

From: [Overmann, Lynn - OCIO-CIO, Washington, DC](#)
To: [Duran, Maribel - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [Goldmon, Dewayne - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [Ferguson, Katharine - OSEC - Washington, DC](#)
Cc: [Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
Subject: RE: [External Email]Re: Demos Meeting Request on Voting Rights EO
Date: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 9:43:00 AM

Thanks for looping me in, Maribel. Has USDA supported voting rights efforts in the past? Given our footprint in communities, I could imagine offering voter registration information at in-person locations or sharing information broadly across our communications channels, but think there would be privacy/consent issues around sharing data. I would love to learn more, as experts almost certainly have ideas I haven't considered that we may be able to help with.

Best,

Lynn Overmann
 Senior Advisor for Data and Technology
 U.S. Department of Agriculture
 Washington, DC
 Pronouns she/hers

From: Duran, Maribel - OSEC, Washington, DC <Maribel.Duran@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 9:38 AM
To: Goldmon, Dewayne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Dewayne.Goldmon@usda.gov>; Ferguson, Katharine - OSEC - Washington, DC <Katharine.Ferguson@usda.gov>
Cc: Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kumar.Chandran@usda.gov>; Overmann, Lynn - OCIO-CIO, Washington, DC <Lynn.Overmann@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: [External Email]Re: Demos Meeting Request on Voting Rights EO

+ Kumar who has been representing USDA on voting rights conversations.
 + Lynn to consider whether this is something she or others can do given the data angle. May be worth doing?

I'm familiar with the Raben Group (Comms/PR firm in DC), which seems like the intermediary here.

Thank you,
 MD | DCOS - Operations

From: Goldmon, Dewayne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Dewayne.Goldmon@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 9:33 AM
To: Ferguson, Katharine - OSEC - Washington, DC <Katharine.Ferguson@usda.gov>; Duran, Maribel - OSEC, Washington, DC <Maribel.Duran@usda.gov>
Cc: Duran, Maribel - OSEC, Washington, DC <Maribel.Duran@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: [External Email]Re: Demos Meeting Request on Voting Rights EO

Do we have any activities around this EO on Voting Access? I have a meeting request from Demos to

engage with USDA, but could use some help understanding the prioritization. Do you have any knowledge of this group?

D. Goldmon

From: Rachel Motley <rmotley@rabengroup.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 5:57 AM
To: Goldmon, Dewayne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Dewayne.Goldmon@usda.gov>
Cc: Dylan Tureff <dtureff@rabengroup.com>; Abigail Omojola <aomojola@rabengroup.com>
Subject: Re: [External Email]Re: Demos Meeting Request on Voting Rights EO

Hello Dewayne,

Thank you for your note! Might you be able to connect us with another member of your team to discuss the [Executive Order to Promote Voting Access](#) implementation? We hope to discuss ways that USDA can continue to play a role in implementation before the September deadline for each agency to share a strategic plan.

Best,
 Rachel

On Mon, Jul 26, 2021 at 6:04 PM Goldmon, Dewayne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Dewayne.Goldmon@usda.gov> wrote:

Dylan,

Unfortunately, I do not have availability to meet with you.

D. Goldmon

From: Dylan Tureff <dtureff@rabengroup.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 5:08 PM
To: Goldmon, Dewayne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Dewayne.Goldmon@usda.gov>
Cc: Rachel Motley <rmotley@rabengroup.com>
Subject: [External Email]Re: Demos Meeting Request on Voting Rights EO

[External Email]

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Dear Dewayne,

I am so sorry for the additional email. I just wanted to inform you that I will be out of the office next week. As a result, if you are able to direct us to the appropriate USDA staff to meet with [Dēmos](#) regarding the implementation of the [Executive Order to Promote Voting Access](#), could you please email my colleague Rachel at rmotley@rabengroup.com (cc'd here)?

Thank you for your time and consideration!

Best Wishes,
Dylan Tureff

On Wed, Jul 14, 2021 at 9:34 AM Dylan Tureff <dtureff@rabengroup.com> wrote:

Dear Dewayne,

I hope this message finds you well.

We are writing to follow up on our previous email regarding a Dēmos meeting request. Dēmos would like to meet with you and/or other relevant staff to discuss the implementation of the [Executive Order to Promote Voting Access](#), signed by President Biden on March 7, 2021. **Do you and your relevant colleagues have availability to meet during the week of July 19 or 26?**

Specifically, Dēmos, a “think-and-do tank” that champions solutions to create a democracy and economy rooted in racial equity, hopes to discuss how your office can play a crucial role in protecting and expanding democracy via the implementation of this vital Executive Order.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration. We look forward to hearing from you.

All the best,
Dylan Tureff on behalf of Dēmos

On Thu, Jul 8, 2021 at 3:45 PM Dylan Tureff <dtureff@rabengroup.com> wrote:

Dear Dewayne Lydell Goldmon,

We are writing to you on behalf of [Dēmos](#), a “think-and-do tank” that champions solutions to create a democracy and economy rooted in racial equity, to request a meeting with you or other relevant staff regarding the [Executive Order to Promote Voting Access](#), signed by President Biden on March 7, 2021. Specifically, Dēmos hopes to meet with you during the week of June 14th or June 21st to discuss Executive Order implementation, share community stories and expansive data, and discuss how your office can play an essential role in protecting and expanding democracy.

Dēmos and its organizational partners have identified the below-stated agency

systems and programs as areas of great opportunity for the implementation of this vital executive order.

- Online portals;
- Direct interaction programs;
- Generally applicable grant programs, for both state and private actors;
- Grants/funding for governments and authorities; and
- Programs focused on tribal services and support.

Given your agency's relation to the above-stated systems and programs, your office is in a unique position to ensure that this executive order is implemented in a manner that promotes and protects the right to vote and American democracy.

Please let us know if you, or other relevant staff, are available to meet with us on the week of June 14th or 21st. We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Dylan Tureff on behalf of Dēmos

--

DYLAN TUREFF | ASSOCIATE | THE RABEN GROUP
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DTUREFF@RABENGROUP.COM | WWW.RABENGROUP.COM
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immediately.

--

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RMOTLEY@RABENGROUP.COM | WWW.RABENGROUP.COM
PRONOUNS: SHE, HER, HERS

From: [Ferguson, Katharine - OSEC - Washington, DC](#)
To: [Goldmon, Dewayne - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [Duran, Maribel - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
Cc: [Duran, Maribel - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
Subject: RE: [External Email]Re: Demos Meeting Request on Voting Rights EO
Date: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 9:35:52 AM

Yes. Kumar and Akhil have been running point on the Voting Access EO. I do know Demos and (b) (6) [REDACTED]. Suggest any meeting with them include Kumar, Akhil and you.

-Katharine

From: Goldmon, Dewayne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Dewayne.Goldmon@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 7:33 AM
To: Ferguson, Katharine - OSEC - Washington, DC <Katharine.Ferguson@usda.gov>; Duran, Maribel - OSEC, Washington, DC <Maribel.Duran@usda.gov>
Cc: Duran, Maribel - OSEC, Washington, DC <Maribel.Duran@usda.gov>
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[REDACTED]

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Subject: [External Email]Re: Demos Meeting Request on Voting Rights EO

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Dylan Tureff on behalf of Dēmos

On Thu, Jul 8, 2021 at 3:45 PM Dylan Tureff <dtureff@rabengroup.com> wrote:

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Please let us know if you, or other relevant staff, are available to meet with us on the week of June 14th or 21st. We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Dylan Tureff on behalf of Dēmos

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PRONOUNS: SHE, HER, HERS

From: [Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
To: [Ferguson, Katharine - OSEC - Washington, DC](#); [Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
Subject: RE: Voter Memo
Date: Monday, June 28, 2021 10:48:00 PM

Sounds good – thanks for sending the feedback. I’ve **b(5) DPP**
[REDACTED]

From: Ferguson, Katharine - OSEC - Washington, DC <Katharine.Ferguson@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 28, 2021 7:44 PM
To: Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kumar.Chandran@usda.gov>; Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Voter Memo

Sending along comments on the voter memo. Does this provide enough information for you?

From: Vilsack, Tom - OSEC, Washington, DC <**(b) (6)** > *Secretary Vilsack's alias email*
Sent: Monday, June 28, 2021 4:12 PM
To: Ferguson, Katharine - OSEC - Washington, DC <Katharine.Ferguson@usda.gov>
Subject: Voter Memo

Katharine - read the memo. I would **b(5) DPP**
[REDACTED]. I think it makes sense to **b(5) DPP**
[REDACTED]. Let me know if Kumar needs more from me or if this is helpful in allowing the memo to go to the WH.

TV

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From: [Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
To: [Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
Subject: RE: Voting Rights IPC & Paper
Date: Friday, June 25, 2021 12:23:00 PM
Attachments: [USDA - Voting EO Interim Strategic Plan.docx](#) (b)(5)-Deliberative (6 pages)
[Voting EO - USDA Interim Report - Cover Memo.docx](#) (b)(5)-Deliberative (1 page)

Akhil,

I've attached the cover memo – welcome your thoughts/edits.

And, I've also attached our submission for the interim report. It has been reviewed by OGC and Ethics.

Thanks,

Kumar

From: Ferguson, Katharine - OSEC - Washington, DC <Katharine.Ferguson@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2021 10:33 PM
To: Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kumar.Chandran@usda.gov>; Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>
Subject: Voting Rights IPC & Paper

Kumar and Akhil - The Secretary would like to see the paper you've crafted for the voting rights IPC. Please assemble a very short cover memo and include in his book tomorrow night. Thanks. -
Katharine

From: [Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
To: [Ferguson, Katharine - OSEC - Washington, DC](#)
Cc: [Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
Subject: Voting EO - interim report
Date: Wednesday, June 23, 2021 9:35:00 PM
Attachments: [USDA - Voting EO Interim Strategic Plan.docx](#) (b)(5)-Deliberative (6 pages)

Hi Katharine,

I've attached our interim report on the voting EO, based on submissions from the various agencies (OC, DA, FNS, FPAC, Forest Service). It's been reviewed by Stuart in Ethics. I'm still waiting for David G.'s feedback from OGC, but wanted to share with you as well, before sending in to the WH team leading this effort. They asked for this by today (so that clearly won't happen), but hoping I to get it in this week, if possible. I'll ping David again tomorrow, if I don't hear from him

Thanks – let us know if you have any questions.

