



CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

WASHINGTON, DC 20318-9999

The Honorable Elissa B. Slotkin
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Slotkin:

Thank you for your letter dated August 18, 2026, regarding the upcoming November 2026 midterm elections and the role of the U.S. Armed Forces. I appreciate the opportunity to respond and to reaffirm our steadfast commitment to constitutional principles.

The American Military is a non-partisan Armed Force. As the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, I provide my best military advice to the President, Secretary of War, National Security Council, and the Homeland Security Council.

Every member of the U.S. Armed Forces takes an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States, and the Joint Force has acted, and will continue to act, in accordance with the Constitution and the law.

Election administration and security remain the fundamental responsibility of state and local officials. The Joint Force has no plans to send Federal military personnel or Federalized members of the National Guard to polling places during the 2026 elections. Likewise, the Joint Force has no plans to use such personnel to seize ballots, voting machines, or other election-related material.

I have neither received nor anticipate receiving any unlawful order concerning the role of the Joint Force in the upcoming November 2026 midterm elections.

I stand ready to discuss this matter further with you or with other Senators.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Daniel Caine", is written over the word "Sincerely,". The signature is stylized with large loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

J. DANIEL CAINE
General, U.S. Air Force