

September 28, 2023

Dear Member of Congress,

As organizations and election officials deeply committed to safeguarding and expanding voting access, we are writing to urge your leadership in preserving the \$75 million currently allocated for Election Security Grants in the Senate Fiscal Year 2024 Financial Services and General Government (FSGG) appropriations bill. Protecting this \$75 million appropriation is one of the most critical voting rights priorities for the 118th Congress. With changing laws in state legislatures across the country, including restrictions on nonprofit support and [limiting local tax revenue](#), elections offices are left with limited options to meet urgent gaps in equipment, personnel, and facilities.

We commend Congress's efforts in securing last year's \$75 million allocation, which has played a pivotal role in addressing the needs of voters across the nation. However, the challenges we face moving into an election year require a more substantial and sustained investment to ensure that all Americans can exercise their fundamental right to vote.

Election officials in every state encounter a multitude of challenges each electoral cycle, demanding substantial financial resources. These challenges encompass navigating a dynamic landscape of cybersecurity threats, modernizing voting equipment to eliminate technical issues and ensure accurate result tabulation, continuous improvements to voter registration systems for precise voter rolls, and comprehensive training and education for election staff, poll workers, and the public.

When election administration is not adequately resourced, the core functions of our elections and the democratic process are threatened, as is the ability of large numbers of voters to participate. Frontline election workers who keep our democracy running year in and year out are unable to serve their communities, and voters, especially voters of color and those in low-income communities, risk disenfranchisement. Inadequate funding of election offices can cause long lines, delays in processing voter registrations or mail ballots, and other problems that can become insurmountable for significant numbers of would-be voters.

Given the critical nature of these needs, we strongly urge your support in preserving the \$75 million allocated for election infrastructure in the Senate FSGG Fiscal Year 2024 bill. As we approach the 2024 presidential election cycle, we cannot afford to reduce funding for election offices and put at risk the cornerstone of our democracy.

In the next appropriations process, we urge you to [match the level of Federal investment in the last Presidential Election of \\$825 million in HAVA Security Grants](#), with two-thirds of the funding going directly to local elections offices. [A study by MIT's Election Lab](#) found that ensuring the integrity and accessibility of our elections requires an investment of \$50 billion over 10 years. The amount of \$75 million over the past few budgets is a good start but far more is needed if we are to successfully prepare critical election infrastructure for the challenges ahead. We also urge you to include a requirement that a certain portion of future funding allocations be passed through directly to localities, where a good deal of election administration takes place, to ensure these frontline democracy workers have the resources they need to run safe, secure, and modern elections.

We understand that federal resources are limited and face competing demands, but funding our election infrastructure is an investment in every facet of our lives; federal funding for elections will bolster voter confidence, ensure that every citizen's voice is heard, and safeguard the integrity of our electoral process—all essential ingredients in a healthy democracy.

Thank you for your dedication to our democracy. We appreciate your consideration of this crucial request.

Sincerely,

Organizations

AFL-CIO  
All Voting is Local Action  
American Civil Liberties Union  
American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees  
American Federation of Teachers  
American Oversight  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - AAJC  
Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote (APIAVote)  
Blue Future  
Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law  
Business for America  
California Environmental Voters  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Center for Common Ground  
Center for Popular Democracy  
Center for Tech and Civic Life  
Chispa LCV  
Church World Service  
Civic Nebraska  
Clean Elections Texas  
Clean Water Action  
Coalition on Human Needs  
Connecticut League of Conservation Voters  
Conservation Colorado  
Conservation Voters for Idaho  
Conservation Voters of PA  
Declaration for American Democracy Coalition  
Democracy 21  
Democracy SENTRY  
Elections Infrastructure Initiative  
Elevate  
End Citizens United//Let America Vote Action Fund  
Endangered Species Coalition  
Environmental League of Massachusetts Action Fund

Fair Elections Center  
Fair Fight Action  
FairVote  
Faith in Public Life Action  
Fix Democracy First  
Franciscan Action Network  
Friends Committee On National Legislation  
Georgia Conservation Voters  
Get Money Out – Maryland  
Greenpeace USA  
Illinois Environmental Council  
Indiana Conservation Voters  
Indivisible  
Indivisible Santa Fe  
Interfaith Alliance  
Interfaith Power & Light  
Issue One  
Jewish Council for Public Affairs  
Kent Street Coalition  
LatinoJustice PRLDEF  
Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights  
League of Conservation Voters  
League of Women Voters of the United States  
Licking County Board of Elections  
Maine Conservation Voters  
Missouri Voter Protection Coalition  
Movement Advancement Project  
NAACP  
NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.  
NALEO Educational Fund  
National Action Network  
National Council of Churches  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)  
National Education Association  
National Voter Corps  
Nevada Conservation League  
New Hampshire Campaign for Voting Rights  
New Jersey League of Conservation Voters  
New York League of Conservation Voters  
NextGen America  
Ohio Association of Election Officials  
Ohio Environmental Council Action Fund  
Oregon League of Conservation Voters  
OSET Institute, Inc.  
Partnership for Large Election Jurisdictions

People Power United  
Progressive Democrats of America  
Project On Government Oversight  
Protect Democracy  
Public Citizen  
Public Wise  
Secure Elections Network  
SEIU  
Sojourners-SojoAction  
Southern Poverty Law Center Action Fund  
Stand Up America  
The Alaska Center  
The Episcopal Church  
The Sierra Club  
The Workers Circle  
Union for Reform Judaism  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
United Church of Christ, Justice and Local Church Ministries  
Verified Voting  
Vermont Conservation Voters  
Voices for Progress  
Voters Rights and Protection Taskforce  
Voto Latino  
Washington Conservation Action  
We The Veterans  
Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice

#### Local Elected Officials

Tim Arsenault, Town Clerk, Vernon, Vermont  
Dawn Behem, Clerk, Riley Township, Michigan  
Juli Briskman, Supervisor, Loudoun, Virginia  
Krissi Brott, City Clerk, City of Greenville, Michigan  
Bill Burgess, Deputy City Clerk, City of Romulus, Michigan  
Robin Cleveland, Township Clerk, Williamstown Township, Michigan  
Kristin Connelly, Clerk-Recorder and Registrar of Voters, Contra Costa County, California  
Erica Eklov, City Clerk, City of Three Rivers, Michigan  
Susan Esmond, City Clerk, City of Portage, Michigan  
Dusty Farmer, Clerk, Oshtemo, Michigan  
Eileen Harryvan, Deputy Clerk, City of Farmington, Michigan  
Wendi Heyliger, Clerk, Buchanan Charter Township, Michigan  
Halley Hilton, Township Clerk, Township of Southfield, Michigan  
D'Sjonaun Hockenhull, Executive Director, City of Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
Lori Lascoe, Ray Township Clerk, Ray Township, Michigan  
Sally Ober, Town Clerk and Presiding Officer for Elections, Town of Lincoln, Vermont  
Shelby Vance, Deputy Clerk, Buchanan Charter Township, Michigan

Anthony Vega, County Clerk and Recorder, Lake County, Illinois  
Jason Walker, Election Program Supervisor 1, Baltimore City, Maryland  
Leslie Wilson, County Clerk, Marion County, Oregon  
Claire Woodall, Deputy Clerk of Elections, Park County, Colorado