

STATE OF COLORADO
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Thursday, October 31, 2024

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Dave Williams, Chairman,
Colorado Republican Committee/Colorado GOP
Republican Party of Colorado
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RE: Response to Donald J. Trump for President 2024, Inc. and the Colorado
Republican Committee/Colorado GOP, concerning partial passwords

Messrs. Gessler and Williams:

The Colorado Department of State (the "Department") is in receipt of a letter from the Colorado Republican Party dated October 29, 2024, as well as a letter from Donald J. Trump for President 2024, Inc., dated October 30, 2024. This correspondence here provides a response to both letters and an update on the measures taken by the Department.

At the end of last week, the Department became aware of the publication of certain voting system component passwords in a spreadsheet posted on the Department's website. Upon becoming aware of this issue, the Department began an investigation and consulted with federal cybersecurity partners to determine whether the publication posed a risk to the security of the 2024 election. It was quickly determined that the spreadsheet presented **no immediate threat to the security of Colorado's voting systems or the 2024 General Election.**

The Department determined that because Colorado's voting systems are protected by layers of security and redundancies, no single error can compromise the integrity of the system. These measures are enshrined in statute and the Department's election rules, including multiple layers of password protection, tightly controlled physical access to voting equipment, 24-hour daily video surveillance, among other measures. To reiterate, the security of our voting systems is not endangered.

The Department is nonetheless aware of the unprecedented attention and scrutiny on every aspect of our elections' ecosystem. The Department has taken and is continuing to take immediate actions to reassure Colorado voters.

In conjunction with the Governor's Office, the Department is mobilizing background-checked state cybersecurity experts along with Department staff to travel to every affected county in Colorado to update voting systems passwords out of an abundance of caution.¹ They are performing additional security checks to confirm that no machines have been altered. The County Clerk and Recorders are all aware of this effort and are cooperating with the Department to ensure the rapid completion of this work with minimal interruption to regular elections processes. This work will be completed as soon as possible.

We appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER P. BEALL
Deputy Secretary of State

cc: David J. Pigott, Esq.
Natalie Chase, Esq.
Amanda Darnell-Stone, Esq.
Counsel for Colorado GOP

¹ Based on the Department's initial investigation, the password updates currently being performed pertain to the thirty-one counties where the exposed passwords involved equipment still being used.