Oregon Secretary of State

Tobias Read
Oregon Secretary of State

July 23, 2025

Dear Mr. Laragy and Mr. Hayden,

Thank you for your email requesting a call with my staff to discuss the potential for information-sharing agreements between the United States Department of Justice (U.S. DOJ) and my office. I understand that you are looking for information about individuals who engaged in unlawful conduct in Oregon's election processes.

As I'm sure you know, our country's founding fathers specifically tasked the states, not the federal government, with administering free, fair, and secure elections. Our office is required by the U.S. Constitution (Article I, Section 4, Clause 1), the Oregon Constitution (Article VI, Section 2), and Oregon law (ORS 246.110 *et seq.*) to do everything in our power to protect the integrity of our elections and the rights of Oregonians. I take that responsibility seriously.

After I swore my oath to serve the people of Oregon in January, my team began taking immediate, aggressive action to shore up our elections system, and, to date, we have not conclusively determined that any individual engaged in unlawful conduct relevant to election processes. Therefore, there is no data to share.

Furthermore, if we did discover any individuals who met your criteria, we would be required by law (ORS 260.345) to refer the criminal cases to Oregon's Department of Justice because, again, the U.S. Constitution puts the responsibility for elections administration squarely on the states. You cite no legal authority for your information-sharing request, and none appears to exist.

In any event, I do not see how I can fulfill my duty to protect the integrity of Oregon's election system while engaging in data-sharing agreements with the U.S. DOJ or other federal agencies at present.

At best, I do not trust that this current administration is capable of protecting Oregonians' personal data, given the recent, high-profile leaks of state secrets and reckless gutting of federal agencies. I have a responsibility to the citizens of this state to protect their privacy.

At worst, I am concerned that this administration will use any data we provide to unlawfully and unjustly violate Oregonians' rights. I have no interest in collaborating with an administration that is engaged in the illegal detention and deportation of both non-citizens and U.S. citizens alike. I will not provide information that could lead to parents being separated from their children.

[redacted]

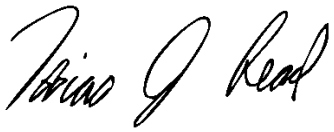
Information [redacted]

I have no interest in sharing data with an administration that is willfully violating judicial orders and trampling on constitutional rights and responsibilities. Nor do I wish to share data with an administration that appears to take glee in snatching people off the streets without requiring its agents to properly identify themselves or provide arrest warrants, or with an administration whose agents wait outside of daycare centers, school yards, and courthouses to improperly detain and deport Oregonians.

Oregonians elected me to ensure that our state sets a national standard for free, fair, and secure elections. They did not elect me to hand over Oregonians' personal data to a government that does not demonstrate an interest in respecting the freedom and rights that our country is literally founded upon. I swore an oath to uphold those rights. That oath means something to me. When you can assure me all your federal colleagues respect their oaths, I'd be happy to talk further.

You are welcome to contact me at [redacted]n the future.

Sincerely,



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