



August 20, 2018

Dear Secretary Detzner,

Thank you for your recent letter regarding election security in the State of Florida and for the continued strong partnership between the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), your office, and other election officials in Florida. We appreciate sharing an open line of communication and your willingness to engage with DHS and the FBI in our shared efforts to secure election infrastructure.

This is a critically important partnership, as all 50 states and every local jurisdiction could be a potential target this election season, whether through malicious cyber operations or influence operations. Although we have not seen new or ongoing compromises of state or local election infrastructure in Florida, Russian government actors have previously demonstrated both the intent and capability to conduct malicious cyber operations. DHS and the FBI will continue to notify any victim of a successful cyber intrusion into their election network in any jurisdiction nationwide.

While states are responsible for administering elections, DHS, in coordination with DOJ, the FBI, the Election Assistance Commission, and the Intelligence Community, leads federal efforts to improve the security of election infrastructure. Working with members of the election community, we will continue to prioritize conducting assessments of cybersecurity risk; addressing vulnerabilities that could be exploited by malicious actors; hardening systems for future elections; and planning for incident response.

DHS and Florida officials have partnered on a number of initiatives to secure election systems, and DHS officials are providing training and technical assistance to Florida counties – just as we are with other jurisdictions across the country. In fact, our partnership has been so successful; all Florida counties are now members of the Election Infrastructure and Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EI-ISAC). In addition, two Florida Supervisors of Elections serve on the Election Infrastructure Government Coordinating Council and played a critical role in defining the Government Coordinating Council Communications Protocols, which set expectations for when and how the Federal Government and election officials share cybersecurity incident information. Florida has also spent the past several months deploying more Albert intrusion detection sensors to state and local election systems than any other state.

The Honorable Ken Detzner

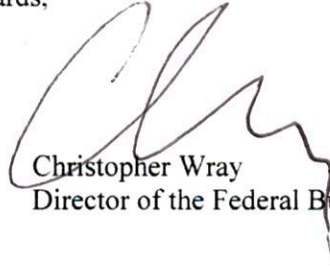
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Thank you again for again for your continued partnership. We are focused on assisting election officials with securing their systems for the 2018 midterms and ensuring Floridians can have confidence that when they visit the polls, their vote will be counted, and counted correctly.



Kirstjen Nielsen  
Secretary of Homeland Security

Best Regards,



Christopher Wray  
Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation