

**From:** [Laura Williamson](#)  
**To:** [Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)  
**Cc:** [Sarah Saadian](#); [Joseph Lindstrom](#); [Bridgett Simmons](#); [Sarah Brannon](#); [klee@aclu.org](#); [Allegra Chapman](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [External Email]President Biden's EO on Voter Registration  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 21, 2021 6:38:31 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

Thank you, Kumar. Hoping the same for you and yours – and, happy new year!

---

**From:** Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC <[Kumar.Chandran@usda.gov](mailto:Kumar.Chandran@usda.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 20, 2021 10:08 PM  
**To:** Laura Williamson <[lwilliamson@demos.org](mailto:lwilliamson@demos.org)>; Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <[Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov](mailto:Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov)>  
**Cc:** Sarah Saadian <[ssaadian@nlihc.org](mailto:ssaadian@nlihc.org)>; Joseph Lindstrom <[jlindstrom@nlihc.org](mailto:jlindstrom@nlihc.org)>; Bridgett Simmons <[bsimmons@nhlp.org](mailto:bsimmons@nhlp.org)>; Sarah Brannon <[sbrannon@aclu.org](mailto:sbrannon@aclu.org)>; [klee@aclu.org](mailto:klee@aclu.org); Allegra Chapman <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** RE: [External Email]President Biden's EO on Voter Registration

Hi Laura,

Thank you for your message. I apologize for the delay in responding to this email.

I hope you all have a good winter holiday.

Best,

Kumar

---

**From:** Laura Williamson <[lwilliamson@demos.org](mailto:lwilliamson@demos.org)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 15, 2021 2:14 PM  
**To:** Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC <[Kumar.Chandran@usda.gov](mailto:Kumar.Chandran@usda.gov)>; Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <[Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov](mailto:Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov)>  
**Cc:** Sarah Saadian <[ssaadian@nlihc.org](mailto:ssaadian@nlihc.org)>; Joseph Lindstrom <[jlindstrom@nlihc.org](mailto:jlindstrom@nlihc.org)>; Bridgett Simmons <[bsimmons@nhlp.org](mailto:bsimmons@nhlp.org)>; Sarah Brannon <[sbrannon@aclu.org](mailto:sbrannon@aclu.org)>; [klee@aclu.org](mailto:klee@aclu.org); Allegra Chapman <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** [External Email]President Biden's EO on Voter Registration

[External Email]

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Kumar and Akhil,

I am writing on behalf of the National Low Income Housing Coalition, the National Housing Law Project, Demos and ACLU to deliver the attached letter to Secretary Vilsack, outlining additional steps USDA can take to implement President Biden's Executive Order on Promoting Access to Voting

(Exec. Order No. 14019).

In particular, our organizations urge USDA to:

- Incorporate voter registration requirements into competitive housing resources enacted through the Build Back Better Act, including the investments in Multifamily Housing Developments.
- Include in its FY 2023 budget request funding to support additional staff and other necessary resources to help your agency develop and execute a plan to promote voter registration and participation, and to support USDA grantees and other stakeholders committed to voter registration and participation in these efforts.

It was great to connect with you both recently. We also spoke with Jamal Habibi in Rural Development, after Katherine's connection, and I have shared this letter with him and with Farah Ahmad, as well. We are hopeful about all the opportunities for USDA to advance voter registration and civic participation, and we look forward to staying in conversation about how our organizations can support your efforts.

In the meantime, hope you both have a restful, restorative end of year.

Thank you,  
Laura

--

Laura Williamson  
Associate Director of Policy & Research, Democracy Reform  
740 6<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Washington DC 20001  
[lwilliamson@demos.org](mailto:lwilliamson@demos.org) | (b) (6)

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**From:** [Ahmad, Farah - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)  
**To:** [Laura Williamson; Habibi, Jamal - RD, Washington, DC](#)  
**Cc:** [Sarah Brannon; klee@aclu.org; Allegra Chapman; Mason, Patrick - RD, Washington, DC](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [External Email]RE: Demos Meeting on Voting Rights EO  
**Date:** Saturday, December 4, 2021 1:45:56 PM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

Moving Katharine to bcc.

