

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 1, 2026

The Honorable Todd Blanche
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Blanche:

I write to follow up on my previous letter of August 19, 2026, regarding the Department of Justice's plans to deploy as many as 1,000 federal election monitors during the 2026 midterms. Recent reports from Wyoming's August 18 primary election raise serious new concerns about how the Department's monitoring program is being implemented and make the questions raised in that letter more urgent.¹ I am therefore requesting additional information about the Department's conduct on the ground and the safeguards in place to ensure that federal monitors operate within the scope of their authority and without disrupting state and local election administration.

According to public reporting, the Civil Rights Division dispatched two attorneys to observe polling sites in Laramie County during Wyoming's primary. Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon — a Republican — told the state's canvassing board on August 26 that the monitors' conduct was “aggressive” and “irregular,” and that it “seemed to exceed” the authority Congress gave them.² Governor Gordon said his office, the Wyoming Attorney General, the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security, and the Laramie County Clerk were not informed in advance of the deployment.³ Laramie County Clerk Debra Lee, also a Republican, went further, describing the operation as “a poorly managed exercise” that showed “complete disregard for our state laws and administration of our elections.”⁴ Additionally, the monitors also sought to interview voters and examine election equipment and poll-worker training activities which local officials questioned as being outside the scope of federal election monitoring.

These are not the objections of partisan critics. They come from a Republican governor and a Republican County clerk in one of the most reliably Republican states in the country, both of whom raised

¹ Ashleigh Fields, “GOP Governor Says He Asked Attorney General to Look into ‘Aggressive’ DOJ Election Observers,” The Hill, August 27, 2026, <https://thehill.com/homenews/state-watch/6055691-wyoming-governor-criticizes-doj-election-monitors/>

² Adam Edelman, “Wyoming’s Republican Governor Raises Concerns over ‘Aggressive’ DOJ Election Monitors,” NBC News, August 27, 2026, <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2026-election/wyoming-republican-governor-concerns-aggressive-doj-election-monitors-rcna594730>

³ *Id*

⁴ Edith Olmsted, “Republican Governor Calls Out DOJ’s ‘Aggressive’ Election Monitors,” The New Republic, August 27, 2026, <https://newrepublic.com/post/214863/republican-governor-wyoming-department-justice-election-monitors>

concerns about the way the Department's monitors conducted themselves. Regardless of one's views on the Department's monitoring initiative, these allegations warrant a clear explanation from the Department about what occurred, what authority the monitors were exercising, and what steps will be taken to prevent similar problems in November.

The Department has confirmed that Wyoming was not an isolated deployment. Civil Rights Division personnel monitored polling sites in Miami-Dade County, Florida, on the same day, and have monitored primaries in Minnesota and other jurisdictions this cycle, as part of a stated buildup toward the November general election.⁵ I am requesting information on whether the Department received similar complaints from officials in any of those jurisdictions, and whether Wyoming's experience is representative of how monitors have been instructed to conduct themselves generally.

Election monitoring by the Civil Rights Division is intended to enforce federal voting-rights laws and protect eligible voters from discrimination and other violations of federal law.⁶ The Department's Voting Section enforces the civil provisions of the Voting Rights Act, the National Voter Registration Act, the Help America Vote Act, the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, and the Civil Rights Acts.⁷ That mission depends on federal personnel exercising their authority carefully, respecting the role of state and local election administrators, and avoiding unnecessary disruption at polling places. A program that state officials describe as aggressive and uncoordinated raises legitimate questions about whether the Department has established adequate standards for monitor conduct, advance coordination, and oversight.

I therefore ask that the Department answer the following questions by September 7th, in addition to those posed in my August 19 letter:

- Why were the Wyoming Attorney General, the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security, and the Laramie County Clerk's Office not notified in advance of the monitors' deployment? Was any state or local official notified before the monitors arrived, and, if so, when and by whom? Is advance coordination with state and local election officials the Department's standard practice?
- What written guidance governed the monitors' interactions with voters, poll workers, and election administrators in Laramie County, and does that guidance differ from the guidance provided to monitors in other jurisdictions this primary season?
- Has the Department received complaints, concerns, or objections regarding monitor conduct from officials in any other jurisdiction monitored during the 2026 primaries, including Arizona, Michigan,

⁵ U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Public Affairs, "Justice Department to Conduct Election Monitoring in Florida and Wyoming Primary Elections," August 18, 2026, <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-conduct-election-monitoring-florida-and-wyoming-primary-elections>

⁶ Campaign Legal Center, "Resources on Department of Justice Election Monitors," August 5, 2026, <https://campaignlegal.org/resources-on-department-of-justice-election-monitors>

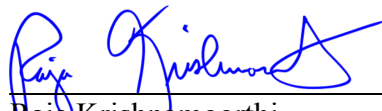
⁷ *Id*

Minnesota, or Florida? If so, please identify the jurisdictions, the nature of the complaints, and how the Department responded.

- How many Civil Rights Division personnel have been deployed to monitor elections during the 2026 primary season to date, and to how many jurisdictions have they been deployed?
- What changes, if any, will the Department make to monitor training, advance coordination, written guidance, or supervisory oversight before deploying monitors for the November general election?
- Will the Department commit to notifying appropriate state and local election officials sufficiently in advance of any November deployment, absent an extraordinary circumstance in which advance notice would materially compromise a legitimate federal enforcement objective?

Given the proximity of the November election, I ask that the Department respond to these questions, together with those in my August 19 letter, by September 7th, 2026.

Sincerely,



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress