

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 17, 2026

The Honorable Kash Patel
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20535

Joshua J. DelManzo
Special Agent in Charge
Federal Bureau of Investigation
1501 Lakeside Ave.
Cleveland, Ohio 44114

Dear Director Patel and Special Agent in Charge DelManzo,

We write to express deep concern regarding the Federal Bureau of Investigation's recent raid of the Cleveland office of the Ohio Organizing Collaborative (OCC) and the reported questioning of OCC staff, volunteers, and community partners throughout Ohio. According to reports FBI agents not only raided the OCC's Cleveland office but also followed individuals connected to the organization in their cars, followed their children to school, and went to their homes demanding to enter them under the guise of investigating voter fraud.¹

For almost two decades, the Ohio Organizing Collaborative has encouraged civic engagement participated voter registration, community organizing and advocacy. While no organization is above the law, the expansive scope of the federal activity focused on such a prominent voting rights organization, coupled with the absence of any public explanation regarding the basis of these actions raises serious questions about whether federal law enforcement is being deployed in a manner that could have a chilling effect on lawful civic engagement.

We are concerned that in an election year, DOJ and FBI seem to have abandoned their own Election Year Sensitivities policy which forbids selecting the timing of public statements, overt steps, or charges to affect any election.² Any deviation from these standards—especially overt investigative activity targeting a voter-registration organization—risks weaponizing the federal government against lawful civic activity.

These concerns are heightened by this Administration's efforts to push unsubstantiated claims of widespread voter fraud, specifically in the 2020 Presidential election. Over the past year the FBI has raided the elections office in Fulton County, Georgia collecting 2020 ballots,³ the Department of Justice (DOJ) has demanded full, unredacted voter rolls from at least 44 states and the District of Columbia,⁴ and despite no findings of widespread voter fraud this Administration continues to take unprecedented actions to, restrict access to the ballot, weaken voting-rights protections, and to cast doubt on our election administration. Against this backdrop, further aggressive federal investigative actions like the raid in Cleveland and the indictment of the Southern Poverty Law Center creates serious concerns that federal law enforcement is being used to intimidate civic organizations and deter lawful participation in our democratic process.

¹ <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/ohio-organizing-collaborative-fraud-investigation-fbi/>

² <https://www.justice.gov/archives/jmd/media/1359366/dl>

³ <https://www.politico.com/news/2026/01/28/fbi-raid-georgia-elections-trump-2020-00753249>

⁴ <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/trump-administration-has-sued-more-20-states-refusing-turn-over-voter>

The First Amendment protects the rights of individuals and organizations to engage in political advocacy, and association. Any investigation of these protected activities must be conducted with the utmost care and in accordance with all relevant law and Department of Justice policies designed to prevent political bias or retaliation.

To better understand the basis and scope of the FBI's recent actions against the Ohio Organizing Collaborative, we request answers to the following questions:

1. What specific authority or legal basis was used to authorize the search of the Ohio Organizing Collaborative's Cleveland office? Please produce the warrant and affidavit.
2. What specific authority or legal basis was used to authorize to the questioning, following, and appearance at the private residences of individuals associated with Ohio Organizing Collaborative?
3. Please provide all information that led to the initiation of this investigation including any referrals, approvals, or authorizations received by the Department of Justice or any other relevant office.
4. Did any state or local law enforcement request, recommend, or participate in the raid of Ohio Organizing Collaborative's Cleveland office and the following and questioning of staff and volunteers? If so, please provide all documentation and communication on the collaboration across agencies and governments.
5. Did any federal entities (including but not limited to DHS and ODNI) participate or share information leading to the raid of Ohio Organizing Collaborative's Cleveland office and the following and questioning of staff and volunteers? If so, please provide all documentation and communication on the collaboration across agencies and governments.
6. What are the policies and protocols that govern investigations that involve organizations that legally participate in voter registration?
7. How many FBI personnel participated in the search and related investigative activities?
8. Were any agents reassigned from other investigations or offices to participate in this operation? If so, from which offices and for what duration?
9. Did the FBI/DOJ consult the Criminal Division's Public Integrity Section, and were the Election-Year Sensitivities policies followed regarding timing of overt steps? Please produce consultation records and approvals.

We request a response no later than June 22, 2026

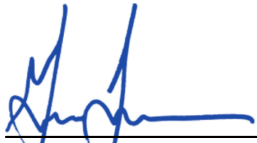
Sincerely,




Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



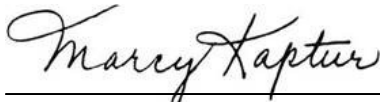
Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



Greg Landsman
Member of Congress



Emilia Strong Sykes
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur
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