

William Gardner

Secretary of State

January 4, 2018

Statement Regarding Dissolution of Presidential Advisory Commission
on Election Integrity

When I was asked to join the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity I believed it would provide an opportunity to explore the reasons why many people across the country have lost confidence in the election process. I was hopeful the Commission would become engaged in a fact finding process with the goal of trying to understand why so many people feel this way, as has been reported by multiple nationally recognized pollsters well before the most recent presidential election.

We now know that over half of New Hampshire residents, based on a recent Granite State poll released less than two months ago, believe that voter fraud is significant and has the potential to affect the outcome of elections in the country. We also know from that very same poll that one-third of Granite Staters believe voter fraud is a serious problem in New Hampshire.

For most of my adult life I have strived to maintain an effective balance between making voting as accessible as possible while also ensuring the highest level of integrity. Achieving such a balance ensures voters not only can participate in elections but truly have the will to do it. I am disappointed the Commission will no longer be able to explore why voters participate and why, sadly, many choose not to.

I will continue to work with New Hampshire residents and their elected representatives to maintain the most accessible and trustworthy elections we can. I'm proud that New Hampshire ranks amongst the top states in the country for voter turnout and intend to help keep it that way.