



Laura Belin &lt;laurarbelin@bleedingheartland.com&gt;

---

## public records request

---

**Treasurer [TOS]** <Treasurer@tos.iowa.gov>  
To: Laura Belin <laurarbelin@bleedingheartland.com>

Thu, Aug 22, 2024 at 3:29 PM

Good Afternoon,

The Iowa Department of Education and Iowa Department of Revenue have both posted fully remote positions on the State of Iowa Careers website.

Sincerely,

### **Molly M. Widen, JD | Chief of Staff**

Treasurer of State ▪ State Capitol Building

[1007 E Grand Ave.](#), First Floor ▪ Des Moines, Iowa 50319

[p] 515.281.6878 ▪ [w] [IowaTreasurer.gov](#)

---

**From:** Laura Belin <laurarbelin@bleedingheartland.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 19, 2024 8:29 PM  
**To:** Treasurer [TOS] <Treasurer@tos.iowa.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: public records request

Hello again Molly,

I forgot to ask one follow-up question from your earlier email. Which state agencies "have fully remote staff"?

Thanks,

Laura

On Mon, Aug 19, 2024 at 4:11 PM Treasurer [TOS] <[Treasurer@tos.iowa.gov](mailto:Treasurer@tos.iowa.gov)> wrote:

Good Afternoon,

Per my previous email, records related to Item #1, to the extent they exist, would be considered confidential pursuant to Iowa Code §22.7(50).

The office does not maintain a list of dates on which Treasurer Smith has worked out of his Capitol Office.

Sincerely,

**Molly M. Widen, JD | Chief of Staff**

Treasurer of State ▪ State Capitol Building

[1007 E Grand Ave.](#), First Floor ▪ Des Moines, Iowa 50319

[p] 515.281.6878 ▪ [w] [IowaTreasurer.gov](http://IowaTreasurer.gov)

---

**From:** Laura Belin <[laurarbelin@bleedingheartland.com](mailto:laurarbelin@bleedingheartland.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, August 16, 2024 2:56 PM

**To:** Treasurer [TOS] <[Treasurer@tos.iowa.gov](mailto:Treasurer@tos.iowa.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: public records request

Hello again Molly,

I'm still waiting for a list of dates on which Treasurer Smith has worked in the Des Moines office.

Or are you claiming your office does not possess any records showing when he was at the capitol?

Yours,

Laura

On Wed, Aug 7, 2024 at 3:25 PM Treasurer [TOS] <[Treasurer@tos.iowa.gov](mailto:Treasurer@tos.iowa.gov)> wrote:

Good Afternoon,

Our office required the assistance of other state agencies to produce the requested records, and their timelines were the cause for the delay.

The list included in your 8/2 email, is a list of times Treasurer Smith sought reimbursement and does not include travel from his home to the Capitol Building, or his return home. As State Treasurer, Treasurer Smith has not sought reimbursement for the purpose of traveling to his Capitol office. Therefore, the list below is not representative of the times Treasurer Smith has worked in his Capitol office.

The Treasurer's Office offers a flexible work from home policy to all of our employees. This practice can be found throughout state government, including some agencies that now have fully remote staff.

Sincerely,

**Molly M. Widen, JD | Chief of Staff**

Treasurer of State ▪ State Capitol Building

[1007 E Grand Ave.](#), First Floor ▪ Des Moines, Iowa 50319

[p] 515.281.6878 ▪ [w] [IowaTreasurer.gov](#)

---

**From:** Laura Belin <[laurarbelin@bleedingheartland.com](mailto:laurarbelin@bleedingheartland.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 7, 2024 8:35 AM

**To:** Treasurer [TOS] <[Treasurer@tos.iowa.gov](mailto:Treasurer@tos.iowa.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: public records request

Hello again Molly,

I am requesting an interview with Treasurer Smith (either by phone or in person) to discuss how often he works in the Des Moines office and how often he works from home in Davenport.

I am also seeking the following information from you, by 10 am on Friday, August 9:

1. How many other employees in the Treasurer's Office often work remotely?
2. Why did it take you three months to respond to my records request?

3. Do you maintain a calendar of Treasurer Smith's meetings, either in person or remotely?

4. On which dates has Treasurer Smith worked in Des Moines since January 2, 2023?

Thanks,

Laura

On Fri, Aug 2, 2024 at 9:39 AM Laura Belin <laurarbelin@bleedingheartland.com> wrote:

Hello again Molly,

Why did it take you three months to respond to my records request? The Iowa Supreme Court has said public records must be provided promptly unless the size or nature of the request makes that infeasible.

Are you telling me your office does not maintain any kind of calendar that indicates when Treasurer Smith will be working or has been working in the Des Moines office?

As chief of staff, you must have records indicating which days Treasurer Smith was working in Des Moines and which days he was working from home or other locations. I have never heard of a chief of staff who wasn't aware of the boss's location on any given day.

Based on the travel reimbursement forms you provided, it appears that Treasurer Smith has traveled to the Des Moines metro area on the following dates:

- several trips during November and December 2022 related to the transition
- February 17, 2023 (he traveled from the capitol to IPERS)
- March 21, 2023 (he traveled from the capitol to the FFA Enrichment Center in Ankeny)
- March 24, 2023 (investment board meetings)
- March 29, 2023 (Iowa Lottery quarterly meeting)
- May 24, 2023 (he traveled from the capitol to Children's Cancer Connection in Johnston)
- September 27 and 28, 2023 (IPERS and investment board meetings)
- December 7, 2023 (investment board meetings)

- March 22, 2024 (investment board meetings)
- some other dates in March 2024? (it appears he traveled from there to Ames and Ankeny)
- May 27, 2024 (Camp Dodge outreach event)
- June 20, 2024 (investment board meetings)

Has Treasurer Smith worked in the Des Moines office on any other dates since January 2, 2023? If so, on which dates? Most other state employees have been required to work in their offices since July 2021.

Thank you in advance for clarifying.

Yours,

Laura

On Wed, Jul 31, 2024 at 4:53 PM Laura Belin <laurarbelin@bleedingheartland.com> wrote:

Hello there,

Are you saying there are no paper or electronic calendars that note when Treasurer Smith has meetings or other work in Des Moines? Does the State Treasurer's office not maintain any calendars? That would be highly unusual.

Yours,

Laura

On Wed, Jul 31, 2024 at 4:40 PM Treasurer [TOS] <Treasurer@tos.iowa.gov> wrote:

Good Afternoon,

Records related to Item #1, to the extent they exist, would be considered confidential pursuant to Iowa Code §22.7(50).

Records related to Items #2 and #3 are attached.