

DOJ in pursuit of states’ election data

Minnesota secretary of state says he won’t fulfill request for voter information list.

By ALI SWENSON and GARY FIELDS
The Associated Press

NEW YORK - The requests have come in letters, emails and phone calls. The specifics vary, but the target is consistent: The U.S. Department of Justice is ramping up an effort to get

voter data and other election information from the states.

Over the past three months, the department’s voting section has requested copies of voter registration lists from state election administrators in at least 15 states, including Minnesota and Wisconsin, according to an Associated Press tally.

Of those, nine are Democrats, five are Republicans and one is a bipartisan commission.

In Colorado, the department demanded “all records” relating to the 2024 election and any records the state retained from the 2020 election.

Department lawyers have contacted officials in at least seven states to propose a meeting about forging an information-sharing agreement related to instances of voting or election

fraud. The idea, they say in the emails, is for states to help the department enforce the law.

The unusually expansive outreach has raised alarm among some election officials because states have the constitutional authority to run elections and federal law protects the sharing of individual data with the government.

It also signals the transformation of the Justice Department’s involvement in elections under

President Donald Trump. The department historically has focused on protecting access to the ballot box. Today, it is taking steps to crack down on voter fraud and noncitizen voting, both of which are rare but have been the subject of years of false claims from Trump and his allies.

The department’s actions come alongside a broader effort by the administration to investigate past elections and influ-

ence the 2026 midterms. The Republican president has called for a special prosecutor to investigate the 2020 election that he lost to Democrat Joe Biden and continues to falsely claim he won. Trump also has pushed Texas Republicans to redraw their congressional maps to create more House seats favorable to the GOP.

The Justice Department does not typically “engage in fishing **SEE ELECTIONS ON A4 »**

NATIVE LEADERS PLEAD FOR HELP FROM POLICE



‘WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?’

Vincent Dionne, above, of Many Shields Society checks with a couple on a Minneapolis street corner as he led a cleanup crew, top, along Cedar Avenue on the city’s South Side. Dionne is among the outreach workers focused on keeping the homeless safe.

Minneapolis cops called on to crack down on growing issues linked to homelessness, drugs, sex trafficking.

Story by SUSAN DU • Photos by ELIZABETH FLORES • The Minnesota Star Tribune

American Indian leaders on Minneapolis’ South Side say they’ve been overwhelmed this summer with large outdoor gatherings of transient people, drug users and dealers, and are demanding police escalate arrests.

Executive directors of several community organizations have resolved to draw 50-yard “exclusionary zones” around their properties, prohibiting homeless encampments and volunteers from helping the homeless with food, Narcan

and other survival gear. If an encampment forms within the zone of one organization, others are now obligated to help clear it.

The Metropolitan Urban Indian Directors (MUID), a coalition of organizations trying to craft cohesive positions on issues in the Native community, adopted the resolution.

Many of its members also serve the South Side’s most vulnerable residents, taking in homeless people on winter nights and providing supplies

while doing street outreach.

MUID Chair Robert Lillgren, who is also a Metropolitan Council member and CEO of the Native American Community Development Institute, acknowledged that not everyone in the coalition agrees with the resolution.

He said conversations have been filled with “passion and anger,” and ultimately organizations will have to interpret it for themselves.

“At the risk of sounding a **SEE ENCAMPMENT ON A7 »**

EPA has long been a U.S. protector. Under Trump, that is changing.

By DAVID GELLES and MAXINE JOSELOW • The New York Times

Ever since 1965, when President Lyndon Johnson’s science advisory committee warned of the dangers of unchecked global warming, the United States has taken steps to protect people from these risks.

Now, however, the Trump administration appears to be essentially abandoning this principle, saying that the costs of addressing climate change

outweigh the benefits. The effect is to shift more of the risk and responsibility onto states and, ultimately, individual Americans, even as rising temperatures fuel more extreme and costly weather disasters nationwide, experts say.

“It’s a radical transformation of government’s role, in terms of its intervention into the economy to try to promote the health and safety of citizens,” said Donald Kettl, a professor emeritus at the University of Maryland’s

School of Public Policy.

Lee Zeldin, the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, last week proposed to repeal the landmark scientific finding that enables the federal government to regulate the greenhouse gases that are warming the planet. In effect, the EPA will eliminate its own authority to combat climate change.

Speaking at a truck dealership in Indianapolis, Zeldin said **SEE CLIMATE ON A10 »**



ANDREW HARNIK • GETTY IMAGES • TNS
EPA leader Lee Zeldin has proposed the repeal of a scientific finding that allows the federal government to regulate greenhouse gases.

Omar has hold on Fifth District

No opponent looks likely to successfully challenge candidacy.

By SYDNEY KASHIWAGI
The Minnesota Star Tribune

Four years after narrowly surviving a primary challenge, DFL Rep. Ilhan Omar looks increasingly unlikely to face major opposition in her bid for a fifth term representing her deep-blue district.

Both Omar’s supporters and detractors say it will be difficult to beat her next year in the Fifth District, even if national campaign groups spend money to influence the race. Her national fundraising, name recognition and strength as a candidate when she’s opposing President Donald Trump will make her more difficult to topple.

She’s also getting an early boost from Gov. Tim Walz, Attorney General Keith Ellison and Sens. Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith, who are backing her together for the first time, another sign of the congresswoman’s institutional support in the state.

“I don’t know if it’s in anyone’s benefit to run against her this year,” said Democratic operative Julius Hernandez, who worked as a field organizer for Omar’s **SEE OMAR ON A7 »**

Is a \$62K fee for one house fair?

Rosemount sets runoff charge to build on land held for generations.

By EVA HERSCOWITZ
The Minnesota Star Tribune

The leafy Rosemount property that’s served Samuel Adams’ family for four generations has matured into a gem. It’s one of a dwindling number of unspoiled areas in a south metro suburb developing at breakneck speed.

So when several acres became available to Adams after his grandparents died, the father of two knew the spot off McAndrews Road near Valleywood Golf Course was the perfect location for a “forever home” for his wife and two young sons.

“There’s something special about things being a little bit rural,” he said.

But Adams soon ran into a **SEE FEE ON A7 »**

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