
 Clerk of the Superior Court
 By Maye Patterson, Deputy
 Date 07/16/2026 Time 14:51:51
 Description Amount
 ----- CASE# CV2026-029456 -----
 CIVIL NEW COMPLAINT 367.00

 TOTAL AMOUNT 367.00
 Receipt# 30918963

David J. Hoffa
 State Bar No. 038052
 c/o Mark Spencer
 P.O. Box 30042
 Phoenix, AZ 85046
 (989) 627-7757
 davjhoffa@gmail.com
 Attorney for Plaintiff, Judicial Watch, Inc.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

MARICOPA COUNTY

JUDICIAL WATCH, INC.,) **Maricopa County Superior Court**
Plaintiff,) **No. CV 2026-029456**
v.) **COMPLAINT FOR SPECIAL ACTION**
KATIE HOBBS, in her official capacity) **(A.R.S. § 39-121.01)**
as Governor of the State of Arizona,)
Defendant.)

Plaintiff Judicial Watch, Inc. brings this special action against Defendant Katie Hobbs, in her official capacity as Governor of the State of Arizona, to compel compliance with the Arizona Public Records Law ("APRL"), A.R.S §§ 39-121, *et seq.* Plaintiff alleges as follows:

PARTIES

1. Plaintiff Judicial Watch, Inc. is a not-for-profit, educational organization incorporated under the laws of the District of Columbia and headquartered at 425 Third Street SW, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20024. Plaintiff seeks to promote transparency,

1 accountability, and integrity in government and fidelity to the rule of law. As part of its
2 mission, Plaintiff regularly requests records from federal, state, and local governments
3 pursuant to open records laws. Plaintiff analyzes the responses and disseminates its
4 findings and the requested records to the American public to inform them about “what
5 their government is up to.”

6 2. Defendant Katie Hobbs is the Governor of the State of Arizona and a public
7 officer as defined in A.R.S. § 39.121.01(A)(1). The City has possession, custody, and
8 control of records to which Plaintiff seeks access.

9 JURISDICTION AND VENUE

10 3. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to A.R.S. § 39-121.02 and
11 Rule 3 of the Arizona Rules of Procedure for Special Actions (“RPSA”).

12 4. Venue is proper in this Court under RPSA 6(a)(2), because Defendant is an
13 officer of the State of Arizona.

14 GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

15 5. On or about February 4, 2026, the Arizona Governor’s Office posted a press
16 release detailing the Governor’s concern that federal law enforcement were violating
17 Arizonans’ right to peaceful protest. *See* “Governor Katie Hobbs Announces Know Your
18 Rights Website to Inform Arizonans of Constitutional Rights,” Office of the Governor
19 Katie Hobbs February 4, 2026 (available at [https://azgovernor.gov/office-arizona-](https://azgovernor.gov/office-arizona-governor/news/2026/02/governor-katie-hobbs-announces-know-your-rights-website-inform)
20 [governor/news/2026/02/governor-katie-hobbs-announces-know-your-rights-website-](https://azgovernor.gov/office-arizona-governor/news/2026/02/governor-katie-hobbs-announces-know-your-rights-website-inform)
21 [inform](https://azgovernor.gov/office-arizona-governor/news/2026/02/governor-katie-hobbs-announces-know-your-rights-website-inform)).

1 6. On February 5, 2026, Plaintiff served an APRL request on Defendant that
2 quoted from the press release and requested access to the following:

3 1. Any Arizona Governor's Office ("AZGO") documents, to
4 include but not limited to invoices, costing sheets, budget line
5 items, competitive bidding forms, contracts, receipts, and/or
6 MOUs, indicating the cost of producing, posting, and/or
7 maintaining the aforementioned "knowyourrights.az.gov"
8 website and/or YouTube video.

9 2. Any AZGO communications regarding the aforementioned
10 press release and/or "knowyourrights.az.gov" website

11 3. Any AZGO documents and/or reports indicating if/when
12 residents of Arizona have been:

13 a. Denied the right to engage in peaceful protest by
14 federal law enforcement

15 b. Unlawfully detained by federal law enforcement

16 c. Unlawfully arrested by federal law enforcement

17 d. Unlawfully shot and/or killed by federal law
18 enforcement

19 4. Any AZGO communications regarding and/or documents
20 indicating the number of arrests, criminal investigations,
21

1 and/or convictions in Arizona by local and/or federal law
2 enforcement involving unlawful/illegal aliens

3 5. Any AZGO documents and/or information (*ex. legal*
4 *resources, constitutional rights*) provided to Arizonans if
5 protestors come to their home and/or places of worship and
6 engage in criminal conduct (*ex. trespassing, disorderly*
7 *conduct, criminal damage, assault, threats*).

8 6. Any AZGO documents and/or information (*ex. legal*
9 *resources, constitutional rights*) provided to Arizonans if they
10 are victims of criminal conduct engaged in/perpetrated by
11 unlawful/illegal aliens

12 7. Any AZGO documents and/or information (*ex. legal*
13 *resources*) provided to Arizonans regarding their
14 constitutionally protected rights to secure national borders
15 and/or unimpeded access to federal law enforcement services

16 8. Any AZGO communications with/to/from:

17 a. Raquel Terán

18 b. Aliento Education Fund (Aliento)

19 c. Reyna Montoya

20 d. Arizona Center for Empowerment (ACE)

21 e. Lena Avalos

1 f. Living United for Change in Arizona (LUCHA)

2 g. Proyecto Progreso

3 7. Plaintiff's request stated that the records were not sought for a commercial
4 purpose, specifically noted that A.R.S. § 39.121.02(D)(1) required Defendant to furnish
5 the records promptly, and requested that Defendant provide an index of any responsive
6 records that are withheld from disclosure.

7 8. The time frame of the request was identified as "February 4, 2025, to the
8 completion of this request."

9 9. A true and correct copy of Plaintiff's request is attached as **Exhibit A**.

10 10. Plaintiff's records request was sent by both certified mail and via the
11 Governor's Office's public records request online portal, on February 5, 2026.

12 11. A true and correct copy of the certified mail receipt for the mailing of
13 Plaintiff's request is attached as **Exhibit B**.

14 12. A true and correct copy of the confirmation email Plaintiff received from the
15 Governor's Office confirming receipt of Plaintiff's records request is attached as **Exhibit**
16 **C**.

17 13. As of the date of this Complaint, after over five months, Defendant has
18 failed to furnish the requested records and the requested withholdings index. Accordingly,
19 Plaintiff's request is deemed denied pursuant to A.R.S. § 39.121.01(E).

1 **COUNT ONE**

2 **(Violation of A.R.S. § 39-121.01(D)(1) – Failure to adequately search for and**
3 **promptly furnish public records)**

4 14. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 13 as if
5 fully stated herein.

6 15. The APRL grants every person the right to examine or be furnished with
7 copies of public records. A.R.S. §§ 39-121 & 39-121.01(D). Arizona law defines public
8 records broadly, *Griffis v. Pinal Cnty.*, 215 Ariz. 1, 4, ¶ 8 (2007), and creates a strong
9 presumption of disclosure. *Judicial Watch, Inc. v. City of Phoenix*, 228 Ariz. 393, 395, ¶
10 10 (App. 2011).

11 16. When public records are requested from a public officer, the public officer
12 has the burden of establishing that it adequately searched for the requested records,
13 *Phoenix New Times, L.L.C. v. Arpaio*, 217 Ariz. 533, 539, ¶ 16 (App. 2008) – *i.e.*, that it
14 conducted a search reasonably calculated to uncover all relevant documents. *Hodai v.*
15 *City of Tucson*, 239 Ariz. 34, 44, ¶ 32 (App. 2016). The public body must make a good
16 faith effort to conduct a search for the records. *Phoenix New Times*, 217 Ariz. at 539, ¶
17 16.

