

# The Politicization of the National Archives and Record Administration (NARA)

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## Did you know...?

The National Archives and Records Administration has admitted that it is in possession of nearly **5,400 emails, electronic records and documents** that potentially show President Biden using a pseudonym during his vice presidency.

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The National Archives' task force on racism claimed in a little-noticed report to the U.S.'s top librarian that the Archives' own Rotunda – **which houses the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights** – is an example of 'structural racism' and that the Founding Fathers and other White, historically impactful Americans are portrayed too positively.

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NARA's leadership has **pushed back against the idea that it has acted with any political bias** or motivation, including in the agency's role in trump's indictment.

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Private equity billionaire David Rubenstein is one of NARA's largest patrons, NARA's Gallery is named the David M. Rubenstein Gallery, completed at a cost of \$13.5 million. **Rubenstein has a close relationship with Biden and has hosted the president at his Nantucket estate three times for Thanksgiving**—in 2022, 2021, and 2014.

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# **The Politicization of the National Archives Records Administration (NARA)**

## ***Executive Summary***

*Over the past several years, the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has become increasingly politicized. Dating back to 2021, NARA formed a “racism task force” that published a report, which concluded its own Rotunda was an example of “structural racism” and that the Founding Fathers and other White, historically impactful Americans are portrayed too positively.*

*NARA has been placed under a political spotlight yet again as they to release records to the House Oversight Committee, regarding whether Hunter Biden used Air Force 2 for personal gain at the expense of taxpayers.*

## ***NARA Has Become Increasingly Politicized***

### **NARA Is In Possession Of Over 5,000 Emails From Biden’s Time As Vice President Where He Used A Pseudonym**

**In August 2023, NARA Revealed That It Possessed Nearly 5,400 Emails, Electronic Records And Documents That Potentially Show President Biden Using A Pseudonym During His Vice Presidency.** “The National Archives and Records Administration has admitted that it is in possession of nearly 5,400 emails, electronic records and documents that potentially show President Biden using a pseudonym during his vice presidency, it was revealed on Monday. NARA confirmed the existence of the trove in response to a June 2022 Freedom of Information Act request by the Southeastern Legal Foundation, a nonprofit constitutional legal group. The request sought emails pertaining to the accounts of Robin Ware, Robert L. Peters and JRB Ware — pseudonyms the 80-year-old president was known to use in the White House during his time as President Barack Obama’s vice president.” (Victor Nava, “National Archives Has 5,400 Biden emails In Which He Uses Fake Names To Dish Government Info To Hunter, Others As VP,” [New York Post](#), 8/28/23)

- **The Southeastern Legal Foundation Filed Suit Against NARA For The Release Of The Records, Which The Group Claims May Show That Biden Forwarded Government Information And Discussed Government Business With His Son Hunter Biden And Others.** “The Southeastern Legal Foundation on Monday filed suit against NARA for the release of the records, which the group claims may show that Biden forwarded government information and discussed government business with his son Hunter Biden and others. ‘All too often, public officials abuse their power by using it for their personal or political benefit. When they do, many seek to hide it. The only way to preserve governmental integrity is for NARA to release Biden’s nearly 5,400 emails to SLF and thus the public. The American public deserves to know what is in them,’ Kimberly Hermann, SLF general counsel, said in a statement.” (Victor Nava, “National Archives Has 5,400 Biden emails In Which He Uses Fake Names To Dish Government Info To Hunter, Others As VP,” [New York Post](#), 8/28/23)
- **The Group Claims That NARA Has “Dragged Its Feet” Since Their Original June 2022 FOIA Request Revealed The Existence Of Such Records And That They Haven’t Provided A Single Email.** “The group accuses NARA of having ‘dragged its feet ‘ since the June 2022 FOIA request and says that not a single email has been produced since the government agency acknowledged their existence just days after the request” (Victor Nava, “National Archives Has 5,400 Biden emails In Which He Uses Fake Names To Dish Government Info To Hunter, Others As VP,” [New York Post](#), 8/28/23)

**House Oversight Committee Chairman Rep. James Comer (R-KY) Has Demanded That NARA Hand Over Any Unredacted Records In Which Joe Biden Used A Pseudonym During His Vice Presidency As Part Of His Probe Into The Role The Former Vice President Played In Hunter Biden’s Foreign Business Dealings.** “Earlier this month, House Oversight Committee Chairman James Comer (R-Ky.) demanded that NARA hand over any unredacted records in which Joe Biden used a pseudonym during his vice presidency as part of his

probe into the role the former vice president played in Hunter Biden's foreign business dealings. Emails previously released by the Archives and retrieved from Hunter's abandoned laptop reveal that Joe Biden used the email address 'Robert.L.Peters@pci.gov' while he was Obama's second-in-command and that his aide John Flynn cc'd Hunter on 10 emails containing the elder Biden's daily schedule between May 18 and June 15, 2016." (Victor Nava, "National Archives Has 5,400 Biden emails In Which He Uses Fake Names To Dish Government Info To Hunter, Others As VP," [New York Post](#), 8/28/23)

- **Comer And The Committee Have Made A "Special Access" Request To That National Archives For Full Access To Biden Email Records, Which Have Been Redacted For Public Release.** "The Archives released a handful of other emails, some redacted, with other private communications. Comer said he needed the fully unredacted emails, making what is known as a 'special access' request to the National Archives. 'The Committee seeks unrestricted special access/ ... These records have been redacted for public release pursuant to the PRA and FOIA. For example, an email bearing the subject 'Friday Schedule Card,' is withheld in part under a 'P6' and 'b(6)' restrictions, denoting personal information regarding the subject under the PRA and FOIA respectively.' Comer wrote. 'Attached to this email, and made available on the NARA website, is a document that indicates at 9:00 a.m. on May 27, 2016, Vice President Biden took a call with the president of Ukraine, Petro Poroshenko,' he added/ 'It is concerning to the Committee, however, that this document was sent to 'Robert L. Peters'—a pseudonym the Committee has identified as then Vice- President Biden. Additionally, the Committee questions why the then-Vice President's son, Hunter Biden—and only Hunter Biden—was copied on this email to then-Vice President Biden.'" (John Solomon, "Biden Probe Shifts To National Archives With Discovery Of Private Emails Between Joe And Hunter," [Just The News](#), 8/17/23)

**Comer Said That On December 4, 2015, Then Vice President Biden's Communications Director Emailed "VP Signed Off On This" To Hunter Biden's Business Associate Regarding Language To Use From Hunter About His Work With The Ukrainian Energy Firm Burisma.** "Comer formally made a request to the National Archives after the documentation was released by NARA subject to a FOIA request from America First Legal – an organization run by Stephen Miller, a former speechwriter and aide to ex-President Donald Trump and former Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala. In a December 4, 2015 missive, then-Hunter Biden business associate Eric Schwerin wrote to Kate Bedingfield – then Joe Biden's communications director – with quotations to use from Hunter about his work with the Ukrainian energy firm Burisma. 'VP signed off on this,' Bedingfield replied in-part, according to the 'Ingraham Angle.' Comer said the new documents are proof there was 'no wall' between Biden family officeholders and the so-called family business." (Charles Creitz, "Comer Torches National Archives In Fight For Unredacted Hunter Business Emails: 'We Believe There Are More,'" [Fox News](#), 9/7/23)

- **NOTE:** *This email was released by NARA subject to a FOIA request from America First Legal – an organization run by Stephen Miller.*

**NARA Has Been Unwilling To Provide Unredacted Records Of Joe Biden To Investigators.** "A closer look at the federal agency that sparked former President Donald Trump's first federal indictment shows that it has embraced far-left diversity, equity and inclusion policies. The little-known federal agency called the National Archives and Records Administration was thrust into the national spotlight after it tipped off the U.S. Department of Justice over Trump's alleged mishandling of classified documents. On its website, the agency calls itself a 'nonpartisan, independent' group. A deep dive by The Center Square into its records show it has embraced ideology around gender and race and has reportedly been unwilling to hand over some records of President Joe Biden to investigators." (Casey Harper, "National Archives Goes Woke, Embraces Leftist Dei And Equity Training At Taxpayer Expense," [Just The News](#), 9/9/23)

- **NARA Has Pledged To Withhold Records Related To Biden If It Deemed Them To Be "Personal," Which Could Potential Hamper The House Oversight Committee's Investigation Into Whether Hunter Biden Used Air Force 2 For Personal Gain At Taxpayer Expense.** "The agency has also come under scrutiny recently from the House



