

Vermont Secretary of State Jim Condos Statement

Protecting the integrity of our elections from attacks by our foreign adversaries requires a team. Since we were notified that the Russians attacked our democracy in 2016 Secretaries of State across the country have been working with state and federal partners to ensure that we are all on the same page when it comes to defending our democracy.

While I believe this Executive Order is a step in the right direction, the White House is playing catchup with the work election officials and the intelligence community have been focusing on diligently for over a year, and for many like us in VT, for even longer.

This is a good first step. If the White House is serious about being a partner in election security we need them to reverse course on their actions over the last year. President Trump has routinely ignored the unified voice of his intelligence community, and has failed to condemn Russia's attacks on our 2016 elections.

I sincerely hope that this Executive Order carries full weight of the promise of enforcement, so that our foreign adversaries like Russia understand that there will be real consequences for attacks on our sovereignty.

Just weeks ago progress on the Secure Elections Act in Congress was brought to a screeching halt on order from the White House. This is unacceptable.

If the President is serious about supporting states in our work defending our democratic process he and his Administration should stand behind the Secure Elections Act, and support the call from states for ongoing, dedicated funds to make sure we have the necessary resources to defend our elections from foreign attacks now and into the future. This Executive Order is not a substitute for substantive legislation.

The security of our electoral process is not a political football, it is the very bedroom of our democracy. I appreciate this first step forward, but there's still work to do.

NASS Statement

The National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) is pleased that the White House has made a public stance against foreign attacks and interference in our elections process. The signed Executive Order is a positive step in ensuring that Secretaries of State, election officials and our federal partners are all on the same page when it comes to safeguarding our democracy.