

The Honorable David Joyce  
Chair  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Financial Services and General Government  
Appropriations Subcommittee  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer  
Ranking Member  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Financial Services and General Government  
Appropriations Subcommittee  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen  
Chair  
U.S. Senate Financial Services and General  
Government Appropriations Subcommittee  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bill Hagerty  
Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate Financial Services and General  
Government Appropriations Subcommittee  
Washington, D.C. 20510

## **Election Officials Call on Congressional Appropriators to Meaningfully Invest in Election Security**

Dear Chair Joyce, Ranking Member Hoyer, Chair Van Hollen, and Ranking Member Hagerty,

We, election officials from across the country, are writing to request the appropriation of at least \$400 million in Election Security Grants in FY2025. We are secretaries of state, poll workers, and county and city commissioners, recorders, and clerks. All of us are united in a call for Congress to meet the moment and provide funding that will improve the security of our election systems in the face of growing threats.

Last year, 19 of us wrote to Congress [calling for a robust investment](#) in election infrastructure. Sadly, Congress appropriated just [\\$55 million in election funding](#), an appropriation insufficient to meet the rising costs of election administration, counter growing threats, and fulfill the unfunded federal mandates with which we have been charged.

Congress provides essential funding to states to help run federal elections through Election Security Grants. These grants are administered by the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) and managed by each state's secretary of state or chief election officer. They are then sub-granted to local officials.

Our roles and what is expected of us to administer safe and secure elections have increased exponentially, but the resources have not kept pace. Election officials now must counter mis- and disinformation about election processes on a bewildering array of news (including AI-generated sites) and social media platforms. We must adapt to changing state laws, implement federal mandates, and react to disruptive weather conditions. We must prepare for cyber attacks using outdated hardware and software and harden our buildings and, sometimes, our homes against threats of violence. We respond to endless streams of information requests, and increasingly to subpoenas and escalating litigation. We must also carry out our core responsibilities of registering voters, hiring poll workers, setting up and running polling places, processing and counting ballots, and certifying and auditing results.

While states and localities fund the majority of election processes, the responsibilities involved in running an election in the 21st century require federal support. Responding to cybersecurity attacks from foreign adversaries, countering threats, abuse and harassment of election officials (80% of whom are women) that cross state lines, and administering federal mandates on voter registration and ballot access all involve federal action. Additionally, federal races — including for your congressional seats — occupy prime “[ballot real estate](#).” By law, your race is placed ahead of races for state and local office, even though those levels of government provide the vast majority of funding to administer these elections while Congress has repeatedly fallen short in meeting its responsibilities.

Federal election security grants, though only intermittently appropriated, have proven essential for state and local election officials to be able to respond to shifting threat environments during the last 20 years. Election officials across the country have [used these grants](#) to improve voter registration systems, replace paperless voting machines, purchase high-speed tabulators, implement post-election audits, install security and live-streaming cameras in ballot warehouses, and for many other essential improvements in election security.

We urge Congress to heed our call and that of U.S. election officials across the nation and responsibly invest in our critical election infrastructure. Appropriating \$400 million in Election Security Grants for FY2025 — with at least 50% 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,

**Natalie Adona**

*Clerk-Recorder/Registrar of Voters, Nevada County (CA)*

**The Hon. Francisco V. Aguilar**

*Secretary of State (NV)*

**The Hon. Gregg M. Amore**

*Rhode Island Secretary of State (RI)*

**The Hon. Shenna Bellows**

*Secretary of State (ME)*

**The Hon. Jocelyn Benson**

*Secretary of State (MI)*

**David B. Bjerke**

*Director of Elections & General Registrar, Falls Church (VA)*

**Bruce A. Brown**

*Secretary, Electoral Board, Alexandria (VA)*

**The Hon. Jim Condos**

*Former Secretary of State (VT)*

**Kristin B. Connelly**

*Clerk-Recorder, Contra Costa County (CA)*

**Isaac Cramer**

*Executive Director, Charleston County Board of Elections (SC)*

**Dustin Czarny**

*Board of Elections Commissioner, Onondaga County (NY)*

**Lisa Deeley**

*City Commissioner, Philadelphia (PA)*

**Tate Fall**

*Director of Elections, Cobb County (GA)*

**The Hon. Adrian P. Fontes**

*Secretary of State (AZ)*

**Ken Hamm**

*Poll Worker, Clark County (NV)*

**Carly Koppes**

*Clerk and Recorder, Weld County (CO)*

**Brianna Lennon**

*County Clerk, Boone County (MO)*

**The Hon. Amber McReynolds**

*Presidential Appointee & former Director of Elections, Denver (CO)*

**Omar Sabir**

*Chairman and City Commissioner, Philadelphia (PA)*

**Tonya Wichman**

*Director, Defiance County Board of Elections (OH)*

**Julie Wise**

*Director of Elections, King County (WA)*