

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 11, 2025

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor
State of New York
New York State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul:

We are concerned the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is engaging in widespread political interference in your administration in the State of New York. In August 2025, *The New York Times* reported on its months-long investigation into the insidious efforts by the CCP to influence elections across New York, particularly in New York City.¹ These covert influence campaigns have brought the long arm of CCP coercion to the Empire State while undermining American sovereignty and national security. *The New York Times* found that, in the past few years, social organizations backed by the CCP “have quietly foiled the careers of politicians who opposed China’s authoritarian government while backing others who supported policies of the country’s ruling Communist Party.”² Additionally, recent reporting in the *New York Post* alleges that Chinese-owned TikTok meddled in the New York City mayoral race by “amplifying” content for Zohran Mamdani and “suppressing” content for his opponent, Andrew Cuomo.³ We respectfully request your cooperation in curtailing the CCP regime’s efforts to undermine New York elections.

During its investigation, *The New York Times* found that a network of CCP-linked “hometown associations,” comprised of individuals from the same town or province in China, have been actively involved in influencing New York state and local elections.⁴ These organizations, working in cooperation with the Chinese consulate in Midtown Manhattan, have not only pushed Beijing’s communist propaganda, but have sabotaged the careers of American elected officials who challenge the CCP’s authoritarian agenda.⁵ The tactics they deploy range from financial support to harassment and intimidation.⁶

¹ See Michael Forsythe, Jay Root, & Bianca Pallaro, *Inside Our Investigation of China’s Influence Campaigns*, THE N.Y. TIMES (Aug. 25, 2025); Michael Forsythe, Jay Root, Bianca Pallaro, & David A. Fahrenthold, *How China Influences Election in America’s Biggest City*, THE N.Y. TIMES (Aug. 30, 2025).

² Michael Forsythe, Jay Root, Bianca Pallaro, & David A. Fahrenthold, *supra* note 1.

³ Ariel Zilber, *Chinese-owned TikTok allegedly meddling in NYC mayoral race by boosting Mamdani content over Cuomo: report*, N.Y. POST (Oct. 22, 2025); Yehonatan Dodeles, *Beyond the For You Page: Uncovering Algorithmic Bias in New York’s Mayoral Race*, MEDIUM (Oct. 21, 2025).

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.*

In one particularly egregious case, a CCP intelligence agent working for China's Ministry of State Security and affiliated groups targeted a former U.S. congressional candidate, who served as a U.S. Army chaplain and was a Tiananmen Square dissident.⁷ The intelligence agent hired a private investigator to find compromising information on the candidate and told the investigator, "Violence would be fine, too. Beat him until he cannot run for election."⁸ The same network of groups has targeted other pro-democracy candidates with smear campaigns and weaponized social media attacks.⁹ In another documented instance, the "hometown associations" successfully defeated a New York State Senator running for re-election who refused to bow to CCP pressure after attending a pro-Taiwan reception.¹⁰ These cases highlight the real-world consequences of these influence operations targeting American citizens. The message is clear: If you cross Beijing's red lines, your political career in New York ends. This is not just foreign interference; it is reshaping the political landscape of New York under your failed watch.

Many of these CCP-aligned groups operate under the guise of tax-exempt nonprofit charities.¹¹ Yet, they have blatantly violated U.S. law by engaging in campaign fundraising and endorsing political candidates, despite indicating "no" to questions from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) regarding political activity.¹² Among the 53 such groups investigated by *The New York Times*, at least 19 had illegally broken the ban on election activity by registered charities.¹³

The CCP's influence is not constrained to political candidates. Last year, your own former deputy chief of staff, Linda Sun, was indicted by the Department of Justice (DOJ) for acting as an unregistered agent of the People's Republic of China during her employment with you, along with other charges including conspiracy to defraud the United States and wire fraud.¹⁴ A statement issued by the IRS-Counter Intelligence New York Special Agent in Charge asserts, "Not only did Sun allegedly use Chinese money and her influence in New York State to benefit the Chinese government, it is further alleged that she used her position to steer multi-million-dollar contracts to companies controlled by family members and friends."¹⁵ This occurred during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, during which your staffer allegedly funneled millions of dollars to Chinese-based vendors to provide personal protective equipment to New York State.¹⁶ In addition, your former staffer is accused of engaging in a multi-year scheme in which she "blocked Taiwanese officials from having access to the governor's office, eliminated references

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² *Id.* ("Under federal tax law, these nonprofits—which do not pay most taxes—can take positions on policy issues but cannot endorse candidates for office. And yet, in case after case, the hometown groups made endorsements or hosted fund-raisers despite answering 'no' to questions from the Internal Revenue Service about political involvement.").

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ Press Release, *Former High-Ranking New York State Government Employee and Her Husband Charged with Accepting Kickbacks in PPE Fraud Scheme*, U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, E.D.N.Y. (June 26, 2025); *see also Superseding Indictment*, No. 24-CR-346 (S-2) (E.D.N.Y. June 25, 2025).

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ *Id.*

to Taiwan and Uyghurs from state communications and quashed meetings with Taiwanese officials, all in an effort to bolster Chinese government positions.”¹⁷

As a senior Member of House Leadership and as Chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, we are compelled to raise the alarm on how New York has become a national epicenter for CCP election interference, political intimidation, and systemic violations of the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA) and numerous other federal laws. Accordingly, we respectfully request that your office:

1. Terminate all state funding and special tax-exempt privileges to nonprofits with verified ties to the CCP or its proxies;
2. Fully cooperate with federal investigations into FARA, Foreign Missions Act, and Internal Revenue Code violations;
3. Conduct a top-down review of all political appointees and staff for conflicts of interest with the CCP and other foreign countries;
4. Provide us with documentation regarding the criteria your administration uses to award state grants or access to elected officials; and
5. Provide us with documentation regarding the enforcement actions taken by your administration to mitigate the threat of CCP malign influence and interference activities in New York.

New York’s elections belong to the people of New York, not the CCP. Pursuant to the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on the Judiciary has jurisdiction over criminal justice matters in the United States, as well as matters concerning “subversive activities affecting the internal security of the United States” to inform potential legislative reforms.¹⁸ Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Elise Stefanik
Chairwoman
House Republican Leadership



Jim Jordan
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary

¹⁷ Michael Forsythe, Jay Root, Bianca Pallaro, & David A. Fahrenthold, *supra* note 1; *see also Superseding Indictment*, No. 24-CR-346 (S-2) (E.D.N.Y. June 25, 2025).

¹⁸ Rules of the House of Representatives, R. X, 119th Cong. (2025).