



March 19, 2024

VIA EMAIL

Commissioner Robert Spindell
Wisconsin Elections Commission
P.O. Box 7984
Madison, WI 53707
robert.spindell@wisconsin.gov

Re: Public Records Law Request

Dear Commissioner Robert Spindell:

Pursuant to Wisconsin's public records law, Wis. Stat. §§ 19.31–19.39, American Oversight makes the following request for copies of records.

Requested Records

American Oversight requests that Wisconsin Elections Commissioner Robert Spindell produce the following records “as soon as practicable and without delay”:¹

1. All email communications (including emails, email attachments, complete email chains, and calendar invitations) between (a) Commissioner Robert Spindell and (b) any of the external entities or individuals listed below, including, but not limited to, anyone communicating from the listed email addresses and domains.

External Entities and Individuals:

- i. Rebecca Kleefisch
- ii. Adam Jarchow
- iii. Wisconsin Representative Janel Brandtjen
(janel.brandtjen@legis.wi.gov, janel@brandtjen.com,
janel@glmarketing.com)
- iv. Erick Kaardal, and/or anyone communicating on behalf of
Mohrman, Kaardal & Erickson, P.A. (@mklaw.com)
- v. Jim Troupis (jtroupis@hotmail.com, troupisjames@gmail.com),
and/or anyone communicating on behalf of Troupis Law Office
(@troupislawoffice.com)
- vi. Karen Mueller, and/or anyone communicating on behalf of the Amos
Center for Justice and Liberty (including, but not limited to, anyone

¹ Wis. Stat. § 19.35(4)(a).



- communicating from an email address ending in
@amoscenterforjustice.org)
- vii. Sandra Juno (junosandra@yahoo.com, audejuno@gmail.com)
 - viii. Janet Angus (angus.janet@gmail.com)
 - ix. Stewart Karge, Chief Legal Officer of Advanced Medical Pricing Solutions
 - x. Joseph Voiland (jwvoiland@yahoo.com)
 - xi. William Bock III, James Knauer, Kevin Koons, and/or anyone communicating on behalf of Kroger, Gardis & Regas, LLP (including anyone communicating from an email address ending in @kgrlaw.com)
 - xii. Howard Kleinhendler (howard@kleinhendler.com)
 - xiii. R. George Burnett, and/or anyone communicating on behalf of Conway, Olejniczak & Jerry S.C. (including anyone communicating from an email address ending in @lcojlaw.com)
 - xiv. U.S. Senator Ron Johnson, his chief of staff Sean Riley, his deputy chief of staff, Julie Leschke (including, but not limited to jleschke@protonmail.com), scheduler Julie Pickle, and/or anyone communicating from an email address ending in @ronjohnson.senate.gov
 - xv. Phill Kline (phillklineva@gmail.com), Luis Cornelio (lcornel001@citymail.cuny.edu) and/or anyone communicating on behalf of The Amistad Project (got-freedom.org, americanvotersalliance.org)
 - xvi. Charles Bundren III (charles@bundrenlaw.net)
 - xvii. Doug Frank (drdougglasgfrank@protonmail.com)
 - xviii. Katherine Friess (kfriess@protonmail.com)
 - xix. Bernard Kerik (bernardkerik@protonmail.com)
 - xx. Emily Newman (enewman@protonmail.com)

Please note that American Oversight does not seek, and that part 1 of 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 Commissioner Spindell received a mass-distribution news clip email from a listed external individual or entity, that initial email would not be responsive to this request. However, if Spindell forwarded that email to another listed individual with his own commentary, that subsequent message would be responsive to this request and should be produced.

2. All text messages or messages on messaging platforms (such as Slack, GChat or Google Hangouts, Lync, Skype, X direct messages, Facebook messages, WhatsApp, Signal, Telegram, The Buzz, or Parler) between (A) Commissioner Robert Spindell and (B) any of the external individuals listed below.

External Individuals:

- a. Rebecca Kleefisch

- b. Adam Jarchow
- c. Janel Brandtjen
- d. Erick Kaardal
- e. Jim Troupis
- f. Karen Mueller
- g. Sandra Juno
- h. Janet Angus
- i. Stewart Karge
- j. Joseph Voiland
- k. William Bock III
- l. James Knauer
- m. Kevin Koons
- n. Howard Kleinhendler
- o. R. George Burnett
- p. Ron Johnson
- q. Sean Riley
- r. Julie Leschke
- s. Julie Pickle
- t. Phill Kline
- u. Luis Cornelio
- v. Charles Bundren III
- w. Doug Frank
- x. Katherine Friess
- y. Bernard Kerik
- z. Emily Newman

American Oversight is not in a position to provide phone numbers for these individuals. To the extent Commissioner Spindell is unable to provide them, please use their first and last names as search terms. For example, a search for text messages between Commissioner Spindell and Rebecca Kleefisch would be conducted by searching Commissioner Spindell’s text messages using the key terms “Rebecca Kleefisch,” “Rebecca,” and “Kleefisch.”

