



CITIZENS FOR
RESPONSIBILITY &
ETHICS IN WASHINGTON

March 18, 2026

Melissa Golden
Lead Paralegal and FOIA Specialist
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Room 5517
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear FOIA Officer:

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (“CREW”) submits this request for records to the Office of Legal Counsel (“OLC”) pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552, and the Department of Justice (“DOJ”) regulations.

Specifically, CREW requests, from January 20, 2025 to the date this request is processed, all final opinions issued by OLC regarding federal and state elections, federal law regarding elections, or election administration.

Please search for responsive records regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics. We seek records of any kind, including paper records, electronic records, audiotapes, videotapes, photographs, data, and graphical material. Our request includes, without limitation, all correspondence, letters, emails, text messages, facsimiles, telephone messages, voice mail messages, and transcripts, notes, minutes of any meetings, telephone conversations, or discussions. Our request also includes any attachments to emails and other records.

If it is your position any portion of the requested records is exempt from disclosure, CREW requests that you provide it with an index of those documents as required under *Vaughn v. Rosen*, 484 F.2d 820 (D.C. Cir. 1973). If some portions of the requested records are properly exempt from disclosure, please disclose any reasonably segregable non-exempt portions of the requested records. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(b). If it is your position that a document contains non-exempt segments, but that those non-exempt segments are so dispersed throughout the document as to make segregation impossible, please state what portion of the document is non-exempt, and how the material is dispersed throughout the document. See *Mead Data Central v. U.S. Dep’t of the Air Force*, 566 F.2d 242, 261 (D.C. Cir. 1977).

Please be advised that CREW intends to pursue all legal remedies to enforce its rights under FOIA. Accordingly, because litigation is reasonably foreseeable, the agency should institute an agencywide preservation hold on all documents potentially responsive to this request.

Fee Waiver Request

In accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A) and 28 C.F.R. § 16.10, CREW requests a waiver of fees associated with processing this request for records. The subject of this request concerns the operations of the federal government, and the disclosures likely will contribute to a better understanding of relevant government procedures by CREW and the general public in a significant way. *See* 5 U.S.C. §552(a)(4)(A)(iii). Moreover, the request primarily and fundamentally is for non-commercial purposes. *See, e.g., McClellan Ecological v. Carlucci*, 835 F.2d 1282, 1285 (9th Cir. 1987).

This request concerns the operations of the federal government, namely the federal government's role in state and federal elections and its understanding of that role. The records will significantly contribute to the general public's and CREW's understandings of federal government operations by disclosing the extent to which OLC has issued opinions regarding American elections and the content of those opinions. That disclosure is significant to the public in any event, but particularly so at present, as the Trump administration, and President Trump himself, continues to foment distrust and doubt in the conduct and outcomes of American elections, President Trump openly discusses the possibility of cancelling or "nationalizing" them, and the federal government actively attempts to take control of the course of federal and state elections.

President Trump has repeatedly cast doubt on the validity of American elections and, on occasion, suggested cancelling, postponing, or delaying them all together. Prior to the 2020 election, for example, President Trump posted on Twitter (now "X"), without providing factual support, that "universal mail-in voting" would make it the "most inaccurate and fraudulent election in history" and a "great embarrassment to the USA," and proposed delaying the 2020 election "until people can properly, securely and safely vote[.]"¹ During his second term, President Trump has repeated his claims, again without providing factual support, that mail-in ballots and certain voting machines lead to an increase in voter fraud and fraudulent elections, which he previously suggested were grounds for delaying elections.²

President Trump has also discussed cancelling elections to serve his personal and political interests. In August 2025, during the public portion of a meeting with President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine, where elections have been suspended during Ukraine's war with Russia, President Trump stated, "during the war, you can't have elections? So let me just see, three and a half years from now, if we happen to be in a war with somebody, no more elections? That's good."³ On January 6, 2026—the five-year anniversary of the attack on the U.S. Capitol—President Trump told assembled Republican members of the House of Representatives during a partisan retreat, "How we have to even run against these people [Democrats]-I won't say cancel the election, they should cancel the election, because the fake news would say, 'He wants the election canceled. He's a dictator.' They always call me a

¹ Donald Trump (@realDonaldTrump), X, (July 30, 2020 at 8:46 a.m.), <https://perma.cc/6LQM-2XRN>.

² Ashley Lopez, *Trump Wants to Stop States From Voting by Mail and Using Voting Machines*, NPR (Aug. 19, 2025), <https://perma.cc/BYQ9-C4K7>.

³ *President Trump Quips About Canceling 2028 Elections if U.S. at War*, C-SPAN (Aug. 28, 2025), <https://tinyurl.com/4j5u44k2>.

dictator.”⁴ In the same remarks, President Trump warned Republican members of Congress that if Democrats win a majority in the midterm elections, “I’ll get impeached.”⁵

The President continues to publicly assert in interviews that the federal government should and could either cancel or interfere with elections. In January 2026, he said in one interview “we shouldn’t even have an election” while discussing the possibility that Republicans might lose their majority in Congress in the 2026 midterm elections.⁶ And during a podcast interview with Dan Bongino, his former deputy F.B.I. director, President Trump said, “The Republicans ought to nationalize the voting.”⁷

Given the President’s statements and recent efforts by the federal government to influence the course of federal and state elections, there is a strong public interest in documents and memoranda that establish OLC’s interpretation of federal law that defines and constrains the role of the federal government in election administration. These disclosures will also contribute to a better understanding of the DOJ’s commitment to free and fair elections and whether it has provided any guidance on this issue.

CREW is a non-profit corporation, organized under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. CREW is committed to protecting the public’s right to be aware of the activities of government officials, to ensuring the integrity of those officials, and to highlighting and working to reduce the influence of money on politics. CREW uses a combination of research, litigation, and advocacy to advance its mission. CREW intends to analyze the information responsive to this request and to share its analysis with the public through reports, press releases, or other means. In addition, CREW will disseminate any documents it acquires from this request to the public through its website, www.citizensforethics.org. The release of information obtained through this request is not in CREW’s financial interest.

CREW further requests that it not be charged search or review fees for this request pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(ii)(II) because CREW qualifies as a member of the news media. See *Nat’l Sec. Archive v. U.S. Dep’t of Defense*, 880 F.2d 1381, 1386 (D.C. Cir. 1989) (holding non-profit a “representative of the news media” and broadly interpreting the term to include “any person or organization which regularly publishes or disseminates information to the public”).

CREW routinely disseminates information obtained through FOIA to the public in several ways. For example, CREW’s website receives hundreds of thousands of page views every month. The website includes blogposts that report on and analyze newsworthy developments regarding government ethics, corruption, and money in politics, as well as

⁴ Nik Popli, *Trump Floats Cancelling 2026 Elections, Then Insists He Won’t*, Time (Jan. 6, 2026), <https://perma.cc/K5DQ-AHZV>.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Yunion Rivas, *Trump: ‘We Shouldn’t Even Have an Election’*, Democracy Docket (Jan. 15, 2026), <https://tinyurl.com/4ukdkn5b>; see also Callum Sutherland, *White House Insists Trump Is ‘Joking’ About Canceling Midterm Elections*, Time (Jan. 16, 2026), <https://perma.cc/MH9X-MJ5M>.

⁷ Erica L. Green, Michael Gold & Robert Jimison, *Trump Repeats Calls to ‘Nationalize’ Elections, as White House Walks it Back*, N.Y. Times (Feb. 3, 2026), <https://tinyurl.com/2s3v3f3j>; Nathaniel Rakich, *What Did Trump Mean by ‘Nationalize the Voting’? No One is Sure.*, Votebeat (Feb. 9, 2026), <https://perma.cc/AL4N-KDNK>.

numerous reports CREW has published to educate the public about these issues. These reports frequently rely on government records obtained through FOIA. CREW also posts the documents it obtains through FOIA on its website.

Under these circumstances, CREW satisfies fully the criteria for a fee waiver.

Expedited Processing Request

CREW requests expedited processing of this request, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552 and 28 C.F.R. § 16.5(e). CREW is entitled to expedited processing because (1) there is “[a]n urgency to inform the public about an actual or alleged Federal Government activity” and CREW is “primarily engaged in disseminating information,” 28 C.F.R. § 16.5(e)(1)(ii), and (2) these same facts raise possible questions, in “[a] matter of widespread and exceptional media interest involving questions about the Government’s integrity which affect public confidence.” *Id.* at § 16.5(e)(1)(iv).

