



Dear [Corporate Representative]

We write to you on behalf of the Governing Board of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR), a coalition of over 300 faith- and values-based investors that, for fifty years, has engaged the world's most powerful corporations calling for improved management of environmental and social risks. Our purpose today is to highlight a significant social risk we believe demands the attention of every business leader: the threat to American democracy through the potential disruption of our upcoming election.

The unstable climate surrounding the 2020 election directly threatens every aspect of our society, not least of which are the millions of businesses still struggling to recover from the devastating impacts of COVID-19. For this reason, collective action to ensure free and fair elections - perhaps our most fundamental and inalienable right - should be a priority for our government, for all business leaders, and indeed, for every citizen.

Recent statements by the Administration and some members of Congress raising the unfounded specter of election fraud are undermining public confidence in the security of election processes. This is particularly the case with mail-in and absentee voting – options made necessary by the pandemic and crucial to the safety of millions of Americans – even though state election officials have repeatedly guaranteed the integrity of these processes. The repeated undermining of citizens' confidence in the voting systems, along with a failure to commit to a peaceful transfer of power should the administration change hands, have only served to intensify the fears of a public already traumatized by a pandemic that has claimed over 220,000 American lives. The resulting market volatility in response to these statements is further empirical evidence of the clear and present danger election instability represents to our economy, to business and, by extension, to investors. Clearly, all efforts must be made by all parties to avoid a constitutional crisis that would only augment our nation's current social and economic vulnerability, and imperil our long-term economic stability.

As faith- and values-based investors, we believe the business community has a moral and business imperative to use its public platforms to promote confidence in our elections and our democracy. We also view this responsibility as a fulfillment of the social license granted corporations, and a demonstration of the Statement on the Purpose of a Corporation, recently

rewritten by the Business Roundtable, committing the corporate purpose to the well-being of all stakeholders.

We therefore urge you to endorse and communicate the following principles among your immediate stakeholders including your employees, suppliers, customers, communities and shareholders, as well as to your trade associations, business partners and importantly, your local, state, and federal legislators:

1. **Active support for free and fair elections:** This may include communications to constituents underscoring the importance of voting along with the provision of voter education resources and the facilitation of voting by employees through paid time off on voting day, November 3<sup>rd</sup>.
2. **A call for a thorough and complete counting of all ballots** whether via mail-in, absentee, or in-person voting, along with a caution to both legislators and the media to delay the announcement of a winner until all votes are accounted for.
3. **A call for all states to ensure a fair election** by adopting policies and procedures that promote the right of citizens to vote, including lowering barriers to voter registration, increasing opportunities for early voting, and expanding the number and hours of polling places.
4. **A condemnation of any tactics that could be construed as voter intimidation** and support for measures that will ensure voter safety and fair and transparent elections.
5. **Assurance that, should the incumbent Administration lose the election, there will be a peaceful transfer of power:** Endorsement of this principle is critical for the protection of our democracy.
6. **Ensure that lobbying activities and political donations support the above:** This includes actively engaging business partners and trade associations as well as local, state, and federal officials to use their influence to support free and fair elections.

While the temptation for corporations to remain passive during these challenging times may be great, we believe that this is in fact a defining moment to exhibit leadership. The world will be watching this U.S. election like no other, and those voices out in front seen to be strongly supporting our democratic structures and fundamental rights as citizens will not go unnoticed. Rather, those who choose to remain silent will likely be seen as complicit in the chaos. The above principles and actions, along with any others you choose to undertake, will signal your commitment to our democracy and, when the election is over, help to speed our nation's economic recovery.

We look forward to your response and are happy to answer any questions you may have.