


# The Clintons set up a private email server in 2008 when government employees were allowed to use a private email

## Timeline of the Clinton email scandal

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- 2008 ○ **Eric Hoteham registers a private server for “clintonemail.com”**  
The name “Eric Hoteham” is presumably a misspelling of Eric Hothem, a former Clinton aide. An Eric Hothem is now listed as an employee at JP Morgan in Washington, D.C.
- 2009 ○ **Government employees are allowed to use private emails for government work**  
However, this practice is strongly discouraged. If using a private email, “the agency must ensure that federal records sent or received on such systems are preserved in the appropriate agency record-keeping system.” Questions remain about what the National Archives considers an “appropriate agency record-keeping system” and if they believe Clinton, who did not hand over any emails until 2014, was in compliance with it.
- Jan. 13, 2009 ○ **Hillary Clinton’s email is set up as hdr22@clintonemail.com**  
The domain clintonemail.com is registered in the name of longtime advisor to former President Bill Clinton, Justin Cooper.
- Jan. 21, 2009 ○ **Clinton is confirmed by the U.S. Senate as President Obama’s secretary of state**
- 2012 ○ **Clinton was not the only State Department official to use a private email, but it appears someone else was reprimanded for doing so**  
As part of a 2012 report by the Office of the Inspector General, the then-Ambassador to Kenya Scott Gration was reprimanded for using private email and other issues. The report suggested his “use of commercial email for official government business” amounted to a failure to “adhere to department regulations and government information security standards.”
- Feb. 1, 2013 ○ **Clinton leaves the State Department**

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# Hillary Clinton did not hand over private emails until a House investigation committee requested them in 2014

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- March 20, 2013 ○ **'Guccifer' hacks into a Clinton advisor's email account and makes Clinton's private email public**  
Clinton's private email address, [hdr22@clintonemail.com](mailto:hdr22@clintonemail.com), is made public when a Romanian hacker named 'Guccifer' (whose real name is Marcel Lazăr Lehel) hacks into longtime Clinton adviser Sidney Blumenthal's AOL email account and leaks images of his inbox—including emails from Clinton.
- June 2013 ○ **The Clinton team shifts control of the email domain to an outside IT contractor**  
The domain is shifted to a Denver IT contractor named Platte River Networks, and sends the original server hardware to a datacenter facility in New Jersey, where it is erased.
- Sept. 9, 2013 ○ **National Archives updates their guidelines on private emails**  
The National Archives updated their [guidelines](#) to say that agency employees should generally only use personal email accounts in “emergency situations.” If an employee does use a personal account, all of the emails must be preserved in “accordance with agency record-keeping practices.”
- August, 2014 ○ **State Dept. officials negotiate with Clinton's lawyers**  
The decision to ask Mrs. Clinton for her emails went all the way to Secretary of State John Kerry's chief of staff, who, along with officials working on the response to the Benghazi requests, signed off on it. Beginning in August, senior State Department officials held negotiations with Mrs. Clinton's lawyers and advisers to gain access to her personal email records. At one point, her advisers met face-to-face with department officials in Washington.
- Aug. 11, 2014 ○ **State Dept. hands over a small number of Clinton's private emails to a House committee investigating Benghazi**  
Following a congressional subpoena and more than a year of delays, the State Department hands over a small number of Clinton's private emails, 10 in all, to a House committee investigating the 2012 terror attack on a State Department compound in Benghazi, Libya — including some emails from the [hdr22@clintonemail.com](mailto:hdr22@clintonemail.com) address.

Sources: Liz Kreutz, Shushannah Walshe, Meghan Keneally, “A timeline of Hillary Clinton's email saga,” ABC News, October 28, 2016; Donovan Slack, Eliza Collins, “How we got here: A timeline of the Clinton email scandal,” USA Today, October 29, 2016; “FBI probe of Clinton's server could show other email accounts, security levels and even hacker intrusions,” The Daily Mail, August 2015; Michael Schmidt, “Hillary Clinton asks State Department to vet emails for release,” NY Times, March 5, 2015.

# After Clinton stepped down as secretary of state, the State Department tightened regulation of official email use

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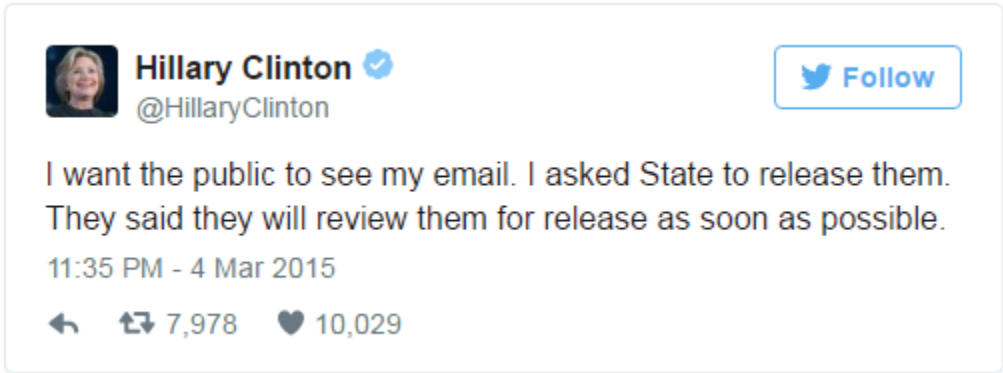
- Nov. 2014 ○ **The Benghazi committee asks the State Dept. for a larger batch of Clinton's emails**  
The committee receives about 300 emails that relate to the events in Libya, amounting to 850 printed pages.
- Nov. 26, 2014 ○ **President Obama signs the Presidential and Federal Records Act Amendments into law**  
President Obama signed the Federal Records Act, requiring the head of each agency to "make and preserve records containing adequate and proper documentation of the organization, functions, policies, decisions, procedures and essential transactions of the agency."
- Dec. 5, 2014 ○ **50,000 pages of printed emails from Clinton's personal account were delivered to the State Dept.**  
The documents comprising 30,490 messages were examined by department lawyers, who found roughly 900 pages pertaining to the Benghazi attacks.
- Feb. 13, 2015 ○ **The State Dept. provides more emails to the Congressional investigation**  
The State Department sends the Benghazi committee another 850 pages of Clinton's emails, including some from two different accounts on the private 'clintonemail.com' server
- Feb. 27, 2015 ○ **State Dept. staffers testify before the House Benghazi committee**  
State Department staffers tell Benghazi committee aides that Clinton had used her private address exclusively during her tenure at the agency, and that they don't have any of her emails other than those she provided voluntarily
- March 3, 2015 ○ **New York Times breaks the news to the public that Clinton has been using a private email server**  
Clinton's use of a private email address did not become public knowledge until the New York Times reported on it Tuesday, March 3. Clinton's team insisted she acted in the spirit of the laws governing email use. The Associated Press reports that it has traced Clinton's private email address back to a private server at her Chappaqua, New York home, and that the server was registered under a fake name.

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# When the story broke that Clinton used a private server, she asked that the State Department release all her emails

## Timeline of the Clinton email scandal

March 4, 2015 After growing pressure, Clinton asks the State Dept. to release her emails



