AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

February 19, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Office of the Ohio Secretary of State
180 Civic Center Dr.
Columbus, OH 43215
jcanary@ohiosos.gov

Re: Public Records Act Request

Dear Public Records Officer:

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 agency promptly produce the following records:

> All email communications (including emails, email attachments, complete email chains, calendar invitations, and calendar invitation attachments) between (a) any of the Ohio Secretary of State officials listed below and (b) any of the external individuals listed below and (c) containing any of the key terms listed below.
>
> a. Ohio Secretary of State Officials:
> a. Frank LaRose, Secretary of State
> b. Jason Mauk, Chief of Staff
> c. Grant Shaffer, Director of External Affairs & Deputy Assistant Secretary of State
> d. Matthew Tlachac, Director of Elections & Deputy Assistant Secretary of State
>
> b. External Individuals:
> a. Wes Allen, Alabama Secretary of State
> b. Clay Helms, Chief of Staff, Alabama Secretary of State
> c. Jeff Elrod, Director of Elections, Alabama Secretary of State
> d. Cole Jester, Arkansas Secretary of State
> e. Kevin Niehaus, Chief Deputy Secretary of State, Alabama
> f. Leslie Bellamy, Office of the Arkansas Secretary of State, Elections
> g. Cord Byrd, Florida Secretary of State
> h. Maria Matthews, Director, Florida Division of Elections
> i. Diego Morales, Indiana Secretary of State
> j. Dustin Renner, Director, Indiana Division of Elections

k. Paul Pate, Iowa Secretary of State
l. Michael Ross, Deputy Secretary of State and Chief of Staff, Iowa Secretary of State
m. Michael G. Adams, Kentucky Secretary of State
n. Taryn Frideres, Chief of Staff, Kentucky Secretary of State
o. Nancy Landry, Louisiana Secretary of State
p. Shanda Jones, Undersecretary, Louisiana Secretary of State
q. Ken Paxton, Texas Secretary of State
r. Lesley French, Chief of Staff, Texas Secretary of State
s. Susan Beals, Virginia Elections Commissioner
t. Kris Warner, West Virginia Secretary of State
u. Donald "Deak" Kersey, Deputy Secretary/Chief of Staff

Subject Matter Key Terms:
a. EleXa
b. "voter data sharing"
c. "voter registration sharing"
d. "voter database"
e. "voters database"
f. "registration database"
g. "registrations database"
h. "E.R.I.C."
i. "ERIC database"
j. "voter roll"
k. "voter list"
l. "registration list"

In an effort to accommodate your office and reduce the number of potentially responsive records to be processed and produced, American Oversight has limited this request to emails sent by the specified individuals. To be clear, however, American Oversight's request encompasses complete email chains, including all preceding messages in a chain to which a custodian responded. This means that any message a listed official sent during the specified time frame where a key term listed above appears anywhere in the preceding chain is responsive to this request, and all sent and received messages in that chain should be produced.

Please provide all responsive records from July 1, 2025, through the date your office receives 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:

- Please search all locations and systems likely to have responsive records, regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics.

- 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

[1] Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(B)(1).

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 (formerly Twitter).[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 Ben Sparks at records@americanoversight.org or (202) 873-1741.

Sincerely,

/s/ Ben Sparks
Ben Sparks
on behalf of
American Oversight

[2] American Oversight currently has approximately 16,000 followers on Facebook and 94,400 followers on X (formerly Twitter). American Oversight, Facebook, https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/ (last visited Feb. 17, 2026); American Oversight (@weareoversight), X (formerly Twitter), https://x.com/weareoversight (last visited Feb. 17, 2026).