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Department of Justice Advisory on Elections

**Be Educated ~ Be Informed ~
Be Safe**

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Press Release by United States Attorney Relating to November 2020 Elections

United States Attorney SHAWN N. ANDERSON announces the assignment of Assistant United States Attorneys (AUSA) to lead the efforts of the United States Attorney's Office in connection with the Justice Department's nationwide Election Day Program for the upcoming November 3, 2020, general election. AUSA Marivic P. David will serve as the District Election Officer (DEO) for the District of Guam. AUSA Eric S. O'Malley will serve as the DEO for the District of the Northern Mariana Islands. These AUSAs are responsible for overseeing the Districts' handling of complaints of election fraud and voting rights concerns in consultation with Justice Department Headquarters in Washington.

United States Attorney Anderson said, "Every citizen must be able to vote without interference or discrimination and to have that vote counted without it being stolen because of fraud. The Department of Justice will always act appropriately to protect the integrity of the election process."

The Department of Justice has an important role in deterring election fraud and discrimination at the polls and combating these violations whenever and wherever they occur. The Department's long-standing Election Day Program furthers these goals, and also seeks to ensure public confidence in the integrity of the election process by providing local points of contact within the Department for the public to report possible election fraud and voting rights violations while the polls are open through election day.

Federal law protects against such crimes as 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 acts that intimidate or harass them. For example, actions of persons designed to interrupt or intimidate voters at polling places by questioning or challenging them, or by photographing or videotaping them, under the pretext that these are



actions to uncover illegal voting may violate federal voting rights law. Further, federal law 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 illiteracy).

The franchise is the cornerstone of American democracy. We all must ensure that those who are entitled to the franchise exercise it if they choose, and that those who seek to corrupt it are brought to justice. In order to respond to complaints of election fraud or voting rights concerns during the voting period that ends on November 3, 2020, and to ensure that such complaints are directed to the appropriate authorities, United States Attorney Anderson stated that the AUSAs/DEOs will be on duty while the polls are open, including periods of early voting. Ms. David can be reached by the public at (671) 479-4120 or (671) 988-3260. Mr. O'Malley can be contacted at (670) 236-2986.



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. The local FBI field office can be reached by the public by calling (671) 645-1805 or (670) 322-6934.

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/>.

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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