18 17. The records must be produced promptly, which has been defined as “quick
19 to act” or “producing the requested record without delay” under consideration of the facts
20 and circumstances of the request. *Id.* at 538–39, ¶¶ 14–15.

1 16. A public officer wishing to withhold or redact requested records bears the
2 burden of proving that the records are statutorily exempt from production or that
3 “countervailing interests of confidentiality, privacy, or the best interests of the state”
4 outweigh the public interest in inspection. *Fisher v. Maricopa Cnty. Stadium Dist.*, 185
5 Ariz. 116, 121–22 (App. 1995); *Abraham v. Ariz. Bd. of Regents*, 563 P.3d 632, 636, ¶ 1,
6 641, ¶ 34 (Ariz. Ct. App. 2025). The officer must articulate “a sufficient, specific harm
7 arising from disclosure” that is “grounded in confidentiality, privacy, or the best interest
8 of the state” and demonstrate “the probability that [the] specific, material harm will result
9 from disclosure.” *Abraham*, 563 P.3d at 641, ¶ 34, 642, ¶ 39 (cleaned up).

10 17. Plaintiff has a right to inspect and be furnished copies of the records it
11 requested unless Defendant can satisfy its burden of justifying nondisclosure.

12 18. Defendant has violated the APRL by failing for more than five months to
13 adequately search for and furnish the records Plaintiff requested.

14 19. By failing to adequately search for and promptly furnish the requested records,
15 Defendant has failed to perform a duty required by law as to which Defendant has no
16 discretion and/or has failed to properly exercise discretion which Defendant has a duty to
17 exercise.

18 20. Defendant has also proceeded without or in excess of jurisdiction and legal
19 authority.

20 21. Defendant’s conduct also is arbitrary and capricious and/or an abuse of
21 discretion.

1 26. Access to a public record is deemed denied if the custodian is an “agency”
2 as defined under A.R.S. § 41-1001 and the agency “fails to provide to the requesting
3 person an index of any record or categories of records that are withheld from production
4 pursuant to subsection D, paragraph 2 of this section.” A.R.S. § 39-121.01(E).

5 27. Plaintiff has a right to receive an index of responsive records or categories
6 of responsive records that Defendant has withheld from production in response to
7 Plaintiff's February 5, 2026, records request (Exhibit A). A.R.S. § 39-121.01(D)(2). This
8 index must include “the reasons the records or categories of records have been withheld,”
9 *id.*, with “specific assertions explaining why the document is purportedly privileged to
10 the greatest extent possible[.]” *Judicial Watch, Inc. v. Mayes, et al.*, No. 2 CA-CV 2025-
11 0322, 2026 Ariz. App. LEXIS 94 (Ariz. Ct. App. Div. 2 Apr. 29, 2026), ¶ 11 (quoting
12 *Fann v. Kemp*, 253 Ariz. 537, 548, ¶ 34 (2022)).

13 28. Defendant has violated Arizona’s Public Records Law by failing to provide
14 such an index to Plaintiff regarding the responsive records withheld in response to
15 Plaintiff's February 5, 2026, records request (Exhibit A).

16 29. By doing so, Defendant has failed to perform a duty required by law as to
17 which Defendant has no discretion and/or has failed to properly exercise discretion which
18 Defendant has a duty to exercise.

19 30. By doing so, Defendant has proceeded without or in excess of jurisdiction
20 and legal authority.

1 disclosure supported by evidence applies, and from continuing to fail to furnish a
2 withholdings index;

3 C. Awarding attorney's fees and other legal costs reasonably incurred by Plaintiff
4 in this action pursuant to A.R.S. § 39-121.02(B) and RPSA 7(i); and

5 D. Granting Plaintiff such other and further relief as the Court deems just and
6 proper.

7
8 **RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED** on July 16, 2026.



9
10 David J. Hoffa

11 State Bar No. 038052

12 c/o Mark Spencer

13 P.O. Box 30042

14 Phoenix, AZ 85046

15 (989) 627-7757

16 davjhoffa@gmail.com

17 *Attorney for Plaintiff*
18
19
20
21

EXHIBIT A



**Judicial
Watch®**
*Because no one
is above the law!*

February 5, 2026

CERTIFIED MAIL

Katie Hobbs, Arizona Governor
Office of the Governor
1700 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007

**Re: Records under Public Records Law
A.R.S. § 39-101 through 39-221**

Gov. Hobbs;

On February 4, 2026, your office posted a press release detailing your concern for the rights of those living in Arizona being violated by federal law enforcement. Within the video you said, "I share the fear and anger of many Arizonans, who over the past year, have seen far too many instances of federal agents denying us right to peaceful protest. In some instances, unlawfully detaining and arresting American citizens and, in horrific cases in Minnesota, shooting and killing two people." Within the website it states, "The Office of Governor Katie Hobbs provides this information to help Arizonans understand their constitutional rights. All people have certain constitutional rights, regardless of immigration status."

**Governor Katie Hobbs
Announces Know Your Rights
Website to Inform Arizonans of
Constitutional Rights**

News Release

Phoenix, AZ – Today, Governor Katie Hobbs announced a new website, knowyourrights.az.gov, to inform Arizonans of their constitutional rights when engaging with federal law enforcement or in peaceful protests. The website, available in English and Spanish, includes information for Arizonans if they are stopped by an ICE agent or an agent comes to their home or workplace, information for list members, and guidance for peaceful protesters and observers.

Governor Hobbs announced the website in a video address to Arizonans:



<https://azgovernor.gov/office-arizona-governor/news/2026/02/governor-katie-hobbs-announces-know-your-rights-website-inform>

Pursuant to the provisions of the Arizona Public Records Law (APRL), A.R.S. §39-101 through §39-221, and unless otherwise noted, within the date range of February 4, 2025, to the completion of this request, please provide copies of:

1. Any Arizona Governor's Office ("AZGO") documents, to include but not limited to invoices, costing sheets, budget line items, competitive bidding forms, contracts, receipts, and/or MOUs, indicating the cost of producing, posting, and/or maintaining the aforementioned "knowyourrights.az.gov" website and/or YouTube video.

2. Any AZGO communications regarding the aforementioned press release and/or "knowyourrights.az.gov" website
3. Any AZGO documents and/or reports indicating if/when residents of Arizona have been:
 - a. Denied the right to engage in peaceful protest by federal law enforcement
 - b. Unlawfully detained by federal law enforcement
 - c. Unlawfully arrested by federal law enforcement
 - d. Unlawfully shot and/or killed by federal law enforcement
4. Any AZGO communications regarding and/or documents indicating the number of arrests, criminal investigations, and/or convictions in Arizona by local and/or federal law enforcement involving unlawful/illegal aliens
5. Any AZGO documents and/or information (*ex. legal resources, constitutional rights*) provided to Arizonans if protestors come to their home and/or places of worship and engage in criminal conduct (*ex. trespassing, disorderly conduct, criminal damage, assault, threats*).
6. Any AZGO documents and/or information (*ex. legal resources, constitutional rights*) provided to Arizonans if they are victims of criminal conduct engaged in/perpetrated by unlawful/illegal aliens
7. Any AZGO documents and/or information (*ex. legal resources*) provided to Arizonans regarding their constitutionally protected rights to secure national borders and/or unimpeded access to federal law enforcement services
8. Any AZGO communications with/to/from:
 - a. Raquel Terán
 - b. Aliento Education Fund (Aliento)
 - c. Reyna Montoya
 - d. Arizona Center for Empowerment (ACE)
 - e. Lena Avalos
 - f. Living United for Change in Arizona (LUCHA)
 - g. Proyecto Progreso

