



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0905

July 2, 2018

The Honorable Ken Detzner
Secretary of State
Florida Department of State
R.A. Gray Building
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Secretary Detzner:

Thank you for all your efforts to prepare your county for Florida's upcoming primary and general elections. This year is demanding greater awareness of cyber threats, technical expertise, and cooperation among all levels of government than perhaps any other year.

Russian government actors targeted our election infrastructure during the 2016 elections. The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence recently released a summary of its findings regarding the scanning and penetration of state systems in 2016, along with recommendations for addressing vulnerabilities. Those findings included that Russia was preparing to undermine confidence in our voting process and that, in a small number of cases, cyber actors affiliated with the Russian Government accessed voter registration databases. The Committee further reported that, because the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) depends on states and localities self-reporting suspicious activity, and that activity is often difficult to find, "it is possible that additional activity occurred and has not yet been uncovered."

County election boards should not be expected to stand alone against a hostile foreign government. The Committee recommended—and DHS now offers—a wide range of services to state and local officials that will support your efforts to make your systems secure. DHS will follow your lead and meet your needs with a tailored set of options. We encourage you in the strongest terms to take advantage of those resources, and to let us know about your experience with DHS and FBI.

Elections run by local officials are the bedrock of our democracy. Our decentralized system is a strength, but it also means the responsibility resides with each of us to be sure our locality is secure. We look forward to working with you, DHS, and FBI to ensure successful and secure elections this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Marco Rubio", written over a horizontal line.

Marco Rubio

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill Nelson", written over a horizontal line.

Bill Nelson