



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

September 2, 2015

Ms. Lindsey Wolf  
General Counsel  
Office of the Secretary of State  
P.O. Box 12697  
Austin, Texas 78711-2697

OR2015-18358

Dear Ms. Wolf:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Public Information Act (the "Act"), chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 578812.

The Office of the Secretary of State (the "secretary's office") received a request for all mailing addresses or e-mail addresses used to communicate with high school deputy registrars during a specified time period. You state you have released some information to the requestor. You claim portions of the submitted information are excepted from disclosure under section 552.137 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.137 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure "an e-mail address of a member of the public that is provided for the purpose of communicating electronically with a governmental body" unless the member of the public consents to its release or the e-mail address is of a type specifically excluded by subsection (c). *See* Gov't Code § 552.137(a)-(c). We note section 552.137 is not applicable to an institutional e-mail address, an Internet website address, the general e-mail address of a business, or an e-mail address a governmental entity maintains for one of its officials or employees. You do not indicate the owners of the e-mail addresses in the submitted information have consented to public release of their e-mail addresses. Thus, to the extent the submitted e-mail addresses are not subject to subsection (c), we find the secretary's office must withhold them under

section 552.137 of the Government Code. As you raise no further exceptions to disclosure, the secretary's office must release the remaining information.

This letter ruling is limited to the particular information at issue in this request and limited to the facts as presented to us; therefore, this ruling must not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other information or any other circumstances.

This ruling triggers important deadlines regarding the rights and responsibilities of the governmental body and of the requestor. For more information concerning those rights and responsibilities, please visit our website at [http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open/orl\\_ruling\\_info.shtml](http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open/orl_ruling_info.shtml), or call the Office of the Attorney General's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable charges for providing public information under the Act may be directed to the Office of the Attorney General, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Neal', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tim Neal  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

TN/bhf

Ref: ID# 578812

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)