Laura, we'd be happy to connect. I see the thread below, but let me know if there are specific items you'd like to cover. Patrick from our team can help schedule.

Farah

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**From:** Ferguson, Katharine - OSEC - Washington, DC <Katharine.Ferguson@usda.gov>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 4, 2021 11:06 AM  
**To:** Laura Williamson; Ahmad, Farah - OSEC, Washington, DC; Habibi, Jamal - RD, Washington, DC  
**Cc:** Sarah Brannon; klee@aclu.org; Allegra Chapman  
**Subject:** RE: [External Email]RE: Demos Meeting on Voting Rights EO

Laura - Thanks for your patience with this very tardy response. Because your interest is so keenly focused on Rural Development, I'm connecting you with Farah Ahmad, Chief of Staff for Rural Development and Jamal Habibi, Chief of Staff with the Rural Housing Service and moving the rest of the team to BCC. I expect a conversation with the two of them would be most productive at this juncture. -Katharine

**From:** Laura Williamson <lwilliamson@demos.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 2:15 PM  
**To:** Best, Valeria - NRCS, Washington, DC <valeria.best@usda.gov>; Goldmon, Dewayne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Dewayne.Goldmon@usda.gov>; Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kumar.Chandran@usda.gov>; Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>; Duran, Maribel - OSEC, Washington, DC <Maribel.Duran@usda.gov>; Ferguson, Katharine - OSEC - Washington, DC <Katharine.Ferguson@usda.gov>; Overmann, Lynn - OCIO-CIO, Washington, DC <Lynn.Overmann@usda.gov>  
**Cc:** Sarah Brannon <sbrannon@aclu.org>; klee@aclu.org; Allegra Chapman <(b) (6)>  
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Does your team have time to meet with us in the next two weeks?

Thank you,  
 Laura

-

Laura Williamson  
 Senior Policy Analyst  
 740 6<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Washington DC 20001  
[lwilliamson@demos.org](mailto:lwilliamson@demos.org) | (b) (6)

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 DC: 740 6<sup>TH</sup> STREET NW, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR, WASHINGTON, DC 20001

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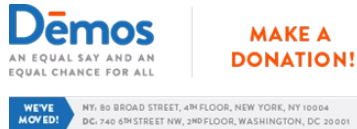
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**Sent:** Monday, August 9, 2021 6:58 AM  
**To:** [valeria.best@usda.gov](mailto:valeria.best@usda.gov); Goldmon, Dewayne - OSEC, Washington, DC <[Dewayne.Goldmon@usda.gov](mailto:Dewayne.Goldmon@usda.gov)>; Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC <[Kumar.Chandran@usda.gov](mailto:Kumar.Chandran@usda.gov)>; Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <[Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov](mailto:Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov)>; Duran, Maribel - OSEC, Washington, DC <[Maribel.Duran@usda.gov](mailto:Maribel.Duran@usda.gov)>; Ferguson, Katharine - OSEC - Washington, DC <[Katharine.Ferguson@usda.gov](mailto:Katharine.Ferguson@usda.gov)>; Overmann, Lynn - OCIO-CIO, Washington, DC <[Lynn.Overmann@usda.gov](mailto:Lynn.Overmann@usda.gov)>  
**Cc:** Adam Lioz <IMCEAEX-  
 \_o=ExchangeLabs\_ou=Exchange+20Administrative+20Group+20+28FYDIBOHF23SPDLT+29\_cn=Recipients\_cn=25f96d753fb84138bf8474d4134c368f-  
 (b) (6)>; Sarah Brannon <[sbrannon@aclu.org](mailto:sbrannon@aclu.org)>; Rachel Motley <[rmotley@rabengroup.com](mailto:rmotley@rabengroup.com)>;  
[aomajola@rabengroup.com](mailto:aomajola@rabengroup.com); Dylan Tureff <[dtureff@rabengroup.com](mailto:dtureff@rabengroup.com)>  
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Team USDA,

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Adam

**State Voter Registration Data**

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  - The 2019-2020 report is typically out by now but delayed by the pandemic – but should be released this month
  - You can find prior reports [here](#).