- 3. All email communications (including emails, complete email chains, calendar invitations, and attachments thereto) sent or received by Robert Spindell related to the issue of electoral certificates or “alternate electors.”²
- 4. All text messages or messages on messaging platforms (such as Slack, GChat or Google Hangouts, Lync, Skype, X direct messages, Facebook messages, WhatsApp, Signal, Telegram, The Buzz, or Parler), including complete

² If further identifying information is needed, please see Luke Broadwater and Alan Feuer, *Jan. 6 Committee Subpoenas Fake Trump Electors*, NY Times (Jan. 28, 2022), <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/01/28/us/politics/jan-6-committee-trump-electors.html>.

message threads/conversations, sent or received by Robert Spindell related to the issue of electoral certificates or “alternate electors.”³

American Oversight requests that full text message threads/conversations be produced. In other words, if Commissioner Spindell sent a text message related to the above issue, the complete thread/conversation for 24 hours before/after the initial message should be produced, and not just the message related to the above issue.

For all parts of this request, the search should include email and text communications sent or received by any individual or personal accounts associated with Commissioner Spindell if they were used to conduct official business, as well as those sent or received by official email addresses and phones.

For all parts of this request, please provide all responsive records from November 1, 2020, through January 20, 2021.

Fee Waiver Request

In accordance with Wis. Stat. § 19.35(3)(e), American Oversight respectfully requests that the records be produced without charge. Providing American Oversight with a waiver of fees is in the “public interest” because American Oversight will, in accordance with its organizational mission, make the records available to the public without charge. These disclosures will likely contribute to a better understanding of relevant government procedures by the general public.

American Oversight’s work is aimed solely at serving the public interest. 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. Rather, American Oversight’s mission is to serve the public by promoting transparency in government, educating the public about government activities, and ensuring 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.⁴ American Oversight also makes materials it gathers available on its public

³ If further identifying information is needed, please see Broadwater and Feuer, *supra* note 2.

⁴ See generally *News*, American Oversight, <https://www.americanoversight.org/blog>; *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>; *Wisconsin Documents Offer Window into Early Uncertainty over COVID-19*, American Oversight, <https://www.americanoversight.org/wisconsin-documents-offer-window-into-early-uncertainty-over-covid-19>.

website⁵ and promotes their availability on social media platforms, such as Facebook and Twitter.⁶

The public has a significant interest in public officials' potential communications with Donald Trump's presidential campaign and associates concerning the compiling of "alternate" slates of electors to sign illegitimate Electoral College certificates.⁷ 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 public officials coordinated with allies or members of Trump's campaign to develop the certificates. 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.

American Oversight asks that if its request for a fee waiver is denied in whole or in part, that you contact us prior to incurring any costs.

Guidance Regarding the Search & Processing of Requested Records

American Oversight seeks all responsive records regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics. In conducting your search, please understand the term "record" in its 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. Our request includes any attachments to these records. **No category of material should be omitted from search, collection, and production.**

Please search all locations and systems likely to have responsive records regarding official business. **You may not exclude searches of files or emails in the personal custody of your officials, such as personal email accounts.** Emails conducting government business sent or received on the personal account of the authority's officer or employee constitutes a record for purposes of Wisconsin's public records laws.⁸

⁵ *Documents*, American Oversight, <https://www.americanoversight.org/documents>.

⁶ American Oversight currently has approximately 15,700 page likes on Facebook and 111,400 followers on Twitter. American Oversight, Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/> (last visited Mar. 14, 2024); American Oversight (@weareoversight), Twitter, <https://twitter.com/weareoversight> (last visited Mar. 14, 2024).

⁷ Zachary Cohen & Marshall Cohen, *Trump Allies' Fake Electoral Certificates Offer Fresh Insights About Plot to Overturn Biden's Victory*, CNN, (updated Jan. 12, 2022, 9:12 PM), <https://www.cnn.com/2022/01/12/politics/trump-overturn-2020-election-fake-electoral-college/index.html>.

⁸ Wisc. Dep't of J., *Wisconsin Public Records Law Compliance Guide*, Oct. 2019, at 3, <https://www.doj.state.wi.us/sites/default/files/office-open-government/Resources/PRL-GUIDE.pdf>.

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.⁹ If it is your position that a document contains non-exempt segments, but that those non-exempt segments are so dispersed throughout the document as to make segregation impossible, please state what portion of the document is non-exempt, and how the material is dispersed throughout the document. If a request is denied in whole, please state specifically that 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. Also, if American Oversight's

⁹ Wis. Stat. § 19.36(6).

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

Sincerely,

/s/ Ben Sparks
Ben Sparks
on behalf of
American Oversight