Kumar

From: [Bender, Stuart - OE, Washington, DC](#)
To: [Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [Grahn, David - OGC, Washington, DC](#); [Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
Subject: RE: Voting Executive Order
Date: Wednesday, June 23, 2021 4:41:29 PM

Hi Kumar,

Thanks! **b(5)DPP, b(5)ACP**
[Redacted]

Customer service matters to me. Please take our short survey; [click here](#).



Stuart Bender
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USDA Ethics Webpage: www.ethics.usda.gov

USDA Ethics Mobile App: Download Links: (Apple)

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/usda-ethics/id1230087696?ls=1&mt=8>

or (Android) [https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.quickseries.usda)

[id=com.quickseries.usda](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.quickseries.usda)



From: Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kumar.Chandran@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 23, 2021 4:17 PM
To: Bender, Stuart - OE, Washington, DC <stuart.bender@usda.gov>; Grahn, David - OGC, Washington, DC <David.Grahn@usda.gov>; Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Voting Executive Order

Thank you for your review Stuart. I appreciate the feedback.

b(5) DPP, b(5) ACP

Thank you!

Kumar

From: Bender, Stuart - OE, Washington, DC <stuart.bender@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 23, 2021 4:15 PM
To: Grahn, David - OGC, Washington, DC <David.Grahn@usda.gov>; Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kumar.Chandran@usda.gov>; Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Voting Executive Order

Hi Kumar,

Thanks for your e-mail. I agree with the recommendation that OE be involved to USDA-wide to ensure compliance with the Hatch Act.

b(5) DPP, b(5) ACP

As always, I'm glad to discuss if there are any questions. My cell phone is (b) (6).

Thanks! – Stuart

Customer service matters to me. Please take our short survey; [click here](#).



Stuart Bender

Director

Office of Ethics

U.S. Department of Agriculture

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Washington, DC 20250-1400

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<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/usda-ethics/id1230087696?ls=1&mt=8>

or (Android) [https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.quickseries.usda)

[id=com.quickseries.usda](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.quickseries.usda)



From: Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kumar.Chandran@usda.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, June 23, 2021 3:11 PM

To: Bender, Stuart - OE, Washington, DC <stuart.bender@usda.gov>; Grahn, David - OGC, Washington, DC <David.Grahn@usda.gov>

Cc: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>

Subject: RE: Voting Executive Order

Hi Stuart and David,

Updated document is attached with the Forest Service additions, so this version is now the full proposed submission for the voting EO for your review.

Stuart – you will see one place in particular at the end, where I flagged something for you in

comments. But, certainly welcome your feedback throughout.

Thanks,

Kumar

From: Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC

Sent: Tuesday, June 22, 2021 11:31 AM

To: Bender, Stuart - OE, Washington, DC <stuart.bender@usda.gov>; Grahn, David - OGC, Washington, DC <David.Grahn@usda.gov>

Cc: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>

Subject: RE: Voting Executive Order

Good morning,

I wanted to lift this back up your inboxes. I'm still waiting for the Forest Service submission, and will send that over as soon as I receive it.

Welcome any feedback on what we have thus far.

Thanks,

Kumar

From: Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC

Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2021 3:56 PM

To: Bender, Stuart - OE, Washington, DC <stuart.bender@usda.gov>; Grahn, David - OGC, Washington, DC <David.Grahn@usda.gov>

Cc: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>

Subject: RE: Voting Executive Order

Good afternoon David and Stuart,

As described below, I've attached the template related to the voting executive order provided by the White House, with information submitted from FNS, FPAC, OC, and Departmental Administration. I am still waiting for the Forest Service's submission.

This document is **b(5)DPP**. Rather than waiting for the Forest Service to submit their part (which they said they will do by Monday), I thought I'd send you what I have now and follow up with the Forest Service part when I receive it. I can highlight the FS additions, when I send the updated forward; I'm assuming it would only be a handful of additional paragraphs.

Please let me know if that works for you or if you have any questions.

Thank you for your assistance.

Best,

Kumar

From: Bender, Stuart - OE, Washington, DC <stuart.bender@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 2:53 PM
To: Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kumar.Chandran@usda.gov>; Grahn, David - OGC, Washington, DC <David.Grahn@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Voting Executive Order

I am fine with approach from an Ethics perspective.

Stuart Bender
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✉ E-mail: Stuart.Bender@usda.gov

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Be sure to download the Upgraded USDA Ethics App by searching "USDA Ethics" on any smartphone.

From: Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kumar.Chandran@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 2:49:14 PM
To: Grahn, David - OGC, Washington, DC <David.Grahn@usda.gov>; Bender, Stuart - OE, Washington, DC <stuart.bender@usda.gov>
Subject: Voting Executive Order

Good afternoon David and Stuart,

Akhil and I have been serving on the interagency working group for implementing President Biden's voting executive order.

Later this month, we will be submitting some information for an interim report. In discussing with Katharine, she would like OGC and Ethics to review our submission before we send it in.

I have asked for agencies to confer with their OGC leads as they work on the attached template. But, I am thinking I can also send the final product to both of you before we send forward to the

White House. Does that work for you? I am going to be asking agencies to send me a completed version of the attached template by June 15. We can then compile those into one report and share with you for final review. (The White House is asking for these **b(5)DPP**, but I've asked for an extension.)

Please let me know your thoughts/questions.

Thanks,

Kumar

From: [Snieckus, Mary -FS](#)
To: [Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [Dawe, Christine -FS](#)
Subject: RE: Voting Executive Order - USDA activities
Date: Wednesday, June 23, 2021 9:21:03 AM
Attachments: [Voting EO Draft response - USDA_NRE.docx](#) (b)(5)-Deliberative (2 pages)

Good morning, Kumar -
NRE/Forest Service response attached. We appreciate your patience and apologize for the delay.

Please let me know if questions- Mary

Mary Snieckus, Acting Senior Advisor
USDA Office of the Under Secretary
Natural Resources and Environment
(b) (6)
mary.snieckus@usda.gov

From: Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kumar.Chandran@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 22, 2021 11:30 AM
To: Dawe, Christine -FS <christine.dawe@usda.gov>
Cc: Snieckus, Mary -FS <mary.snieckus@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Voting Executive Order - USDA activities

Good morning,

Wanted to circle back on this request – please let me know if you have any updates.

Thanks,

Kumar

From: Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2021 12:27 PM
To: Dawe, Christine -FS <christine.dawe@usda.gov>
Cc: Snieckus, Mary -FS <mary.snieckus@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Voting Executive Order - USDA activities

Thank you!

From: Dawe, Christine -FS <christine.dawe@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2021 12:26 PM
To: Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kumar.Chandran@usda.gov>
Cc: Snieckus, Mary -FS <mary.snieckus@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Voting Executive Order - USDA activities

WE can make that work. Thank you Kumar!

Christine Dawe, Acting Chief of Staff

Office of the Under Secretary

Natural Resources and Environment

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

(b) (6)

christine.dawe@usda.gov

From: Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kumar.Chandran@usda.gov>

Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2021 12:25 PM

To: Dawe, Christine -FS <christine.dawe@usda.gov>

Cc: Snieckus, Mary -FS <mary.snieckus@usda.gov>

Subject: RE: Voting Executive Order - USDA activities

(b) (6)

I need to get this info in to the WH by 6/23. And, I need to get OGC and Ethics to review before I send over to the WH.

So as not to jam OGC and Ethics, I was planning to send it to them by COB today. I can still do that and then let them know that the Forest Service portion will follow. If we can send the Forest Service portion to OGC and Ethics on Monday, that would provide them a couple of days for review.

If helpful, I have attached what FPAC provided, so you can get a sense of what other agencies have submitted.

Let me know if that works.

Thanks,

Kumar

From: Dawe, Christine -FS <christine.dawe@usda.gov>

Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2021 8:15 AM

To: Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kumar.Chandran@usda.gov>

Cc: Snieckus, Mary -FS <mary.snieckus@usda.gov>

Subject: RE: Voting Executive Order - USDA activities

Hi Kumar,

Apologies for missing this. (b) (6)

. Will get you something as soon as possible. Is there an absolute 'no later than' date? Thanks for your patience

Christine Dawe, Acting Chief of Staff

Office of the Under Secretary
Natural Resources and Environment
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

(b) (6)

christine.dawe@usda.gov

From: Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kumar.Chandran@usda.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2021 10:27 PM

To: Dawe, Christine -FS <christine.dawe@usda.gov>

Subject: FW: Voting Executive Order - USDA activities

Hi Christine,

Hope you are well. I wanted to check in on this inquiry. I have heard from the others, and wanted to see if you could provide a status update.

Please let me know if you have questions.

Thanks,

Kumar

From: Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC

Sent: Monday, June 14, 2021 11:05 AM

To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Dawe, Christine -FS <christine.dawe@usda.gov>; Manzano, Heather - FPAC-RMA, Washington, DC <heather.manzano@usda.gov>; Peyser, Kimberly - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kimberly.Peyser@usda.gov>; Rhee, Peter - OC, Washington DC <peter.rhee@usda.gov>

Cc: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>

Subject: RE: Voting Executive Order - USDA activities

Good morning all,

Hope you had a good weekend. I wanted to send a reminder about this request for info by tomorrow, June 15. Please let Akhil or I know if you have any questions.

(Thanks, Anne, for sending in the FNS info!)

Best,




Kumar

From: Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 3:16 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Dawe, Christine -FS <christine.dawe@usda.gov>; Manzano, Heather - FPAC-RMA, Washington, DC <heather.manzano@usda.gov>; Peyser, Kimberly - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kim.Peyser@usda.gov>; Rhee, Peter - OC, Washington DC <peter.rhee@usda.gov>
Cc: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>
Subject: Voting Executive Order - USDA activities

Hi all,

As you likely know, President Biden issued an [executive order on voting](#) in early March. Akhil and I have been serving on an interagency group on implementation of this order. Earlier in this process, we put out a call across USDA to identify potential activities that could support the EO. We shared those submissions with the interagency group and we are now at the stage where each department is to identify their top 5 suggestions and to flesh those out as described in the attached template.