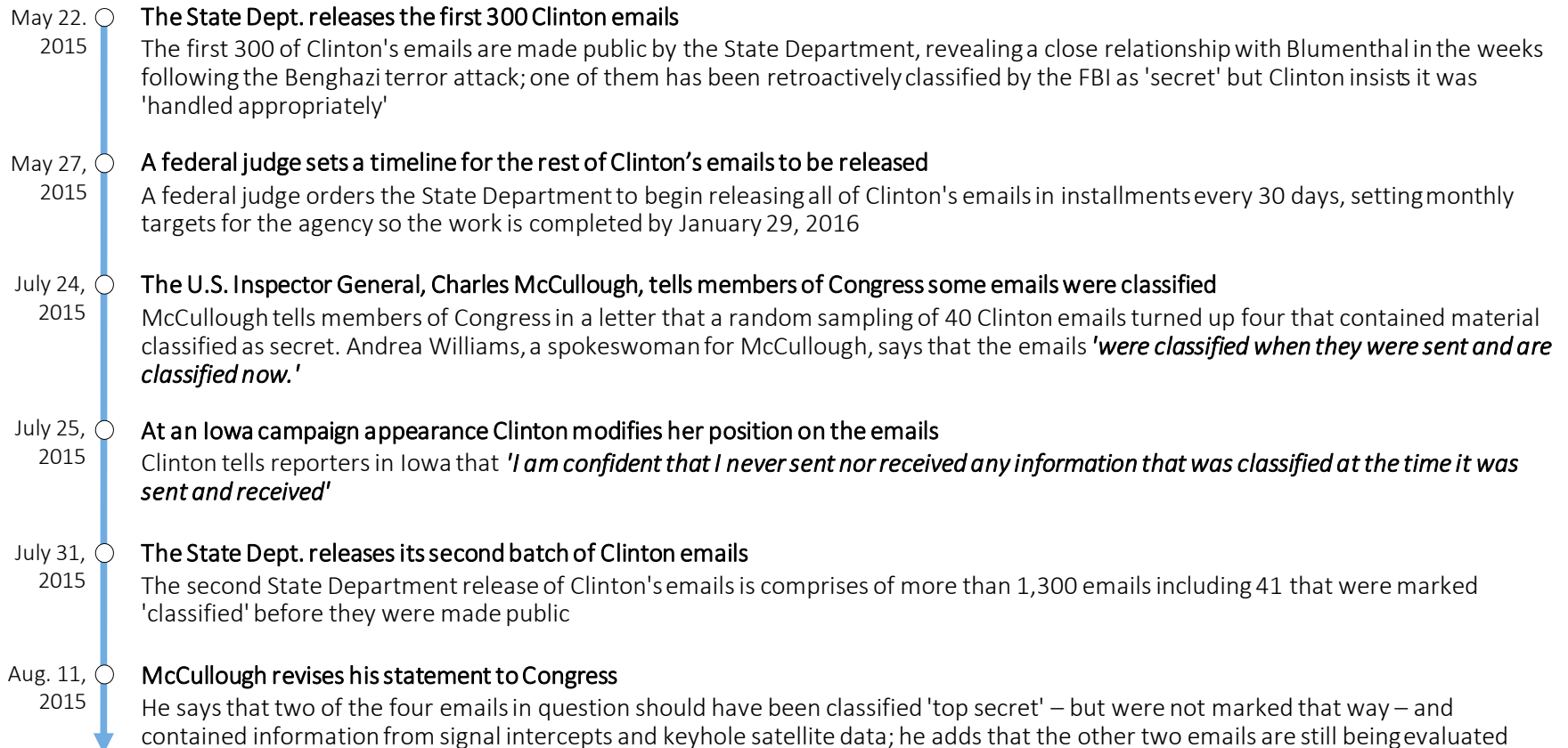
March 10, 2015 Clinton says she handed over all work emails  
In a contentious press conference following a speech at the United Nations, Clinton admits that she deleted more than 30,000 emails that she says were personal in nature, and says she turned over everything work-related to the State Department, while insisting that **'I did not email any classified material to anyone on my email; there is no classified material.'**

April 12, 2015 Clinton launches her presidential campaign  
Clinton launches her second presidential campaign with an online video and begins two months of low-key campaigning marked by a lack of interaction with reporters.

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# Over several weeks in 2015 and 2016, the State Department reviewed and released emails from Clinton's private server