Expedition is required under 28 C.F.R. § 16.5(e)(ii)

CREW is “primarily engaged in disseminating information” to the public, as most recently confirmed by the Court in *Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington v. U.S. Department of Justice* (“CREW v. DOJ”), No. 25-4426, 2026 WL 472589, at *10 (D.D.C. Feb. 19, 2026). This “standard ‘requires that information dissemination be the main [and not merely an incidental] activity of the requestor,’” but “publishing information ‘need not be [the organization’s] sole occupation.’” *Protect Democracy Project, Inc. v. U.S. Dep’t of Def.*, 263 F. Supp. 3d 293, 298 (D.D.C. 2017). CREW routinely disseminates information obtained through FOIA to the public in several ways. For example, CREW’s website receives hundreds of thousands of page views every month. The website includes blogposts that report on and analyze newsworthy developments regarding government ethics, corruption, and money in politics, as well as numerous reports CREW has published to educate the public about these issues. These reports frequently rely on government records obtained through FOIA. CREW also posts the documents it obtains through FOIA on its website. CREW is a credible requestor and disseminator of information often relied on by major media outlets.⁸

There is also an “urgency to inform the public concerning actual or alleged Federal Government activity.” 5 U.S.C. § 552(6)(E)(v)(II). The facts demonstrate that such urgency exists because (1) the request concerns a matter of current exigency to the American public; (2) the consequences of delaying a response would compromise a significant recognized interest; and (3) the request concerns federal government activity. *Al-Fayed v. C.I.A.*, 254 F.3d 300, 310 (D.C. Cir. 2001); *see also* *CREW v. DOJ*, 2026 WL 472589, at *10 (“Because the election cycle is inherently time-limited, delaying a response to CREW’s FOIA requests would inevitably compromise the public’s interest in understanding the nature of the allegedly ongoing effort before the upcoming elections pass by”).

⁸ *See, e.g.,* *Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington*, N.Y. Times, <https://perma.cc/VT6X-DPJM> (last visited Mar. 2, 2026) (list of New York Times articles referencing CREW spanning over a decade); Ed Pilkington & Dharna Noor, *Top US Ethics Watchdog Investigating Trump Over Dinner with Oil Bosses*, *The Guardian* (May 15, 2024), <https://perma.cc/G7T5-T6AV> (referring to CREW as “Top US ethics watchdog”).

The requested records concern a matter of current exigency to the American public, namely the federal government's interpretation of the laws regarding American elections, and any changes to that interpretation, in the midst of unprecedented efforts by the federal government to control and influence elections that are underpinned by unsubstantiated claims of voter fraud and illegal conduct by President Trump and high-ranking government officials.

President Trump's repeated suggestions that American elections be postponed, nationalized, or outright cancelled⁹ are just one part of his extensive and well-documented record of election denialism and false allegations of widespread voter fraud by his political opponents. His unsuccessful effort to prevent the transition of power after he lost the 2020 election culminated in the January 6, 2021 attack on the Capitol, multiple judicial findings that he had engaged in insurrection under the 14th Amendment,¹⁰ and his own criminal indictment at the state and federal level.¹¹ The effort led by President Trump to overturn the 2020 presidential election alone included making false public claims of election fraud before and after the election, pressuring state officials to alter election results, attempting to introduce slates of fake electoral college electors to Congress, using incendiary rhetoric to attack government officials he perceived to be in his way, and instructing a mob of his supporters to go to the Capitol in an effort to prevent Congress from certifying his election loss.¹²

And once back in office, President Trump pardoned not only the architects and promoters of that conspiracy,¹³ many of whom were his criminal co-defendants (including his White House Chief of Staff and a high-ranking DOJ official),¹⁴ but also more than 1,500 convicted criminals and criminal defendants who participated in the January 6 attack on the Capitol.¹⁵

Other senior government officials, including DOJ leadership, have similarly engaged in election denialism and, in some cases, sought to aid President Trump's efforts

⁹ See *Popli supra* note 4.

