

Public Statement On Requests for Sensitive Personal Information About Election Workers and Volunteers

Exposing sensitive personal information of election workers and volunteers makes it harder to recruit and retain the workforce that our democracy depends on.

In our democracy, elections are administered by states and localities. For general elections, these state and local officials rely on hundreds of thousands of dedicated election workers nationwide, including regular and temporary staff, contractors, and volunteers. These workers and volunteers are critical to ensuring voters can cast a ballot and have their vote counted.

Recent efforts to obtain the personal and private information of these workers and volunteers threaten election officials' ability to maintain the workforce they depend on.

In April, the Department of Justice obtained a grand jury subpoena seeking information from Fulton County, Georgia, including the names, residential addresses, email addresses, and personal phone numbers of thousands of election workers and volunteers who served in the 2020 general election. Thankfully, in July, a court quashed the subpoena and directed that Fulton County does not need to turn over the sought-after information. However, the DOJ's efforts in Fulton County and elsewhere may persist.

These efforts come at a time of heightened tensions and documented threats, abuse, and harassment directed at election officials and workers. That environment is precisely why exposure deters people from serving. When election workers have reason to fear that their home address or phone number could be made known, the decision to step forward carries a personal risk that many will not accept.

As election officials prepare for what promises to be a high-turnout federal midterm election, many are concerned that these efforts will make it harder to staff the polls and ensure every eligible voter can cast their ballot safely and efficiently. Individuals considering serving as volunteers or temporary workers may reasonably hesitate if they believe their personal information may be at risk.

This isn't a partisan issue. Election officials across the country and the political spectrum work diligently every day to make sure that everyone who is eligible to vote can vote. And in every election, ordinary citizens step up to serve as poll

workers and in countless other ways, making it possible for elections to take place at all. They deserve to be respected and protected.

Exposing sensitive personal information about election workers and volunteers makes it harder to recruit and retain the workforce that our democracy depends on and that the American public deserves.

We, the undersigned election officials, are among those concerned that efforts to obtain personal and private information of election staff and volunteers will drive away the workers on the front lines of our democracy.

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