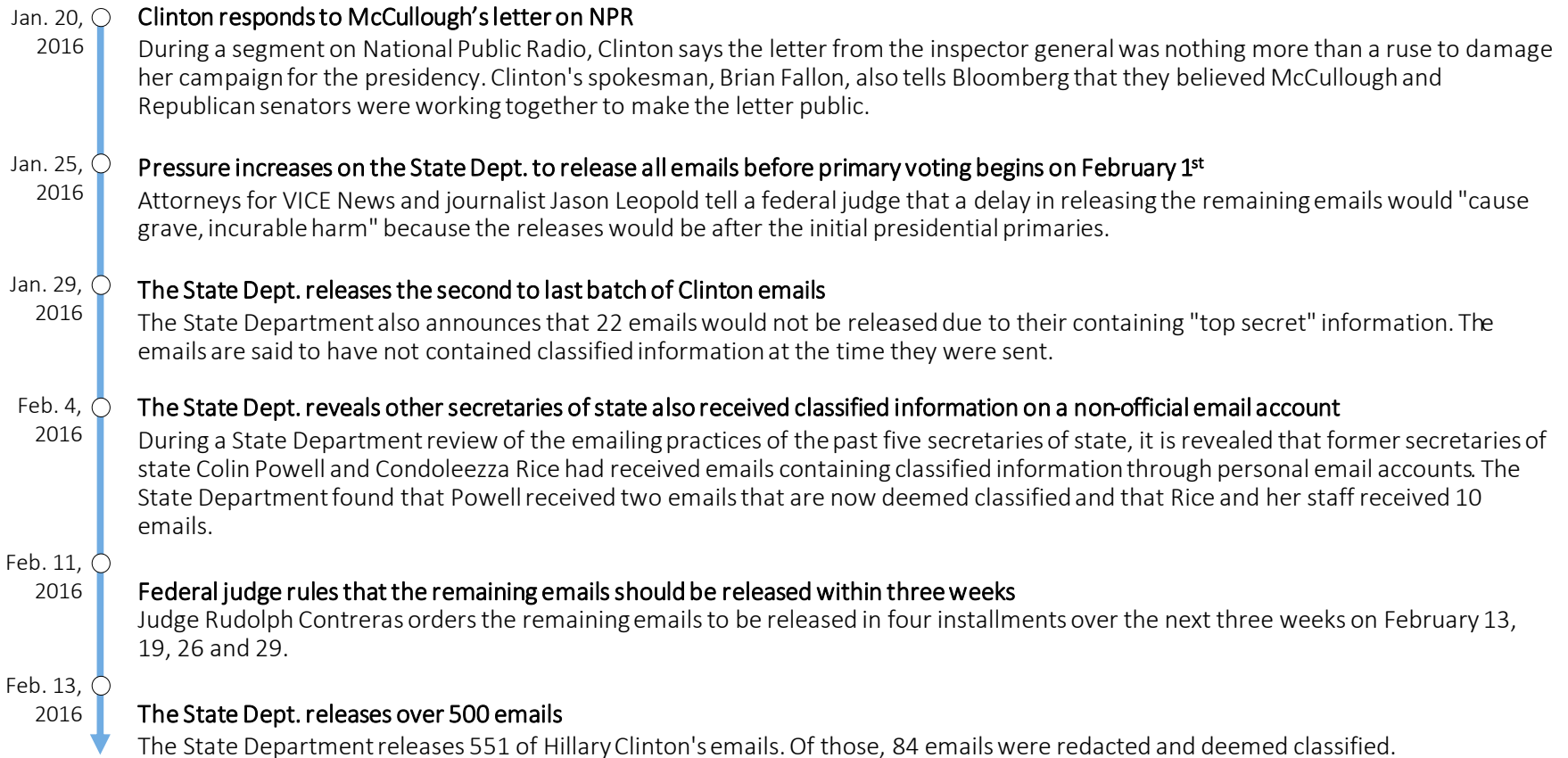
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- May 22, 2015** **The State Dept. releases the first 300 Clinton emails**  
The first 300 of Clinton's emails are made public by the State Department, revealing a close relationship with Blumenthal in the weeks following the Benghazi terror attack; one of them has been retroactively classified by the FBI as 'secret' but Clinton insists it was 'handled appropriately'
  - May 27, 2015** **A federal judge sets a timeline for the rest of Clinton's emails to be released**  
A federal judge orders the State Department to begin releasing all of Clinton's emails in installments every 30 days, setting monthly targets for the agency so the work is completed by January 29, 2016
  - July 24, 2015** **The U.S. Inspector General, Charles McCullough, tells members of Congress some emails were classified**  
McCullough tells members of Congress in a letter that a random sampling of 40 Clinton emails turned up four that contained material classified as secret. Andrea Williams, a spokeswoman for McCullough, says that the emails *'were classified when they were sent and are classified now.'*
  - July 25, 2015** **At an Iowa campaign appearance Clinton modifies her position on the emails**  
Clinton tells reporters in Iowa that *'I am confident that I never sent nor received any information that was classified at the time it was sent and received'*
  - July 31, 2015** **The State Dept. releases its second batch of Clinton emails**  
The second State Department release of Clinton's emails is comprised of more than 1,300 emails including 41 that were marked 'classified' before they were made public
  - Aug. 11, 2015** **McCullough revises his statement to Congress**  
He says that two of the four emails in question should have been classified 'top secret' – but were not marked that way – and contained information from signal intercepts and keyhole satellite data; he adds that the other two emails are still being evaluated

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# Clinton is not the only secretary of state to use a private email account

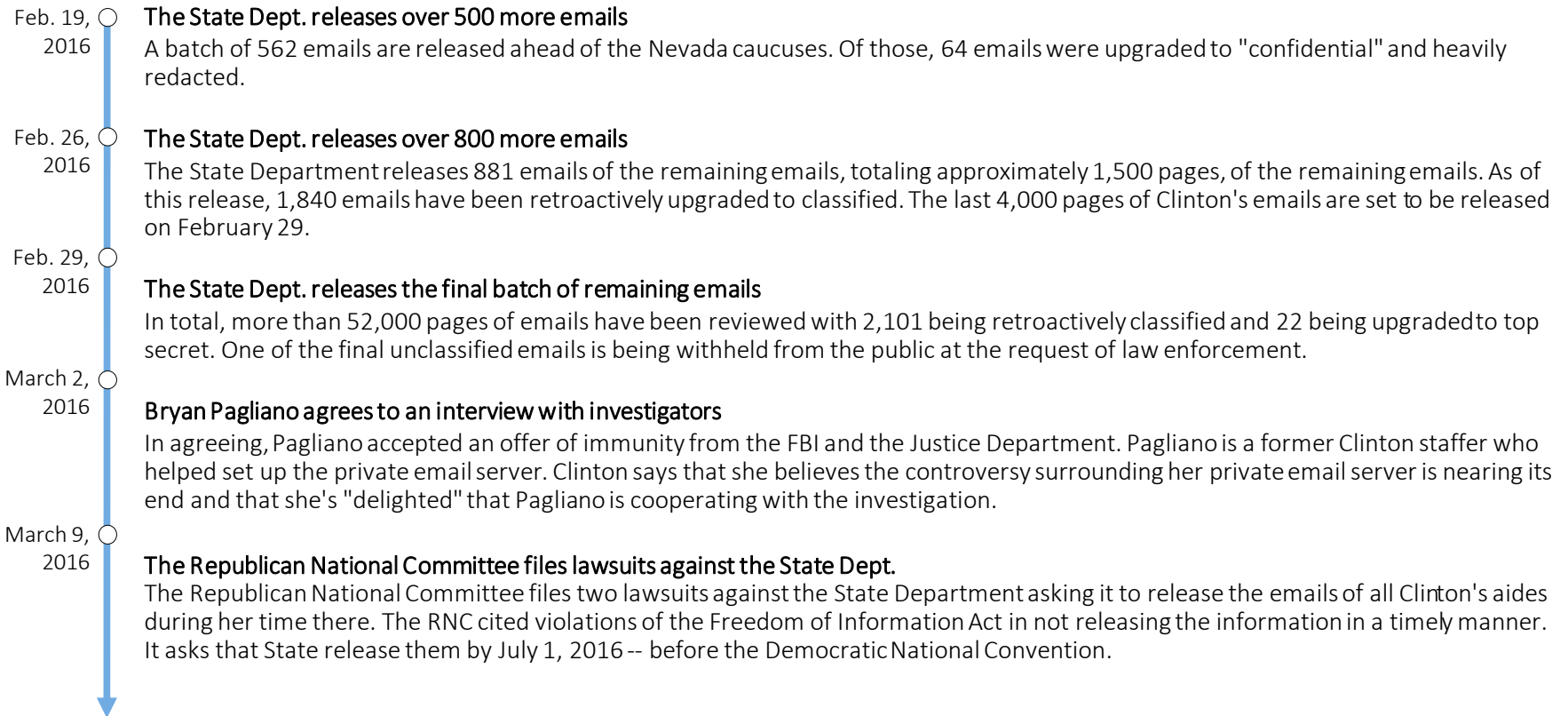
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- Jan. 20, 2016 **Clinton responds to McCullough's letter on NPR**  
During a segment on National Public Radio, Clinton says the letter from the inspector general was nothing more than a ruse to damage her campaign for the presidency. Clinton's spokesman, Brian Fallon, also tells Bloomberg that they believed McCullough and Republican senators were working together to make the letter public.
- Jan. 25, 2016 **Pressure increases on the State Dept. to release all emails before primary voting begins on February 1<sup>st</sup>**  
Attorneys for VICE News and journalist Jason Leopold tell a federal judge that a delay in releasing the remaining emails would "cause grave, incurable harm" because the releases would be after the initial presidential primaries.
- Jan. 29, 2016 **The State Dept. releases the second to last batch of Clinton emails**  
The State Department also announces that 22 emails would not be released due to their containing "top secret" information. The emails are said to have not contained classified information at the time they were sent.
- Feb. 4, 2016 **The State Dept. reveals other secretaries of state also received classified information on a non-official email account**  
During a State Department review of the emailing practices of the past five secretaries of state, it is revealed that former secretaries of state Colin Powell and Condoleezza Rice had received emails containing classified information through personal email accounts. The State Department found that Powell received two emails that are now deemed classified and that Rice and her staff received 10 emails.
- Feb. 11, 2016 **Federal judge rules that the remaining emails should be released within three weeks**  
Judge Rudolph Contreras orders the remaining emails to be released in four installments over the next three weeks on February 13, 19, 26 and 29.
- Feb. 13, 2016 **The State Dept. releases over 500 emails**  
The State Department releases 551 of Hillary Clinton's emails. Of those, 84 emails were redacted and deemed classified.

