

July 14, 2026

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley, Ranking Member Durbin, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for your diligent, serious consideration in the confirmation process.

Our 250th anniversary properly reminds us that liberty is the core value of American existence. The rule of law is the best friend of liberty. To safeguard this core cultural value, America needs an Attorney General exclusively devoted to the rule of law and who will honor his oath to the Constitution. Todd Blanche is the right person for that responsibility. His record and credentials undergird my wholehearted support for his nomination to serve as the 88th Attorney General of the United States.

Few individuals have viewed this opportunity from my perspective. My confidence in Todd Blanche is founded in both my experience as a United States Senator and my privilege of serving four years as Attorney General.

The responsibilities of the Attorney General demand character and competence that public hearings often fail to highlight. The role calls for prompt decision-making based on sound judgment. It mandates unwavering dedication and discipline to follow the law while challenging a department of career professionals always to implement the rule of law and respect the Constitution. Todd Blanche embodies the industry, intellect, and integrity the office requires. Additionally, he is even-keeled, composed, and decisive.

The responsibility of confirming public officials bore substantial weight on me during my service in the Senate. The advice and consent power is among the most consequential constitutional duties. I would not endorse this nomination without being prepared to stand behind it before former colleagues who deserve my continuing respect. As a Senator, the standards for my confirmation votes were candidate character, the rule of law, and the Constitution.

During my term as Attorney General—and in his law school years—Todd worked in the Justice Department. Upon graduation from law school, he clerked for two federal judges, both now serving on the respected Second Circuit Court of Appeals. Following his clerkships, Todd became an Assistant United States Attorney. At the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, he spent roughly two years as co-chief of the violent crimes unit, overseeing about two dozen prosecutors. He then served as co-chief of the office's White Plains division, where he oversaw a wide span of work—public corruption, securities and bank and wire fraud, federal program and Medicare fraud,

RICO, and violent crime. Today, as Deputy Attorney General and Acting Attorney General, Todd oversees the roughly 115,000 employees across Main Justice, the FBI, DEA, U.S. Marshals, ATF, and 93 U.S. Attorney's Offices. He has already run the Department's daily operations at full scale, demonstrating his readiness to hold the office in his own right.

As Deputy Attorney General, Todd Blanche's crime fighting credentials are impressive. Violent crime is down an estimated 9.3% from 2024 to 2025, with murder and non-negligent manslaughter down 18.1%, robbery down 18.5%, rape down 7.6%, aggravated assault down 7.2%, and property crime down 12.4%.

Following Executive Order 14157, eight cartels and transnational criminal organizations were designated as Foreign Terrorist Organizations and Specially Designated Global Terrorists. Under Todd Blanche's leadership, the Department has captured dozens of cartel leaders and seized substantial volumes of narcotics and precursor chemicals, including roughly 300,000 kilograms of methamphetamine precursors valued at approximately \$569 million being sent from China to Sinaloa laboratories.

Most significantly, Todd issued the "Operation Take Back America" directive, which reorganized the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces and Project Safe Neighborhoods to prioritize immigration enforcement and cartel prosecutions. Todd Blanche's record reflects an unwavering commitment to the rule of law and to public safety.

Todd Blanche's personal character is as important as his legal qualifications. The Attorney General must be willing to give the President candid constitutional advice and counsel. No attorney serves his client well by departing from the rule of law and the Constitution. Todd has shown the independence of mind and personal integrity to carry out this duty. A President is well served by an Attorney General who will tell him the truth, and the country is well served by one who will uphold the rule of law.

Todd Blanche is the strongest choice to lead this office and to discharge its duties with fidelity to the Constitution and the law. I urge his confirmation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "John Ashcroft", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Ashcroft