



June 11, 2024

The Honorable Diego Morales
Indiana Secretary of State
200 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

RE: Concerns about Indiana Capital Chronicle reporting about potential law enforcement presence in polling places

Dear Secretary Morales:

The All IN for Democracy coalition was founded by Common Cause Indiana and the League of Women Voters of Indiana in 2015 and has grown to include 25 organizations working collaboratively to protect voting rights in Indiana and promote policies that make voting easily accessible to all Hoosiers.

We read with interest the recent story in the Indiana Capital Chronicle detailing the mailing you sent to election administrators, legislators and others on the issue of election interference. We appreciate your attention to this issue; it is of great concern to our coalition as threats and harassment of election officials have continued this election season. Several of our members supported Senate Enrolled Act 170 this session because we believe that crimes against all election workers are crimes against democracy; something that must never be tolerated.

Election officials have explained that another issue is the lack of appreciation or understanding of the non-partisan or bipartisan way they do their job. We appreciate that election workers are diligent in helping voters understand the reality of the integrity of the system and working out issues, problems, and confusion with voters who have questions or concerns. Those activities by election officials and election workers are an essential part of addressing voters' worries about election interference.

Safety in elections is a critical issue, but several things mentioned in the Indiana Capital Chronicle article give us concern about the approach that your office is taking. In particular, we have concerns about policies that would encourage local law enforcement to be highly visible at polling places and county government offices where voting occurs. Efforts to secure our elections must take into account the history of police officers targeting and intimidating voters of color at polls, especially given that some communities continue to experience problems of racial profiling and over-policing. In some communities, specifically in communities of color, law enforcement presence won't create a welcoming environment for voters and could cause intimidation and have a chilling effect on voter turnout.

We request a meeting with you and your staff to discuss the important issues involved in protecting both election administrators and voters from the efforts of bad actors seeking to interfere with the 2024 election and the need to guard against voter intimidation in ensuring election security. We look forward to hearing from you. Please respond to Julia Vaughn at Common Cause Indiana at jvaughn@commoncause.org.

Sincerely yours,

Samantha Bresnahan, ACLU-Indiana

Ami Gandhi, Chicago Lawyer's Committee on Civil Rights Under Law

Kerwin Olson, Citizens Action Coalition of Indiana

Julia Vaughn, Common Cause Indiana

Dr. David Greene, Concerned Clergy Indianapolis

Phil Goodchild, Indiana Friends Committee on Legislation

Barbara Tully, Indiana Vote by Mail

Kit Malone, League of Conservation Voters Indiana

Linda Hanson, League of Women Voters of Indiana

Chelsea McDonnel, MadVoters Indiana

Jenn Watts, Stand Up Indiana

Angela Carr Klitzsch, Women for Change