



TOM SCHEDLER
SECRETARY OF STATE

Secretary of State
State of Louisiana

P.O. Box 94125
BATON ROUGE, LA 70804-9125
www.sos.louisiana.gov

August 26, 2016

Honorable Alexander K. Zakharov
Consul General
Consulate General of Russia in Houston
1333 West Loop South, Suite 1300
Houston, TX 77027

Dear Consul General Zakharov:

Thank you very much for your September 24, 2016 inquiry and request for the Russian Federation in Houston to be present at one of our precincts (ballot stations) to study the United States Presidential Election on November 8, 2016.

I must respectfully deny your request but please allow me to provide you with a brief explanation. As you may or may not be aware, the general Baton Rouge area where my office is located recently sustained heavy damage from a 1000-year flood event. I have approximately one-third of my employees personally affected, we are short-staffed and working day and night to prepare for this election along with the changes of precinct locations and other related processes. Had this flood event not occurred, we certainly would have been open to such a visit, but I cannot meet such a request with the situation I currently have in front of me.

I hope you take this in the spirit for which it is intended but I would ask that you please contact me in 2020 if you still are desirous to visit a precinct in a Presidential Election. I wish you success with your request in other states and appreciate your interest in our voting process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Schedler", written over a horizontal line.

Tom Schedler
Louisiana Secretary of State

TS/dnn



**CONSULATE GENERAL OF RUSSIA
IN THE UNITED STATES,
Houston**

The Honorable Tom Schedler
Louisiana Secretary of State
P.O. Box 94125
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9125

N-1099
September 24th, 2016

Dear Secretary Schedler,

While presenting our compliments, hereby would like to kindly request you for an assistance in allowing the officer of the Consulate General of the Russian Federation in Houston to be present (for a short period of time, when convenient) at one of the ballot station of Louisiana with the goal of studying the US experience in organization of voting process during The United States Presidential Elections on November 8th, 2016.

Your reply would be highly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Alexander K. Zakharov
Consul General