

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 15, 2026

The Honorable Todd Blanche
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

The Honorable Kash Patel
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20535

Dear Attorney General Blanche and Director Patel:

We write in our capacity as Ranking Members of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, and Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs to request information regarding the alarming series of actions the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) have undertaken to target state and local governments' election administration efforts—and to understand the extent of your agencies' coordination with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the U.S. Intelligence Community, and the White House in these efforts.

Under your leadership, DOJ and the FBI have sought to upend our federalist system by seizing ballots and election materials, seeking the personal information of election workers and volunteers, showing up at the homes of election officials for questioning, threatening election officials with prosecution, attempting to compel states to provide the federal government with unredacted voter rolls, and raiding the offices of a voting rights nonprofit—often at the apparent behest of President Trump and White House officials, including Stephen Miller.¹ Director Patel has reportedly urged the FBI to persist in these fishing expeditions by exhorting agents to “look harder” because “this is a push from 47,”² and senior DOJ officials have threatened to fire or override prosecutors who choose not to pursue election fraud cases that FBI or DHS agents bring them, in contravention of longstanding DOJ rules for prosecutors.³ FBI agents have reportedly been so concerned about these efforts that they “have been seeking counsel in recent weeks about how to respond to FBI directives related to the election.”⁴ Furthermore, these efforts have occurred as U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations

¹ “Patel openly acknowledges his limited agency, citing directions from Trump, Stephen Miller, and other White House staff... The White House did not deny that Miller gives direction to the FBI, and confirmed that he ‘interacts with all law-enforcement agencies on a regular basis.’” “Orders from the White House were described to me as remarkably specific, down to individual names.” Sarah Fitzpatrick, *Is There Anything Kash Patel Won't Do for Trump Before the Midterms?*, THE ATLANTIC (Oct. 2, 2026), <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/2026/10/kash-patel-fbi-trump-midterm-elections/688805>.

² *Id.*

³ Carol Leonnig & Ken Dilanian, *Top DOJ Official Warned that Prosecutors Would Be Fired for Not Pursuing Alleged Voter Fraud, According to Sources*, MS NOW (Sept. 18, 2026), <https://www.ms.now/news/top-doj-official-warned-prosecutors-would-be-fired-for-not-pursuing-alleged-voter-fraud-according-to-sources>.

⁴ Sarah Fitzpatrick, *Is There Anything Kash Patel Won't Do for Trump Before the Midterms?*, THE ATLANTIC (Oct. 2, 2026), <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/2026/10/kash-patel-fbi-trump-midterm-elections/688805>.

(HSI) has taken unprecedented steps to investigate unfounded claims of widespread voter fraud and as the then-Director of National Intelligence took extraordinary steps to insert herself into an already-troubling FBI raid of a local election facility. Taken together, these actions constitute a disturbing, whole-of-government campaign that has weaponized federal law enforcement to relitigate the 2020 election that President Trump lost, attempting to undermine the constitutional election administration powers of states ahead of the 2026 midterm elections, and seeking to sow confusion and fear among voters and state and local election officials.

This weaponization became clear last year, when the head of the DOJ's Civil Rights Division (CRT) rewrote its mission statement⁵ and began filing lawsuits against multiple states to demand they produce unredacted copies of their voter registration lists.⁶ So far, CRT has filed these lawsuits against 30 states and the District of Columbia—and, to date, not a single court has ruled in favor of the federal government,⁷ as judges appointed by Democrats and Republicans alike have lambasted the effort as legally and factually baseless.⁸

CRT also sued Fulton County, Georgia last December, seeking records related to the 2020 election—despite thoroughly debunked claims of fraud and irregularities in Fulton County during the 2020 election,⁹ and overwhelming evidence of President Trump's illegal efforts in 2020 to pressure states like Georgia to overturn the official election results.¹⁰

Following this lawsuit, on January 28, 2026, the FBI executed a search warrant at the Fulton County election office in Union City, Georgia, seizing all physical ballots (which had been kept under a court-ordered seal), all tabulator tapes for every voting machine, all ballot images

⁵ Glenn Thrush, *Justice Dept.'s Civil Rights Division Pushes Trump's Culture War Agenda*, N.Y. TIMES (Apr. 18, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/04/18/us/politics/trump-doj-civil-rights.html>.

⁶ Press Release, Justice Department Sues Six States for Failure to Provide Voter Registration Rolls (Sept. 25, 2025), <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-sues-six-states-failure-provide-voter-registration-rolls>.

⁷ State Democracy Rsch. Initiative, *Tracker: DOJ Lawsuits Seeking States' Sensitive Voter Data*, UNIV. OF WIS. LAW SCH. (Jan. 21, 2026, updated Oct. 1, 2026), <https://statedemocracy.law.wisc.edu/our-work/tracker-doj-lawsuits-seeking-states-sensitive-voter-data>.

⁸ “Clearly, this demand is devoid of any factual basis... Given the lack of an adequate basis or purpose, one is left to wonder what the real purpose was for the Justice Department to go to the trouble of filing civil actions like this one all around the nation.” *United States v. Warner*, No. 2:26-cv-00156, ECF No. 56 (S.D. W. Va. Jul. 13, 2026); “The Attorney General’s demand is deficient in both its stated basis and purpose and cannot be enforced... Congress did not confer a general auditing power to the DOJ over state election officials.” *United States v. Matthews*, No. 25-cv-3398, ECF No. 101 (C.D. Ill. Jul. 21, 2026); “[B]ecause the Government’s reading of 52 U.S.C. § 20701 is not persuasive as a matter of statutory interpretation, nor is it consistent with the purpose of the CRA, the Court joins a growing, unanimous consensus of courts to find that the List is not subject to a Title III demand.” *United States v. Hobbs*, No. 3:25-cv-06078, ECF No. 96, at 10 (W.D. Wash. Sept. 22, 2026).

⁹ 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>; 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>; Stephen Fowler, *Fact Check: Fulton County Is Not Missing Ballots or Hundreds of Drop Box Custody Forms*, GPB (Jun. 19, 2021), <https://www.gpb.org/news/2021/06/17/fact-check-fulton-county-not-missing-ballots-or-hundreds-of-drop-box-custody-forms>; Amara Walker & Tara Sbramanam, *Fact-checking Claims Signature Audits in Georgia Would Uncover Fraud*, CNN (Dec. 2, 2020), <https://www.cnn.com/2020/12/02/politics/georgia-signature-audit-fact-check>.

¹⁰ See e.g., *Read the Full Transcript and Listen to Trump’s Audio Call with Georgia Secretary of State*, CNN (Jan. 3, 2021), <https://www.cnn.com/2021/01/03/politics/trump-brad-raffensperger-phone-call-transcript>.

produced, and all voter rolls from the 2020 presidential election.¹¹ The search warrant application and its underlying affidavits cited no new information,¹² and the baseless seizure took place less than three weeks after the FBI opened its initial assessment of the matter.¹³ The raid was reportedly carried out based on a referral from DOJ political appointee and known election-denier Kurt Olsen. Olsen helped lead the efforts to overturn the 2020 election and spoke to the President several times on January 6, 2021;¹⁴ was previously disciplined and fined by the Arizona Supreme Court for falsely claiming tens of thousands of illegitimate votes had been cast in the governor's race in 2022;¹⁵ and recently withdrew from a criminal inquiry examining critics of President Trump after reportedly failing a polygraph exam and having his DOJ security clearance revoked.¹⁶

Additionally, the then-Director of National Intelligence inexplicably attended this raid—and escalated this breach of protocol the following day, when she met with FBI agents who had conducted the raid and called President Trump to address the agents.¹⁷ Then, in July 2026, the FBI initiated a “priority” investigation, sending 260 investigative analysts to Fulton County to complete “approximately 708 records checks”—an extraordinary diversion of resources.¹⁸ Separately, DOJ issued a grand jury subpoena seeking the personal information of thousands of election workers in Fulton County, including county employees, bus drivers, volunteers, and poll workers.¹⁹ A federal district judge appointed by President Trump quashed the subpoena, calling it an “arbitrary fishing expedition” and an “unreasonable” use of a grand jury’s subpoena powers.²⁰

These efforts to relitigate President Trump’s loss in 2020 also led to the FBI seizing election materials in March from a flawed, partisan audit of the 2020 election in Maricopa County,

¹¹ Fox 5 Atlanta Digital Team, *Fulton County Election Raid: Federal Court Unseals FBI Search Warrant, Affidavit*, FOX 5 (Feb. 10, 2026), <https://www.fox5atlanta.com/news/fulton-county-elections-fbi-raid-search-warrants>.

¹² Aaron Blake, *Breaking Down the Evidence DOJ Used to Justify Searching a Fulton County Election Office*, CNN (Feb. 10, 2026), <https://www.cnn.com/2026/02/10/politics/fulton-county-search-warrant-annotated>.

¹³ United States of America’s Notice In Response To Order, *Fulton Cty. Brd. of Comm’r v. United States*, 1:26-cv-00809 (N.D. Ga. May 1, 2026) (ECF No. 101), available at <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/28089251-fulton-county-filing>.

¹⁴ Maggie Haberman, Jonathan Swan, and Nick Corasaniti, *Kurt Olsen Helped Trump Fight His 2020 Defeat. Trump Is Talking to Him Again*, N.Y. TIMES (Oct. 22, 2024), <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/10/22/us/politics/kurt-olsen-trump-2020-lawyer.html>

¹⁵ Erin Banco et al., *Special Report: How Trump’s Obsession with “Rigged” Voting Machines Spread Across US Government*, REUTERS (Oct. 2, 2026), <https://www.reuters.com/investigations/how-trumps-obsession-with-rigged-voting-machines-spread-across-us-government-2026-10-02/>; Caitlin Sievers, *Supreme Court Sanctions Lake in Election Suit*, ARIZ. MIRROR (May 4, 2023), <https://azmirror.com/2023/05/04/supreme-court-sanctions-lake-in-election-suit>.

¹⁶ Andrew Goudswaard, Jonathan Landay, Erin Banco & Ned Parker, *Election denier and long-time Trump ally loses security clearance after failed polygraph, sources say*, INDEPENDENT (Oct. 7, 2026), <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/kurt-olsen-doj-lawyer-resigns-trump-b3062799.html>.

¹⁷ William K. Rashbaum et al., *Trump Had Unusual Call With F.B.I. Agents After Election Center Search*, N.Y. TIMES (Feb. 2, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/02/02/us/politics/trump-fbi-phone-call-georgia-gabbard.html>.

¹⁸ Nick Corasaniti, et al., *F.B.I. Assigns Scores of Analysts to Examine Election Records in Georgia*, N.Y. TIMES (Jul. 2, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/07/02/us/politics/fbi-georgia-fulton-county-2020-election.html>.

¹⁹ Kate Brumback, *Justice Department Seeks the Names of 2020 Election Workers in Georgia’s Fulton County*, PBS NEWS (May 5, 2025), <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/justice-department-seeks-the-names-of-2020-election-workers-in-georgias-fulton-county>.

²⁰ Alan Feuer, *Judge Quashes Justice Dept. Subpoena in 2020 Election Inquiry*, N.Y. TIMES (Jul. 7, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/07/07/us/politics/2020-election-inquiry-trump-georgia.html>.

