



HOUSTON BRIGNANO

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California's 36th Congressional District

Let's Dream Big.

Houston Brignano
25626 ½ Narbonne Avenue
Lomita, CA 90717
(310) 742-1825
hello@voteforhouston.com

September 4, 2026

The Honorable Bryan Steil

Chairman, Committee on House Administration
U.S. House of Representatives
1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joseph D. Morelle

Ranking Member, Committee on House Administration
U.S. House of Representatives
1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Via electronic delivery and public release

Re: Appointment of a Designated Congressional Election Observer for Los Angeles County — November 3, 2026 General Election

Authority: Confirmation Of Congressional Observer Access Act of 2024 (COCOA Act), Pub. L. 118–106; 52 U.S.C. § 21083a

Dear Chairman Steil and Ranking Member Morelle:

I write as the candidate for California's 36th Congressional District, and on behalf of my neighbors. I hear every week from voters of both parties who no longer trust how Los Angeles runs its elections. This distrust is not an abstract talking point. It is keeping voters home and disenfranchising the voice of Americans. This is a form of voter suppression we are inflicting on ourselves. As Chairman, or as Ranking Member, you have the authority to bring transparency and trust to the very foundations of our Great Nation by designating a congressional election observer.

Under the confirmation of the Congressional Observer Access Act of 2024, Congress has established its authority to designate a congressional election observer for elections of federal office. These observers have statutory authority to **clearly observe** all elements of election administration proceedings, and are designated in writing as House or Senate employees to gather and document information with respect to that entire election. These observers are not left to local discretion and have a statutory removal shield. The Chair or the Ranking Member of the Committee on House Administration may make that designation. I ask each of you to use that authority and appoint a designated congressional observer to Los Angeles County for the November 3rd 2026 general election.



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Los Angeles is ground zero for election integrity, where public confidence in American elections will either be rebuilt or continue to collapse. The Department of Justice and the leadership in the Central District of California have made identifying and prosecuting election fraud a top priority. This work needs a congressional observer counterpart on the ground, an election observer with statutory authority not to interfere, but to observe and witness, and above all to document inconsistencies where they appear. The people of Los Angeles desperately need confidence in our democratic process. That confidence comes from sunlight.

As a local Congressional candidate, I hear almost daily from constituents across the entire spectrum of partisan ideologies who are simply exhausted about their distrust in our electoral process which has been eroded through years of California Legislative activism. This distrust has become a form of voter suppression. Too many voters in Los Angeles refuse to participate in our elections because they no longer believe the system will treat their vote fairly. When lawful voters stay home because they have lost faith, that is a voter suppression crisis of our own making, and it's one that the Chair or the Ranking Member of the Committee on House Administration can help repair by putting a congressional observer in the room.

We saw the cost of this distrust in the City of Los Angeles mayoral primary election this past June, as last minute results and daily drops eroded and ultimately kept a rising voice of the people out of the runoff. Many cried fraud. Some yelled cheating. Here is the harder truth, if just 15 percent of the registered Republican voters who did not vote had instead cast a ballot, Los Angeles would be looking at a real choice for mayor this November. Instead, our own apathy and distrust cleared the way for the anti-American Democratic Socialists of America to gain a stronger foothold in America's second largest city.

Assigning a congressional election observer is a unique opportunity for this upcoming November 2026 mid-term election in Los Angeles and it would show a unified front; that we intend to bring maximum trust and transparency to how ballots are handled in this County. It would express to all voters who doubt our election process that we will not simply cede and retreat from the City of Angels. Voters are demanding action. The cost is travel and trained staff you already have the program to credential, that either, or both of you, as Chair or Ranking Member have the authority to order. I ask that you use that authority to bring trust to our institutions.

This matters beyond California. What is being built and perfected in Los Angeles will not stay in Los Angeles. Jokes abound in places like Chicago, New York, and Phoenix. The large-scale ballot harvesting and mail-in ballot operations that have been refined here are built upon the monies and methods that reach far beyond our County lines. The factory worker in Wisconsin, the farmer in Kansas, and the coal miner in Virginia pay federal taxes that underwrite this machinery in Los Angeles. The American worker should not be asked to subsidize this distrust that has been sown in Los Angeles, which is being exported to every corner of America. Fight the fight where this system has been built. Put an observer here before we have eroded all trust in American elections.



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I therefore respectfully request that you:

1. Designate in writing, pursuant to 52 U.S.C. § 21083a, one or more trained House employees as designated congressional election observers for the November 3rd, 2026 elections for Federal office administered in the City and County of Los Angeles;
2. Direct those observers to cover vote centers and the Los Angeles County ballot-processing, scanning, tabulation, canvass, and certification operations, including pre- and post-election procedures;
3. Retain their contemporaneous observations as part of the Committee's official record, so the House can fulfill its constitutional duty under Article I, Section 5 to be the judge of the elections of its own Members.

I stand ready to assist your staff with local logistics, introductions to county and city officials, and whatever on-the-ground support a designated observer would need to do this work without obstruction and without incident. The people I represent are not asking for a spectacle. They are asking for a witness.

Thank you for your leadership of this Committee and for the work you have already done to put the Election Observer Program on a statutory footing. I urge you to use that authority where the need is greatest.

Respectfully,

Houston Brignano

Nominee, California's 36th Congressional District