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# Clinton aide Bryan Pagliano receives immunity in exchange for agreeing to an interview with investigators


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# President Obama stood by Hillary Clinton throughout the email investigation

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- March 10, 2016** **A group of Democratic senators send a letter expressing concerns about the impartiality of the email investigation**  
In a letter addressed to the Inspector General of National Intelligence Charles McCullough II and Inspector General of the Department of State Steve Linick, a group of Democratic senators express concerns about the impartiality of the investigations into Clinton's email server.
  - April 10, 2016** **Obama defends Clinton in a Fox News interview**  
However, he guaranteed he would not interfere with the ongoing investigation.
  - May 4, 2016** **Federal judge approves proposal to take depositions from State Dept. officials**  
Judge Emmet G. Sullivan approves a proposal by Judicial Watch and the State Department to take depositions from current and former State Department officials. Some of the officials included in the depositions are former State Department chief of staff Cheryl D. Mills, Abedin and Pagliano.
  - May 25, 2016** **State Dept. inspector general report stays Clinton failed to follow the rules on her use of a private email server**  
The report says Clinton failed to follow the rules or inform key department staff regarding her use of a private email server, according to a copy of the report obtained by CNN. The report states: "At a minimum, Secretary Clinton should have surrendered all emails dealing with Department business before leaving government service and, because she did not do so, she did not comply with the Department's policies that were implemented in accordance with the Federal Records Act."
  - June 1, 2016** **State Dept. lawyers argue it would take 75 years to release all the records from former Clinton aides Mills and Sullivan**  
State Department lawyers argue that it would take 75 years to release all of the 450,000 pages of records for former Clinton aides Mills and Jacob Sullivan and top State Department official Patrick Kennedy.  
"Given the Department's current FOIA workload and the complexity of these documents, it can process about 500 pages a month, meaning it would take approximately 16-and-2/3 years to complete the review of the Mills documents, 33-and-1/3 years to finish the review of the Sullivan documents, and 25 years to wrap up the review of the Kennedy documents-- or 75 years in total."

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# Pagliano pleads the fifth over 100 times during his deposition


