



CITIZENS FOR
RESPONSIBILITY &
ETHICS IN WASHINGTON

February 26, 2024

BY EMAIL: GovPublicRecords@la.gov

Custodian of Records
Office of the Governor
PO Box 94004
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Public Records Act Request

Dear Custodian of Records:

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (“CREW”) submits this request for records from the Office of Governor Jeff Landry pursuant to the Louisiana Public Records Act, Louisiana Revised Statutes Title 44.

Specifically, CREW requests:

1. All communications between the Office of Governor Jeff Landry and the Louisiana National Guard (LANG) relating to the Governor’s planned interstate deployment of LANG troops to the southern U.S. border between Texas and Mexico (“the Deployment”)
2. All communications between the Office of Governor Landry and the Texas National Guard relating to the Deployment
3. All communications between the Office of Governor Landry and the Office of Texas Governor Greg Abbott relating to the Deployment
4. Records sufficient to identify the total cost of the Deployment.
5. Records sufficient to identify the source(s) of all money used to fund the Deployment
6. All records reflecting any complaint, inquiry, analysis, consideration, or determination by the Office of the Governor regarding any legal restrictions applicable to the Deployment.
7. All records reflecting the parameters of the Deployment, including any instructions or other communications to LANG members about the nature of the Deployment, whether participation is mandatory or voluntary, and the source of funding for the Deployment.

The above request excludes agency records consisting solely of news articles, press clippings, and other publicly-available material, so long as the records include no accompanying discussion by agency officials.

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, and anyone who was cc'ed or bcc'ed on any emails.

Fee Waiver Request

CREW requests a waiver of fees associated with processing this request for records. Disclosure of the requested records is in the public interest because it will likely contribute to a better understanding of relevant government procedures by the general public in a significant way. Furthermore, the request is primarily and fundamentally for non-commercial purposes.

By way of background, on February 19, 2024, Governor Jeff Landry announced he would deploy members of the Louisiana National Guard to Texas to assist with border security efforts.¹ According to a press release from the The Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, the deployment will include "50 personnel in platoon sized elements, including leadership and certain equipment" to help with "security points, roving patrols and engineer operations" along Texas' border with Mexico.² Governor Landry pledged to send 150 troops in total.³ Landry is one of many Republican Governors who announced their support of Texas Governor Greg Abbott after he flouted a Supreme Court decision ruling against the use of razor wire barriers on the border.⁴ The requested records will show the reasoning behind Landry's decision and the costs associated with the deployment, both of which are matters of substantial public interest.

The request is not in CREW's financial interest.

CREW routinely and systematically disseminates information to the public in several ways. CREW's website receives tens of thousands of page views every month. The website includes investigations that report on and analyze newsworthy developments regarding government ethics, corruption, and money in politics, as well as numerous reports CREW has published to educate the public about these issues. In addition, CREW posts the documents it receives through public records requests on its website.

Under these circumstances, CREW satisfies fully the criteria for a fee waiver.

¹ James Bickerton, Republican State Sends National Guard to Texas Border, *Newsweek*, February 21, 2024, <https://shorturl.at/knHN7>

² Greg Larose, Texas officially requests first 50 Guard members from Louisiana, *KSLA News 12*, February 20, 2024, <https://shorturl.at/bhrCI>

³ *Id.*

⁴ Bickerton, *Newsweek*, February 21, 2024

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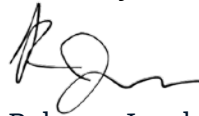
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Conclusion

If you have any questions about this request or foresee any problems in fully releasing the requested records, please email me at [REDACTED] and foia@citizensforethics.org or call me at (202) 408-5565. Also, if CREW's request for a fee waiver is denied, please contact our office immediately upon making such a determination.

Where possible, please produce records in electronic format. Please send the requested records to [REDACTED] and foia@citizensforethics.org or by mail to Rebecca Jacobs, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, [REDACTED].

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RJ' followed by a flourish.

Rebecca Jacobs
Senior Researcher