

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 18, 2017

The Honorable Gene Dodaro
Comptroller General of the United States
Government Accountability Office
441 G St., NW
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Comptroller General Dodaro:

We write to request that the Government Accountability Office conduct a review of the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity that President Trump established under Executive Order 13799 (hereinafter, “the PACEI”).

Congress passed the Federal Advisory Committee Act to govern “the establishment, operation, and termination of advisory committees within the executive branch of the Federal Government” and “to assure that the Congress and the public are kept informed with respect to the number, purpose, membership, activities, and cost of advisory committees.”¹

Unfortunately, the PACEI has ignored numerous requests from Members of Congress seeking clarification on the PACEI’s activities.² Open record requests³ and court documents⁴ from litigation have provided some insight into the creation and operations of the PACEI, which we believe are cause for serious concern. Additionally, investigative reports raise questions about the partisan motives and actions of the Commission.⁵

Without any PACEI response to Congressional inquiries, we fear that the manner in which the PACEI is conducting its work will prevent the public from a full and transparent understanding of the Commission’s conclusions and unnecessarily diminish confidence in our democratic process.⁶

¹ 41 CFR § 102–3.10 available at

https://app_gsagov_prod_rdcgwaajp7wr.s3.amazonaws.com/FACAFinalRule_R2E-cNZ_0Z5RDZ-i34K-pR.pdf

² Congressional correspondence file on the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity’s section of the White House website available at

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/whitehouse.gov/files/images/Congressional%20Correspondence.pdf>

³ Department of Justice’s response to Campaign Legal Center’s 2/15/17 Freedom of Information Act request available at <http://www.campaignlegalcenter.org/document/letter-response-foia-request-voter-fraud>

⁴ *Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law v. Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity, et al.*, DC District Court – Case 1:17-cv-01354-CKK, Exhibit 3 (2017) available at

<https://www.scribd.com/document/360511302/Vaughn-Index#>

⁵ Jessica Huseman, *Who’s Really in Charge of the Voting Fraud Commission?*, Pro Publica, October 5, 2017 available at <https://www.propublica.org/article/whos-really-in-charge-of-the-voting-fraud-commission>

⁶ Brian Eason, *Hundreds of Colorado voters clamor to unregister in wake of Trump administration’s request for information*, The Denver Post, July 11, 2017 available at

<http://www.denverpost.com/2017/07/11/colorado-voters-unregister-donald-trump-integrity-commission/>

Accordingly, we request that the GAO examine:

- The amount of all Federal funds expended to support the work of the PACEI (including staff);
- The efforts of the PACEI to address voter participation;
- The information that the PACEI used to form the basis of its conclusions, including peer reviewed studies;
- The methodology and analysis that the PACEI employed in reaching its conclusions;
- The steps the PACEI has taken to protect any voter information that it has collected; and
- The steps the PACEI took to adhere to regulations governing its activity

We ask that the GAO complete its investigation within six months of the termination of the PACEI. We are making the request now in recognition of the fact that GAO may need to take steps in advance of the PACEI's completion to ensure you have the information necessary to provide a fully informed review.

Thank you in advance for considering our request. If you have questions regarding this matter, please contact Brian Appel of Senator Bennet's staff at (202) 224-5852 or Lindsey Kerr of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration staff at (202) 228-6307.


Sincerely,



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator