

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 26, 2026

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave SE
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Howard Lutnick
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

The Honorable Bill Pulte
Acting Director of National Intelligence
Office of the Director of National
Intelligence
Washington, DC 20511

The Honorable Frank J. Bisignano
Commissioner
U.S. Social Security Administration
6401 Security Blvd,
Woodlawn, MD 21207

The Honorable Pete Hegseth
Secretary of Defense
Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301
1000 Defense Pentagon

The Honorable Brendan Carr
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
45 L St NE
Washington, DC 20554

The Honorable Todd Blanche
Acting Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, DC 20535

David Steiner
Postmaster General
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, D.C. 20260

The Honorable Kash Patel
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, DC 20535

David Warrington
White House Counsel
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW,
Washington, DC 20500

Dear all:

We write regarding alarming reports that your agencies have taken, or are at risk of taking actions under the guise of election security that are improper or illegal;¹ to warn against such violations; and to ensure you adhere to your obligations, and those of all departments,

¹ See, e.g., *State of California v Trump* (No. 1:26-cv-11581); *DSCC v. Trump* (No. 1:26-cv-01114); Exec. Order No. 14399, 91 Fed. Reg. 17125 (Mar. 31, 2026) (www.federalregister.gov/d/2026-06601); Maggie Miller and Dana Nickel, *Gabbard's Seizure of Voting Machines Heightens Concerns of Midterm Meddling*, Politico (Feb. 6, 2026); Evan Casey, *FBI Visited Home of Milwaukee County's Election Director*, Wisconsin Public Radio (May 14, 2026).

agencies, and sub-agencies under your control, to comply with all applicable federal records preservation laws and agency policies.²

President Trump and his Administration have engaged in multiple efforts to undermine past election results, despite all evidence the elections were free and fair. In just the last several months, for example, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) conducted a search of a Fulton County, Georgia, election center, where agents seized ballots from the 2020 presidential election, even though numerous bipartisan and nonpartisan prior investigations at the state and federal level have revealed no suggestion of criminal conduct.³ The then-Director of National Intelligence participated in this raid despite no evidence or suggestion of foreign interference in that election, raising serious questions about potential improper coordination between the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) and federal law enforcement agencies outside of ODNI's statutory authorities.⁴ Similarly, ODNI seized voting machines and other election data from Puerto Rico, reportedly in support of the Administration's amplification of baseless election conspiracy theories.⁵ Then-Director Gabbard also made unsubstantiated claims that the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) was aware of, but did not disclose, election vulnerabilities.⁶

There are also serious concerns about ongoing efforts by this Administration to undermine the integrity of and actively interfere with the 2026 elections. President Trump has threatened "[t]he federal government should get involved. These are agents of the federal government to count the vote."⁷ Several of you have refused to rule out the possibility that you would direct your departments and agencies to send federal law enforcement agents or military service members under your jurisdiction to election sites during the election period – steps that

² Federal Records Act, 44 U.S.C. §§ 3101, 3106; Presidential Records Act, 44 U.S.C. §§ 2201 – 2203; Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. § 3506; 18 U.S.C. § 2071 (concealing, removing, or destroying records is a criminal offense); 39 C.F.R. §§ 261 – 268.

³ See e.g., Press Release, State Election Board Clears Fulton County "Ballot Suitcase" Investigation; Report Finds No Evidence of Conspiracy, No Fraud, Office of Georgia Sec'y of State (Jun. 20, 2023), <https://sos.ga.gov/news/state-election-board-clears-fulton-county-ballot-suitcase-investigation-report-finds-no-evidence-of-conspiracy-no-fraud>; Stanley Dunlap, *Georgia Election Board Dismisses Claims of 'Ballot Harvesting' in 2020 Election*, Georgia Recorder (May 18, 2022), <https://georgiarecorder.com/2022/05/18/georgia-election-board-dismisses-claims-of-ballot-harvesting-in-2020-election>; Mike Balsamo, *Disputing Trump, Barr Says No Widespread Election Fraud*, AP (Dec. 1, 2020), <https://apnews.com/article/barr-no-widespread-election-fraud-b1f1488796c9a98c4b1a9061a6c7f49d>; see also Senate Committee on the Judiciary, *Subverting Justice: How the President and His Allies Pressured DOJ to Overturn the 2020 Election* (Oct. 2021), available at <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/interim-majority-staff-report>.

⁴ *Trump Had Unusual Call With F.B.I. Agents After Election Center Search*, New York Times (Feb. 2, 2026) (<https://www.nytimes.com/2026/02/02/us/politics/trump-fbi-phone-call-georgia-gabbard.html>); Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, *Worldwide Threats*, 119th Cong. (Mar. 18, 2026).

⁵ Maggie Miller and Dana Nickel, *Gabbard's Seizure of Voting Machines Heightens Concerns of Midterm Meddling*, Politico (Feb. 6, 2026).

⁶ *Gabbard's Seizure of Voting Machines Heightens Concerns of Midterm Meddling*, Politico (Feb. 6, 2026) (<https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2026/02/gabbard-trump-election-midterms-voting-integrity-00769768>); The Benny Show, *Tulsi Gabbard TORCHES Hillary's 'TREASONOUS' Actions to RIG Election as She Drops 'Smoking Gun'...* (July 31, 2025; 19:41) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NludG6f11Vc>).

⁷ Anders Hagstrom, *Trump Doubles Down on Calls for GOP to 'Nationalize' Voting as Congressional Leaders Balk*, Fox News (Feb. 4, 2026) (<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-doubles-down-calls-gop-nationalize-voting-congressional-leaders-balk>).

are clearly illegal.⁸ The Department of Justice (DOJ) has repeatedly pursued unsupported claims of elections fraud.⁹

Several of you are also involved in implementing President Trump's unlawful Executive Orders interfering with state and local control over the administration of elections. For example, Secretary Lutnick is threatening to withhold the delivery of lawful ballots unless states comply with President Trump's unconstitutional attempt to "take over the voting."¹⁰ Further, individuals at the Social Security Administration (SSA) inappropriately entered into a secret agreement to share sensitive data with a partisan advocacy group for partisan political purposes – and SSA has to date refused to provide Congress with unredacted documentation of these activities.¹¹ Chairman Carr has repeatedly used his position to chill disfavored speech, and continues to make threats to interfere with candidates' ability to reach their audiences.

We are also deeply troubled by the fact that many of your agencies have failed to address election security altogether. You have shuttered offices tasked with tracking foreign malign influence on elections as well as cyber and physical threats to elections infrastructure, and you have cut funding and personnel for CISA and FBI election security efforts.¹²

The American public deserve to have confidence that their leaders are acting in good faith and in accordance with the law. We therefore direct you to preserve all existing and future records and materials on election-related activities and efforts, including any records regarding potential election-related misconduct, impropriety, irregularity, or interference. Such records include, but are not limited to, all meeting agendas and rosters, associated notes, briefing memos, legal opinions, guidance, advice, communications, and correspondence. Additionally, any communications on personal messaging accounts, including Signal, social media accounts, and personal email accounts, that concern government business are subject to the Federal Records Act and must be preserved.¹³

Safeguarding information critical to congressional oversight and preserving federal records is a legal obligation that you and all of your agency employees are required to meet. Please take all necessary steps to ensure that employees do not delete or destroy any official government records, including "information created, manipulated, or stored" electronically.¹⁴

⁸ Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, *Hearing on the Nomination of the Honorable Markwayne Mullin to be Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security*, 119th Cong. (Mar. 18, 2026) (S. Hrg. 119-353); *Pete Hegseth Delivers Chilling Non-Answer to Crucial Midterm Election Question*, Yahoo (Apr. 30, 2026) (<https://www.yahoo.com/news/articles/pete-hegseth-delivers-chilling-non-050244578.html?>).

⁹ Justice Department officials dance around Trump's unsupported claims of California election fraud, CNN (June 10, 2026) (<https://www.cnn.com/2026/06/10/politics/trump-la-election-fraud-justice-department>).

¹⁰ The Dan Bongino Show. I'm Back (Feb. 2, 2026: 1:39:22) https://rumble.com/v756t38-im-back-ep.-2443-02022026.html?e9s=src_v1_ucp_a.

¹¹ Notice of Corrections to the Record (Jan. 16, 2026) *American Federation of State & Mun. Employees v. Soc. Sec. Admin.*, D. Md. (No. 1:25-cv-00596).

¹² *How the Federal Government Is Undermining Election Security*, Brennan Center for Justice (Apr. 14, 2025) (<https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/how-federal-government-undermining-election-security>); US Cyber Team hasn't been Activated yet to Protect Midterm Elections from Foreign Meddling, CNN (Apr. 30, 2026) (<https://www.cnn.com/2026/04/30/politics/cyber-team-midterm-elections-foreign-meddling>).

¹³ *See, e.g.*, 44 U.S.C. § 2911; 44 U.S.C. §§ 3506, 3563.

¹⁴ 44 U.S.C § 3301(a)(2).

As you know, any employee who conceals, destroys, or attempts to conceal or destroy a federal record may be subject to fine and imprisonment.¹⁵

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator
Vice Chairman, Select
Committee on Intelligence



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Committee
on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs



Alex Padilla
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Committee
on Rules and Administration



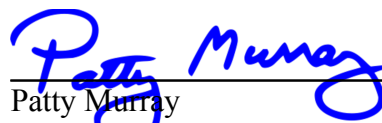
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Senate
Committee on the Judiciary



Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member, Committee
on Commerce, Science, and
Transportation

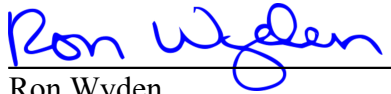


Jack Reed
Ranking Member, Committee
on Armed Services

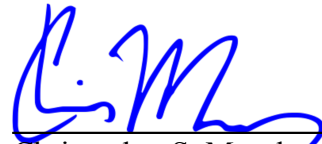


Patty Murray
United States Senator
Vice Chair, Committee on
Appropriations

¹⁵ 18 U.S.C. § 2071.



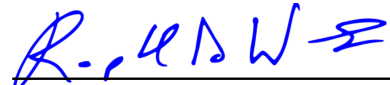
Ron Wyden
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Committee
on Finance



Christopher S. Murphy
Chairman, Homeland
Security Appropriations
Subcommittee



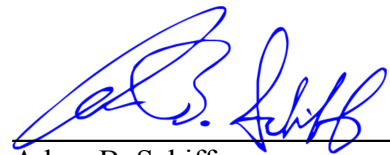
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Elissa Slotkin
United States Senator



Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator



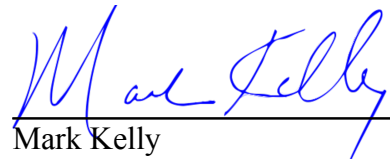
Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



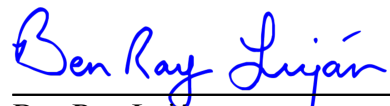
Lisa Blunt Rochester
United States Senator



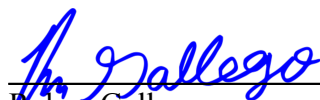
Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



Ruben Gallego
United States Senator

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