

June 28, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Inclusion of funding for Election Infrastructure in Infrastructure package

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer, Leader McCarthy, and Leader McConnell:

We write to you as bipartisan Secretaries of State from across the United States, to urge you to include critical funding for election infrastructure in the infrastructure package Congress is considering this year. As Chief Election Officials of our respective states, we are entrusted with conducting, funding, and supporting local, state, and federal elections in jurisdictions across the country. Election security and integrity are a vital cornerstone of our democracy, and we strongly urge you to support this critical and necessary investment.

In 2017, the Department of Homeland Security designated election infrastructure, including the systems, equipment, and facilities needed to administer our country's elections, as a vital part of the federal government's Critical Infrastructure. Like other sectors of critical infrastructure, we need to ensure that we can continue to build and strengthen our systems and equipment for the protection of our democracy: to ensure the ability of all eligible voters to exercise their fundamental right to vote in safe, secure, and accessible elections.

Our success is dependent on substantial and sustained dedication of resources, and a federal commitment to longer-term investment must start now. In recent years, there have been significant increases in expenditures needed and funding challenges for election officials at every level, from safeguarding systems from cyber security threats, to updating and maintaining equipment, systems, and facilities growing more and more outdated. The COVID-19 pandemic and its toll on our communities and resources compounded these problems.

As Congress considers an infrastructure package, now is the time to make investments in modern and secure election infrastructure, and we urge you to include \$20 billion over 10 years. This federal funding would give local and state election offices the ability to replace outdated equipment, upgrade voter registration and election management systems, invest in physical, technological, and security infrastructure, and other essential needs. The ten-year investment would ensure that election officials will be able to plan ahead and continue to execute the most secure, accurate, and accessible elections for eligible voters for years to come.

Just as investing in roads, bridges, and broadband is vital to our country, so is investing in the security and modernization of our democracy. We strongly urge you to include funding for secure elections in the infrastructure package. Thank you.

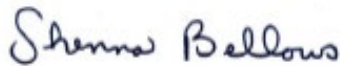
Sincerely,



Maggie Toulouse Oliver
New Mexico Secretary of State



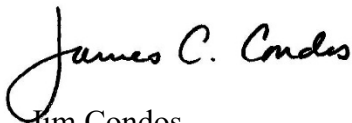
Denise Merrill
Connecticut Secretary of State



Shenna Bellows
Maine Secretary of State



Katie Hobbs
Arizona Secretary of State



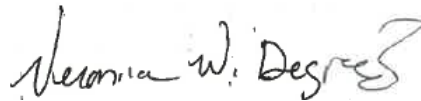
Jim Condos
Vermont Secretary of State



Kim Wyman
Washington Secretary of State



Steve Simon
Minnesota Secretary of State



Veronica Degraffenreid
Acting Secretary of the Commonwealth of PA



Jocelyn Benson
Michigan Secretary of State



Jena Griswold
Colorado Secretary of State