Among the many ideas that USDA agencies submitted, the top 5 options are below:

- **FNS/Anne - Voter Registration & Information at Food and Nutrition Service Program Sites:** *Though WIC and SNAP sites are specifically covered by Section 7 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA), which requires states covered by NVRA to offer voter registration opportunities at certain public assistance and disability offices, USDA's Food and Nutrition Service programs operate in several other offices that could offer registration information to patrons. These include food banks or any Supplemental Nutrition and Safety Programs program operators making voter registration and non-partisan and non-campaign election information available to participants. This effort would be further bolstered by* **b(5)DPP**

- **Forest Service/Christine -** **b(5)DPP**

- **FPAC/Heather -** **b(5)DPP**

- **Departmental Administration/Kim - Informing USDA Employees of Their Right to Vote:** *USDA employs over 100,000 personnel. Through our regular channels of communication, Department intranet, and mission area town halls, we can inform our employees of (1) how to register to vote; (2) how to find their polling place; (3) reminders to both supervisors and employees regarding approved leave to vote; and (4) approved opportunities for employees to volunteer at polling places during elections.*
- **OC/Peter - Social Media and Communications:** *Through USDA's website, social media, and communications network, our agency can reach millions of Americans instantly, including many who are not reached by other government programs. USDA and its constituent mission areas boast well over 2 million followers on Twitter alone, and the Office of Communications has built longstanding relationships with farm and rural broadcasters. In addition, the ARP's provisions for socially disadvantaged farmers will drive increased traffic to FPAC resources and centers, creating an opportunity to spotlight voting*

information.

I believe I have emailed the relevant staff contacts for the offices/agencies for each of these suggestions, but please share with others on your end or let me know who the right contact should be, as needed. ***Can you all please work with your teams and your OGC contacts to fill out the attached template and return the completed template to Akhil and I by June 15?***

As the template notes, you might not have relevant info for each part of the document.

Please let us know if you have any questions. Thank you in advance for your support of this effort.

Best,

Kumar

From: [Peyser, Kimberly - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
To: [Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
Subject: RE: Voting Executive Order - USDA activities
Date: Thursday, June 17, 2021 12:28:56 PM

Yes! Sorry I misunderstood your original question. You can consider those are official additions! OHRM reviewed/approved.

Kim Peyser
Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Administration
United States Department of Agriculture

(b) (6)

From: Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kumar.Chandran@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2021 12:27 PM
To: Peyser, Kimberly - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kimberly.Peyser@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Voting Executive Order - USDA activities

Hi Kim,

I need to send the completed template to OGC and Ethics before submitting to the WH. I am planning to send to OGC and Ethics by COB today, please let me know if the info you provided below is what I can add into the template.

Thanks,

Kumar

From: Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2021 10:18 PM
To: Peyser, Kimberly - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kimberly.Peyser@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Voting Executive Order - USDA activities

Hi Kim,

Thank you for these recommendations. Would it work for you if add those two recommendations to the "Workforce" section of the template?

I've been phrasing the submission as **b(5)DPP**.

Best,

Kumar

From: Peyser, Kimberly - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kimberly.Peyser@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2021 5:27 PM
To: Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kumar.Chandran@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Voting Executive Order - USDA activities

I just heard back from OHRM actually so here is what I would recommend under workforce for Department wide policy:

Departmental Administration recommends that the Department revise [DR 4060-630-002](#) "Leave Administration: Excuse Absence and Administrative Leave" in two ways which are at the Secretary's discretion:

1. Currently, the language on administrative leave for "registration and voting" is restricted to allowing employees who are voting to arrive to work 3 hours after polls open or leave work 3 hours before the polls close. Given the very common occurrence of extraordinarily long lines at polling places both on election day and throughout early voting, our recommendation is that the time parameters around the taking of administrative leave for voting should be lifted. It is within the Secretary's discretion to make this change at the Department level.
2. The above DR does NOT currently allow administrative leave for non-partisan volunteer activities such as providing rides to the polls, voter protection work or volunteering at polling places. These activities are however already allowable for administrative leave according to OPM. This type of volunteering should be added to the "volunteer activities" section in the DR. It is within the Secretary's discretion to make this change at the Department level.

Kim Peyser
Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Administration
United States Department of Agriculture

(b) (6)

From: Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kumar.Chandran@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2021 5:00 PM
To: Peyser, Kimberly - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kimberly.Peyser@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Voting Executive Order - USDA activities

I'm only getting input from FNS, FPAC, OC, and the Forest Service. FNS didn't provide any recommendations for the "Workforce" section. And, I'm still waiting for the Forest Service submission.

From: Peyser, Kimberly - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kimberly.Peyser@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2021 4:42 PM
To: Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kumar.Chandran@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Voting Executive Order - USDA activities

Idea—would it be possible to compile all the components that anyone put in workforce and then I can have OHRM take a look of them and see what of the suggestions are actually feasible and/or provide any other guidance?

The ideas that I'm working on are along the lines of giving paid time off for election day voting, early voting, driving to the polls, volunteering at polling locations and registering to vote. I'm just making sure that's all allowable and seeing what other guidance would need to be attached.

But yes—we should obviously use OneUSDA to communicate as well as email from the Secy and Dep Secy.

Kim Peyser
Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Administration
United States Department of Agriculture

(b) (6)

From: Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kumar.Chandran@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2021 4:39 PM
To: Peyser, Kimberly - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kimberly.Peyser@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Voting Executive Order - USDA activities

Sorry for the multiple emails, also wanted to share what FPAC submitted in the "Workforce" section:

b(5) DPP

From: Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2021 4:20 PM
To: Peyser, Kimberly - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kimberly.Peyser@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Voting Executive Order - USDA activities

PS – Kim, I wanted to share what OC submitted in the workforce section, for your awareness:

USDA could develop content and implement actions on our internal communications tools, the OneUSDA Intranet (intranet.usda.gov), and all employee-wide email distribution system, to inform employees of

voting resources and information. These channels have the ability to reach almost 100K USDA employees at worksites across the nation and globe. Messaging can originate from the Secretary and/or Deputy Secretary, and from established workgroups over a set period of time.

From: Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 10:34 PM
To: Peyser, Kimberly - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kimberly.Peyser@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Voting Executive Order - USDA activities

Hi Kim,

I am doing well – hope the same for you.

I think you are right that DA's entry would be in the workforce section.

I have not done work in the voting registration space, so I would welcome your thoughts on NVRA or anything else related to this effort. I'd be happy to talk further, if you do have suggestions.

Thanks,

Kumar

From: Peyser, Kimberly - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kimberly.Peyser@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 11:47 AM
To: Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kumar.Chandran@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Voting Executive Order - USDA activities

Hey Kumar,

Hope you're doing well.

I'm working on putting some thoughts together on this but just a question for clarification (because I also think I missed the initial assignment conversations here).

For DA's purposes and the lines below—I think that my entries should be entire in “workforce” is that how you were envisioning it? If not, let me know.

Also I just wanted to offer up—I've done a lot of work in the voter registration space. If there is any conversation about pursuing the NVRA designation, I might be able to help. It's big opportunity but there are also a LOT of tricky aspects.

Thanks,

Kim Peyser

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration (DASA)
United States Department of Agriculture

(b) (6)

From: Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kumar.Chandran@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2021 11:05 AM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Dawe, Christine -FS <christine.dawe@usda.gov>; Manzano, Heather - FPAC-RMA, Washington, DC <heather.manzano@usda.gov>; Peyser, Kimberly - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kimberly.Peyser@usda.gov>; Rhee, Peter - OC, Washington DC <peter.rhee@usda.gov>
Cc: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Voting Executive Order - USDA activities

Good morning all,

Hope you had a good weekend. I wanted to send a reminder about this request for info by tomorrow, June 15. Please let Akhil or I know if you have any questions.

(Thanks, Anne, for sending in the FNS info!)

Best,

Kumar

From: Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 3:16 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Dawe, Christine -FS <christine.dawe@usda.gov>; Manzano, Heather - FPAC-RMA, Washington, DC <heather.manzano@usda.gov>; Peyser, Kimberly - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kim.Peyser@usda.gov>; Rhee, Peter - OC, Washington DC <peter.rhee@usda.gov>
Cc: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>
Subject: Voting Executive Order - USDA activities

Hi all,

As you likely know, President Biden issued an [executive order on voting](#) in early March. Akhil and I have been serving on an interagency group on implementation of this order. Earlier in this process, we put out a call across USDA to identify potential activities that could support the EO. We shared those submissions with the interagency group and we are now at the stage where each department is to identify their top 5 suggestions and to flesh those out as described in the attached template.

Among the many ideas that USDA agencies submitted, the top 5 options are below:

- **FNS/Anne - Voter Registration & Information at Food and Nutrition Service Program Sites:**
Though WIC and SNAP sites are specifically covered by Section 7 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA), which requires states covered by NVRA to offer voter registration opportunities at certain public assistance and disability offices, USDA's Food and Nutrition Service programs operate in several other offices that could offer registration information to patrons. These include food banks or any Supplemental Nutrition and Safety

Programs program operators making voter registration and non-partisan and non-campaign election information available to participants. This effort would be further bolstered by (b)(5)DPP

- **Forest Service/Christine - b(5)DPP**
 [REDACTED]
- **FPAC/Heather - b(5)DPP**
 [REDACTED]
- **Departmental Administration/Kim - Informing USDA Employees of Their Right to Vote:** USDA employs over 100,000 personnel. Through our regular channels of communication, Department intranet, and mission area town halls, we can inform our employees of (1) how to register to vote; (2) how to find their polling place; (3) reminders to both supervisors and employees regarding approved leave to vote; and (4) approved opportunities for employees to volunteer at polling places during elections.
- **OC/Peter - Social Media and Communications:** Through USDA's website, social media, and communications network, our agency can reach millions of Americans instantly, including many who are not reached by other government programs. USDA and its constituent mission areas boast well over 2 million followers on Twitter alone, and the Office of Communications has built longstanding relationships with farm and rural broadcasters. In addition, the ARP's provisions for socially disadvantaged farmers will drive increased traffic to FPAC resources and centers, creating an opportunity to spotlight voting information.

