July 21, 2026

VIA EMAIL
Maricopa County Recorder's Office
301 West Jefferson Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85003
pio@maricopa.gov

Re: Public Records Request

Dear Public Records Officer:

Pursuant to the Arizona Public Records Law, A.R.S. §§ 39-121 et seq., American Oversight makes the following request for records.

Requested Records

American Oversight requests that your office promptly produce the following records:

> All invoices, billing records, statements, and records reflecting any actual, estimated, or projected payment or expenditure for America First Legal's (also known as the America First Legal Foundation) representation of the Maricopa County Recorder's Office, including, but not limited to, receipts, charge card or credit card statements, and reimbursement requests. To the extent that America First Legal has provided any services to the Recorder's Office at no cost, on a pro bono basis, or otherwise without charge, American Oversight requests all records reflecting or documenting that arrangement, including any records memorializing that no fees were or will be charged.
>
> **Please provide all responsive records from January 1, 2025, through the date the search is conducted.**

As you know, Arizona law requires a government agency to search for records upon request. *Jud. Watch, Inc. v. Mayes*, 590 P.3d 1271, 1276 (Ariz. Ct. App. 2026)(citing A.R.S. §§ 39-121). To the extent you contend, following the required search for responsive records, that the attorney-client privilege precludes release of a particular document or a portion thereof, please provide an index with "specific assertions explaining why [each] document is purportedly privileged." *Id.* at 1275. *See also Fann v. Kemp*, 253 Ariz. 537 (2022).

Statement of Noncommercial Purpose

This request is made for noncommercial purposes. American Oversight seeks records regarding the engagement of America First Legal, an outside legal organization active in election-related matters, concerning the administration of elections in Maricopa County. Disclosure of these records will contribute significantly to public understanding of how a government office responsible for elections and official record-

keeping is engaging with outside influence, because the information obtained will be disseminated to the public.

Because American Oversight is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, this request is not in American Oversight's financial interest and is not made for a commercial purpose. 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).[1]

Because this request is made for noncommercial purposes, American Oversight requests that any fees charged in connection with processing this request be limited to copying and postage charges, if applicable.[2] Please notify American Oversight of any anticipated fees or costs in excess of $100 prior to incurring such costs or fees.

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.
- 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.

[1] American Oversight currently has approximately 16,000 followers on Facebook and 94,100 followers on X (formerly Twitter). American Oversight, Facebook, https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/ (last visited Jul. 20, 2026); American Oversight (@weareoversight), X (formerly Twitter), https://x.com/weareoversight (last visited Jul. 20, 2026).

[2] A.R.S. § 39-121.01(D)(1); *see also Hanania v. City of Tucson*,128 Ariz. 135, 624 P.2d 332 (Ct. App. 1980). Furthermore, because this request is for noncommercial purposes, additional fees provided for under A.R.S. § 39-121.03(A) are not applicable and should not be assessed.

- If any records are withheld in full or in part, pursuant to A.R.S. § 39-121.01(D)(2), please provide an index of records or categories of records that have been withheld and the reasons the records or categories of records have been withheld.

- 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 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 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 records to American Oversight, please also provide responsive material on a rolling basis.

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 Elizabeth Haddix at records@americanoversight.org or (252) 359-7424.

Sincerely,

/s/ Elizabeth Haddix
Elizabeth Haddix
on behalf of
American Oversight