ANDREW R. GARBARINO, NEW YORK
CHAIRMAN

BENNIE G. THOMPSON, MISSISSIPPI
RANKING MEMBER

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

October 21, 2026

The Hon. Markwayne Mullin
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Mullin:

I demand the immediate cessation of Department of Homeland Security (DHS or the Department) law enforcement activity aimed at intimidating the public as the 2026 midterm elections are underway. The show-of-force operations DHS law enforcement is apparently undertaking in communities across America reflect an anti-democratic departure from the mission Congress set for the Department, and serve only President Trump's voter suppression agenda, not a legitimate enforcement objective.

Despite evidence that noncitizen voting is exceptionally rare, President Trump has used it as a pretext to justify efforts to impose election policies that make it harder for American citizens to register and to vote.[1] Since the beginning of the year, the Trump administration and its supporters have flirted with the idea of deploying DHS law enforcement to polling places. When Members of Congress have asked you to commit to following Federal law, which bars the deployment of armed Federal officers to polling places, you have refused to do so.[2] Members of Congress have also asked that you refrain from using DHS law enforcement and personnel to engage in tactics that could intimidate voters – an activity also prohibited under Federal law.[3] You have similarly refused that commitment.

Today, I have learned that DHS law enforcement is going door-to-door in communities across America in a haphazard immigration shakedown, demanding information from individuals about immigration status and plans to vote.[4] Relying on a "Target List" developed through, at best, questionable investigatory methods that have resulted in erroneously identifying noncitizens in the

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[1] Steve Holland & Jeff Mason, *Trump Signs Executive Order Calling for Proof of U.S. Citizenship to Vote*, REUTERS (Mar. 25, 2026), https://www.reuters.com/world/us/trump-signs-election-order-calling-proof-us-citizenship-vote-2025-03-26/.
[2] *See* 18 U.S.C. § 593.
[3] *See* 18 U.S.C. § 594.
[4] Madeline May, *Federal Agents Knock on Doors to Track Down Noncitizen Voters Ahead of Midterms,* CBS NEWS (Oct. 21, 2026), https://www.cbsnews.com/news/federal-agents-seek-noncitizen-voters/?ftag=CNM-00-10aab7e&linkId=1024777081.

past, DHS law enforcement personnel in tactical gear are going to homes to interrogate people about their immigration status and voting plans. This is not immigration or criminal enforcement. It is voter intimidation.

The objectives of this sham operation are clear. Still embarrassed by his 2020 election loss to President Joe Biden, President Trump has publicly attributed the outcome to noncitizen voting.[5] But President Trump knows the truth – he lost the 2020 election because the majority of eligible voters voted for another candidate. That is why he is weaponizing DHS law enforcement to create an environment of intimidation, fear, and confusion across the country as elections are underway.

You are ultimately responsible for actions of Department personnel and must cease these illegal tactics immediately.

Sincerely,



Bennie G. Thompson
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security

cc: The Hon. Andrew R. Garbarino
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security

[5] Ed Payne, *Fact Check: Census Bureau 'Beginning Analysis' Did NOT Find Over 24,000 Potential Noncitizens Voting In 2020 Election Affected Outcome*, YAHOONEWS (Aug. 20, 2026), https://www.yahoo.com/news/politics/articles/fact-check-census-bureau-did-042422385.html.