

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 8, 2025

Mr. Charles N. Baldis  
Senior Counsel and Designee of  
Acting Special Counsel Jamieson Greer  
U.S. Office of Special Counsel  
1730 M Street, N.W., Suite 300  
Washington, D.C. 20036-4505

The Honorable David Warrington  
White House Counsel  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Baldis and Warrington:

On July 29, 2025, four U.S. Senators wrote to request U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC) investigate senior White House and Trump Administration officials for potential violations of the *Hatch Act* by engaging in partisan political activities while on official duty in the pursuit of mid-decade redistricting in various states across the country. On July 30, OSC confirmed receipt of the letter and informed my staff that they have opened a case file regarding these allegations. Today, I request an update on the status of that investigation and also bring attention to new potential violations of federal records laws associated with this partisan political effort.

Since that letter of July 29, there has been a steady stream of new evidence of ongoing engagement by senior White House staff in partisan political activities related to redistricting. The situation has escalated to such a level that the Office of Special Counsel and the Office of White House Counsel must take immediate action to ensure that senior Trump Administration officials cease this apparently illegal behavior.

On August 5, 2025, President Trump stated that “we are entitled to 5 more seats” regarding Republican congressional districts in Texas.<sup>1</sup> Throughout the year, White House senior officials and others in the Trump Administration have been clearly and openly engaged in a political campaign to gain seats for the Republican Party in Congress via a rare and controversial mid-decade redistricting efforts in Texas and many other states.<sup>2</sup> Such efforts appear to violate the *Hatch Act*, which prohibits political activity,

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<sup>1</sup> CNBC Transcript: President of the United States Donald Trump Speaks with CNBC’s “Squawk Box” Today. CNBC (Aug. 5, 2025). <https://www.cnbc.com/2025/08/05/cnbc-transcript-president-of-the-united-states-donald-trump-speaks-with-cnbc-squawk-box-today-.html> (Trump: “And we have an opportunity in Texas to pick up five seats. [...] [a]nd we are entitled to five more seats.”)

<sup>2</sup> Ally Mutnick and Jake Sherman. *White House to huddle with Texas GOP on redistricting*. Punchbowl News (June 10, 2025). <https://punchbowl.news/archive/61025-midday>; Owen Dahlkamp. *Texas Republicans, including Gov. Abbott, were reluctant to redraw the state’s congressional maps. Then Trump got involved*. Texas Tribune (July 22, 2025). <https://www.texastribune.org/2025/07/22/texas-redistricting-abbott-republicans-resistant-trump/>; Ally Mutnick, et. al. *White House prods Missouri Republicans to redistrict*. Punchbowl News (July 24, 2025). <https://punchbowl.news/article/campaigns/wh-mo-gop/>

including “activity directed at the success or failure of a political party, candidate for partisan political office, or partisan political group.”<sup>3</sup>

In Texas, the Federal Bureau of Investigation responded to partisan requests and involved itself in mid-decade redistricting by participating in searching for Texas legislators who were not attending state legislative proceedings.<sup>4</sup> In Indiana, the Administration is currently engaging in an extreme political pressure campaign targeting state legislators, which is associated with a rash of bomb and “swatting” threats against state elected officials.<sup>5</sup>

The situation in Indiana is urgent and the credibility of the OSC is at stake. One state senator is publicly refusing to meet with White House staff because he understands that the effort is a violation of the *Hatch Act*.<sup>6</sup> The State Senator stated:

“I refused (the invitation), but the underling who reached out to me is trying to influence the election on my dime. That individual works for me. He works for you. He’s on my payroll, he’s on your payroll, and he’s campaigning on company time. That’s a violation of the Hatch Act. He’s a federal employee. He works in the White House. But does anyone care about the rules anymore? Not that I can tell.”

This state legislator said he would have reported the alleged violation to federal authorities if he thought that there “was anyone of integrity in Washington that would follow through on my accusation.” Your offices have a duty to act, not only to ensure that Administration officials follow the law, but to protect these public servants across the country from bearing the brunt of this apparently illegal activity in the current heightened political threat environment.

In February, President Trump fired the last Director of the Office of Special Counsel, despite him being confirmed by the Senate in 2024 to serve a 5-year term to lead this independent office in a non-partisan way. In June, President Trump nominated Paul Ingrassia, an unfit and unqualified political loyalist, to that position. The Senate rejected that attempt on a bipartisan basis, highlighting the importance of this office’s mission and

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<sup>3</sup> <https://osc.gov/Services/Pages/HatchAct-Federal.aspx>

<sup>4</sup> Giselle Ruhyyih Ewing. *FBI agrees to help chase down quorum-breaking Texas Democrats*. Politico (Aug. 7, 2025). <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/08/07/fbi-texas-democrats-quorum-cornyn-00497699>

<sup>5</sup> Arika Herron. *Over a dozen Indiana lawmakers targeted with threats, intimidation*. AXIOS (Dec. 4, 2025). <https://www.axios.com/local/indianapolis/2025/12/04/indiana-lawmakers-targeted-bomb-threats-intimidation-swatting>

<sup>6</sup> Andy East. *Sen. Greg Walker declines Oval Office visit, accuses White House of violating Hatch Act*. The Columbus Republic (Nov. 26, 2025). <https://www.therepublic.com/2025/11/26/sen-greg-walker-declines-oval-office-visit-accuses-white-house-of-violating-hatch-act>.

its independence.<sup>7</sup> OSC should heed this message and act to ensure senior Trump officials follow the *Hatch Act*.

In addition, strong evidence shows that White House staff are engaging in these apparently unlawful partisan activities using official communications in violation of federal records laws. A Texas Republican political operative provided sworn testimony in federal court that the White House staff communicated about redistricting with state officials via the encrypted messaging application Signal, which can be set to automatically delete messages.<sup>8</sup> A failure to preserve federal records and a failure to report the unlawful destruction of these records to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) are serious violations of law.<sup>9</sup>

It is likely that Trump Administration staff are replicating these unlawful political activities, using unlawful means of communication, in many other states across the country, including Missouri, Florida, Ohio, North Carolina, Kansas and more. OSC and White House leadership should not tolerate or encourage repeated, blatant violations of the *Hatch Act* and federal records laws in pursuit of this unprecedented mid-decade redistricting campaign.

Thank you for your attention to these potential violations of federal law in pursuit of partisan mid-decade redistricting. Please respond by December 15, 2025, with an update on OSC's investigation and any corrective action that the White House is taking regarding the *Hatch Act* and the *Presidential Records Act*.

Sincerely,



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

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<sup>7</sup> Washington Post Editorial Board. *Flickers of independence from the Senate GOP*. The Washington Post (Oct. 31, 2025). <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2025/10/21/paul-ingrassia-thune-senate-independence/>

<sup>8</sup> Jen Rice. *RNC-Hired Mapmaker Denies Using Racial Data in Texas Gerrymander*. Democracy Docket (Oct. 7, 2025). <https://www.democracymonitor.com/news-alerts/rnc-hired-mapmaker-denies-using-racial-data-in-texas-gerrymander/>

<sup>9</sup> See 44 U.S.C. § 3101; 18 U.S.C. § 2071.