I believe I have emailed the relevant staff contacts for the offices/agencies for each of these suggestions, but please share with others on your end or let me know who the right contact should be, as needed. **Can you all please work with your teams and your OGC contacts to fill out the attached template and return the completed template to Akhil and I by June 15?**

As the template notes, you might not have relevant info for each part of the document.

Please let us know if you have any questions. Thank you in advance for your support of this effort.

Best,

Kumar

From: [Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
To: [Manzano, Heather - FPAC-RMA, Washington, DC](#)
Cc: [Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
Subject: RE: Voting Executive Order - USDA activities
Date: Wednesday, June 16, 2021 4:39:00 PM

Thanks again, Heather. Just a note that I changed the **b(5)DPP** just to provide some flexibility and not over commit at this point.

Appreciate your help.

Best,

Kumar

From: Manzano, Heather - FPAC-RMA, Washington, DC <heather.manzano@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 10:14 AM
To: Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kumar.Chandran@usda.gov>
Cc: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Voting Executive Order - USDA activities

Good morning,

FPAC's response is attached. I **(b)(5)(PCP)**

(b)(5)(PCP). Please let me know if you have questions.

Thank you,
Heather

From: Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kumar.Chandran@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2021 11:05 AM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Dawe, Christine -FS <christine.dawe@usda.gov>; Manzano, Heather - FPAC-RMA, Washington, DC <heather.manzano@usda.gov>; Peyser, Kimberly - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kimberly.Peyser@usda.gov>; Rhee, Peter - OC, Washington DC <peter.rhee@usda.gov>
Cc: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Voting Executive Order - USDA activities

Good morning all,

Hope you had a good weekend. I wanted to send a reminder about this request for info by tomorrow, June 15. Please let Akhil or I know if you have any questions.

(Thanks, Anne, for sending in the FNS info!)

Best,




Kumar

From: Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 3:16 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Dawe, Christine -FS <christine.dawe@usda.gov>; Manzano, Heather - FPAC-RMA, Washington, DC <heather.manzano@usda.gov>; Peyser, Kimberly - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kim.Peyser@usda.gov>; Rhee, Peter - OC, Washington DC <peter.rhee@usda.gov>
Cc: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>
Subject: Voting Executive Order - USDA activities

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Among the many ideas that USDA agencies submitted, the top 5 options are below:

- **FNS/Anne - Voter Registration & Information at Food and Nutrition Service Program Sites:** *Though WIC and SNAP sites are specifically covered by Section 7 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA), which requires states covered by NVRA to offer voter registration opportunities at certain public assistance and disability offices, USDA's Food and Nutrition Service programs operate in several other offices that could offer registration information to patrons. These include food banks or any Supplemental Nutrition and Safety Programs program operators making voter registration and non-partisan and non-campaign election information available to participants. This effort would be further bolstered by* **b(5)DPP**

- **Forest Service/Christine -** **b(5)DPP**

- **FPAC/Heather -** **b(5)DPP**

- **Departmental Administration/Kim - Informing USDA Employees of Their Right to Vote:** *USDA employs over 100,000 personnel. Through our regular channels of communication, Department intranet, and mission area town halls, we can inform our employees of (1) how to register to vote; (2) how to find their polling place; (3) reminders to both supervisors and employees regarding approved leave to vote; and (4) approved opportunities for employees to volunteer at polling places during elections.*
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and communications network, our agency can reach millions of Americans instantly, including many who are not reached by other government programs. USDA and its constituent mission areas boast well over 2 million followers on Twitter alone, and the Office of Communications has built longstanding relationships with farm and rural broadcasters. In addition, the ARP's provisions for socially disadvantaged farmers will drive increased traffic to FPAC resources and centers, creating an opportunity to spotlight voting information.

I believe I have emailed the relevant staff contacts for the offices/agencies for each of these suggestions, but please share with others on your end or let me know who the right contact should be, as needed. ***Can you all please work with your teams and your OGC contacts to fill out the attached template and return the completed template to Akhil and I by June 15?***

As the template notes, you might not have relevant info for each part of the document.

Please let us know if you have any questions. Thank you in advance for your support of this effort.

Best,

Kumar

From: [Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
To: [Rhee, Peter - OC, Washington DC](#); [Mabry, Brian - OC, Washington, DC](#); [Illenberg, Mike - OC, Washington, DC](#); [Pham, Thanh-Thanh - OC, Washington, DC](#); [Friar, Daniel P - OC, Washington, DC](#)
Cc: [Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
Subject: RE: Voting Executive Order - USDA activities
Date: Wednesday, June 16, 2021 4:21:00 PM

Peter – thanks again for sharing this. Just a quick note that I changed the language from (b)(5)DPP

Otherwise, I have retained what you submitted.

Please let me know if this works for you.

Best,

Kumar

From: Rhee, Peter - OC, Washington DC <peter.rhee@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 2:41 PM
To: Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kumar.Chandran@usda.gov>; Mabry, Brian - OC, Washington, DC <brian.mabry@usda.gov>; Illenberg, Mike - OC, Washington, DC <mike.illenberg@usda.gov>; Pham, Thanh-Thanh - OC, Washington, DC <thanhthanh.pham@usda.gov>; Friar, Daniel P - OC, Washington, DC <daniel.friar@usda.gov>
Cc: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Voting Executive Order - USDA activities

Kumar and Akhil,

Attached, please find the template with relevant areas completed in regards to web and social media outreach. Please let me know if this satisfies the current requirement or if we need to expand on anything.

Thank you.

Peter Rhee
Director, Digital Communications
USDA Branding
Office of Communications

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202-720-8138
Cell: (b) (6)

From: Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kumar.Chandran@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 9, 2021 4:09 PM
To: Rhee, Peter - OC, Washington DC <peter.rhee@usda.gov>; Mabry, Brian - OC, Washington, DC <brian.mabry@usda.gov>; Illenberg, Mike - OC, Washington, DC <mike.illenberg@usda.gov>; Pham, Thanh-Thanh - OC, Washington, DC <thanhthanh.pham@usda.gov>; Friar, Daniel P - OC, Washington, DC <daniel.friar@usda.gov>
Cc: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>; Herrick, Matt - OSEC, Washington, DC <Matt.Herrick@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Voting Executive Order - USDA activities

Hi Peter,

Thank you for your response.

I should also note at this point the WH interagency groups is asking that we **b(5)DPP**

And, I'll also restate what I noted below that not all of the categories in the template may apply, so in some cases, the response may be quite short or "N/A".

Thanks – please let me know if you have questions as your proceed.

Best,

Kumar

From: Rhee, Peter - OC, Washington DC <peter.rhee@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 9, 2021 11:52 AM
To: Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kumar.Chandran@usda.gov>; Mabry, Brian - OC, Washington, DC <brian.mabry@usda.gov>; Illenberg, Mike - OC, Washington, DC <mike.illenberg@usda.gov>; Pham, Thanh-Thanh - OC, Washington, DC <thanhthanh.pham@usda.gov>; Friar, Daniel P - OC, Washington, DC <daniel.friar@usda.gov>
Cc: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>; Herrick, Matt - OSEC, Washington, DC <Matt.Herrick@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Voting Executive Order - USDA activities

Hi Kumar and Akhil,

The Office of Communications will develop an information campaign on our various comms channels and Brian will pull it all together into the template you provided. If you have any additional information you'd like to share with us, please feel free to pass along.

Thank you.

Peter Rhee
 Director, Digital Communications
 USDA Branding
 Office of Communications

United States Department of Agriculture
 Office: 202-720-8138
 Cell: (b) (6)

From: Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kumar.Chandran@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 3:16 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Dawe, Christine -FS <christine.dawe@usda.gov>; Manzano, Heather - FPAC-RMA, Washington, DC <heather.manzano@usda.gov>; Peyser, Kimberly - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kim.Peyser@usda.gov>; Rhee, Peter - OC, Washington DC <peter.rhee@usda.gov>
Cc: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>
Subject: Voting Executive Order - USDA activities

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Among the many ideas that USDA agencies submitted, the top 5 options are below:

- **FNS/Anne - Voter Registration & Information at Food and Nutrition Service Program Sites:** *Though WIC and SNAP sites are specifically covered by Section 7 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA), which requires states covered by NVRA to offer voter registration opportunities at certain public assistance and disability offices, USDA's Food and Nutrition Service programs operate in several other offices that could offer registration information to patrons. These include food banks or any Supplemental Nutrition and Safety Programs program operators making voter registration and non-partisan and non-campaign election information available to participants. This effort would be further bolstered by b(5)DPP*
 [REDACTED]
- **Forest Service/Christine - b(5)DPP**
 [REDACTED]
- **FPAC/Heather - b(5)DPP**
 [REDACTED]

b(5)DPP



- **Departmental Administration/Kim - Informing USDA Employees of Their Right to Vote:** *USDA employs over 100,000 personnel. Through our regular channels of communication, Department intranet, and mission area town halls, we can inform our employees of (1) how to register to vote; (2) how to find their polling place; (3) reminders to both supervisors and employees regarding approved leave to vote; and (4) approved opportunities for employees to volunteer at polling places during elections.*
- **OC/Peter - Social Media and Communications:** *Through USDA's website, social media, and communications network, our agency can reach millions of Americans instantly, including many who are not reached by other government programs. USDA and its constituent mission areas boast well over 2 million followers on Twitter alone, and the Office of Communications has built longstanding relationships with farm and rural broadcasters. In addition, the ARP's provisions for socially disadvantaged farmers will drive increased traffic to FPAC resources and centers, creating an opportunity to spotlight voting information.*

I believe I have emailed the relevant staff contacts for the offices/agencies for each of these suggestions, but please share with others on your end or let me know who the right contact should be, as needed. ***Can you all please work with your teams and your OGC contacts to fill out the attached template and return the completed template to Akhil and I by June 15?***

As the template notes, you might not have relevant info for each part of the document.

