



MAR 17 2020

GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

March 17, 2020

Justin Gordon  
Open Records Division  
Office of the Attorney General  
P.O. Box 12548  
Austin, Texas 78711-2548

RE: OOG ID# 077-20

Dear Mr. Gordon:

On February 24, 2020, the Office of the Governor (the "OOG") received a request under the Public Information Act (the "PIA") from Ms. Mariuxi Pintado.<sup>1</sup> In accordance with section 552.301 of the PIA, the OOG timely submitted to your office a request for an Open Records Letter Ruling on the information. A copy of that request for ruling is attached as Exhibit A. The OOG now withdraws the request for an Open Records Letter Ruling because it will release the responsive information to the requestor.

Should you need additional information, please contact me at 512-463-1750 or via email at [publicrecords@gov.texas.gov](mailto:publicrecords@gov.texas.gov).

Sincerely,

Joseph Behnke  
Public Information Coordinator  
Assistant General Counsel  
Office of Governor Greg Abbott

cc: Ms. Mariuxi Pintado  
American Oversight  
VIA EMAIL ONLY

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<sup>1</sup> The OOG was closed on March 2, 2020.

# EXHIBIT A



Received by Open Records

MAR 10 2020

GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

March 10, 2020

Justin Gordon  
Office of the Attorney General  
Open Records Division  
P.O. Box 12548  
Austin, Texas 78711-2548

Re: Open Records Letter Ruling Request  
OOG ID#: 077-20

Dear Mr. Gordon:

On February 24, 2020, the Office of the Governor (the "OOG") received a request under the Public Information Act (the "PIA") from Ms. Mariuxi Pintado.<sup>1</sup> A copy of the request is attached as Exhibit A.

The OOG asserts information responsive to this request is excepted from disclosure under the PIA. Specifically, the OOG invokes all of the exceptions provided by, and the exceptions incorporated into, sections 552.101 through 552.158 of the Government Code.

Pursuant to section 552.301(a) of the Government Code, this letter is submitted in order to seek a decision as to whether the exceptions apply. To assist in your review, the OOG will provide written comments and the responsive documents, or a representative sample of the responsive documents, not later than the 15th business day from the date the request was received.

Should you need additional information, please feel free to contact me at 512-463-1750 or via email at [publicrecords@gov.texas.gov](mailto:publicrecords@gov.texas.gov).

Sincerely,

Joseph Behnke  
Assistant General Counsel  
Office of Governor Greg Abbott

cc: Ms. Mariuxi Pintado  
American Oversight  
1030 15<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Suite B255  
Washington, DC 20005  
VIA EMAIL ONLY

<sup>1</sup> The OOG observed a skeleton crew day on March 2, 2020, for Texas Independence Day.



Robert Kevin 202001170192  
**Texas Public Policy  
Foundation**

Kevin D. Roberts

RECEIVED

JAN 14 2020

OOG/CCQM

January 9, 2020

Dear Gov. Abbott,

Thank you. Your announcement today (Jan. 9) that you'll send troopers from the Texas Department of Public Safety to patrol areas of Austin comes at a time when many of us in the city feel abandoned by our city government, with our concerns ignored and our safety set aside in the city's pursuit of some progressive ideal.

The recent attacks in downtown Austin—from two stabbings in less than a week to a horrific knife attack on tourists that left their defender hospitalized—demonstrate that public safety has suffered since the city of Austin repealed its bans on homeless camping and panhandling in public spaces. As in other cities that have taken steps to normalize homelessness, public health could be next.

From my office at Ninth and Congress, I have seen how the downtown area has been affected. My staff members (many of them women), who walk to and from their cars each day, have expressed their fears.

The city of Austin's flawed approach to the homelessness is an issue. It's not compassion; these are our neighbors and our neighborhoods. It is not humane to allow our homeless population with unaddressed addictions and mental illnesses to deteriorate under our watch and take our communities down with them.

