



CITIZENS FOR
RESPONSIBILITY &
ETHICS IN WASHINGTON

September 14, 2022

BY EMAIL: PublicRecords@DOS.MyFlorida.com

Florida Department of State
Office of the General Counsel
Attn: Kevin Avila
500 South Bronough Street, Suite 100
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

Dear Public Information Officer:

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (“CREW”) makes this request for records from the Florida Department of State pursuant to the Public Records Act, Chapter 119 of the Florida Statutes.

Specifically, CREW requests the following records from April 25, 2022 to the date this request is processed:

1. All communications within the Florida Department of State, the Division of Elections, and the Office of Election Crimes and Security pertaining to discussions about the responsibility of state and local government offices for determining voter eligibility and flagging ineligible voter registration applications.
2. All communications within the Florida Department of State, the Division of Elections, and the Office of Election Crimes and Security pertaining to processes, methods, or procedures for investigating and arresting ineligible registered voters due to prior felony convictions, including but not limited to the individuals arrested on August 18, 2022, listed in the press release below.¹
3. All communications within the Florida Department of State, the Division of Elections, and the Office of Election Crimes and Security pertaining to discussions about the eligibility of individuals to vote in Florida, including but not limited to the individuals arrested on August 18, 2022, listed in the press release below.²
4. All internal communications within the Florida Department of State, the Division of Elections, and the Office of Election Crimes and Security

¹ [In case you missed it: FDLE arrests convicted murders, sex offenders for voting illegally](http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/News/2022/August/In-case-you-missed-it-FDLE-arrests-convicted-murd), August 18, 2022, available at <http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/News/2022/August/In-case-you-missed-it-FDLE-arrests-convicted-murd>.

² *Id.*

containing employee discussions or responses to media coverage of the 20 alleged voter fraud arrests announced by Governor Ron DeSantis on August 18, 2022, including but not limited to the article linked in footnote 3.³

5. All communications between Pete Antonacci and Florida county-level election supervisors regarding the eligibility of individuals to vote in Florida, including but not limited to the individuals arrested on August 18, 2022, listed in the press release below.⁴
6. All communications between Pete Antonacci and the office of Governor Ron DeSantis.
7. Records sufficient to identify the total number of open cases the Office of Election Crimes and Security is currently investigating.
8. Records sufficient to identify the total number of cases the Office of Election crimes and Security has closed.
9. Records sufficient to identify the total amount of state funds expended by the Office of Election Crimes and Security, including but not limited to employee salaries, investigative costs, and similar expenditures.

Please search for responsive records regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics. We seek records of any kind, including paper records, electronic records, audiotapes, videotapes, photographs, data, and graphical material. Our request includes without limitation all correspondence, letters, emails, text messages, facsimiles, telephone messages, voice mail messages, and transcripts, notes, or minutes of any meetings, telephone conversations, or discussions. Our request also includes any attachments to emails and other records, as well as emails to which the subjects of this request were cc'ed or bcc'ed.

By way of background, on April 25, 2022, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis signed Senate Bill 524, which created the Office of Election Crimes and Security to investigate election law violations,⁵ despite there being no evidence that voter fraud was significant enough to alter the 2020 election.⁶ On August 18, 2022, the Office of Election Crimes and Security, along with Governor DeSantis and Florida law enforcement, announced the arrest of 20 individuals charged with election fraud, a third-degree felony.⁷ Reporting soon

³ Tim Craig and Lori Rozsa, [Florida let them vote. Then DeSantis's election police arrested them,](https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2022/09/04/desantis-election-police-voter-arrests/) Washington Post, Sep. 4, 2022, available at <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2022/09/04/desantis-election-police-voter-arrests/>.

⁴ [In case you missed it: FDLE arrests convicted murders, sex offenders for voting illegally,](http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/News/2022/August/In-case-you-missed-it-FDLE-arrests-convicted-murd) August 18, 2022, available at <http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/News/2022/August/In-case-you-missed-it-FDLE-arrests-convicted-murd>.

⁵ [Governor Ron DeSantis Signs Bill to Strengthen Florida's Election Integrity,](https://flgov.com/2022/04/25/governor-ron-desantis-signs-bill-to-strengthen-floridas-election-integrity/) April 25, 2022, available at <https://flgov.com/2022/04/25/governor-ron-desantis-signs-bill-to-strengthen-floridas-election-integrity/>.

⁶ Tim Craig and Lori Rozsa, [Florida let them vote. Then DeSantis's election police arrested them,](https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2022/09/04/desantis-election-police-voter-arrests/) Washington Post, Sep. 4, 2022, available at <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2022/09/04/desantis-election-police-voter-arrests/>.

⁷ [Governor DeSantis Announces the Arrest of 20 Elections Criminals,](https://www.flgov.com/2022/08/18/governor-desantis-announces-the-arrest-of-20-elections-criminals/) August 18, 2022, available at <https://www.flgov.com/2022/08/18/governor-desantis-announces-the-arrest-of-20-elections-criminals/>.

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revealed that many of these individuals were led to believe by election officials and voter registration groups that they were eligible to vote, and some had received voter registration cards from government agencies. Additionally, the Governor's office and the Office of Election Crimes and Security have claimed that the responsibility for verifying voter eligibility fell on local election officials and individuals. The requested records will clarify the processes through which voter eligibility in Florida is determined and voter fraud is investigated by the Office of Election Crimes and Security.

If it is your position that any portion of the requested records is exempt from disclosure, Chapter 119 requires you to state the basis of the exemption you contend is applicable. Fla. Stat. § 119.07(1)(e). CREW further requests that you state in writing and with particularity the reasons for any conclusion that a record is exempt or confidential. Fla. Stat. § 119.07(1)(f). If some portions of the requested records are properly exempt from disclosure, Chapter 119 requires you to redact those portions and produce the remainder of the requested records. Fla. Stat. § 119.07(1)(d).

CREW agrees to pay up to \$100 for copies of the requested records. If copying fees are expected to exceed this amount, or if you anticipate that "extensive use" of information technology resources or extensive clerical or supervisory assistance as defined in section 119.07(4)(d) will be needed to fulfill this request, please contact me at (202) 408-5565 or foia@citizensforethics.org.

Where possible, please produce records in electronic format. Please send the requested records to either foia@citizensforethics.org or Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, 1331 F Street, NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20004.

Please contact me if you have any questions about this request or foresee any problems in fully releasing the requested records. We anticipate you will fulfill your obligations under Chapter 119. If it is necessary to file an action to enforce the Public Records Act, the court may award reasonable costs of enforcement, including attorneys' fees. Fla. Stat. § 119.12. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angela Li', with a period at the end.

Angela Li
Research Associate