

OPENING STATEMENT

Ranking Member Padilla and members of the committee; My name is Mo Ivory and I am a County Commissioner in Fulton County, Georgia. I want to thank you all for having me this afternoon to speak to such an important moment in our Nation's history; the root of which takes place in my home, the most populous county in a state that has the power to propel our country into a future of equity, compassion, and honor.

I also want to thank my family, whose love, sacrifice, and unwavering belief in me have made this moment possible. I am especially proud to stand here as the granddaughter of Lupita Rodriguez, the longest living Mexican national, whose resilience and strength continue to guide me. I am honored to serve as the first Afro-Latina Commissioner in Fulton County, and I am deeply proud to be here today before the Senate Rules Committee, humbled and inspired by the history of my family and the enduring legacy that has led me to this moment.

As you all have seen, on January 28th, 2026, the Fulton County Elections Office was raided by the FBI and 656 boxes of ballots, absentee ballot envelopes, recap sheets, and results tapes from the 2020 election were seized with a criminal warrant. This was an unprecedented act that came directly from the Trump administration.

In 2020, following historic turnout in the state of Georgia, Joe Biden won the Presidency. Since that moment, we have seen every attempt imaginable by President Trump to undermine and take over our elections. First, a call was made to the Georgia Secretary of State to find 11,780 votes. Next, Fulton County election workers became national targets and received consistent threats to themselves and their families. The results were counted, re-counted, hand counted, and audited; yet, six years later, we are still witnessing a President so unwilling to accept defeat that he will go to any lengths to silence the voters in this country.

Fulton County is now in active litigation to get our documents back and contest the criminal warrant that was issued based on an affidavit filled with six years of conspiracy theories and unfounded claims.

But let me be clear, this fight does not end at these 656 boxes. What we are facing is a concerted national effort to undermine voter confidence and restrict access to the ballot box. It is now our job as leaders and experts to step up and prepare to work together to safeguard our democracy. The democratic process is a fundamental, bedrock principle that our Nation prides itself on. Any effort to erode that is embarrassingly despicable and reminiscent of the history of voting in the Jim Crow south.

I represent a County of some of the most active participants in democracy. I will always stand my ground to protect them and protect our process. In 2025, the Fulton County Republican Party nominated two known election deniers to our Board of Registration and Elections. It is up to us as Commissioners to vote on whether those nominees should be appointed to the very body in charge of certifying our election results. When that vote came, I said no. The Fulton County GOP then filed a lawsuit against our Board and the Court told us that it was our duty to approve their nominees. I believe that much like the choice we have at the ballot box, an elected official, chosen by the people, has the discretion to vote their conscience. So when that vote came before us again, I, along with one other Commissioner, stayed in my seat and voted no, again. Following that vote the Fulton County GOP sought punishments such as jail time and \$10,000 a day fines. That case is still in the appeals process.

So, when the day came that the FBI was knocking on our door, I was not surprised to see yet another tactic to interfere with free and fair elections in Fulton County.

Fulton is not the end of it. After agents targeted our election office, similar actions followed in Puerto Rico. That sequence matters. It shows that what happened in our county was not an isolated dispute but a model. We are watching this unfold alongside increasingly explicit calls from Donald Trump and his allies to nationalize elections. Efforts to centralize control over elections and impose new federal restrictions, such as the SAVE Act, move us further away from our Constitution's promise that voting power rests with the people.

Now I would like to address President Trump directly; Our system was designed so that no president and no single administration could control who votes or how votes are counted. Your attempts to challenge our constitutional framework via federal overreach are shameful. You will never be able to silence Fulton County voters, because I promise you, the south got something to say.

I am not just a Fulton County Commissioner, I am an attorney, educator, communicator, a mother, a grandmother, and proudly a Georgia voter. That last title is a badge of honor in this country. I refuse to let anyone threaten that right. I promise to do everything in my power to ensure that elections in Fulton County, in Georgia, and in America, remain free, fair, and protected.