AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

April 10, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Office of Kentucky Secretary of State
700 Capital Avenue
Frankfort, KY 40601
SOSOpenRecordsRequest@ky.gov

Re: Open Records Act Request

Dear Custodian of Records:

Pursuant to the Kentucky Open Records Act (KORA), codified at KRS §§ 61.870 et seq., I, Loree Stark, a resident of Kentucky, make the following request for records.

Requested Records

I request that your office produce copies of the following records within five business days:

> A complete copy (including any attachments) of all contracts or subcontracts, amendments, inter-governmental service agreements, memoranda of understanding, or other written agreements between the Kentucky Secretary of State's Office and any of the external entities or individuals listed below.
>
> External Entities and Individuals:
> i. John "Rick" Richards
> ii. John W. Richards, Jr.
> iii. John Richards III
> iv. EagleAI NETwork
> v. ELLY
> vi. Psephos
>
> **Please provide all responsive records created or in effect from June 1, 2025, through the date the search is conducted.**

Pursuant to KRS § 61.880(1), I request that you notify us within three workdays as to whether you will comply with this request.

Statement of Noncommercial Purpose

This request is for noncommercial purposes, and I respectfully request a waiver of any fees associated with processing this request for records. To the extent any fees are charged, pursuant to KRS § 61.874(3), I ask that such fees be limited to the actual cost of reproduction and exclude the cost of agency staff time.

This request is primarily and fundamentally for non-commercial purposes. My request is made in my role as Senior Counsel for American Oversight, and I seek the records requested to inform the public regarding the use of third-party software to clean voter rolls.[1] Records with the potential to shed light on this matter would contribute significantly to public understanding of operations of the government, including whether Kentucky state election officials are or have considered using ELLY, Psephos, or EagleAI programs to clean voter rolls.

Furthermore, as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, my employer American Oversight does not have a commercial purpose and the release of the information requested is not in American Oversight's financial interest. American Oversight's mission is 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]

American Oversight has also demonstrated its commitment to the public disclosure of documents and creation of editorial content through regular substantive analyses posted to its website.[3] Examples reflecting this commitment include the posting of records related to the first Trump Administration's contacts with Ukraine and analyses of those contacts;[4] posting records and editorial content about the federal government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic;[5] posting records received as part of American Oversight's "Audit the Wall" project to gather and analyze information related to the first Trump administration's proposed construction of a barrier along the U.S.-Mexico border, and

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[1] *See, e.g.*, Lynn Bonner, *Conservative Activists Want to Use Software with Controversial Origins to Check NC's Voter Rolls*, NC Newsline (Feb. 13, 2026, 6:01 AM), https://ncnewsline.com/2026/02/13/conservative-activists-want-to-use-software-with-controversial-origins-to-check-ncs-voter-rolls/.

[2] American Oversight currently has approximately 16,000 followers on Facebook and 94,700 followers on X (formerly Twitter). American Oversight, Facebook, https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/ (last visited Apr. 7, 2026); American Oversight (@weareoversight), X (formerly Twitter), https://x.com/weareoversight (last visited Apr. 7, 2026).

[3] *See generally Our Latest*, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/blog.

[4] *The Trump Administration's Contacts with Ukraine*, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/the-trump-administrations-contacts-with-ukraine.

[5] *See generally The Trump Administration's Response to Coronavirus*, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/the-trump-administrations-response-to-coronavirus; *see, e.g.*, *CDC Calendars from 2018 and 2019: Pandemic-Related Briefings and Meetings*, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/cdc-calendars-from-2018-and-2019-pandemic-related-briefings-and-meetings.

analyses of what those records reveal;[6] the posting of records related to an ethics waiver received by a senior Department of Justice attorney and an analysis of what those records demonstrated regarding the Department's process for issuing such waivers;[7] and posting records and analysis of federal officials' use of taxpayer dollars to charter private aircraft or use government planes for unofficial business.[8]

Guidance Regarding the Search & Processing of Requested Records

In connection with its request for records, I provide 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. For instance, if the request seeks "communications," please search all locations likely to contain communications, including relevant hard-copy files, correspondence files, appropriate locations on hard drives and shared drives, emails, text messages or other direct messaging systems (such as iMessage, WhatsApp, Signal, or X (formerly Twitter) direct messages), voicemail messages, instant messaging systems such as Lync or ICQ, and shared messages systems such as Slack.

- 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.

- 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.

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[6] *See generally Audit the Wall*, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/audit-the-wall; *see, e.g., Audit the Wall: No Plans, No Funding, No Timeline, No Wall*, American Oversight, https://americanoversight.org/audit-the-wall-no-plans-funding-or-timeline-and-no-wall/.

[7] *DOJ Records Relating to Solicitor General Noel Francisco's Recusal*, American Oversight, https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/25544090-doj-records-relating-to-solicitor-general-noel-franciscos-recusal-american-oversight; *Francisco & the Travel Ban: What We Learned from the DOJ Documents*, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/francisco-the-travel-ban-what-we-learned-from-the-doj-documents.

[8] *See generally Swamp Airlines: Chartered Jets at Taxpayer Expense*, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/swamp-airlines-private-jets-taxpayer-expense; *see, e.g., New Information on Pompeo's 2017 Trips to His Home State*, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/new-information-on-pompeos-2017-trips-to-his-home-state.

- 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. *See* KRS § 61.878(4). 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.

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 me, please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss this request. I welcome 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, we 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 me, please also provide responsive material on a rolling basis.

We share a common mission to promote transparency in government. I look forward to working with your agency on this request. If you do not understand any part of this request, please contact me at records@americanoversight.org or 304.913.6114. Also, if my request for a fee waiver is not granted in full, please contact me immediately upon making such a determination.

Sincerely,

/s/ Loree Stark
Loree Stark