

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 22, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to urge you to prioritize funding to support our free and fair elections in your budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025, including by providing the highest possible funding level for grants to be distributed to states by the Election Assistance Commission. With the 2024 elections now underway, state and local officials are already spending significant resources so that every eligible American can make their voices heard when they cast their ballots. This funding is critical for hardworking officials to prepare and plan effectively for their ongoing responsibilities on the frontlines of our democracy.

The continued successful administration of our elections requires a steady stream of resources to support this year-round work. This funding is needed to maintain and improve election infrastructure, keep pace with emerging technology like artificial intelligence, and enhance cybersecurity to combat new threats. Election security is integral to national security and it is critical that we invest meaningfully to ensure that they continue to run smoothly.

These resources are also important to hire and train new election officials and poll workers, as well as to protect the security of election officials who are facing ongoing threats and harassment for simply doing their jobs. One survey of local election officials last year found that nearly one in three said they have been abused, harassed, or threatened and one in five know someone who left their job over safety concerns. Last fall over a dozen letters were reportedly sent to election offices or government buildings in six states, some containing fentanyl and other unidentified substances, that not only threatened the health and safety of election officials but also caused some delays in ballot counting.

While we are also working to strengthen our democracy and are committed to advancing legislation to expand access to the ballot and improve the security of election officials and workers, we recognize that the critical work being done to administer our elections successfully is happening now, despite years of underinvestment. We urge you to include in your budget the funding that is needed to not only maintain the safe and secure administration of our elections, but also to address emerging threats and to invest in future elections.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Cory Booker
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



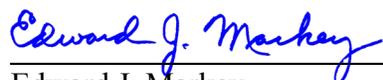
Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



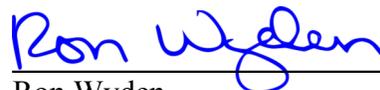
John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



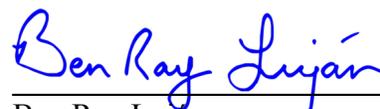
Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



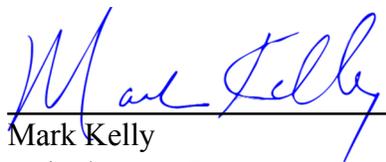
Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator