



May 7, 2025

Office of Information Programs and Services (IPS)
A/GIS/IPS/RL
U.S. Department of State, State Annex 2 (SA-2)
515 22nd Street, NW
Washington, DC 20522-8100
Telephone: (202) 261-8484
Facsimile: (202) 261-8579

RE: FOIA request regarding the Department of State keeping dossiers on Americans

Dear FOIA Officer:

This letter is a request ("Request") in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. § 552, and the corresponding department/agency implementing regulations. The Request is made by the American Center for Law and Justice ("ACLJ")¹ on behalf of its members.

Background

Pursuant to U.S. Department of State (DOS) FOIA regulation 22 C.F.R. § 171.4(b), this Background addresses "the subject, timeframe, names of any individuals involved, a contract number (if applicable), and reasons why the requester believes the Department may have records on the subject of the request." 22 C.F.R. § 171.4(b).

According to a news media report:

During Wednesday's Cabinet meeting, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said that the Biden administration's State Department kept dossiers on Americans accused of serving as "vectors of disinformation."²

Further, according to the same story:

¹The ACLJ is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the defense of constitutional liberties secured by law. The ACLJ regularly monitors governmental activity and works to inform the public of such affairs. The ACLJ and its global affiliated organizations are committed to ensuring governmental accountability and the ongoing viability of freedom and liberty in the United States and around the world.

² Geoff Harris, *Rubio says Biden administration kept disinformation dossiers on Americans, Trump officials*, thenationaldesk.com (May 6, 2025), <https://mynbc15.com/news/nation-world/rubio-says-biden-administration-kept-disinformation-dossiers-on-americans-trump-official-american-citizens-state-department-united-states-global-engagement-center?photo=3>.

“We had an office in the Department of State whose job it was to censor Americans,” Rubio said.

Rubio said the Biden administration's State Department, appearing to refer to the Global Engagement Center, kept dossiers on Americans they believed were spreading disinformation.

“The Department of State of the United States had set up an office to monitor the social media posts and commentary of American citizens,” said Rubio.

He added, the documents included a file on an unidentified Trump administration official.³

It is possible that State kept dossiers on more than one Trump administration official.⁴ Secretary Rubio also identified censorship activities beyond merely a government official viewing someone's public statements and social media.⁵ Those exact activities are not stated.⁶ For context, previously, the ‘Disinformation Governance Board’ of the Department of Homeland Security had been disbanded amidst concerns of censorship.⁷

The purpose of this Request is to obtain records showing whether the disbandment of the ‘Disinformation Governance Board’ was a sleight of hand and whether censorship continued by other means.

Records Requested

For purposes of this Request, the term “record” is “any information” that qualifies under 5 U.S.C. § 552(f). The term “record” also includes, but is not limited to, all relevant information created, stored, received or delivered in any electronic or digital format, e.g., electronic mail, instant messaging or Facebook Messenger, iMessage, text messages or any other means of communication, and any information generated, sent, received, reviewed, stored or located on a government or private account or server, consistent with the holdings of *Competitive Enter. Inst. v. Office of Sci. & Tech. Policy*, 827 F.3d 145 (D.C. Cir. 2016) (rejecting agency argument that emails on private email account were not under agency control, and holding, “If a department head can deprive the citizens of their right to know what his department is up to by the simple expedient of maintaining his departmental emails on an account in another domain, that purpose is hardly served.”).

When this Request names a person or an office, it includes any alias or pseudonym name and any electronic communication account any such official might use.

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ Geneva Sands, *DHS shuts down disinformation board months after its efforts were paused* (August 24, 2022), <https://www.cnn.com/2022/08/24/politics/dhs-disinformation-board-shut-down/index.html>.

For purposes of this Request, and unless otherwise indicated, the timeframe of records requested herein is January 1, 2020, to the date this Request is processed.

For purposes of this Request, the term “Global Engagement Center” or “GEC” refers to the bureau established by Executives Orders 13584 and 13721 and includes any other name, identification term, pseudonym, etc., which might be used by any State official.

Pursuant to FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552 *et seq.*, ACLJ hereby requests that the U.S. Department of State produce the following:

1. The record defining misinformation and disinformation for any agency purpose.
2. Records of information about American citizens and news media organizations, excluding personnel files, collected by the GEC.
3. Records collating or otherwise summarizing quantities of social media accounts reviewed for and/or earmarked as misinformation, disinformation or foreign propaganda.
4. Records of GEC director (or however titled), James P Rubin, containing the words: “election,” “candidate,” “Trump,” “misinformation,” “disinformation,” “abortion,” “reproductive freedom,” “religion,” “Christian,” “patriot,” “conservative,” “Twitter,” “Musk,” “free speech,” “speech,” “Constitution,” “vectors of disinformation,” or “First Amendment,” **with a date range of January 1, 2022, to January 20, 2025.**
5. Records of GEC director (or however titled), Lea Gabrielle, containing the words: “election,” “candidate,” “Trump,” “misinformation,” “disinformation,” “abortion,” “reproductive freedom,” “religion,” “Christian,” “patriot,” “conservative,” “Twitter,” “Musk,” “free speech,” “speech,” “Constitution,” “vectors of disinformation,” or “First Amendment,” **with a date range of February 11, 2019, to February 19, 2021.**
6. Records of GEC director (or however titled), Michael Lumpkin, containing the words: “election,” “candidate,” “Trump,” “misinformation,” “disinformation,” “abortion,” “reproductive freedom,” “religion,” “Christian,” “patriot,” “conservative,” “Twitter,” “Musk,” “free speech,” “speech,” “Constitution,” “vectors of disinformation,” or “First Amendment,” **with a date range of January 1, 2016, to January 1, 2017.**
7. Records of any communication or information exchanged between Secretary of State Antony Blinken, the Assistant Secretary of State for Global Affairs, and/or the Director of the GEC and their administrative assistants regarding the “Global Engagement Center.”
8. All emails of Lea Gabrielle sent between February 11, 2019, and February 19, 2021.
9. All emails of James P. Rubin sent between January 1, 2022, and January 20, 2025, respectively.
10. Records of the communications between any GEC official, including but not limited to any GEC liaison(s), and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI).

11. Records governing how grants researching (including but not limited to identifying or analyzing) misinformation and disinformation campaigns were to be reviewed and approved by the GEC.
12. Records of the misinformation- or disinformation-related grants that the GEC approved.
13. All records containing the phrase “vectors of disinformation” in the possession of GEC employees who hold a Capstone rank, a GS-14 grade or higher, or are a member of the Senior Executive Service.

CONCLUSION

If this Request is denied in whole or in part, the ACLJ requests that, within the time requirements imposed by FOIA, you support all denials by reference to specific FOIA exemptions and provide any judicially required explanatory information, including but not limited to, a *Vaughn* Index.

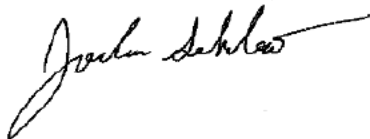
Thank you for your prompt consideration of this Request. Please furnish all applicable records and direct any responses to:

Jordan Sekulow, Executive Director
Benjamin P. Sisney, Senior Litigation Counsel
John A. Monaghan, Senior Litigation Counsel
American Center for Law and Justice

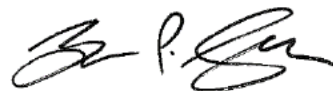


I affirm that the foregoing request and attached documentation are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jordan Sekulow".

Jordan Sekulow
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben P. Sisney".

Benjamin P. Sisney
Senior Litigation Counsel

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John A. Monaghan".

John A Monaghan
Senior Litigation Counsel