



February 10, 2026

The Honorable Jim Jordan

Chair
U.S. House of Representatives Committee
on the Judiciary
2056 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jamie Raskin

Ranking Member
U.S. House of Representatives Committee
on the Judiciary
2242 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Grassley

Chair
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dick Durbin

Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
711 Hart Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Jordan, Ranking Member Raskin, Chair Grassley, and Ranking Member Durbin,

As a bipartisan coalition of current and former election officials, we know first hand that free, fair, and secure elections depend on respecting states' primary authority to run elections, public trust, and the careful protection of voters' personal information.

That is why recent actions by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) are so concerning to us. Over the past several months, the DOJ has sought access to unredacted statewide voter registration data from nearly every state, including information not publicly available under state law. When many states declined to provide this data, the DOJ filed lawsuits (including against several of our offices). As a result, election officials are now forced to defend lawful state practices in court rather than focusing on preparing for upcoming elections.

These concerns came into sharper focus with the January 24, 2026 [letter](#) from Attorney General Pam Bondi to Minnesota Governor Tim Walz. The letter coupled a demand for access to Minnesota's voter rolls with federal immigration enforcement and other state policy issues. This raises serious concerns about executive branch electoral interference and coercion, and suggests motives that go well beyond routine or lawful election oversight.

We urge Congress to conduct robust oversight of the DOJ's actions to ensure voter privacy is protected, constitutional roles are respected, and federal enforcement remains transparent and lawful. We have three main concerns that we believe call for such oversight.



1. **We are concerned about voter privacy and public trust.** Voter registration systems contain highly sensitive personal information. State privacy laws limit what voter data can be released, and the DOJ has provided little explanation for how sensitive information would be stored, protected, or whether it could be shared with other federal agencies. There is also a real fear that these requests could be misused, putting voters' personal information and trust in the system at risk.
2. **The DOJ's actions challenge states' constitutional authority for administering elections.** Congress—not the executive branch—sets federal election law, and nothing in current law authorizes the DOJ to broadly collect unredacted voter data or override state privacy protections. That's why strong congressional oversight is needed to ensure the Constitution and state authority are respected—a point well understood by [bipartisan](#) Secretaries of State and election officials who regularly update voter lists under state law.
3. **These requests for private voter data and lawsuits have a negative impact on our ability to administer elections.** Being drawn into federal litigation over these issues forces officials to divert time, resources, and attention away from our core responsibilities, including election preparation and voter roll maintenance.

We urge Congress to:

1. **Hold oversight hearings to examine the legal basis for these requests, the specific purposes for which the DOJ would use the data, the safeguards in place to protect voters' private and sensitive information, and the potential impacts of these actions on election administration.** Committees with jurisdiction over the Department of Justice and federal election law, including the House and Senate Judiciary Committees, the House Administration Committee, and the Senate Rules and Administration Committee, are well positioned to undertake this review.
2. **Require the DOJ to be transparent about its voter data requests.** This can be done through formal written requests, hearings, or subpoenas that ask the Department to explain the legal authority it is relying on, how any data would be used and protected, and whether it could be shared with other federal agencies.
3. **Publicly reaffirm that states are preeminent in election administration, with federal oversight limited to what Congress authorizes.** Asserting these authorities would help ensure that federal agencies — including the DOJ — respect state authority, avoid overreach, and allow election officials to focus on running elections without fear of litigation or political pressure.



We stand ready to work with Congress on a bipartisan basis to protect voters' privacy, uphold constitutional principles, and ensure that federal oversight of elections is conducted transparently, responsibly, and in a way that strengthens public trust.

Sincerely,

Aaron Ammons

County Clerk for Champaign County, IL

Shenna Bellows

Maine Secretary of State

David B. Bjerke

Director of Elections & General Registrar of Voters for the City of Falls Church, VA

Bruce Brown

Secretary of the Electoral Board for the City of Alexandria, VA

Dustin M. Czarny

Elections Commissioner for Onondaga County, NY

Cathy Darling Allen

Former County Clerk/Registrar of Voters for Shasta County, CA

Shauna Dozier

Director of the Board of Elections and Registration for Clayton County, GA

Tate Fall

Former Elections Director for Cobb County, GA

Kenneth R. Hamm Sr.

Election Trainer for Clark County, NV

Brianna L. Lennon

County Clerk for Boone County, MO

Christopher McGinn

Former Training Specialist and GIS Analyst for Guilford County, NC

Armando Salud-Ambriz

Clerk/Recorder and Registrar of Voters for Nevada County, CA

Ashley Torres

Elections Commissioner for Ulster County, NY

Maggie Toulouse Oliver

New Mexico Secretary of State

Christine Walker

County Clerk for Jackson County, OR

Julie Wise

Director of Elections for King County, WA

*All signers are part of Issue One's [Faces of Democracy](#) campaign