

# Keeping Statewide Elected Officials Safe: Protecting Personal Identifiable Information

The security of statewide elected leaders is essential to maintaining peace, order, and trust in American democracy. This document addresses suggestions for safeguarding such officials' personal identifying information, or PII, which refers to information that enables the identity of the individual to whom it applies to be inferred, directly or indirectly (e.g., addresses, ID numbers, phone numbers, etc.). These tips may also be helpful to these officials' staff. Other documents in the series include: Reviewing Security Resources and Deploying the Security Team, Protecting Loved Ones and Hardening Home Security, Preparing for Events, Securing Online Activity, and Office and Staff Security Considerations.

---

## **Consult state law and use available procedures to protect the official's and staff's PII in public records, as well as private accounts and registrations.**

A person's DMV, property, voter registration, and other government records all contain PII. Some states have procedures for protecting from public disclosure some or all categories of PII for judges and other public officials. Consulting with an attorney about available procedures in the state may be helpful. For private accounts and registrations, using a work address or a different name will help maintain privacy and security. Completely removing PII from public view may not be possible, but reducing the exposure is still valuable.

## **Engage a service to remove online PII.**

Various services monitor and delete PII, such as email addresses and phone numbers, that has been shared by data brokers and is available online.

## **Secure sensitive physical documents.**

Keep important personal documents, including those containing PII, locked in a safe. Shred unwanted but sensitive documents.

## **Ensure the security of court documents.**

Court documents often contain PII and may be retrieved electronically. Consult an attorney to have PII redacted or placed under seal.

Updated March 2023

---

*The States United Democracy Center is a nonpartisan organization advancing free, fair, and secure elections. We focus on connecting state officials, law enforcement leaders, and pro-democracy partners across America with the tools and expertise they need to safeguard our democracy. For more information, visit [www.statesuniteddemocracy.org](http://www.statesuniteddemocracy.org) or follow us at @statesunited.*