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LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PROSECUTION LEADERS CONDEMN ATTACKS ON VOTING RIGHTS

*Leaders say suppression and intimidation tactics threaten a fair election
and undermine public safety.*

Today, 79 elected prosecutors and law enforcement leaders, including 11 Attorneys General, issued a [joint statement](#) condemning efforts to undermine the voting process – including interference with the Postal Service and [threats](#) of deploying law enforcement officials to police the polls. The leaders from across the United States – including key election states such as Arizona, Florida, Nevada, North Carolina, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Michigan and Wisconsin – decried these attacks as both a threat to democracy and public safety.

Fair and Just Prosecution (FJP), a network of elected prosecutors across the nation, issued the joint statement. In it, the law enforcement leaders and elected prosecutors underscore that the right to vote is “fundamental to our democracy and our identity as Americans, regardless of political affiliation.” They recount the grave harm that flows from interfering with the voting process: “[R]ecent threats and intimidation tactics, including deploying law enforcement to police the polls, raises the prospect of voter intimidation, further damaging the fragile bonds of trust between law enforcement and communities they serve. And this is playing out at a critical time when trust is at an all-time low. That is why, as leaders charged with protecting public safety, we call for free and fair elections and condemn efforts to interfere with the Postal Service and undermine the voting process.”

“Many elected leaders have made extensive efforts to shield their communities from the deadly threat of COVID-19, but recent attacks on the Postal Service and efforts to undermine confidence in vote by mail may compel voters to choose between their health and the exercise of the fundamental right to vote – and risk turning polling booths into hotbeds of contagion,” said **FJP Executive Director Miriam Krinsky**. “Meanwhile, attacks on the democratic process and rule of law imperil public trust in government, and it is not surprising that confidence in law enforcement has fallen to an all-time low.”

The joint statement comes in the wake of President Trump’s [August 20 statement](#) that he intends to send “sheriffs and law enforcement...and attorney generals” to the polls. The signers note that the President has no authority to order state and local law enforcement to the polls, and that the law forbids federal interference with elections, including by deploying armed forces. Further, the statement notes that voting fraud is exceedingly [rare](#).

“Law enforcement leaders understand that earning the public’s trust – especially at a moment of deepening distrust and civil unrest in our communities – must be our highest priority,” said **Mecklenburg County, NC Sheriff Garry L. McFadden**. “The threat to deploy law enforcement to the polls, in a move reminiscent of the Jim Crow south, is a slap in the face of those efforts to fortify confidence in law enforcement and raises significant voter intimidation and suppression concerns.”

The signers of the joint statement underscore that protecting community trust is tethered to promoting public safety: “Public trust in democracy, the rule of law, and the integrity of our government is integral to public safety. When one system is attacked and fails, it compromises the ability of all systems to function, including our criminal justice system. And when communities do not trust us, we cannot effectively keep them safe.”

“Attempting to undermine the integrity of the election is just another example of how the Trump Administration is making our streets less safe by sowing division,” said **Delaware Attorney General Kathy Jennings**. “At a time when we need national unity and to rebuild public trust in government, it’s paramount that these attacks on our democracy cease immediately and that all elected leaders work to preserve free and fair elections.”

A full copy of the FJP statement is available [here](#) and the full list of signatories is below.

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[Fair and Just Prosecution](#) brings together newly elected local prosecutors as part of a network of leaders committed to promoting a justice system grounded in fairness, equity, compassion and fiscal responsibility.

