



One Hundred Nineteenth Congress
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

September 2, 2026

The Honorable Andrew R. Garbarino
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Garbarino:

In July, Committee Democrats sent you the attached letter requesting that you hold a classified Member briefing on security threats to the upcoming midterm elections. Unfortunately, no such briefing has been scheduled. As the elections rapidly approach, I write to reiterate the need for Committee oversight regarding the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) plans for the elections, including a public hearing with administration officials.

Even though the first mail-in ballots will be sent to voters later this week, the administration continues to make news with new plans designed to undermine confidence in our election systems. This week, Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) launched an effort to investigate alleged voter fraud despite the lack of evidence of significant voter fraud in recent elections.¹ HSI agents should be focused on their important work investigating human trafficking, drug trafficking, and child exploitation, but instead have been directed to prioritize pursuing President Trump's conspiracy theories. Additionally, despite Federal law restricting law enforcement at polling places, Secretary Mullin continues to make ambiguous statements regarding under what circumstances he may deploy Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents to polling places.²

On July 17, Secretary Mullin announced that the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) would release an updated election infrastructure plan within 30 days, detailing CISA's plan for securing the midterm elections.³ As of today, CISA has still not released a plan, leaving election officials and Congress in the dark about what role CISA will have in supporting election security

¹ Priscilla Alvarez, Tierney Sneed & Gabe Cohen, *Exclusive: DHS plans to launch voter fraud investigation surge Tuesday*, CNN (Aug. 31, 2026), <https://www.cnn.com/2026/08/31/politics/homeland-security-voter-fraud-investigations>.

² Maya Yang, *Trump homeland security chief says ICE agents could be sent to polling places*, THE GUARDIAN (Sept. 2, 2026), <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/sep/01/trump-homeland-security-markwayne-mullin-polling>.

³ Doina Chiacu & A.J. Vicens, *DHS threatens states with fines, charges over election measures*, REUTERS (July 17, 2026), <https://www.reuters.com/legal/government/us-dhs-chief-asks-four-states-check-voter-rolls-non-citizens-2026-07-17/>.

during the midterms. Additionally, DHS has imposed new restrictions on its homeland security grants, withholding much-needed security assistance to State and local governments unless States implement certain election-related requirements.⁴

In previous election cycles, DHS served as a constructive partner to State and local election officials, helping improve the security of our elections and building resilience against efforts to undermine confidence in the integrity of election results. Under this administration, DHS has instead forced out its election security experts, cut information sharing with election officials, and sought to interfere in the State and local administration of elections in order to further the president's disproven conspiracy theories about the integrity of our elections. These actions not only risk undermining State and local efforts to carry out the elections but also undermine confidence in the elections and raise questions about what role DHS may play in the immediate aftermath of the election.

Committee Members have repeatedly sought more information from DHS on its plans for the elections. In line with this administration's practice, DHS has failed to be responsive to our oversight. I urge you to hold a hearing on this important topic so Members can finally get their questions answered by the administration.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Bennie G. Thompson
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security

⁴ Scott Dance, Nick Corasaniti & Hilary Howard, *Administration Demands States Change Voting Rules or Lose Antiterrorism Funds*, N.Y. TIMES (July 7, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/07/07/climate/fema-grants-states-election-changes.html>.