



STATE OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

LETITIA JAMES  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

September 12, 2024

Honorable Merrick Garland  
Attorney General  
Honorable Kristen Clarke  
Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights  
U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Garland and Assistant Attorney General Clarke:

We write to request that the Civil Rights Division investigate raids recently conducted by the Texas Attorney General's Office targeting Latino voting rights organizers, candidates for office, and volunteers to determine whether these raids constitute violations of civil rights, including the right to vote.

Despite the fact that there has never been evidence of widespread voter fraud anywhere in the United States,<sup>1</sup> the Texas Attorney General's office's conduct appears to have been premised upon the falsehood that there is widespread illegal voting among Latino communities in Texas. These actions perpetuate racist conspiracy theories in order to justify targeting voters of color.

Under the guise of policing this nonexistent widespread fraud, the Texas Attorney General's Office invaded the homes of Latino candidates and voting rights organizers. State officers even searched the homes of elderly volunteers, terrifying them and seizing their property.<sup>2</sup> These

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<sup>1</sup> Glenn Kessler, *The Truth about Noncitizen Voting in Federal Elections*, Washington Post (March 6, 2024), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2024/03/06/truth-about-noncitizen-voting-federal-elections/>; Owen Averill, et al., *Widespread Election Fraud Claims by Republicans Don't Match the Evidence*, Brookings (November 22, 2023), <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/widespread-election-fraud-claims-by-republicans-dont-match-the-evidence/>; The Brennan Center for Justice, *The Truth about Voter Fraud* (November 9, 2007), <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/truth-about-voter-fraud>.

<sup>2</sup> Edgar Sandoval, *Latino Civil Rights Group Demands Inquiry Into Texas Voter Fraud Raids*, New York Times (August 25, 2024), [https://www.texastribune.org/2024/08/23/texas-ken-paxton-vote-fraud-investigation/](https://www.nytimes.com/2024/08/25/us/texas-latino-democrats-raids-paxton.html#:~:text=A%20Latino%20civil%20rights%20group%20is%20asking%20the,inquiry%20by%20the%20Texas%20attorney%20general%2C%20Ken%20Paxton; Kayla Guo, LULAC Condemns Paxton's Election Fraud Raids as 'intimidation', Texas Tribune (August 23, 2024), <a href=).

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actions are unfortunately just the latest iteration of a longstanding pattern of using baseless allegations of voter fraud to intimidate voters of color.<sup>3</sup>

The timing of these raids could not be worse. We are now a mere two months away from a nationwide election of great consequence. The Texas Attorney General is thus sowing confusion and fear at a dangerous time. Given that, unsurprisingly, no evidence of fraud has been produced and no charges have been filed,<sup>4</sup> it seems likely that the goal was to inspire fear, chill community organizing, and suppress the vote of minority communities.

The Texas Attorney General is undermining the very elections he purports to want to protect. False allegations of voter fraud and highly-publicized, baseless raids of minority voters—weeks away from early voting in some states—harm all Americans by undermining confidence in our elections.<sup>5</sup>

The U.S. Department of Justice’s Civil Rights Division is tasked with upholding the civil and constitutional rights of all persons in the United States—a mission that is all the more significant during an election year inundated with attempts to set the stage for false allegations that the upcoming election is fraudulent. We urge the Department to investigate the Texas Attorney General’s disturbing raids against Latino individuals in Texas.

Sincerely,



LETITIA JAMES

*Signatures continue on next page.*

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<sup>3</sup> *150 Years and Counting*, National Museum of African American History & Culture, <https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/exhibitions/reconstruction/voting-rights> (last visited September 3, 2024).

<sup>4</sup> Nadia Lathan, *What to Know After Texas Authorities Searched the Homes of Latino Campaign Volunteers*, Associated Press (August 28, 2024), <https://apnews.com/article/texas-latino-volunteer-voter-raids-a258c768384d9a80bb10ce274023ad4a>; Arelis R. Hernández & Molly Hennessy-Fiske, *Paxton’s Election Fraud Charges Upend Lives but Result in Few Convictions*, Washington Post (September 2, 2024), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2024/09/02/paxton-texas-election-fraud-charges/>.

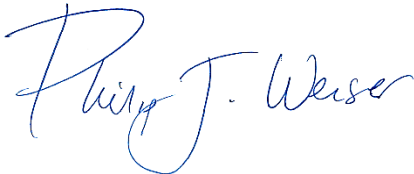
<sup>5</sup> Jude Joffe-Block, *The GOP Is Making False Claims about Noncitizens Voting. It’s Affecting Real Voters*, NPR (August 30, 2024), <https://www.npr.org/2024/08/30/nx-s1-5091032/noncitizens-voting-election-gop-texas-tennessee-alabama>.



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