

August 24, 2026

Daniel J. Freeman, Litigation Director
Democratic National Committee
430 South Capitol Street SE #3
Washington, DC 20003

Re: CBP-2026-008615

Dear Mr. Freeman:

This is a response to your FOIA Request number CBP-2026-008615. You requested the following information:

“All records relating to the deployment, posting, or positioning of United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) personnel within, at, or in proximity to polling places, ballot drop boxes, or election offices, including but not limited to during early voting periods, on the date of an election, or between the date of an election and certification of the results of such election.”

You further specified that this request included but was not limited to:

1. Communications within, among, or between the DHS Office of the Executive Secretary, CBP, and/or the Executive Office of the President;
2. Purely factual material;
3. Formal or informal directives or orders from the Executive Office of the President, the Office of the Executive Secretary, CBP leadership, or any other political appointee;
4. Policy documents, including documents authorizing or prohibiting agency actions, and
5. Final agency decisions or actions.

You also specified that your request excludes agency records consisting solely of news articles or press clippings, so long as the records include no accompanying discussion by agency officials.

CBP FOIA performed a search of email based on keywords identified in your request. Due to the volume of emails that were initially located, agreed upon proximity searches were run against the initially located emails in an attempt to isolate potentially responsive material.

Since July 30, 2026, CBP FOIA processed 123 documents totaling 6,811 pages of records in response to your request. Sixteen of the 123 documents that were processed are not included in the 6,811 page count because they were Excel files that were not imaged and did not have a page count. The 6,811 pages of records and the sixteen Excel files were determined by CBP FOIA to be non-responsive to your request.

All of the 123 documents and the sixteen Excel files processed since July 30, 2026 were located from the combined “monitor” searches. CBP has completed processing the records located by the proximity search using the term “monitor.”

Additional information regarding the applicable exemptions and response can be found at the following link: <https://www.cbp.gov/document/guidance/exemption-definitions>. Copies of the FOIA and DHS regulations are available at www.dhs.gov/foia.

As this matter is currently in litigation, if you need further assistance or would like to discuss any aspect of this response, please contact Andrew Vaden, Assistant United States Attorney.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick Howard". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Patrick A. Howard
Acting FOIA Director, FOIA Division
Privacy, FOIA, and EEO Office
Digital Transformation Office
U.S. Customs and Border Protection