



State of Connecticut
CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

February 28, 2025

Attorney General Pamela Bondi
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Bondi,

On behalf of the Republican caucuses in Connecticut's General Assembly, we write to express deep concern about the integrity of Connecticut's electoral system.

The City of Bridgeport has been at the center of numerous election-related controversies over the last decade, many of which have resulted in criminal charges. Recently, the Connecticut State's Attorney's Office announced indictments for election-related fraud and even illegal voter registration. These local issues raise a far more alarming question: Are these tactics part of a broader, statewide scheme orchestrated by leaders and operatives of the Connecticut Democratic Party?

Following his Feb. 21 arrest on multiple election-related charges, Bridgeport City Councilman Alfredo Castillo stated in an interview with *Only in Bridgeport* that he was "following orders of the Democratic Party." While it could be inferred by some that his remarks point to local directives, his reference to involvement in get-out-the-vote efforts for state and federal candidates suggests a more extensive operation at play.

To the paper, Castillo added, "Our job is to get out the vote. We're loyal. Always the foot soldiers get whacked and then everyone benefits—Ganim, Lamont, Blumenthal, Murphy, Himes. Then it's thank you, we'll see you in four years."

Allegations against the recently arrested individuals in Bridgeport include altering ballots, forging signatures, ballot harvesting, coercing voters, and—perhaps most troubling—registering illegal aliens to vote. While we commend the State's Attorney's Office for pursuing charges, Connecticut's investigatory agencies are woefully behind in addressing election crimes, often prioritizing bureaucratic campaign finance issues over urgent electoral fraud cases. As Bridgeport cases have shown, it can take years before investigations even begin in earnest, compromising the availability of evidence and witnesses while also eroding public confidence in our elections.

Moreover, Democratic Party leaders and activists are protected by a Democrat-controlled legislature and governor's administration that refuse to acknowledge problems, let alone enact reforms to strengthen our system. The governor's failure to fund election monitors in Bridgeport in his budget proposal speaks volumes about how little he prioritizes election safeguards.

Given the Trump Administration's focus on the nexus of election integrity and illegal immigration, we urge your agency to investigate Bridgeport's election and voting apparatus to determine whether these fraudulent practices are being replicated elsewhere in Connecticut. Such an investigation is critical to restoring public trust in our election system, which has been severely undermined by the scandals in Bridgeport.

Please contact our offices if you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further.

House Republican Office: 860-240-8384

Senate Republican Office: 860-240-8800

Sincerely,



State Representative Vincent Candelora
House Republican Leader



State Senator Stephen Harding
Senate Republican Leader



State Representative Gale Mastrofrancesco
Ranking Member, Govt. Administration & Elections



State Senator Rob Sampson
Ranking Member, Govt. Administration & Elections