AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

February 24, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Mille Lacs County Sheriff's Office
640 3rd St. SE
Milaca, MN 56353
kyle.burton@millelacs.mn.gov

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).

Mille Lacs County Sheriff's Office Officials:
i. Kyle Burton, 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

MILLE LACS COUNTY EST. 1857

Data Request Form

January 6, 2025

Right to Access Public Data

According to the Data Practices Act (Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 13), all government data are presumed to be public unless a state or federal law says otherwise. Government data is a term that means all the recorded information a government entity has, including paper, email, CDROMs, photographs, etc.

The Data Practices Act also provides that Mille Lacs County must keep all government data in a way that makes it easy for you, as a member of the public, to access. You have the right to look at all public data that we keep, free of charge; to get copies of public data, for which the Data Practices Act allows us to charge; and to look at the data, free of charge, before deciding to request copies.

How to Make a Data Request

To look at data or request copies of data that Mille Lacs County keeps, you must make a request directly to the department that maintains the data you are requesting. You may make your request by phone; or by mail, fax, or email using the Data Request Form (attached).

If you choose not to use the data request form, your request should include the following:

- State that you, as a member of the public, are making a request for data under the Data Practices Act, Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 13;
- Indicate whether you would like to look at the data, get copies of the data, or both; and
- Provide a clear description of the data you would like to inspect or have copied.

Mille Lacs County cannot require you, as a member of the public, to identify yourself or explain the reason for your data request. However, depending on how you want us to process your request (if, for example, you want us to mail you copies of data), we may need some information about you, such as your name and address. If you choose not to give us any identifying information, we will provide you with contact information so you may check on the status of your request. However, please keep in mind that if we do not understand your request and have no way to contact you, we will not be able to begin processing your request.

How We Respond to a Data Request

Upon receiving your request, we will begin to process it.

- If we do not have the data, we will notify you as soon as reasonably possible.
- If we have the data, but the data are not public, we will notify you as soon as reasonably possible, and state which specific law says the data are not public.
- If we have the data, and the data are public, we will respond to your request appropriately and within a reasonable amount of time, by doing one of the following:
    - arrange a date, time, and place for you to inspect data, at no charge, if your request is to look at the data, or
    - provide you with copies of the data as soon as reasonably possible. You may choose to pick up your copies, or we will mail or fax them to you. If you want us to send you the copies, you will need to provide us with an address or fax number. We will provide electronic copies (such as email or CD-ROM), upon request, if we keep the data in

electronic format. Information about copy charges can be found in the County's current fee schedule, located on the County website. If the fee for fulfilling the request is greater than $5.00, pre-payment shall be required.

If you do not understand some of the data (technical terminology, abbreviations, or acronyms), please contact the person who provided it, so that he/she can explain it.

The Data Practices Act does not require us to create or collect new data in response to a data request, or to provide data in a specific form or arrangement if we do not keep the data in that form or arrangement. (For example, if the data you request are on paper only, we are not required to create electronic documents in response to your request.) If we do agree to create data for you, we will work with you on the details of your request, including cost and response time.

Requests for Summary Data

Summary data are statistical records or reports that are prepared by removing all identifying information from private or confidential data on individuals. The preparation of summary data is not a means to gain access to private or confidential data. Mille Lacs County will prepare summary data if you make your request in writing – you may use the Data Request Form attached – and pay for the cost of creating the data. We will respond within ten business days of receiving your written request with details of when the data will be ready, and how much we will charge for the data.

MILLE LACS COUNTY EST. 1857

Data Request Form

January 6, 2025

Date: 02/24/2026

I am requesting access to data in the following way:

☐ Inspection ☑ Copies ☐ Both inspection and copies

Note: Inspection is free, but there is a charge for copies. If the fee for fulfilling the request is greater than $5.00, pre-payment shall be required.

This is the data I am requesting:

MN-MILLELACS-26-0471 - Please see the attached request

Note: Describe the data you are requesting as specifically as possible.

Contact Information

Name: Danny Martinez		
Address: 1030 15th ST NW, Suite B255		
City: Washington	**State:** DC	**Zip:** 20005
Phone Number: (304) 913-6114	**Email:** records@americanoversight.org	

Note: You do not have to provide the above contact information. However, if you want us to mail your requested data, we will need some type of contact information. In addition, if we do not understand your request and need to get clarification from you, without contact information, we will be unable to begin processing your request. Mille Lacs County will respond to your request as soon as reasonably practicable.

For Office Use Only	
ID Provided:	
Department:	**Request Handled By:**
Method of Response:	
Charges:	
Amount Due:	**Received by:**
Notes:	