

Sen. Slotkin Letters on Military Interference in Elections

On August 18, 2026, Senator Slotkin sent a letter to Secretary Hegseth and General Caine seeking confirmation that they would not send the military to polling places during the November elections. Despite it being [against](#) Federal [law](#) to send in the military to seize ballots, voting machines, or otherwise interfere in our election, Secretary Hegseth [refuses](#) to rule this out and the President even [lamented](#) earlier this year that he did not do this after the 2020 election.

2020 and 2024 Election Letters

Since 2020, Elissa Slotkin has been raising concerns to our nation's military leaders over the use of U.S. troops to interfere in our elections. In July 2020, then Representative Slotkin [submitted](#), along with then Representative Mikie Sherrill a list of questions for the record for Secretary of Defense Mark Esper and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs General Mark Milley on whether the U.S. military should ever be sent to interfere in our elections and if they would refuse an order directing active-duty troops to be present at polling places.

- When asked if there were any circumstances under which he would deem it necessary to send the U.S. military to polling places, General Milley answered that “State and Federal governments have qualified individuals who oversee” elections and that “I do not see the U.S. Military as part of this process.”
- General Milley confirmed that disputes over election outcomes must be resolved by civilian authorities, saying “In the event of a dispute over some aspect of the elections, by law U.S. courts and the U.S. Congress are required to resolve any disputes, not the U.S. Military. ... We will not turn our backs on the Constitution of the United States.”

In 2024, then Representatives Slotkin and Sherrill also [sent](#) a letter to Secretary Austin and General Brown raising similar issues on the nonpartisan tradition of military service and the constitutional guardrails that prevent our military from becoming a domestic police force.

Protect Our Polls Act

In June, Senator Slotkin [introduced](#) the Protect Our Polls Act to safeguard the integrity of American elections from federal interference by armed uniformed military or federal law enforcement. The Protect our Polls Act makes existing federal law stronger, further restricting the deployment of military forces and armed federal agents to polling places. It closes an existing loophole by requiring Congress to pass a Joint Resolution of Approval before the president can send troops or federal law enforcement to election sites for the only exception to the blanket ban: to repel armed enemies of the United States. The President must also provide Congress with intel, legal justification, and evidence that state or local government cannot handle a threat on their own, at least 48 hours before deploying forces.

Slotkin has repeatedly asked Trump nominees, from [Secretary Hegseth on down](#) about illegal orders, and sending troops to polling places. She also explicitly questioned [Department of Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin](#) about sending ICE to the polls. Last December, she pressed Department of Defense officials on the issue in a [Senate Armed Services Committee](#), and pressed the [NORTHCOM commander](#) to confirm as well.