AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

February 24, 2026

VIA ONLINE PORTAL

Sherburne County Sheriff's Office
13880 Business Center Dr. NW
Ste. 100
Elk River, MN 55330
Via Online Portal

Re: Data Request

Dear Responsible Authority:

Pursuant to the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13, American Oversight makes the following request for data. If there is a designee to whom I should direct my data request, please inform me.

Requested Data

American Oversight requests that the responsible authority or designee produce the following data upon receipt of this request, or as soon as reasonably possible:

> All email communications (including emails, email attachments, complete email chains, calendar invitations, and calendar invitation attachments) between any of the officials listed below and any of the external entities listed below (including the listed email domains).
>
> Sherburne County Sheriff's Office Officials:
> i. Joel Brott, Sheriff
> ii. Anyone serving as Chief Deputy
>
> External Entities:
> a. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (cbp.dhs.gov)
> b. U.S. Department of Homeland Security (hq.dhs.gov)
> c. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ice.dhs.gov)
>
> Please note that American Oversight does not seek, and 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. In other words, for example, if an official received a mass-distribution news clip email from U.S. Customs and Border Protection, that initial email would not be responsive to this request. However, if the official forwarded that email with commentary, that subsequent message would be responsive to this request and should be produced.

Please provide all responsive data from November 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.

Guidance Regarding the Search & Processing of Requested Data

In connection with its request for data, American Oversight provides the following guidance regarding the scope of the data sought and the search and processing of data:

- Please search all locations and systems likely to have responsive data, regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics.
- In conducting your search, please understand the term "data" in its broadest sense, to include any written, typed, recorded, graphic, printed, or audio material of any kind.[1]
- Our request for data includes any attachments to responsive materials that were enclosed with those materials when they were 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 systems containing data regarding agency business. Do not exclude data 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. Data of official business conducted using unofficial systems or stored outside of official files are subject to the Data Practice Act.[2]
- In the event some portions of the requested data are properly exempt from disclosure, please disclose any reasonably segregable non-exempt portions of the requested data. If a request is denied in whole, please state specifically why it is not reasonable to segregate portions of the data for release. Additionally, please identify the specific statutory section, temporary classification, or specific

[1] *See* M.S.A. § 13.02, subd. 7 (defining "Government data" to include "all data collected, created, received maintained or disseminated by any government entity *regardless of its physical form, storage media or conditions of use*" (emphasis added)).
[2] *See, e.g.*, Minn. Dep't of Admin., Advisory Op. 19-003 (Mar. 28, 2019), http://mn.gov/admin/data-practices/opinions/library/index.jsp?id=36-377591 (cell phone call and text data containing government data subject to the Act); Minn. Dep't of Admin., Advisory Op. 12-019 (Dec. 11, 2012), http://mn.gov/admin/data-practices/opinions/library/index.jsp?id=36-267413 (text messages, emails, and letters of public officials acting in their capacity as such are "government data" subject to the Act, even if sent or received on personal devices or at home addresses).

provision of federal law that provides the basis for denying access, in whole or part, to the requested data.[3]

- Please take appropriate steps to ensure that data responsive to this request is not deleted by the agency before the completion of processing for this request. If data potentially responsive to this request is likely to be located on systems where it is 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 this data.

If you have any questions regarding how to construe this request for data or believe that further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate a more efficient production of data 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 data 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).[4]

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

[3] M.S.A. § 13.03, subd. 3(f).
[4] American Oversight currently has approximately 16,000 followers on Facebook and 94,600 followers on X (formerly Twitter). American Oversight, Facebook, https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/ (last visited Feb. 23, 2026); American Oversight (@weareoversight), X (formerly Twitter), https://x.com/weareoversight (last visited Feb. 23, 2026).

understand any part of this request, please contact Danny Martinez at records@americanoversight.org or (304) 913-6114.

Sincerely,

/s/ Danny Martinez
Danny Martinez
on behalf of
American Oversight