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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6325

November 30, 2023

The Honorable Lisa Monaco
Deputy Attorney General
United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Deputy Attorney General Monaco:

We write to express serious concerns following reports of anonymous letters – some containing fentanyl and other unidentified substances – that were sent to election offices in at least six states this month. With the upcoming primary elections beginning early next year in most of these states, we ask that the Department of Justice prioritize review of these concerning incidents and ensure that those affected have the resources and support that they need. We also urge the Department to take additional actions, including working with state and local officials and the United States Postal Service, to guard against similar incidents as we approach next year’s elections.

More than a dozen letters have reportedly been sent to election offices or government buildings in California, Georgia, Kansas, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington, leading to evacuations and some delays in ballot counting in local elections this November. Earlier this year, in August, a fentanyl-laced letter was sent to election officials in King County, Washington. At least four letters have tested positive for fentanyl, leading some election offices to obtain the antidote drug naloxone. Some letters reportedly included messages that read in part “end elections now.” In at least one instance, ballot processing and counting was delayed when local election officials evacuated their offices after receiving a letter containing an unknown substance.

The Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, which we lead as Chair and Ranking Member, has jurisdiction over legislation concerning federal elections. Given the risks to the safety of the election workers and volunteers who administer our free and fair elections, and the potential for disruption of election-related operations, we ask that the Department prioritize these cases and ensure that the impacted states have the resources that they need.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this issue.

Sincerely,



Amy Klobuchar
Chairwoman, Committee on
Rules and Administration



Deb Fischer
Ranking Member, Committee
on Rules and Administration