¹⁰ *Anderson v. Griswold*, 543 P.3d 283 (Colo.), *rev'd sub nom. Trump v. Anderson*, 601 U.S. 100 (2024); *Anderson v. Trump*, No. 2024 COEL 000013, 2024 WL 859410, at *17 (Ill. Cir. Ct. 2024); see also *Me. Sec'y of State, In re: Challenges of Kimberley Rosen, Thomas Saviello, and Ethan Strimling*; Paul Gordon; and Mary Ann Royal to Primary Nomination Petition of Donald J. Trump, Republican Candidate for President of the United States (Dec. 28, 2023).

¹¹ President Trump's co-defendants included, among others, his White House Chief of Staff, a senior DOJ official, five attorneys who represented him or his campaign. Charlie Savage & Adam Goldman, *The Trump Jan. 6 Indictment, Annotated*, N.Y. Times (Aug 1, 2023), <https://perma.cc/6MNB-SFER>; Alan Feuer, *et al.*, *The Trump Georgia Indictment, Annotated*, N.Y. Times (Aug. 15, 2023), <https://perma.cc/Q4ZD-EB2V>.

¹² *Anderson*, 543 P.3d 283 at 196–225.

¹³ Rebecca Rosman, *Trump Grants Pardons to Giuliani, Meadows, Others Linked to 2020 Election Efforts*, NPR (Nov. 10, 2025), <https://perma.cc/WT24-K7GZ>.

¹⁴ See Jason Morris, Marshall Cohen & Curt Merrill, *Who's Who in the Landmark Fulton County Indictment*, CNN (Nov. 10, 2025), <https://perma.cc/GP6D-UDBE>.

¹⁵ Granting Pardons and Commutation of Sentences for Certain Offenses Relating to the Events at or Near the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021, Proclamation No. 10887, 90 Fed. Reg. 8331 (Jan. 20, 2025).

to overturn the 2020 presidential election.¹⁶ Just a day after the 2020 presidential election, Attorney General Pamela Bondi traveled to Pennsylvania in support of President Trump. At various points during her trip, she falsely accused a Philadelphia election official of intimidation; insisted there was “evidence of cheating” in the Pennsylvania election; claimed that “fake ballots [were] coming in late and that “ballots have been dumped;” said to have “heard that people were receiving ballots that were dead;” and declared that Trump had won Pennsylvania.¹⁷ She provided no support for those allegations and challenges to Pennsylvania’s handling of the 2020 presidential election on these grounds were dismissed as meritless.¹⁸

And FBI Director Kash Patel, in addition to repeatedly suggesting that President Trump won the 2020 election, vowed prior to becoming FBI Director that the Trump administration was “going to come after the people in the media who lied about American citizens, who helped Joe Biden rig presidential elections—we’re going to come after you[.]”¹⁹ Rather than articulating any viable or legitimate legal theory for this retribution campaign, the FBI Director simply said, “[w]hether it’s criminally or civilly, we’ll figure that out.” Since becoming FBI Director, he has fired agents who investigated President Trump’s efforts to overturn the 2020 election,²⁰ and FBI agents seized 2020 election ballots in Fulton County, Georgia, where President Trump’s legal challenges to the 2020 election failed and President Trump was indicted for unlawful election interference.²¹

President Trump continues to spread disinformation about voting and elections as a justification for asserting federal authority over future federal elections. For example, he recently called for the federal government to “get involved” in elections while accusing several Democratic-run cities of corruption.²² President Trump has also claimed that Democrats who do not vote for voter ID laws “want to continue to cheat in Elections,” and

¹⁶ Nicholas Riccardi, *Trump’s Administration is Loaded with People Who Backed His False 2020 Election Claims*, PBS, (Feb. 20, 2026), <https://perma.cc/TL9X-P8QY>; Doug Bock Clark, *Trump Officials Attended a Summit of Election Deniers Who Want the President to Take Over the Midterms*, ProPublica (Feb 28, 2026), <https://perma.cc/B63K-KTXN>.

¹⁷ See, e.g., Beth Reinhard, *How Pam Bondi Boosted Trump’s Election Fraud Claims in a Key Swing State*, N.Y. Times (Dec. 16, 2024), <https://perma.cc/SD6H-PTLQ>; Robert Hogan, *Pam Bondi’s Recent History is Troubling for the DOJ*, Brennan Ctr. for Just. (Dec. 26, 2024), <https://perma.cc/39H8-LF5A>.

¹⁸ Alex Hosenball & Matthew Mosk, *Trump Campaign Loses 5 More Cases in Pennsylvania Supreme Court Decision*, CBS News (Nov. 24, 2020), <https://perma.cc/2CRA-7FGS>.

¹⁹ See Caitlin Dewey, *Meet Kash Patel, the MAGA Diehard Donald Trump Tapped to Lead the FBI*, Vanity Fair (Dec. 2, 2024), <https://tinyurl.com/53c7bzsj>; Michelle Price, *A Second Trump Administration Will Come After People in the Media in the Courts, an Ally Says*, Associated Press (Dec. 5, 2023), <https://perma.cc/W798-57R4>.

²⁰ Ken Dilanian & Carol Leonnig, *FBI Official Connected to Trump 2020 Election Investigation Being Pushed Out, Sources Say*, MS NOW (Oct. 30, 2025), <https://perma.cc/J79K-2SUU>.

²¹ See, e.g., Luke Barr, et al., *Fulton County Official Slams 2020 Ballot Seizure as FBI Director Says There Was ‘Probable Cause,’* ABC News (Jan. 29 2026), <https://perma.cc/M3YH-BWFn>; Janie Boschma, *Former President Donald Trump’s Fourth Indictment, Annotated*, CNN (Aug. 15, 2023), <https://perma.cc/337A-M67W>; Georgia Secretary of State, *Trump Legal Team Folds* (Jan. 7, 2021), <https://tinyurl.com/4pauxtk> (describing voluntary dismissal of Trump election challenges in Georgia).

²² Green et al., *supra* note 7.

that he would implement voter ID requirements “whether approved by Congress or not.”²³

At the same time, the federal government is attempting to take unprecedented control of elections in the United States, including the upcoming midterm elections that President Trump has suggested cancelling,²⁴ despite the fact that election administration is the constitutional prerogative of the states rather than the federal government.²⁵ In March 2025, President Trump issued an executive order that aimed to take control over major parts of the nation’s election administration.²⁶ A Federal court later struck down the provision of this executive order that required certain types of documentation when registering to vote with the federal voter registration form and found that the president lacks the authority to unilaterally alter election procedures.²⁷ President Trump is also pressuring Congress to pass the SAVE Act and similar legislation, which would place onerous requirements on voting registration and disenfranchise voters, going so far as to pledge not to sign any legislation until the Senate changes its filibuster rules and passes the SAVE Act.²⁸ The White House is also reportedly in communication with “Pro-Trump activists” about national emergency powers to take presidential control over the upcoming midterm elections.²⁹ And the DOJ, in addition to raiding the Fulton County election office,³⁰ is aggressively seeking complete state voter registration files from the states to illegally compile a “national voter roll,” suing at least 24 states and the District of Columbia for failing to comply with its demands.³¹

In short, President Trump’s and other federal officials’ repeated calls for federal interference in American elections, and the government’s efforts to manifest that interference, raises blunt questions regarding the scope of the federal government’s authority and role in federal and state elections and its understanding of the laws that both constrain and empower it. The records requested by CREW will allow the public to understand OLC’s—and by extension the federal government’s—view of these crucial questions before those elections take place.

²³ Donald Trump (@realDonaldTrump), Truth Social, (Feb. 13, 2026 at 4:35 p.m.), <https://tinyurl.com/35dp634z>.

²⁴ See Popli *supra* note 4.

²⁵ U.S. Const. art. I, § 4, cl. 1.; William A. Galston, *Does President Trump Have the Authority to ‘Nationalize’ Voting?*, Brookings (Feb. 11, 2026), <https://perma.cc/6S3K-VXXD>.

²⁶ Wendy R. Weiser, *The President’s Executive Order on Elections*, Brennan Ctr. for Just. (Oct. 31, 2025), <https://perma.cc/3SQJ-JSH7>.

²⁷ *Id.*

²⁸ Nicole Hansen & Emily Burns, *What You Need to Know About the SAVE Act*, Campaign Legal Ctr. (Feb. 9, 2026), <https://perma.cc/F4QJ-5SHT>; Isaac Arnsdorf, *Trump, Seeking Executive Power over Elections, is Urged to Declare Emergency*, Wash. Post (Feb. 26, 2026), <https://perma.cc/EK2E-W4AW>; Wendy R. Weiser & Andrew Garber, *SAVE Act Would Undermine Voter Registration for All Americans*, Brennan Ctr. for Just. (Feb. 5, 2026), <https://perma.cc/WP5R-HV6S>.

