



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

July 16, 2026

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

Dear Secretary Mullen:

We write to demand all documents in the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS or the Department) possession related to the potential deployment of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents, or any other Department law enforcement personnel, to polling places during the 2026 midterm elections. Despite repeated assurances from high-ranking Department officials to Democratic Committee Members that there are no plans to deploy ICE agents to polling locations, we now understand that DHS attorneys have informed a Federal court that it may have thousands of documents on the subject.¹ We have an obligation to review those documents, not only to better understand how DHS personnel may be deployed during the midterm elections, but also to assess the veracity of testimony received by the Committee.

In early February, Steve Bannon took to his podcast to vociferously support comments the President made a day earlier encouraging Republicans to "nationalize the voting," and Bannon added that the administration should send ICE agents to polling places in November.² When asked about the suggestion, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said: "I can't guarantee that an ICE agent won't be around a polling location in November ... but what I can tell you is I haven't heard the president discuss any formal plans to put ICE outside of polling locations."³ Similar sentiments were echoed by administration officials in the weeks that followed. Notably, Heather Honey, DHS Assistant Secretary for Election Integrity, told election officials: "Any suggestion that ICE is going to be present at polling places is simply disinformation."⁴

¹ Jacob Knutson, *ICE Reverses, Admits It May Have Trove of Documents on Agents at Polling Places*, DEMOCRACY DOCKET (Jul. 14, 2026), <https://www.democracydocket.com/news-alerts/ice-agents-polling-places-documents-democrats-foia-demand/>. Order, *Democratic Nat'l Comm. v. U.S. Dept. of Just.*, No. 1:26-CV-00825 (D.D.C. Jul. 13, 2026), https://www.courtlistener.com/docket/72384565/democratic-national-committee-v-us-department-of-justice/?filed_after=&filed_before=&entry_gte=&entry_lte=&order_by=desc#minute-entry-470604838.

² Jacob Wendler, *Steve Bannon Calls for Trump to Deploy ICE and Military Troops to Polling Sites*, POLITICO (Feb. 4, 2026), <https://www.politico.com/news/2026/02/04/steve-bannon-ice-military-polling-sites-00765331>.

³ Nandita Bose, *Trump Has No 'Formal Plans' to Deploy ICE at Polling Sites, White House Says*, REUTERS (Feb. 5, 2026), <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/trump-has-no-formal-plans-deploy-ice-polling-sites-white-house-says-2026-02-05/>.

⁴ Miles Parks, *ICE Won't Be at Polling Locations This Year, A Trump DHS Official Promises*, NPR (Feb. 25, 2026), <https://www.npr.org/2026/02/25/nx-s1-5726768/ice-agents-midterm-elections>.

Administration officials have also denied in congressional testimony that plans exist to deploy DHS law enforcement personnel to polling places during the midterms. At a February 10, 2026, hearing before the Committee, then-ICE Acting Director Todd Lyons and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Commissioner Rodney Scottt told Ranking Member Thompson, under oath, that there were no plans to deploy ICE or CBP personnel to polling locations.⁵ On June 30, 2026, in response to Ranking Member Thompson’s request for a commitment that ICE would not deploy agents to or around polling places, another ICE official testified that there “are no plans that I’m aware of for . . . HSI special agents” to be at polling locations.⁶

The administration’s denial that plans exist to deploy Federal law enforcement to polling locations should not be surprising – to do so would violate long-standing Federal law. As you ought to be aware, 18 U.S.C. § 592 bars the presence of military personnel and Federal law enforcement at “any place where a general or special election is held, unless such force be necessary to repel armed enemies of the United States.”⁷

Nevertheless, at your confirmation hearing in March, you said that deploying ICE agents to polling locations would be appropriate in the event of a “specific threat.”⁸ Since then, ICE agents were found parked outside a polling location in California⁹ and ICE agents confronted a poll worker at a polling location in New York because of a social media post.¹⁰ We also understand that after telling a Federal judge that ICE was not in possession of any documents responsive to a Freedom of Information Act demand for records related to “the deployment of uniformed military or national guard personnel to polling places, ballot drop boxes, or election offices between the start of early voting and the completion of election certification,” ICE attorneys months later acknowledged that the agency does, in fact, possess material responsive to the request.¹¹ Indeed, ICE apparently has 11,103 potentially responsive pages, and CBP has over 100,000.¹² As Members of the Committee, we have an obligation to review those documents to ensure DHS’s compliance with the law and the veracity of the testimony we have received.

⁵ Oversight of the Department of Homeland Security: ICE, CBP, and USCIS: Hearing Before Comm. on Homeland Sec. 119th Cong. (2026).

⁶ Northern Exposure: Assessing the Evolving Threat Landscape at America’s Northern Border: Hearing Before Subcomm. on Border Sec. and Enforcement and the Subcomm. on Counterterrorism and Intelligence, 119th Cong. (2026).

⁷ 18 U.S.C. § 592.

⁸ Jasleen Singh & Kendall Verhovek, *Sending ICE to Polling Places Is Illegal*, BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE (Mar. 31, 2026), <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/sending-ice-polling-places-illegal>.

⁹ Wes Woods II, *Updated: ICE Presence Outside Simi Valley Vote Center Raises Alarms*, VC STAR (Jun. 2, 2026), <https://www.vcstar.com/story/news/politics/elections/2026/06/02/ice-presence-outside-simi-valley-vote-center-raises-alarms/90378216007/>.

¹⁰ Natalie Mooney, *Syracuse Poll Worker Says ICE Agents Targeted Her at Primary Election Polling Place*, SPECTRUM NEWS (Jun. 25, 2026), <https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/central-ny/news/2026/06/25/ice-agents-at-syracuse-poll>.

¹¹ Order, *Democratic Nat’l Comm. v. U.S. Dept. of Just.*, No. 1:26-CV-00825 (D.D.C. Jul. 13, 2026), https://www.courtlistener.com/docket/72384565/democratic-national-committee-v-us-department-of-justice/?filed_after=&filed_before=&entry_gte=&entry_lte=&order_by=desc#minute-entry-470604838.

¹² *Id.*

Please provide the Committee any and all documents in the Department's possession related to the potential, planned, or actual deployment of any DHS law enforcement personnel to polling locations during 2026. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. We look forward to receiving the documents.

Sincerely,



Bennie G. Thompson
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security



J. Luis Correa
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Border Security and
Enforcement



Delia C. Ramirez
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Cybersecurity and
Infrastructure Protection

Cc: The Hon. Andrew R. Garbarino, Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security
The Hon. Michael P. Guest, Chairman, Subcommittee on Border Security and Enforcement
The Hon. W. Andrew Ogles IV, Chairman, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity and Infrastructure
Protection