

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 1, 2020

The Honorable William P. Barr  
Attorney General  
United States Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Barr,

We write to raise our sincere concerns about reports of potentially illegal activity concerning mail-in voting during the 2020 election and respectfully ask that the Department of Justice (DOJ) take immediate action to investigate these reports and, if appropriate, prosecute election-related crimes to the fullest extent of the law.

As you know, the DOJ is tasked with preserving our most fundamental rights as Americans, including the ability to participate in the democratic process by voting for our representatives in free and fair elections. At the core of this important function is maintaining the public's trust that all elections are conducted legitimately and transparently. History shows us that in-person voting is by far the most effective way to ensure election integrity and that the mail-in process is inherently susceptible to election crime and administrative error because it separates a voter from his or her ballot.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has been used to justify a monumental shift toward mail-in voting and ballot harvesting, which has largely been decried by Republicans in Congress, including at a House Judiciary Committee hearing on this subject on June 3, 2020. Tragically, election-related crimes, which were the basis for our concerns, appear to be prevalent throughout the country.

In Fairfax County, Virginia, up to 1,000 voters recently received more than one ballot in the mail for this year's election.<sup>1</sup> Hillary Clinton won Fairfax County in the 2016 presidential election by nearly 36 points.<sup>2</sup>

In Minneapolis, Minnesota, videos have surfaced that indicate widespread illegal ballot harvesting is taking place to benefit Democratic candidates for office, including sitting U.S. Congresswoman Ilhan Omar.<sup>3</sup>

In Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, it was recently reported that absentee ballots provided to Americans living abroad, including military servicemembers, were discarded—nearly all of those voters cast their ballot in support of President Trump's reelection effort.<sup>4</sup>

At minimum, these incidents, all of which have come to light within the past week, seriously undermine the public's faith in this year's election. At worst, they hint at a coordinated and subversive effort to

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<sup>1</sup> Julie Carey, *Some Fairfax County Voters Received 2 Mail-in Ballots*, NBC4 Washington, September 24, 2020, <https://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/northern-virginia/some-fairfax-county-voters-received-2-mail-in-ballots/2427435/>.

<sup>2</sup> *Virginia Results*, The New York Times, August 1, 2017, <https://www.nytimes.com/elections/2016/results/virginia>.

<sup>3</sup> Sam Dorman, *Minneapolis Police Investigating Ballot Harvesting Claims Amid Allegations Surrounding Omar*, Fox News, September 29, 2020, <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/minneapolis-police-omar-ballot-harvesting>.

<sup>4</sup> Zach Montellaro and Holly Otterbein, *PA County Official: DOJ Identified Discarded Ballots as Being for Trump*, Politico, September 25, 2020, <https://www.politico.com/news/2020/09/25/pennsylvania-ballots-trump-421908>.

capitalize on the current pandemic to improperly and perhaps illegally sway the results of the election. In either case, we respectfully urge you to utilize the authorities at your disposal to investigate and, if appropriate, prosecute illegal activity in the aforementioned instances and all other instances that are sure to arise between now and November 3, 2020. Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your service to our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Johnson" with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mike Johnson  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Jordan" in a cursive style.

Jim Jordan  
Member of Congress