---

**From:** [valeria.best@usda.gov](mailto:valeria.best@usda.gov)

**When:** 2:30 PM - 3:00 PM August 3, 2021

**Subject:** Demos Meeting on Voting Rights EO

**Location:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

**PURPOSE:** To discuss the [Executive Order to Promote Voting Access](#) implementation and ways USDA can continue to play a role in the implementation.

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**Subject:** RE: [External Email]RE: Demos Meeting on Voting Rights EO  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 10, 2021 4:54:33 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

---

Hey Kumar,

Could folks on your end do Thurs 11/18 at or after 415p or Friday 11/19 any time between 10a-1230p?

Thanks,  
Laura

---

**From:** Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC <[Kumar.Chandran@usda.gov](mailto:Kumar.Chandran@usda.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 9:50 PM  
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Thank you,  
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**Cc:** Adam Lioz <IMCEAEX-  
 \_o=ExchangeLabs\_ou=Exchange+20Administrative+20Group+20+28FYDIBOHF23SPDLT+29\_cn=Recipients\_cn=25f96d753fb84138bf8474d4134c368f-(b) (6)>; Sarah

Brannon <[sbrannon@aclu.org](mailto:sbrannon@aclu.org)>; Rachel Motley <[rmotley@rabengroup.com](mailto:rmotley@rabengroup.com)>;  
[aomojola@rabengroup.com](mailto:aomojola@rabengroup.com); Dylan Tureff <[dtureff@rabengroup.com](mailto:dtureff@rabengroup.com)>

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**Subject:** RE: [External Email]RE: Demos Meeting on Voting Rights EO  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 10, 2021 7:34:48 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

Thanks, Kumar. We'll circle back shortly with some options.

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**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 2:15 PM  
**To:** Best, Valeria - NRCS, Washington, DC <[valeria.best@usda.gov](mailto:valeria.best@usda.gov)>; Goldmon, Dewayne - OSEC, Washington, DC <[Dewayne.Goldmon@usda.gov](mailto:Dewayne.Goldmon@usda.gov)>; Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC <[Kumar.Chandran@usda.gov](mailto:Kumar.Chandran@usda.gov)>; Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <[Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov](mailto:Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov)>; Duran, Maribel - OSEC, Washington, DC <[Maribel.Duran@usda.gov](mailto:Maribel.Duran@usda.gov)>; Ferguson, Katharine - OSEC - Washington, DC <[Katharine.Ferguson@usda.gov](mailto:Katharine.Ferguson@usda.gov)>; Overmann, Lynn - OCIO-CIO, Washington, DC <[Lynn.Overmann@usda.gov](mailto:Lynn.Overmann@usda.gov)>  
**Cc:** Sarah Brannon <[sbrannon@aclu.org](mailto:sbrannon@aclu.org)>; [klee@aclu.org](mailto:klee@aclu.org); Allegra Chapman  
 <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** [External Email]RE: Demos Meeting on Voting Rights EO

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Hi all,

Thanks for connecting a few months ago, and for the Department's commitments in the fact sheet

to making voting and registration information available to clients of the Rural Housing Service and Rural Development agencies.

We'd love to reconnect soon to learn more about your plans and to see how Demos and the ACLU may be able to support you in their continued development and implementation. When we met last, we talked about wanting to explore additional programs in more detail, to ensure maximal impact of the EO for the communities USDA serves, and we're eager to continue that conversation.

Does your team have time to meet with us in the next two weeks?

