U.S. Department of Justice
Office of the Deputy Attorney General

The Deputy Attorney General
Washington, D.C. 20530

June 25, 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL FEDERAL PROSECUTORS
DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FROM: THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL Lisa Monaco

SUBJECT: Guidance Regarding Threats Against Election Workers

In recent months, there has been a significant increase in the threat of violence against Americans who administer free and fair elections throughout our Nation. As the Attorney General stated two weeks ago: There are many things that are open to debate in America. But the right of all eligible citizens to vote is not one of them. The right to vote is the cornerstone of our democracy, the right from which all other rights ultimately flow.

For this vital right to be effective, election officials must be permitted to do their jobs free from improper partisan influence, physical threats, or any other conduct designed to intimidate. The Department of Justice has a long history of protecting every American's right to vote, and will continue to do so. To that end, we must also work tirelessly to protect all election workers – whether they be elected officials, appointed officials, or those who volunteer their time – against the threats they face.

The United States Attorney's Offices and Federal Bureau of Investigation are critical to fulfilling this obligation to safeguard the electoral process. To protect the franchise for all voters, we must identify threats against those responsible for administering elections, whether federal, state, or local. A threat to any election official, worker, or volunteer is, at bottom, a threat to democracy. We will promptly and vigorously prosecute offenders to protect the rights of American voters, to punish those who engage in this criminal behavior, and to send the unmistakable message that such conduct will not be tolerated. I am confident that you will meet this obligation and investigate all instances of election-related intimidation.

To assist with this important effort, the Department is launching a task force – including members from the Criminal Division, the Civil Rights Division, the National Security Division and the FBI – to address the rise in threats against election officials. More information on this task force will be communicated to your office in the coming days, including a toll-free hotline for members of the public to report election-related threats. Until then, please work closely with state and local officials to encourage threat reporting, and if you are currently investigating or

learn of allegations of threats against election workers in your district, you must contact John Keller, Principal Deputy Chief of the Public Integrity Section of the Criminal Division for coordination and guidance.