We should all work together toward a truly compassionate solution to the homelessness problem. Your establishment of a central location where the homeless can find shelter, medical attention and other services is a good start. This solution should involve all of us, including the private sector.

In the meantime, thank you for helping to reprioritize public safety in our city.

Kevin D. Roberts, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

**From:** Texas Public Policy Foundation <[communications@texaspolicy.com](mailto:communications@texaspolicy.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2020 9:07 AM

**To:** Sarah Hicks <[sarah.hicks@gov.texas.gov](mailto:sarah.hicks@gov.texas.gov)>

**Subject:** Today's Cannon: What Would You Spend \$10 BILLION On? 

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## The Best of Policy Orientation 2020

**What to Know:** There's no liberal bias in the media—according to the liberal media.

**The TPPF Take:** The media's chosen narratives—such as Texas being a backwards state—are often clung to long after they've been debunked.

"The story we tell is essential to making any policy reforms or changes reality," says TPPF's **Alicia Phillips Pierce**. "Texas is held up as an example of the success conservative governance can achieve. Yet, sometimes the narrative told by the media doesn't seem to accurately reflect Texas' accomplishments. Are conservative principles framed unfairly?"

**Watch the media session from PO2020, [click here](#).**

## Austin's Big Transit Plan

**What to Know:** Austin leaders are proposing a \$10.3 billion transportation plan, to include trains, buses and a tunnel.

**The TPPF Take:** Austin wants to address future needs with the technology of the past.

“Trains are an 18th Century solution to a 21st Century challenge,” says TPPF’s **James Quintero**. “But already, exciting new technologies like autonomous vehicles and aerial autonomous vehicles are being tested in Texas. Why spend billions on old, outdated technology when newer, better options are almost here?”

**More on the transportation of the future, [click here](#).**

# Foster Care

**What to Know:** America's foster care systems are damaging the kids who enter into them

**The TPPF Take:** The Texas Public Policy Foundation is leading the effort to reform foster care, beginning with a workable metric for measuring how well each state's system is doing.

"The Right for Kids Ranking represents a sea change in how to assess state child welfare system performance," says TPPF's **Andrew Brown**. "By ranking states based solely on how well they do at meeting the needs of kids in foster care and showing how they measure up against other states, it is our hope that the Right for Kids Ranking inspires states to enact transformational reforms that give every child the opportunity to flourish."

**For more on the Right for Kids Ranking, click here.**

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## Cindy Coy

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**From:** Sarah Hicks  
**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2020 9:22 PM  
**To:** Cindy Coy  
**Subject:** FW: Today's Cannon: Voter Fraud - What to Look For 📧