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- June 6, 2016 **Bryan Pagliano postpones his deposition**  
The lawyer for Pagliano, former State Department IT specialist, tells a federal judge his client's immunity deal with the Department of Justice does not cover testimony in civil lawsuits and he will refuse to answer questions at an upcoming deposition. Pagliano's deposition is postponed.
- June 19, 2016 **Attorney General Loretta Lynch says the Clinton investigation is being treated the same as any other**  
"The investigation into the State Department email matter is going to be handled like any other matter. We've got career agents and lawyers looking at that. They will follow the facts and follow the evidence wherever it leads and come to a conclusion," she states during an interview with "Fox News Sunday."
- June 21, 2016 **Huma Abedin's deposition reveals issues with Clinton's private server**  
Clinton's personal email set-up caused extensive troubles inside the State Department, including her own messages to top staffers getting lost in spam filters, according to a new deposition from Abedin.
- June 22, 2016 **Bryan Pagliano pleads the fifth**  
A spokeswoman for Judicial Watch says that during Pagliano's deposition, he invoked the 5th Amendment approximately 125 consecutive times.
- July 1, 2016 **After she was seen chatting with Bill Clinton, Attorney General Loretta Lynch says she will accept the FBI's conclusion**  
As reported by CNN, "Lynch and Bill Clinton met privately in Phoenix after the two realized they were on the same tarmac ... The meeting is raising questions about whether the independence of the Justice Department, which is conducting an investigation of Hillary Clinton's private email server, might have been compromised."  
According to a Justice Department official, Lynch will accept the "determinations and findings" of the FBI and career prosecutors who are investigating Clinton's use of a private email server while she was secretary of state.

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# FBI Director James Comey says he would not recommend charges against Clinton


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- July 2, 2016 ○ Clinton meets with the FBI for a three and a half hour interview
  - July 5, 2016 ○ FBI Director James Comey states he would not recommend charges against Clinton  
However, Comey does note that Clinton and her aides were "extremely careless" about handling classified information.
  - Aug. 9, 2016 ○ Judicial Watch releases 296 pages of Clinton emails  
The release included 44 emails that Judicial Watch says were not previously handed over to the State Department. The emails raise questions about the connection between the Clinton Foundation and the State Department during her time as secretary of state.
  - Aug. 15, 2016 ○ The State Dept. agrees to turn over all official emails sent or received by Clinton from her private server to Judicial Watch
  - Aug. 18, 2016 ○ NY Times reveals Clinton told the FBI that Colin Powell recommended she use a private email server while secretary of state  
In emails later leaked on DCLeaks.com, Powell appears unhappy that Clinton "dragged" him into her email problem and actually warns her about the pitfalls of using a private server.
  - Sept. 2, 2016 ○ The FBI releases its report on the Clinton email investigation
  - Sept. 13, 2016 ○ Bryan Pagliano refuses to testify before the House Oversight Committee  
Pagliano was involved in setting up and maintaining Clinton's private email server.
  - Sept. 22, 2016 ○ Members of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee vote to hold Pagliano in contempt

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# 11 days before the presidential election, Comey announces the FBI is reopening its investigation into Clinton's emails

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- Sept. 23, 2016 ○ **FBI releases 200 pages of notes from its investigation and it is revealed that Cheryl Mills was given a limited immunity deal**  
Mills, Clinton's chief of staff and adviser at the State Department, was given a limited immunity deal by the FBI during its investigation of Clinton's private email server.
- Oct. 28, 2016 ○ **FBI Director James Comey announces the FBI is reopening its investigation into Clinton's private email**  
Comey says the FBI is reviewing new emails related to Clinton's time as secretary of state, according to a letter sent to eight congressional committee chairmen.  
Comey writes, "Although the FBI cannot yet assess whether or not this material may be significant, and I cannot predict how long it will take us to complete this additional work, I believe it is important to update your Committees about our efforts in light of my previous testimony."
- Oct. 29, 2016 ○ **The media, the Obama administration, the Trump campaign and the Clinton campaign react to Comey's letter**
- The Trump campaign praises Comey's decision to renew the investigation
  - Clinton's campaign criticizes Comey for commenting on an ongoing investigation so close to the election and asks that the FBI be more transparent about what exactly is causing them to reopen a concluded investigation
  - Some Democrats, including Sen. Harry Reid (NV), accuse Comey of violating the Hatch Act
  - The Obama administration says it neither defends nor criticizes Comey's actions
  - The media reports that FBI sources say the investigation of Anthony Weiner uncovered emails in devices owned by Clinton aide Huma Abedin and her estranged husband, Anthony Weiner, that pertained to the Clinton investigation
- Nov. 6, 2016 ○ **James Comey closes the investigation again with the same conclusion that Clinton *did not* commit any criminal offense**

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