



COLORADO
Energy Office

December 29, 2023

Staff of the Legislative Council
State Capitol Building
200 East Colfax
Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear Staff of the Legislative Council:

In accordance with Section 24-72-204.5(3), C.R.S., the following is a report outlining the electronic mail (“email”) retention policy of the Colorado Energy Office. Statute requires reporting to the Staff of the Legislative Council. Specifically: On or before January 1, 2024, each member of the general assembly, the governor’s office and each office of the governor, and each state agency and institution shall submit a report to the staff of the legislative council of the general assembly outlining its respective electronic mail retention policy. The members of the general assembly may submit individual reports or may submit a report that specifies the electronic mail retention policies of multiple members of the general assembly.

The Colorado Energy Office is an office of the Governor, and follows the Governor’s Office (Office) email retention policy, which is attached. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any further questions.

Sincerely,

Dominique Gómez
Deputy Director, Colorado Energy Office
dominique.gomez@state.co.us

Email Retention

Purpose

State agencies may make rules and adopt a policy regarding the retention, archiving, and destruction of such records. The purpose of this policy is to outline the email retention policy and processes for the Governor's Office. This policy establishes how long an email will remain in your state email account before being deleted automatically, what emails need to be preserved, and how to prevent emails from being auto-deleted. It is a best practice to automate the retention management of emails so that they are removed from the system in a consistent manner without any manual intervention. Doing so eliminates storage of digital assets no longer needed, human error, and any potential bias.

Policy

- All email that is older than 30 days, other than email with a DONOTDELETE label, will be deleted. This includes email in inbox, sent, and other labels.
- If an Office employee needs to keep an email longer than 30 days, the employee must apply a DONOTDELETE label to email.
- Office employees shall periodically review emails with the DONOTDELETE label and remove the label when the email no longer needs to be retained. Then, the email will be deleted.

Applicability

This policy applies to all classified and non-classified employees within the Office including full or part-time permanent and temporary employees, independent contractors, volunteers, and interns, regardless of physical work location, who use a state email account.

Emails that should be retained:

- Emails that are of importance to ongoing work.
- Emails that are required for reporting purposes.
- Emails subject to legal or other sensitive holds.
- Emails that are the subject of a CORA request.

Emails that should not be retained:

- Emails that are transitory, routine in nature, or of time limited value because they serve a time defined administrative purpose should be deleted by the user as soon as their usefulness has ended or auto-deleted after 30 days. Examples of these types of emails include but are not limited to the following:
 - Meeting or schedule notices.
 - Routine inquiries and advertisements.
 - Lunch or break arrangements.
 - Emails flagged as spam or suspicious in nature.
 - Emails of fleeting or no value.

Prohibited practices under this policy:

- Using a non-state email account for state business.
- Downloading or printing emails for the sole purpose of storage.
- Using unapproved software to automate the saving and/or storing of work emails.

- Forwarding work emails to a personal email account for the sole purpose of storing those emails.
- Using a personal peripheral storage device such as a jump drive or other storage devices to save and store work emails.
- Deleting any email the employee has been informed is the subject of a CORA request or an active litigation hold.

Responsibilities

Office employees should:

- Routinely manage their state email box.
- Apply the DONOTDELETE label in accordance with the standards set forth in section above.
- Periodically review emails with the DONOTDELETE label and remove the label when the email no longer needs to be retained.

Colorado Open Records Act (CORA)

All public records, including email, shall be open for inspection by any person, except as otherwise provided by law. Correspondence by electronic mail may be a public record and subject to public inspection under the Colorado Open Records Act (CORA), C.R.S. 24-72-201 *et seq.* Any email to or from an employee's office email account may also be subject to a litigation hold and may be subject to public inspection.

Any email that is the subject to a CORA request or a litigation hold request shall be preserved from the date of the request regardless of any maintenance, retention, or deletion policy or practices utilized by the custodian for that email. The email may only be deleted when the CORA request has been fulfilled and/or the litigation hold has been lifted.