

Q and A

About the TIP/Peopletrail Background Check

1. What is and what is NOT included in the background check for Certification by Transparency In Politics?

What IS included:

- Current Address
- Counties of Residence for several decades
- Criminal records check
Typically, Peopletrail will find felonies, misdemeanors, citations, and other types of cases found in the county, state or federal courts. If it is a public record in the court system, Peopletrail will typically find it. Remember that there are thousands of different courts in the United States and Peopletrail tries to create the most effective way to sift through mountains of data to find these records.
- Previous two employers
- Two highest levels of education
- Military service check (applies to everyone)
- Professional license verification (if applicable)

What is NOT included:

- Street numbers of addresses
- Phone numbers
- Credit check
- Credit score
- Interviews with employers, co-workers, neighbors, etc.
- Social media review (NOTE: Peopletrail is able to provide a “social media check” as a bonus for TIP Certification, but this report will not be shared with TIP or the public.

2. What counties does the check cover?

- Current county of residence
- For Nevada residents, Clark County regardless of current residency
- All counties where the candidate has resided during the past 7 years.

3. How far back does the criminal check go?

Generally, the background check will not go back more than 10 years, unless there was a very serious charge or conviction more than 10 years ago. Courts often purge information after 7 years; however, most courts retain and still have the full history of records in their systems, depending on their own criteria as to how far back the records are kept.

4. Does it include pending cases?

It will show pending cases and will report them.

5. Does it include cases that were dismissed?

Yes, in many courts, Peopletrail will find cases that were dismissed.

6. What will the military verification include?

Dates of services and the type of discharge from service.

7. Will all aliases be included?

The National Database process will include all alias names. We will NOT include those names on the final report.

8. What if there are errors in the report?

The candidate will have the opportunity to resolve this with Peopletrail. If it cannot be resolved, the candidate has two options:

- a. Choose not to share the report publicly. In addition, Transparency In Politics, LLC (TIP) is NOT permitted to disclose the names of candidates who order the reports until the report is shared publicly. TIP is committed to this and bound by the contract with Peopletrail; this provision is also contained in the contract between TIP and the candidate.
- b. Add a note in the comments field about the item on the report that will be posted and proceed with posting the report.

9. Is Transparency In Politics responsible for errors in the candidate’s report?

NO. It is up to the candidate to work with Peopletrail to ensure the accuracy of the information in the report. The candidate must authorize the release of the report to the public- it is the candidate's responsibility to find any errors and bring them to the attention of Peopletrail. TIP is simply a platform to host the background check. TIP makes no edits or comments. TIP is NONPARTISAN.

10. Are there any additional charges that might be imposed due to court access fees, or additional verifications?

Court access fees: Yes, that is possible. The TIP fee includes one professional license verification. Courts may also impose fees to access records. This is impossible to predict prior to the background check being implemented.

Most counties do NOT charge a court access fee. If there is a fee, it is usually under \$25. However, if the candidate lived in New York state during the past 7 years, expect to be charged an additional \$99. Neither TIP nor Peopletrail has any control over such fees, and they are passed through to the candidate.

Professional License Verification: The fee for additional license verification is \$9 for each verification after the initial verification.

If additional fees are imposed by reporting agencies, TIP/Peopletrail will notify the candidate right away. All fees must be paid before the report is posted on the TIP site.

11. Will Transparency In Politics (TIP) have access to my personal information and/or my background check report?

Transparency In Politics will never have access to the candidate's personal information, such as birthdate, social security number, or driver's license number, and will not see the application the candidate submits to Peopletrail. TIP will only see what the candidate shares publicly. The only information TIP will know about the candidate is that the fact of ordering the background check and information about payment through our secure system. By our contract with Peopletrail, TIP is not permitted to disclose that information to anyone.

MORE QUESTIONS? Call Peopletrail, 801-307-4100.