



June 27, 2024

**VIA EMAIL**

Ohio State Representative Bernard Willis  
77 S. High St.  
Floor 11  
Columbus, OH 43215  
[Rep74@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Rep74@ohiohouse.gov)

**Re: Public Records Act Request**

Dear Public Records Officer(s):

Pursuant to the Ohio Public Records Act (PRA), Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43, and other applicable Ohio law, American Oversight makes the following request for records.

**Requested Records**

American Oversight requests that your office promptly produce the following records:

1. All email communications (including emails, email attachments, complete email chains, calendar invitations, and calendar invitation attachments) between (a) Representative Bernard Willis or his legislative aide Logan Hannum, and (b) any of the external entities or individuals listed below (including anyone communicating from the listed email addresses and/or domains).

**External Entities and Individuals:**

1. America First Policy Institute ([americafirstpolicy.com](http://americafirstpolicy.com))
2. Cleta Mitchell ([cleta@cletamitchell.com](mailto:cleta@cletamitchell.com), [cmitchell@foley.com](mailto:cmitchell@foley.com))
3. Conservative Partnership Institute ([cpi.org](http://cpi.org), [conservativepartnership.org](http://conservativepartnership.org))
4. Doug Frank ([drdouglasfrank@protonmail.com](mailto:drdouglasfrank@protonmail.com), [drdouglasfrank@outlook.com](mailto:drdouglasfrank@outlook.com))
5. Election Integrity Network ([electionintegrity.network](http://electionintegrity.network), [whoscounting.us](http://whoscounting.us))
6. Hand Count Road Show ([handcountroadshow.org](http://handcountroadshow.org))
7. Heritage Foundation and/or Heritage Action ([heritage.org](http://heritage.org), [heritageaction.com](http://heritageaction.com))
8. Honest Elections Project ([honestelections.org](http://honestelections.org))
9. James Rigano
10. Marius Paulikas
11. Mike Lindell ([mike@mypillow.com](mailto:mike@mypillow.com)) and/or anyone communicating from an email address ending in [mypillow.com](http://mypillow.com) or [frankspeech.com](http://frankspeech.com)
12. Ohio Election Integrity Network ([ohioein.org](http://ohioein.org))
13. Ohio Votes Count ([ohiovotescount@protonmail.com](mailto:ohiovotescount@protonmail.com), [ohiovotescount.org](http://ohiovotescount.org))
14. Ohioans for Transparency ([ohioansfortransparency.com](http://ohioansfortransparency.com))



15. Patrick Byrne, Mike Roman ([mikeroman@protonmail.com](mailto:mikeroman@protonmail.com)), and/or anyone communicating from the America Project ([americaproject.com](http://americaproject.com), [theamericaproject.com](http://theamericaproject.com))
16. Restoring Integrity and Trust in Elections ([riteusa.org](http://riteusa.org))
17. True the Vote ([truethevote.org](http://truethevote.org))
18. Thomas Wood ([thomas.wood@usa4freedom.org](mailto:thomas.wood@usa4freedom.org)), and/or anyone communicating on behalf of United Sovereign Americans ([unite4freedom.com](http://unite4freedom.com), [usa4freedom.org](http://usa4freedom.org))
19. Virginia Institute of Public Policy ([virginia institute.org](http://virginia institute.org))
20. Voter Reference Foundation ([voteref.com](http://voteref.com), [voterreferencefoundation.com](http://voterreferencefoundation.com))

Please note that, in part 1 of this request, 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 forwarding such emails are responsive to this request. In other words, for example, if Representative Willis received a mass-distribution news clip email from a listed external entity or individual, that initial email would not be responsive to this request. However, if Representative Willis 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 email communications (including emails, email attachments, complete email chains, calendar invitations, and calendar invitation attachments) sent by Representative Bernard Willis or his legislative aide Logan Hannum that contain any of the key terms listed below.

Key Terms:

- a. "election integrity"
- b. "election systems"
- c. "hand count"
- d. "manual count"
- e. "Ohioans for Transparency"
- f. "provisional ballot"
- g. "tabulating equipment"
- h. "tabulation equipment"
- i. "voter registration data"
- j. "votes count"
- k. "voting machine"
- l. "voting systems"
- m. Hand-count
- n. Handcount
- o. 472

In an effort to accommodate your office and reduce the number of potentially responsive records to be processed and produced, American Oversight has limited part 2 of its request to emails sent by Representative Bernard Willis and/or his legislative aide Logan Hannum. To be clear, however, American

Oversight still requests that complete email chains be produced, displaying both sent and received messages. This means, for example, that both Representative Willis' response to an email containing a listed key term and the initial received message are responsive to this request and should be produced.

For both parts of this request, please provide all responsive records from February 1, 2024, through the date you receive this request.

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:

- 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.<sup>1</sup> 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

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<sup>1</sup> Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(B)(1).

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 Twitter.com.<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 understand any part of this request, please contact Ben Sparks at [records@americanoversight.org](mailto:records@americanoversight.org) or (202) 873-1741.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Ben Sparks*

Ben Sparks  
on behalf of  
American Oversight

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<sup>2</sup> American Oversight currently has approximately 16,000 followers on Facebook and 111,500 followers on X (formerly Twitter). American Oversight, Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/> (last visited June 18, 2024); American Oversight (@weareoversight), X (formerly Twitter), <https://twitter.com/weareoversight> (last visited June 18, 2024).