



October 1, 2024

**VIA EMAIL**

City of Madison Clerk's Office  
210 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd  
Room 105, City-County Building  
Madison, WI 53703  
[CLRecordsCustodian@cityofmadison.com](mailto:CLRecordsCustodian@cityofmadison.com)

**Re: Public Records Law Request**

Dear Public Records Officer(s):

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 your office produce the following records “as soon as practicable and without delay”:<sup>1</sup>

1. All email communications (including emails, email attachments, complete email chains, calendar invitations, and calendar invitation attachments) between (a) the officials listed above in part 1, and (b) the external entities and individuals listed below (including, but not limited to, anyone communicating from an email address ending in the listed domains).

External Entities and Individuals:

- a. Catherine Engelbrecht ([catherine@truethevote.org](mailto:catherine@truethevote.org)), or anyone communicating on behalf of True the Vote (truethevote.org)
- b. Cleta Mitchell ([cleta@cletamitchell.com](mailto:cleta@cletamitchell.com))
- c. Douglas Frank ([drdouglasgfrank@protonmail.com](mailto:drdouglasgfrank@protonmail.com), [drdouglasgfrank@outlook.com](mailto:drdouglasgfrank@outlook.com))
- d. Election Integrity Network (whoscounting.us, electionintegrity.network)
- e. Erick Kaardal ([kaardal@mklaw.com](mailto:kaardal@mklaw.com))
- f. Harry Wait ([harry.wait922@gmail.com](mailto:harry.wait922@gmail.com), [harrytrex@gmail.com](mailto:harrytrex@gmail.com), [hotgovernment@gmail.com](mailto:hotgovernment@gmail.com))
- g. Jefferson Davis ([jeffersondavis784@gmail.com](mailto:jeffersondavis784@gmail.com), [davisforpresident@protonmail.com](mailto:davisforpresident@protonmail.com))
- h. Joshua Caleb Standifer, or anyone communicating on behalf of Lion of Judah

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<sup>1</sup> Wis. Stat. § 19.35(4)(a).



- i. Lance Wallnau
- j. Mike Lindell ([mike@mypillow.com](mailto:mike@mypillow.com))
- k. Peter Bernegger ([pmbmap123@gmail.com](mailto:pmbmap123@gmail.com), [admin@electionwatch.info](mailto:admin@electionwatch.info)), or anyone communicating on behalf of Election Watch ([electionwatch.info](http://electionwatch.info))
- l. Ron Heuer ([ron@wisconsinvoteralliance.com](mailto:ron@wisconsinvoteralliance.com)), or anyone communicating on behalf of Wisconsin Voter Alliance ([wisconsinvoteralliance.com](http://wisconsinvoteralliance.com))
- m. Scott Harbridge ([harbridgeforassembly@protonmail.com](mailto:harbridgeforassembly@protonmail.com))
- n. Stephanie Forrer Harbridge ([patriotsunited2021@yahoo.com](mailto:patriotsunited2021@yahoo.com)), or anyone communicating on behalf of North of 29
- o. Tim Ramthun ([ramthun@hotmail.com](mailto:ramthun@hotmail.com))
- p. Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty ([will-law.org](http://will-law.org))
- q. Wisconsin Patriots ([patriotswisconsin@gmail.com](mailto:patriotswisconsin@gmail.com))

Please note that American Oversight does not seek, and part 2 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. For example, if a listed official 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 they 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 July 1, 2024, through the date the search is conducted.**

### **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.<sup>2</sup> American Oversight also makes materials it gathers available on its public

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<sup>2</sup> 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,

website<sup>3</sup> and promotes their availability on social media platforms, such as Facebook and X (formerly Twitter).<sup>4</sup>

The public has a significant interest in attempts by outside activists to undermine elections in Wisconsin.<sup>5</sup> 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 outside activists have been in communication with election officials in Wisconsin. 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**

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.<sup>6</sup>

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>7</sup> 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

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<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>.

<sup>3</sup> *Documents*, American Oversight, <https://www.americanoversight.org/documents>.

<sup>4</sup> American Oversight currently has approximately 16,000 followers on Facebook and 111,200 followers on X (formerly Twitter). American Oversight, Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/> (last visited Sept. 27, 2024); American Oversight (@weareoversight), X (formerly Twitter), <https://x.com/weareoversight> (last visited Sept. 27, 2024).

<sup>5</sup> Henry Redman, 'A Case of Crying Wolf Again': Election Experts Say Wisconsin is Prepared to Avoid Conspiracies, WIS. EXAMINER (Sept. 24, 2024, 5:30 AM)

<https://wisconsinexaminer.com/2024/09/24/a-case-of-crying-wolf-again-election-experts-say-wisconsin-is-prepared-to-avoid-conspiracies/>.

<sup>6</sup> 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>.

<sup>7</sup> Wis. Stat. § 19.36(6).

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](mailto:records@americanoversight.org) or (202) 873-1741. Also, if American Oversight's 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