

United States Senate

September 1, 2016

Director James B. Comey
Federal Bureau of Investigation
FBI Headquarters
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Director Comey,

Following an egregious hack, which is possibly of foreign origin, on the personal information of some 90,000 Illinois voters, I am writing to request that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) coordinate with the Illinois Board of Elections (SBE) to identify the source of this cyberattack and assist the SBE in safeguarding its database against future attacks.

Preliminary reports indicate that the cyberattack began in June and was stopped after nearly one month. While SBE General Counsel, Ken Menzel, has said that the files of registered voters were neither modified nor erased, and that no information on voting history or voter signature images were taken, he warned that some personal information may have been compromised. This includes the last four digits of Social Security numbers as well as drivers' license numbers of voters who have submitted that data through the online voter registration system.

The SBE acknowledged the scope of this breach by stating that "due to the ambiguous nature of the attack, we may never know the exact number of affected voters." In addition, SBE officials have disclosed that the cyberattack began on June 23, but was not discovered by election board staff until July 12: nearly three weeks later. FBI resources are needed to provide the SBE with the tools it needs to detect security breaches much faster.

In order to ensure that the personal data of Illinois voters is never again put at risk, I am seeking to enlist the FBI's support to coordinate directly with the Illinois Board of Elections as it responds to this cyberattack. Without establishing the necessary firewalls, Illinois voters will remain susceptible to further—and potentially more severe—breaches. We must use every federal tool at our disposal to make sure that this does not happen. This is crucial for both the protection of Illinois voters' personal data, as well as the sanctity of our democratic process.

Thank you for your timely attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Mark Kirk
United States Senate