

Subject: RE: Public Information Request (TX-SOS-24-0125) - SOS PIR 24-0246
Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at 1:23:54 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: GeneralCounsel
To: AO Records
CC: GeneralCounsel
Attachments: 3-13-24 15 Day Letter to Requestor - American Oversight PIR 24-0246.pdf, 3-13-24 15 Day Letter to OAG - American Oversight PIR 24-0246.pdf, Update from Idaho Chief Deputy Sec_Houck_Redacted.pdf

EXTERNAL SENDER

Good afternoon,

Please see the attached letters, and the responsive information, in response to your request for information under Chapter 552 of the Texas Government Code.

The responsive document contains a personal, non-governmental email addresses that is considered confidential under section 552.137 of the Texas Government Code. The attorney general authorized all governmental bodies to withhold certain email addresses without first requesting an attorney general opinion in Open Records Decision No. 684 (2009). Thus, this information has been redacted.

Pending a determination from the Attorney General's Open Records Division on our request for a ruling, we have no additional documents to provide you at this time.

Kind regards,

Jennifer Williams
Legal Assistant to the General Counsel
Office of the Texas Secretary of State

From: GeneralCounsel <GeneralCounsel@sos.texas.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 12:03 PM
To: 'AO Records' <records@americanoversight.org>
Cc: GeneralCounsel <GeneralCounsel@sos.texas.gov>
Subject: RE: Public Information Request (TX-SOS-24-0125) - SOS PIR 24-0246

Good afternoon,

Please see the attached letter, with enclosure, in response to your request for information under Chapter 552 of the Texas Government Code. We will provide you with a copy of our brief to the OAG, and responsive documents, on March 13, 2024.

Kind regards,

Jennifer Williams
Legal Assistant to the General Counsel

Office of the Texas Secretary of State

From: GeneralCounsel
Sent: Wednesday, February 21, 2024 4:05 PM
To: 'AO Records' <records@americanoversight.org>
Subject: RE: Public Information Request (TX-SOS-24-0125)

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Office of the Texas Secretary of State (“Office”). This email acknowledges receipt of your request for information under the Public Information Act, Chapter 552 of the Texas Government Code (the “PIA”), which was received by the Office via email on February 21, 2024 (the “Request”).

We will process your Request in accordance with the PIA and will let you know if we have any questions or need clarification. You will receive a response from our Office on or before the 10th business day, March 6, 2024.

Kind regards,

Jennifer Williams
Legal Assistant to the General Counsel
Office of the Texas Secretary of State

From: AO Records <records@americanoversight.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 21, 2024 1:36 PM
To: GeneralCounsel <GeneralCounsel@sos.texas.gov>
Subject: Public Information Request (TX-SOS-24-0125)

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 send this email as an attachment to informationsecurity@sos.texas.gov.

Dear Public Information Officer,

Please find attached a request for records under the Texas Public Information Act.

Sincerely,

Mariuxi Pintado

Senior Paralegal | American Oversight

records@americanoversight.org

www.americanoversight.org | @weareoversight

Public Information Request: TX-SOS-24-0125

From: Chad Houck <chad.houck@sos.idaho.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 2, 2022 12:51 PM
To: Chad Houck
Subject: Update from Idaho Chief Deputy Sec. Houck

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 send this email as an attachment to Informationsecurity@sos.texas.gov.

To my esteemed colleagues, and their respective Secretaries of State,

With the last month of 2022 upon us, I'd like to thank Idaho Secretary of State Lawrence Denney for the pleasure and honor of serving him for what has now approached 8 years. Through his two terms, he's provided me the privilege and opportunity to create an incredible team at the Idaho Secretary of State's office. Together, we've solved numerous challenges not unique to our state, but nonetheless differentiated by how we do business filings, elections, campaign finance, and so much more here in Idaho. We built better processes for corporate filings, grew revenues without growing overhead, and innovated in cybersecurity, all while navigating what will certainly go down as a "difficult" election era. We built an office that I believe Idaho can be proud of, and now have the honor of passing that office on to its next Secretary.

It has been a pleasure to serve, and I wish the new administration only the best as they begin to build upon the work we began, but with a desire to serve more broadly, I am moving on to a new "next". One of our greatest achievements I believe during the last 3 years was creating the Idaho Election Cybersecurity Research Center at Boise State University, now an Idaho State Board of Education officially recognized entity known as the Boise State INSURE Center. The work we have underway at INSURE will be important not only for Idaho, but for our sister states across the country, for managing and tracking election day incidents, and ensuring proper voter registration list maintenance.

INSURE is not yet, however, fully funded, so as a non-paid adjunct faculty member, I will be working on finding funding for the center. I am also creating a separate non-partisan nonprofit with multiple state partners across the country, the eventual beneficiaries of the various projects currently underway at INSURE (and those yet to be defined.) This non-profit will operationalize the INSURE projects for its state-partner members, starting with the inter-state voter list comparison and election-day incident management tools. The nonprofit is named "Opearent", a mash-up of the words OPEn and transpARENT, two key principles upon which it is founded.

With these ventures in mind, I seek your assistance. I am looking for opportunities to share the vision and current progress of both the INSURE Center/Boise State research projects and Opearent, the 501(c)3 nonprofit, with potential donors and grant makers. If you know of someone interested in not only maintaining but bolstering the integrity of our elections systems by better equipping those who run those elections, I'd love a chance to speak with them. If you want more information on the specific projects and their focus, please let me know. You can reach me by phone, email, or my LinkedIn profile, all of which are in my signature below.

Finally, knowing that funding projects of this level isn't an overnight process, I'll also be available as a freelance consultant. If you or someone you know has a project short on a motivated self-starter to drive it, or

a specific shorter-term need that you think I could assist with, I'd love to discuss your vision and how I could bring my unique experiences and skillset to bear. As a bonus, I'm available effective immediately.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, and for the honor of serving in your midst these last almost 8 years.

Looking forward to the next adventure, and trusting in His guidance for that path,



Chad Houck

Idaho Chief Deputy Secretary of State, for now...

(208) 585-7370 cell

LinkedIn: [@chadhouck](#)