

Members of the Bipartisan National Council on Election Integrity Call on Congress to Adequately Fund Election Security

Dear Members of Congress,

We write to call for the appropriation of at least \$400 million in Election Security Grants for FY2024. On [March 24, 2023](#), the Co-chairs of the National Council on Election Integrity wrote to the chairs of the relevant appropriations committees and subcommittees to call for this critical funding to protect our nation's elections from foreign interference efforts and growing cybersecurity threats. Today, we renew this call and extend it to all members of Congress with a specific emphasis on the importance of funding to counter cybersecurity threats. The [National Council on Election Integrity](#) is a bipartisan group of former government officials and national security leaders united to defend the legitimacy of our free and fair elections. We are particularly concerned that state and local election officials need robust federal funding to protect our voting systems from cybersecurity threats.

Congress has a Constitutional duty to secure federal elections, and the American people overwhelmingly support appropriating federal funds to do so. A recent poll conducted by Citizen Data, in partnership with Issue One, revealed that 69% of Americans believe that the federal government should be just as, or more, responsible for election funding than local municipalities and states. **The same poll found that 74% of Democrats and 66% of Republicans support federal funding of elections.**

Thanks in large part to federal support in previous appropriations, state and local election officials have taken important strides towards improving their cyber preparedness. Repeated testing has demonstrated that voting machines and tabulators are not themselves vulnerable to online manipulation. Meanwhile, local, state, and federal partnerships like Illinois' Cyber Navigator Program and Florida's Joint Election Security Initiative have built layered governmental capacity to respond to cyber threats. However, effectively countering cybersecurity threats requires high levels of technical expertise and up-to-date technology. Adversaries' capabilities continue to evolve and improve, but federal support for state and local election officials has not increased to meet this dire need.

Foreign and domestic bad actors have demonstrated the capacity to cast doubt on the legitimacy of a safe and secure election through advanced [AI-fueled disinformation](#), [cyber attacks on registration systems](#), [malign finance operations](#), and targeting of [electrical systems](#) during critical voting or tabulation periods. The lack of adequate federal funding to match the cyber threat has left our election system at increasing risk. These funds could be used to train and hire cyber-capable staff or purchase, install and maintain security measures like network monitors and two-factor authentication.

We strongly encourage bipartisan action to appropriate at least \$400 million in election security funding — with at least fifty percent going to local election offices — as a matter of urgency to bolster the security and integrity of the 2024 elections.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Tina Barton

Former Rochester Hills City Clerk

Charles Boustany

Former U.S. Representative (R-LA)

Donna Brazile

Former DNC Chair

John Bridgeland

Former Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council

Barbara Comstock

Former U.S. Representative (R-VA)

Carlos Curbelo

Former U.S. Representative (R-FL)

Tom Daschle

Former Senate Majority Leader (D-SD)

Donna Edwards

Former U.S. Representative (D-MD)

Richard Gephardt

Former House Majority Leader (D-MO)

Trey Grayson

Former Kentucky Secretary of State (R)

Steve Gunderson

Former U.S. Representative (R-WI)

Jane Harman

Former U.S. Representative (D-CA)

Mary Landrieu

Former U.S. Senator (D-LA)

Amber McReynolds

Governor for the United States Post Office & former Denver Director of Elections

Susan Molinari

Former U.S. Representative (R-NY)

Connie Morella

Former Ambassador & U.S. Representative (R-MD)

Leon Panetta

Former Secretary of Defense, Director of the CIA & U.S. Representative (D-CA)

Bill Owens

Former Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

Tim Roemer

Former Ambassador & U.S. Representative (D-IN)

Tom Ridge

Former Secretary of Homeland Security & Governor (R-PA)

Natalie Tennant

Former West Virginia Secretary of State (D)

Zach Wamp

Former U.S. Representative (R-TN)

Henry Waxman

Former U.S. Representative (D-CA)

Tim Wirth

Former U.S. Senator (D-CO)