



Department of Justice

Carlton S. Shier, IV
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Kentucky

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CONTACT: Gabrielle Dudgeon
PHONE: (859) 685-4887
E-MAIL: gabrielle.dudgeon@usdoj.gov

U.S. Attorney Appoints Election Officer for the Eastern District of Kentucky

United States Attorney Carlton S. Shier, IV announced today that Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) Andy Boone will lead the efforts of his Office in connection with the Justice Department's nationwide Election Day Program, for the upcoming November 8, 2022, general election. AUSA Boone has been appointed to serve as the District Election Officer (DEO) for the Eastern District of Kentucky, and in that capacity is responsible for overseeing the District's handling of election day complaints of voting rights concerns, threats of violence to election officials or staff, and election fraud, in consultation with Justice Department Headquarters in Washington.

United States Attorney Shier said, "Every citizen must be able to vote without interference or discrimination and to have that vote counted in a fair and free election. Similarly, election officials and staff must be able to serve without being subject to unlawful threats of violence. The Department of Justice will work tirelessly to protect the integrity of the election process."

The Department of Justice has an important role in deterring and combatting discrimination and intimidation at the polls, threats of violence directed at election officials and poll workers, and election fraud. The Department addresses these violations wherever they occur. The Department's longstanding Election Day Program furthers these goals and also seeks to ensure public confidence in the electoral process by providing local points of contact within the Department for the public to report possible federal election law violations.

Federal law protects against such crimes as threatening violence against election officials or staff, intimidating or bribing voters, buying and selling votes, impersonating voters, altering vote tallies, stuffing ballot boxes, and marking ballots for voters against their wishes or without their input. It also contains special protections for the rights of voters, and provides that they can vote free from interference, including intimidation, and other acts designed to prevent or discourage people from voting or voting for the candidate of their choice. The Voting Rights Act protects the right of voters to mark their own ballot or to be assisted by a person of their choice (where voters need assistance because of disability or inability to read or write in English).

The right to vote is the cornerstone of American democracy. We all must ensure that those who are entitled to that right can exercise it if they choose, and that those who seek to corrupt it are brought to justice. In order to respond to complaints of voting rights concerns and election fraud

during the upcoming election, and to ensure that such complaints are directed to the appropriate authorities, AUSA/DEO Boone will be on duty in this District while the polls are open.

In addition, the FBI will have special agents available in each field office and resident agency throughout the country to receive allegations of election fraud and other election abuses on election day. Any tips or other information regarding election fraud or abuses can be submitted through the FBI's national tip line at 800-CALL-FBI or via www.tips.fbi.gov. Additionally, the FBI Louisville Division office can be reached at 502-263-6000.

Complaints about possible violations of the federal voting rights laws can be made directly to the Civil Rights Division in Washington, DC, by phone at 800-253-3931 or by complaint form at <https://civilrights.justice.gov/>.

United States Attorney Shier emphasized, "Ensuring free and fair elections depends in large part on the assistance of the American electorate. It is important that those who have specific information about voting rights concerns or election fraud make that information available to the Department of Justice."

Please note, however, in the case of a crime of violence or intimidation, please call 911 immediately and before contacting federal authorities. State and local police have primary jurisdiction over polling places, and almost always have faster reaction capacity in an emergency.

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