

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 10, 2026

The Honorable Tulsi Gabbard
U.S. Director of National Intelligence
Office of the Director of National Intelligence
1201 New York Avenue NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005

Director Gabbard:

On September 15, 2025, we wrote to request an Intelligence Community (IC) briefing for Senators on election security to occur no later than October 10th. To date, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) has failed to take any steps to accommodate this request or respond to that letter.

In light of recent unprecedented and deeply concerning election-related actions taken by ODNI under your leadership, we write to reiterate this request for your office to immediately coordinate an IC briefing for all Senators on foreign election threats, including efforts to influence election outcomes through influence or cyber-enabled means. As part of that briefing, ODNI and the IC should also update the Senate on the status of planned defensive steps to ensure the cybersecurity of the mid-term elections in 2026, and any information regarding the security of the most-recent elections held in November 2025. Prior to that briefing, we ask that you make all intelligence products concerning such threats, and informing your recent actions, available to appropriate Congressional committees and Members of Congress, as required by law.

In addition to that intelligence briefing, you should come prepared to clarify your public statements regarding voting system security and the status of ODNI's highly unusual investigations regarding purported election integrity.¹ You, the President, and others have offered conflicting explanations of your participation in the FBI's raid of the Fulton County, Georgia election offices and seizure of materials related to the 2020 election, and your response to date has raised additional questions. Similarly, recent confirmation that ODNI seized voting machines and other election data in Puerto Rico as part of an investigation also require urgent explanation in light of the Administration's continued amplification of baseless election conspiracy theories. Against the backdrop of the memorandum of understanding that the Department of Justice has circulated to states that

¹ U.S. Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard at a Cabinet Meeting with President Trump. (April 10, 2025; 34:11). <https://www.c-span.org/program/white-house-event/president-trump-convenes-cabinet-meeting/658480> ; The Benny Show, *Tulsi Gabbard TORCHES Hillary's 'TREASONOUS' Actions to RIG Election as She Drops 'Smoking Gun'....* (July 31, 2025; 19:41). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NludG6f1lVc>

have provided sensitive voter information, which contemplates unprecedented federal interference with state and local election administration, these actions to seize voting systems and files are especially concerning.²

While the lack of response to our September 15 letter is unacceptable, we are also gravely concerned about your failure to provide relevant explanations or information to the election officials you are undermining, including failing to appear at a scheduled appearance with bipartisan Secretaries of State last month. In the midst of the 2026 election cycle, we urge ODNI to ensure transparency and support for state and local election administration rather than sowing chaos and doubt in American elections. This is essential given this Administration's shortsighted decisions to eliminate much of the election security work at the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, Attorney General Bondi's elimination of the FBI's Foreign Influence Task Force, and curtailed the work of the Congressionally mandated Foreign Malign Influence Center.

Voting in the first Congressional primary election begins imminently. We request that you work to schedule this briefing no later than February 27, 2026.

Sincerely,



Alex Padilla
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Committee
on Rules and Administration



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator
Vice Chairman, Select
Committee on Intelligence

² Eileen O'Connor, 'Confidential' Agreements Show Trump Administration's Plans for States' Voter Data. Brennan Center for Justice (Feb. 5, 2026). <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/confidential-agreements-show-trump-administrations-plans-states-voter>