

March 24, 2023

The National Council on Election Integrity Issues Bipartisan Call to Congressional Appropriators to Fund America's Critical Election Infrastructure

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chair – House Appropriations Committee
House of Representatives
2308 RHOB The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member – House Appropriations
Committee
2413 RHOB The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steve Womack
Chair – FSGG Subcommittee,
House Appropriations Committee
2412 RHOB The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Ranking Member – FSGG Subcommittee,
House Appropriations Committee
1705 LHOB The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair – Senate Appropriations Committee
154 RSOB The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
Vice Chair – Senate Appropriations Committee
413 DSOB The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
Chair, FSGG Subcommittee,
Senate Appropriations Committee
110 HSOB The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Hagerty
Ranking Member, FSGG Subcommittee,
Senate Appropriations Committee
251 RSOB The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Members of Congress,

We are writing to request the appropriation of \$400 million in Election Security Grants to invest in our election security and national security. This funding is critical to protect our nation's elections from foreign interference efforts and growing cybersecurity threats from China, Russia, Iran, and other adversaries.

We are the Co-chairs of the National Council on Election Integrity, a bipartisan group of former government officials and national security leaders united to defend the legitimacy of our free and fair elections. We are deeply concerned that election officials are currently not receiving the federal support that they need to strengthen and secure federal elections in 2024 and beyond.

The Department of Homeland Security designated our election system as critical infrastructure in 2017. However, that designation was not accompanied by regular or adequate federal funding. In each of the

last two years, Congress appropriated just \$75 million for Election Security Grants – a fraction of the funds needed to secure our elections in this dynamic threat environment.

In the last few years, state and local election officials have had to become experts in cybersecurity, digital communication, and public relations. At the same time, election offices are struggling to bear rising costs for physical security, information requests, and basic necessities like ballot paper. Because Congress has not provided the funding to meet these obligations, state and local election officials have been saddled with an unfunded mandate.

We ask Congress to listen to local election officials and responsibly invest in our critical election infrastructure. Appropriating \$400 million in Election Security Grants for FY2024 — with at least fifty percent going to local election offices — will help ensure our elections remain secure, free and fair.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this urgent request.

Sincerely,

Fmr. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-VA)
National Council on Election Integrity Co-chair

Fmr. Rep. Donna Edwards (D-MD)
National Council on Election Integrity Co-chair

Fmr. Rep. Tim Roemer (D-IN)
National Council on Election Integrity Co-chair

Fmr. Rep. Zach Wamp (R-TN)
National Council on Election Integrity Co-chair