

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 6, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

We write to commend your commitment to declassify all remaining government records related to the tragic assassination of President John F. Kennedy (JFK) on November 22, 1963, as well as records relating to the assassinations of Robert F. Kennedy (RFK) and Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK), both of whom were killed in 1968. We appreciate your January 23, 2025 Executive Order, "Declassification of Records Concerning the Assassinations of President John F. Kennedy, Senator Robert F. Kennedy, and the Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King Jr." and your pledge to bring transparency to these pivotal moments in our nation's history.

As your order notes, the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection of 1992, also known as the "JFK Act," required public release of the archive. It gave federal agencies a twenty-five-year timeline to process and release the documents, if not subject to an exemption, by October 26, 2017. Despite several extensions, many documents remain secret. Thirty years after the passage of the JFK Act and seven years after the statutory deadline, it is deeply frustrating that the public cannot access the complete set. We appreciate your recent move to rectify that situation.

President Kennedy's assassination has always been the subject of conspiracy theories. The governmental secrecy and recent delay in the publication of the documents only perpetuates this type of thinking. As your Administration prepares a plan for the release of the JFK Archive, we recommend you include the following components:

1. Direct all other federal agencies, including the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the State Department, the Department of Defense (DoD), and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), to review materials in their possession and to transmit any and all remaining records related to the assassination of President Kennedy to the Archivist of the United States.
2. Direct the Archivist of the United States to remove all redactions from the documents in "The President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection" within 90 days.
3. Rescind the current Transparency Plan for the Kennedy assassination documents, which resulted in continued stonewalling by federal agencies like the CIA.

4. Direct the Archivist of the United States to utilize available resources at the National Archives to collect, compile, and prepare the records for public release within 120 days.
5. Direct Archivist of the United States to utilize available resources at the National Archives to uniformly digitize all records relating to the JFK Assassination for public release within 120 days.
6. Direct the Archivist of the United States and the National Archives to release, in full, without redactions, all documents relating to the assassination of JFK to the American people within 120 days.
7. Assign a senior White House staff member to monitor the process and ensure compliance with and full implementation of the disclosure plan.
8. Establish an independent oversight board to ensure agency compliance.
9. Direct the Archivist of the United States to request the release of the Deed of Gift material and solicit any other known assignation-related materials in private collections, which were excluded from the original JFK Act in 1993, to be included in the official "The President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection."

We believe the principles and structure of the JFK Act may be instructive and serve as a model for the RFK and MLK documents. In those disclosure plans, we recommend you centralize the collections at the National Archives and create expert oversight boards, as well.

The release of these documents will be a landmark contribution to government transparency and provide an invaluable resource for the public, historians, and researchers to access the information that has remained hidden for far too long.

We believe this step is crucial for preserving our nation's history and, hopefully, will bring closure to some of the most debated and consequential events in modern American history.

Thank you again for your commitment to releasing these documents and for continuing to advance the cause of transparency.

We look forward to working with you to make this important initiative a reality.

Sincerely,



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Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



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David Schweikert  
Member of Congress



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Tim Burchett  
Member of Congress



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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress