



March 13, 2017  
Chairman DuBose Porter  
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Georgia Secretary of State Brian Kemp  
214 State Capitol  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Secretary Kemp,

The recent cyber attack on the records of your office maintained at Kennesaw State University demands your action with respect to assuring the security of the upcoming special election in the 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.

In August, 2016 the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) advised state secretaries of state that it would provide assistance in assuring cybersecurity integrity of the election infrastructure. At that time you voiced the belief that states did not require federal assistance and indicated that you would rely on your own security measures to assure the integrity of voter data and voting processes. Despite repeated warnings from the DHS in September, 2016 that it had observed efforts to compromise state election systems earlier that month, your office announced that you would not seek federal assistance to assure the integrity of the Georgia state elections system. Following statements from the DHS and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence that there was clear evidence that the Russian government had directed attacks on "U.S. persons and institutions, including from U.S. political organizations," the DHS once again offered its assistance to state and local election officials. By October 31, 2016, forty-six states had accepted the DHS offer of support for security. Georgia remained one of only four states that declined assistance.

According to reports, on March 2, 2017, Kennesaw State University notified Georgia government officials that there had been a data breach at their Center for Election Systems, which maintains Georgia voting records and machines. Again according to reports, the next day, March 3, 2017, at the direction of Georgia Governor Nathan Deal, the Federal Bureau of Investigation opened an investigation of the intrusion. Kennesaw State University issued a statement that they were "working with federal law enforcement officials to determine whether and to what extent a data breach may have occurred involving records maintained by the Center for Election Systems."

Under the laws of the State of Georgia, the Secretary of State and his office among, other responsibilities, organizes and oversees all election activity—including voter registration, municipal, state, county, and federal elections. Along with those duties, the Elections Division maintains the Statewide Voter Registration Database to ensure that voter registration lists are current statewide. They are also accountable for investigating election fraud and enforcing state election laws. Regardless of how the Office of the Secretary of State completes that obligation—whether doing so directly or through its oversight of a third party such as Kennesaw State—it is the Secretary of State's constitutionally required obligation and theirs alone.

Maintaining that integrity is your statutorily mandated obligation as Secretary of State, yet you have remained silent in the face of the recently identified attack—the second known attack on our voting records during your administration and an attack forecast repeatedly by the DHS and national intelligence experts. In addition there have

been repeated concerns raised about the integrity of the voting machines and accuracy of records that have required your response during your time in office.

As you know there is a special election in the 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District coming up soon on April 18<sup>th</sup> and there is no doubt this election has serious national implications. At this time there can be no confidence in the integrity of the voting process under your leadership. Accordingly we demand that you:

- Contact the United States Department of Homeland Security immediately and accept their repeated offer to scan our elections infrastructure, using the following but not limited to cyber hygiene scans and the acceptance of on-the-ground assistance of field-based cybersecurity advisors and protective security advisors to run risk and vulnerability assessments, and whatever else they deem appropriate to ensure the sanctity and security of our elections system;
- Identify and make public with particularity the times, types, and extent of breaches and attacks incurred by the Georgia election system, indicating both what has been compromised and what is clearly known not to have been compromised;
- Identify a process for assuring all aspects of the voting system—whether or not previously compromised—will be secure and sound for proceeding with the Special Election; and,
- Barring an ability to identify and make public the breaches and attacks or an ability to identify the manner in which the voting system will be made secure and sound, proceed with a paper ballot election in the 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.

The security of—and confidence in—our voting system is bedrock of American democracy. It is your obligation to provide all Georgians with assurance that our voting system is sound and secure. We look forward to you assuming your statutory obligation and providing Georgians regardless of political party the assurances they deserve.

Sincerely,

DuBose Porter  
Chair, Democratic Party of Georgia

CC: Governor Nathan Deal  
Mr. Tex McIver, Vice Chairperson State Elections Board  
Mr. David J. Worley, State Elections Board  
Mrs. Rebecca N. Sullivan, State Elections Board  
Judge Ralph F. "Rusty" Simpson, State Elections Board  
Attorney General Chris Carr  
Ms. Pinney Allen, Chair of Voter Protection, DPG  
Mr. Michael Jablonski, General Counsel, DPG  
Ms. Karen Carter Peterson, Vice Chair of Civic Engagement & Voter Participation, DNC