



June 3, 2024

**VIA ONLINE PORTAL**

The University of North Carolina System  
223 South West Street  
Suite 1800  
Raleigh, NC 27603  
Via Online Portal

**Re: Public Records Act Request**

Dear Public Records Custodian(s):

Pursuant to the North Carolina Public Records Act, as codified at North Carolina General Statutes ch. 132, American Oversight makes the following request for records.

**Requested Records**

American Oversight requests that the University of North Carolina System produce the following records as promptly as possible:

All email communications (including email messages, complete email chains, calendar invitations, or any attachments thereto) between (a) any of the University of North Carolina System officials listed below—or anyone communicating on their behalf, such as a chief of staff, assistant, or scheduler—and (b) any external entities and/or individuals listed below (including, but not limited to, anyone communicating from the specified email addresses or domains).

University of North Carolina System Officials:

1. Peter Hans, President
2. Randall Ramsey, Chair of the Board of Governors
3. Wendy Floyd Murphy, Vice Chair of the Board of Governors
4. Pearl Burris-Floyd, Board of Governors Secretary
5. Lee Barnes, Board of Governors Member
6. Kirk Bradley, Board of Governors Member
7. C. Philip Byers, Board of Governors Member
8. Jimmy Clark, Board of Governors Member
9. Gene Davis, Board of Governors Member
10. John Fraley, Board of Governors Member
11. Reginald Ronald Holley, Board of Governors Member
12. Terry Hutchens, Board of Governors Member
13. Sonja Phillips Nichols, Board of Governors Member
14. Temple Sloan, Board of Governors Member
15. Michael Williford, Board of Governors Member
16. Kellie Hunt Blue, Board of Governors Member



17. Harry Brown, Board of Governors Member
18. Swadesh Chatterjee, Board of Governors Member
19. Carolyn Coward, Board of Governors Member
20. Joel Ford, Board of Governors Member
21. Estefany Gordillo-Rivas, Board of Governors Member
22. Mark Holton, Board of Governors Member
23. J. Alex Mitchell, Board of Governors Member
24. Art Pope, Board of Governors Member
25. Woody White, Board of Governors Member

External Entities and Individuals:

1. Adrian Lukis, and/or anyone communicating on behalf of Ballard Partners ([ballardpartners.com](http://ballardpartners.com))
2. Alliance Defending Freedom ([adflegal.org](http://adflegal.org))
3. America First Legal ([aflegal.org](http://aflegal.org) and [athospr.com](http://athospr.com))
4. American Enterprise Institute ([aei.org](http://aei.org))
5. American Family Association ([afa.net](http://afa.net))
6. American Principles Project ([americanprinciplesproject.org](http://americanprinciplesproject.org))
7. Center for Renewing America ([americarenewing.com](http://americarenewing.com))
8. Christopher Rufo ([ajt@christopherrufo.com](mailto:ajt@christopherrufo.com), [chrisrufo@protonmail.com](mailto:chrisrufo@protonmail.com))
9. Cicero Action ([ciceroaction.org](http://ciceroaction.org))
10. Claremont Institute ([claremont.org](http://claremont.org))
11. Concerned Women for America ([concernedwomen.org](http://concernedwomen.org), [cwfa.org](http://cwfa.org))
12. Do No Harm ([donoharmmedicine.org](http://donoharmmedicine.org))
13. Family Policy Alliance ([familypolicyalliance.com](http://familypolicyalliance.com))
14. Family Research Council ([frc.org](http://frc.org) or [frcaction.org](http://frcaction.org))
15. Fight for Schools ([fightforschools.com](http://fightforschools.com))
16. Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression ([thefire.org](http://thefire.org))
17. Goldwater Institute ([goldwaterinstitute.org](http://goldwaterinstitute.org))
18. Heritage Foundation ([heritage.org](http://heritage.org), [heritageaction.com](http://heritageaction.com))
19. Hillsdale College ([hillsdale.edu](http://hillsdale.edu))
20. Independent Women's Forum ([iwf.org](http://iwf.org))
21. James G. Martin Center for Academic Renewal ([jamesgmartin.center](http://jamesgmartin.center))
22. Joshua Holdenried ([holdenried@universityreform.org](mailto:holdenried@universityreform.org)), and/or anyone communicating on behalf of the Council on Public University Reform
23. Liberty Consultants ([libertyconsultants.com](http://libertyconsultants.com))
24. Liberty Council ([LC.org](http://LC.org))
25. Lieutenant Governor Mark Robinson, and/or anyone communicating on behalf of the office of the Lieutenant Governor
26. Anyone communicating on behalf of Mark Robinson for Governor ([markrobinsonfornc.com](http://markrobinsonfornc.com))
27. Manhattan Institute ([manhattan.institute](http://manhattan.institute), [manhattan-institute.org](http://manhattan-institute.org))
28. Michele Morrow, and/or anyone communicating on behalf of Michele Morrow for NC Superintendent ([morrowcampaign@gmail.com](mailto:morrowcampaign@gmail.com), [michelemorrownc.com](http://michelemorrownc.com), [morrow4nc.com](http://morrow4nc.com))
29. Moms for Liberty ([momsforliberty.org](http://momsforliberty.org))
30. Napa Legal ([napalegalinstitute.org](http://napalegalinstitute.org))
31. New College of Florida ([ncf.edu](http://ncf.edu))

32. Pacific Legal Foundation (pacificlegal.org)
33. Parents Defending Education (defendinged.org)
34. PragerU (prageruniversity.com, prageru.com)
35. Society for American Civic Renewal (sacr.us)
36. Speech First (speechfirst.org)
37. Thomas “Tom” Klingenstein (tomklingenstein.com)
38. 1776 Project (1776projectpac.com)

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. For example, if a listed official received a mass-distribution news clip email from Liberty 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.

**Please provide all responsive records from January 1, 2023, 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.

### **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.
- 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. Records of official business conducted using unofficial systems or stored outside of official files are subject to the Public Records Act.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See Atty. Gen. Josh Stein, *North Carolina Open Government Guide* at 22 (2019), <https://ncdoj.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/2019-Open-Government-Guide-2.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. 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. 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 website and promotes their availability on social media platforms, such as Facebook and X.com (formerly Twitter).<sup>2</sup>

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

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(“Emails about official business are public records even if they are sent using the personal email account of an employee or official.”).

<sup>2</sup> American Oversight currently has approximately 16,000 followers on Facebook and 111,400 followers on Twitter.com. American Oversight, Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/> (last visited May 29, 2024); American Oversight (@weareoversight), X.com (formerly Twitter.com), <https://twitter.com/weareoversight> (last visited May 29, 2024).

understand any part of this request, please contact Elizabeth Haddix at [records@americanoversight.org](mailto:records@americanoversight.org) or (252) 359-7424 ext. 1031.

Sincerely,

/s/ Elizabeth Haddix  
Elizabeth Haddix  
on behalf of  
American Oversight