These records are considered public under A.R.S. §39-101 through §39-221. To the extent applicable, the following definitions apply to the request:

"COMMUNICATION(S)" means every manner or method of disclosure, exchange of information, statement, or discussion between or among two or more persons, including but not limited to, face-to-face and telephone conversations, correspondence, memoranda, telegrams, telexes, email messages, voice-mail messages, text messages, electronic messaging (including instant messaging and chats delivered through Microsoft Teams, Google Workspace, Zoom Team Chat, or other similar systems), meeting minutes, discussions, releases, statements, reports, publications, and any recordings or reproductions thereof.

"DOCUMENT(S)" or "RECORD(S)" mean any kind of written, graphic, or recorded matter, however produced or reproduced, of any kind or description, whether sent, received, or neither, including drafts, originals, non-identical copies, and information stored magnetically, electronically, photographically or otherwise. As used herein, the terms "DOCUMENT(S)" or "RECORD(S)" include, but are not limited to, studies, papers, books, accounts, letters, diagrams, pictures, drawings, photographs, correspondence, telegrams, cables, text messages, emails, memoranda, notes, notations, work papers, intra-office and inter-office communications,

communications to, between and among employees, contracts, financial agreements, grants, proposals, transcripts, minutes, orders, reports, recordings, or other documentation of telephone or other conversations, interviews, affidavits, slides, statement summaries, opinions, indices, analyses, publications, questionnaires, answers to questionnaires, statistical records, ledgers, journals, lists, logs, tabulations, charts, graphs, maps, surveys, sound recordings, data sheets, computer printouts, tapes, discs, microfilm, and all other records kept, regardless of the title, author, or origin.

"PERSON" means individuals, entities, firms, organizations, groups, committees, regulatory agencies, governmental entities, business entities, corporations, partnerships, trusts, and estates.

"REFERS," "REFERRING TO," "REGARDS," "REGARDING," "RELATES," "RELATING TO," "CONCERNS," "CONCERNING" or "PERTAINS TO" mean, containing, alluding to, responding to, commenting upon, discussing, showing, disclosing, explaining, mentioning, analyzing, constituting, comprising, evidencing, setting forth, summarizing, or characterizing, either directly or indirectly, in whole or in part.

Pursuant to A.R.S. §39-121.01.D.1, records must be furnished promptly. We look forward to your prompt response. Any response or records that can be delivered via e-mail attachments are certainly acceptable. Additionally, all responsive records in an electronic format ("PDF" is preferred) is appreciated. We also are willing to accept a "rolling production" of responsive records if it will facilitate a more timely production.

If any responsive record or portion thereof is claimed to be exempt from production, please provide sufficient identifying information with respect to each allegedly exempt record or portion thereof to allow us to assess the propriety of the claimed exemption (*A.R.S. §39-121.01.D.2.*) Additionally, any reasonably segregable portion of a record otherwise exempt from disclosure is required to be made available after deletion of the portions that are exempted by law.

Finally, the information sought is for non-commercial purposes. Please be advised that if the records are not provided to our office or if we do not hear from your office we will assume that your office is refusing to comply with our Public Records Request. If you do not understand this request or any portion thereof, or if you feel you require clarification of this request or any portion thereof, please contact us immediately at 602.510.7875 or mspencer@judicialwatch.org. The local Arizona address is:

Judicial Watch Inc.
PO Box 30042
Phoenix, AZ 85046

Sincerely,

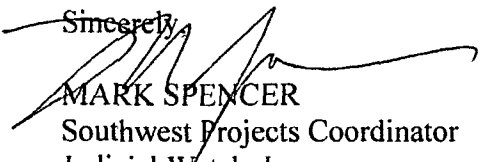

MARK SPENCER
Southwest Projects Coordinator
Judicial Watch, Inc.

EXHIBIT B

9589 0710 5270 3222 2114 66
MT2 222 0225 0720 6854

U.S. Postal Service	
CERTIFIED MAIL RECEIPT	
Domestic Mail Only	
PS Form 3800, October 2000 Edition	
Certified Mail Fee	
Certified Mail Return Receipt Fee (if returned by registered mail)	
☐ First-class postage	\$
☐ First-class postage (if returned by registered mail)	\$
☐ First-class postage (if returned by registered mail)	\$
☐ First-class postage (if returned by registered mail)	\$
☐ First-class postage (if returned by registered mail)	\$
Postage	
Total Postage and Fees	
Paid to	
Signature of Addressee or Postmaster	
Date	

EXHIBIT C

Mark Spencer

From: AZGOV Records <records@az.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 2:38 PM
To: Mark Spencer
Subject: Re: PRR from Mark Spencer (Judicial Watch, Inc.)

Good Afternoon,

Governor Hobbs's office is in receipt of your public records request, dated February 5th, 2026.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us.



Public Records
Phone: 602-542-3438
azgovernor.gov

On Thu, Feb 5, 2026 at 10:15 AM Office of the Arizona Governor <noreply@azgovernor.gov> wrote:

==Requester Information==

Requester First Name: Mark
Requester Last Name: Spencer
Requester Email Address: mspencer@judicialwatch.org
Requester Phone Number: 6025107875
Requester Title: Southwest Projects Coordinator
Requester Company: Judicial Watch, Inc.
Requester Address: PO Box 30042
Phoenix, AZ 85046

==Certification of Use==

Use: Non-commercial

==Dates of Records==

From: February 4, 2025

To: February 5, 2026

Request Summary: 1. Any Arizona Governor's Office ("AZGO") documents, to include but not limited to invoices, costing sheets, budget line items, competitive bidding forms, contracts, receipts, and/or MOUs, indicating the cost of producing, posting, and/or maintaining the aforementioned "knowyourrights.az.gov" website and/or YouTube video.

2. Any AZGO communications regarding the aforementioned press release and/or "knowyourrights.az.gov" website

3. Any AZGO documents and/or reports indicating if/when residents of Arizona have been:
a. Denied the right to engage in peaceful protest by federal law enforcement
b. Unlawfully detained by federal law enforcement
c. Unlawfully arrested by federal law enforcement
d. Unlawfully shot and/or killed by federal law enforcement

4. Any AZGO communications regarding and/or documents indicating the number of arrests, criminal investigations, and/or convictions in Arizona by local and/or federal law enforcement involving

unlawful/illegal aliens

5. Any AZGO documents and/or information (ex. legal resources, constitutional rights) provided to Arizonans if protestors come to their home and/or places of worship and engage in criminal conduct (ex. trespassing, disorderly conduct, criminal damage, assault, threats).
6. Any AZGO documents and/or information (ex. legal resources, constitutional rights) provided to Arizonans if they are victims of criminal conduct engaged in/perpetrated by unlawful/illegal aliens
7. Any AZGO documents and/or information (ex. legal resources) provided to Arizonans regarding their constitutionally protected rights to secure national borders and/or unimpeded access to federal law enforcement services
8. Any AZGO communications with/to/from:
 - a. Raquel Terán
 - b. Aliento Education Fund (Aliento)
 - c. Reyna Montoya
 - d. Arizona Center for Empowerment (ACE)
 - e. Lena Avalos
 - f. Living United for Change in Arizona (LUCHA)
 - g. Proyecto Progreso

Name(s) on Record: Raquel Terán
Reyna Montoya
Lena Avalos

==Reproduction Fee==

Reproduction Fee Terms agreed upon: Not to exceed the following amount:
Reproduction Fee Limit: 300.00

#249 submitted on Thursday, Feb. 5, 2026 10:14am using IP 104.23.195.67