



TTV Research <research@truethevote.org>

Request for Records #3103

1 message

MDOS-BOERegulatory <MDOS-BOERegulatory@michigan.gov>
To: "research@truethevote.org" <research@truethevote.org>

Wed, Oct 15, 2025 at 6:28 AM

Dear Meg Denning,

The Department is unable to process this request.

Section 3(1) of the FOIA, MCL 15.233(1), requires a request to describe a public record sufficiently to enable the Department to find the record.

In addition, the Department is not required to make a compilation of information or perform research. There are multiple understandings of what is being requested and the phrase "communications with federal agencies... correspondence with county officials, election vendors, or other stakeholders...local election authorities..." that are reasonably known or unknown to the Department. This uncertainty prevents it from being able to conduct a search. The unreasonableness of this request is furthered by the fact that there are no specifically stated search terms or email addresses or State of Michigan Departments named.

You are welcome to refine your request to enable the Department to search for records by providing names of individuals to search, search terms, or by clarifying this request by replying to this email prior to COB on October 17, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherri Hines

Sherri Hines

FOIA Coordinator

Michigan Department of State

Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson

Bureau of Elections

PO Box 20126

Lansing, MI 48901

BOERegulatory@michigan.gov



True the Vote Research <ttvresearch2025@gmail.com>

Refined FOIA Request – Executive Order 14248 Records

1 message

True the Vote Research <ttvresearch2025@gmail.com>
To: mdos-foia@michigan.gov
Cc: "research@truethevote.org" <research@truethevote.org>

Mon, Oct 20, 2025 at 4:01 PM

Dear FOIA Coordinator,

Thank you for your reply dated October 15, 2025 regarding our public records request submitted under Michigan's Freedom of Information Act (MCL 15.231 et seq.). Pursuant to your invitation to refine the request for clarity and to assist in locating responsive records, True the Vote hereby submits the following narrowed and specific request:

Revised Description of Records Sought

Please provide copies of all records, including but not limited to emails, memos, reports, directives, meeting notes, or correspondence created or received by the Michigan Department of State, Bureau of Elections, from March 25, 2025, through the present, that contain any of the following search terms in the subject line or body:

- "Executive Order 14248" or "14248"
- "Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Elections"
- "Election Assistance Commission" or "EAC"
- "Department of Justice" or "DOJ"
- "voter roll maintenance"
- "proof of citizenship"
- "mail ballot deadline"
- "absentee ballot receipt"
- "federal compliance"

Additionally, please include:

1. Communications between the Department of State and any of the following parties:
 - Michigan county clerks or local election officials,
 - Federal agencies (including the EAC or DOJ), or
 - Election vendors or contractors providing election-related services to the State of Michigan.
2. Internal communications or memoranda discussing Michigan's assessment, response, or planned response to Executive Order 14248 or related election integrity directives.

Legal Authority

This request is made pursuant to MCL 15.231 et seq. (Michigan FOIA). Additionally, we invoke the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA), which requires states to maintain accurate and transparent voter registration procedures. The requested records directly relate to the administration of elections and voter registration maintenance, activities subject to NVRA oversight, and thus fall under a federal transparency interest in addition to Michigan FOIA provisions.

Format & Delivery

Please provide responsive records in searchable electronic format (PDF preferred) via email to research@truethevote.org. If any portion of this request is denied, please provide the specific legal basis for each withholding and release any segregable portions as required under MCL 15.244(1). If there are fees associated with processing, please provide an itemized estimate before proceeding. We respectfully request acknowledgment within five (5) business days as provided by Michigan FOIA.

Sincerely,

Meg Denning
True the Vote Research Team



STATE OF MICHIGAN
JOCELYN BENSON, SECRETARY OF STATE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
LANSING

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT NOTICE

October 27, 2025

Meg Denning
3120 Southwest Freeway, Ste 101
Houston, TX 77098-4520

Via Email: research@truethevote.org

Meg Denning:

The Michigan Department of State (Department) acknowledges receipt of your request for records emailed October 11, 2025 and amended on October 20, 2025, made pursuant to the Michigan Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 1976 PA 442, MCL 15.231 *et seq.* A request sent electronically is considered received on the business day following its transmission; here, [date +1 bus. day]. MCL 15.235(1). The Department has begun to process the request under the FOIA and issues this preliminary notice in response to your request, a copy of which is attached and incorporated herein.

In order to determine whether the Department possesses existing, nonexempt public records responsive to your request, we are extending the time for responding to your request by 10 business days (in addition to the standard 5 business days allowed for a response), as permitted by FOIA, MCL 15.235. A notice will be issued to you on or before November 10, 2025.

Sincerely,

Sherri Hines

Sherri Hines
FOIA Coordinator
Bureau of Elections
BOERegulatory@michigan.gov



STATE OF MICHIGAN
JOCELYN BENSON, SECRETARY OF STATE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
LANSING

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT NOTICE

November 10, 2025

Meg Denning
3120 Southwest Freeway, Ste 101
Houston, TX 77098-4520

Via Email: research@truethevote.org

Meg Denning:

The Michigan Department of State (Department) received your request on October 11, 2025, and the amended request on October 20, 2025. The Department has begun processing your request for records under the provisions of the Michigan Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 1976 PA 442, MCL 15.231 et seq.

Your request is granted as to existing, non-exempt records in the possession of the Agency that fall within the scope of your request.

Based in the Departments interpretation of your written request, the Department has identified three categories of documents dated March 25, 2025, to October 20, 2025, referenced in your written request:

Category 1: All records from the Michigan Department of State Bureau of Elections which contain the following search terms: "Executive Order 14248" or "14248" or "Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Elections" or "Election Assistance Commission" or "EAC" or "Department of Justice" or "DOJ" or "voter roll maintenance" or "proof of citizenship" or "mail ballot deadline" or "absentee ballot receipt" or "federal compliance"

Category 2: All communications between the Department and the 83 Michigan county clerks, along with any communications with the Department of Justice and EAC using the same terms as identified in category 1. Your request to include "*election vendors or contractors providing election-related services to the State of Michigan*" was rejected as the Department is unable to define this item as provided.

Category 3: All internal Michigan Department of State communications using the search terms of "Executive Order 14248" or "14248". The statement "*election integrity directives*" was rejected as the Department is unable to define this item as provided.

To process your request(s), the Department estimates a FOIA processing fee of \$42,875.86 to search for, retrieve, review, examine, and separate exempt material, if any. The FOIA authorizes the Department to charge for mailing costs, copying, searching, reviewing, deleting and separating exempt from nonexempt information (MCL 15.234). The failure to charge a fee for the search, examination, review, and the deletion and separation of exempt from nonexempt information would result in unreasonably high costs to the Department in this particular instance because, unlike a simple report or a small amount of documents with nonexempt information, your request involves a number of documents and would require employee(s) to be diverted from their original duties to process this request and will be required to expend additional time to complete their regularly assigned duties.

The Department's estimated costs to process your FOIA request are attached. The charge for the Department's labor is the burdened (salary + 50% of benefits) hourly rate of the lowest paid employee(s) capable of completing the necessary tasks. Please note that the stated amounts are **estimates only** and may increase or decrease depending on the final costs incurred.

In order to process your request, please pay the 50% non-refundable processing fee of **\$21,437.93**. FOIA authorizes the Department to charge for mailing costs, copying, searching, reviewing, deleting, and separating exempt from nonexempt information (MCL 15.234). The failure to charge a fee for the search, examination, review, and the deletion and separation of exempt from nonexempt information would result in unreasonably high costs to the Department in this particular instance because your request requires Department employee(s) to be diverted from their regularly assigned duties in order to process your request.

Checks or money orders should be made payable to the STATE OF MICHIGAN and mailed to:

Michigan Department of State, Cashier Unit
7064 Crowner Drive
Lansing, MI 48918

As set forth under section 4(14) of the FOIA, MCL 15.234(14), the Department must receive the required deposit within 45 days after your receipt of this notice, which is December 23, 2025, otherwise, the FOIA request will be considered abandoned and the Department will not be required to fulfill the request.

Please include a copy of the invoice when making payment in order for the Cashier Unit to know where to forward the payment documents.

Upon receiving your non-refundable deposit, the Department will continue processing your request.

The Department estimates it can process your request in approximately six months. Again, this is an estimate only issued today and may vary depending on staffing (vacations, illnesses, etc.) and workload. The Department will notify you when completed and send the records upon receipt of your final payment of the actual balance due. As set forth under section 4(14) of the FOIA, MCL 15.234(14), if a fee appeal has not been filed under section 10a of the FOIA, MCL

15.240a, the Department must receive the required deposit within 45 days after your statutorily determined receipt of this notice, otherwise the FOIA request will be considered abandoned, and the Department will not be required to fulfill the request.

The Department's FOIA Procedures and Guidelines can be accessed at www.michigan.gov/sos, under the "FOIA" tab at the bottom of the page.

Sincerely,

Sherri Hines

Sherri Hines
FOIA Coordinator
Bureau of Elections
BOERegulatory@michigan.gov

Freedom of Information Act Detailed Itemization of Fees

Date: November xx, 2025

Request ID:

3103

Meg Denning

3120 Southwest Freeway, Ste 101

Houston, TX 77098-4520

research@truethevote.org

Cashier: Please email BOERegulatory@michigan.gov when fees are received.

DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	UNIT COST	AMOUNT
Labor costs* to search, locate, and examine**	80	\$40.39	\$ 3,230.90
Labor costs* for review and separation of exempt from non-exempt material** - Search 1	150	\$110.33	\$ 16,549.50
Labor costs* for review and separation of exempt from non-exempt material** Search 1	200	\$75.02	\$ 15,004.00
Labor costs* for review and separation of exempt from non-exempt material** Search 1	322	\$57.38	\$ 18,466.16
Labor costs* for review and separation of exempt from non-exempt material** Search 2	20	\$110.33	\$ 2,206.60
Labor costs* for review and separation of exempt from non-exempt material** Search 2	20	\$75.02	\$ 1,500.40
Labor costs* for review and separation of exempt from non-exempt material** Search 2	47	\$57.38	\$ 2,675.18
Labor costs* for review and separation of exempt from non-exempt material** Search 3	4	\$110.33	\$ 441.32
Labor costs* for review and separation of exempt from non-exempt material** Search 3	4	\$75.02	\$ 300.08
Labor costs* for review and separation of exempt from non-exempt material** Search 3	12	\$57.38	\$ 675.81
Non-paper physical media (e.g. CD, DVD, flashdrive) and list actual costs.	1	\$19.00	\$ 19.00
Duplication and publication (copying, scanning, etc.)		\$0.10	\$ -
Labor costs* to duplicate or publish**	80	\$57.38	\$ 4,590.40
Mailing (describe and list item and actual cost)	1	\$19.90	\$ 19.90
SUBTOTAL			\$ 42,875.86
Less waiver for indigent persons***		\$20.00	
Less reduction for untimely response (subtotal x 5% reduction per day x ___ days)		\$2,143.79	\$0.00

TOTAL			\$ 42,875.86
DEPOSIT (If the total fee is more than \$50.00, you will be asked to pay a deposit of one-half (1/2) of the amount of the total fee. The total fee and deposit are estimates, and your final costs may vary from these amounts.)			\$ 21,437.93
BALANCE			TBD

Make check payable to State of Michigan and mail to: Michigan Department of State, Cashier Unit, 7064 Crowner Drive, Lansing, MI 48918

*Labor costs will be calculated using the lowest paid Department employee capable of each task. If more than one hourly rate is used, each will be listed on other copies of this form.

**hourly wage + 50% multiplier for fringe benefits, not to exceed 50% or actual cost of fringe benefit

***You must submit an affidavit of indigency to qualify for this fee waiver.



TTV Research <research@truethevote.org>

RE: Request for Records #3103

TTV Research <research@truethevote.org>

Wed, Nov 12, 2025 at 12:46 PM

To: MDOS-BOERegulatory <MDOS-BOERegulatory@michigan.gov>

Thank you so much for getting back to us. We realize the revised request may still have been a bit broad, so we've refined it further below.

Please see the following revised request:

Dear FOIA Coordinator,

Thank you for your reply dated November 10, 2025 regarding our public records request submitted under Michigan's Freedom of Information Act (MCL 15.231 et seq.). True the Vote hereby submits the following narrowed and specific request:

Revised Description/Keywords of Records Sought

Please provide copies of all records, including but not limited to emails, memos, reports, directives, meeting notes, or correspondence created or received by the Michigan Department of State, Bureau of Elections, from March 25, 2025, through the present, that contain any of the following search terms in the subject line or body:

- **"Executive Order 14248" or "14248"**

Legal Authority

This request is made pursuant to MCL 15.231 et seq. (Michigan FOIA). Additionally, we invoke the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA), which requires states to maintain accurate and transparent voter registration procedures. The requested records directly relate to the administration of elections and voter registration maintenance, activities subject to NVRA oversight, and thus fall under a federal transparency interest in addition to Michigan FOIA provisions.

Format & Delivery

Please provide responsive records in searchable electronic format (PDF preferred) via email to research@truethevote.org. If any portion of this request is denied, please provide the specific legal basis for each withholding and release any segregable portions as required under MCL 15.244(1). If there are fees associated with processing, please provide an itemized estimate before proceeding. We respectfully request acknowledgment within five (5) business days as provided by Michigan FOIA.

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]



TTV Research <research@truethevote.org>

RE: Request for Records #3103

MDOS-BOERegulatory <MDOS-BOERegulatory@michigan.gov>
To: "research@truethevote.org" <research@truethevote.org>

Thu, Nov 13, 2025 at 1:30 PM

Dear Meg Denning,

The response to your recent request is attached.

Please consider using the online MDOS FOIA portal for future requests: <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/resources/transparency>

Benefits include password security, ability to pay with a credit card, documents available online (no flashdrive)

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri Hines

Sherri Hines

FOIA Coordinator

Michigan Department of State

Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson

Bureau of Elections

PO Box 20126

Lansing, MI 48901

BOERegulatory@michigan.gov

From: TTV Research <research@truethevote.org>

Sent: Wednesday, November 12, 2025 2:46:20 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

To: MDOS-BOERegulatory <MDOS-BOERegulatory@michigan.gov>

Subject: Re: Request for Records #3103

CAUTION: This is an External email. Please send suspicious emails to abuse@michigan.gov

[Quoted text hidden]



3103 Denning Meg Fee Letter_Invoice 11132025.pdf
267K



STATE OF MICHIGAN
JOCELYN BENSON, SECRETARY OF STATE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
LANSING

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT NOTICE

November 13, 2025

Meg Denning
3120 Southwest Freeway, Ste 101
Houston, TX 77098-4520

Via Email: research@truethevote.org

Meg Denning:

The Michigan Department of State (Department) received your request on October 11, 2025, and the amended requests on October 20, 2025 and November 12, 2025. The Department has begun processing your request for records under the provisions of the Michigan Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 1976 PA 442, MCL 15.231 et seq.

Your request is granted as to existing, non-exempt records in the possession of the Agency that fall within the scope of your request dated November 12, 2025.

To process your request(s), the Department estimates a FOIA processing fee of \$429.97 to search for, retrieve, review, examine, and separate exempt material, if any. The FOIA authorizes the Department to charge for mailing costs, copying, searching, reviewing, deleting and separating exempt from nonexempt information (MCL 15.234). The failure to charge a fee for the search, examination, review, and the deletion and separation of exempt from nonexempt information would result in unreasonably high costs to the Department in this particular instance because, unlike a simple report or a small amount of documents with nonexempt information, your request involves a number of documents and would require employee(s) to be diverted from their original duties to process this request and will be required to expend additional time to complete their regularly assigned duties.

The Department's estimated costs to process your FOIA request are attached. The charge for the Department's labor is the burdened (salary + 50% of benefits) hourly rate of the lowest paid employee(s) capable of completing the necessary tasks. Please note that the stated amounts are **estimates only** and may increase or decrease depending on the final costs incurred.

