



Ranking Member Morelle Opening Remarks at Subcommittee on Elections Hearing “Revisiting the 2024 Election with Secretaries of State”

The following remarks were prepared for delivery during the Committee on House Administration Subcommittee on Elections hearing on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. ET. The hearing titled, “Revisiting the 2024 Election with Secretaries of State” took place in room 1310 of the Longworth House Office Building.

Good afternoon. Thank you, Chairwoman Lee.

And thank you to the secretaries, for being here today.

As we gather this afternoon to “revisit the 2024 election,” it is important to state upfront that the 2024 election was fair and secure. And that Donald Trump was elected President.

You see, unlike many of you—Democrats can and will acknowledge that. Even when we don’t personally like or agree with the outcome of an election, we honor the democratic process and accept the results.

In examining the last election and looking for ways to improve our country’s election administration, we must address the rampant spread of mis- and disinformation and falsehoods that were spread about our electoral system.

We must protect election workers who face threats and harassment.

We must address the rise of artificial intelligence and continued foreign influence campaigns. We must fully fund our elections. Federal elections are on the ballot in every state every two years, and yet Congress fails to consistently and sufficiently provide funding.

Congress must halt and reverse the Administration’s harmful decisions to attack, undermine, and defund critical federal agencies and partnerships like the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), the Elections Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center, or the FBI’s Foreign Influence Task Force.

These actions do not strengthen our elections.

In fact, they make us less secure.

We need to fix our broken, special interest, big money campaign finance system.

Last year, one donor, billionaire Elon Musk, spent at least \$291 million backing Donald Trump and other Republican candidates.

According to OpenSecrets, the top six donors gave over \$100 million during the 2024 election, and they all supported Trump and Republican candidates.

And in last week's Wisconsin Supreme Court election, Musk and allied groups spent over \$20 million.

We also need fair maps. Just look at North Carolina, where Republicans gerrymandered their way into the House majority by drawing three Democratic Members out of their seats.

The President's recent executive order on "election integrity" is a further assault on our democracy.

The order is unlawful and unnecessary, attempting to impose documentary proof of citizenship requirements to register to vote by executive fiat—circumventing Congress and our Constitutional authority.

It undermines the independence of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission and injects chaos and uncertainty into our voting system certification process.

New York's attorney general, and a coalition of 18 other attorneys general, are suing to stop President Trump's unconstitutional attempt to seize control of elections. Voters and party committees have also sued.

Alongside all of this is the so called SAVE Act—a measure Republicans claim is necessary to prevent non-citizens from voting in U.S. elections.

It's not. Non-citizens registering to vote is already a crime. Non-citizens voting is a crime. It rarely happens. And when it does, non-citizens are held accountable.

The SAVE Act and the President's Executive Order are two sides of the same coin.

Now, with the economic pain of Trump's chaotic tariffs just being felt, Republicans are planning to charge millions of Americans potentially billions of dollars just to register to vote.

Last week, I testified before the Rules Committee that the SAVE Act and the Executive Order would disenfranchise women, rural voters, military voters, overseas voters, Native voters, seniors, students, survivors of domestic abuse, and survivors of natural disasters—millions of Americans.

There is, however, real work Congress can do to improve our elections.

Election officials take on essential, but often thankless work of running our elections and face increased threats, with too little—and inconsistent—funding from Congress.

As Ranking Member of this Committee, and a member of the Appropriations Committee, I will continue pushing for additional and consistent elections funding.

We can work to combat mis- and disinformation, to meet the challenges posed by artificial intelligence, and to improve access to the ballot for every American.

Providing both support and accurate information will allow election workers to administer secure and accessible elections, and provide Americans with confidence in the process and the outcomes.

I was honored to join Ranking Member Sewell in her hometown of Selma, Alabama for the 60th anniversary of Bloody Sunday just last month.

We must honor that legacy and continue moving forward in the fight for voting rights, not backwards.

I look forward to hearing from each of the Secretaries here today. Thank you for the work you, your staffs, and all the elections workers in your respective states do to carry out our elections. Thank you, Madam Chair, and I yield back.

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