

Mike Lindell

The Honorable Daniel N. Rosen
United States Attorney
District of Minnesota
300 South 4th Street, Suite 600
Minneapolis, MN 55415

July 15, 2026

RE: Formal Request for Federal Investigation — Potential Violations of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§ 7321–7326), 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3), and Related Federal Election Laws Arising from (1) the "We Choose Us" Defending Democracy Summit (June 21, 2025) and (2) the Minnesota Secretary of State Zoom Town Hall (April 30, 2026)

Dear U.S. Attorney Rosen:

I write to you as a Minnesota citizen, businessman, and longstanding advocate for election integrity to formally request that the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Minnesota investigate potential violations of federal law arising from two separate events involving Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon and Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison, both of whom are sitting constitutional officers and active candidates in the November 2026 Minnesota general election.

The first event is the "Defending Democracy Summit," hosted by We Choose Us and its affiliated political action organization, We Choose Us Action, held on or about June 21, 2025. The second event is a Minnesota Secretary of State Zoom Town Hall, recorded April 30, 2026, in which Secretary Simon appeared alongside guest speaker David Becker, Executive Director of the Center for Election Innovation and Research (CEIR). Audio recordings of both events were transcribed and reviewed. This letter incorporates concerns arising from both.

The April 30, 2026 Zoom event is particularly significant because it occurred less than four months before the August 11, 2026 primary election, within the active 2026 election cycle, and contains explicit voter recruitment language directed at a politically selected audience using official state government resources and the Secretary of State's official office capacity.

I. Background: We Choose Us Defending Democracy Summit (June 21, 2025)

We Choose Us Action is the political action wing of We Choose Us and is sponsored by Faith in Minnesota, the 501(c)(4) political action arm of ISAIAH. The coalition is affiliated with Planned Parenthood, AFL-CIO, TakeAction Minnesota, and Pro-Choice Minnesota. The June 21, 2025 event featured Attorney General Keith Ellison, Secretary of State Steve Simon (virtually), and State Representative Emma Greenman — all appearing in their official governmental capacities. No Republican or opposition-aligned officials were invited or present, and no disclaimer of partisan neutrality was issued.

The event was explicitly organized around opposing the policies and actions of President Trump's administration. Attendees were directed to form "county teams" and develop "plans of action." Attorney General Ellison, speaking under his official title, described the state's active litigation against the federal administration in detail and instructed attendees to use those court victories as messaging tools: "The courts are holding up — it is a good thing for you all to point that out to people." Secretary Simon directed attendees to "keep up the pressure, even if it's on our own U.S. senators."

II. Background: Minnesota SOS Zoom Town Hall (April 30, 2026)

On April 30, 2026, Secretary Simon hosted or co-hosted a Zoom town hall event alongside David Becker of CEIR. The event was recorded (file: 4-30-26-MN-SOS-ZOOM-6.mp3 and related files) and a full transcript has been prepared. The event's moderator closed by directing the assembled politically selected audience to the Secretary of State's official government website — mnvotes.gov — and stated: "Visit our website, mnvotes.gov, sign up for more, and hear more from our office as we head toward Election Day in 2026." Secretary Simon himself acknowledged sensitivity to the appearance of the event, stating: "I'm not trying to gin up turnout with these things necessarily."

Guest speaker David Becker made statements that go well beyond neutral election education. He explicitly urged the audience to recruit additional voters: "Go recruit other people who you're not sure are going to vote... Let's blow away this despair with joy... find people who might otherwise be on the fence about voting and bring them into the process." He further framed the 2026 election as a partisan referendum: "The more they seem to be scared about what verdict the voters might render on them this November..." These statements were made to a politically selected audience assembled under the auspices of the Secretary of State's official participation.

Additionally, Secretary Simon used the event to publicly discuss — and organize resistance to — a pending DOJ request for Minnesota voter registration data, framing the federal government's lawful data inquiry as an illegitimate power grab and briefing a partisan audience on strategies to obstruct it. This is particularly significant in light of the Minnesota Voter Integrity Act (introduced February 2026 by Congressman Stauber and

Majority Whip Emmer), which would condition HAVA funding on SOS compliance with that DOJ request.

III. Potential Federal Violations

1. Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§ 7321–7326)

The Hatch Act prohibits state and local government employees whose positions are connected to federally funded programs from using their "official authority or influence to interfere with or affect the result of an election" and from using their official title while participating in political activity. 5 C.F.R. § 734.302(b)(1). Both the Minnesota Attorney General's Office and the Secretary of State's Office receive substantial federal funding under HAVA and related programs, establishing Hatch Act jurisdiction.

Attorney General Ellison appeared at the June 21, 2025 We Choose Us event under his official title, deployed active governmental litigation as a partisan organizing tool, and directed political activists on messaging strategy derived from official state lawsuits. He is now an active candidate for reelection as Attorney General in the 2026 cycle.

Secretary Simon participated in two events — June 21, 2025 and April 30, 2026 — using his official title and his office's official government website (mnvotes.gov) to engage, inform, and mobilize a politically selected audience in advance of the 2026 election. His April 30 Zoom appearance is especially problematic given its proximity to the August 11, 2026 primary and the explicit GOTV mobilization language that followed his official remarks.

I request that your office coordinate with the U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC) (hatchact@osc.gov) to determine whether either officer, or their staff, prepared materials, traveled, or otherwise acted in their official governmental capacity in connection with either event during official duty time, and whether the applicable federal funding nexus establishes Hatch Act jurisdiction over each.

2. 501(c)(3) Prohibition on Partisan Campaign Intervention (26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3); 26 U.S.C. § 4955)

All 501(c)(3) organizations are absolutely prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. The IRS extends this prohibition to hosting elected-official or candidate appearances where the organization fails to provide equal opportunity to opposing-side officials, issues no partisan neutrality disclaimer, and permits partisan organizing to occur.

The We Choose Us event on June 21, 2025, if hosted under We Choose Us's 501(c)(3) organizational umbrella, fails each of these criteria. Only Democratic-aligned officials appeared. No disclaimer was issued. Partisan county-level organizing was explicitly

encouraged. Attorney General Ellison and Secretary Simon were both prospective 2026 candidates at that time.

The April 30, 2026 Zoom event further implicates the hosting organization under 501(c)(3) rules. If CEIR's participation constitutes organizational involvement — rather than purely Becker's personal appearance — CEIR's 501(c)(3) status may also be at issue, given Becker's explicit GOTV mobilization call directed at a one-sided partisan audience in a 2026 election-cycle event.

I request that your office refer this matter to the IRS Criminal Investigation Division and the DOJ Public Integrity Section / Election Crimes Branch for review of potential § 501(c)(3) campaign intervention and associated § 4955 excise tax liability for both the We Choose Us entities and CEIR.

3. Misuse of Federally Funded State Resources (HAVA, 52 U.S.C. § 21001 et seq.)

The Help America Vote Act conditions federal election administration funding on states' impartial administration of election systems. Secretary Simon's April 30, 2026 Zoom event directed a politically selected audience to mnvotes.gov — an official state government election resource funded in part by HAVA — as part of a partisan voter engagement and mobilization effort. The moderator's closing statement — "hear more from our office as we head toward Election Day in 2026" — explicitly linked official SOS office resources to partisan audience engagement.

Use of HAVA-funded office resources, infrastructure, or personnel to support partisan voter mobilization directed at one political audience may constitute a misapplication of federal grant funds and a violation of the impartiality conditions attached to HAVA funding. I request that your office refer this matter to the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) Inspector General for review.

4. Obstruction of Lawful DOJ Voter Registration Data Request (52 U.S.C. § 20507; NVRA)

The National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) requires states to make voter registration records available for public inspection. The DOJ's request for Minnesota voter registration data — including driver's license numbers and Social Security information used as primary voter registration identifiers — was made pursuant to the federal government's lawful oversight authority over state election systems receiving federal assistance.

Secretary Simon used a partisan public forum on April 30, 2026 to brief a politically aligned audience on his office's strategy for resisting that DOJ data request, characterizing it as an illegitimate power grab and encouraging audience members to support his resistance posture. This public coordination of political opposition to a lawful

federal investigation, conducted through the official platform of the Secretary of State's office, may constitute obstruction or impeding of a federal agency proceeding. I request that your office evaluate whether the conduct described implicates 18 U.S.C. § 1505 (obstruction of proceedings before federal agencies) or related statutes.

5. Federal Election Campaign Act — Coordination and In-Kind Contribution Concerns (52 U.S.C. § 30116)

FECA prohibits coordination between ostensibly independent organizations and federal candidates or political committees where such coordination constitutes an unreported or excess in-kind contribution. The We Choose Us event provided a free official platform, organized partisan audience, and political amplification to AG Ellison and SOS Simon at a time when both were prospective 2026 candidates. The April 30 Zoom event similarly provided Secretary Simon's official endorsement and audience access to CEIR's David Becker for voter mobilization activities closely aligned with Democratic electoral strategy.

Given the personal relationship between Secretary Simon's office and We Choose Us campaign director Lilly Sasse — whom Simon honored in 2023 — and given AG Ellison's subsequent reelection campaign launch and Education Minnesota endorsement (May 2026), I request that your office assess whether the infrastructure and audience developed through these events was coordinated with either officer's campaign committee in violation of FECA.

IV. Supporting Evidence

The following materials are available and provided or can be provided upon request:

- (a) Audio recordings of the We Choose Us event (We-Chose-U-S-1_01.mp3, _02.mp3, _05.mp3) and written transcript;
- (b) Audio recordings of the April 30, 2026 SOS Zoom Town Hall (4-30-26-MN-SOS-ZOOM-6.mp3 and related files) and written transcripts;
- (c) Public records confirming We Choose Us Action's organizational affiliation with Faith in Minnesota and ISALAH;
- (d) Public records of Attorney General Ellison's 2026 reelection campaign filing, field launch, and Education Minnesota endorsement (May 2026);
- (e) Public records of Secretary Simon's prior official recognition of We Choose Us campaign director Lilly Sasse;

- (f) The MPHA Partner Event listing confirming the June 21, 2025 event date and speakers;
- (g) YouTube recording of the April 30, 2026 SOS Zoom Town Hall (Minnesota Elections Townhall — Secretary Simon April 30, 2026);
- (h) Congressional records for the Minnesota Voter Integrity Act (introduced February 1, 2026 by Rep. Stauber, Majority Whip Emmer, Rep. Fischbach, and Rep. Finstad);
- (i) InfluenceWatch organizational profiles for We Choose Us Action and David Becker.

V. Requested Actions

I respectfully request that the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Minnesota:

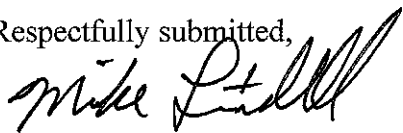
1. Open a preliminary inquiry into the matters described above;
2. Refer the Hatch Act concerns to the U.S. Office of Special Counsel for formal investigation as to both AG Ellison (June 21, 2025 event) and SOS Simon (June 21, 2025 and April 30, 2026 events);
3. Refer the 501(c)(3) and FECA campaign intervention concerns to the IRS Criminal Investigation Division and the DOJ Public Integrity Section / Election Crimes Branch, covering both We Choose Us entities and the Center for Election Innovation & Research (CEIR);
4. Refer the HAVA misuse concern to the Election Assistance Commission Inspector General;
5. Evaluate whether Secretary Simon's public coordination of resistance to the DOJ voter data request implicates 18 U.S.C. § 1505 or related obstruction statutes;
6. Preserve all relevant records held by the Minnesota Attorney General's Office, Secretary of State's Office, We Choose Us / Faith in Minnesota / ISAIAH, and CEIR related to the planning, execution, and follow-up of both events; and
7. Provide written acknowledgment of receipt of this referral letter.

I recognize that each of these concerns requires independent evidentiary development, and I do not ask your office to presuppose any outcome. I ask only that the evidence be examined and that the law be applied equally, regardless of the political positions or titles

of those involved. Minnesota citizens deserve public officials who serve the law, not officials who deploy the machinery and credibility of government office to organize partisan campaigns on the public's time and dime.

I am available to discuss this matter and to provide any additional materials your office may require. I can be reached through counsel at the contact information listed above.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Lindell", written in a cursive style.

Mike Lindell

