



January 22, 2026

VIA Electronic Delivery

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
National Records Center, FOIA/PA Office
P.O. Box 648010
Lee's Summit, MO 64064-8010
Via Online Portal

Re: Freedom of Information Action Request

Dear FOIA Officer:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. §§ 552, Democracy Forward Foundation submits this request for records.

Records Requested

Democracy Forward Foundation ("DFF") requests that the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services ("USCIS") produce the following within twenty (20) business days:

All electronic communications (including emails, email attachments, complete email chains, calendar invitations, calendar invitation attachments, text messages or messages on applications such as Signal or Whatsapp, messages on messaging platforms such as Slack or Microsoft Teams, and direct messages on social media platforms such as Truth Social or X) **sent** by the individuals listed below (A) containing any of the below key terms (B):

A. Agency officials:

- a. Director Joseph Edlow
- b. Deputy Director (including in any previous capacity as Acting Director) Angelica Alfonso-Royals
- c. Acting Chief of Staff Peter Holland
- d. Deputy Chief of Staff Timothy Kaiser
- e. Acting Associate Director, Fraud Detection and National Security Directorate Andrew Davidson
- f. Chief, Office of Policy and Strategy Andrew Good
- g. Chief, Office of Investigations Kristinn Coleman

B. Key terms:

- a. Denaturalize
- b. Naturalize
- c. Naturalized
- d. Denaturalization
- e. Denat

- f. Denatz
- g. Quota
- h. “Cases per month”
- i. “Referrals per month”
- j. “Operation Second Look”
- k. Revoke
- l. Revocation
- m. “8 U.S.C. 1451”
- n. “8 USC 1451”
- o. “Unlawfully procure”
- p. “Enforcement Section”
- q. “Mike Davis”
- r. article3project.org
- s. Somali
- t. Somalis
- u. cis.org

This request seeks records from January 20, 2025 until the date of the search.

In an effort to accommodate USCIS and reduce the number of potentially responsive records to be processed and produced, we have limited this request to communications sent by the officials named above (A). To be clear, however, DFF still requests that complete email chains and texts be produced, displaying both sent and received messages. This means, for example, that both an agency official’s response to an email and the initial received message are responsive to this request and should be produced.

Reporting has indicated that government officials may be using personal devices to conduct government business, and that they are also using non-government messaging applications such as Signal.¹ As such, a search for responsive records must include both official and personal devices and applications such as Signal, iMessage, and WhatsApp.

Scope of Search

FOIA requires agencies to disclose information, with only limited exceptions for information that would harm an interest protected by a specific exemption or where disclosure is prohibited by law. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(8)(A). In the event that any of the requested documents cannot be disclosed in their entirety, we request that you release any material that can be reasonably segregated. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(b). Should any documents or portions of documents be withheld, we further request that you state with specificity the description of the document to be withheld and the legal and factual grounds for withholding any documents or portions thereof in an index, as required by *Vaughn v. Rosen*, 484 F.2d 820 (D.C. Cir. 1973). Should any document include both disclosable and non-disclosable material that cannot reasonably be segregated, we request

¹ *See, e.g.,* Jeffrey Goldberg, *The Trump Administration Accidentally Texted Me Its War Plans*, Atlantic (Mar. 24, 2025), <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2025/03/trump-administration-accidentally-texted-me-its-war-plans/682151/>; Steve Witkoff (@SteveWitkoff), X (Mar. 26, 2025, 9:20 AM), <https://x.com/SteveWitkoff/status/1904886084879720683>.

that you describe what proportion of the information in a document is non-disclosable and how that information is dispersed throughout the document. *Mead Data Cent., Inc. v. U.S. Dep't of Air Force*, 566 F.2d 242, 261 (D.C. Cir. 1977).

If requested records are located in, or originated in, another agency, department, office, installation or bureau, please refer this request or any relevant portion of this request to the appropriate entity.

To the extent that the records are readily reproducible in an electronic format, we would prefer to receive the records in that format. However, if certain records are not available in that format, we are willing to accept the best available copy of each such record.

Please respond to this request in writing within 20 working days as required under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A)(i). If all of the requested documents are not available within that time period, we request that you provide us with all requested documents or portions of documents that are available within that time period. If all relevant records are not produced within that time period, we are entitled to a waiver of fees for searching and duplicating records under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(viii)(I).

Request for Fee Waiver

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii) and your agency's regulations, DFF requests a waiver of all fees associated with processing records for this request. FOIA requires documents to be furnished to requesters at no fee or reduced fees "if disclosure of the information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester." 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A).

In determining whether a fee waiver is appropriate, courts consider whether a requester has a "demonstrated . . . ability to disseminate the requested information," *Cause of Action v. F.T.C.*, 799 F.3d 1108, 1116-17 (D.C. Cir. 2015), and whether the requester regularly disseminates records obtained through FOIA to "a reasonably broad audience of persons interested in the subject" of its work. *Carney v. U.S. Dep't of Justice*, 19 F.3d 807, 814-15 (2d Cir. 1994). FOIA does not require a requester to describe exactly how it intends to disseminate the information requested, as that would require "pointless specificity"; all that is necessary is for a requester to adequately demonstrate its "ability to publicize disclosed information." *Judicial Watch, Inc. v. Rossotti*, 326 F.3d 1309, 1314 (D.C. Cir. 2003). In evaluating a fee waiver request, courts consider how a requester actually communicates information collected through FOIA to the public, including press releases or a website where documents received are made available, *see id.*, or whether the requester has a history of "contacts with any major news[] companies" that suggest an ability to disseminate materials of interest through the press. *Larson v. C.I.A.*, 843 F.2d 1481, 1483 (D.C. Cir. 1988) (upholding a denial of a fee waiver to a requester who had failed to identify his relationships with newspaper companies that could disseminate documents).

The requested waiver is in the public interest because providing the copy of the information sought primarily benefits the general public. Democracy Forward Foundation has a demonstrated ability to disseminate information of public interest requested through freedom of information statutes, and, based upon responses to this request, may assist in publicizing records received to contribute to the public's understanding of efforts to denaturalize U.S. citizens. Reporting in the past year has indicated that taking away Americans' citizenship is a priority of the Trump-Vance administration,² and denaturalization is a matter of great constitutional significance with major implications for how Americans understand their legal rights.³ Records received by Democracy Forward Foundation have previously formed the basis of news reports.⁴

² See, e.g., Jason Lalljee, *What to know about the DOJ revoking citizenship of naturalized Americans*, Axios (July 2, 2025),

https://www.axios.com/2025/06/30/trump-naturalized-citizenship-doj-immigration?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter_axiosam&stream=top; Hamed Aleaziz, *Trump Administration Aims to Strip More Foreign-Born Americans of Citizenship*, N.Y. Times (Dec. 17, 2025),

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/12/17/us/politics/trump-immigration-citizenship-denaturalization.html>.

³ See, e.g., Nik Popli, *Can a U.S. Citizen Be Deported? Trump's Comments Raise Legal Alarms*, Time (Apr. 15, 2025), <https://time.com/7277884/can-a-u-s-citizen-be-deported-trumps-comments-spark-legal-debate/>.

⁴ See, e.g., Alexander Nazaryan, *Why did right-wing troll Charles C. Johnson meet with Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross?*, Yahoo News (May 14, 2019),

<https://news.yahoo.com/why-did-rightwing-troll-charles-c-johnson-want-to-meet-with-commerce-secretary-wilbur-ross-090000636.html>; Derek Kravitz and Jack Gillum, "Happy to Do It": Emails Show Current FAA Chief

Coordinated With Ex-Lobbyist Colleagues on Policy, ProPublica (Mar. 27, 2019),

<https://www.propublica.org/article/dan-elwell-current-faa-chief-coordinated-with-ex-lobbyist-colleagues-on-policy>;

Hamid Aleaziz, *Emails Show US Border Officials Didn't Receive "Zero Tolerance" Guidance Until After the Policy Was Enacted*, BuzzFeed News (Feb. 28, 2019),

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Jonathan Cohn and Jeffrey Young, *Emails Show Trump Administration Was Told Obamacare Ad Cuts Could Hurt Enrollment*, HuffPost (Dec. 17, 2018),

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/trump-verma-obamacare-advertising-cut_us_5c115061e4b084b082ff8dba;

Madison Pauly, *When the Biggest Prison Company Complained About a California Sanctuary Law, ICE Listened*, Mother Jones (Dec. 7, 2018),

<https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2018/12/geo-memo-private-prison-california-immigration/>; Eliza Rellman,

'Just answer the question and kill this story': In internal emails, Heather Nauert criticized Rex Tillerson's refusal to deny reports that he called Trump a 'moron,' Business Insider (Nov. 2, 2018),

<https://www.businessinsider.com/heather-nauert-rex-tillerson-trump-moron-2018-11>; Rebecca Klein, *Lawsuit*

Accuses Betsy DeVos And Her Deputies Of Being Motivated By Sexism, HuffPost (Oct. 31, 2018),

https://m.huffpost.com/us/entry/us_5bd9ff6ee4b01abe6a1ad4a9; Nick Penzenstadler, *A year after Vegas shooting,*

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<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2018/10/01/year-after-vegas-shooting-atf-emails-reveal-blame-alarm-over-bump-stocks/1432137002/>; Jessica Kwong, *Ivanka Trump was more than complicit in Obama equal pay rollback-she*

had a hand in it, watchdog alleges, Newsweek (Aug. 29, 2018),

<https://www.newsweek.com/ivanka-trump-equal-pay-complicit-obama-1093833>; Vera Bergengruen, *New Emails*

Show What Happens When The Pentagon Has To Scramble To Catch Up To Trump, BuzzFeed News (July 25, 2018),

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Erin Dooley, *Exclusive: Former for-profit college executive shaped Education Department policy that could benefit former employers: Documents*, ABC News (May 15, 2017),

<https://abcnews.go.com/US/exclusive-profit-college-executive-shaped-education-department-policy/story?id=55108981>;

Heidi Przybyla, *Notes, emails reveal Trump appointees' war to end HHS teen pregnancy program*, NBC News (Mar. 20, 2018),

<https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/politics-news/notes-emails-reveal-trump-appointees-war-end-hhs-teen-pregnancy-n857686>;

Dominic Holden, *Documents Show The Trump Administration Approved Bump Stocks Before It Opposed Them*, BuzzFeed News (Mar. 22, 2018),

<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/dominicholden/trump-administration-bump-stocks>; Bernard Condon, *Trump*

Democracy Forward Foundation is not filing this request to further any commercial interest, and any information obtained by Democracy Forward Foundation as a result of this request and disclosed will be disclosed at no cost.

If the request for a waiver is denied, we are willing to pay all reasonable fees incurred for searching and duplicating records in responding to this request, up to \$50. If the costs of responding to this request should exceed that amount, please contact us before incurring costs exceeding that amount.

Conclusion

If you need clarification as to the scope of the request, have any questions, or foresee any obstacles to releasing fully the requested records within 20 business days, please contact me as soon as possible at foia@democracyforward.org.

We appreciate your assistance and look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

/s/ Skye Perryman

Skye Perryman
President & CEO
Democracy Forward Foundation
P.O. Box 34553
Washington, D.C. 20043

Advisor Denies He Cheered End of Tunnel Funding Deal, Associated Press (Feb. 13, 2018), available at <https://www.usnews.com/news/business/articles/2018-02-13/trump-adviser-denies-he-cheered-end-of-tunnel-funding-deal>; Celeste Katz, *Interior Department tapped wildfire preparedness funds for Ryan Zinke helicopter tour*, Newsweek (Dec. 29, 2017), <https://www.newsweek.com/ryan-zinke-interior-department-helicopters-wildfires-757857>.



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Records Requested

Democracy Forward Foundation ("DFF") requests that the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services ("USCIS") produce the following within twenty (20) business days:

1. All guidance, memoranda, or other records in possession of your agency containing or reflecting quotas for denaturalization cases or requests to identify or process a certain number of denaturalization cases per month.
2. All memoranda of agreement (MOAs) between U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and the Office of Immigration Litigation at the Department of Justice regarding denaturalization cases.
3. All guidance, memoranda, directives, instructions, or other records in possession of your agency explaining (1) how to prioritize denaturalization cases or (2) how to compile a list of denaturalization cases to supply to the Office of Immigration Litigation at the Department of Justice.¹

This request seeks records from January 20, 2025 until the date of the search.

Scope of Search

FOIA requires agencies to disclose information, with only limited exceptions for information that would harm an interest protected by a specific exemption or where disclosure is prohibited by law. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(8)(A). In the event that any of the requested documents cannot be

¹ Hamed Aleaziz, *Trump Administration Aims to Strip More Foreign-Born Americans of Citizenship*, N.Y. Times (Dec. 17, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/12/17/us/politics/trump-immigration-citizenship-denaturalization.html>.

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The requested waiver is in the public interest because providing the copy of the information sought primarily benefits the general public. Democracy Forward Foundation has a demonstrated ability to disseminate information of public interest requested through freedom of information statutes, and, based upon responses to this request, may assist in publicizing records received to contribute to the public's understanding of efforts to denaturalize U.S. citizens. Reporting in the past year has indicated that taking away Americans' citizenship is a priority of the Trump-Vance administration,² and denaturalization is a matter of great constitutional significance with major implications for how Americans understand their legal rights.³ Records received by Democracy Forward Foundation have previously formed the basis of news reports.⁴

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https://m.huffpost.com/us/entry/us_5bd9ff6ee4b01abe6a1ad4a9; Nick Penzenstadler, *A year after Vegas shooting, ATF emails reveal blame, alarm over bump stocks*, USA Today (Oct. 1, 2018),

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2018/10/01/year-after-vegas-shooting-atf-emails-reveal-blame-alarm-over-bump-stocks/1432137002/>; Jessica Kwong, *Ivanka Trump was more than complicit in Obama equal pay rollback-she had a hand in it, watchdog alleges*, Newsweek (Aug. 29, 2018),

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We appreciate your assistance and look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

/s/ Skye Perryman

Skye Perryman
President & CEO
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⁹⁸¹; Heidi Przybyla, *Notes, emails reveal Trump appointees' war to end HHS teen pregnancy program*, NBC News (Mar. 20, 2018), <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/politics-news/notes-emails-reveal-trump-appointees-war-end-hhs-teen-pregnancy-n857686>; Dominic Holden, *Documents Show The Trump Administration Approved Bump Stocks Before It Opposed Them*, BuzzFeed News (Mar. 22, 2018), <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/dominicholden/trump-administration-bump-stocks>; Bernard Condon, *Trump Advisor Denies He Cheered End of Tunnel Funding Deal*, Associated Press (Feb. 13, 2018), available at <https://www.usnews.com/news/business/articles/2018-02-13/trump-adviser-denies-he-cheered-end-of-tunnel-funding-deal>; Celeste Katz, *Interior Department tapped wildfire preparedness funds for Ryan Zinke helicopter tour*, Newsweek (Dec. 29, 2017), <https://www.newsweek.com/ryan-zinke-interior-department-helicopters-wildfires-757857>.



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A. Agency officials:

- a. Director Joseph Edlow
- b. Deputy Director Angelica Alfonso-Royals
- c. Acting Chief of Staff Peter Holland
- d. Deputy Chief of Staff Timothy Kaiser
- e. Acting Associate Director, Fraud Detection and National Security Directorate Andrew Davidson
- f. Chief, Office of Policy and Strategy Andrew Good
- g. Chief, Office of Investigations Kristinn Coleman

B. Key terms:

- a. Mamdani
- b. Zohran
- c. Ilhan
- d. "Rosie O'Donnell"

This request seeks records from June 1, 2025 until the date of the search.

DFF-DHS-USCIS-26-0105

In an effort to accommodate USCIS and reduce the number of potentially responsive records to be processed and produced, we have limited this request to communications sent by the officials named above (A). To be clear, however, DFF still requests that complete email chains and texts be produced, displaying both sent and received messages. This means, for example, that both an agency official's response to an email and the initial received message are responsive to this request and should be produced.

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Request for Fee Waiver

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii) and your agency's regulations, DFF requests a waiver of all fees associated with processing records for this request. FOIA requires documents to be furnished to requesters at no fee or reduced fees "if disclosure of the information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester." 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A).

In determining whether a fee waiver is appropriate, courts consider whether a requester has a "demonstrated . . . ability to disseminate the requested information," *Cause of Action v. F.T.C.*, 799 F.3d 1108, 1116-17 (D.C. Cir. 2015), and whether the requester regularly disseminates records obtained through FOIA to "a reasonably broad audience of persons interested in the subject" of its work. *Carney v. U.S. Dep't of Justice*, 19 F.3d 807, 814-15 (2d Cir. 1994). FOIA does not require a requester to describe exactly how it intends to disseminate the information requested, as that would require "pointless specificity"; all that is necessary is for a requester to adequately demonstrate its "ability to publicize disclosed information." *Judicial Watch, Inc. v. Rossotti*, 326 F.3d 1309, 1314 (D.C. Cir. 2003). In evaluating a fee waiver request, courts consider how a requester actually communicates information collected through FOIA to the public, including press releases or a website where documents received are made available, *see id.*, or whether the requester has a history of "contacts with any major news[] companies" that suggest an ability to disseminate materials of interest through the press. *Larson v. C.I.A.*, 843 F.2d 1481, 1483 (D.C. Cir. 1988) (upholding a denial of a fee waiver to a requester who had failed to identify his relationships with newspaper companies that could disseminate documents).

The requested waiver is in the public interest because providing the copy of the information sought primarily benefits the general public. Democracy Forward Foundation has a demonstrated ability to disseminate information of public interest requested through freedom of information statutes, and, based upon responses to this request, may assist in publicizing records received to contribute to the public's understanding of efforts to denaturalize U.S. citizens. Reporting in the past year has indicated that taking away Americans' citizenship is a priority of the Trump-Vance administration,² and denaturalization is a matter of great constitutional significance with major implications for how Americans understand their legal rights.³ Records received by Democracy Forward Foundation have previously formed the basis of news reports.⁴

² See, e.g., Jason Lalljee, *What to know about the DOJ revoking citizenship of naturalized Americans*, Axios (July 2, 2025), https://www.axios.com/2025/06/30/trump-naturalized-citizenship-doj-immigration?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter_axiosam&stream=top; Hamed Aleaziz, *Trump Administration Aims to Strip More Foreign-Born Americans of Citizenship*, N.Y. Times (Dec. 17, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/12/17/us/politics/trump-immigration-citizenship-denaturalization.html>.

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Democracy Forward Foundation is not filing this request to further any commercial interest, and any information obtained by Democracy Forward Foundation as a result of this request and disclosed will be disclosed at no cost.

If the request for a waiver is denied, we are willing to pay all reasonable fees incurred for searching and duplicating records in responding to this request, up to \$50. If the costs of responding to this request should exceed that amount, please contact us before incurring costs exceeding that amount.

Conclusion

If you need clarification as to the scope of the request, have any questions, or foresee any obstacles to releasing fully the requested records within 20 business days, please contact me as soon as possible at foia@democracyforward.org.

Coordinated With Ex-Lobbyist Colleagues on Policy, ProPublica (Mar. 27, 2019), <https://www.propublica.org/article/dan-elwell-current-faa-chief-coordinated-with-ex-lobbyist-colleagues-on-policy>; Hamid Aleaziz, *Emails Show US Border Officials Didn't Receive "Zero Tolerance" Guidance Until After the Policy Was Enacted*, BuzzFeed News (Feb. 28, 2019), <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/hamedaleaziz/zero-tolerance-policy-guidance-dhs-family-separation>; Jonathan Cohn and Jeffrey Young, *Emails Show Trump Administration Was Told Obamacare Ad Cuts Could Hurt Enrollment*, Huffpost (Dec. 17, 2018), https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/trump-verma-obamacare-advertising-cut_us_5c115061e4b084b082ff8dba; Madison Pauly, *When the Biggest Prison Company Complained About a California Sanctuary Law, ICE Listened*, Mother Jones (Dec. 7, 2018), <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2018/12/geo-memo-private-prison-california-immigration/>; Eliza Rellman, *'Just answer the question and kill this story': In internal emails, Heather Nauert criticized Rex Tillerson's refusal to deny reports that he called Trump a 'moron,'* Business Insider (Nov. 2, 2018), <https://www.businessinsider.com/heather-nauert-rex-tillerson-trump-moron-2018-11>; Rebecca Klein, *Lawsuit Accuses Betsy DeVos And Her Deputies Of Being Motivated By Sexism*, HuffPost (Oct. 31, 2018), https://m.huffpost.com/us/entry/us_5bd9ff6ee4b01abe6a1ad4a9; Nick Penzenstadler, *A year after Vegas shooting, ATF emails reveal blame, alarm over bump stocks*, USA Today (Oct. 1, 2018), <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2018/10/01/year-after-vegas-shooting-atf-emails-reveal-blame-alarm-over-bump-stocks/1432137002/>; Jessica Kwong, *Ivanka Trump was more than complicit in Obama equal pay rollback-she had a hand in it, watchdog alleges*, Newsweek (Aug. 29, 2018), <https://www.newsweek.com/ivanka-trump-equal-pay-complicit-obama-1093833>; Vera Bergengruen, *New Emails Show What Happens When The Pentagon Has To Scramble To Catch Up To Trump*, BuzzFeed News (July 25, 2018), <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/verabergengruen/these-emails-show-what-happens-when-the-white-house-keeps>; Erin Dooley, *Exclusive: Former for-profit college executive shaped Education Department policy that could benefit former employers: Documents*, ABC News (May 15, 2017), <https://abcnews.go.com/US/exclusive-profit-college-executive-shaped-education-department-policy/story?id=55108981>; Heidi Przybyla, *Notes, emails reveal Trump appointees' war to end HHS teen pregnancy program*, NBC News (Mar. 20, 2018), <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/politics-news/notes-emails-reveal-trump-appointees-war-end-hhs-teen-pregnancy-n857686>; Dominic Holden, *Documents Show The Trump Administration Approved Bump Stocks Before It Opposed Them*, BuzzFeed News (Mar. 22, 2018), <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/dominicholden/trump-administration-bump-stocks>; Bernard Condon, *Trump Advisor Denies He Cheered End of Tunnel Funding Deal*, Associated Press (Feb. 13, 2018), available at <https://www.usnews.com/news/business/articles/2018-02-13/trump-adviser-denies-he-cheered-end-of-tunnel-funding-deal>; Celeste Katz, *Interior Department tapped wildfire preparedness funds for Ryan Zinke helicopter tour*, Newsweek (Dec. 29, 2017), <https://www.newsweek.com/ryan-zinke-interior-department-helicopters-wildfires-757857>.

We appreciate your assistance and look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

/s/ *Skye Perryman*

Skye Perryman

President & CEO

Democracy Forward Foundation

P.O. Box 34553

Washington, D.C. 20043



January 22, 2026

VIA Electronic Delivery

Department of Justice
Civil Division
Brian Flannigan, Chief, FOIA Office
1100 L Street, NW. Rm 8400
Washington, DC 20530-0001
VIA Online Portal

Office of Immigration Litigation
Department of Justice
Room 8400, 1100 L Street, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001
Via Online Portal

Re: Freedom of Information Action Request

Dear FOIA Officer:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. §§ 552, Democracy Forward Foundation submits this request for records.

Records Requested

Democracy Forward Foundation ("DFF") requests that the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Division produce the following within twenty (20) business days:

All electronic communications (including emails, email attachments, complete email chains, calendar invitations, calendar invitation attachments, text messages or messages on applications such as Signal or Whatsapp, messages on messaging platforms such as Slack or Microsoft Teams, and direct messages on social media platforms such as Truth Social or X) **sent** by the individuals listed below (A) containing any of the below key terms (B):

A. Agency officials:

- a. Assistant Attorney General (including in previous capacity as Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General) Brett Shumate
- b. Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Yaakov M. Roth
- c. Deputy Assistant Attorney General Drew Ensign
- d. August Flentje, including in his capacity as Acting Director, Deputy Director for Immigration Litigation, Attorney, and Special Counsel for Immigration
- e. Associate Director Jennifer Keeney
- f. Chief of the Enforcement Unit John Inkeles

- g. Deputy Chief of the Enforcement Unit Hans Chen
- h. Acting Director of the Office of Immigration Litigation Anthony Nicaastro
- i. Acting Deputy Director for District Court Litigation Glenn Girdharry
- j. Chief of Staff Russel Verby

B. Key terms:

- a. Denaturalize
- b. Naturalize
- c. Naturalized
- d. Denaturalization
- e. Denat
- f. Denatz
- g. Quota
- h. "Cases per month"
- i. "Referrals per month"
- j. "Operation Second Look"
- k. Revoke
- l. Revocation
- m. "8 U.S.C. 1451"
- n. "8 USC 1451"
- o. "Unlawfully procure"
- p. "Enforcement Section"
- q. "Mike Davis"
- r. article3project.org
- s. Somali
- t. Somalis
- u. cis.org

This request seeks records from January 20, 2025 until the date of the search.

In an effort to accommodate the DOJ and reduce the number of potentially responsive records to be processed and produced, we have limited this request to communications sent by the officials named above (A). To be clear, however, DFF still requests that complete email chains and texts be produced, displaying both sent and received messages. This means, for example, that both an agency official's response to an email and the initial received message are responsive to this request and should be produced.

Reporting has indicated that government officials may be using personal devices to conduct government business, and that they are also using non-government messaging applications such

as Signal.¹ As such, a search for responsive records must include both official and personal devices and applications such as Signal, iMessage, and WhatsApp.

Scope of Search

FOIA requires agencies to disclose information, with only limited exceptions for information that would harm an interest protected by a specific exemption or where disclosure is prohibited by law. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(8)(A). In the event that any of the requested documents cannot be disclosed in their entirety, we request that you release any material that can be reasonably segregated. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(b). Should any documents or portions of documents be withheld, we further request that you state with specificity the description of the document to be withheld and the legal and factual grounds for withholding any documents or portions thereof in an index, as required by *Vaughn v. Rosen*, 484 F.2d 820 (D.C. Cir. 1973). Should any document include both disclosable and non-disclosable material that cannot reasonably be segregated, we request that you describe what proportion of the information in a document is non-disclosable and how that information is dispersed throughout the document. *Mead Data Cent., Inc. v. U.S. Dep't of Air Force*, 566 F.2d 242, 261 (D.C. Cir. 1977).

If requested records are located in, or originated in, another agency, department, office, installation or bureau, please refer this request or any relevant portion of this request to the appropriate entity.

To the extent that the records are readily reproducible in an electronic format, we would prefer to receive the records in that format. However, if certain records are not available in that format, we are willing to accept the best available copy of each such record.

Please respond to this request in writing within 20 working days as required under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A)(i). If all of the requested documents are not available within that time period, we request that you provide us with all requested documents or portions of documents that are available within that time period. If all relevant records are not produced within that time period, we are entitled to a waiver of fees for searching and duplicating records under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(viii)(I).

Request for Fee Waiver

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii) and your agency's regulations, DFF requests a waiver of all fees associated with processing records for this request. FOIA requires documents to be furnished to requesters at no fee or reduced fees "if disclosure of the information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester." 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A).

¹ *See, e.g.,* Jeffrey Goldberg, *The Trump Administration Accidentally Texted Me Its War Plans*, Atlantic (Mar. 24, 2025), <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2025/03/trump-administration-accidentally-texted-me-its-war-plans/682151/>; Steve Witkoff (@SteveWitkoff), X (Mar. 26, 2025, 9:20 AM), <https://x.com/SteveWitkoff/status/1904886084879720683>.

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The requested waiver is in the public interest because providing the copy of the information sought primarily benefits the general public. Democracy Forward Foundation has a demonstrated ability to disseminate information of public interest requested through freedom of information statutes, and, based upon responses to this request, may assist in publicizing records received to contribute to the public’s understanding of efforts to denaturalize U.S. citizens. Reporting in the past year has indicated that taking away Americans’ citizenship is a priority of the Trump-Vance administration,² and denaturalization is a matter of great constitutional significance with major implications for how Americans understand their legal rights.³ Records received by Democracy Forward Foundation have previously formed the basis of news reports.⁴

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<https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2018/12/geo-memo-private-prison-california-immigration/>; Eliza Rellman, *‘Just answer the question and kill this story’: In internal emails, Heather Nauert criticized Rex Tillerson’s refusal to*

Democracy Forward Foundation is not filing this request to further any commercial interest, and any information obtained by Democracy Forward Foundation as a result of this request and disclosed will be disclosed at no cost.

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Conclusion

If you need clarification as to the scope of the request, have any questions, or foresee any obstacles to releasing fully the requested records within 20 business days, please contact me as soon as possible at foia@democracyforward.org.

We appreciate your assistance and look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

/s/ Skye Perryman

Skye Perryman
President & CEO
Democracy Forward Foundation
P.O. Box 34553
Washington, D.C. 20043

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January 22, 2026

VIA Electronic Delivery

Department of Justice
Civil Division
Brian Flannigan, Chief, FOIA Office
1100 L Street, NW. Rm 8400
Washington, DC 20530-0001
VIA Online Portal

Office of Immigration Litigation
Department of Justice
Room 8400, 1100 L Street, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001
Via Online Portal

Re: Freedom of Information Action Request

Dear FOIA Officer:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. §§ 552, Democracy Forward Foundation submits this request for records.

Records Requested

Democracy Forward Foundation ("DFF") requests that the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Division produce the following within twenty (20) business days:

1. All guidance, memoranda, or other records in possession of your agency containing or reflecting quotas for denaturalization cases or requests to identify or process a certain number of denaturalization cases per month.
2. All memoranda of agreement (MOAs) between U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and the Office of Immigration Litigation at the Department of Justice regarding denaturalization cases.
3. All guidance, memoranda, directives, instructions, or other records in possession of your agency explaining (1) how to prioritize denaturalization cases or (2) how to compile a list of denaturalization cases to supply to the Office of Immigration Litigation at the Department of Justice.¹

¹ Hamed Aleaziz, *Trump Administration Aims to Strip More Foreign-Born Americans of Citizenship*, N.Y. Times (Dec. 17, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/12/17/us/politics/trump-immigration-citizenship-denaturalization.html>.

This request seeks records from January 20, 2025 until the date of the search.

Scope of Search

FOIA requires agencies to disclose information, with only limited exceptions for information that would harm an interest protected by a specific exemption or where disclosure is prohibited by law. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(8)(A). In the event that any of the requested documents cannot be disclosed in their entirety, we request that you release any material that can be reasonably segregated. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(b). Should any documents or portions of documents be withheld, we further request that you state with specificity the description of the document to be withheld and the legal and factual grounds for withholding any documents or portions thereof in an index, as required by *Vaughn v. Rosen*, 484 F.2d 820 (D.C. Cir. 1973). Should any document include both disclosable and non-disclosable material that cannot reasonably be segregated, we request that you describe what proportion of the information in a document is non-disclosable and how that information is dispersed throughout the document. *Mead Data Cent., Inc. v. U.S. Dep't of Air Force*, 566 F.2d 242, 261 (D.C. Cir. 1977).

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To the extent that the records are readily reproducible in an electronic format, we would prefer to receive the records in that format. However, if certain records are not available in that format, we are willing to accept the best available copy of each such record.

Please respond to this request in writing within 20 working days as required under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A)(i). If all of the requested documents are not available within that time period, we request that you provide us with all requested documents or portions of documents that are available within that time period. If all relevant records are not produced within that time period, we are entitled to a waiver of fees for searching and duplicating records under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(viii)(I).

Request for Fee Waiver

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The requested waiver is in the public interest because providing the copy of the information sought primarily benefits the general public. Democracy Forward Foundation has a demonstrated ability to disseminate information of public interest requested through freedom of information statutes, and, based upon responses to this request, may assist in publicizing records received to contribute to the public’s understanding of efforts to denaturalize U.S. citizens. Reporting in the past year has indicated that taking away Americans’ citizenship is a priority of the Trump-Vance administration,² and denaturalization is a matter of great constitutional significance with major implications for how Americans understand their legal rights.³ Records received by Democracy Forward Foundation have previously formed the basis of news reports.⁴

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⁴ See, e.g., Alexander Nazaryan, *Why did right-wing troll Charles C. Johnson meet with Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross?*, Yahoo News (May 14, 2019),

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Democracy Forward Foundation is not filing this request to further any commercial interest, and any information obtained by Democracy Forward Foundation as a result of this request and disclosed will be disclosed at no cost.

