

# The Board of Supervisors

County Administration Building  
1025 Escobar St., 4<sup>th</sup> floor  
Martinez, California 94553

**John Gioia**, 1<sup>st</sup> District  
**Candace Andersen**, 2<sup>nd</sup> District  
**Diane Burgis**, 3<sup>rd</sup> District  
**Ken Carlson**, 4<sup>th</sup> District  
**Federal D. Glover**, 5<sup>th</sup> District

# Contra Costa County



**Monica Nino**  
Clerk of the Board  
and  
County Administrator  
(925) 655-2075

February 28, 2023

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2468 Rayburn House Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2433 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

## **RE: Bipartisan Call to Fund Local Election Departments**

Dear Speaker McCarthy, Leader Schumer, Leader Jeffries, and Leader McConnell:

On behalf of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, I write to express our support of Congress appropriating at least \$400 million to fund needed repairs and improvements to our nation's election infrastructure in the 2024 fiscal year in advance of the election season.

We request this funding to be allocated with two-thirds of the funds being sent directly to local election offices where the need is greatest and most informed by local conditions, and one-third of the funds being sent to state election officials to address statewide needs.

While the 2022 midterm election was successfully and securely administered, local election officials across the country faced a multitude of resource constraints that made their jobs harder and impeded voter access. As the 2024 election cycle approaches, greater investment from the federal government is necessary to ensure the security of that election and to keep these constraints from recurring with potentially worse effects.

Local and state elections officials face massive, increasing challenges to making our elections possible, from rising security threats to the growing stock of aging equipment in need of replacement. Years of unmet infrastructure needs have led to challenges such as melted voting equipment, polling place closures, and cyber and physical security threats that hurt public trust in election security and limit access. At the same time, election offices are struggling to bear the price of basic necessities amidst higher labor costs and ballot paper supply shortages. These

challenges are not unique to any single jurisdiction, they harm rural communities and urban communities, big states and small states alike.

Federal elections can be the costliest for local election officials to administer, due in part to their higher turnout and longer ballots, yet federal funding for election infrastructure has remained flat and minimal over successive federal budgets. Elections offices need the federal government to pay its fair share of federal elections – if it continues to fail to do so, it will create long-lasting challenges for elections departments.

We understand that there are competing fiscal priorities, but this need cannot be ignored. The flat funding in the 2023 fiscal year budget was just not enough to fill the growing gaps in our election infrastructure. As we look to next year, we ask Congress to listen to local election officials rather than replicating a budget that has failed to meet their needs across the country. The federal government should adequately and responsibly invest in local election infrastructure in order to ensure efficient, safe, and fair elections across the country.

Respectfully,



JOHN GIOIA  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc:

The Honorable Members, Contra Costa County Congressional Delegation  
The Honorable Members, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors  
Monica Nino, County Administrator  
Kristin Connelly, Contra Costa County Clerk-Recorder and Registrar of Voters  
Paul Schlesinger & Jim Davenport, Thorn Run Partners