



Written by [C. Mitchell Shaw](#) on November 2, 2016

Podesta in Leaked E-mail: “Dump All Those Emails”

In a recently published batch of the “Podesta e-mails” posted online by WikiLeaks, Hillary Clinton’s campaign chairman, John Podesta (shown) told Team Clinton, “we are going to have to dump all those emails.” He added, “better to do so sooner than later.” This was two days before the House Select Committee on Benghazi sent Clinton a subpoena. It was the same day the *New York Times* broke the story on Clinton’s use of a private e-mail server.



{emailcloak=off}

On March 2, 2015 — before Hillary Clinton was the media-anointed candidate presumptive — the *New York Times* [revealed](#) to the world what many inside the D.C. beltway had known all along:

Hillary Rodham Clinton exclusively used a personal email account to conduct government business as secretary of state, State Department officials said, and may have violated federal requirements that officials’ correspondence be retained as part of the agency’s record.

Mrs. Clinton did not have a government email address during her four-year tenure at the State Department. Her aides took no actions to have her personal emails preserved on department servers at the time, as required by the Federal Records Act.

The Clinton campaign immediately set into motion a plan to do more to protect Clinton from her actions than she had done to protect the security of classified documents to which she had been privy as secretary of state. At 10:57 p.m. that night, John Podesta replied to an e-mail from Cheryl Mills. He wrote, “On another matter....and not to sound like Lanny, but we are going to have to dump all those emails so better to do so sooner than later.” It appears Podesta wanted to get out in front of any “official” action on the part of those with the authority to demand answers.

Here is that [e-mail](#):

From: cheryl.mills@gmail.com

To: john.podesta@gmail.com

Date: 2015-03-03 02:11

Subject: Re: Fwd: Shelly

think you just got your new nick name ☐

On Mon, Mar 2, 2015 at 10:57 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com>; wrote:

On another matter....and not to sound like Lanny, but we are going to have to dump all those emails so better to do so sooner than later

The “Lanny” to whom Podesta referred (and *for* whom Mills would like to “nickname” Podesta) could be Lanny Davis, special counsel to President Bill Clinton, who had just days after this exchange committed Hillary “to a private review of her hard drive.” On March 8, 2015, Podesta received an e-mail from Robby Mook, campaign manager for Hillary Clinton, in which Mook expressed his frustration with Lanny Davis.

Here is that [e-mail](#):

From: robbymook2015@gmail.com

john.podesta@gmail.com

Date: 2015-03-08 15:49

Subject: Fwd: Lanny Davis

We gotta zap Lanny out of our universe. Can’t believe he committed her to a private review of her hard drive on TV.

On March 4, 2015, two days after the e-mail in which Podesta wrote, “we are going to have to dump all those emails so better to do so sooner than later,” the House Select Committee on Benghazi subpoenaed Clinton demanding “any and all documents and



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communications in your possession, and/or sent from or received by the email addresses [sic] 'hdr22@clintonmail.com,' 'hrod17@clintonmail.com,' or any other email address [sic] or communications device used by you or another on your behalf, referring or relating to" the committee's investigation into Benghazi. The subpoena specifically demanded all such "communications" "for the time period of January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2012."

Clinton — in a possible move to buy more time to "dump all those emails" — falsely claimed that she had not been subpoenaed. The committee responded by making the subpoena public. Committee Chairman Trey Gowdy wrote, "I would not make this [subpoena] public now, but after Secretary Clinton falsely claimed the committee did not subpoena her, I have no choice in order to correct the inaccuracy." The [press release](#), dated July 18, 2015 says, in part:

"The committee has issued several subpoenas, but I have not sought to make them public," said committee Chairman Trey Gowdy. "I would not make this one public now, but after Secretary Clinton falsely claimed the committee did not subpoena her, I have no choice in order to correct the inaccuracy. The committee immediately subpoenaed Clinton personally after learning the full extent of her unusual email arrangement with herself, and would have done so earlier if the State Department or Clinton had been forthcoming that State did not maintain custody of her records and only Secretary Clinton herself had her records when Congress first requested them."

"The fact remains, despite when this subpoena was issued, Secretary Clinton had a statutory duty to preserve records from her entire time in office, and she had a legal duty to cooperate with and tell the truth to congressional investigators requesting her records going back to September of 2012. Yet despite direct congressional inquiry, she refused to inform the public of her unusual email arrangement. This information only came to light because of a Select Committee request, not a voluntary decision to turn over records almost two years after leaving office, records which always should have been in State's custody."

"Moreover, the timing of the Secretary's decision to delete and attempt to permanently destroy emails is curious at best. The Secretary left office in February of 2013. By her own admission she did not delete or destroy emails until the fall of 2014, well after this Committee had been actively engaged in securing her emails from the Department of State. For 20 months, it was not too burdensome or cumbersome for the Secretary to house records on her personal server but mysteriously in the fall of 2014 she decided to delete and attempt to permanently destroy those same records."

The press release contains a link to the [actual subpoena](#).

As the press release makes clear, "By her own admission" Hillary Clinton "did not delete or destroy emails until the fall of 2014." What is left unclear is this: If those e-mails had already been deleted (as she claimed), then what e-mails was Podesta referring to when he said they were "going to have to dump" them "sooner" rather than "later"? And if the e-mails had been deleted in 2014, why did Hillary have her server wiped using BleachBit before turning it over to investigators?

It is hopeful that two things will happen following this most recent disclosure. The first is that this will find its way into the newly reopened investigation into Clinton's use of the private, unsecured server. The second is that WikiLeaks will release additional pieces of the puzzle to clarify what is still unclear.

With less than a week left until the election, it is likely to be an exciting few days.

Photo of John Podesta: AP Images



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