

## United States Senate

May 12, 2026

The Honorable Marco Rubio  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of State  
2100 C Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Rubio:

I write regarding Colombia's upcoming presidential election. Historically, as one of the United States' closest democratic and security partners in the hemisphere, Colombia's ability to conduct a free, fair, and transparent election is of vital importance to our shared interests in regional stability, rule of law, and democratic governance.

The International Republican Institute's (IRI) pre-election assessment highlights a deeply concerning electoral environment.<sup>1</sup> The report notes that Colombia has entered this electoral cycle amid heightened insecurity, weakened state security capacity, and increasing political polarization. It further underscores the expanding territorial influence of illegal armed groups, which continues to restrict candidates' freedom of movement and voters' ability to participate safely in certain regions.

Independent reporting further indicates that the election is unfolding amid serious violence and instability, including rising attacks and expanding territorial control by armed groups, assassinations of political figures, and the disruption of campaigning in some regions.<sup>2</sup> These developments reinforce concerns about whether all Colombians will be able to participate fully and freely in the democratic process.

Equally troubling is the documented rise in political violence and intimidation. Reports of targeted killings, threats against candidates and community leaders, and broader risks to human rights defenders suggest a climate that could suppress participation and undermine public confidence in the electoral process.

In light of these findings, I would appreciate greater detail on the specific actions the Department of State is taking to support electoral integrity in Colombia

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.iri.org/resources/statement-of-findings-and-recommendations-iri-pre-election-assessment-mission-to-colombias-2026-presidential-elections/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/apr/29/colombia-election-total-peace-promise-violence?>

The Honorable Marco Rubio

May 12, 2026

Page Two

1. What technical or logistical assistance is being provided to Colombian electoral authorities to strengthen transparency and security?
2. How is the United States supporting credible international and domestic election observation efforts to enhance public trust and accountability?
3. Given the deteriorating security conditions described in the IRI report, what additional diplomatic engagement, security cooperation, or contingency planning is the United States prepared to support should violence escalate in the final weeks of the campaign?
4. How is the Department coordinating with international partners, including multilateral organizations and allied governments, to ensure a unified and proactive approach to safeguarding Colombia's democratic process?

Given the stakes for both Colombia and the broader region, sustained and visible U.S. leadership will be essential. I appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rick Scott". The signature is stylized with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Rick Scott

United States Senator