Oversight Committee's Republican leadership. The Committee's chair, U.S. Rep. James Comer, R-Ky., has spearheaded the Congressional investigation into Hunter Biden's overseas business dealings and the president's alleged role in them. Comer has also raised questions about political motivation at the agency. IRS whistleblowers have testified that the Biden family and associates received roughly \$20 million via about 20 overseas shell companies. Comer has called for evidence from NARA, including details on whether Hunter Biden used Air Force 2 at taxpayer expense to help with the deals, but said NARA has pledged to potentially withhold some Biden records if it deems them to be 'personal.'" (Casey Harper, "National Archives Goes Woke, Embraces Leftist DEI And Equity Training At Taxpayer Expense," [Just The News](#), 9/9/23)

## **Biden Ally Is A Major Donor To NARA**

**Private Equity Billionaire David Rubenstein Is One Of NARA's Largest Patrons; NARA's Gallery Is Named The David M. Rubenstein Gallery. It Was Completed In 2013 At A Cost Of \$13.5 Million.** "But there's a third powerful name in play, this one from outside of the government: David Rubenstein. Co-founder of the Washington, D.C.-based private equity firm the Carlyle Group, Rubenstein is one of the archives' most generous patrons. In 2013, the David M. Rubenstein Gallery at the National Archives was completed at a cost of \$13.5 million." (Lee Smith, "Closing In On The Classified Cover-Up," [Tablet Magazine](#), 2/8/23)

- **Rubenstein Has A Close Relationship With Biden And Has Hosted The President At His Nantucket Estate Three Times For Thanksgiving.** "Rubenstein is also a major Biden ally. He has regularly hosted the Biden family at his Nantucket estate for Thanksgiving—in 2022, 2021, and 2014." (Lee Smith, "Closing In On The Classified Cover-Up," [Tablet Magazine](#), 2/8/23)

**Both The Current And Previous Head Of NARA Have Connections To Rubenstein And Previously Worked At Organizations He Had Direct Oversight Over.** "Indeed, Biden's friend Rubenstein appears to exercise considerable influence over the staffing of senior personnel at the agency. Before Ferreiro was appointed by Barack Obama in 2009 to lead the National Archives, he was the university librarian and vice provost for library affairs at Duke University from 1996 to 2004, at the same time that Rubenstein was chair of the Duke Board of Trustees. The nominee to replace Ferreiro at the archives, Colleen Shogan, is also affiliated with Rubenstein. She is currently the director of the David M. Rubenstein Center at the White House Historical Center." (Lee Smith, "Closing In On The Classified Cover-Up," [Tablet Magazine](#), 2/8/23)

## **NARA Referred Trump To The DOJ For Withholding Documents**

**NARA Is The Agency That Informed The U.S. Department Of Justice About Former Trump's Alleged Mishandling Of Classified Documents, Eventually Leading To His Indictment.** "The lesser-known federal agency, NARA, was thrust into the national spotlight after it tipped off the U.S. Department of Justice over former Trump's alleged mishandling of classified documents, eventually leading to his indictment." (Casey Harper, "National Archives Agency Embraces DEI, Federal Equity Trainings At Taxpayer Expense," [The Center Square](#), 9/12/23)

- **NARA Reportedly Informed The DOJ That both President Joe Biden and former Vice President Mike Pence Has Classified Documents They Were Working To Get Back.** "Notably, that same agency worked to get classified documents back from both President Joe Biden and former Vice President Mike Pence, neither of whom were charged, though NARA did reportedly inform the DOJ about both." (Casey Harper, "National Archives Agency Embraces DEI, Federal Equity Trainings At Taxpayer Expense," [The Center Square](#), 9/12/23)

## ***NARA Has Gone Woke***

### **NARA Task Force On Racism**

**In 2021, NARA's Task Force On Racism Released A Report That The Archives' Own Rotunda – Which Houses The Declaration Of Independence, The U.S. Constitution And The Bill Of Rights – Is An Example Of 'Structural Racism' And That The Founding Fathers And Other White, Historically Impactful Americans Are Portrayed Too Positively.**

“The National Archives' task force on racism claimed in a little-noticed report to the U.S.'s top librarian that the Archives' own Rotunda – which houses the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights – is an example of 'structural racism' and that the Founding Fathers and other White, historically impactful Americans are portrayed too positively. The report was completed in April and released this month but has so far flown under the media radar. The task force claims that structural racism 'unequivocally impacts' how National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) employees interact with each other, customers and the historical records themselves.” (Houston Keene, “National Archives' Racism Task Force Says Own Rotunda Example Of 'Structural Racism,' Knocks Founding Fathers,” [Fox News](#), 6/27/21)

- **National Archivist David Ferriero Commissioned The Task Force In Response To George Floyd's Death.** “National Archivist David Ferriero commissioned the task force in response to George Floyd's death last year, the report notes. Ferriero has served in the position since 2009, after he was nominated by former President Obama and confirmed by the Senate. The position has an indefinite term length.” (Houston Keene, “National Archives' Racism Task Force Says Own Rotunda Example Of 'Structural Racism,' Knocks Founding Fathers,” [Fox News](#), 6/27/21)

**The Report Cited the National Archives' Rotunda As An Example Of 'Structural Racism' Because It “Lauds Wealthy White Men In The Nation's Founding While Marginalizing BIPOC, Women, And Other Communities.** “Some examples of 'structural racism' were provided in the summary of the report, including 'legacy descriptions that use racial slurs and harmful language to describe BIPOC communities,' which includes actual racial slurs alongside terms such as 'elderly,' 'handicapped' and 'illegal alien.' Additionally, the report categorized the National Archives' Rotunda as another example of 'structural racism' as it 'lauds wealthy White men in the nation's founding while marginalizing BIPOC [Black, Indigenous and other People of Color], women, and other communities.’” (Houston Keene, “National Archives' Racism Task Force Says Own Rotunda Example Of 'Structural Racism,' Knocks Founding Fathers,” [Fox News](#), 6/27/21)

- **The Task Force Suggested Remaining The Rotunda By Staging A “Dance Or Performance Art In The Space That Invites Dialogue About The Ways That The United States Has Mythologized The Founding Era.”** “The task force suggests ways to 'reimagine the Rotunda,' including staging 'dance or performance art in the space that invites dialogue about the ways that the United States has mythologized the founding era.’” (Houston Keene, “National Archives' Racism Task Force Says Own Rotunda Example Of 'Structural Racism,' Knocks Founding Fathers,” [Fox News](#), 6/27/21)
- **The Report Also Called For “Trigger Warnings” For Historical Content To “Forewarn Audiences Of Content That May Cause Intense Physiological And Psychological Symptoms.”** “The report also called for 'trigger warnings' to be put in place with historical content to 'forewarn audiences of content that may cause intense physiological and psychological symptoms.' 'Providing an advisory notice to users gives us an opportunity to mitigate harm and contextualize the records,' the report reads. 'It creates a space to share with the public our ultimate goals for reparative description, demonstrate our commitment to the process, and address any barriers that we may face in achieving these goals (i.e., the size and scope of the Catalog and the ever-evolving knowledge we gain regarding what is harmful).’” (Houston Keene, “National Archives' Racism Task Force Says Own Rotunda Example Of 'Structural Racism,' Knocks Founding Fathers,” [Fox News](#), 6/27/21)

## **The Report Also Recommended “Training On White Privilege And Systemic Racism”**

**In 2021, A Report Was Created By A NARA Task Force On Racism Recommended “Specific Training On White Privilege And Systemic Racism.”** “In NARA’s most recent strategic DEI plan, the agency essentially pledges to work to get more minority applicants and leadership and lower the percentage of leading white Americans in the agency. The group’s 2012 report defines minorities as ‘all categories of current and potential employees identified as non-white.’ ‘NARA will provide training and support to hiring managers to increase the diversity of the NARA workforce,’ the agency said, also pledging to “mitigate biases” and create ‘safe spaces.’ The agency said these recommendations came from a report created by the NARA Task Force on Racism that delivered a document to the agency’s leadership in 2021 recommending more training on things like ‘white privilege.’ ‘Address offensive behavior by staff with specific training on white privilege and systemic racism,’ the report said.” (Casey Harper, “National Archives Goes Woke, Embraces Leftist Dei And Equity Training At Taxpayer Expense,” [Just The News](#), 9/9/23)

