



April 12, 2024

VIA EMAIL

Public Records Request
Nebraska Governor's Office
P.O. Box 94848
Lincoln, NE 68509
GOV.PublicRecords@nebraska.gov

Re: Public Records Statute Request

Dear Record Custodian:

Pursuant to the Nebraska Public Records Statutes, Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 84-712 et seq., American Oversight makes the following request for records.

Requested Records

American Oversight requests that the Nebraska Governor's Office produce the following records within four business days:

All records reflecting communications (including emails, email attachments, text messages, messages on messaging platforms—such as Slack, GChat or Google Hangouts, Lync, Skype, WhatsApp, Signal, Parler, Microsoft Teams, or Facebook Messenger—telephone call logs, calendar invitations/entries, meeting notices, meeting agendas, informational material, talking points, any handwritten or electronic notes taken during any oral communications, summaries of any oral communications, or other materials) between (a) any Nebraska Governor Jim Pillen, Chief of Staff David Lopez, and/or anyone communicating on Governor Pillen's behalf, such as a scheduler, secretary, or assistant, 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.

External Entities and Individuals:

- a. Former President Donald Trump, and/or anyone communicating on behalf of Donald J. Trump for President 2024 and/or Trump Save America Joint Fundraising Committee (donaldjtrump.com)
- b. Anyone communicating on behalf of the Republican National Committee (gop.com)
- c. Anyone communicating on behalf of the Nebraska GOP (ne.gop)
- d. Charlie Kirk, and/or anyone communicating on behalf of Turning Point USA and/or Turning Point Action (tpusa.com, tpaction.com)
- e. Nebraska State Senator Tom Brewer
- f. Nebraska State Senator Loren Lippincott
- g. Nebraska State Senator Julie Slama



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 responding to or forwarding such emails are responsive to this request. In other words, for example, if Governor Pillen received a mass-distribution news clip email from Turning Point USA, that initial email would not be responsive to this request. However, if he responded to or forwarded that email to another individual with his own commentary, that subsequent message would be responsive to this request and should be produced.

Please provide all responsive records from April 2, 2024, through the date the search is conducted.

Please notify American Oversight of any anticipated fees or costs in excess of \$100 prior to incurring such costs or fee. Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-712(3)(b), we further request that any fees are limited to the actual costs and exclude fees for search time in excess of four hours.

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.com direct messages), voicemail messages, instant messaging systems such as Lync or ICQ, and shared messages systems such as Slack.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.¹ 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.

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.

Conclusion

American Oversight is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with the mission 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

¹ Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-712.06.

website and promotes their availability on social media platforms, such as Facebook and Twitter.com.²

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 Emma Lewis at records@americanoversight.org or 202.919.6303.

Sincerely,

/s/ Emma Lewis
Emma Lewis
on behalf of
American Oversight

² American Oversight currently has approximately 16,000 followers on Facebook and 111,300 followers on Twitter.com. American Oversight, Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/> (last visited Apr. 10, 2024); American Oversight (@weareoversight), Twitter.com, <https://twitter.com/weareoversight> (last visited Apr. 10, 2024).