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RALEIGH, (SGRToday.com) - In a sign the 2016 gubernatorial campaign is underway, the state Republican Party has filed a public records request with Attorney General Roy Cooper's office.

" We are demanding that the Attorney General release official documents, emails, texts, opinions and other correspondences relating to his 14 years in office as attorney general, dating back to 2001 when Mike Easley was in office, " said executive director Todd Poole in a news release.

Cooper, a Democrat, is expected to challenge Republican Pat McCrory for the state's top job next year. Although Cooper has not officially declared himself a candidate, he regularly speaks out on issues.

Poole says his party is trying to " hold Roy Cooper accountable for his 14 years as attorney general. "

Cooper was the main speaker at the annual North Carolina Open Government Coalition's "Sunshine Day" event, which is dedicated to transparency in government.