## **NARA’s Budget Request For 2022 Asks For \$28 Million For DEI Initiatives To Meet Its’ DEI Plan**

**NARA’s Budget Request For 2022 Asked Congress For More Than \$28 Million And Nearly 150 New Staff To “Advance Racial Equity And Support Underserved Communities.”** “In its 2022 budget request, the federal agency asked Congress for more than \$28 million and nearly 150 new staff to ‘advance racial equity and support underserved communities.’ ‘A program increase of \$20,052 thousand and 144 FTE to advance racial equity and support underserved communities,’ the budget said. ‘This request includes funding to address staffing needs across the agency and funds targeted recruitment activities to ensure a diverse pool of applicants to help increase the diversity of NARA’s workforce.’” (Casey Harper, “National Archives Goes Woke, Embraces Leftist Dei And Equity Training At Taxpayer Expense,” [Just The News](#), 9/9/23)

**NARA’s 2022 DEI Plan States The Agency Would “Demonstrate Leadership Commitment Through Developing A DEIA Recognition Program That Will Reinforce A Culture Of Equity And Inclusion.”** “On its website, the agency calls itself a ‘nonpartisan, independent’ group. A deep dive by The Center Square into its records show it has embraced ideology around gender and race and has reportedly been unwilling to hand over some records of President Joe Biden to investigators. ... Part of the record-keeping agency’s equity spending, which has been encouraged and in some cases mandated by Biden since he took office, include a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion action plan. NARA’s latest 2022 DEI plan pledges to double down on equity training for employees ‘to strengthen and foster an inclusive workforce.’ ‘NARA will demonstrate leadership commitment through developing a DEIA recognition program that will reinforce a culture of equity and inclusion,’ the plan says.” (Casey Harper, “National Archives Agency Embraces DEI, Federal Equity Trainings At Taxpayer Expense,” [The Center Square](#), 9/8/23)

## ***NARA Has Denied Having Any Political Bias***

**NARA’s Leadership Has Pushed Back Against The Idea That It Has Acted With Any Political Bias Or Motivation, Including In The Agency’s Role In Trump’s Indictment.** “Notably, that same agency worked to get classified documents back from both President Joe Biden and former Vice President Mike Pence, neither of whom were charged, though NARA did reportedly inform the DOJ about both. NARA leadership has rebuffed any claims of political bias or motivation, including in the agency’s role in Trump’s indictment. ‘The National Archives has been the focus of intense scrutiny for months, this week especially, with many people ascribing political motivation to our actions,’ Debra Steidel Wall, the acting archivist at the time, said in a memo to employees last year.” (Casey Harper, “National Archives Goes Woke, Embraces Leftist Dei And Equity Training At Taxpayer Expense,” [Just The News](#), 9/9/23)

- **In September 2022, During Her Nomination Hearing To Lead NARA, Colleen Shogan Committed to promoting transparency at the National Archives generally, And Said She Had Not Been Involved In The Records Dispute That Lead To The FBI Raid On Mar-a-Lago.** “President Joe Biden's nominee to lead the National Archives and Records Administration faced lawmakers Wednesday in an unusually contentious hearing for a position not typically involving political fanfare. During the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs hearing, Republican senators raised questions about the records dispute that resulted in the FBI raid of former President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate. Biden's pick to be the next chief archivist, Colleen Shogan, committed to promoting transparency at the National Archives generally, noting she was not involved in or briefed on the dispute.” (Quinn Owen, “Biden's Pick To Lead National Archives Faces Unusually Contentious Hearing,” [ABC News](#), 9/21/22)

**The National Archives And Records Administration (NARA) Is A “Non-Partisan, Independent” Agency.** “A closer look at the federal agency that sparked former President Donald Trump's first federal indictment shows that it has embraced far-left diversity, equity and inclusion policies. The little-known federal agency called the National Archives and Records Administration was thrust into the national spotlight after it tipped off the U.S. Department of Justice over Trump's alleged mishandling of classified documents. On its website, the agency calls itself a ‘nonpartisan, independent’ group. A deep dive by The Center Square into its records show it has embraced ideology around gender and race and has reportedly been unwilling to hand over some records of President Joe Biden to investigators.” (Casey Harper, “National Archives Goes Woke, Embraces Leftist Dei And Equity Training At Taxpayer Expense,” [Just The News](#), 9/9/23)