Arizona, which had been initiated by Republican leadership in the state Senate²¹—another seizure reportedly at the behest of Kurt Olsen.²² The FBI has also shown up at the homes of former election officials in Milwaukee, Wisconsin to question them about far-fetched conspiracy theories related to the 2020 election, including an alleged “secret room” in an election office.²³

In April, as part of its wider goal to expand federal oversight of election administration, DOJ sought to obtain election materials from the 2024 election in Wayne County, Michigan.²⁴ Local officials responded to that demand by pointing out that the county is not the custodian of any records responsive to DOJ’s request.²⁵

In July, reporting emerged that the FBI obtained the IP address of an individual who registered to vote online.²⁶ In response to that case, a former senior Justice Department official noted that “it’s not typical and it’s not appropriate ... for the FBI to be calling state election officials and just asking and conducting a fishing expedition to see private voter data.”²⁷

The FBI also raided the offices of the Ohio Organizing Collaborative (OOC), an Ohio voter registration organization, and then sent agents across the state to question people connected with the organization, including canvassers, volunteers, and staff members at their homes and workplaces.²⁸ This effort followed an HSI investigation in which, over the course of several months, HSI obtained voter records in Ohio that named OOC as the organization that had registered the voters.²⁹ HSI has been at the forefront of DHS’s efforts to expand its mission to perpetuate the myth of widespread voter fraud³⁰—even though most HSI agents have no

²¹ Jen Fifield, *Election Records Handed Over To The FBI In Maricopa County, Arizona, Could Be Fatally Flawed, Experts Say*, PROPUBLICA (Mar. 12, 2026), <https://www.propublica.org/article/maricopa-county-arizona-election-records-fbi>.

²² Erin Banco, Jonathan Landay, Ned Parker & Phil Stewart, *How Trump’s obsession with ‘rigged’ voting machines spread across US government*, REUTERS (Oct. 2, 2026), <https://www.reuters.com/investigations/how-trumps-obsession-with-rigged-voting-machines-spread-across-us-government-2026-10-02/>.

²³ Patrick Marley, *FBI Interviews Election Workers in Wisconsin Amid Trump’s False 2020 Claims*, WASH. POST (May 29, 2026), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2026/05/29/fbi-interviews-election-workers-wisconsin-amid-trumps-false-2020-claims>.

²⁴ Hayley Harding, *Trump Administration Demands 2024 Ballots from Wayne County*, VOTE BEAT (Apr. 20, 2026), <https://www.votebeat.org/michigan/2026/04/20/trump-department-justice-wayne-county-request-2024-ballots-detroit>.

²⁵ Hayley Harding, *Wayne County tells Department of Justice it doesn’t have requested ballots*, MICHIGAN ADVANCE (May 6, 2026), <https://michiganadvance.com/2026/05/06/wayne-county-tells-department-of-justice-it-doesnt-have-requested-ballots>.

²⁶ Brittany Gibson, *Exclusive: FBI Gets Voter’s IP Address in New Fraud Probe Tactic*, AXIOS (Jul. 31, 2026), <https://www.axios.com/2026/07/31/fbi-voter-ip-address-investigation>.

²⁷ *Id.*

²⁸ Carol Leonnig, Will McDuffie, Alex Tabet & Laura Barron-Lopez, *FBI raids Ohio voting rights organization*, MS NOW (Jun. 11, 2026), <https://www.ms.now/news/ohio-pro-democracy-organization-raided-by-fbi>.

²⁹ Ned Parker & Peter Eisler, *Special Report — How Trump is Moving to Control U.S. Elections, One State at a Time*, REUTERS (Apr. 27, 2026), <https://www.reuters.com/investigations/how-trump-is-moving-control-us-elections-one-state-time-2026-04-27>; Email from [Name Redacted], Special Agent, Homeland Sec. Investigations, Columbus, Ohio, to [Name Redacted], Franklin Cnty. Bd. Of Elections (Jan. 15, 2026), https://abc6onyourside.com/resources/pdf/67444c2c-6111-4963-a068-2c9cb14405e9-2026FCBOEDHSCcommunications_.pdf.