Thank you,  
Laura

--

Laura Williamson  
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*Pronouns: she, her, hers*



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**From:** Laura Williamson <[lwilliamson@demos.org](mailto:lwilliamson@demos.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 9, 2021 11:08 AM  
**To:** [valeria.best@usda.gov](mailto:valeria.best@usda.gov); Goldmon, Dewayne - OSEC, Washington, DC <[Dewayne.Goldmon@usda.gov](mailto:Dewayne.Goldmon@usda.gov)>; Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC <[Kumar.Chandran@usda.gov](mailto:Kumar.Chandran@usda.gov)>; Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <[Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov](mailto:Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov)>; Duran, Maribel - OSEC, Washington, DC <[Maribel.Duran@usda.gov](mailto:Maribel.Duran@usda.gov)>; Ferguson, Katharine - OSEC - Washington, DC <[Katharine.Ferguson@usda.gov](mailto:Katharine.Ferguson@usda.gov)>; Overmann, Lynn - OCIO-CIO, Washington, DC <[Lynn.Overmann@usda.gov](mailto:Lynn.Overmann@usda.gov)>  
**Cc:** Sarah Brannon <[sbrannon@aclu.org](mailto:sbrannon@aclu.org)>; [klee@aclu.org](mailto:klee@aclu.org); Allegra Chapman <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** RE: Demos Meeting on Voting Rights EO

Hi team USDA,

Hope you're doing well these wild days. I'm a colleague of Adam Lioz's, who has recently transitioned from Demos, so I'm following up to introduce myself and Allegra Chapman from our team.

We're writing to share the best practices document I believe y'all talked about when you met, as well as a slide deck on the how & why of voter reg at federal agencies. We'd love to reconnect in the lead up to the Sep 23<sup>rd</sup> deadline to talk through these materials and the additional programs we think could be great candidates for voter registration, to hear any updates you all can share, and to see how else we can be helpful as you firm up your plans.

Do you have time in the next week or so to reconnect?

Thanks,  
Laura

--

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**From:** Adam Lioz <[alioz@demoss.org](mailto:alioz@demoss.org)>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 9, 2021 6:58 AM  
**To:** [valeria.best@usda.gov](mailto:valeria.best@usda.gov); Goldmon, Dewayne - OSEC, Washington, DC <[Dewayne.Goldmon@usda.gov](mailto:Dewayne.Goldmon@usda.gov)>; Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC <[Kumar.Chandran@usda.gov](mailto:Kumar.Chandran@usda.gov)>; Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <[Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov](mailto:Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov)>; Duran, Maribel - OSEC, Washington, DC <[Maribel.Duran@usda.gov](mailto:Maribel.Duran@usda.gov)>; Ferguson, Katharine - OSEC - Washington, DC <[Katharine.Ferguson@usda.gov](mailto:Katharine.Ferguson@usda.gov)>; Overmann, Lynn - OCIO-CIO, Washington, DC <[Lynn.Overmann@usda.gov](mailto:Lynn.Overmann@usda.gov)>  
**Cc:** Adam Lioz <IMCEAEX-  
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**Subject:** Re: Demos Meeting on Voting Rights EO

Team USDA,

With apologies for the delay, I wanted to follow up to thank you all for your time and a productive conversation. As we noted, we'll have our "best practices" slides ready in the next 1-2 weeks, and in the meantime y'all had asked for some data on voter registration through the NVRA at the state level, which I've pasted below.

We're eager to schedule a follow up conversation to dig into specific programs and help with integration in any way we can—just let us know when you're available for that.

Adam

### **State Voter Registration Data**

- [Toward a More Representative Electorate](#)
  - Demos 2018 report on NVRA implementation in the states
  - Shows trends, numbers in key states, and examples of success
  
- [Election Assistance Commission 2018 EAVS Report](#)
  - Data submitted from chief elections officials to the EAC
  - Shows voter registration applications generated from motor vehicle and public assistance offices
  - See NVRA Appendix A, starting on page 55 for data
  - See Table 2a starting on page 64 for the most useful data
  - The 2019-2020 report is typically out by now but delayed by the pandemic – but should be released this month
  - You can find prior reports [here](#).

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**From:** [valeria.best@usda.gov](mailto:valeria.best@usda.gov)

**When:** 2:30 PM - 3:00 PM August 3, 2021

**Subject:** Demos Meeting on Voting Rights EO

**Location:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

**PURPOSE:** To discuss the [Executive Order to Promote Voting Access](#) implementation and ways USDA can continue to play a role in the implementation.

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