



Jena M. Griswold
Colorado Secretary of State

July 28, 2020

Senator Mitch McConnell
Senator Charles E. Schumer
Senator Richard C. Shelby
Senator Patrick J. Leahy
Senator Roy Blunt
Senator Amy Klobuchar

Dear Senators:

As Secretaries of State of both major political parties who oversee the election systems of our respective states, we write in strong support of additional federal funding to enable the smooth and safe administration of elections in 2020. The stakes are high. And time is short.

The COVID-19 pandemic is testing our democracy. A number of states have faced challenges during recent primary elections. Local administrators were sometimes overwhelmed by logistical problems such as huge volumes of last-minute absentee ballot applications, unexpected shortages of poll workers, and difficulty of procuring and distributing supplies. As we anticipate significantly higher voter turnout in the November General Election, we believe those kinds of problems could be even larger.

The challenge we face is to ensure that voters and our election workers can safely participate in the election process. While none of us knows what the world will look like on November 3rd, the most responsible posture is to hope for the best and plan for the worst. The plans in each of our states depend on adequate resources.

While we are truly grateful for the resources that Congress made available in the CARES Act for election administration, more funding is critical. Current funding levels help to offset, but do not cover, the unexpectedly high costs that state and local governments face in trying to administer safe and secure elections this year. Additional funding would be particularly critical in ensuring that local jurisdictions have sufficient staff to handle the many unforeseen challenges that will come with conducting a national election during a pandemic. Importantly, we hope that any appropriation will be free of mandates such as a “state match” requirement – which would have the effect of excluding many states from being able to access the funds.

We respectfully request that you continue to help states prepare our election systems for operations during the pandemic by appropriating supplemental election administration funds to the states. Our democracy depends on it. Without additional funds, there is a risk of serious election disruptions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Secretary of State Steve Simon
Minnesota



Secretary of State Kathy Boockvar
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



Secretary of State Nellie Gorbea
Rhode Island



Secretary of State Jena Griswold
Colorado



Secretary of State Katie Hobbs
Arizona



Secretary of State Kim Wyman
Washington



Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver
New Mexico



Secretary of State Alex Padilla
California



Secretary of State Jim Condos
Vermont



Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson
Michigan

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Tahesha Way', with a large loop at the end.

Secretary of State Tahesha Way
New Jersey