³⁰ Ewan Palmer, *DHS Shifted Resources to Investigating Trump Voter Fraud Claims*, DAILY BEAST (Aug. 12, 2026), <https://uk.news.yahoo.com/dhs-shifted-resources-investigating-trump-155104581.html>.

experience in voter fraud investigations,³¹ given that according to ICE itself, identifying offenses such as unlawful voting by noncitizens and document fraud are incidental to HSI's investigatory work, not the primary focus.³²

Director Patel has also refused to rule out sending FBI agents to polling locations on Election Day—an illegal tactic that would inevitably intimidate voters.³³ At the Senate Judiciary Committee's FBI oversight hearing on September 15, Senator Welch asked Director Patel: "So you are sending ... FBI agents to the polls?" Director Patel refused to directly answer the question, responding: "We have election crisis coordinators manned at all 56 field offices ... Election integrity is of paramount importance; this FBI is not going to shy away from that effort."³⁴ At the same hearing, in response to a question from Senator Padilla, Director Patel did commit that the FBI has no plans to seize ballots, voting machines, or other election-related material in the midterm elections.³⁵

The concern over this Administration engaging in intimidation tactics related to the election is not unwarranted. Just one month before election day, President Trump continues to float the idea that he has legal authority to declare a national emergency or invoke the Insurrection Act around the midterms.³⁶ Moreover, DOJ has already sought to intimidate election officials across the country. In July, CRT sent letters to election officials with threats of filing criminal charges against them if a noncitizen were to cast a ballot in an upcoming election.³⁷ As the Republican-appointed Utah Election Director noted in response to one of those letters: "The federal government can best assist the State of Utah by allowing us to perform our required duties without unjustified interference, as intended by Article I, Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution."³⁸ And just last month, Nevada's Secretary of State disclosed that his office had received seven voter-related subpoenas from the FBI over the preceding three months, warning that "the federal administration is inundating election offices with investigations and questions ahead of the election."³⁹

CRT's abandonment of its historic mission to protect the right to vote has also bled into the election monitor program, which the Division has in the past used to deploy federal monitors at

³¹ Peter Elkind, Jen Fifield, Doug Book Clark, Ken B. Morales & Andy Mannix, *Inside Trump's Failed Hunt for Noncitizen Voters*, PROPUBLICA (Aug. 14, 2026), <https://www.propublica.org/article/noncitizen-voting-trump-homeland-security-investigations>.

³² U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE FOIA Case Number 2026-ICLI-00100 (Oct. 1, 2026), https://democracyforward.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/EMBARGO-DFF-DHS-ICE-26-0510-0511-0512-LIT-A_.pdf.

³³ 18 U.S.C. § 592 (prohibiting federal officers from stationing troops or armed officers at polling places); 18 U.S.C. § 594 (criminalizing voter intimidation in federal elections).

³⁴ *Senate Judiciary Committee Holds Hearing on the Federal Bureau of Investigation*, CQ CONGRESSIONAL TRANSCRIPTS (Sept. 15, 2026), <https://plus.cq.com/doc/congressionaltranscripts-8527882?0>.

³⁵ *Id.*

³⁶ See Eric Cortellesa, *What Trump Has Built*, TIME (Oct. 1, 2026), <https://time.com/article/2026/10/01/donald-trump-2026-interview>.

³⁷ Sarah N. Lynch, *DOJ threatens criminal action against states that allow noncitizens to vote*, CBS NEWS (Jul. 8, 2026), <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/doj-threatens-criminal-action-against-states-that-allow-non-citizens-to-vote>.

³⁸ Emily Anderson Stern, *Trump DOJ threatened Utah's top election official. Here's how the state responded.*, THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE (Jul. 15, 2026), <https://www.sltrib.com/news/politics/2026/07/15/unjustified-interference-utah>.

