thank you,

Heather

Verity Vote

verityvote.us

EXHIBIT B

From: [Peters, Chrissy </O=MOSECSTATE/OU=SOSMAILPRIVATE/cn=Recipients/cn=chrissy.peters>](mailto:chrissy.peters@mo.gov)
Required: [Grandjean, Amanda <agrandjean@OhioSOS.Gov>](mailto:agrandjean@ohiosos.gov)
Subject: Accepted: Cross State Data Working Group
Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting; CONF_16_EXEC; CONF_16_EXEC
When: 4/4/2023 1:00:00 PM - 1:45:00 PM
