

Op-Ed: Alaska to release Sarah Palin's emails on Friday

Posted Jun 7, 2011 by ■ [KJ Mullins](#)

Alaska is releasing Sarah Palin's emails from her time in office as governor on Friday but don't expect the bulk of them to appear online quickly. The state says they don't have the technology to make the documents available in electronic form.

On Friday 24,000 pages worth of emails from former Governor Sarah Palin through September 30, 2008 will be released. To obtain the documents you need to reside in Juneau or pay over \$1,000 in shipping costs.

However, MSNBC will be scanning the entire content and placing it online for free.

The documents were not to be available outside of Juneau to anyone until Senator Dennis Egan got involved in the matter when the Anchorage Daily News printed an editorial reports the [Juneau Empire](#).

“To insist that any citizen must go to Juneau to review state records is a slap in the face. It shows contempt for citizens and the law — and raises troubling questions about why the governor’s office is choosing to do so.”

Now documents will be provided to Egan and Representatives Mike Doogan and Berta Gardner of Anchorage. The documents will be delivered to their offices making it up to the lawmakers if they will share the information with the public.

The emails all relate to her administration and had been requested by reporters and activists. For those able to travel to the office of director of administration for the Alaska Governor Linda Perez there's no fee to look at the documentation.

Palin used private Yahoo email accounts with her staff, family and friends while in office. Since Governor Sean Parnell took office Alaska has required state business to be conducted on state computers when at all possible.

Political activist Andree McLeod had requested that the state of Alaska make the documents free-to-view online or make the documents available in Anchorage but was turned down. [ADN.com](#) reports the email exchange:

“You have transferred more positions from Juneau to Anchorage than other governors, not counting Sarah. For all intent and purposes, you occupy the Anchorage office as much as the Juneau one... Am I to understand that when it's convenient for you and your staff, the Anchorage office becomes a viable extension of your Juneau office, except when it serves the public re: the review of these emails as stated in the Public Records Act?,” McLeod wrote to Governor Sean Parnell.

The reply:



by sskennel
Sarah Palin in Dover, NH

“If you want to receive the records in Anchorage, you will need to pay the duplication fee of \$725.97 and the shipping costs. I understand that WPX courier will deliver the set of 5 boxes to Anchorage overnight for \$543.73 or a 2nd day delivery for \$443.73,” Gov. Sean Parnell’s administrative director, Linda Perez, wrote to McLeod in response to her request.

There are plans for a [joint effort](#) by Mother Jones, msnbc.com and the ProPublica non-profit journalism organization to get the documents online and for them to be searchable.

Some of the emails will have portions omitted from them according to sources.

The usually outspoken Palin has yet to comment this week on her Twitter account about the release of the emails. [Palin](#) has been in the news this week about her take on the story of Paul Revere. Is it possible that the media coverage of that story was a well planned attempt to divert focus of the release of the emails?