

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

Members of the Bipartisan National Council on Election Integrity Call on Congressional Appropriators to Fund Critical Election Infrastructure

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

We urgently write to you to convey our bipartisan commitment to the national security of the United States and strongly encourage you to support an appropriation for \$400 million in Election Security Grants for FY 2025. China, Russia, Iran, and other foreign entities are currently and actively targeting individual state election infrastructure and American poll workers are facing daily threats to their personal safety and their ability to carry out their work.

This investment is essential to protecting our nation's elections from [foreign interference](#), [cyber](#), and [physical threats](#) against election offices and officials. The appropriation of election security grant funding in FY2025 will help secure the 2024 elections by signaling to states and localities that it is safe to expend their currently appropriated funds, while also laying the groundwork to keep American election infrastructure strong for years to come.

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. Last year, members of the [council repeatedly called on Congress](#) to take action to secure our elections by giving election officials the resources they need to act.

State and local governments have long taken the lead in administering and paying for elections in the United States, but Congress has both a constitutional role and a responsibility to protect the security of federal elections. Congress has previously [appropriated](#) election security funds at robust levels, including \$380 million in 2018 and \$400 million in 2020. Yet, the investment since 2020 has been insufficient: \$0 in 2021; \$75 million in 2022 and 2023; and just \$55 million in 2024. These appropriations are far less

than what [state and local election officials](#) have [repeatedly](#) said they need. By not providing robust and consistent election funding, Congress has failed in its constitutional duty to secure federal elections.

Congress' failure to adequately provide federal resources and support to state and local election officials is particularly dangerous considering the growing threats facing our democracy, most notably foreign malign influence and cyber attacks that transcend national and state borders. Our local election officials are now on the frontlines in a fight against [Russian](#) cyber-warfare and [Chinese and Iranian](#) covert influence campaigns. Congress cannot abandon election officials to combat these threats alone.

As former public servants, national security experts, and civic leaders, we know that protecting our democracy from both foreign and domestic threats requires Congress to fulfill its responsibilities by providing meaningful, reliable, and long-term investments so that local and state election administrators can continue to do their jobs. Adversaries' capabilities continue to evolve and improve, but federal support for state and local election officials has not increased to meet this [dire need](#). These funds could be used to: train and hire cyber-capable staff; to purchase, install, and maintain security measures like network monitors and two-factor authentication; and to continuously make essential updates to voter registration databases, ballot processing technology, and polling location security.

We strongly encourage bipartisan action to appropriate at least \$400 million in election security funding — with at least 50% going to local election offices.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Tina Barton

Former Rochester Hills City Clerk

The Hon. Charles Boustany

Former U.S. Rep. (R-LA)

Donna Brazile

Former DNC Chair

The Hon. John Bridgeland

Executive Chairman of the Office of American Possibilities & former Dir. of White House Domestic Policy Council

The Hon. Barbara Comstock

Former U.S. Rep. (R-VA)

The Hon. Carlos Curbelo

Former U.S. Rep. (R-FL)

The Hon. Tom Daschle

Former Senate Majority Leader (D-SD)

The Hon. Donna Edwards

Former U.S. Rep. (D-MD)

The Hon. Dick Gephardt

Former House Majority Leader (D-MO)

The Hon. Trey Grayson

Former Kentucky Sec. of State (R)

The Hon. Steve Gunderson

Former U.S. Rep. (R-WI)

The Hon. Chuck Hagel

Former Sec. of Defense & U.S. Sen. (R-NE)

The Hon. Jane Harman

Former U.S. Rep. (D-CA)

The Hon. Asa Hutchinson

Former Governor (R-AR)

Neal Kelley

Former Registrar of Voters for Orange County, CA

The Hon. Mary Landrieu

Former U.S. Sen. (D-LA)

The Hon. Amber McReynolds

Presidential Appointee & former Director of Elections for Denver, CO

The Hon. Susan Molinari

Former U.S. Rep. (R-NY)

The Hon. Connie Morella

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

Adm. Bill Owens

Former Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

The Hon. Leon Panetta

Former Sec. of Defense, Director of the CIA, White House Chief of Staff, and U.S. Rep. (D-CA)

The Hon. Deborah Pryce

Former U.S. Rep. (R-OH)

The Hon. Reid Ribble

Former U.S. Rep. (R-WI)

The Hon. Tim Roemer

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

The Hon. Michael Steele

Former RNC Chair & Lt. Gov. (R-MD)

The Hon. Natalie E. Tennant

Former West Virginia Sec. of State (D)

The Hon. Zach Wamp

Former U.S. Rep. (R-TN)

The Hon. Tim Wirth

Former U.S. Sen. (D-CO)

The Hon. Kim Wyman

Former Washington Sec. of State (R) and CISA's Senior Election Security Advisor