RE: PIR Pintado 077-20

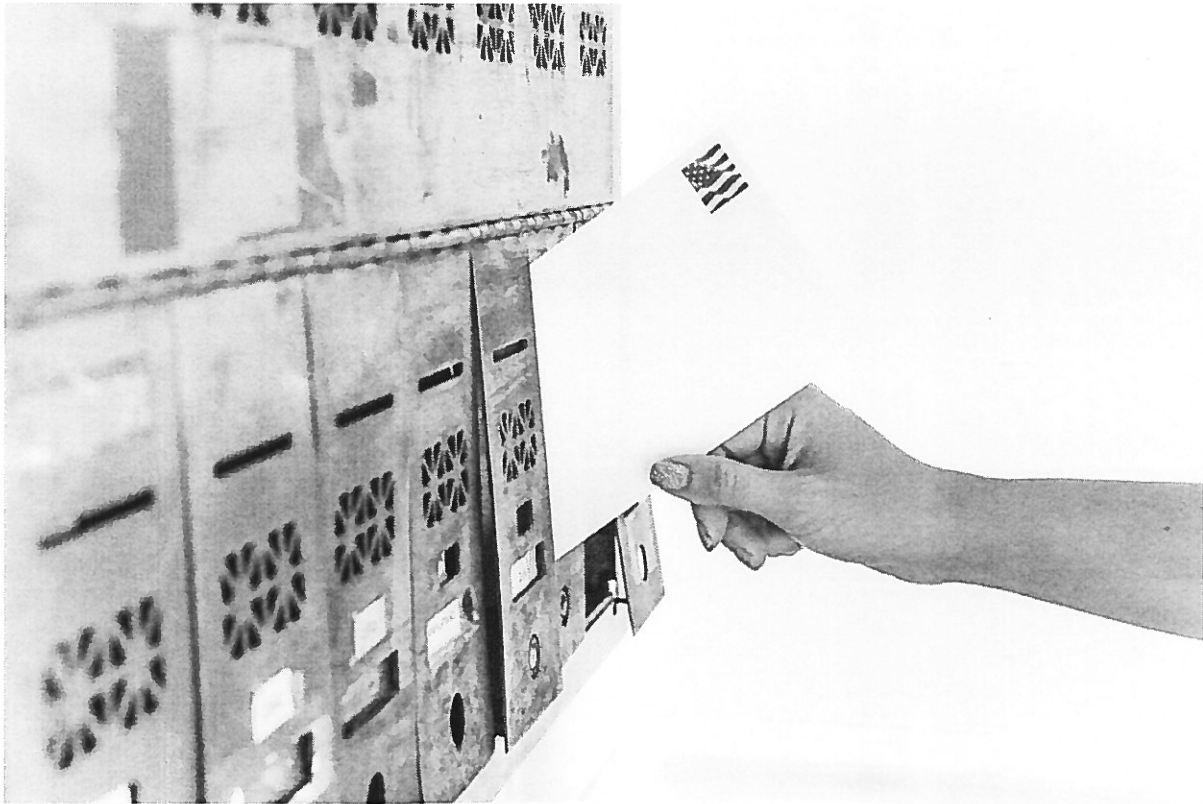
**From:** Texas Public Policy Foundation <communications@texaspolicy.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 19, 2020 9:24 AM  
**To:** Sarah Hicks <sarah.hicks@gov.texas.gov>  
**Subject:** Today's Cannon: Voter Fraud - What to Look For 📧

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## Policing Voter Fraud

**What to Know:** New voter fraud allegations have cropped up in South Texas.

**The TPPF Take:** Guarding against voter fraud protects legitimate ballots.

“Election fraud is nothing new in South Texas, but many continue to claim it’s a myth,” says TPPF’s **Rafael Bejar**. “Yet in that claim, there’s always a caveat. Election fraud, if it exists, isn’t ‘widespread,’ they contend. But fraudulent ballots do exist, and they need not exist in big numbers to affect the outcomes of elections.”

**For more on election integrity, [click here.](#)**



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## Reforming Bail Reform

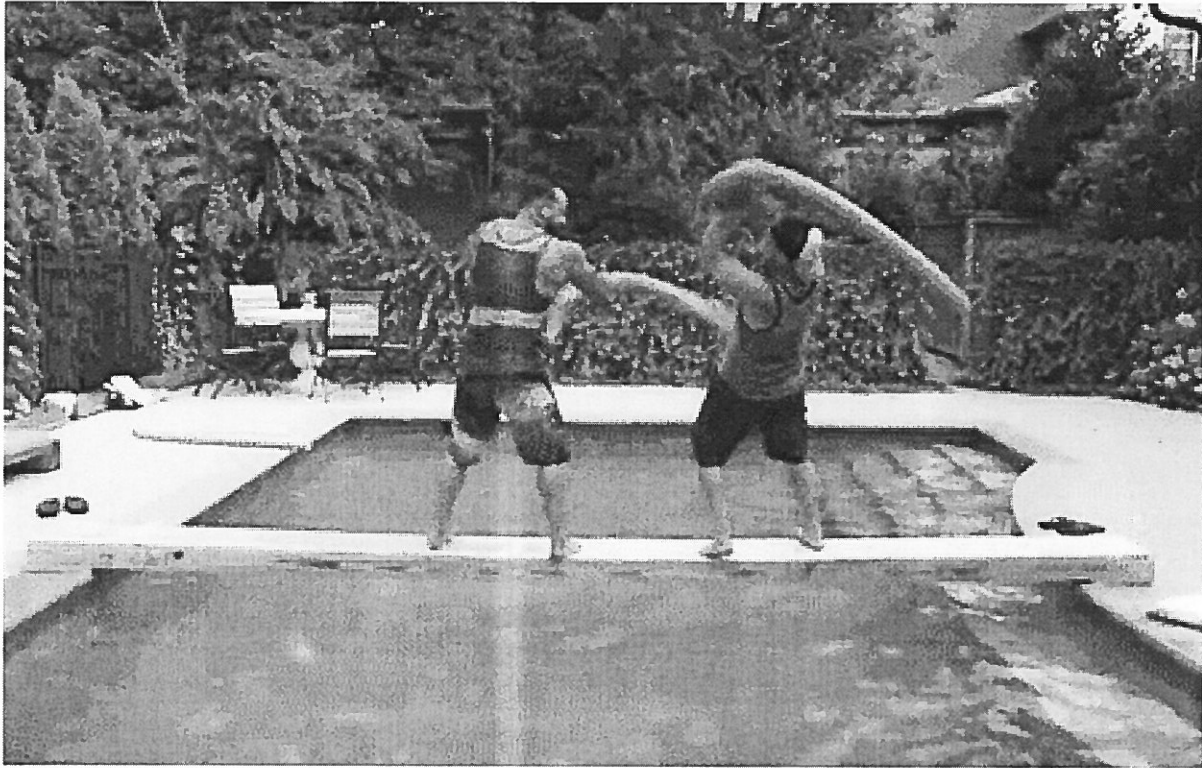
**What to Know:** Bail reform—done badly—can lead to the release of dangerous criminals.

**The TPPF Take:** It's time to fix Texas' pretrial release system, but it must be done with public safety in mind.

"In terms of public safety, financial-based systems such as Texas' often suffer from the problem of misclassification," says TPPF's **Michael Haugen**.

"Instead, we must allow judges and magistrates statewide to gain a more holistic picture of each defendant's relevant criminal history with a validated risk-assessment tool to supplement their release decisions."

For more on pretrial release, [click here](#).



## Water Wars

**What to Know:** There's a rate dispute dividing North Texas cities—over water.

**The TPPF Take:** An outdated contract means that some Texas cities are paying for water they aren't using.

"With water rates increasing at 5 to 10% per year, residents are frustrated with exorbitant water bills and want to rewrite the contract so that they only pay for water actually used," writes TPPF's **Shelby Sterling**. "However, amending the contract's terms requires consent from all 13 member cities. This needs scrutiny, constant oversight, and a lot more transparency in order to provide North Texans with reasonable water rates and the services they need."

For more on the water wars in North Texas, click here.



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## Cindy Coy

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**From:** Sarah Hicks  
**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2020 9:22 PM  
**To:** Cindy Coy  
**Subject:** FW: Today's Cannon: FRI-NALLY 📧

RE: PIR Pintado 077-20

**From:** Texas Public Policy Foundation <communications@texaspolicy.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 21, 2020 9:17 AM  
**To:** Sarah Hicks <sarah.hicks@gov.texas.gov>  
**Subject:** Today's Cannon: FRI-NALLY 📧

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+  
2.5 BILLION WITH EXTREMELY LIMITED  
ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY  
=  
3.8 BILLION IN ENERGY POVERTY



MILLIONS OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE NO ELECTRICITY

## A Brighter Future

**What to Know:** Hundreds of millions of children, whose families live on less than \$2 per day, experience the life-crushing effects of energy poverty. There's a simple fix—oil and natural gas.

**The TPPF Take:** Energy poverty causes needless suffering.

“Energy poverty shortens life spans and drastically increases the burdens on families, and particularly women,” says TPPF’s **Katie Tahuahua**.

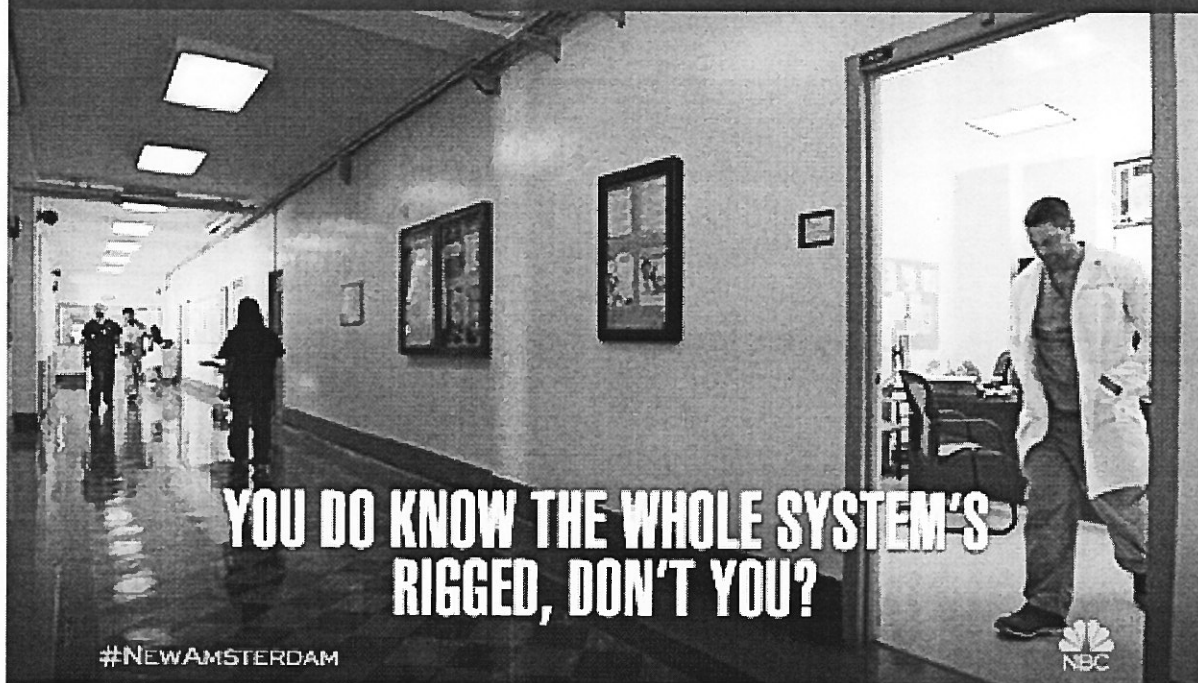
“Governments shouldn’t make life harder by making energy—and everything produced with energy—more expensive.”

**For more on energy poverty, watch this.**

# Liberty

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## There's a Better Way

**What to Know:** Health care costs are the top concerns for voters in both parties this election year.

**The TPPF Take:** Health care costs didn't come down under the Affordable Care Act; there's no reason to think that even more government bureaucracy (as in Medicare-for-All) will change that.

"There's a better approach than doubling down on government intervention," says TPPF's **David Balat**. "Many plans can provide our rolling wreck of a health care system with a much-needed off-ramp from the Washington-centric

approach. It's more important now than ever to remember that what truly matters is not which party controls our government, but whether our government is controlled by the people."

**For more on the future of health care, [click here](#).**



## Suffer the Children

**What to Know:** Even short stays in foster care can cause lasting trauma for children.

**The TPPF Take:** We must minimize government intervention in families, except in cases of real danger.

"Intervention by Child Protective Services (CPS) in the family is traumatic and can have long-lasting psychological effects for children," says TPPF's

**Charissa Huntzinger.** “The bonds between parents and children cannot be replicated — and should only be severed in the most severe of circumstances.”

**For more on CPS and child well-being, read this.**



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