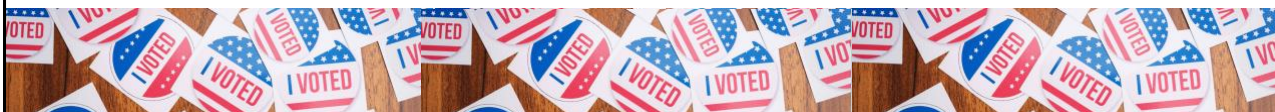




# The FBI Election Crimes Coordinator Program

## FBI Seattle Division

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## Election Crimes Program - Overview

- The FBI has a longstanding history addressing election crimes, beginning as early as the 1970s.
- Today, the FBI Criminal Investigative Division's, Election Crimes Coordinator Program, leads the FBI's federal election crime efforts.



### Election Crimes Coordinator Program

Aligns the FBI's response to election-related crimes and preparation for U.S. election cycles through critical engagement with state and local election officials, as well as collaboration with external and internal law enforcement/intelligence colleagues





## Election Crimes Coordinators (ECC) Program

### KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

- I. Federal Election Crimes
- II. Election Security Collaboration
- III. Threats to Election Workers Task Force



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## I. Federal Election Crimes: The FBI's Role

Generally, Federal jurisdiction in election-related crimes exists when:

- The ballot includes one or more federal candidates;
- An election or polling place official abuses their office;
- The conduct involves false voter registration; or
- The activity violates Federal Campaign Finance laws



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## The FBI's Role: Federal Election Crimes

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## Federal Election Crimes

Federal Election Crimes investigated by the FBI fall into three broad categories:

Voter/Ballot  
Fraud

Civil Rights  
Violations

Campaign Finance  
Offenses





## Federal Election Crimes: Voter/Ballot Fraud

### COMMON SCHEMES

- ❖ Illegal voter registration
- ❖ Vote buying
- ❖ Multiple voting
- ❖ Ineligible votes
- ❖ Malfeasance by polling officials



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## Federal Election Crimes: Civil Rights Violations

### COMMON SCHEMES

A voter is threatened with physical or economic harm unless the voter declines to vote or casts a ballot a particular way.

Efforts to prevent qualified voters from effectively voting by deceiving them as to the time, place or manner of an election (voter suppression).



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## Federal Election Crimes: Campaign Finance Offenses

*Excessive Contributions*  
*Fraud/Abuse of Campaign Funds*  
*Domestic Prohibited Sources*  
*Foreign Prohibited Sources*  
*Conduit contributions/ Straw Donor Schemes*  
*Super political action committees (Super PACs) & Independent Expenditure Organizations (IEOs)*

**Proof of criminal intent:** The act must've been committed 'knowingly' and 'willingly'



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## What is not a Federal Election Crime?

### What is NOT a Federal Election Crime?

- Giving voters a ride to the polls or time off to vote
- Offering voters a stamp to mail an absentee ballot
- False claims about oneself or another candidate
- False or forged nominating petitions
- Asking an opponent to withdraw from a race
- Honest mistakes by polling place workers
- Campaigning too close to the polls

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## Non-Interference with Elections

The FBI takes all allegations of election crimes and threats seriously and must balance responsiveness to federal election-related crimes with the DOJ non-interference policy around and during elections.



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## II. Election Security and Collaboration

### Election Security Threats

Today, election security threats are more diverse and complex, involving not only traditional election crimes, but also cyber threats targeting election infrastructure, foreign influence efforts directed at democratic processes and institutions, and the increased possibility of politically motivated violent acts.



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## II. Threats to Election Workers Task Force

“The FBI will not tolerate threats against any federal, state, or local election worker participating in the common goals of safeguarding our electoral process and the rights of voters. From election administrators to volunteers to vendors and contractors, threats against any one individual is a threat against us all. The FBI’s mission is to protect the American people and uphold our Constitution, and protecting our democratic process is paramount. We take this responsibility seriously and will investigate any and all federal violations to the fullest.”

-- FBI Deputy Director Paul Abbate



## II. Threats to Election Workers Task Force

**MISSION:** Identify, investigate, and mitigate threats targeting election workers.

**FORMATION:** Established in June 2021, in response to an increasing number of threats targeting individuals for participation in the administration of free and fair elections.

**COMPOSITION:** Comprised of various programs within the Department of Justice, the FBI, and the United States Postal Service.





## Threats to Election Workers Task Force

### Examples of Applicable Federal Statutes

Threats by Interstate Commerce  
Mailing Threatening Communications  
Obscene and Harassing Telephone Calls  
Stalking



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## Threats to Election Workers Task Force

Date: Mon, 25 Jan 2021

From: [Email address]

To: County Clerk

Body:

To whom it may concern:

I have been a citizen of Albertson County for 17 years and I cant believe the horrible job you all have done with our elections. The last mayoral election was handled so poorly I wish I could move out of this stupid county. I hope all your employees get COVID and die.

Thanks for nothing,  
Sincerely Disgusted

Example 1

Date: Wed, 2 Jun 2021

From: [Email address]

To: County Fiscal Court

Body:

Hi. I have called several times now trying to report election fraud and no one at your stupid office will listen to me! If someone doesn't call me back TODAY then I'm coming down there and I'm burning down your office down TOMOROW. Good luck trying to run because I'm trained in every kind of combat you can imagine and I know my rights. Maybe then you will return my calls you lazy pieces of \*\*\*\*.

CALL ME BACK

Randall Jones [Phone number]

Example 2



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## Threats to Election Workers Task Force

### What to do if you receive a communication you deem threatening or harassing?

Call **911** for an immediate threat to life;

Contact the FBI via your local FBI Field Office ECC; the national tip line at 1-800-CALL-FBI; or via [www.tips.fbi.gov](http://www.tips.fbi.gov) to report the communication;

If feasible, attempt to preserve the threatening, harassing, or intimidating communication for future law enforcement use.



## Questions?

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