

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Walter “Jay” Clayton III
Director of National Intelligence
1500 Tysons McLean Drive
McLean, VA 22102

October 2, 2026

Dear Director Clayton:

Congratulations on your confirmation as Director of National Intelligence. We look forward to working closely with you. With Election Day rapidly approaching, we write to you to memorialize our understanding and expectations for keeping the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence fully and currently informed about protecting our elections from foreign threats.

Career intelligence community (IC) analysts recently briefed the House Committee about the latest assessments regarding foreign threats to the upcoming midterms. These briefings, as well as additional briefings given to staff of both committees, provided valuable insight into how our intelligence professionals are monitoring potential attempts by our adversaries to influence or interfere in U.S. elections, and how such foreign malign activity compares to prior cycles. Between now and Election Day, it is critical the IC continue to inform policymakers, state and local election administrators, and the American people about threats to our elections. Accordingly, we write to confirm several steps that ODNI and the interagency can take to further that mission:

First, while we have received the first in a series of statutorily requiredⁱ reports about foreign adversaries targeting this election, there are still several outstanding statutorily required products owed to the Committees. It is essential that the IC complete production of its remaining assessments in a timely manner, so that policymakers remain up-to-date regarding any emerging intelligence or shifts in the analytic line before the midterm elections. This process should include the declassification and public issuance of the Intelligence Community Assessment (ICA) about foreign threats to the 2024 presidential election. The lack of a public ICA contravenes the lawⁱⁱ and undercuts needed transparency about IC efforts to keep our elections secure from outside interference.

Second, please arrange a full interagency classified update for members to occur no later than October 31, so the IC can brief any new intelligence related to foreign election threats. Both chambers may be out of session, but we will work with your staff to facilitate a secure call.

Third, as part of its statutory obligation to keep the Committees fully and currently informedⁱⁱⁱ, we ask your commitment to provide the Committees with real-time notification about emerging threats to elections, and in particular any change in the IC’s analysis with respect to election

interference, such as tampering with election infrastructure, manipulating election results, or otherwise interfering with the integrity of voting. In the absence of such warnings prior to Election Day, we will assume that no such foreign interference has been observed – as the IC has consistently assessed going back multiple federal elections.^{iv} Likewise, we expect that you and your staff will respond expeditiously to any additional Committee requests for information or for election security briefings from IC subject matter experts through and after Election Day. We also expect that you and your staff will immediately notify us of any actual attacks or efforts to interfere with or influence any election contest that takes place before, on, or after Election Day.

Finally, during previous election cycles, the IC coordinated the release of unclassified election security updates sourced from classified finished analysis, providing the public with warning and context about assessed foreign malign activities targeting our democratic process. Responsible disclosure of rigorous intelligence analysis about our elections, consistent with the protection of sources and methods, is a best practice that we encourage you to adopt in the coming weeks. A statement noting the absence of indications of significant foreign interference efforts is just as important as a statement exposing any such activities. Regardless, the American people should receive as much information as we can responsibly provide prior to the election.

We appreciate your support in ensuring that the IC is properly postured to defend our elections from foreign threats, and that the Committees stay fully and currently informed about IC activities and analysis pertaining to the upcoming midterm elections.

Sincerely,



Jim Himes
Ranking Member
House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence



Mark Warner
Vice Chairman
Senate Select Committee on Intelligence

cc: The Honorable Eric “Rick” Crawford, Chairman, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
The Honorable Tom Cotton, Chairman, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence

ⁱ [50 U.S.C. 3371a\(b\)](#)

ⁱⁱ [50 U.S.C. 3371\(c\)](#)

ⁱⁱⁱ [50 U.S.C. 3091](#)

^{iv} See p. 5, “[Foreign Threats to US Elections After Voting Ends in 2024](#)” and p. 1, “[Foreign Threats to the 2022 US Elections](#)”