

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 22, 2026

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Mullin:

Why is the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) spending millions of taxpayer dollars on disenfranchising American citizens?

In July, you and President Donald Trump publicly claimed that “DHS has identified over 250,000 potential non-citizens illegally registered to vote” in four states, but press reports of DHS’s subsequent interactions with state election officials contradict this claim.¹ In one glaring example, DHS claimed it found 15,903 potential noncitizens registered to vote in Nevada. When Nevada officials requested evidence to back this astonishing assertion, DHS provided the state with a list of only 185 names—a far cry from 15,903.² Then Nevada officials reviewed their own records and were able to determine that ALL 185 people identified by DHS were actually U.S. citizens who were eligible to vote.³ Then, just this week, DHS issued an ultimatum to California demanding that the Secretary of State review within 48 hours a thumb drive containing names that DHS asserts are of noncitizens, require Los Angeles County to set aside ballots it has already received, and refrain from sending mail-in ballots to individuals DHS claims are noncitizens or face the risk of litigation.⁴ These disturbing episodes raise significant concerns that DHS is desperately (and unsuccessfully) attempting to bully states into disenfranchising eligible voters in the final weeks before the 2026 elections.

Comprehensive studies examining past allegations of widespread voter fraud have debunked claims of noncitizen voting and found that noncitizen voting is “vanishingly rare.”⁵

¹ Press Release, *DHS Secretary Markwayne Mullin Sends Letters to Secretaries of State Warning About Non-Citizens on Voter Rolls*, U.S. DEP’T OF HOMELAND SECURITY (July 17, 2026), <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2026/07/17/dhs-secretary-markwayne-mullin-sends-letters-secretaries-state-warning-about-non>.

² Nick Corasaniti, *From 16,000 to 185 to Zero: Trump’s Claims of Illegal Voting in Nevada Fizzle*, N.Y. TIMES (Sept. 24, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/09/24/us/politics/nevada-voters-homeland-security-trump.html>.

³ *Id.*

⁴ Gregory Svirnovskiy, *DOJ Demands California Review Voting Rolls in 2 Days, Threatens Legal Action*, POLITICO (Oct. 14, 2026), <https://www.politico.com/news/2026/10/14/departments-of-justice-california-voter-rolls-demand-01118028>.

⁵ *Noncitizen Voting Is Vanishingly Rare*, BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE (updated Sept. 17, 2024), <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/noncitizen-voting-vanishingly-rare>.

Yet in July, you sent letters to the top elections officials of California, New Jersey, Nevada, and Pennsylvania asserting your allegations that over 250,000 noncitizens are registered to vote in their states and calling on them to “confirm their intentions to collaborate with DHS in order to ensure free, fair, and honest elections.”⁶ As we noted, DHS initially claimed that it found 15,903 potential noncitizens registered to vote in Nevada, yet reportedly during a call with Nevada officials in August, DHS officials stated the number was “the ceiling” and that each voter still had to be manually reviewed.⁷ Ultimately, DHS provided Nevada officials a list of only 185 names.⁸ In an email to Nevada officials, DHS officials claimed that “[w]e’ve manually reviewed some of the 15,903 and confirmed 185 are not U.S. Citizens.”⁹ However, after reviewing their own records, Nevada officials determined that all 185 individuals listed were in fact U.S. citizens eligible to vote.¹⁰ Meanwhile a DHS spokesperson responded to press inquiries about this glaring error by again asserting that “[t]he list of 185 were simply a subset of individuals that had gone through a rigorous manual review process at that time of the call.”¹¹

DHS attempted an equally inept scheme with its recent 48-hour ultimatum to the California Secretary of State. In an October 13 letter to California’s Secretary of State, DHS demanded that, within 48 hours, the state review a list of names provided on a thumb drive to the Los Angeles County clerk to determine if there are voters whose names match those listed and to segregate any ballots already received from those individuals or refrain from mailing ballots to them.¹² DHS then threatened to initiate litigation if the state failed to take action under DHS’s arbitrary and impossible deadline.¹³ DHS asserts that the individuals listed on the thumb drive are noncitizens, but the letter does not contain any explanation of how DHS came to this conclusion.¹⁴ When California refused to abide by this strange gambit, the Department of Justice (DOJ) sued. DOJ then sent a follow-on letter to Los Angeles County’s counsel office threatening to prosecute any person who “knowingly tabulate[s] ballots cast by individuals identified by

⁶ Press Release, *DHS Secretary Markwayne Mullin Sends Letters to Secretaries of State Warning About Non-Citizens on Voter Rolls*, U.S. DEP’T OF HOMELAND SECURITY (July 17, 2026), <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2026/07/17/dhs-secretary-markwayne-mullin-sends-letters-secretaries-state-warning-about-non>.

⁷ Jude Joffe-Block & Miles Parks, *DHS Acknowledges the Noncitizen Numbers It Touted on Voter Rolls Were Inflated*, NPR (Aug. 25, 2026), <https://www.npr.org/2026/08/25/nx-s1-5940807/noncitizen-voters-trump-nevada-call>.

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ Nick Corasaniti, *From 16,000 to 185 to Zero: Trump’s Claims of Illegal Voting in Nevada Fizzle*, N.Y. TIMES (Sept. 24, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/09/24/us/politics/nevada-voters-homeland-security-trump.html>.

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ Sam Levine, *Nearly 200 People Wrongly Identified on Nevada’s Voter Rolls as Non-Citizens*, THE GUARDIAN (Sept. 25, 2026), <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/sep/24/dhs-nevada-voter-non-citizens-error>.

¹² Letter from Mr. R. Trent McCotter, Acting Deputy Attorney General, U.S. Dep’t of Justice, to The Hon. Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D., Secretary of State, California (Oct. 13, 2026), <https://www.politico.com/f/?id=000001a1-3b6e-dc9a-a9a3-7f7eeb260000>.

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ *Id.*

federal agencies as noncitizens.”¹⁵ This is a blatant, and laughable, attempt to intimidate local elections workers ahead of the November election as even DHS admits that the individuals they have identified are only “likely” noncitizen voters.¹⁶

The stakes for our democracy in this offensive could not be higher. Under the Constitution, the states are primarily responsible for election administration, and Congress has the final say on the time, place, and manner of federal elections.¹⁷ To the extent DHS has a role in elections at all, it is only to fulfill Congress’s assigned statutory purposes. The Department should be focused on providing the resources that Congress has appropriated to it to support state and local elections officials *at their request*. Despite this, the Trump Administration has chosen to significantly worsen the cybersecurity threats faced by American elections. Effective election cybersecurity depends heavily on information sharing among federal agencies, state officials, local administrators, and private-sector partners. But the Trump Administration has taken a blowtorch to these efforts—in early 2025, Administration officials placed employees at DHS’s Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), including those who previously worked on addressing the risks posed by election mis- and disinformation and in counter-foreign influence operations, on administrative leave.¹⁸ Administration officials reportedly paused many federal election security efforts as they conducted secretive and rushed-through reviews of departmental and agency election security work without congressional consultation or communication with state and local election officials.¹⁹ Troublingly, staffers at the Department of Government Efficiency, including at least one who is a known cybersecurity risk, reportedly attempted to re-work CISA’s processes without any public transparency.²⁰ And the Trump Administration terminated federal funds for the Election Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center, housed in CISA, which previously played a critical role in threat monitoring and coordination between state officials.²¹

Instead of protecting the security of American elections, DHS and President Trump are engaging in increasingly brazen bully tactics to force states to illegally remove eligible voters hand-picked by the Administration from their voter rolls.

¹⁵ Eric Tucker, *California Officials Who Process Ballots from Suspected Noncitizens Risk Prosecution, US Warns*, ASSOC. PRESS (Oct. 16, 2026), <https://apnews.com/article/california-justice-department-voting-noncitizens-c42a8b3497a9529d923274f70cdcbcb>.

¹⁶ *Id.*

¹⁷ U.S. Const. Art. I, § 4, cl. 1.

¹⁸ John Sakellariadis & Maggie Miller, *Trump Continues Federal Purge, Gutting Cyber Workers Who Combat Disinformation*, POLITICO (Feb. 7, 2025), <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/02/07/trump-guts-cyber-workers-00203087>.

¹⁹ Nicole Sganga, *Election Systems Feared to Be Vulnerable as Trump Administration Cuts Workers Tasked with Security*, CBS NEWS (Feb. 25, 2025), <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/trump-administration-firings-election-systems/>.

²⁰ Majlie de Puy Kamp, *Recording Reveals New Details on Controversial DOGE Employee*, CNN (Feb. 22, 2025), <https://www.cnn.com/2025/02/21/politics/doge-musk-edward-coristine-invs/index.html>.

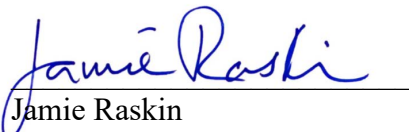
²¹ Colin Wood, *Federal Cuts to Election Security Concern Secretaries of State*, STATESCOOP (Feb. 20, 2025), <https://statescoop.com/federal-cuts-election-security-secretaries-state-2025/>.

To ensure “free, fair, and honest elections,” we request that you provide a briefing on this matter to Members of our respective Committees as soon as possible to provide us with answers to the following questions:

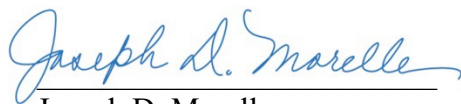
1. How did DHS arrive at the conclusion that over 250,000 noncitizens are registered to vote in California, New Jersey, Nevada, and Pennsylvania? What methods or datasets did DHS use, examine, or compare to determine if these individuals are recently naturalized Americans eligible to vote and not noncitizens?
2. What methods or datasets did DHS use, examine, or compare to determine, in the case of Nevada, that 15,903 individual noncitizens was a “ceiling” and not a precise number of verified noncitizens? How did DHS arrive at what amounts to an estimate?
3. What methods or datasets did DHS use, examine, or compare to “confirm” the list of 185 “noncitizens” provided to Nevada elections officials, who they later determined were all U.S. citizens?
4. What does the supposedly “rigorous manual review process” undergone by the list of 185 U.S. citizens entail?
5. What methods or datasets did DHS use, examine, or compare to “confirm” the list of “noncitizens” on the thumb drive provided to California elections officials?

We look forward to your prompt response.

Very truly yours,



Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member
House Committee on the Judiciary



Joseph D. Morelle
Ranking Member
Committee on House Administration

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Chairman
House Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Bryan Steil, Chairman
Committee on House Administration