Please let us know if you have any questions. Thank you in advance for your support of this effort.

Best,

Kumar

From: [DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
To: [Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
Cc: [Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
Subject: RE: Voting Executive Order - USDA activities
Date: Friday, June 11, 2021 12:27:08 PM
Attachments: [FNCS Voting EO Interim Strategic Plan 061121.docx](#) (b)(5)(DPP)-Deliberative (5 pages)

Attached is the FNCS OGC cleared template.

Per OGC, they also recommend the following change to the description below:

b(5) DPP, b(5) ACP

Anne DeCesaro
Chief of Staff
FNCS/USDA
(b) (6) (cell)




Call or chat me on [Teams!](#)

From: Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kumar.Chandran@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 3:16 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Dawe, Christine -FS <christine.dawe@usda.gov>; Manzano, Heather - FPAC-RMA, Washington, DC <heather.manzano@usda.gov>; Peyser, Kimberly - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kim.Peyser@usda.gov>; Rhee, Peter - OC, Washington DC <peter.rhee@usda.gov>
Cc: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>
Subject: Voting Executive Order - USDA activities

Hi all,

As you likely know, President Biden issued an [executive order on voting](#) in early March. Akhil and I have been serving on an interagency group on implementation of this order. Earlier in this process, we put out a call across USDA to identify potential activities that could support the EO. We shared those submissions with the interagency group and we are now at the stage where each department is to identify their top 5 suggestions and to flesh those out as described in the attached template.

Among the many ideas that USDA agencies submitted, the top 5 options are below:

- **FNS/Anne - Voter Registration & Information at Food and Nutrition Service Program Sites:** Though WIC and SNAP sites are specifically covered by Section 7 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA), which requires states covered by NVRA to offer voter registration opportunities at certain public assistance and disability offices, USDA's Food and Nutrition Service programs operate in several other offices that could offer registration information to patrons. These include food banks or any Supplemental Nutrition and Safety Programs program operators making voter registration and non-partisan and non-campaign election information available to participants. This effort would be further bolstered by **b(5)DPP**

- **Forest Service/Christine - b(5)DPP**

- **FPAC/Heather - b(5)DPP**

- **Departmental Administration/Kim - Informing USDA Employees of Their Right to Vote:** USDA employs over 100,000 personnel. Through our regular channels of communication, Department intranet, and mission area town halls, we can inform our employees of (1) how to register to vote; (2) how to find their polling place; (3) reminders to both supervisors and employees regarding approved leave to vote; and (4) approved opportunities for employees to volunteer at polling places during elections.
- **OC/Peter - Social Media and Communications:** Through USDA's website, social media, and communications network, our agency can reach millions of Americans instantly, including many who are not reached by other government programs. USDA and its constituent mission areas boast well over 2 million followers on Twitter alone, and the Office of Communications has built longstanding relationships with farm and rural broadcasters. In addition, the ARP's provisions for socially disadvantaged farmers will drive increased traffic to FPAC resources and centers, creating an opportunity to spotlight voting information.

I believe I have emailed the relevant staff contacts for the offices/agencies for each of these suggestions, but please share with others on your end or let me know who the right contact should be, as needed. **Can you all please work with your teams and your OGC contacts to fill out the attached template and return the completed template to Akhil and I by June 15?**

As the template notes, you might not have relevant info for each part of the document.

Please let us know if you have any questions. Thank you in advance for your support of this effort.

Best,

Kumar

From: [DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
To: [Kim, Mina - OGC, Washington, DC](#); [Kochan, Gena - OGC, Washington, DC](#)
Cc: [Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [Savoy, LaTisha - FNS](#)
Subject: RE: Voting Executive Order - USDA activities
Date: Friday, June 11, 2021 12:15:47 PM

Awesome, I will make that change. Thanks for the quick review.

Anne DeCesaro
Chief of Staff
FNCS/USDA
(b) (6) (cell)
[Call or chat me on Teams!](#)

From: Kim, Mina - OGC, Washington, DC <mina.kim@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, June 11, 2021 11:55 AM
To: Kochan, Gena - OGC, Washington, DC <gena.kochan@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kumar.Chandran@usda.gov>; Savoy, LaTisha - FNS <latisha.savoy@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Voting Executive Order - USDA activities

Hi all,

We have no comments on the document and it has OGC clearance. For the summary paragraph in the email below:

- **FNS - Voter Registration & Information at Food and Nutrition Service Program Sites:** *Though WIC and SNAP sites are specifically covered by Section 7 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA), which requires states covered by NVRA to offer voter registration opportunities at certain public assistance and disability offices, USDA's Food and Nutrition Service programs operate in several other offices that could offer registration information to patrons. These include food banks or any Supplemental Nutrition and Safety Programs program operators making voter registration and non-partisan and non-campaign election information available to participants. This effort would be further bolstered by **b(5)DPP***

b(5)DPP, b(5)ACP
[Redacted text block]

Let us know if you have any questions. Thank you!

Mina Kim
Deputy Assistant General Counsel | Office of the General Counsel | USDA
International Affairs, Food Assistance & Farm and Rural Programs (FAIR) Division

1400 Independence Avenue, SW | Washington, DC 20250
(202) 720-6458 phone | (202) 720-0432 fax
mina.kim@usda.gov

From: Kochan, Gena - OGC, Washington, DC <gena.kochan@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, June 11, 2021 11:23 AM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kumar.Chandran@usda.gov>; Savoy, LaTisha - FNS <latisha.savoy@usda.gov>; Kim, Mina - OGC, Washington, DC <mina.kim@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Voting Executive Order - USDA activities

Anne,

We will review and get back to you.

Thanks,

Gena

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, June 11, 2021 11:07 AM
To: Kochan, Gena - OGC, Washington, DC <gena.kochan@usda.gov>; Mizoguchi, Brian - OGC, Washington, DC <Brian.Mizoguchi@usda.gov>
Cc: Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kumar.Chandran@usda.gov>; Savoy, LaTisha - FNS <latisha.savoy@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Voting Executive Order - USDA activities

Gena,

We have been asked to provide initial feedback on additional actions FNS could take with respect EO 14019: [Promoting Access to Voting](#) by [REDACTED] (b)(5)DPP. This first cut through are initial thoughts, but we have been asked to consult OGC. A more detailed plan, should the interagency group decide to move forward, would be (b)(5)DPP. Please see the attached for the draft response assembled by FNS for OGC review.

I have include Kumar because he is our representative on the interagency group and can provide more context if needed.

(b)(5)DPP, (b)(5)ACP
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Thank you!

Anne DeCesaro

Chief of Staff

FNCS/USDA

(b) (6) (cell)

Call or chat me on [Teams!](#)

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, June 9, 2021 8:09 AM

To: Savoy, LaTisha - FNS <latisha.savoy@usda.gov>

Subject: FW: Voting Executive Order - USDA activities

Incoming request from Kumar for FNS, in consultation with OGC, to consider additional ways to promote the voting EO. Attached is a template for completion by **COB Monday, June 14** back to me for review by USEC prior to final submission with a focus on:

- FNS - Voter Registration & Information at Food and Nutrition Service Program Sites:**
Though WIC and SNAP sites are specifically covered by Section 7 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA), which requires states covered by NVRA to offer voter registration opportunities at certain public assistance and disability offices, USDA's Food and Nutrition Service programs operate in several other offices that could offer registration information to patrons. These include food banks or any Supplemental Nutrition and Safety Programs program operators making voter registration and non-partisan and non-campaign election information available to participants. This effort would be further bolstered by b(5)DPP

Additional guidance from Kumar: The template is ultimately to be one submission from USDA covering the five items from across the Department. You do not need to respond to all eight categories. For example, I'm not sure how applicable the "Identity Documents" category is. And, as noted in the template, they recognize there is varying level of applicability for those categories.

I would also highlight from the template:

This interim strategic plan will be the basis for feedback and discussion leading to a more detailed strategic plan, to be submitted to the b(5)DPP

b(5)DPP. It will also inform future policy development in this area by the b(5)DPP.

The strategic plans b(5)DPP should confirm statutory and regulatory compliance for each proposed activity (or a short proposal to modify regulations if necessary), an approximate assessment of budgetary impact (if any), and a timeline to implementation. For the interim plans b(5)DPP, that level of detail is welcome if available, but not expected.

Let me know if there are any questions.

Thanks.

Anne

Anne DeCesaro

Chief of Staff

FNCS/USDA

(b) (6) (cell)

Call or chat me on [Teams!](#)

From: [Savoy, LaTisha - FNS](#)
To: [Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
Subject: FW: Cabinet Affairs Report Reminder + Voting Rights EO
Date: Wednesday, June 9, 2021 1:01:27 PM

For discussion.

LaTisha Savoy, MA
 Acting Senior Policy Advisor
 Office of the Administrator
 Food and Nutrition Services



From: Savoy, LaTisha - FNS <latisha.savoy@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 5, 2021 8:47 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Long, Cindy - FNS <cindy.long@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Cabinet Affairs Report Reminder + Voting Rights EO

Anne – please see below the information provided by the program offices in response to this inquiry. thanks

- FNS could encourage National School Lunch Program operators in high schools to promote voter registration and to have the cafeteria serve as a distribution point for information.
- Likewise, CACFP emergency shelters could operate in the same way. ARP recently extended CACFP benefits to young adults up to age 25.
- There are no regulatory or statutory prohibitions on food banks, WIC clinics, or any SNAS program operators making voter registration and (non-partisan and non-campaign) election information available to participants.

Moreover, WIC and SNAP are specifically covered by Section 7 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 ([NVRA](#)) which requires those States covered by NVRA to offer voter registration opportunities at certain public assistance and disability offices. Each applicant for any of these services, renewal of services, or address changes must be provided with a voter registration form or a declination form as well as assistance in completing the form and forwarding the completed application to the appropriate state or local election official. WIC could put out an informational memo on this if desired. SNAP currently requires State agencies to demonstrate compliance with NVRA in the annual SNAP State Plan, which outlines the administration of the program in each State. USDA also has provided SNAP State agencies with guidance, technical assistance, and question-and-answer documents to assist with NVRA implementation and compliance. In particular, USDA guidance suggests that State SNAP agencies, which have flexibility to implement the NVRA provision in various ways, maintain

regular communication with State election offices, and include voter registration questions on applications for both SNAP and WIC benefits.

