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March 11, 2026

Mr. Jared Borg

Deputy Director, White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue

Washington, DC 20500

Dear Deputy Director Borg,

The National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS), representing nearly 40 of the country's Chief Election Officials (CEOs), expresses its gratitude for the White House's participation in the 2026 NASS Winter Conference. In the vein of continued collaboration, we, the NASS Executive Board, wish to emphasize the need for effective and consistent communication between the federal government and state election offices as we approach the midterm elections. As such, we respectfully request your assistance in ensuring federal entities share information with state and local election officials, as well as organizationally with NASS, in a robust and efficient manner.

The administration of elections is primarily the responsibility of state and local election officials. In our work as state CEOs, we value federal services that support cybersecurity and physical security for elections, particularly the information sharing processes we have established with federal entities since the 2017 critical infrastructure designation. The federal government brings information-sharing resources, foreign threat intelligence, and a national hub for threat information that supports our vital work.

In recent years, states have voluntarily reported election-related threat and incident information to the federal government through the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and other channels to help facilitate nationwide situational awareness. The federal government has also provided state and local election officials with valuable information regarding potential threats to elections, especially those from foreign governments, which is immensely beneficial. For example, in 2020, CISA and FBI notified state and local election officials of Iranian cyber actors targeting election systems, election officials, and American voters.

CISA also oversees a security clearance program for the election infrastructure subsector. Most CEOs and essential state staff (such as Chief Information Officers) hold SECRET clearances, with many holding TOP SECRET level



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clearances to access crucial election-related national security information. However, new application processing is on hold, posing issues for newly elected and appointed CEOs, as well as their staff. Historically, CISA has collaborated with other federal agencies to appropriately brief election officials at the SECRET level, maintaining a regular briefing schedule to ensure timely information dissemination to the elections community.

Election officials also value state-level partners that help to protect election infrastructure and share threat information. These partners vary by state based on capabilities and resource availability but include state departments of homeland security, state police, fusion centers, and National Guard units, many of which coordinate closely with federal entities. These relationships allow states to receive the services and information most relevant to their specific infrastructure and processes.

We believe state and federal resources and information sharing avenues are complementary and essential. State partners enable tailored preparation and protection, while national level resources ensure all states have access to important information and that key insights are shared across jurisdictions.

Additionally, considering the military activity in Iran, and in Mississippi, a ransomware attack last week at our state's largest hospital, it is imperative federal entities immediately share information about potential vulnerabilities that may affect election-related IT systems and infrastructure. This information further enables state and local election officials to secure the nation's election infrastructure. While our decentralized election system provides built-in protection and resilience, it also requires strong coordination between state governments and the federal government as needed.

NASS remains committed to serving as a conduit between federal partners and state election offices. NASS Executive Director, Leslie Reynolds, can be reached at 202-624-3525 or reynolds@nass.org. We look forward to your support as we continue to deliver safe and secure elections to the American people.

Sincerely,

Hon. Michael Watson
NASS President and Mississippi Secretary of State