

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 30, 2025

The Honorable Pamela J. Bondi
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

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

Dear Attorney General Bondi and Assistant Attorney General Dhillon:

We write to you in response to the announcement made by the Department of Justice (DOJ) on October 24, 2025, that it will monitor polling sites in five California counties ahead of the upcoming November 4, 2025, general election.¹ While we believe this decision is unnecessary and unjustified, California's election administration represents the gold standard for the nation, and we welcome fair and impartial DOJ observation and monitoring. However, let us be crystal clear: We will not tolerate federal interference in Californians' right to vote, including by the Department engaging in any form of intimidation of immigrant communities.

California routinely administers the largest statewide elections in the United States. In the last such election in November 2024, more than 16.1 million Californians voted without incident, representing more than 71 percent of registered voters,² well above the national average.³ We are proud that the state continues to be a model of free and fair elections not only in the United States but around the world.

In addition to being the largest, California elections are also highly transparent and secure. First, every voter in the state receives a ballot that they may return in lieu of voting in person. Each returned ballot has a voter-verifiable paper audit trail,⁴ which means voters know that their ballot has arrived and has been counted. Ballots are carefully checked in an open, audited process that ensures the integrity of every vote.⁵ Second, voting machines used for in-person voting are

¹ Department of Justice, "Justice Department to Monitor Polling Sites in California, New Jersey," Oct. 24, 2025, <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-monitor-polling-sites-california-new-jersey>.

² California Secretary of State, "Secretary of State Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D., has certified the results of the California November 5, 2024, General Election," Dec. 13, 2024, <https://www.sos.ca.gov/administration/news-releases-and-advisories/2024-news-releases-and-advisories/secretary-state-shirley-n-weber-phd-has-certified-results-california-november-5-2024-general-election>.

³ Hannah Hartig, Scott Keeter, Andrew Daniller, and Ted Van Green, "Voter turnout, 2020-2024," June 26, 2025, <https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/2025/06/26/voter-turnout-2020-2024/>.

⁴ California Secretary of State, "Election Security is our number one priority," last accessed Oct. 27, 2025, <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/election-cybersecurity>.

⁵ *Id.*; California Secretary of State, "How California Ensures Safe and Secure Voting," last accessed Oct. 27, 2025, <https://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/pdfs/election-integrity-fact-sheet.pdf>.

carefully tested – also in an open process – including by validating source code, reviewing hardware and software security, and conducting penetration testing.⁶

While we support transparency, any interference in California’s state election – absent a violation of federal law – is unacceptable. Thus far, the DOJ has provided neither evidence nor a credible allegation of a violation of federal law with respect to elections in California. Federal monitoring of elections is not new.⁷ However, what is new is the way this Department is using its power: Shortly after taking office, Assistant Attorney General Dhillon announced the Civil Rights Division would move away from enforcing civil rights laws and instead focus on “voter fraud” particularly among undocumented immigrants.⁸ This is despite the fact that even *allegations* of such incidents are exceedingly rare across the country.⁹

In at least 40 states – including California – the Department has already taken steps to undermine elections by seeking to obtain sensitive personal information of voters.¹⁰ These are inappropriate and blatant attempts to suppress voter turnout. Such moves are unacceptable and have no place in the United States. Now that the Department has decided to send election monitors to California without any credible foundation, we remind you that the Department’s role is to observe and, where appropriate, enforce federal law; the United States DOJ has no other role to play at this stage in California’s state election.

We welcome the DOJ’s impartial observation of California’s exemplary elections process and stand ready to work with our federal partners in good faith to address any issues should they arise. However, we urge you to respect the free and fair election already underway and refrain from further engaging in conduct that seeks to lower voter participation, intimidate voters, or undermine voters’ trust in the outcome.

Sincerely,

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ United States Department of Justice, “About Federal Observers And Election Monitoring,” last updated Oct. 16, 2024, <https://www.justice.gov/crt/about-federal-observers-and-election-monitoring>.

⁸ Glenn Thrush, “Justice Dept.’s Civil Rights Division Pushes Trump’s Culture War Agenda,” Apr. 18, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/04/18/us/politics/trump-doj-civil-rights.html>.

⁹ Allison Anderman, “The Damage from Conspiracy Theories About Noncitizen Voting,” Brennan Center for Justice, Oct. 10, 2024, <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/damage-conspiracy-theories-about-noncitizen-voting>; Center for Election Innovation & Research, “Review of Allegations of Noncitizen Registrants and Voters,” July 2025, <https://electioninnovation.org/research/noncitizen-analysis/>.

¹⁰ Kaylie Martinez-Ochoa, Eileen O'Connor, and Patrick Berry, “Tracker of Justice Department Requests for Voter Information,” Brennan Center for Justice, last updated Oct. 23, 2025, <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/tracker-justice-department-requests-voter-information>.



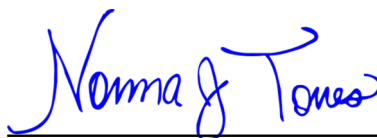
Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress
Chair, California Democratic
Congressional Delegation



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



George Whitesides
Member of Congress



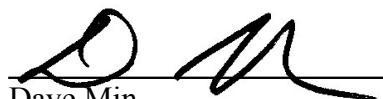
Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



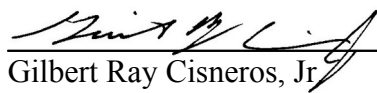
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress

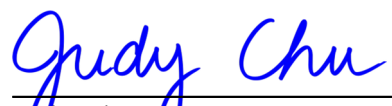


Dave Min
Member of Congress



Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress


Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress


Judy Chu
Member of Congress

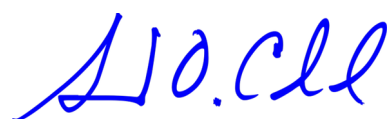

Nancy Pelosi
Member of Congress

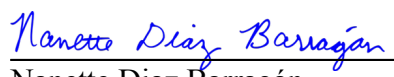

Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress

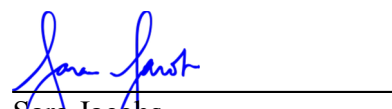

Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress


MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress


Derek T. Tran
Member of Congress


Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress

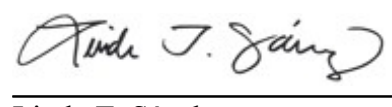

Nanette Diaz Barragan
Member of Congress


Sara Jacobs
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Maxine Waters
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Jimmy Panetta
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Julia Brownley
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Linda T. Sanchez
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Eric Swalwell
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Ami Bera, M.D.
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Pete Aguilar
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J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



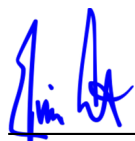
Luz M. Rivas
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Mark DeSaulnier
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Robert Garcia
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Jim Costa
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John Garamendi
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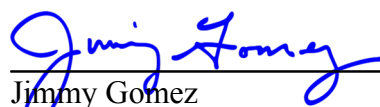
Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



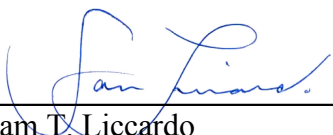
Mike Levin
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Laura Friedman
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Sam T. Liccardo
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