

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 26, 2026

The Honorable Bryan Steil
Chairman
Committee on House Administration
1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Andrew R. Garbarino
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security
H2-176 Ford House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Steil, Chairman Garbarino:

We write to request a joint hearing of the Committee on House Administration and the Committee on Homeland Security (together, the “Committees”) on the Department of Justice’s (“DOJ”) letter to Minnesota Governor Tim Walz dated January 24, 2026.

In the letter, Attorney General Pam Bondi indicated that the ongoing immigration enforcement action in the state, which has resulted in two fatal shootings of Minnesota residents, would cease in exchange for certain actions by Minnesota, including the provision of state voter information to the federal government.

Our Committees have, respectively, jurisdiction over the fair administration of federal elections and the organization, administration, management, and functions of the Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”). The Trump Administration has used its immigration and law enforcement powers as a pretext to unleash violence against the American public; the Committees must ensure the Administration does not use its immigration and law enforcement powers as a predicate to attack Americans’ right to vote.

The murder of Alex Pretti by federal officers in Minneapolis this weekend was the tragic but predictable outcome of a campaign to inflict brutality on American communities disguised as immigration policy. Attorney General Bondi’s letter, written within hours of the killing, is part of a persistent, continued, long-term effort by the Trump Administration to recklessly and without merit question the security and integrity of American elections and assert control over them.

Voter information has nothing to do with immigration enforcement. Moreover, the Attorney General’s ransom note proves the deployment of federal law enforcement has nothing to do with domestic security or executing the law and everything to do with the President’s political interests. The Attorney General is attempting to use federal agents as a political weapon to extort the lawful government of an American state, and the Secretary is her co-conspirator. The Trump Administration acts as though it is a criminal syndicate: Minnesotans are literally held at gunpoint as hostages that the Attorney General would barter for voter information.

The Trump Administration’s transgressions fit into a broader distressing pattern among Republican policymakers. House Republicans are complicit in President Trump’s corrupt agenda, routinely disseminating misinformation about the security of American elections. House Republicans’

repeated and incorrect assertions that noncitizens vote routinely in American elections served as the foundation of Republicans’ attempt to enshrine the SAVE Act in federal law—a bill that would disenfranchise millions of eligible American citizens. House Republicans did nothing to prevent the President from slashing funding for the election security apparatus at DHS, like the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency and the Election Infrastructure Information Analysis Center, that helps ensure American elections remain free from foreign interference. House Republicans were silent when, in March of last year, the President issued an executive order directing DHS to review state voter registration lists to “identify unqualified voters.”¹

The Committees understand that DOJ has explored the possibility of employing criminal charges against state and local election administrators.² Further, state and local election administrators are bracing for the reality that the presence of federal law enforcement, including from DHS, at polling locations could interfere with the administration of midterm elections.³ Each of these actions—from the SAVE Act to the weaponization of DOJ against election officials to using federal law enforcement to intimidate voters—are attempts by the Administration to manipulate its law enforcement power to interfere with the outcome of American elections. In a stunning revelation, President Trump has confirmed that he regrets not using federal power to seize state voting machines in 2020,⁴ and recently suggested the government would prosecute unspecified individuals involved in the 2020 election.⁵ Regarding the midterms, the President has repeatedly “joked” that “we shouldn’t even have an election.”⁶ If President Trump is willing to turn DHS weapons against American citizens, he is certainly willing to use his power to subvert the law to retain political power.

The American public’s outrage at the cruelty and savagery of this administration grows daily. The Committees must demand answers and accountability from the Executive Branch. The American people must know what further abuses of law enforcement the President has planned, including as we go into an election year

As Chairman Garbarino rightly stated, the Committees must take our oversight duties seriously, and “Congress has an important responsibility to ensure the safety of law enforcement and the

¹ Exec. Order No. 14248 (Mar. 25, 2025).

² Devlin Barrett & Nick Corasaniti, *Justice Dept. Explores Using Criminal Charges Against Election Officials*, N.Y. TIMES (July 2, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/07/02/us/politics/justice-department-election-data.html>.

³ Miles Parks & Sacha Pfeiffer, *Local Voting Officials are Preparing for Possible Federal Interference in the Midterms*, NPR (Jan. 11, 2026), <https://www.npr.org/2026/01/11/nx-s1-5648611/local-voting-officials-are-preparing-for-possible-federal-interference-in-the-midterms>.

⁴ Alan Feuer & Ashley Ahn, *Trump Regrets Not Seizing Voting Machines After 2020 Election*, N.Y. TIMES (Jan. 11, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/01/11/us/trump-voting-machines-2020-election.html>.

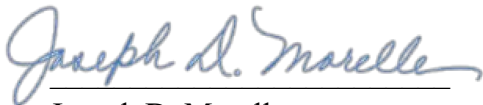
⁵ Cheyanne M. Daniels, *Trump Says Individuals Will Soon Be Prosecuted for 2020 Election*, POLITICO (Jan. 21, 2026), <https://www.politico.com/news/2026/01/21/trump-2020-election-prosecutions-00738778>.

⁶ James Oliphant, *Five Takeaways from the Reuters Interview of President Trump*, REUTERS (Jan. 15, 2026), <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/five-takeaways-reuters-interview-president-trump-2026-01-15/>; Nik Popli, *Trump Floats Cancelling 2026 Elections, Then Insists He Won’t*, TIME (Jan. 6, 2026), <https://time.com/7343696/trump-floats-cancelling-2026-elections/>. See also Aaron Blake, *Trump Canceling Elections? Democrats Increasingly Sound Alarm Bells*, CNN (Sept. 2, 2025), <https://www.cnn.com/2025/09/02/politics/democrats-alarm-trump-elections-analysis> (President Trump suggesting that certain circumstances, such as war, could justify canceling elections).

people they serve and protect.”⁷ We therefore demand a joint hearing by the Committees on DHS and DOJ interference in American elections, including testimony from Attorney General Bondi and Secretary Noem.

We look forward to your prompt action in this matter. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress
Ranking Member
Committee on House Administration



Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security

⁷ Press Release, U.S. House Committee on Homeland Security, Chairman Garbarino Requests ICE, CBP, USCIS Testimony for Upcoming Oversight Hearing (Jan. 24, 2026), <https://homeland.house.gov/2026/01/24/chairman-garbarino-requests-ice-cbp-uscis-testimony-for-upcoming-oversight-hearing/>.