In 2014, USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) contacted all State agencies administering SNAP and WIC to confirm that they were in compliance with the "motor voter" requirement. We verified at the time that all non-exempt State agencies were in compliance with the statutory requirement to facilitate voter registration for any person who applies for or renews an application for public assistance, including by distributing voter registration forms, helping applicants complete registration forms, and accepting completed forms and transmitting them to State election officials.

FNS can consider conducting another compliance survey of State agencies or sending a letter to State agencies to remind them of their responsibilities.

LaTisha Savoy, MA
Acting Senior Policy Advisor
Office of the Administrator
Food and Nutrition Services



From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 5, 2021 1:17 PM
To: Savoy, LaTisha - FNS <latisha.savoy@usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Cabinet Affairs Report Reminder + Voting Rights EO

Incoming quick request and I will be raising on end of day. It is questions on how to promote voting registration within our programs. FNCS was specifically called out on standup and the questions just arrived.

Sorry for the quick turnaround on this, I will need something by 9am tomorrow.

Thanks!

Anne DeCesaro
USDA/FNCS
(b) (6) (cell)

From: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 5, 2021 1:10 PM
To: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Cabinet Affairs Report Reminder + Voting Rights EO

Good afternoon,

I hope you all enjoyed restful weekends. In addition to my weekly reminder for tomorrow's Cabinet Affairs Report deadline, I wanted to ask for some information on your mission area's/agency's planning for USDA's implementation of the President's [Executive Order on Promoting Access to Voting](#). Please include short but comprehensive answers to the following 3 questions alongside your weekly reports:



Thank you,
Akhil

From: [Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
To: [DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [Dawe, Christine -FS](#); [Manzano, Heather - FPAC-RMA, Washington, DC](#); [Peyser, Kimberly - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [Rhee, Peter - OC, Washington DC](#)
Subject: RE: Voting Executive Order - USDA activities
Date: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 9:45:33 PM

Hi Anne,

Below were the initial contacts from the first data call a few months ago from which the responses were assembled. These are largely just the Chiefs of Staff for the mission areas plus some staff office contacts. Note that the new Chiefs of Staff for MRP and REE are now Katie Zenk and Sanah Baig respectively.

- Ahmad, Farah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Farah.Ahmad@usda.gov>;
- Baysinger, Betsy - FAS, Washington, DC <Betsy.Baysinger@usda.gov>;
- Dawe, Christine -FS <christine.dawe@usda.gov>;
- DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>;
- Drumm, Sharon - ARS <sharon.drumm@usda.gov>;
- Duran, Maribel - OSEC, Washington, DC <Maribel.Duran@usda.gov>;
- Fletcher, Karen - OGC, Washington, DC <Karen.Fletcher@usda.gov>;
- Gutman, Theodore H - OSEC, Washington, DC <theodore.gutman@usda.gov>;
- Khan, Atiya - OSEC, Washington, DC <atiya.khan@usda.gov>;
- Knapke, Anne - OCR, Washington, DC <Anne.Knapke@usda.gov>;
- Manzano, Heather - FPAC-RMA, Washington, DC <heather.manzano@usda.gov>;
- Nelson, Christopher - OO, Washington, DC <christopher.nelson@usda.gov>;
- Nickerson, Cynthia - OCE, Washington, DC <cynthia.nickerson@usda.gov>;
- Pollard, Nicole - OBPA, Washington, DC <nicole.pollard@usda.gov>;
- Thompson, HeatherDawn - OSEC - Washington, DC <HeatherDawn.Thompson@usda.gov>;
- Pichelman, Heather, Washington, DC <Heather.Pichelman@usda.gov>

Let me know if I can send over anything else that would be helpful.

Best,
Akhil

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 5:39 PM
To: Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kumar.Chandran@usda.gov>; Dawe, Christine -FS <christine.dawe@usda.gov>; Manzano, Heather - FPAC-RMA, Washington, DC <heather.manzano@usda.gov>; Peyser, Kimberly - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kim.Peyser@usda.gov>; Rhee, Peter - OC, Washington DC <peter.rhee@usda.gov>

Cc: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>

Subject: RE: Voting Executive Order - USDA activities

Akhil, it would be great to have those contacts so we can keep this request moving. Thanks!

Anne DeCesaro

Chief of Staff

FNCS/USDA

(b) (6) (cell)

Call or chat me on [Teams!](#)

From: Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kumar.Chandran@usda.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 4:20 PM

To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Dawe, Christine -FS <christine.dawe@usda.gov>; Manzano, Heather - FPAC-RMA, Washington, DC <heather.manzano@usda.gov>; Peyser, Kimberly - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kim.Peyser@usda.gov>; Rhee, Peter - OC, Washington DC <peter.rhee@usda.gov>

Cc: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>

Subject: RE: Voting Executive Order - USDA activities

The template is ultimately to be one submission from USDA covering the five items. But, I can compile and consolidate the completed template documents from the respective agencies into one document.

You do not need to respond to all eight categories. For example, I'm not sure how applicable the "Identity Documents" category is. And, as noted in the template, they recognize there is varying level of applicability for those categories.

Akhil – can you share who the agency contacts were from when you sent out the initial request on this earlier in the spring?

And, you do not need to back out additional review time from the 15th, other than working with your OGC contacts on the submission.

I hope that is responsive to your questions – let me know if I can clarify anything else.

Best,

Kumar

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 3:51 PM

To: Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kumar.Chandran@usda.gov>; Dawe, Christine -FS <christine.dawe@usda.gov>; Manzano, Heather - FPAC-RMA, Washington, DC <heather.manzano@usda.gov>; Peyser, Kimberly - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kim.Peyser@usda.gov>;

Rhee, Peter - OC, Washington DC <peter.rhee@usda.gov>

Cc: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>

Subject: RE: Voting Executive Order - USDA activities

A few questions: Is the template ultimately designed to be from you covering the top five items outlined below? We do need to provide responses to all eight items for our respective agencies, correct?

You referenced agency contacts, could you please indicate who you have reached out to so we can ensure consistency? Also, would those contacts have already started on this or be aware?

Finally, do we need to back out any additional review time from the 15th for you or has that been build in already?

Thanks!

Anne DeCesaro

Chief of Staff

FNCS/USDA

(b) (6) (cell)

Call or chat me on [Teams!](#)

From: Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kumar.Chandran@usda.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 3:16 PM

To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Dawe, Christine -FS <christine.dawe@usda.gov>; Manzano, Heather - FPAC-RMA, Washington, DC <heather.manzano@usda.gov>; Peyser, Kimberly - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kim.Peyser@usda.gov>; Rhee, Peter - OC, Washington DC <peter.rhee@usda.gov>

Cc: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>

Subject: Voting Executive Order - USDA activities

Hi all,

As you likely know, President Biden issued an [executive order on voting](#) in early March. Akhil and I have been serving on an interagency group on implementation of this order. Earlier in this process, we put out a call across USDA to identify potential activities that could support the EO. We shared those submissions with the interagency group and we are now at the stage where each department is to identify their top 5 suggestions and to flesh those out as described in the attached template.

Among the many ideas that USDA agencies submitted, the top 5 options are below:

- **FNS/Anne - Voter Registration & Information at Food and Nutrition Service Program Sites:** *Though WIC and SNAP sites are specifically covered by Section 7 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA), which requires states covered by NVRA to offer voter registration opportunities at certain public assistance and disability offices, USDA's Food and Nutrition Service programs operate in several other offices that could offer*

registration information to patrons. These include food banks or any Supplemental Nutrition and Safety Programs program operators making voter registration and non-partisan and non-campaign election information available to participants. This effort would be further bolstered by **(b)(5)DPP**

- **Forest Service/Christine - (b)(5)DPP**
[Redacted]
- **FPAC/Heather - (b)(5)DPP**
[Redacted]
- **Departmental Administration/Kim - Informing USDA Employees of Their Right to Vote:** USDA employs over 100,000 personnel. Through our regular channels of communication, Department intranet, and mission area town halls, we can inform our employees of (1) how to register to vote; (2) how to find their polling place; (3) reminders to both supervisors and employees regarding approved leave to vote; and (4) approved opportunities for employees to volunteer at polling places during elections.
- **OC/Peter - Social Media and Communications:** Through USDA's website, social media, and communications network, our agency can reach millions of Americans instantly, including many who are not reached by other government programs. USDA and its constituent mission areas boast well over 2 million followers on Twitter alone, and the Office of Communications has built longstanding relationships with farm and rural broadcasters. In addition, the ARP's provisions for socially disadvantaged farmers will drive increased traffic to FPAC resources and centers, creating an opportunity to spotlight voting information.

I believe I have emailed the relevant staff contacts for the offices/agencies for each of these suggestions, but please share with others on your end or let me know who the right contact should be, as needed. **Can you all please work with your teams and your OGC contacts to fill out the attached template and return the completed template to Akhil and I by June 15?**

As the template notes, you might not have relevant info for each part of the document.

Please let us know if you have any questions. Thank you in advance for your support of this effort.

