

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, D.C. 20510**

October 23, 2026

The Honorable Harmeet Dhillon  
Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Assistant Attorney General Dhillon:

We write with urgent questions regarding the Department of Justice's (DOJ) decision to deploy election monitors from the Department's Civil Rights Division (Division) to Adams County, Colorado. Recent reporting indicates the Division has deviated substantially from its traditional approach to election observation, raising serious concerns regarding the scope, nature, and pretence of this deployment. The Trump Administration has spent the last 18 months attempting to assert control over federal elections, in clear violation of the Constitution and state prerogatives.<sup>1</sup> This latest action appears to be a clear continuation of those efforts, and risks intimidating Colorado voters and undermining Colorado's elections.

There is nothing routine or conventional about the DOJ's approach to its election monitoring program this year. As you know, your Division has stated that it plans to position approximately 1,000 election monitors in all 50 states on Election Day.<sup>2</sup> A deployment of that size would be the largest such observation effort in the Department's history, and about triple the number deployed in the last midterm election.<sup>3</sup> The Department also plans to assign criminal prosecutors as monitors, as opposed to the civil lawyers and support staff it has sent in the past.<sup>4</sup> This is a significant break from historical practice, when DOJ refrained from sending prosecutors to polls given the understandable concern that their presence could chill protected activity – not least of which is the right to cast a ballot without fear of interference.

Although the Department's Civil Rights Division regularly monitors compliance with federal voting rights laws, significant concerns have already been raised about the conduct of DOJ observers this election cycle. In Wyoming – where DOJ Civil Rights attorneys were sent to observe the August primaries – Republican Governor Mark Gordon expressed alarm about their “aggressive” and “irregular” behavior.<sup>5</sup> The Republican county clerk of Wyoming's Laramie County stated that the monitors “showed complete disregard for our state laws and administration of our elections.”<sup>6</sup> This Division's attorneys, already on notice for operating beyond their lawful remit, are now descending on Adams County.

Moreover, the Division's justification for sending election monitors to Adams County suggests a broader effort beyond the scope of the Department's normal monitoring activities. The county is covered under Section 203 of the *Voting Rights Act of 1965*, which requires voters be given access to election materials in the language they speak. But this administration has already indicated that it intends to use Section 203

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<sup>1</sup> See U.S. Const. art. I, § 4, cl. 1.

<sup>2</sup> Sara N. Lynch, “[Justice Department to send a record 1,000 monitors to polling places in midterm elections](#),” CBS News, August 18, 2026.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Derek Hawkins, “[DOJ Is Recruiting Prosecutors to Monitor Polling Places](#),” *Washington Sun*, October 6, 2026.

<sup>5</sup> Kaanita Iyer, “[Republican governor asks his AG to look into ‘aggressive’ behavior by Trump admin’s election monitors](#),” CNN, August 28, 2026.

<sup>6</sup> Adam Edelman, “[Wyoming’s Republican governor raises concerns over ‘aggressive’ DOJ election monitors](#),” NBC News, August 27, 2026.

as a shortcut to identify counties with significant numbers of non-English-speaking voters – with the possibility of increased investigation and enforcement as a result, a treatment Adams County now appears subject to.<sup>7</sup>

The Division’s deployment has not emerged in a vacuum. The Justice Department has sued states for their full and complete voter rolls, including confidential voter information – an unprecedented federal effort to seize sensitive state-level data.<sup>8</sup> The President has issued an executive order to curtail mail-in voting, in an attempt to restrict access to the ballot.<sup>9</sup> And the Department of Homeland Security has continued to push states to upload their voting rolls into the Department’s SAVE system, which has been transformed from a benefits-eligibility identifier to one purporting to verify citizenship<sup>10</sup> – despite the system repeatedly flagging eligible voters as noncitizens.<sup>11</sup> Colorado has been targeted in each of these actions, and is now being targeted again.

The integrity and security of Colorado’s elections are not in doubt. Colorado enjoys some of the highest voter turnout rates in the country, in part because Coloradans trust our electoral system – a trust that has been reinforced by regular post-election risk-limiting audits, which have been conducted in every Colorado election since 2017. Unlike those audits, the Department’s actions do nothing to enhance or support Colorado’s gold-standard election process, but instead risk impairing the free and fair conduct of elections in our state.

This type of coordinated, bad-faith conduct subverts Congress’ and the states’ constitutional authority to regulate elections. The United States Department of Justice owes Coloradans answers about why federal officials are attempting to monitor our elections, and who those officials are. We expect responses to following questions by October 28, 2026:

1. Could you explain why the Department of Justice is assigning Criminal Division prosecutors to serve as election monitors in Colorado and across the country?
2. Did the Department of Justice and the White House communicate about the planned deployment of election monitors?
3. Did the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security communicate about the planned deployment of election monitors?
4. Does the Civil Rights Division plan to deploy additional election monitors to Colorado? If so, identify the counties.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter, and we look forward to reviewing your response.

Sincerely,

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<sup>7</sup> Miles Parks, Jude Joffe-Block, Ximena Bustillo, [“A DHS email raises new questions about the Trump administration's election plans,”](#) National Public Radio, last updated September 18, 2026.

<sup>8</sup> Nick Corasaniti, [“D.O.J. Escalates Threats to States in Battle for Election Records,”](#) *New York Times*, September 10, 2026.

<sup>9</sup> Exec. Order No. 14399, 91 Fed. Reg. 17125 (April 3, 2026).

<sup>10</sup> Nicholas Nehamas and Zach Montague, [“Here’s How Trump Is Building a National Citizenship Database to Check Voters,”](#) *New York Times*, September 25, 2026.

<sup>11</sup> Jen Fifield and Zach Despart, [“A federal tool to check voter citizenship keeps making mistakes. It led to confusion in Texas,”](#) *Texas Tribune* and *ProPublica*, February 13, 2026.



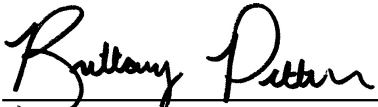
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Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



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John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator



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Brittany Pettersen  
Member of Congress



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Joe Neguse  
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