

GENERAL RECORDS SCHEDULE 6.4: Public Affairs Records

This schedule covers records about public affairs functions within Federal agencies. Public affairs involves communications and information exchanges between the Federal Government, citizens, and stakeholders in direct support of citizen services, public policy, and national interest.

Agencies must offer any records created prior to January 1, 1921, to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) before applying disposition instructions in this schedule.

Agencies must schedule records that this GRS does not include. This GRS does not include many public affairs-related records because they either typically are permanent or are not temporary in every case. See the Public Affairs Records Scheduling Guidelines for additional information on how agencies might schedule records this GRS does not include.

Item	Records Description	Disposition Instruction	Disposition Authority
010	<p>Public affairs-related routine operational records. Records related to the routine, day-to-day administration of public affairs activities, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • logistics, planning, and correspondence records for routine conferences and events • correspondence and records on speakers and speaking engagements, including biographies • case files and databases of public comments (related to public affairs activities only) 	<p>Temporary. Destroy when 3 years old, or no longer needed, whichever is later.</p>	<p>DAA-GRS-2016-0005-0001</p>
020	<p>Public correspondence and communications not requiring formal action. Records related to correspondence and communications, including comments, to and from the public that require no formal response or action. Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • comments the agency receives but does not act upon or that do not require a response, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ write-in campaigns ○ personal opinions on current events or personal experiences ○ routine complaints or commendations ○ anonymous communications ○ suggestion box comments ○ public correspondence addressed to another entity and copied to the agency or that the agency receives in error ○ comments posted by the public on an agency website that do not require response or that the agency does not collect for further use • communications from the public that the agency responds to but takes no formal action on 	<p>Temporary. Destroy when 90 days old, but longer retention is authorized if required for business use.</p>	<p>DAA-GRS-2016-0005-0002</p>

Item	Records Description	Disposition Instruction	Disposition Authority
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agency postings on social media accounts and email blasts that consist of information released or captured elsewhere, provided the agency also captures the posting <p>Note 1: For requests for information, publications, photographs, and other information involving no administrative action, policy decision, or special compilations or research, use GRS 4.2, item 010.</p> <p>Note 2: The agency must schedule any correspondence or communications with the public not described in this GRS, which includes that of high-level officials.</p> <p>Exclusion 1: Correspondence relating to a specific case or action is not considered public correspondence and should be filed and maintained with the appropriate case or action file.</p> <p>Exclusion 2: Public comments that the agency takes action on or uses to take action are not covered by this GRS.</p>		
030	<p>Public affairs product production files.</p> <p>Records related to developing speeches, publications, educational materials, audiovisual materials including posters, public conferences and other public outreach materials, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • news clippings • marketing research • copies of records used for reference in preparing products • research notes • printers galleys • drafts and working copies (see Exclusion 3) • preparatory or preliminary artwork or graphics • bibliographies, checklists, and indexes of agency publications and releases (see Exclusion 4) • clearances related to release of products (see Exclusion 5 and 6) <p>Note 1: Agencies must offer any cartographic and aerial photographic records created before January 1, 1950, to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) before applying this disposition authority.</p> <p>Note 2: Now-obsolete forms of printing production materials (e.g., line and halftone negatives, screened paper prints, and offset lithographic plates), line copies of graphs and charts, as well as cartographic</p>	Temporary. Destroy when no longer needed for business use.	DAA-GRS-2016-0005-0003

Item	Records Description	Disposition Instruction	Disposition Authority
	<p>records prepared during Intermediate stages of publication that may be found in older project files are temporary under this item.</p> <p>Exclusion 1: Final products such as speeches, publications, educational materials, agency histories, mission-related audiovisual materials including posters, conference and public outreach materials. The agency must schedule these records on an agency-specific schedule.</p> <p>Exclusion 2: This item does not include unique collections of records or original materials (such as interviews or oral histories) the agency assembles for research or final product development purposes. These records may have permanent value and the agency should schedule them on an agency-specific schedule.</p> <p>Exclusion 3: This item does not include working papers or files that propose and evaluate options or alternatives and their implications in the development of high-level policies and decisions or that document findings or support recommendations.</p> <p>Exclusion 4: This item does not include bibliographies, checklists or indexes relating to records scheduled as permanent, such as permanent publications.</p> <p>Exclusion 5: Records relating to obtaining approval or clearance for releasing information from other agencies or outside organizations, such as foreign governments, must be scheduled on an agency specific schedule.</p> <p>Exclusion 6: This item does not cover clearances for release of information related to declassification review.</p>		
040	<p>Routine media relations records. Records of interactions with the press or media that contain duplicate, minimal, or limited information, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • requests and responses for interviews • requests and responses for information or assistance for media stories • daily or spot news recordings or videos available to local radio and TV stations • notices or announcements of media events • public service announcements 	Temporary. Destroy when no longer needed for business use.	DAA-GRS-2016-0005-0004

Item	Records Description	Disposition Instruction	Disposition Authority
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">copies or articles created by the agency for publication in news media <p>Exclusion: Transcripts of press conferences or press briefings, briefing books, and press releases are not covered by this item and must be scheduled by the agency on an agency-specific schedule.</p>		
050	<p>Routine audiovisual records. Photographs or audiovisual recordings of routine award ceremonies, retirement ceremonies, social events, and activities not related to the mission of the agency. Also included are production files or similar files that document origin, development, acquisition, use, and ownership of temporary audiovisual records.</p> <p>Note: Any instances of the now-obsolete form, viewgraphs, found in older audiovisual files are also temporary under this item.</p>	<p>Temporary. Destroy when 2 years old but longer retention is authorized if required for business use.</p>	DAA-GRS-2016-0005-0006