Best,

Kumar

From: [Thompson, HeatherDawn - OSEC - Washington, DC](#)
To: [Ferguson, Katharine - OSEC - Washington, DC](#); [Herrick, Matt - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [Bonnie, Robert - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [Schmidt, Michael - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [Bleich, Sara - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [Baccam, Lanon - OSEC - Washington, DC](#); [Grahm, David - OGC, Washington, DC](#); [Ahmad, Farah - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [Archuleta, Elizabeth - OCR, Washington, DC](#); [Robles, Justo - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [Nelson, Christopher - OO, Washington, DC](#); [Gonzales, Oscar - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [Knapke, Anne - OCR, Washington, DC](#); [Duran, Maribel - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [Carter, Mickeala - OC, Washington, DC](#); [Baysinger, Betsy - FAS, Washington, DC](#); [Khan, Atiya - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [Pichelman, Heather - AMS; Drumm, Sharon - ARS; Pretecrum, Spencer - FSIS; Goldman, Dewayne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Manzano, Heather - FPAC-RMA, Washington, DC; Atzenbeck, Lauren - OSEC - Washington, DC; Dickerson, Jasmine - OCR, Washington, DC; Garrison, Eyang - OSEC, Washington, DC; Dawe, Christine -FS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Candace Glover; Gutman, Theodore H - OSEC, Washington, DC; Overmann, Lynn - OSEC, Washington, DC; Morris, Erin - AMS; McKalip, Doug - OSEC; Snieckus, Mary -FS; Nickerson, Cynthia - OCE, Washington, DC; Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC; Ramirez, Lisa - OSEC, Washington, DC; Waters, Kate - OSEC, Washington, DC; Zenk, Katherine - OSEC, Washington, DC; Peyser, Kimberly - OSEC, Washington, DC; Baig, Sanah - OSEC, Washington, DC; Nguyen, Tien - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
Date: Monday, June 7, 2021 9:43:50 AM

The voting rights EO - the tribal consultations series has begun. The first was Navajo focused last week.

From: [Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
To: [Ferguson, Katharine - OSEC - Washington, DC](#)
Cc: [Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
Subject: Voting EO - Interim Report (b)(5)DPP - Next steps/process for USDA submission
Date: Saturday, May 29, 2021 10:21:00 AM
Attachments: [Voting EO Interim Strategic Plan Template 2021.05.03 \(final\).docx](#) (b)(5)-Deliberative (3 pages)
[USDA - Voting Rights EO Questions.docx](#) (b)(5)-Deliberative (4 pages)

Hi Katharine,

As you know, Akhil and I have been representing USDA on the voting EO workgroup.

The attached template is for our interim report that is (b)(5)DPP.

Earlier in the spring, Akhil did a data call across the department to pull our initial suggestions. I shared those with you at the time before we submitted, and that document is also attached.

They have now asked us to identify our top 5 suggestions for the interim report and flesh some details out as described in the template.

Speaking for myself, I am not a voting expert (although, I have learned Akhil might be!). We've asked the folks coordinating this EO group if they had suggestions on what might be actually most effective in terms of encouraging voting, based on our submission, but they have not provided such recommendations.

So, Akhil and I are suggesting the items below as our top 5. If you agree, our proposed timeline for completing the interim report is as follows:

- (b)(5)DPP – send the template to the relevant agencies for the top 5 submissions – agencies should consult their OGC contacts as they complete template
- (b)(5)DPP – agencies return completed template; Akhil and I compile into one report
- (b)(5)DPP – Send to you for review – we make updates as needed
- (b)(5)DPP – submit report

Top 5 suggestions:

- **Voter Registration & Information at Food and Nutrition Service Program Sites**
Though WIC and SNAP sites are specifically covered by Section 7 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA), which requires states covered by NVRA to offer voter registration opportunities at certain public assistance and disability offices, USDA's Food and Nutrition Service programs operate in several other offices that could offer registration information to patrons. These include food banks or any Supplemental Nutrition and Safety Programs program operators making voter registration and (non-partisan and non-campaign) election information available to participants. This effort would be further bolstered by (b)(5)DPP

- **Rural Development** (b)(5)DPP

b(5)DPP

- **Voter Registration & Information Through Farm Production & Conservation:**

b(5)DPP

- **Informing USDA Employees of Their Right to Vote:** *USDA employs over 100,000 personnel. Through our regular channels of communication, Department intranet, and mission area town halls, we can inform our employees of (1) how to register to vote; (2) how to find their polling place; (3) reminders to both supervisors and employees regarding approved leave to vote; and (4) approved opportunities for employees to volunteer at polling places during elections.*
- **Social Media and Communications:** *Through USDA's website, social media, and communications network, our agency can reach millions of Americans instantly, including many who are not reached by other government programs. USDA and its constituent mission areas boast well over 2 million followers on Twitter alone, and the Office of Communications has built longstanding relationships with farm and rural broadcasters. In addition, the ARP's provisions for socially disadvantaged farmers will drive increased traffic to FPAC resources and centers, creating an opportunity to spotlight voting information.*

Let us know if this plan works for you or if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Kumar

From: [Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
To: [Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
Subject: RE: voting EO top 5
Date: Friday, May 28, 2021 3:00:00 PM

Good point on youth vote. But, I assumed that Ed would take the lead there given it is school-based.

I'll send these over to Katharine with our suggested timeline.

From: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2021 1:31 PM
To: Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kumar.Chandran@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: voting EO top 5

These all seem good to me! The only other thing I was thinking about (and am curious your thoughts) is the school cafeteria one. Not sure how feasible it would be to implement from a policy perspective, but most of the research in political science on voting posits that it is habit-forming, and so the cumulative effects of registration/information are highest with young (and even pre-eligible) voters. Though we might want to steer clear because Ed is probably doing much of their work with schools. John Holbein and Sunshine Hillygus are the two academics that have published most prolifically in this field. Again, not sure of feasibility/what is actually possible but I think this might be an idea that would get stakeholders in the youth voting space excited.

- **Voter Registration & Information in High School Cafeterias:** USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) could encourage National School Lunch Program operators in high schools to promote voter registration, in collaboration with the Department of Education, and to have the cafeteria serve as a distribution point for information.

From: Chandran, Kumar - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kumar.Chandran@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2021 12:24 PM
To: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>
Subject: voting EO top 5

I did a quick scrub and pulled out these five items as ones that seem promising to me (as someone who knows little about voting policy!).

- **Voter Registration & Information at Food and Nutrition Service Program Sites**
 Though WIC and SNAP sites are specifically covered by Section 7 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA), which requires states covered by NVRA to offer voter registration opportunities at certain public assistance and disability offices, USDA's Food and Nutrition Service programs operate in several other offices that could offer registration information to patrons. These include food banks or any Supplemental Nutrition and Safety Programs program operators making voter registration and (non-partisan and non-campaign) election information available to participants. This effort would be further bolstered by **b(5)DPP** [REDACTED]

Rural Development **b(5)DPP**

- **Voter Registration & Information Through Farm Production & Conservation:**

b(5)DPP

- **Informing USDA Employees of Their Right to Vote:** USDA employs over 100,000 personnel. Through our regular channels of communication, Department intranet, and mission area town halls, we can inform our employees of (1) how to register to vote; (2) how to find their polling place; (3) reminders to both supervisors and employees regarding approved leave to vote; and (4) approved opportunities for employees to volunteer at polling places during elections.
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From: [Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
To: (b) (6) Justin Vail
Subject: USDA Voting Rights EO Responses
Date: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 4:40:00 PM
Attachments: [USDA - Voting Rights EO Questions .docx](#) (b)(5)-Deliberative (4 pages)

From: [Parham, Gregory - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
To: [Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
Subject: Re: Executive Order Question
Date: Thursday, April 8, 2021 12:28:00 AM

Angular,

My apologies for missing this message!

If still needed, I would suggest some one from **b(5)DPP**.

Gregory Parham

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From: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 12:57:45 PM
To: Parham, Gregory - OSEC, Washington, DC <Gregory.Parham@usda.gov>
Subject: Executive Order Question

Hi Dr. Parham,

I hope this note finds you well. Kumar and I are working on a document for the White House (due at 5 PM) summarizing USDA's implementation plan for the Voting Rights EO. **b(5)DPP**

b(5)DPP
b(5)DPP We were wondering if you might be able to suggest any candidates for this role.

Thanks so much!

Best,
Akhil

From: [Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
To: [Zeiss, Paul - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [Archuleta, Elizabeth - OCR, Washington, DC](#)
Subject: RE: Stakeholder engagement on Voting Rights EO
Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 3:19:00 PM

Thanks so much!

From: Zeiss, Paul - OSEC, Washington, DC <Paul.Zeiss@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 2:42 PM
To: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>; Archuleta, Elizabeth - OCR, Washington, DC <Elizabeth.Archuleta@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Stakeholder engagement on Voting Rights EO

Hi Akhil,

Here are a few groups:

- Intertribal Ag Council, Kari Jo Lawrence, Kari@indianag.org
- LULAC, Sindy Benavides, sbenavides@lulac.org
- National Black Farmers Association, Kara Brewer Boyd, (b) (6)
- Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities (APLU), Peter McPherson, pmcpherson@aplu.org
- National Association of State Dep of Ag (NASDA), Barb Glenn, barb.glenn@nasda.org
- National Association of Counties, Matthew Chase, mchase@naco.org
- Rebuild Rural Coalition, Mark Hayes, markhayes@fccouncil.com
- National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, Eric Deeble, edeeble@sustainableagriculture.net
- American Public Human Services Association, Tracy Wareing, TWareing@aphsa.org
- Ruralorganizing.org, Matt Hildreth, organize@ruralorganizing.org
- UFCW, Marc Perrone, mperrone@ufcw.org

Thanks,
Paul

From: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 1:05 PM
To: Archuleta, Elizabeth - OCR, Washington, DC <Elizabeth.Archuleta@usda.gov>
Cc: Zeiss, Paul - OSEC, Washington, DC <Paul.Zeiss@usda.gov>
Subject: Stakeholder engagement on Voting Rights EO

Hi Liz and Paul,

Hope this note finds you both well. I'm working with Kumar on our response to the Voting Rights EO (b)(5)DPP from the White House (which we're hoping to submit around 4 PM), and (b)(5)DPP I'm wondering if you two have

any thoughts on stakeholders who should be involved or what kinds of engagement we might want to see.

Thanks,
Akhil

From: [Drumm, Sharon - ARS](#)
To: [Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
Subject: RE: Cabinet Affairs Report Reminder + Voting Rights EO
Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 1:25:49 PM

Hi Akhil, REE has no input for the Voting Rights EO at this time. We will keep thinking about how we might help from NIFA.

