

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

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

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

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

Dear Chair Joyce, Ranking Member Hoyer, Chair Hagerty, and Ranking Member Reed:

We, election officials from across the country, respectfully urge Congress to appropriate at least \$400 million in Election Security Grants for FY2026. We are secretaries of state, county and city clerks, commissioners, recorders, and poll workers, all dedicated to administering free and fair elections. As a bipartisan coalition — all members of Issue One's [Faces of Democracy](#) campaign — we are united in calling for robust investment in our nation's election infrastructure at a time of mounting threats and operational challenges.

Last year, [we called on Congress to make a meaningful investment in election security](#). The \$15 million in Election Security Grants provided by Congress in FY2025 reflects bipartisan interest for the vital work of election administration, but it falls profoundly short of what is needed to meet rising costs, ongoing threats, and new mandates that election officials are expected to implement.

Congress plays a critical role in supporting the administration of federal elections through Election Security Grants, administered by the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) — a bipartisan, independent agency established under the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) with overwhelming support from both parties. Once appropriated, these grants are allocated by each state's chief election officer and sub granted to local officials, who shoulder the bulk of election responsibilities.

Though funding has been inconsistent and insufficient, federal Election Security Grants have been critical. They have enabled election officials to upgrade voter registration systems, replace aging equipment, conduct post-election audits, install security cameras in ballot warehouses, and take other steps to protect the integrity of our elections.

Today, election officials are expected to deliver safe, accurate, and timely election results while facing extraordinary demands and insufficient resources. We must adapt to evolving state laws and respond to natural disasters. We are tasked with countering cyber attacks on our election infrastructure and efforts by foreign adversaries to undermine public trust in elections on social media; both fronts have become increasingly sophisticated with advancements in artificial intelligence. At the same time, we are also addressing rising threats of physical violence, working to protect the safety of the voters, our staff, our facilities, and ourselves.

In spite of these challenges, we continue to fulfill our core responsibilities: maintaining accurate voter rolls, ensuring access to the ballot, recruiting and training poll workers, running polling places, processing and counting ballots, and certifying and auditing results on a timely basis. In addition, we now regularly respond to public records requests, subpoenas, and litigation.

Protecting our election infrastructure requires constant vigilance and specialized expertise. Since 2018, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) has filled critical gaps, offering technical support and intelligence sharing. However, recent cuts to CISA's election-related services threaten our ability to defend against increasingly sophisticated attacks by foreign adversaries like Russia, China, and Iran. State and local officials cannot replace these services without additional federal support. While state and localities have long borne the primary responsibility for funding the majority of elections, the federal government has both a constitutional role and a responsibility to ensure the security of federal elections.

By investing in our elections, Congress would reinforce a critical component of our country's infrastructure. We urge you to allocate at least \$400 million in Election Security Grants for FY2026, with a minimum of 50% designated for local election offices, where applicable. This investment will help preserve the proud American tradition of secure, free, and fair elections. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Cisco Aguilar
Nevada Secretary of State

Gregg Amore
Rhode Island Secretary of State*

Shenna Bellows
Maine Secretary of State

Jocelyn Benson
Michigan Secretary of State

Bruce A. Brown
Secretary and Lead Member of the City of
Alexandria Electoral Board

Jim Condos
Former Vermont Secretary of State

Kristin B. Connelly
Contra Costa County, CA Clerk-Recorder-
Registrar

Nedra Cooper
Poll worker trainer for the Clark County, NV
Elections Department

Dustin M. Czarny
Onondaga County, NY Election Commissioner

Cathy Darling Allen

Former County Clerk and Registrar of Voters in
Shasta County, CA

Tate Fall

Director of Elections for Cobb County, GA

Carly Koppes

County Clerk and Recorder in Weld County, CO

Brianna Lennon

County Clerk for Boone County, MO

Denise Merrill

Former Connecticut Secretary of State

Rob Rock

Rhode Island Secretary of State

Steve Simon

Minnesota Secretary of State

Tonya Wichman

Director of the Board of Elections in Defiance
County, OH

Julie Wise

Director of King County Elections, WA

Kim Wyman

Former Washington Secretary of State*

*Indicates signers who are not a member of Issue One's [Faces of Democracy](#) campaign.

CC:

U.S. Senate Members of the Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee

U.S. House of Representatives Members of the Financial Services and General Government
Subcommittee

U.S. Senate Rules and Administration Committee

U.S. House of Representatives House Administration Committee