If the request for a waiver is denied, we are willing to pay all reasonable fees incurred for searching and duplicating records in responding to this request, up to \$50. If the costs of responding to this request should exceed that amount, please contact us before incurring costs exceeding that amount.

Conclusion

If you need clarification as to the scope of the request, have any questions, or foresee any obstacles to releasing fully the requested records within 20 business days, please contact me as soon as possible at foia@democracyforward.org.

We appreciate your assistance and look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

/s/ Skye Perryman

Skye Perryman
President & CEO
Democracy Forward Foundation
P.O. Box 34553
Washington, D.C. 20043

had a hand in it, watchdog alleges, Newsweek (Aug. 29, 2018), <https://www.newsweek.com/ivanka-trump-equal-pay-complicit-obama-1093833>; Vera Bergengruen, *New Emails Show What Happens When The Pentagon Has To Scramble To Catch Up To Trump*, BuzzFeed News (July 25, 2018), <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/verabergengruen/these-emails-show-what-happens-when-the-white-house-keeps>; Erin Dooley, *Exclusive: Former for-profit college executive shaped Education Department policy that could benefit former employers: Documents*, ABC News (May 15, 2017), <https://abcnews.go.com/US/exclusive-profit-college-executive-shaped-education-department-policy/story?id=55108981>; Heidi Przybyla, *Notes, emails reveal Trump appointees' war to end HHS teen pregnancy program*, NBC News (Mar. 20, 2018), <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/politics-news/notes-emails-reveal-trump-appointees-war-end-hhs-teen-pregnancy-n857686>; Dominic Holden, *Documents Show The Trump Administration Approved Bump Stocks Before It Opposed Them*, BuzzFeed News (Mar. 22, 2018), <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/dominicholden/trump-administration-bump-stocks>; Bernard Condon, *Trump Advisor Denies He Cheered End of Tunnel Funding Deal*, Associated Press (Feb. 13, 2018), available at <https://www.usnews.com/news/business/articles/2018-02-13/trump-adviser-denies-he-cheered-end-of-tunnel-funding-deal>; Celeste Katz, *Interior Department tapped wildfire preparedness funds for Ryan Zinke helicopter tour*, Newsweek (Dec. 29, 2017), <https://www.newsweek.com/ryan-zinke-interior-department-helicopters-wildfires-757857>.



January 22, 2026

VIA Electronic Delivery

Department of Justice
Civil Division
Brian Flannigan, Chief, FOIA Office
1100 L Street, NW. Rm 8400
Washington, DC 20530-0001
VIA Online Portal

Office of Immigration Litigation
Department of Justice
Room 8400, 1100 L Street, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001
Via Online Portal

Re: Freedom of Information Action Request

Dear FOIA Officer:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. §§ 552, Democracy Forward Foundation submits this request for records.

Records Requested

Democracy Forward Foundation ("DFF") requests that the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Division produce the following within twenty (20) business days:

All electronic communications (including emails, email attachments, complete email chains, calendar invitations, calendar invitation attachments, text messages or messages on applications such as Signal or Whatsapp, messages on messaging platforms such as Slack or Microsoft Teams, and direct messages on social media platforms such as Truth Social or X sent or by the individuals listed below (A) containing any of the below key terms (B):

A. Agency officials:

- a. Assistant Attorney General (including in previous capacity as Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General) Brett Shumate
- b. Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Yaakov M. Roth
- c. Deputy Assistant Attorney General Drew Ensign
- d. August Flentje, including in his capacity as Acting Director, Deputy Director for Immigration Litigation, and Special Counsel for Immigration
- e. Associate Director Jennifer Keeney
- f. Chief of the Enforcement Unit John Inkeles

- g. Deputy Chief of the Enforcement Unit Hans Chen
- h. Acting Director of the Office of Immigration Litigation Anthony Nicaastro
- i. Acting Deputy Director for District Court Litigation Glenn Girdharry
- j. Chief of Staff Russel Verby

B. Key terms:

- a. Mamdani
- b. Zohran
- c. Ilhan
- d. “Rosie O’Donnell”

This request seeks records from June 1, 2025 until the date of the search.

In an effort to accommodate the DOJ and reduce the number of potentially responsive records to be processed and produced, we have limited this request to communications sent by the officials named above (A). To be clear, however, DFF still requests that complete email chains and texts be produced, displaying both sent and received messages. This means, for example, that both an agency official’s response to an email and the initial received message are responsive to this request and should be produced.

Reporting has indicated that government officials may be using personal devices to conduct government business, and that they are also using non-government messaging applications such as Signal.¹ As such, a search for responsive records must include both official and personal devices and applications such as Signal, iMessage, and WhatsApp.

Scope of Search

FOIA requires agencies to disclose information, with only limited exceptions for information that would harm an interest protected by a specific exemption or where disclosure is prohibited by law. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(8)(A). In the event that any of the requested documents cannot be disclosed in their entirety, we request that you release any material that can be reasonably segregated. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(b). Should any documents or portions of documents be withheld, we further request that you state with specificity the description of the document to be withheld and the legal and factual grounds for withholding any documents or portions thereof in an index, as required by *Vaughn v. Rosen*, 484 F.2d 820 (D.C. Cir. 1973). Should any document include both disclosable and non-disclosable material that cannot reasonably be segregated, we request that you describe what proportion of the information in a document is non-disclosable and how that information is dispersed throughout the document. *Mead Data Cent., Inc. v. U.S. Dep’t of Air Force*, 566 F.2d 242, 261 (D.C. Cir. 1977).

If requested records are located in, or originated in, another agency, department, office,

¹ *See, e.g.,* Jeffrey Goldberg, *The Trump Administration Accidentally Texted Me Its War Plans*, Atlantic (Mar. 24, 2025), <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2025/03/trump-administration-accidentally-texted-me-its-war-plans/682151/>; Steve Witkoff (@SteveWitkoff), X (Mar. 26, 2025, 9:20 AM), <https://x.com/SteveWitkoff/status/1904886084879720683>.

installation or bureau, please refer this request or any relevant portion of this request to the appropriate entity.

To the extent that the records are readily reproducible in an electronic format, we would prefer to receive the records in that format. However, if certain records are not available in that format, we are willing to accept the best available copy of each such record.

Please respond to this request in writing within 20 working days as required under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A)(i). If all of the requested documents are not available within that time period, we request that you provide us with all requested documents or portions of documents that are available within that time period. If all relevant records are not produced within that time period, we are entitled to a waiver of fees for searching and duplicating records under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(viii)(I).

Request for Fee Waiver

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii) and your agency's regulations, DFF requests a waiver of all fees associated with processing records for this request. FOIA requires documents to be furnished to requesters at no fee or reduced fees "if disclosure of the information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester." 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A).

In determining whether a fee waiver is appropriate, courts consider whether a requester has a "demonstrated . . . ability to disseminate the requested information," *Cause of Action v. F.T.C.*, 799 F.3d 1108, 1116-17 (D.C. Cir. 2015), and whether the requester regularly disseminates records obtained through FOIA to "a reasonably broad audience of persons interested in the subject" of its work. *Carney v. U.S. Dep't of Justice*, 19 F.3d 807, 814-15 (2d Cir. 1994). FOIA does not require a requester to describe exactly how it intends to disseminate the information requested, as that would require "pointless specificity"; all that is necessary is for a requester to adequately demonstrate its "ability to publicize disclosed information." *Judicial Watch, Inc. v. Rossotti*, 326 F.3d 1309, 1314 (D.C. Cir. 2003). In evaluating a fee waiver request, courts consider how a requester actually communicates information collected through FOIA to the public, including press releases or a website where documents received are made available, *see id.*, or whether the requester has a history of "contacts with any major news[] companies" that suggest an ability to disseminate materials of interest through the press. *Larson v. C.I.A.*, 843 F.2d 1481, 1483 (D.C. Cir. 1988) (upholding a denial of a fee waiver to a requester who had failed to identify his relationships with newspaper companies that could disseminate documents).

The requested waiver is in the public interest because providing the copy of the information sought primarily benefits the general public. Democracy Forward Foundation has a demonstrated ability to disseminate information of public interest requested through freedom of information statutes, and, based upon responses to this request, may assist in publicizing records received to contribute to the public's understanding of efforts to denaturalize U.S. citizens. Reporting in the past year has indicated that taking away Americans' citizenship is a priority of the Trump-Vance

administration,² and denaturalization is a matter of great constitutional significance with major implications for how Americans understand their legal rights.³ Records received by Democracy Forward Foundation have previously formed the basis of news reports.⁴

² See, e.g., Jason Lalljee, *What to know about the DOJ revoking citizenship of naturalized Americans*, Axios (July 2, 2025),

https://www.axios.com/2025/06/30/trump-naturalized-citizenship-doj-immigration?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter_axiosam&stream=top; Hamed Aleaziz, *Trump Administration Aims to Strip More Foreign-Born Americans of Citizenship*, N.Y. Times (Dec. 17, 2025),

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/12/17/us/politics/trump-immigration-citizenship-denaturalization.html>.

³ See, e.g., Nik Popli, *Can a U.S. Citizen Be Deported? Trump's Comments Raise Legal Alarms*, Time (Apr. 15, 2025), <https://time.com/7277884/can-a-u-s-citizen-be-deported-trumps-comments-spark-legal-debate/>.

⁴ See, e.g., Alexander Nazaryan, *Why did right-wing troll Charles C. Johnson meet with Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross?*, Yahoo News (May 14, 2019),

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Conclusion

If you need clarification as to the scope of the request, have any questions, or foresee any obstacles to releasing fully the requested records within 20 business days, please contact me as soon as possible at foia@democracyforward.org.

We appreciate your assistance and look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

/s/ Skye Perryman

Skye Perryman

President & CEO

Democracy Forward Foundation

P.O. Box 34553

Washington, D.C. 20043



January 22, 2026

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Re: Freedom of Information Action Request

Dear FOIA Officer:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. §§ 552, Democracy Forward Foundation submits this request for records.

Records Requested

Democracy Forward Foundation ("DFF") requests that the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Division produce the following within twenty (20) business days:

1. All final guidance, policy or enforcement memoranda, or directives (other than those specific to a single case) created or received by the Denaturalization Unit and/or Denaturalization Section within the Office of Immigration Litigation created from January 20, 2025 until the date of the search.
2. Copies of any SF-50 forms for any individuals working in the Denaturalization Unit and/or Denaturalization Section within the Office of Immigration Litigation created from January 20, 2025 until the date of the search.

This request seeks a small set of formal, readily-identifiable documents. As such, Democracy Forward Foundation expects this request will be assigned to the simple processing track and processed expeditiously.

Scope of Search

FOIA requires agencies to disclose information, with only limited exceptions for information that would harm an interest protected by a specific exemption or where disclosure is prohibited by law. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(8)(A). In the event that any of the requested documents cannot be disclosed in their entirety, we request that you release any material that can be reasonably segregated. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(b). Should any documents or portions of documents be withheld, we further request that you state with specificity the description of the document to be withheld and the legal and factual grounds for withholding any documents or portions thereof in an index, as required by *Vaughn v. Rosen*, 484 F.2d 820 (D.C. Cir. 1973). Should any document include both disclosable and non-disclosable material that cannot reasonably be segregated, we request that you describe what proportion of the information in a document is non-disclosable and how that information is dispersed throughout the document. *Mead Data Cent., Inc. v. U.S. Dep't of Air Force*, 566 F.2d 242, 261 (D.C. Cir. 1977).

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To the extent that the records are readily reproducible in an electronic format, we would prefer to receive the records in that format. However, if certain records are not available in that format, we are willing to accept the best available copy of each such record.

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Request for Fee Waiver

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The requested waiver is in the public interest because providing the copy of the information sought primarily benefits the general public. Democracy Forward Foundation has a demonstrated ability to disseminate information of public interest requested through freedom of information statutes, and, based upon responses to this request, may assist in publicizing records received to contribute to the public’s understanding of efforts to denaturalize U.S. citizens. Reporting in the past year has indicated that taking away Americans’ citizenship is a priority of the Trump-Vance administration,¹ and denaturalization is a matter of great constitutional significance with major implications for how Americans understand their legal rights.² Records received by Democracy Forward Foundation have previously formed the basis of news reports.³

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² See, e.g., Nik Popli, *Can a U.S. Citizen Be Deported? Trump’s Comments Raise Legal Alarms*, Time (Apr. 15, 2025), <https://time.com/7277884/can-a-u-s-citizen-be-deported-trumps-comments-spark-legal-debate/>.

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Democracy Forward Foundation is not filing this request to further any commercial interest, and any information obtained by Democracy Forward Foundation as a result of this request and disclosed will be disclosed at no cost.

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We appreciate your assistance and look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

/s/ Skye Perryman

Skye Perryman

President & CEO

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Show What Happens When The Pentagon Has To Scramble To Catch Up To Trump, BuzzFeed News (July 25, 2018), <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/verabergengruen/these-emails-show-what-happens-when-the-white-house-keeps>; Erin Dooley, *Exclusive: Former for-profit college executive shaped Education Department policy that could benefit former employers: Documents*, ABC News (May 15, 2017), <https://abcnews.go.com/US/exclusive-profit-college-executive-shaped-education-department-policy/story?id=55108981>; Heidi Przybyla, *Notes, emails reveal Trump appointees' war to end HHS teen pregnancy program*, NBC News (Mar. 20, 2018), <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/politics-news/notes-emails-reveal-trump-appointees-war-end-hhs-teen-pregnancy-n857686>; Dominic Holden, *Documents Show The Trump Administration Approved Bump Stocks Before It Opposed Them*, BuzzFeed News (Mar. 22, 2018), <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/dominicholden/trump-administration-bump-stocks>; Bernard Condon, *Trump Advisor Denies He Cheered End of Tunnel Funding Deal*, Associated Press (Feb. 13, 2018), available at <https://www.usnews.com/news/business/articles/2018-02-13/trump-adviser-denies-he-cheered-end-of-tunnel-funding-deal>; Celeste Katz, *Interior Department tapped wildfire preparedness funds for Ryan Zinke helicopter tour*, Newsweek (Dec. 29, 2017), <https://www.newsweek.com/ryan-zinke-interior-department-helicopters-wildfires-757857>.



January 22, 2026

VIA Electronic Delivery

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Dear FOIA Officer:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. §§ 552, Democracy Forward Foundation submits this request for records.

Records Requested

Democracy Forward Foundation ("DFF") requests that the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Division produce the following within twenty (20) business days:

1. All final guidance, memoranda, or directives created by your agency to implement Section 3(e) of Executive Order 14161 ("Ensure the devotion of adequate resources to identify and take appropriate action for offenses described in 8 U.S.C. 1451).¹
2. All reports submitted to the White House pursuant to Section 3(e) of Executive Order 14161.

This request seeks a small set of formal, readily-identifiable documents. As such, Democracy Forward Foundation expects this request will be assigned to the simple processing track and processed expeditiously.

This request seeks records from January 20, 2025 until the date of the search.

¹ Exec. Order No. 14161, 90 Fed. Reg. 8451 (Jan. 20, 2025), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/01/30/2025-02009/protecting-the-united-states-from-foreign-terrorists-and-other-national-security-and-public-safety>.

Scope of Search

FOIA requires agencies to disclose information, with only limited exceptions for information that would harm an interest protected by a specific exemption or where disclosure is prohibited by law. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(8)(A). In the event that any of the requested documents cannot be disclosed in their entirety, we request that you release any material that can be reasonably segregated. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(b). Should any documents or portions of documents be withheld, we further request that you state with specificity the description of the document to be withheld and the legal and factual grounds for withholding any documents or portions thereof in an index, as required by *Vaughn v. Rosen*, 484 F.2d 820 (D.C. Cir. 1973). Should any document include both disclosable and non-disclosable material that cannot reasonably be segregated, we request that you describe what proportion of the information in a document is non-disclosable and how that information is dispersed throughout the document. *Mead Data Cent., Inc. v. U.S. Dep't of Air Force*, 566 F.2d 242, 261 (D.C. Cir. 1977).

If requested records are located in, or originated in, another agency, department, office, installation or bureau, please refer this request or any relevant portion of this request to the appropriate entity.

To the extent that the records are readily reproducible in an electronic format, we would prefer to receive the records in that format. However, if certain records are not available in that format, we are willing to accept the best available copy of each such record.

Please respond to this request in writing within 20 working days as required under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A)(i). If all of the requested documents are not available within that time period, we request that you provide us with all requested documents or portions of documents that are available within that time period. If all relevant records are not produced within that time period, we are entitled to a waiver of fees for searching and duplicating records under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(viii)(I).

Request for Fee Waiver

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii) and your agency's regulations, DFF requests a waiver of all fees associated with processing records for this request. FOIA requires documents to be furnished to requesters at no fee or reduced fees "if disclosure of the information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester." 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A).

In determining whether a fee waiver is appropriate, courts consider whether a requester has a "demonstrated . . . ability to disseminate the requested information," *Cause of Action v. F.T.C.*, 799 F.3d 1108, 1116-17 (D.C. Cir. 2015), and whether the requester regularly disseminates records obtained through FOIA to "a reasonably broad audience of persons interested in the subject" of its work. *Carney v. U.S. Dep't of Justice*, 19 F.3d 807, 814-15 (2d Cir. 1994). FOIA does not require a requester to describe exactly how it intends to disseminate the information requested, as that would require "pointless specificity"; all that is necessary is for a requester to adequately demonstrate its "ability to publicize disclosed information." *Judicial Watch, Inc. v.*

Rossotti, 326 F.3d 1309, 1314 (D.C. Cir. 2003). In evaluating a fee waiver request, courts consider how a requester actually communicates information collected through FOIA to the public, including press releases or a website where documents received are made available, *see id.*, or whether the requester has a history of “contacts with any major news[] companies” that suggest an ability to disseminate materials of interest through the press. *Larson v. C.I.A.*, 843 F.2d 1481, 1483 (D.C. Cir. 1988) (upholding a denial of a fee waiver to a requester who had failed to identify his relationships with newspaper companies that could disseminate documents).

The requested waiver is in the public interest because providing the copy of the information sought primarily benefits the general public. Democracy Forward Foundation has a demonstrated ability to disseminate information of public interest requested through freedom of information statutes, and, based upon responses to this request, may assist in publicizing records received to contribute to the public’s understanding of efforts to denaturalize U.S. citizens. Reporting in the past year has indicated that taking away Americans’ citizenship is a priority of the Trump-Vance administration,² and denaturalization is a matter of great constitutional significance with major implications for how Americans understand their legal rights.³ Records received by Democracy Forward Foundation have previously formed the basis of news reports.⁴

² See, e.g., Jason Lalljee, *What to know about the DOJ revoking citizenship of naturalized Americans*, Axios (July 2, 2025),

https://www.axios.com/2025/06/30/trump-naturalized-citizenship-doj-immigration?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter_axiosam&stream=top; Hamed Aleaziz, *Trump Administration Aims to Strip More Foreign-Born Americans of Citizenship*, N.Y. Times (Dec. 17, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/12/17/us/politics/trump-immigration-citizenship-denaturalization.html>.

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⁴ See, e.g., Alexander Nazaryan, *Why did right-wing troll Charles C. Johnson meet with Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross?*, Yahoo News (May 14, 2019),

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<https://www.propublica.org/article/dan-elwell-current-faa-chief-coordinated-with-ex-lobbyist-colleagues-on-policy>; Hamid Aleaziz, *Emails Show US Border Officials Didn’t Receive “Zero Tolerance” Guidance Until After the Policy Was Enacted*, BuzzFeed News (Feb. 28, 2019),

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Jonathan Cohn and Jeffrey Young, *Emails Show Trump Administration Was Told Obamacare Ad Cuts Could Hurt Enrollment*, HuffPost (Dec. 17, 2018),

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Madison Pauly, *When the Biggest Prison Company Complained About a California Sanctuary Law, ICE Listened*, Mother Jones (Dec. 7, 2018),

<https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2018/12/geo-memo-private-prison-california-immigration/>; Eliza Rellman, “Just answer the question and kill this story”: In internal emails, Heather Nauert criticized Rex Tillerson’s refusal to deny reports that he called Trump a ‘moron,’ Business Insider (Nov. 2, 2018),

<https://www.businessinsider.com/heather-nauert-rex-tillerson-trump-moron-2018-11>; Rebecca Klein, *Lawsuit Accuses Betsy DeVos And Her Deputies Of Being Motivated By Sexism*, HuffPost (Oct. 31, 2018),

https://m.huffpost.com/us/entry/us_5bd9ff6ee4b01abe6a1ad4a9; Nick Penzenstadler, *A year after Vegas shooting, ATF emails reveal blame, alarm over bump stocks*, USA Today (Oct. 1, 2018),

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2018/10/01/year-after-vegas-shooting-atf-emails-reveal-blame-alarm-over-bump-stocks/1432137002/>; Jessica Kwong, *Ivanka Trump was more than complicit in Obama equal pay rollback-she had a hand in it, watchdog alleges*, Newsweek (Aug. 29, 2018),

<https://www.newsweek.com/ivanka-trump-equal-pay-complicit-obama-1093833>; Vera Bergengruen, *New Emails*

Democracy Forward Foundation is not filing this request to further any commercial interest, and any information obtained by Democracy Forward Foundation as a result of this request and disclosed will be disclosed at no cost.

If the request for a waiver is denied, we are willing to pay all reasonable fees incurred for searching and duplicating records in responding to this request, up to \$50. If the costs of responding to this request should exceed that amount, please contact us before incurring costs exceeding that amount.

Conclusion

If you need clarification as to the scope of the request, have any questions, or foresee any obstacles to releasing fully the requested records within 20 business days, please contact me as soon as possible at foia@democracyforward.org.

We appreciate your assistance and look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

/s/ Skye Perryman

Skye Perryman
President & CEO
Democracy Forward Foundation
P.O. Box 34553
Washington, D.C. 20043

Show What Happens When The Pentagon Has To Scramble To Catch Up To Trump, BuzzFeed News (July 25, 2018), <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/verabergengruen/these-emails-show-what-happens-when-the-white-house-keeps>; Erin Dooley, *Exclusive: Former for-profit college executive shaped Education Department policy that could benefit former employers: Documents*, ABC News (May 15, 2017), <https://abcnews.go.com/US/exclusive-profit-college-executive-shaped-education-department-policy/story?id=55108981>; Heidi Przybyla, *Notes, emails reveal Trump appointees' war to end HHS teen pregnancy program*, NBC News (Mar. 20, 2018), <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/politics-news/notes-emails-reveal-trump-appointees-war-end-hhs-teen-pregnancy-n857686>; Dominic Holden, *Documents Show The Trump Administration Approved Bump Stocks Before It Opposed Them*, BuzzFeed News (Mar. 22, 2018), <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/dominicholden/trump-administration-bump-stocks>; Bernard Condon, *Trump Advisor Denies He Cheered End of Tunnel Funding Deal*, Associated Press (Feb. 13, 2018), available at <https://www.usnews.com/news/business/articles/2018-02-13/trump-adviser-denies-he-cheered-end-of-tunnel-funding-deal>; Celeste Katz, *Interior Department tapped wildfire preparedness funds for Ryan Zinke helicopter tour*, Newsweek (Dec. 29, 2017), <https://www.newsweek.com/ryan-zinke-interior-department-helicopters-wildfires-757857>.



January 22, 2026

VIA Electronic Delivery

Department of Justice
Office of Information Policy
Andrew Fiorillo, Acting Chief
441 G St, NW, 6th Floor
Washington, DC 20530
Via online portal

Re: Freedom of Information Action Request

Dear FOIA Officer:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. §§ 552, Democracy Forward Foundation submits this request for records.

Records Requested

Democracy Forward Foundation ("DFF") requests that the U.S. Department of Justice ("DOJ") produce the following within twenty (20) business days:

All electronic communications (including emails, email attachments, complete email chains, calendar invitations, calendar invitation attachments, text messages or messages on applications such as Signal or Whatsapp, messages on messaging platforms such as Slack or Microsoft Teams, and direct messages on social media platforms such as Truth Social or X) **sent** by the individuals listed below (A) containing any of the below key terms (B):

A. Agency officials:

- a. Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche
- b. James McHenry, including in his capacity as Acting Attorney General, Chief Administrative Hearing Officer, or any other capacity
- c. Associate Deputy Attorney General Paul Perkins
- d. Emil Bove, including in his capacity as Principal Deputy Attorney General and Acting Deputy Attorney General

B. Key terms:

- a. Denaturalize
- b. Naturalize
- c. Naturalized
- d. Denaturalization
- e. Denat
- f. Denatz
- g. Quota
- h. "Cases per month"

- i. “Referrals per month”
- j. “Operation Second Look”
- k. Revoke
- l. Revocation
- m. “8 U.S.C. 1451”
- n. “8 USC 1451”
- o. “Unlawfully procure”
- p. “Enforcement Section”
- q. “Mike Davis”
- r. article3project.org
- s. Somali
- t. Somalis
- u. cis.org

This request seeks records from January 20, 2025 until the date of the search.

In an effort to accommodate the DOJ and reduce the number of potentially responsive records to be processed and produced, we have limited this request to communications sent by the officials named above (A). To be clear, however, DFF still requests that complete email chains and texts be produced, displaying both sent and received messages. This means, for example, that both an agency official’s response to an email and the initial received message are responsive to this request and should be produced.

Reporting has indicated that government officials may be using personal devices to conduct government business, and that they are also using non-government messaging applications such as Signal.¹ As such, a search for responsive records must include both official and personal devices and applications such as Signal, iMessage, and WhatsApp.

Scope of Search

FOIA requires agencies to disclose information, with only limited exceptions for information that would harm an interest protected by a specific exemption or where disclosure is prohibited by law. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(8)(A). In the event that any of the requested documents cannot be disclosed in their entirety, we request that you release any material that can be reasonably segregated. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(b). Should any documents or portions of documents be withheld, we further request that you state with specificity the description of the document to be withheld and the legal and factual grounds for withholding any documents or portions thereof in an index, as required by *Vaughn v. Rosen*, 484 F.2d 820 (D.C. Cir. 1973). Should any document include both disclosable and non-disclosable material that cannot reasonably be segregated, we request that you describe what proportion of the information in a document is non-disclosable and how that information is dispersed throughout the document. *Mead Data Cent., Inc. v. U.S. Dep’t of Air Force*, 566 F.2d 242, 261 (D.C. Cir. 1977).

¹ *See, e.g.,* Jeffrey Goldberg, *The Trump Administration Accidentally Texted Me Its War Plans*, Atlantic (Mar. 24, 2025), <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2025/03/trump-administration-accidentally-texted-me-its-war-plans/682151/>; Steve Witkoff (@SteveWitkoff), X (Mar. 26, 2025, 9:20 AM), <https://x.com/SteveWitkoff/status/1904886084879720683>.

If requested records are located in, or originated in, another agency, department, office, installation or bureau, please refer this request or any relevant portion of this request to the appropriate entity.

To the extent that the records are readily reproducible in an electronic format, we would prefer to receive the records in that format. However, if certain records are not available in that format, we are willing to accept the best available copy of each such record.

Please respond to this request in writing within 20 working days as required under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A)(i). If all of the requested documents are not available within that time period, we request that you provide us with all requested documents or portions of documents that are available within that time period. If all relevant records are not produced within that time period, we are entitled to a waiver of fees for searching and duplicating records under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(viii)(I).

Request for Fee Waiver

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii) and your agency's regulations, DFF requests a waiver of all fees associated with processing records for this request. FOIA requires documents to be furnished to requesters at no fee or reduced fees "if disclosure of the information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester." 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A).

In determining whether a fee waiver is appropriate, courts consider whether a requester has a "demonstrated . . . ability to disseminate the requested information," *Cause of Action v. F.T.C.*, 799 F.3d 1108, 1116-17 (D.C. Cir. 2015), and whether the requester regularly disseminates records obtained through FOIA to "a reasonably broad audience of persons interested in the subject" of its work. *Carney v. U.S. Dep't of Justice*, 19 F.3d 807, 814-15 (2d Cir. 1994). FOIA does not require a requester to describe exactly how it intends to disseminate the information requested, as that would require "pointless specificity"; all that is necessary is for a requester to adequately demonstrate its "ability to publicize disclosed information." *Judicial Watch, Inc. v. Rossotti*, 326 F.3d 1309, 1314 (D.C. Cir. 2003). In evaluating a fee waiver request, courts consider how a requester actually communicates information collected through FOIA to the public, including press releases or a website where documents received are made available, *see id.*, or whether the requester has a history of "contacts with any major news[] companies" that suggest an ability to disseminate materials of interest through the press. *Larson v. C.I.A.*, 843 F.2d 1481, 1483 (D.C. Cir. 1988) (upholding a denial of a fee waiver to a requester who had failed to identify his relationships with newspaper companies that could disseminate documents).

The requested waiver is in the public interest because providing the copy of the information sought primarily benefits the general public. Democracy Forward Foundation has a demonstrated ability to disseminate information of public interest requested through freedom of information statutes, and, based upon responses to this request, may assist in publicizing records received to contribute to the public's understanding of efforts to denaturalize U.S. citizens. Reporting in the

past year has indicated that taking away Americans' citizenship is a priority of the Trump-Vance administration,² and denaturalization is a matter of great constitutional significance with major implications for how Americans understand their legal rights.³ Records received by Democracy Forward Foundation have previously formed the basis of news reports.⁴

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https://www.axios.com/2025/06/30/trump-naturalized-citizenship-doj-immigration?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter_axiosam&stream=top; Hamed Aleaziz, *Trump Administration Aims to Strip More Foreign-Born Americans of Citizenship*, N.Y. Times (Dec. 17, 2025),

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/12/17/us/politics/trump-immigration-citizenship-denaturalization.html>.

³ See, e.g., Nik Popli, *Can a U.S. Citizen Be Deported? Trump's Comments Raise Legal Alarms*, Time (Apr. 15, 2025), <https://time.com/7277884/can-a-u-s-citizen-be-deported-trumps-comments-spark-legal-debate/>.

⁴ See, e.g., Alexander Nazaryan, *Why did right-wing troll Charles C. Johnson meet with Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross?*, Yahoo News (May 14, 2019),

<https://news.yahoo.com/why-did-rightwing-troll-charles-c-johnson-want-to-meet-with-commerce-secretary-wilbur-ross-090000636.html>; Derek Kravitz and Jack Gillum, *"Happy to Do It": Emails Show Current FAA Chief Coordinated With Ex-Lobbyist Colleagues on Policy*, ProPublica (Mar. 27, 2019),

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https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/trump-verma-obamacare-advertising-cut_us_5c115061e4b084b082ff8dba; Madison Pauly, *When the Biggest Prison Company Complained About a California Sanctuary Law, ICE Listened*, Mother Jones (Dec. 7, 2018),

<https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2018/12/geo-memo-private-prison-california-immigration/>; Eliza Rellman, *'Just answer the question and kill this story': In internal emails, Heather Nauert criticized Rex Tillerson's refusal to deny reports that he called Trump a 'moron,'* Business Insider (Nov. 2, 2018), <https://www.businessinsider.com/heather-nauert-rex-tillerson-trump-moron-2018-11>; Rebecca Klein, *Lawsuit Accuses Betsy DeVos And Her Deputies Of Being Motivated By Sexism*, HuffPost (Oct. 31, 2018), https://m.huffpost.com/us/entry/us_5bd9ff6ee4b01abe6a1ad4a9; Nick Penzenstadler, *A year after Vegas shooting, ATF emails reveal blame, alarm over bump stocks*, USA Today (Oct. 1, 2018), <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2018/10/01/year-after-vegas-shooting-atf-emails-reveal-blame-alarm-over-bump-stocks/1432137002/>; Jessica Kwong, *Ivanka Trump was more than complicit in Obama equal pay rollback-she had a hand in it, watchdog alleges*, Newsweek (Aug. 29, 2018), <https://www.newsweek.com/ivanka-trump-equal-pay-complicit-obama-1093833>; Vera Bergengruen, *New Emails Show What Happens When The Pentagon Has To Scramble To Catch Up To Trump*, BuzzFeed News (July 25, 2018), <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/verabergengruen/these-emails-show-what-happens-when-the-white-house-keeps>; Erin Dooley, *Exclusive: Former for-profit college executive shaped Education Department policy that could benefit former employers: Documents*, ABC News (May 15, 2017), <https://abcnews.go.com/US/exclusive-profit-college-executive-shaped-education-department-policy/story?id=55108981>; Heidi Przybyla, *Notes, emails reveal Trump appointees' war to end HHS teen pregnancy program*, NBC News (Mar. 20, 2018), <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/politics-news/notes-emails-reveal-trump-appointees-war-end-hhs-teen-pregnancy-n857686>; Dominic Holden, *Documents Show The Trump Administration Approved Bump Stocks Before It Opposed Them*, BuzzFeed News (Mar. 22, 2018), <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/dominicholden/trump-administration-bump-stocks>; Bernard Condon, *Trump Advisor Denies He Cheered End of Tunnel Funding Deal*, Associated Press (Feb. 13, 2018), available at <https://www.usnews.com/news/business/articles/2018-02-13/trump-adviser-denies-he-cheered-end-of-tunnel-funding-deal>; Celeste Katz, *Interior Department tapped wildfire preparedness funds for Ryan Zinke helicopter tour*, Newsweek (Dec. 29, 2017), <https://www.newsweek.com/ryan-zinke-interior-department-helicopters-wildfires-757857>.

Democracy Forward Foundation is not filing this request to further any commercial interest, and any information obtained by Democracy Forward Foundation as a result of this request and disclosed will be disclosed at no cost.

If the request for a waiver is denied, we are willing to pay all reasonable fees incurred for searching and duplicating records in responding to this request, up to \$50. If the costs of responding to this request should exceed that amount, please contact us before incurring costs exceeding that amount.

Conclusion

If you need clarification as to the scope of the request, have any questions, or foresee any obstacles to releasing fully the requested records within 20 business days, please contact me as soon as possible at foia@democracyforward.org.

We appreciate your assistance and look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

/s/ Skye Perryman

Skye Perryman
President & CEO
Democracy Forward Foundation
P.O. Box 34553
Washington, D.C. 20043



January 22, 2026

VIA Electronic Delivery

Department of Justice
Office of Information Policy
Andrew Fiorillo, Acting Chief
441 G St, NW, 6th Floor
Washington, DC 20530
Via online portal

Re: Freedom of Information Action Request

Dear FOIA Officer:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. §§ 552, Democracy Forward Foundation submits this request for records.

Records Requested

Democracy Forward Foundation ("DFF") requests that the U.S. Department of Justice ("DOJ") produce the following within twenty (20) business days:

1. All guidance, memoranda, or other records in possession of your agency containing or reflecting quotas for denaturalization cases or requests to identify or process a certain number of denaturalization cases per month.
2. All memoranda of agreement (MOAs) between U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and the Department of Justice regarding denaturalization cases.
3. All guidance, memoranda, directives, instructions, or other records in possession of your agency explaining (1) how to prioritize denaturalization cases or (2) how to compile a list of denaturalization cases to supply to the Office of Immigration Litigation at the Department of Justice.¹

This request seeks records from January 20, 2025 until the date of the search.

Scope of Search

FOIA requires agencies to disclose information, with only limited exceptions for information that would harm an interest protected by a specific exemption or where disclosure is prohibited by law. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(8)(A). In the event that any of the requested documents cannot be

¹ Hamed Aleaziz, *Trump Administration Aims to Strip More Foreign-Born Americans of Citizenship*, N.Y. Times (Dec. 17, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/12/17/us/politics/trump-immigration-citizenship-denaturalization.html>.

disclosed in their entirety, we request that you release any material that can be reasonably segregated. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(b). Should any documents or portions of documents be withheld, we further request that you state with specificity the description of the document to be withheld and the legal and factual grounds for withholding any documents or portions thereof in an index, as required by *Vaughn v. Rosen*, 484 F.2d 820 (D.C. Cir. 1973). Should any document include both disclosable and non-disclosable material that cannot reasonably be segregated, we request that you describe what proportion of the information in a document is non-disclosable and how that information is dispersed throughout the document. *Mead Data Cent., Inc. v. U.S. Dep't of Air Force*, 566 F.2d 242, 261 (D.C. Cir. 1977).

If requested records are located in, or originated in, another agency, department, office, installation or bureau, please refer this request or any relevant portion of this request to the appropriate entity.

To the extent that the records are readily reproducible in an electronic format, we would prefer to receive the records in that format. However, if certain records are not available in that format, we are willing to accept the best available copy of each such record.

Please respond to this request in writing within 20 working days as required under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A)(i). If all of the requested documents are not available within that time period, we request that you provide us with all requested documents or portions of documents that are available within that time period. If all relevant records are not produced within that time period, we are entitled to a waiver of fees for searching and duplicating records under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(viii)(I).

Request for Fee Waiver

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii) and your agency's regulations, DFF requests a waiver of all fees associated with processing records for this request. FOIA requires documents to be furnished to requesters at no fee or reduced fees "if disclosure of the information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester." 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A).

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suggest an ability to disseminate materials of interest through the press. *Larson v. C.I.A.*, 843 F.2d 1481, 1483 (D.C. Cir. 1988) (upholding a denial of a fee waiver to a requester who had failed to identify his relationships with newspaper companies that could disseminate documents).

The requested waiver is in the public interest because providing the copy of the information sought primarily benefits the general public. Democracy Forward Foundation has a demonstrated ability to disseminate information of public interest requested through freedom of information statutes, and, based upon responses to this request, may assist in publicizing records received to contribute to the public's understanding of efforts to denaturalize U.S. citizens. Reporting in the past year has indicated that taking away Americans' citizenship is a priority of the Trump-Vance administration,² and denaturalization is a matter of great constitutional significance with major implications for how Americans understand their legal rights.³ Records received by Democracy Forward Foundation have previously formed the basis of news reports.⁴

² See, e.g., Jason Lalljee, *What to know about the DOJ revoking citizenship of naturalized Americans*, Axios (July 2, 2025),

https://www.axios.com/2025/06/30/trump-naturalized-citizenship-doj-immigration?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter_axiosam&stream=top; Hamed Aleaziz, *Trump Administration Aims to Strip More Foreign-Born Americans of Citizenship*, N.Y. Times (Dec. 17, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/12/17/us/politics/trump-immigration-citizenship-denaturalization.html>.

³ See, e.g., Nik Popli, *Can a U.S. Citizen Be Deported? Trump's Comments Raise Legal Alarms*, Time (Apr. 15, 2025), <https://time.com/7277884/can-a-u-s-citizen-be-deported-trumps-comments-spark-legal-debate/>.

⁴ See, e.g., Alexander Nazaryan, *Why did right-wing troll Charles C. Johnson meet with Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross?*, Yahoo News (May 14, 2019),

<https://news.yahoo.com/why-did-rightwing-troll-charles-c-johnson-want-to-meet-with-commerce-secretary-wilbur-ross-090000636.html>; Derek Kravitz and Jack Gillum, *"Happy to Do It": Emails Show Current FAA Chief Coordinated With Ex-Lobbyist Colleagues on Policy*, ProPublica (Mar. 27, 2019),

<https://www.propublica.org/article/dan-elwell-current-faa-chief-coordinated-with-ex-lobbyist-colleagues-on-policy>; Hamid Aleaziz, *Emails Show US Border Officials Didn't Receive "Zero Tolerance" Guidance Until After the Policy Was Enacted*, BuzzFeed News (Feb. 28, 2019),

<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/hamedaleaziz/zero-tolerance-policy-guidance-dhs-family-separation>;

Jonathan Cohn and Jeffrey Young, *Emails Show Trump Administration Was Told Obamacare Ad Cuts Could Hurt Enrollment*, HuffPost (Dec. 17, 2018),

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/trump-verma-obamacare-advertising-cut_us_5c115061e4b084b082ff8dba;

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<https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2018/12/geo-memo-private-prison-california-immigration/>; Eliza Rellman, *'Just answer the question and kill this story': In internal emails, Heather Nauert criticized Rex Tillerson's refusal to deny reports that he called Trump a 'moron'*, Business Insider (Nov. 2, 2018),

<https://www.businessinsider.com/heather-nauert-rex-tillerson-trump-moron-2018-11>; Rebecca Klein, *Lawsuit Accuses Betsy DeVos And Her Deputies Of Being Motivated By Sexism*, HuffPost (Oct. 31, 2018),

https://m.huffpost.com/us/entry/us_5bd9ff6ee4b01abe6a1ad4a9; Nick Penzenstadler, *A year after Vegas shooting, ATF emails reveal blame, alarm over bump stocks*, USA Today (Oct. 1, 2018),

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2018/10/01/year-after-vegas-shooting-atf-emails-reveal-blame-alarm-over-bump-stocks/1432137002/>; Jessica Kwong, *Ivanka Trump was more than complicit in Obama equal pay rollback-she had a hand in it, watchdog alleges*, Newsweek (Aug. 29, 2018),

<https://www.newsweek.com/ivanka-trump-equal-pay-complicit-obama-1093833>; Vera Bergengruen, *New Emails Show What Happens When The Pentagon Has To Scramble To Catch Up To Trump*, BuzzFeed News (July 25, 2018),

<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/verabergengruen/these-emails-show-what-happens-when-the-white-house-keeps>; Erin Dooley, *Exclusive: Former for-profit college executive shaped Education Department policy that could benefit former employers: Documents*, ABC News (May 15, 2017),

<https://abcnews.go.com/US/exclusive-profit-college-executive-shaped-education-department-policy/story?id=55108>

Democracy Forward Foundation is not filing this request to further any commercial interest, and any information obtained by Democracy Forward Foundation as a result of this request and disclosed will be disclosed at no cost.

If the request for a waiver is denied, we are willing to pay all reasonable fees incurred for searching and duplicating records in responding to this request, up to \$50. If the costs of responding to this request should exceed that amount, please contact us before incurring costs exceeding that amount.

Conclusion

If you need clarification as to the scope of the request, have any questions, or foresee any obstacles to releasing fully the requested records within 20 business days, please contact me as soon as possible at foia@democracyforward.org.

We appreciate your assistance and look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

/s/ Skye Perryman

Skye Perryman
President & CEO
Democracy Forward Foundation
P.O. Box 34553
Washington, D.C. 20043

⁹⁸¹; Heidi Przybyla, *Notes, emails reveal Trump appointees' war to end HHS teen pregnancy program*, NBC News (Mar. 20, 2018), <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/politics-news/notes-emails-reveal-trump-appointees-war-end-hhs-teen-pregnancy-n857686>; Dominic Holden, *Documents Show The Trump Administration Approved Bump Stocks Before It Opposed Them*, BuzzFeed News (Mar. 22, 2018), <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/dominicholden/trump-administration-bump-stocks>; Bernard Condon, *Trump Advisor Denies He Cheered End of Tunnel Funding Deal*, Associated Press (Feb. 13, 2018), available at <https://www.usnews.com/news/business/articles/2018-02-13/trump-adviser-denies-he-cheered-end-of-tunnel-funding-deal>; Celeste Katz, *Interior Department tapped wildfire preparedness funds for Ryan Zinke helicopter tour*, Newsweek (Dec. 29, 2017), <https://www.newsweek.com/ryan-zinke-interior-department-helicopters-wildfires-757857>.



January 22, 2026

VIA Electronic Delivery

Department of Justice
Office of Information Policy
Andrew Fiorillo, Acting Chief
441 G St, NW, 6th Floor
Washington, DC 20530
Via online portal

Re: Freedom of Information Action Request

Dear FOIA Officer:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. §§ 552, Democracy Forward Foundation submits this request for records.

Records Requested

Democracy Forward Foundation ("DFF") requests that the U.S. Department of Justice ("DOJ") produce the following within twenty (20) business days:

All electronic communications (including emails, email attachments, complete email chains, calendar invitations, calendar invitation attachments, text messages or messages on applications such as Signal or Whatsapp, messages on messaging platforms such as Slack or Microsoft Teams, and direct messages on social media platforms such as Truth Social or X sent or by the individuals listed below (A) containing any of the below key terms (B):

A. Agency officials:

- a. Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche
- b. James McHenry, including in his capacity as Acting Attorney General, Chief Administrative Hearing Officer, or any other capacity
- c. Associate Deputy Attorney General Paul Perkins
- d. Emil Bove, including in his capacity as Principal Deputy Attorney General and Acting Deputy Attorney General

B. Key terms:

- a. Mamdani
- b. Zohran
- c. Ilhan
- d. "Rosie O'Donnell"

This request seeks records from June 1, 2025 until the date of the search.

In an effort to accommodate the DOJ and reduce the number of potentially responsive records to be processed and produced, we have limited this request to communications sent by the officials named above (A). To be clear, however, DFF still requests that complete email chains and texts be produced, displaying both sent and received messages. This means, for example, that both an agency official's response to an email and the initial received message are responsive to this request and should be produced.

Reporting has indicated that government officials may be using personal devices to conduct government business, and that they are also using non-government messaging applications such as Signal.¹ As such, a search for responsive records must include both official and personal devices and applications such as Signal, iMessage, and WhatsApp.

Scope of Search

FOIA requires agencies to disclose information, with only limited exceptions for information that would harm an interest protected by a specific exemption or where disclosure is prohibited by law. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(8)(A). In the event that any of the requested documents cannot be disclosed in their entirety, we request that you release any material that can be reasonably segregated. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(b). Should any documents or portions of documents be withheld, we further request that you state with specificity the description of the document to be withheld and the legal and factual grounds for withholding any documents or portions thereof in an index, as required by *Vaughn v. Rosen*, 484 F.2d 820 (D.C. Cir. 1973). Should any document include both disclosable and non-disclosable material that cannot reasonably be segregated, we request that you describe what proportion of the information in a document is non-disclosable and how that information is dispersed throughout the document. *Mead Data Cent., Inc. v. U.S. Dep't of Air Force*, 566 F.2d 242, 261 (D.C. Cir. 1977).

If requested records are located in, or originated in, another agency, department, office, installation or bureau, please refer this request or any relevant portion of this request to the appropriate entity.

To the extent that the records are readily reproducible in an electronic format, we would prefer to receive the records in that format. However, if certain records are not available in that format, we are willing to accept the best available copy of each such record.

Please respond to this request in writing within 20 working days as required under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A)(i). If all of the requested documents are not available within that time period, we request that you provide us with all requested documents or portions of documents that are available within that time period. If all relevant records are not produced within that time period, we are entitled to a waiver of fees for searching and duplicating records under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(viii)(I).

¹ *See, e.g.,* Jeffrey Goldberg, *The Trump Administration Accidentally Texted Me Its War Plans*, Atlantic (Mar. 24, 2025), <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2025/03/trump-administration-accidentally-texted-me-its-war-plans/682151/>; Steve Witkoff (@SteveWitkoff), X (Mar. 26, 2025, 9:20 AM), <https://x.com/SteveWitkoff/status/1904886084879720683>.

Request for Fee Waiver

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii) and your agency's regulations, DFF requests a waiver of all fees associated with processing records for this request. FOIA requires documents to be furnished to requesters at no fee or reduced fees "if disclosure of the information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester." 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A).

In determining whether a fee waiver is appropriate, courts consider whether a requester has a "demonstrated . . . ability to disseminate the requested information," *Cause of Action v. F.T.C.*, 799 F.3d 1108, 1116-17 (D.C. Cir. 2015), and whether the requester regularly disseminates records obtained through FOIA to "a reasonably broad audience of persons interested in the subject" of its work. *Carney v. U.S. Dep't of Justice*, 19 F.3d 807, 814-15 (2d Cir. 1994). FOIA does not require a requester to describe exactly how it intends to disseminate the information requested, as that would require "pointless specificity"; all that is necessary is for a requester to adequately demonstrate its "ability to publicize disclosed information." *Judicial Watch, Inc. v. Rossotti*, 326 F.3d 1309, 1314 (D.C. Cir. 2003). In evaluating a fee waiver request, courts consider how a requester actually communicates information collected through FOIA to the public, including press releases or a website where documents received are made available, *see id.*, or whether the requester has a history of "contacts with any major news[] companies" that suggest an ability to disseminate materials of interest through the press. *Larson v. C.I.A.*, 843 F.2d 1481, 1483 (D.C. Cir. 1988) (upholding a denial of a fee waiver to a requester who had failed to identify his relationships with newspaper companies that could disseminate documents).

The requested waiver is in the public interest because providing the copy of the information sought primarily benefits the general public. Democracy Forward Foundation has a demonstrated ability to disseminate information of public interest requested through freedom of information statutes, and, based upon responses to this request, may assist in publicizing records received to contribute to the public's understanding of efforts to denaturalize U.S. citizens. Reporting in the past year has indicated that taking away Americans' citizenship is a priority of the Trump-Vance administration,² and denaturalization is a matter of great constitutional significance with major implications for how Americans understand their legal rights.³ Records received by Democracy Forward Foundation have previously formed the basis of news reports.⁴

² See, e.g., Jason Lalljee, *What to know about the DOJ revoking citizenship of naturalized Americans*, Axios (July 2, 2025), https://www.axios.com/2025/06/30/trump-naturalized-citizenship-doj-immigration?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter_axiosam&stream=top; Hamed Aleaziz, *Trump Administration Aims to Strip More Foreign-Born Americans of Citizenship*, N.Y. Times (Dec. 17, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/12/17/us/politics/trump-immigration-citizenship-denaturalization.html>.

³ See, e.g., Nik Popli, *Can a U.S. Citizen Be Deported? Trump's Comments Raise Legal Alarms*, Time (Apr. 15, 2025), <https://time.com/7277884/can-a-u-s-citizen-be-deported-trumps-comments-spark-legal-debate/>.

⁴ See, e.g., Alexander Nazaryan, *Why did right-wing troll Charles C. Johnson meet with Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross?*, Yahoo News (May 14, 2019), <https://news.yahoo.com/why-did-rightwing-troll-charles-c-johnson-want-to-meet-with-commerce-secretary-wilbur-ross-090000636.html>; Derek Kravitz and Jack Gillum, *"Happy to Do It": Emails Show Current FAA Chief*

Democracy Forward Foundation is not filing this request to further any commercial interest, and any information obtained by Democracy Forward Foundation as a result of this request and disclosed will be disclosed at no cost.

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Conclusion

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Coordinated With Ex-Lobbyist Colleagues on Policy, ProPublica (Mar. 27, 2019), <https://www.propublica.org/article/dan-elwell-current-faa-chief-coordinated-with-ex-lobbyist-colleagues-on-policy>; Hamid Aleaziz, *Emails Show US Border Officials Didn't Receive "Zero Tolerance" Guidance Until After the Policy Was Enacted*, BuzzFeed News (Feb. 28, 2019), <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/hamedaleaziz/zero-tolerance-policy-guidance-dhs-family-separation>; Jonathan Cohn and Jeffrey Young, *Emails Show Trump Administration Was Told Obamacare Ad Cuts Could Hurt Enrollment*, Huffpost (Dec. 17, 2018), https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/trump-verma-obamacare-advertising-cut_us_5c115061e4b084b082ff8dba; Madison Pauly, *When the Biggest Prison Company Complained About a California Sanctuary Law, ICE Listened*, Mother Jones (Dec. 7, 2018), <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2018/12/geo-memo-private-prison-california-immigration/>; Eliza Rellman, *'Just answer the question and kill this story': In internal emails, Heather Nauert criticized Rex Tillerson's refusal to deny reports that he called Trump a 'moron,'* Business Insider (Nov. 2, 2018), <https://www.businessinsider.com/heather-nauert-rex-tillerson-trump-moron-2018-11>; Rebecca Klein, *Lawsuit Accuses Betsy DeVos And Her Deputies Of Being Motivated By Sexism*, HuffPost (Oct. 31, 2018), https://m.huffpost.com/us/entry/us_5bd9ff6ee4b01abe6a1ad4a9; Nick Penzenstadler, *A year after Vegas shooting, ATF emails reveal blame, alarm over bump stocks*, USA Today (Oct. 1, 2018), <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2018/10/01/year-after-vegas-shooting-atf-emails-reveal-blame-alarm-over-bump-stocks/1432137002/>; Jessica Kwong, *Ivanka Trump was more than complicit in Obama equal pay rollback-she had a hand in it, watchdog alleges*, Newsweek (Aug. 29, 2018), <https://www.newsweek.com/ivanka-trump-equal-pay-complicit-obama-1093833>; Vera Bergengruen, *New Emails Show What Happens When The Pentagon Has To Scramble To Catch Up To Trump*, BuzzFeed News (July 25, 2018), <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/verabergengruen/these-emails-show-what-happens-when-the-white-house-keeps>; Erin Dooley, *Exclusive: Former for-profit college executive shaped Education Department policy that could benefit former employers: Documents*, ABC News (May 15, 2017), <https://abcnews.go.com/US/exclusive-profit-college-executive-shaped-education-department-policy/story?id=55108981>; Heidi Przybyla, *Notes, emails reveal Trump appointees' war to end HHS teen pregnancy program*, NBC News (Mar. 20, 2018), <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/politics-news/notes-emails-reveal-trump-appointees-war-end-hhs-teen-pregnancy-n857686>; Dominic Holden, *Documents Show The Trump Administration Approved Bump Stocks Before It Opposed Them*, BuzzFeed News (Mar. 22, 2018), <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/dominicholden/trump-administration-bump-stocks>; Bernard Condon, *Trump Advisor Denies He Cheered End of Tunnel Funding Deal*, Associated Press (Feb. 13, 2018), available at <https://www.usnews.com/news/business/articles/2018-02-13/trump-adviser-denies-he-cheered-end-of-tunnel-funding-deal>; Celeste Katz, *Interior Department tapped wildfire preparedness funds for Ryan Zinke helicopter tour*, Newsweek (Dec. 29, 2017), <https://www.newsweek.com/ryan-zinke-interior-department-helicopters-wildfires-757857>.

We appreciate your assistance and look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

/s/ *Skye Perryman*

Skye Perryman

President & CEO

Democracy Forward Foundation

P.O. Box 34553

Washington, D.C. 20043