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One Hundred Seventeenth
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

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March 11, 2022

Isabel Longoria
Elections Administrator
Harris County
1001 Preston Street
Houston, Texas 77002

Dear Ms. Longoria:

As Members of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on House Administration, which has broad oversight of our nation's federal elections, we write today to express our concern about a report that Harris County located 10,000 ballots that were not counted initially in last week's primary election.¹

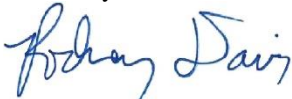
America's decentralized elections system is the best in the world. Since last Congress, we have met with Secretaries of State, Lt. Governors, and local election administrators from states as wide-ranging as Alaska, Iowa, New York, and Utah, among others, to learn about and promote the many first-rate examples of excellence in election administration across the country. Unfortunately, it's situations like this that have the potential to damage voter confidence in our election systems at a time when we can least afford it.

As I'm sure you remember, we met last year when you appeared before the Committee at the hearing on "Voting in America: The Potential for Polling Place Quality and Restrictions on Opportunities to Vote to Interfere with Free and Fair Access to the Ballot." When asked by the Subcommittee on Elections Ranking Member Bryan Steil if you had ever previously administered an election, you responded, "No, everyone's gotta start somewhere."² It is unfortunate that the first major election you administered involved missing these 10,000 ballots.

We write today to inquire about the steps Harris County will take to ensure this does not occur again in the future. Please provide a detailed timeline, with dates, of when and how the 10,000 ballots were missed, located, and then counted. Please also explain the process your office is using to ensure these ballots are properly and efficiently counted. Finally, please respond with an explanation of the steps and processes your office will take to ensure that it does not happen during the federal election this November.

Please submit your response no later than April 14, 2022. Should you have questions, please contact Caleb Hays, General Counsel and Deputy Staff Director, at Caleb.Hays@mail.house.gov. We also learned recently of your decision to resign by July 1, 2022. We wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors. We look forward to hearing your response.

Sincerely,



Rodney Davis
Ranking Member
Committee on House Administration



Bryan Steil
Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Elections
Committee on House Administration

¹ Olafimihan Oshin, *Texas county finds 10,000 uncounted ballots from last week's primary*, The Hill (March 7, 2022 7:32 PM), <https://thehill.com/homenews/state-watch/597241-texas-county-finds-10000-uncounted-ballots-from-last-weeks-primary>.

² *Voting In America: The Potential for Polling Place Quality And Restrictions On Opportunities To Vote To Interfere With Free And Fair Access To The Ballot Before the Subcomm. On Election, of the Comm. On H. Administration*, 116th Cong. (statement of Isabel Longoria, Harris County Elections Administrator).