



March 24, 2025

VIA EMAIL

Public Records Coordinator
Florida Senate
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
publicrecordsrequests@flsenate.gov

Senator Don Gaetz
405 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
gaetz.don.web@flsenate.gov

Re: Public Records Request

Dear Public Records Officer(s):

Pursuant to Article I, section 24(a), of the Florida Constitution, and Florida Senate Rule 1.48, American Oversight makes the following request for records.

Requested Records

American Oversight requests that your office promptly produce the following:

1. All email communications (including emails, email attachments, complete email chains, calendar invitations, and calendar invitation attachments) sent by Senator Don Gaetz or anyone communicating on their behalf such as a chief of staff or legislative aide, and containing any of the key terms listed below.

Key Terms:

- a. "ballot initiative"
- b. "citizen initiative"
- c. "constitutional amendment"
- d. "HB 1205"
- e. "initiative petition"
- f. "petition form"
- g. "SB 1414"
- h. "third party collection"
- i. "third party signature"
- j. "third-party collection"
- k. "third-party signature"
- l. "3rd party collection"
- m. "3rd party signature"



- n. “3rd-party collection”
- o. “3rd-party signature”
- p. “petition fraud”
- q. “SPB 7016”

In an effort to accommodate your agency and reduce the number of potentially responsive records to be processed and produced, American Oversight has limited part 1 of its request to emails sent by the listed officials. 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 a listed official’s response to an email containing any of the key terms listed above and the initial received message are 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) between (a) the officials listed above, and (b) any of the external individuals listed below, including anyone communicating on their behalf, such as a legislative aide or chief of staff.

External Individuals:

- a. Cord Byrd, Secretary of State
- b. Jennifer Kennedy, Department of State Chief of Staff
- c. Katherine Woodby, Department of State Director of Legislative Affairs
- d. Maria Matthews, Department of State Division of Elections Director
- e. Ron DeSantis, Governor
- f. Jason Weida, Office of the Governor Chief of Staff
- g. James Uthmeier, Former Office of the Governor Chief of Staff
- h. Peter Cuderman, Office of the Governor Director of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs
- i. Daniel Pardo, Former Office of the Governor Acting Director of Policy
- j. Leda Kelly, Office of the Governor Director of Policy and Budget

Please note that American Oversight does not seek, and that part 2 of 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 Governor Ron DeSantis, that initial email would not be responsive to this request. However, if the listed official forwarded that email to another individual with their own commentary, that subsequent message would be responsive to this request and should be produced.

For all parts of this request, please provide all responsive records from January 1, 2025, 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.

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.**

In addition, American Oversight insists that your office use the most up-to-date technologies to search for responsive information and take steps to ensure that the most complete repositories of information are searched. American Oversight is available to work with you to craft appropriate search terms. **However, custodian searches are still required; your office may not have direct access to files stored in .PST files, outside of network drives, in paper format, or in personal email accounts.**

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 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 your office 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.

To ensure that this request is properly construed, that searches are conducted in an adequate but efficient manner, and that extraneous costs are not incurred, 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 office can decrease the likelihood of costly and time-consuming litigation in the future.

Where possible, please provide responsive material in electronic format by email or in PDF or TIF 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.

Section 119.12 Notice

This document provides written notice identifying American Oversight's public records request to your agency's custodian of public records in compliance with Section 119.12(1)(b) of the Florida Statutes. Should your agency fail to comply with its obligations under Florida's public records laws, American Oversight may be prepared to file suit to enforce the provisions of Fla. Stat. Chapter 119.

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 (formerly Twitter).¹

We share a common mission to promote transparency in government. American Oversight looks forward to working with your office on this request. If you do not understand any part of this request, have any questions, or foresee any problems in fully releasing the requested records, please contact Danny Martinez at records@americanoversight.org or (202) 897-2465.

Sincerely,

/s/ Danny Martinez

Danny Martinez

on behalf of

American Oversight

¹ American Oversight currently has approximately 16,000 followers on Facebook and 95,300 followers on X (formerly Twitter). American Oversight, Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/> (last visited Mar. 14, 2025); American Oversight (@weareoversight), X (formerly Twitter), <https://x.com/weareoversight> (last visited Mar. 14, 2025).