



U.S. Election Assistance Commission
633 3rd Street NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20001

VIA EMAIL

September 4, 2026



Greetings:

This letter acknowledges the U.S. Election Assistance Commission's (EAC) receipt of your Freedom of Information Act request (26-0083):

"I request: (1) any interagency agreement, memorandum of understanding, statement of work, task order, or written communication between the U.S. Election Assistance Commission and the National Design Studio (or the Executive Office of the President) concerning vote.gov — or any preview, replacement, or redesign of vote.gov — dated August 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025; and (2) any record identifying who directed or initiated the vote.gov preview project and when it was initiated. Basis for the date range: the first public TLS certificate for the vote.gov preview site in the National Design Studio preview system issued September 8, 2025 (public certificate-transparency logs), and NDS itself was established August 21, 2025 (E.O. 14338) — both before January 1, 2026, where my prior request (EAC 26-0064, answered "no records" July 9, 2026) began. If no responsive records exist for the 2025 window either, I request written confirmation of that fact."

Your request for expedited processing has been denied pursuant to 1 C.F.R. § 9405.7(h). Under 11 C.F.R. § 9405.7(h), the Commission shall consider requests for expedited processing in cases where the requester demonstrates a compelling need for such processing. The term "compelling need" means, with respect to a request made by a person primarily engaged in disseminating information, urgency to inform the public concerning actual or alleged Federal government activity. Requests for expedited processing must include a statement setting forth the basis for the claim that a "compelling need" exists for the requested information, certified by the requester to be true and correct to the best of his or her knowledge and belief. Your request did not demonstrate that there is an "urgency to inform the public concerning actual or alleged Federal government activity." While the public's right to know is a significant and important value, it is not sufficient by itself to satisfy this standard. *Al-Fayed v. CIA*, 254 F.3d 300, 310 (D.C.Cir. 2001).

We have determined we will process your request pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act and EAC regulations. This request has been assigned file number 26-0083. Your request for a fee waiver has been denied pursuant to 11 CFR § 9405.10(c). Pursuant to 11 CFR § 9405.10, as a requester designated as "other," you will be charged search and duplication fees. However, the

first two hours of search time and the first 100 pages of duplication are free. You will not be charged fees for review of documents. The EAC estimates that this FOIA request will not require more than 2 free hours of search time. Therefore, the EAC does not anticipate that there will be fees associated with this request.

Please note that the EAC processes requests in the order that they are received and that the EAC has a backlog of requests. Please be assured, however, that your request is being handled as equitably as possible and that all documents that can be released will be made available at the earliest date possible. You have the right to seek assistance from the EAC FOIA Public Liaison if you have questions regarding processing delays, transparency, request status, or dispute resolution. The contact information for the EAC FOIA Public Liaison is:

Andrew Sassoon, FOIA Public Liaison
FOIA@eac.gov
202-569-4335

Sincerely,

Seton Parsons

Seton Parsons, Associate Counsel
U.S. Election Assistance Commission
sparsons@eac.gov