In order to process your request, please pay the 50% non-refundable processing fee of **\$214.98**. FOIA authorizes the Department to charge for mailing costs, copying, searching, reviewing, deleting, and separating exempt from nonexempt information (MCL 15.234). The failure to charge a fee for the search, examination, review, and the deletion and separation of

exempt from nonexempt information would result in unreasonably high costs to the Department in this particular instance because your request requires Department employee(s) to be diverted from their regularly assigned duties in order to process your request.

Checks or money orders should be made payable to the STATE OF MICHIGAN and mailed to:

Michigan Department of State, Cashier Unit
7064 Crowner Drive
Lansing, MI 48918

As set forth under section 4(14) of the FOIA, MCL 15.234(14), the Department must receive the required deposit within 45 days after your receipt of this notice, which is January 8, 2026, otherwise, the FOIA request will be considered abandoned and the Department will not be required to fulfill the request.

Please include a copy of the invoice when making payment in order for the Cashier Unit to know where to forward the payment documents.

Upon receiving your non-refundable deposit, the Department will continue processing your request.

The Department estimates it can process your request in approximately six weeks. Again, this is an estimate only issued today and may vary depending on staffing (vacations, illnesses, etc.) and workload. The Department will notify you when completed and send the records upon receipt of your final payment of the actual balance due. As set forth under section 4(14) of the FOIA, MCL 15.234(14), if a fee appeal has not been filed under section 10a of the FOIA, MCL 15.240a, the Department must receive the required deposit within 45 days after your statutorily determined receipt of this notice, otherwise the FOIA request will be considered abandoned, and the Department will not be required to fulfill the request.

The Department's FOIA Procedures and Guidelines can be accessed at www.michigan.gov/sos, under the "FOIA" tab at the bottom of the page.

Sincerely,

Sherri Hines

Sherri Hines
FOIA Coordinator
Bureau of Elections
BOERegulatory@michigan.gov

Freedom of Information Act Detailed Itemization of Fees

Date: November xx, 2025

Request ID:

3103

Meg Denning

3120 Southwest Freeway, Ste 101

Houston, TX 77098-4520

research@truethevote.org

Cashier: Please email BOERegulatory@michigan.gov when fees are received.

DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	UNIT COST	AMOUNT
Labor costs* to search, locate, and examine**	4	\$40.39	\$ 161.55
Labor costs* for review and separation of exempt from non-exempt material** Search 3	4	\$110.33	\$ 441.32
Labor costs* for review and separation of exempt from non-exempt material** Search 3	4	\$75.02	\$ 300.08
Labor costs* for review and separation of exempt from non-exempt material** Search 3	12	\$57.38	\$ 675.81
Non-paper physical media (e.g. CD, DVD, flashdrive) and list actual costs.	1	\$19.00	\$ 19.00
Duplication and publication (copying, scanning, etc.)		\$0.10	\$ -
Labor costs* to duplicate or publish**	4	\$57.38	\$ 229.52
Mailing (describe and list item and actual cost)	1	\$19.90	\$ 19.90
SUBTOTAL			\$ 429.97
Less waiver for indigent persons***		\$20.00	
Less reduction for untimely response (subtotal x 5% reduction per day x ___ days)		\$21.50	\$0.00
TOTAL			\$ 429.97
DEPOSIT (If the total fee is more than \$50.00, you will be asked to pay a deposit of one-half (1/2) of the amount of the total fee. The total fee and deposit are estimates, and your final costs may vary from these amounts.)			\$ 214.98
BALANCE			TBD

Make check payable to State of Michigan and mail to: Michigan Department of State, Cashier Unit, 7064 Crowser Drive, Lansing, MI 48918

*Labor costs will be calculated using the lowest paid Department employee capable of each task. If more than one hourly rate is used, each will be listed on other copies of this form.

**hourly wage + 50% multiplier for fringe benefits, not to exceed 50% or actual cost of fringe benefit

***You must submit an affidavit of indigency to qualify for this fee waiver.