

STATEMENT ON THE PEACEFUL TRANSFER OF POWER

As retired senior civilian and military leaders, we know firsthand the importance of orderly elections and smooth transitions to protecting national security. A well-administered election that gives all qualified and interested voters the opportunity to express their preferences at the ballot box and that counts their votes in accordance with settled law to determine a final winner inspires confidence in the electoral process, helps ensure a smooth transfer of power, and minimizes the national security vulnerabilities inherent to these periods of change. We applaud the orderly administration and certification of the 2024 general election. The swift tabulation of votes and certification of President Donald J. Trump's victory is a credit to election officials and workers across the United States.

Public officials must put country over party to foster smooth transitions, as delays to the transition process create significant risks to national security. We credit former Vice President Kamala Harris for her prompt and graceful concession after it became clear that President Trump would prevail, which allowed the federal government to begin the formal transition process. We thank former President Joseph R. Biden and the civil servants throughout the government who ensured a smooth transition over the past three months. The peaceful transfer of power is a core tenet of American democracy, and the Biden administration's cooperation positioned the Trump administration to be ready to assume responsibility for the nation's national security on day one.



Count Every Hero is a nonpartisan initiative of retired admirals and generals and former service secretaries whose work focuses on promoting the importance of a strong democracy to national security; promoting civic literacy and civic participation; and protecting the voting rights of active-duty service members, veterans, and their families.