³⁹ Kaanita Iyer, *Justice Department Has Issued Subpoenas for Nevada Voter Data, State's Elections Chief Says*, CNN (Sept. 5, 2026), <https://www.cnn.com/2026/09/05/politics/doj-subpoena-nevada-election-midterm-voter>.

polling places and ballot counting locations to respond to “incidents of discrimination or interference with the right to vote.”⁴⁰ This year, CRT is planning to deploy more than 1,000 election monitors across the country on Election Day,⁴¹ including individuals who helped challenge President Trump’s 2020 election loss.⁴² Unfortunately, the election monitor program, which has traditionally protected the rights of voters, is another tool that is ripe for misuse under the Trump Administration. In August, the Republican governor of Wyoming noted at a state canvassing board meeting that DOJ election monitors present for the state’s primary election were “aggressive,” “irregular,” and engaged in behavior that “seemed to exceed what the authority that Congress had given them was.”⁴³

This week, DOJ attempted to escalate these efforts, laying the groundwork to potentially challenge ballots ahead of Election Day.⁴⁴ In a letter to the California Secretary of State and Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (RR/CC), the acting Deputy Attorney General demanded that California officials verify the citizenship of individuals named on a DOJ-provided thumb drive that the Trump Administration “believes are likely noncitizens.”⁴⁵ The letter threatened legal action if California officials do not review the list within 48 hours and follow the Department’s instructions on how to handle the ballots of these individuals, when state and local election officials should be focusing their time and resources on running a safe and secure election⁴⁶—and despite the Administration’s demonstrated track record of wrongly identifying eligible voters as non-citizens.⁴⁷ Furthermore, as the Los Angeles County RR/CC noted in a statement following receipt of the letter, DOJ included “a handwritten note providing a password” with the thumb drive of alleged names, which the office cannot even access “because doing so would conflict with established data privacy and information security protocols.”⁴⁸

Through these collective actions, the Trump Administration has weaponized DOJ and the FBI in an attempt to undermine the basic constitutional structure of our nation’s elections. Since our country’s founding, state and local governments in the United States have primarily administered our elections. The Constitution grants the President *no role* in the administration of elections.⁴⁹

⁴⁰ *About Federal Observers and Election Monitoring*, U.S. DEP’T. OF JUST. <https://www.justice.gov/crt/about-federal-observers-and-election-monitoring> (last updated Oct. 16, 2024).

⁴¹ Gabe Cohen & Tierney Sneed, *Inside Trump’s plan for the ‘biggest DOJ election observer effort in history’*, CNN POLITICS: VOTECHECK (Sept. 25, 2026), <https://www.cnn.com/2026/09/25/politics/trump-election-monitors-voting-machines-vis>.

⁴² *The ‘Biggest DOJ Election Observer Effort in History’*, CNN 5 Things (Sept. 25, 2026), <https://www.cnn.com/audio/podcasts/5-things/episodes/01e76586-b04c-11f0-ae76-cbe9cfbbc6a2>.

⁴³ Adam Edelman, *Wyoming’s Republican governor raises concerns over ‘aggressive’ DOJ election monitors*, NBC NEWS: DECISION 2026 (Aug. 27, 2026), <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2026-election/wyoming-republican-governor-concerns-aggressive-doj-election-monitors-rcna594730>.

⁴⁴ Jacob Bogage and Andrew Goudsward, *US Justice Department threatens California over alleged noncitizen voters, letter shows*, REUTERS (Oct. 14, 2026), <https://www.reuters.com/world/us-justice-department-threatens-california-over-alleged-noncitizen-voters-letter-2026-10-14/>.

⁴⁵ *Id.*

⁴⁶ *Id.*

⁴⁷ Sam Levine, *Nearly 200 people wrongly identified on Nevada’s voter rolls as non-citizens*, THE GUARDIAN (Sept. 25, 2026), <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/sep/24/dhs-nevada-voter-non-citizens-error>.

⁴⁸ Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, *Statement from Dean Logan Regarding U.S. Department of Justice Correspondence* (Oct. 14, 2026), https://content.lavote.gov/docs/rcc/documents/20261014-statement_doj_letter-2.pdf.

⁴⁹ U.S. Const. art. 1 § 4, cl. 1.

Furthermore, it is impossible to ignore the brazen partisan intentions behind these actions—not just due to President Trump’s repeated, baseless accusations that Democrats must cheat to win elections,⁵⁰ but in light of the unethical political actions you have each taken in recent weeks, including your appearances at an August campaign rally in New York,⁵¹ and Attorney General Blanche’s appearance at the Republican Party’s midterm convention in Texas⁵² and a campaign event in North Carolina for Republican Senate nominee Michael Whatley.⁵³

It is our constitutional duty to conduct oversight over these unprecedented abuses of power to improperly meddle with state and local election administration in the midterm elections that are already underway. The American people deserve to know why federal resources are being diverted from mission critical work to ensure their safety and instead devoted to this costly and, should it further escalate, potentially criminal⁵⁴ crusade.

To that end, please provide the following information and materials no later than October 29, 2026:

1. Please provide a detailed explanation of what criteria or evidence were used to determine the states and localities that have been targeted by DOJ and the FBI in election-related investigations and lawsuits since January 20, 2025.
 - a. Have these decisions involved any coordination with the White House or any other agencies or departments in the federal government? If so, which ones?
 - b. Please provide all documents and communications referring or related to these determinations, and please identify all states and localities that have been targeted in an election-related investigation or lawsuit since January 20, 2025, with an explanation of the focus of the investigation or lawsuit against each jurisdiction and the justification for each investigation or lawsuit.
 - c. Please provide all documents and communications referring or relating to investigations or potential prosecutions of state or local election officials on the basis of the performance of their public duties and a complete accounting of such investigations since January 20, 2025, including any related to the letters sent by the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights on July 7, 2026, to state election officials threatening prosecution.

⁵⁰ Frank Langfitt, *Trump says Democrats must cheat to win. What do his supporters think?*, NPR (Mar. 12, 2026), <https://www.npr.org/2026/03/12/nx-s1-5745129/trump-democrats-cheat-election-security-pennsylvania-midterms>.

⁵¹ Charlie Savage, *Blanche’s Political Campaigning Breaks an Ethical Norm Going Back to Watergate*, N.Y. TIMES (Sept. 17, 2026), <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/attorney-general-blanche-blurs-justice-department-boundaries-by-appearing-at-political-events>.

⁵² Craig Holman & Liz Iacobucci, *Violation of the HATCH Act by Attorney General Todd Blanche*, PUBLIC CITIZEN (Aug. 17, 2026), <https://www.citizen.org/article/violation-of-the-hatch-act-by-attorney-general-todd-blanche>; Garrett Graff, *The Disgrace and Danger of Kash Patel*, MOTHER JONES (Sept. 30, 2026), <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2026/09/kash-patel-fbi-scandals-bestiality>.

⁵³ Alana Durkin Richer, “Attorney General Blanche’s Appearances at Political Events Blur Justice Department Boundaries, AP (Sept. 18, 2026), <https://apnews.com/article/todd-blanche-politics-trump-justice-department-b9e41a9222825a697b7a532a9686e3e7>.

⁵⁴ See 18 U.S.C. § 595 (providing criminal penalties for any state, local, or federal government employee who uses their official authority in connection with federally-financed activity to interfere with or affect a federal election).

- d. Please provide all documents and communications used to brief Director Patel on any evidence found or the lack of evidence found by DOJ and the FBI in election-related investigations and lawsuits since January 20, 2025.
 - e. Please provide all documents and communications referring or related to the questioning of state or local election workers, volunteers, or officials in an election-related investigation since January 20, 2025.
 - f. What was the factual and legal predicate for DOJ to seek the personal information of thousands of election workers in Fulton County, including county employees, bus drivers, volunteers, and poll workers?
 - g. Have any voter registration records or personal data provided by states that yielded to CRT's extensive demands for unredacted voter information been shared with parties outside DOJ, including the White House? If so, please provide all recipients of the records or data and when such records or data were shared.
 - h. Please provide a detailed explanation of what safeguards are in place to ensure that any election records seized by the FBI have been stored and evaluated properly.
2. Please provide all documents and communications referring or relating to the FBI's policies and procedures for seeking information on individual voters for potential election-related crimes and a complete accounting of related cases opened since January 20, 2025, including an accounting of any instances and from what jurisdictions the FBI sought the IP address of an individual voter.
 3. Please provide all documents and communications referring or relating to the FBI's policies and procedures for opening investigations into voter registration organizations and a complete accounting of such investigations since January 20, 2025.
 4. Please provide all documents and communications referring or relating to the potential deployment of FBI agents to polling locations on Election Day, during early voting, or in the post-election period.
 5. Please provide a detailed explanation of how the Department and Bureau have coordinated or worked with DHS, including HSI, on election-related investigations and prosecutions since January 20, 2025.
 - a. Please provide all documents and communications referring or related to these interagency efforts.
 - b. Please provide a detailed explanation of why the FBI has ceded some of its traditional responsibilities on investigating election-related matters to HSI.
 6. Please provide a detailed explanation of how the Department and Bureau have coordinated or worked with the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and other organizations in the Intelligence Community on election-related investigations and prosecutions since January 20, 2025.
 - a. Please provide a detailed explanation of why the then-Director of National Intelligence was present at the January 2026 FBI raid of the Fulton County, Georgia, election center.
 - b. Please provide all documents and communications referring or related to these interagency efforts, including all documents and communications addressing the then-Director of National Intelligence's presence and role at the January 2026 FBI raid.
 7. Please provide a detailed explanation of how the Department is deploying federal election monitors throughout the 2026 primary and general elections.
 - a. Please provide all documents and communications referring or related to the deployment of federal election monitors in 2026, including a list of all prior and

- planned deployments, broken down by date of deployment, location of the deployment, whether the deployment was requested by the jurisdiction, and the titles of each monitor deployed.
- b. Have the DOJ election monitors deployed for 2026 primary elections and the more than 1,000 DOJ election monitors expected to be deployed for the 2026 general election received any training or instruction in advance of their deployment?
 - c. Have the DOJ election monitors deployed for 2026 primary elections and the more than 1,000 DOJ election monitors expected to be deployed for the 2026 general election come from any other agencies or departments beyond Main Justice? If so, which agencies or departments?
 - d. Please provide all training and instruction materials for election monitors for the 2026 elections and specify whether the training included in-person instruction and/or a webinar.
 - e. Please provide all documents and communications referring or related to the recruitment, selection, and assignment of election monitors for the 2026 elections.
8. Since January 20, 2025, has the Department provided any formal or informal legal opinions referring or related to the possibility of the President declaring a national emergency related to an election or otherwise taking action to delay, prevent, or overturn an election or the certification of an election, including any memos prepared by the Office of Legal Counsel? If so, please provide the opinions or a summary of any informal opinions given on the topic.

Despite the Administration's brazen, partisan, and coordinated effort to attempt to undermine the constitutional structure of our democracy documented above, we are confident that the rule of law will continue to prevail. Patriotic Americans across the country are working tirelessly to combat the chaos and distrust that you have sown and ensure that every eligible American is able to cast their ballot and that their vote is counted. Thanks to the work of many state Attorneys General, state and local election officials, and community organizations and volunteers across the country, Americans should have confidence that their voices will be heard in November—and these efforts by the Trump Administration to weaponize federal law enforcement to meddle in the midterm elections will ultimately fail.

We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



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



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



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

CC: The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
Secretary, Department of Homeland Security

The Honorable Jay Clayton
Director, Office of the Director of National Intelligence

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Chairman, Senate Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Chair, Senate Committee on Rules and Administration

The Honorable Tom Cotton
Chairman, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence

The Honorable Rand Paul
Chairman, Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs