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Chief Keith and the Revolving Door

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By [CJ Ciaramella](#)

This post is adapted from [CJ Ciaramella's](#) weekly Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) newsletter, which you [can subscribe to here](#).

Keith Alexander's financial disclosure is vital to national security interests or something

Over at *The Atlantic*, Conor Friedersdorf has an [excellent piece](#) on Jason Leopold's FOIA lawsuit to obtain former NSA chief Keith Alexander's financial disclosure statements.

Since moving on from the NSA, Alexander has parlayed his role as one of the nation's top spies into a lucrative consulting career. Like one does these days. However, the NSA has steered a novel course and argued Alexander's financial disclosure statements, which are required by law to reveal potential conflicts of interest, are exempt from disclosure because—brace yourself for government logic—Alexander's identity must be protected.

...**Potentially useful for some of you:** The FBI's [b\(5\) exemption guidance](#) [PDF]

The Center for Public Integrity has [launched](#) an ambitious project to track money and influence in 6,300 elections state across the country in 2015 and 2016.

FOIA Redaction of the Week [courtesy](#) of Arizona Republic reporter Ryan Randazzo and the Energy Department. Please note that these emails from a private company to the Energy Dept. regarding a government-backed solar project are considered "deliberative process."

The Most Transparent Administration in History, an ongoing series

On CNN's Reliable Sources, Brian Stelter [continues to investigate](#) whether the Obama administration is really the most transparent administration in history. You'll be shocked to hear that former *Washington Post* executive editor Len Downie and *BuzzFeed* investigative reporter Chris Hamby disagree with the administration's opinion of itself.

Meanwhile, former White House press secretary Jay Carney [thinks](#) the White House press corps is just stunting for the cameras during briefings. Jay Carney is also a former reporter, which is a fun thing to remind one's self of every now and then.

How to get records from the EPA: At the *American Spectator*, Kevin Mooney [describes](#) an ambitious new attempt to pry information out of the EPA:

[A] savvy team of attorneys has seized upon an “obscure, but potentially” powerful federal law that could force the agency to disclose its concealed data.

The non-profit Institute for Trade, Standards and Sustainable Development (ITSSD), based in Princeton, New Jersey, has filed [a new 145-page Freedom of Information Act request](#) with the EPA that asks the agency to release reports and records the agency has that were used to justify its 2009 greenhouse gas (GHG) endangerment finding under the Clean Air Act (CAA). Specifically, the FOIA asks the agency to detail, step-by-step, how it complied with “highest and most rigorous standards applicable to what are called highly influential scientific assessments, or HISAs, imposed by the Information Quality Act (IQA) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).”

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