SDD

202-720-4465

sharon.drumm@usda.gov

From: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 9:38 PM
To: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Cabinet Affairs Report Reminder + Voting Rights EO

Hi All,

Thanks to everyone for submitting your Cabinet Affairs memos. If you have not already submitted your Voting Rights EO responses, please do so as soon as possible, so we can review and submit to the White House by tomorrow afternoon.

All the best,
Akhil

From: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Monday, April 5, 2021 1:10 PM
To: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>
Subject: Cabinet Affairs Report Reminder + Voting Rights EO

Good afternoon,

I hope you all enjoyed restful weekends. In addition to my weekly reminder for tomorrow's Cabinet Affairs Report deadline, I wanted to ask for some information on your mission area's/agency's planning for USDA's implementation of the President's [Executive Order on Promoting Access to Voting](#). Please include short but comprehensive answers to the following 3 questions alongside your weekly reports:

b(5)DPP

b(5)DPP

Thank you,
Akhil

From: [Fletcher, Karen - OGC, Washington, DC](#)
To: [Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
Subject: RE: Cabinet Affairs Report Reminder + Voting Rights EO
Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 9:40:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hi Akhil –

OGC does not have a submission for the Voting Rights E.O.

Regards,
Karen Fletcher



Karen Carrington Fletcher
Senior Counsel
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the General Counsel
Immediate Office
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Whitten Building, Room 103-W
Washington, DC 20250
(202) 720-0944 (Voice)
(b) (6) (Mobile)
y karen.fletcher@usda.gov

From: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 9:38 PM
To: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Cabinet Affairs Report Reminder + Voting Rights EO

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All the best,
Akhil

From: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Monday, April 5, 2021 1:10 PM

To: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>

Subject: Cabinet Affairs Report Reminder + Voting Rights EO

Good afternoon,

I hope you all enjoyed restful weekends. In addition to my weekly reminder for tomorrow's Cabinet Affairs Report deadline, I wanted to ask for some information on your mission area's/agency's planning for USDA's implementation of the President's [Executive Order on Promoting Access to Voting](#). Please include short but comprehensive answers to the following 3 questions alongside your weekly reports:

b(5) DPP

Thank you,
Akhil

From: [Manzano, Heather - FPAC-RMA, Washington, DC](#)
To: [Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
Subject: RE: Cabinet Affairs Report Reminder + Voting Rights EO
Date: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 11:03:33 PM

Hi Akhil,

Sorry for the delay. I'm going to upload the information below to the Teams site now.

1. (b) (5)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Heather

From: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 9:38 PM
To: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Cabinet Affairs Report Reminder + Voting Rights EO

Hi All,

Thanks to everyone for submitting your Cabinet Affairs memos. If you have not already submitted your Voting Rights EO responses, please do so as soon as possible, so we can review and submit to the White House by tomorrow afternoon.

All the best,
Akhil

From: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Monday, April 5, 2021 1:10 PM
To: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>

Subject: Cabinet Affairs Report Reminder + Voting Rights EO

Good afternoon,

I hope you all enjoyed restful weekends. In addition to my weekly reminder for tomorrow's Cabinet Affairs Report deadline, I wanted to ask for some information on your mission area's/agency's planning for USDA's implementation of the President's [Executive Order on Promoting Access to Voting](#). Please include short but comprehensive answers to the following 3 questions alongside your weekly reports:



Thank you,
Akhil

From: [Nickerson, Cynthia - OCE, Washington, DC](#)
To: [Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
Subject: Re: Cabinet Affairs Report Reminder + Voting Rights EO
Date: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 10:09:00 PM

Hi Akhil,

OCE doesn't have direct contact with the public so for us I'd say the answers to 1-3 is "N/A."
Let me know if I am missing something.

Thanks,
Cindy

From: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 9:38:10 PM
To: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Cabinet Affairs Report Reminder + Voting Rights EO

Hi All,

Thanks to everyone for submitting your Cabinet Affairs memos. If you have not already submitted your Voting Rights EO responses, please do so as soon as possible, so we can review and submit to the White House by tomorrow afternoon.

All the best,
Akhil

From: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Monday, April 5, 2021 1:10 PM
To: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>
Subject: Cabinet Affairs Report Reminder + Voting Rights EO

Good afternoon,

I hope you all enjoyed restful weekends. In addition to my weekly reminder for tomorrow's Cabinet Affairs Report deadline, I wanted to ask for some information on your mission area's/agency's planning for USDA's implementation of the President's [Executive Order on Promoting Access to Voting](#). Please include short but comprehensive answers to the following 3 questions alongside your weekly reports:

b(5) DPP

Thank you,
Akhil

From: [Pichelman, Heather - AMS](#)
To: [Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
Subject: RE: Cabinet Affairs Report Reminder + Voting Rights EO
Date: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 9:41:25 PM

Hey Akhil- I submitted the MRP voting rights EO response separately from the Cabinet Affairs Report (but both submitted to the MRP Teams folder). Hope that was ok!

From: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 9:38 PM
To: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Cabinet Affairs Report Reminder + Voting Rights EO

Hi All,

Thanks to everyone for submitting your Cabinet Affairs memos. If you have not already submitted your Voting Rights EO responses, please do so as soon as possible, so we can review and submit to the White House by tomorrow afternoon.

All the best,
Akhil

From: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Monday, April 5, 2021 1:10 PM
To: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>
Subject: Cabinet Affairs Report Reminder + Voting Rights EO

Good afternoon,

I hope you all enjoyed restful weekends. In addition to my weekly reminder for tomorrow's Cabinet Affairs Report deadline, I wanted to ask for some information on your mission area's/agency's planning for USDA's implementation of the President's [Executive Order on Promoting Access to Voting](#). Please include short but comprehensive answers to the following 3 questions alongside your weekly reports:

b(5) DPP

Thank you,
Akhil

From: [Ahmad, Farah - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
To: [Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [Mason, Patrick - RD, Washington, DC](#)
Cc: [Maxson, Justin - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
Subject: RE: Weekly Reports from USDA Rural Development
Date: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 4:39:30 PM
Attachments: [Voter Access RD.docx](#) (b)(5)-Deliberative (2 pages)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)

Akhil – See attached Voter Access DRAFT ideas.

Note: All of these would have to get through to OGC **b(5)DPP, b(5)ACP**. We have flagged some of these for Gene and Harvey in OGC, but they have not had a chance to review before today's deadline.

Thanks,
Farah

From: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 1:05 PM
To: Ahmad, Farah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Farah.Ahmad@usda.gov>; Mason, Patrick - RD, Washington, DC <patrick.mason@usda.gov>
Cc: Maxson, Justin - OSEC, Washington, DC <Justin.Maxson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Weekly Reports from USDA Rural Development

Got it, thanks! If OGC clearance is a worry, we can take care of that on our end.

From: Ahmad, Farah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Farah.Ahmad@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 12:59:13 PM
To: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>; Mason, Patrick - RD, Washington, DC <patrick.mason@usda.gov>
Cc: Maxson, Justin - OSEC, Washington, DC <Justin.Maxson@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Weekly Reports from USDA Rural Development

Akhil – The Voting EO info is still in flux (per our chat yesterday), but hoping to get something to you later today.

Farah

From: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 12:42 PM

To: Mason, Patrick - RD, Washington, DC <patrick.mason@usda.gov>
Cc: Ahmad, Farah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Farah.Ahmad@usda.gov>; Maxson, Justin - OSEC, Washington, DC <Justin.Maxson@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Weekly Reports from USDA Rural Development

Thanks so much, Patrick and team!

Best,
Akhil

From: Mason, Patrick - RD, Washington, DC <patrick.mason@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 12:39 PM
To: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>
Cc: Ahmad, Farah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Farah.Ahmad@usda.gov>; Maxson, Justin - OSEC, Washington, DC <Justin.Maxson@usda.gov>
Subject: Weekly Reports from USDA Rural Development

Good afternoon Akhil,

The Weekly Reports for Rural Development are attached for review. Please let me know if you need anything further.

Thank you,

Patrick Mason
Management and Program Analyst
Office of the Undersecretary for Rural Development
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20250
Phone: 202.690.5296 | Cell: (b) (6)
www.rd.usda.gov

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From: [Khan, Atiya - FSIS](#)
To: [Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
Cc: [Eskin, Sandra - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
Subject: RE: Cabinet Affairs Report Reminder + Voting Rights EO
Date: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 12:30:50 PM

Hi Akhil,

Our responses for the voting rights EO are below.



Atiya Khan
Acting Chief of Staff
Office of Food Safety
U.S. Department of Agriculture
(b) (6) (cell)
atiya.khan@usda.gov

From: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 12:22 PM
To: Khan, Atiya - FSIS <atiya.khan@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Cabinet Affairs Report Reminder + Voting Rights EO

In a separate email, please!

Thanks,
Akhil

From: Khan, Atiya - FSIS <atiya.khan@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 12:20 PM
To: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Cabinet Affairs Report Reminder + Voting Rights EO

Hi Akhil,

Do you want voter EO answers in the report or in a separate email?

Atiya Khan
Acting Chief of Staff
USDA Office of Food Safety
(b) (6) (c)

From: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 5, 2021 1:10:19 PM
To: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>
Subject: Cabinet Affairs Report Reminder + Voting Rights EO

Good afternoon,

I hope you all enjoyed restful weekends. In addition to my weekly reminder for tomorrow's Cabinet Affairs Report deadline, I wanted to ask for some information on your mission area's/agency's planning for USDA's implementation of the President's [Executive Order on Promoting Access to Voting](#). Please include short but comprehensive answers to the following 3 questions alongside your weekly reports:

b(5) DPP

Thank you,
Akhil

From: [Thompson, HeatherDawn - OSEC - Washington, DC](#)
To: [Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
Subject: RE: Cabinet Affairs Report Reminder + Voting Rights EO
Date: Monday, April 5, 2021 1:58:07 PM

N/A to each of the questions and no Cabinet updates this week
Thank you!

From: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 5, 2021 1:10 PM
To: Rajan, Akhil - OSEC, Washington, DC <Akhil.Rajan@usda.gov>
Subject: Cabinet Affairs Report Reminder + Voting Rights EO

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b(5) DPP

Thank you,
Akhil