

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 18, 2026

The Honorable Susan Wiles
Chief of Staff
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Daniel Scavino
Director
White House Presidential Personnel Office
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

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

Dear Ms. Wiles, Mr. Warrington, and Mr. Scavino:

The public record is clear that Mr. Kurt Olsen's service as a special government employee (SGE), most recently as the Director of Election Security and Integrity at the White House, has exceeded the legal limits for such appointments and, therefore, should come to an end immediately.

Federal law, 18 U.S.C. § 202, limits the appointment of such SGE's to 130 days in any consecutive 365-day period. Public reports of Mr. Olsen's appointment date back to as early as October 18, 2025, over 200 days ago. Thus, it is past time to end this temporary appointment or provide a full explanation of how his continued service is legally justified, including Mr. Olsen's exact dates of service.

On October 29, 2025, several U.S. Senators alerted senior White House officials to serious concerns regarding the appointment of Mr. Olsen to investigate conspiracy theories around the 2020 election.¹ These concerns have been borne out. Public court filings have confirmed that Mr. Olsen made debunked conspiracy theories the basis of the FBI's search warrant in the Administration's unprecedented raid on Fulton County, Georgia election offices, with the Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard in attendance.² Public reporting also shows that Mr. Olsen's investigation was behind the Administration's seizure of election equipment in Puerto Rico, and he remains unpersuaded that even his own biased investigation has found no evidence for these conspiracy theories.³

¹ Senator Alex Padilla Press Release, *Padilla, Colleagues Warn Trump May Declare Election-Related National Emergency After White House Hires Prominent Election Denier to Reexamine 2020 Election Results* (Oct. 29, 2025), <https://www.padilla.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/padilla-colleagues-warn-trump-may-declare-election-related-national-emergency-after-white-house-hires-prominent-election-denier-to-reexamine-2020-election-results/>.

² Sadie Gurman, 'Stop the Steal' Lawyer Made Key Referral in Fulton County Probe, *The Wall Street Journal* (Feb. 10, 2026), <https://www.wsj.com/politics/elections/stop-the-steal-lawyer-made-key-referral-in-fulton-county-probe-2ba24ff1?msockid=2f2f588cd5ff69c21fb14d28d4736894>.

³ Erin Banco, Phil Stewart, Jonathan Landay, Exclusive: Trump's 'Stop the Steal' lawyer pushed for voter fraud evidence from US intelligence agency, *Reuters* (Feb. 11, 2026), <https://www.reuters.com/legal/government/trumps-stop-steal-lawyer-pushed-voter-fraud-evidence-us-intelligence-agency-2026-02-11/>.

Additional reports show that Mr. Olsen has been given unfettered access to American intelligence agencies and classified information. He is using this position to divert these agencies' resources away from their national security missions to 2020 election conspiracy theories. President Trump is then using these theories to justify his ongoing baseless claims about the 2020 election and assert illegal and unconstitutional powers to “take over the voting” in certain states in the upcoming election.

As noted in the October 29 letter, Mr. Olsen has been sanctioned by courts for making false statements in election cases, and he is continuing that track record during his White House service. Instead of accepting the results that failed to support his conspiracy theories, he is accusing a cybersecurity firm that the Trump Administration hired, which found no hacking of voting machines, of being the “deep state” and falsely claiming it is funded by George Soros. Additional reporting reveals that Mr. Olsen personally provided data to this investigation in non-standard formats with no chain of custody, raising serious concerns about whether his data is reliable and was obtained by legal means.⁴

Further nonpublic reports indicate that the Administration is attempting to find other agencies to place Mr. Olsen within the Trump Administration, now that he has exceeded the legal limits to serve as an SGE. If he remains in government during the 2026 general election, there is a clear and foreseeable risk that he will seek to interfere in the free and fair administration of the 2026 general election. It would be a mistake for the Administration to allow this dangerous initiative to continue.

There is no reason to believe that Mr. Olsen's activities will find anything new or useful about the 2020 election, which has been reviewed more than any other election in history. However, these efforts perpetuate false narratives that serve as pretexts for attempts to interfere in upcoming elections. To avoid further destabilizing – and potentially illegal – activities, Mr. Olsen should be immediately removed from his SGE role and the Administration should refrain from appointing him to any other federal position with any involvement in past or future elections.

Sincerely,

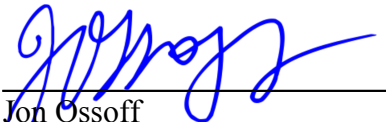


Alex Padilla
United States Senator




Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator


⁴ Seth Hettena, *The Inspector Javert of the 2020 Election*. The After-Action Report, Substack (Apr. 30, 2026). <https://theiceman.substack.com/p/the-inspector-javert-of-the-2020>.




Jon Ossoff
United States Senator




Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator



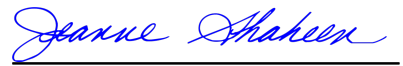
Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



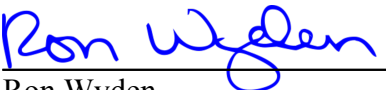
Mark R. Warner
United States Senator




Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator




Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator