



THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TO THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

June 30, 2016

His Excellency
Luis Almagro Lemes
Secretary General
Organization of American States (OAS)
17th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006-4499

Dear Mr. Secretary General:

On November 8, 2016, millions of American citizens will exercise their right to vote in the general elections in the United States. Americans will cast their ballots in the Presidential election and Congressional elections, in which a total of 469 seats in the U.S. Congress (34 Senate seats and all 435 House seats) are up for election. In addition, they will vote to fill 93 state executive offices across 22 states on the same day, as well as many seats as state legislators, city mayors, and other officials.

On behalf of the United States Government, I am pleased to extend an invitation to the OAS to observe our electoral process this Fall. As you may know, within the U.S. federal system, the responsibility for organizing elections rests with state and local governments. Therefore, the Department of State intends to assist OAS officials in contacting elections officials in the United States in connection with your organization of elections observation.

The United States greatly values the OAS's important work promoting free and fair elections throughout the region. We welcome OAS observation as an opportunity to demonstrate the United States' dedication and support for this important function of the institution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Fitzpatrick".

Michael J. Fitzpatrick
Interim Permanent Representative
of the United States

cc: Francisco Guerrero, OAS Secretary for Strengthening Democracy
Gerardo de Icaza, Director, OAS Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation