

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 5, 2026

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump,

The Federal Election Commission (FEC, Commission) has been without quorum for nearly ten months and has had four seats vacant since October 2025. This prolonged lack of quorum has hindered the Commission's ability to vote on enforcement matters and issue guidance critical to a well-functioning campaign finance system.

We write to express significant concern over the White House's decision to nominate two Republicans to the Commission with no action around the Democratic candidate that has been submitted by the Senate Democratic Leader months ago following outreach from the White House. The decision to only nominate two Republicans to serve as commissioners ignores years of precedent in which the Senate has moved bipartisan pairs of nominees, especially when there are bipartisan vacancies, given the evenly balanced nature of the FEC.

We also understand that your Administration has not vetted the recommended candidate for the Democratic vacancy, despite the fact that your decision to illegally fire the third Democratic Commissioner – who was then serving as Chair of the FEC – created the vacant seat in the first place. The FEC was created by Congress to be independent of control by any political party, and no President has ever fired a commissioner since its creation over 50 years ago. Under these circumstances it is unacceptable that you have failed to move forward with a Democratic nominee for a seat that has been open for over a year.

Since assuming office, you have repeatedly attempted to interfere with the longstanding independence of regulatory agencies, including the FEC, deliberately ignoring decades of precedent and congressional intent. In addition to your illegal decision to fire Chair Weintraub, Executive Order 14215 sought to strip the Commission of its regulatory independence and is another escalation of your efforts to undermine our nation's campaign finance system. Your apparent refusal to put forward a Democratic nominee for the Commission exacerbates concerns that you will interfere with the FEC as it considers open matters involving your campaign and associates.

While it is important that the FEC be restored to its full capacity as we approach the 2026 midterms elections, it is even more critical that it maintain its independence and stay true to its mission. We urge you to immediately begin the vetting process for the Democratic candidate and present a bipartisan slate of nominees for the Senate to consider in a timely manner.

Sincerely,



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator