

COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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JAMES R. WILLIAMS
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

October 25, 2026

Mr. Craig H. Missakian
U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of California
450 Golden Gate Ave., Box 36055
San Francisco, CA 94102-3495

Dear U.S. Attorney Missakian:

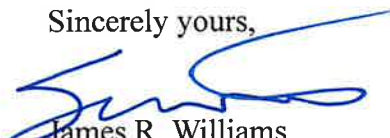
I write to supplement the response from our Office of the County Counsel regarding your illegal and threatening letter of October 23, 2026, directed to the County of Santa Clara and our Registrar of Voters. I'm sure you agree that voting is the sacrosanct foundation of our democracy, and ensuring we protect the right of every citizen to vote is our essential duty as public servants.

Our nation's Founders wisely established a system of government that divides responsibility between our federal government and the respective States—to each of which is reserved all power not specifically provided to the federal government, as explicitly stated by the Tenth Amendment. This was no accident. “In the compound republic of America, the power surrendered by the people is first divided between two distinct governments, and then the portion allotted to each subdivided among distinct and separate departments. Hence a double security arises to the rights of the people. The different governments will control each other, at the same time that each will be controlled by itself.” THE FEDERALIST NO. 51 (James Madison).

Under our nation's Constitution and California law, the sacred trust to administer elections impartially, fairly, and effectively is entrusted to California's 58 counties. The County of Santa Clara is proud to operate a nationally award-winning Registrar's office that performs this duty with distinction and the utmost integrity. It is precisely *because* of our vigilance and adherence to our duties that we cannot abide by your illegal request to provide confidential voter information or segregate ballots based on unverified allegations. Your spurious threats of criminal and other sanctions to attempt to compel such illegal action are wholly inappropriate and misplaced.

You and I both swore to “support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic.” 5 U.S.C. § 3331; *see also* 28 U.S.C. § 544; CAL. CONST. art. XX, § 3. I will fulfill that oath. I expect you to do so as well.

Sincerely yours,



James R. Williams
County Executive