List of Signatories

Amy Ashworth

Commonwealth’s Attorney, Prince William County, Virginia

Aramis Ayala

State Attorney, Ninth Judicial Circuit, Florida

Hector Balderas

Attorney General, State of New Mexico

Diana Becton

District Attorney, Contra Costa County, California

Wesley Bell

Prosecuting Attorney, St. Louis County, Missouri

Buta Biberaj

Commonwealth’s Attorney, Loudoun County, Virginia

Richard Biehl

Chief, Dayton Police Department, Ohio

Sherry Boston

District Attorney, DeKalb County, Georgia

Chesa Boudin

District Attorney, City and County of San Francisco, California

RaShall M. Brackney

Chief, Charlottesville Police Department, Virginia

Aisha Braveboy

State's Attorney, Prince George's County, Maryland

Patrick J. Cahillane

Sheriff, Hampshire County, Massachusetts

Danny Carr

District Attorney, Jefferson County, Birmingham Division, Alabama

John T. Chisholm

District Attorney, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin

John Choi

County Attorney, Ramsey County, Minnesota

Darcel Clark

District Attorney, Bronx County, New York

Jerry L. Clayton

Sheriff, Washtenaw County, Michigan

Dave Clegg

District Attorney, Ulster County, New York

Shameca Collins

District Attorney, Sixth Judicial District, Mississippi

Scott Colom

District Attorney, Sixteenth Judicial District, Mississippi

John Creuzot

District Attorney, Dallas County, Texas

Paula Dance

Sheriff, Pitt County, North Carolina

Satana Deberry

District Attorney, Durham County, North Carolina

Parisa Dehghani-Tafti

Commonwealth's Attorney, Arlington County and the City of Falls Church, Virginia

Steve Descano

Commonwealth's Attorney, Fairfax County, Virginia

Thomas J. Donovan, Jr.

Attorney General, State of Vermont

Michael Dougherty

District Attorney, Twentieth Judicial District, Colorado

Mark A. Dupree, Sr.

District Attorney, Wyandotte County, Kansas

Keith Ellison

Attorney General, State of Minnesota

Aaron Ford

Attorney General, State of Nevada

Kimberly M. Foxx

State's Attorney, Cook County, Illinois

Kimberly Gardner

Circuit Attorney, City of St. Louis, Missouri

Sarah F. George

State's Attorney, Chittenden County, Vermont

Sim Gill

District Attorney, Salt Lake County, Utah

Joe Gonzales

District Attorney, Bexar County, Texas

Eric Gonzalez

District Attorney, Kings County, New York

Mark Gonzalez

District Attorney, Nueces County, Texas

Andrea Harrington

District Attorney, Berkshire County, Massachusetts

Maura Healey

Attorney General, State of Massachusetts

Mark R. Herring

Attorney General, State of Virginia

Jim Hingeley

Commonwealth's Attorney, Albemarle County, Virginia

Art Howell

Chief, Racine Police Department, Wisconsin

John Hummel

District Attorney, Deschutes County, Oregon

Natasha Irving

District Attorney, Sixth Prosecutorial District, Maine

Kathleen Jennings

Attorney General, State of Delaware

Melinda Katz

District Attorney, Queens County, New York

Zach Klein

City Attorney, Columbus, Ohio

Justin F. Kollar

Prosecuting Attorney, Kauai County, Hawaii

Lawrence S. Krasner

District Attorney, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Chris Magnus

Chief, Tucson Police Department, Arizona

Beth McCann

District Attorney, Second Judicial District, Colorado

Garry McFadden

Sheriff, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina

Ryan Mears

Prosecuting Attorney, Marion County, Indiana

Spencer Merriweather

District Attorney, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina

Brian Middleton

District Attorney, Fort Bend County, Texas

Quentin Miller

Sheriff, Buncombe County, North Carolina

Tom Miller

Attorney General, State of Iowa

Stephanie Morales

Commonwealth's Attorney, City of Portsmouth, Virginia

Marilyn J. Mosby

State's Attorney, Baltimore City, Maryland

Jody Owens

District Attorney, Hinds County, Mississippi

Bryan Porter

Commonwealth's Attorney, City of Alexandria, Virginia

Abdul Pridgen

Chief, Seaside Police Department, California

Karl Racine

Attorney General, District of Columbia

Rachael Rollins

District Attorney, Suffolk County, Massachusetts

Jeff Rosen

District Attorney, Santa Clara County, California

Ellen Rosenblum

Attorney General, State of Oregon

Marian Ryan

District Attorney, Middlesex County, Massachusetts

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Sheriff, Bexar County, Texas

Tori Verber Salazar

District Attorney, San Joaquin County, California

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Prosecuting Attorney, King County, Washington

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District Attorney, Twenty-Second Judicial District, Mississippi

Carol Siemon

Prosecuting Attorney, Ingham County, Michigan

David E. Sullivan

District Attorney, Northwestern District, Massachusetts

Shannon Taylor

Commonwealth's Attorney, Henrico County, Virginia

William Tong

Attorney General, State of Connecticut

Raúl Torrez

District Attorney, Bernalillo County, New Mexico

Gregory Underwood

Commonwealth's Attorney, City of Norfolk, Virginia

Andrew Warren

State Attorney, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Florida

Todd M. Williams

District Attorney, Buncombe County, North Carolina