



October 30, 2025

VIA Electronic Delivery

CORA Custodian
1700 Broadway, Suite 550
Denver, CO 80290
CORA@coloradoSOS.gov

Re: Colorado Open Records Act Request

Dear Custodian of Records:

Pursuant to the Colorado Open Records Act (“CORA”), Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§ 24-72-200.1–206 (West 2022), Democracy Forward Foundation (“DFF” or “Democracy Forward”) submits this request for records.

Records Requested

Democracy Forward Foundation requests that the Office of the Colorado Secretary of State produce the following:

1. All records reflecting communications (including emails, email attachments, memoranda, presentations, complete email chains, calendar invitations, calendar invitation attachments, text messages (or similar, such as Signal or Whatsapp messages), or messages on messaging platforms (such as Truth Social direct messaging, or Slack and Microsoft Teams) (a) between Secretary of State Jena Griswold or anyone communicating on her behalf and (b) any of the external individuals or domains listed below:

External Individuals and Domains

- a. @dhs.gov
- b. @who.eop.gov
- c. Kurt Olsen
- d. Heather Honey, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Election Integrity
- e. Marci McCarthy, Director of Public Affairs at the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

2. Any records reflecting the substance of and participants in a call in September 2025 between state election leaders and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, including agendas, meeting minutes or summaries (including handwritten notes and informal email summaries), participant lists, and any materials exchanged by parties attending the call.

This request seeks records from August 18, 2025 until the date of the search.

Scope of Search

In searching for responsive records, please search for records regardless of format, including paper records, electronic records, audiotapes, videotapes, photographs, data, and graphical materials. This request includes, without limitation, all correspondence, letters, emails, text messages, calendar entries, facsimiles, telephone messages, voice mail messages, and transcripts, notes, minutes, or audio or video recordings of any meetings, telephone conversations, or discussions. However, please exclude publicly available materials such as news clips that mention otherwise responsive search terms, unless the records contain additional discussion or commentary from State employees or contacts at the organizations listed above.

The Public Records Law 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. Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 24-72-204(1)–(3). In the event that the Office of the Secretary of State wishes to deny the right to inspect or obtain a copy of requested records we request a written statement from the Office of the Secretary of State of the grounds for denial, citing the laws or regulations under which access is denied. *Id.* § 24-72-204(4) We also reserve the right to appeal any decisions to deny inspection of records. *Id.* § 24-72-204(5)(a).

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 a searchable, 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 three business days to set a date and hour for the inspection of records as required by section 24-72-203(3)(b) of the CORA. 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.

Request for Fee Waiver

Democracy Forward Foundation requests a waiver of document search, review, and duplication fees associated with processing records for this request, in accordance with section 24-72-205(4).

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 communications the Colorado Secretary of State may be having with individuals associated with the federal government. Indeed, records received by Democracy Forward Foundation have previously formed the basis of news reports.¹

¹ 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; 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

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, 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

<https://www.usnews.com/news/business/articles/2018-02-13/trump-adviser-denies-he-cheered-end-of-tunnel-fundin-g-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>.



October 30, 2025

VIA Electronic Delivery

Georgia Office of the Secretary of State
214 State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
Via Online Portal

Re: Georgia Open Records Act Request

Dear Custodian of Records:

Pursuant to the Georgia Open Records Act, Ga. Code Ann. §§ 50-18-70–77 (West 2022), Democracy Forward Foundation submits this request for records.

Records Requested

Democracy Forward Foundation requests that Georgia Office of the Secretary of State produce the following:

1. All records reflecting communications (including emails, email attachments, memoranda, presentations, complete email chains, calendar invitations, calendar invitation attachments, text messages (or similar, such as Signal or Whatsapp messages), or messages on messaging platforms (such as Truth Social direct messaging, or Slack and Microsoft Teams) (a) between Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger or anyone communicating on his behalf and (b) any of the external individuals or domains listed below:

External Individuals and Domains

- a. @dhs.gov
 - b. @who.eop.gov
 - c. Kurt Olsen
 - d. Heather Honey, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Election Integrity
 - e. Marci McCarthy, Director of Public Affairs at the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
2. Any records reflecting the substance of and participants in a call in September 2025 between state election leaders and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, including agendas, meeting minutes or summaries (including handwritten notes and informal email summaries), participant lists, and any materials exchanged by parties attending the call.

This request seeks records from August 18, 2025, through the date the request is received.

Scope of Search

In searching for responsive records, please search for records regardless of format, including paper records, electronic records, audiotapes, videotapes, photographs, data, and graphical materials. This request includes, without limitation, all correspondence, letters, emails, text messages, calendar entries, facsimiles, telephone messages, voice mail messages, and transcripts, notes, minutes, or audio or video recordings of any meetings, telephone conversations, or discussions. However, please exclude publicly available materials such as news clips that mention otherwise responsive search terms, unless the records contain additional discussion or commentary from State employees or contacts at the organizations listed above.

The Open Records Act provides the right to inspect public records. Ga. Code Ann. § 50-18-70. Only records to which access is restricted pursuant to state or federal statute, federal regulation, or court rule, or records which are private, controlled, or protected may be exempt from disclosure. *Id.* § 50-18-72. In the event that Office of the Secretary of State wishes to withhold all or part of the records responsive to our request, please provide us with a description of the records withheld and an explanation for the denial of records citing the “legal authority exempting the requested record or records from disclosure by Code section, subsection, and paragraph.” *Id.* § 50-18-71(d). We also reserve the right to appeal the denial of access to records to the superior court. *Id.* § 50-18-73(a).

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 a searchable, 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 three business days. Ga. Code Ann. § 50-18-71(b)(1)(A). 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. *Id.*

Request for Fee Waiver

Democracy Forward Foundation requests a waiver of document search, review, and duplication fees associated with processing records for this request.

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 communications the Georgia Secretary of State may be having with individuals associated with the federal government. Indeed, records received by Democracy Forward Foundation have previously formed the basis of news reports.¹

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, please contact us as soon as possible at foia@democracyforward.org.

¹ 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 & 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. 25, 2019), <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/hamedaleaziz/zero-tolerance-policy-guidance-dhs-family-separation>; Jonathan Cohn & 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,' Bus. 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%20college-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%20pregnancy-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://apnews.com/article/aab79ba7af7e474db353621746aa60bd>; 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



October 30, 2025

VIA Electronic Delivery

Office of the Secretary of State
State Capitol Building
Charleston, WV 25305
Via Online Portal

Re: West Virginia Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear Custodian of Records:

Pursuant to the West Virginia Freedom of Information Act, W. Va. Code §§ 29B-1-1–29B-1-7 (2022), Democracy Forward Foundation (“DFF” or “Democracy Forward”) submits this request for records.

Records Requested

Democracy Forward requests that the Office of the West Virginia Secretary of State produce the following:

1. All records reflecting communications (including emails, email attachments, memoranda, presentations, complete email chains, calendar invitations, calendar invitation attachments, text messages (or similar, such as Signal or Whatsapp messages), or messages on messaging platforms (such as Truth Social direct messaging, or Slack and Microsoft Teams) (a) between Secretary of State Kris Warner or anyone communicating on his behalf and (b) any of the external individuals or domains listed below:

External Individuals and Domains

- a. @dhs.gov
 - b. @who.eop.gov
 - c. Kurt Olsen
 - d. Heather Honey, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Election Integrity
 - e. Marci McCarthy, Director of Public Affairs at the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
2. Any records reflecting the substance of and participants in a call in September 2025 between state election leaders and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, including agendas, meeting minutes or summaries (including handwritten notes and informal email summaries), participant lists, and any materials exchanged by parties attending the call.

DFF-WV-STATE-25-1473

This request seeks records from August 18, 2025 until the date of the search.

Scope of Search

In searching for responsive records, please search for records regardless of format, including paper records, electronic records, audiotapes, videotapes, photographs, data, and graphical materials. This request includes, without limitation, all correspondence, letters, emails, text messages, calendar entries, facsimiles, telephone messages, voice mail messages, and transcripts, notes, minutes, or audio or video recordings of any meetings, telephone conversations, or discussions. However, please exclude publicly available materials such as news clips that mention otherwise responsive search terms, unless the records contain additional discussion or commentary from State employees or contacts at the organizations listed above.

The West Virginia Freedom of Information Act requires public bodies to disclose records in accordance with the Act's "liberally construed" scope. W. Va. Code § 29B-1-1. Only limited exceptions are provided for information that would harm an interest protected by a specific exemption or where disclosure is prohibited by law. *Id.* § 29B-1-4. In the event that the West Virginia Office of the Secretary of State chooses to deny any or all portions of this request, a written statement must be provided containing the reasons for such a denial. *Id.* § 29B-1-3(d)(3). We also reserve the right to initiate legal proceedings for injunctive or declaratory relief if denied the opportunity to inspect the public records requested. *Id.* § 29B-1-5. 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 a searchable, 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 five business days as required by section 29B-1-3.

Request for Fee Waiver

Democracy Forward requests a waiver of document search, review, and duplication fees associated with processing records for this request.

The requested waiver is in the public interest because providing the copy of the information sought primarily benefits the general public. Democracy Forward 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 communications the West Virginia Secretary of State may be

having with individuals associated with the federal government.. Indeed, records received by Democracy Forward have previously formed the basis of news reports.¹

Democracy Forward is not filing this request to further any commercial interest, and any information obtained by Democracy Forward 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

¹ 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; 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>.

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 the five-day period, please contact us 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



October 30, 2025

VIA Electronic Delivery

Privacy Office, Mail Stop 0655
Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. AVE SE
Washington, DC 20528-065
Via Online Portal

Re: Freedom of Information Act 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 Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”) produce the following within twenty (20) business days:

1. All calendars or calendar entries (including calendar invitations, calendar invitation attachments) for Deputy Assistant Secretary for Election Integrity Heather Honey, including any calendars maintained by Ms. Honey herself or on her behalf by any administrative assistant or scheduler.

DFF requests that calendars be produced in a format that includes all invitees, notes, and attachments. Please do not limit your search to Outlook calendars or the calendars attached to Ms. Honey’s official DHS email address; we request the production of any calendar—paper or electronic, on government or personal devices—used to track how she allocates time on agency business.

2. Any completed ethics documents for Ms. Honey, including an ethics pledge, ethics agreements, financial disclosure agreements, ethics recusals, or ethics waivers.
3. All email communications (including email messages, complete email chains, email attachments, calendar invitations) sent (a) by Ms. Honey to (b) email addresses that end in .com, .co, .us, .net, .org, .mail, .edu, .law, .legal, .ch, .me, or .group. that (c) concern official business.

DFF-DHS-25-1470

In an effort to accommodate DHS and reduce the number of potentially responsive records to be processed and produced, DFF has limited part 3 of this request to communications sent by Ms. Honey. 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 Ms Honey's response to an email and the initial received message are responsive to this request and should be produced

4. All text messages (including messages sent on applications such as WhatsApp, Signal, or Truth Social direct messaging) sent and received by Ms. Honey that concern official business.
5. All electronic communications (including emails, email attachments, complete email chains, calendar invitations, calendar invitation attachments, text messages, or messages on messaging platforms, including Slack and Microsoft Teams) between (a) Ms. Honey and (b) anyone communicating from the White House, including anyone communicating from an email address ending in who.eop.gov.

This request seeks records from August 18, 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).

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, Democracy Forward Foundation 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 when "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).

DFP has a demonstrated ability to disseminate information of public interest requested through FOIA, and intends to publicize records DFP receives that contribute significantly to the public's understanding of DHS's election security operations including the external influences on such operations and decision-making. When DFP obtains materials through FOIA requests that are of significant public interest, DFP's communications staff regularly works to ensure that these materials and their contents are featured in press articles educating the public about the

operation of government; many articles feature additional commentary and analysis from DFF staff about those materials and their relevance to policy issues of public interest. Indeed, records received by DFF have previously formed the basis of news reports.¹

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 \$100. If the costs of responding to this request should exceed that amount, please contact us before incurring costs exceeding that amount.

¹ 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; 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>.

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

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