²⁹ Arnsdorf, *supra* note 28.

³⁰ See Barr *supra* note 21.

³¹ Kaylie Martinez Ochoa, Eileen O’Conner, & Patrick Berry, *Tracker of Justice Department Requests for Voter Information*, Brennan Ctr. for Just. (last updated Jan. 16, 2026), <https://tinyurl.com/ypf63y95>; Jim Saksa, *The Trump Administration is Building a ‘National Voter Roll’, Former DOJ Lawyers Warn*, Democracy Docket (Jan. 5, 2026), <https://tinyurl.com/y5yndkhj>.

Expedition is required under 28 C.F.R. § 16.5(e)(1)(iv)

The same alleged facts raise possible questions, in “[a] matter of widespread and exceptional media interest involving questions about the Government’s integrity which affect public confidence.” 28 C.F.R. § 16.5(e)(1)(iv). As an initial matter, both President Trump’s statements about potentially postponing, cancelling, or “nationalizing” elections and the federal government’s efforts to exert additional control over federal and state elections continue to be the subject of intense media scrutiny and far-reaching public discourse.³² President Trump and his wider administration have also repeatedly asserted that the federal government’s attempts to assert its authority with regard to federal and state elections are in response to what they claim to be the frequency of fraud and corruption in American elections, raising clear questions about the integrity of elections and the government generally.³³

Further, President Trump’s and other high-ranking officials’ continuing history of baseless attacks on the integrity of American elections, and President Trump’s previous efforts (with the assistance of Attorney General Bondi) to overturn his 2020 election loss raises significant question regarding the government’s conception of its authority with respect to American elections and the quality and content of OLC’s opinions on this matter.

³² Popli, *supra* note 4; Rivas, *supra* note 6; Sutherland, *supra* note 6; Green et al., *supra* note 7; Rakich, *supra* note 7; Arnsdorf, *supra* note 28; Lara Spirit, *Trump was ‘Only Joking’ About Cancelling Midterm Elections*, The Times (Jan. 16, 2026), <https://perma.cc/9PGA-CBA8>; Kinsey Crowley, *Trump Floats Canceling Election, Dismisses it to Avoid ‘Dictator’ Label*; USA Today (Jan. 7, 2026), <https://tinyurl.com/yc76t933>; Alison Durkee, *Trump Suggests U.S. ‘Shouldn’t Even Have’ November Midterms*, Forbes (Jan. 15, 2026), <https://tinyurl.com/msuw2xmj>; Aron Blake, *Trump Canceling Elections? Democrats Increasingly Sound Alarm Bells.*, CNN (Sept. 2, 2025), <https://tinyurl.com/mry3veh5>; Jude Joffe-Block and Miles Parks, *33 million voters have been run through a Trump administration citizenship check*, NPR (Sept. 11, 2025), <https://perma.cc/T52H-ZCRD>; Jude Joffe-Block, *Trump’s SAVE tool is looking for noncitizen voters. But it’s flagging U.S. citizens too*, NPR (Dec. 10, 2026), <https://perma.cc/HJX4-Y9VH>; Raquel Coronell Uribe, *Trump says he won’t sign any bills until SAVE America Act passes*, NBC News (Mar. 8, 2026), <https://tinyurl.com/bdda2hr3>; Sudiksha Kochi, *Trump tells Republicans the SAVE America Act will ‘guarantee the midterms’*, The Hill (Mar. 9, 2026), <https://tinyurl.com/36cxmepp>; Kate Brumback, *FBI agents execute search warrant at election office near Atlanta*, PBS (Jan. 28, 2026), <https://tinyurl.com/3j8mpm97>; Gregory Svirnovskiy, *Fulton County challenges FBI’s seizure of its 2020 ballots in court*, Politico (Feb. 4, 2026), <https://tinyurl.com/7bbm9pbe>; Yan Zhuang, *Trump Says He Will Sign Executive Order Mandating Voter I.D.*, N.Y. Times (Aug. 31, 2025), <https://tinyurl.com/zusd6swp>; Sarah Davis, *Federal judge knocks down Trump efforts to tighten voter citizenship rules*, The Hill (Jan. 31, 2026); <https://tinyurl.com/3rd44kyf>; Jarrett Renshaw and Susan Heavey, *Trump vows to end use of mail-in ballots ahead of 2026 midterm election*, Reuters (Aug. 18, 2025), <https://tinyurl.com/3fhspwh6>; Zach Montague, *Judge Bars Trump From Withholding Election Funds to States*, N.Y. Times (Jan. 9, 2026), <https://tinyurl.com/4c9zmm28>.

³³ Riccardi, *supra* note 16; Clark, *supra* note 16; Reinhard, *supra* note 17; Hogan, *supra* note 17; Dewey, *supra* note 19; Price, *supra* note 19; Jess Bidgood, Nick Corasaniti & Alexandra Berzon, *Trump is Putting Election Deniers in Charge of Elections*, N.Y. Times (Oct. 24, 2025), <https://tinyurl.com/2y2ycmba>; Devlin Barrett, Nick Corasaniti, & Richard Fausset, *Georgia Ballot Inquiry Originated With Election Denier in Trump White House*, N.Y. Times (Feb. 10, 2025), <https://tinyurl.com/3cwm2de4>; Josh Kelety, *Trump administration widens its 2020 election probe as it obtains records from Arizona*, PBS (Mar. 9, 2026), <https://tinyurl.com/md3hk7xd>; Alexandra Berzon & Nick Corasaniti, *Trump Empowers Election Deniers, Still Fixated on 202 Grievances*, N.Y. Times (Oct. 22, 2025), <https://tinyurl.com/58kvs7cr>.

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And as many courts³⁴ and public commenters³⁵ have made clear, President Trump's claims about Executive Branch authority over elections are dubious at best and outright wrong at worst. Unlawful Executive Branch incursion into elections unquestionably "implicates 'questions about the government's integrity' and may 'affect public confidence.'" *CREW v. DOJ*, 2026 WL 472589, at *11. The public has an urgent need for clarity on this matter, as it relates to the country's most essential democratic function: free and fair elections.

The undersigned certifies that the above statement is true and correct.

Conclusion

If you have any questions about this request or foresee any problems in fully releasing the requested records, please email me at [REDACTED] and foia@citizensforethics.org or call me at [REDACTED]. Also, if CREW's request for a fee waiver is denied, please contact our office immediately upon making such a determination.

Where possible, please produce records in electronic format. Please send the requested records to [REDACTED] and foia@citizensforethics.org or by mail to Samantha Suman, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, PO Box 14596, Washington, D.C. 20004.

Sincerely,

/s/ Kayvan Farchadi

³⁴ See *United States v. Oregon*, No. 6:25-cv-01666, 2026 WL 318402, at *13 (D. Or. Feb. 5, 2026); *United States v. Weber*, No. 25-cv-09149-DOC-ADS, 2026 WL 118807 (C.D. Cal. Jan. 15, 2026); *League of United Latin Am. Citizens v. Exec. Off. of President*, --- F. Supp. 3d ---, No. 25-cv-946-CKK, 2025 WL 3042704, at *32 (D.D.C. Oct. 31, 2025); *Washington v. Trump*, --- F. Supp. 3d ---, No. 25-cv-602-JHC, 2026 WL 73866 (W.D. Wash. Jan. 9, 2026); *California v. Trump*, --- F. Supp. 3d ---, No. 25-cv10810-DJC, 2025 WL 2663106 (D. Mass. Sept. 17, 2025).

³⁵ Anna Bower & Molly Roberts, *In Case of Emergency: The Dubious Legality of Trump Allies' Draft EO*, Lawfare (March 12, 2026), <https://perma.cc/L8D6-747P>; Gréta Bedekovics, Devon Ombres & Michael Sozan, *The Trump Administration Has No Legal Authority To Invoke National Security and Take Over Elections*, Center for American Progress (March 3, 2026), <https://tinyurl.com/5ftrnta2>; William Galston, *Does President Trump have the authority to 'nationalize' voting?*, Brookings (Feb. 11, 2026), <https://perma.cc/XWJ6-APQN>.