



Fighting for transparent, secure, and accountable elections all voters can trust.

7 February 2023

Attorney General Chris Carr
40 Capitol Square, SW
Atlanta, GA 30334

Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger
214 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Attorney General Carr & Secretary Raffensperger,

As you know, during the 2020 election cycle Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg and his wife, Priscilla Chan, [gave hundreds of millions of dollars](#) in grants to nonprofits, including the Center for Tech and Civic Life (CTCL) and Center for Election Innovation and Research (CEIR). The organizations then strategically funneled that money, commonly referred to as “Zuckerbucks,” into thousands of election jurisdictions in 48 states and Washington, D.C. under the guise of “election administration” at a rate of 2:1 into Democrat-leaning areas. Unfortunately, these grants sought to manipulate the official voting apparatus for the purpose of partisan voter turnout and had an impact on not only the way the election was conducted, but also its outcome.

In fact, Georgia was one of the biggest recipients, ultimately receiving one of the largest allocations in the nation at [more than \\$45 million](#) despite the state accounting for just 3.2 percent of the nation’s population.

As such, in 2021 Governor Kemp signed comprehensive election integrity legislation, the “Election Integrity Act of 2021,” into law. Among other things, the statute prohibits the use of private non-public monies for the administration of elections, meaning local election officials can no longer accept private donations from ideological groups, corporations, big tech companies, and possible foreign interlopers, stipulating that:

“No superintendent shall take or accept any funding, grants, or gifts from any source other than from the governing authority of the county or municipality, the State of Georgia, or the federal government.” (GA SB 202, § 9, p. 18, ln. 430-432).

The “Election Integrity Act of 2021” makes further instructions on the use of private funding for Georgia elections:

“No board of registrars shall take or accept any funding, grants, or gifts from any source other than from the governing authority of the county, the State of Georgia, or the federal government.” (GA SB 202, § 14, p. 23, ln. 563-565)

However, CTCL and a coalition of organizations are now [attempting to circumvent Georgia law](#) and the Constitution through the newly formed front group, the U.S. Alliance for Election Excellence, which has been designed to systematically influence every aspect of election administration. Through the establishment of member offices deceptively termed “Centers for Election Excellence,” the Alliance is once again targeting local election offices, offering participants an extensive portfolio of grants, trainings, resources, and consulting services.

Last week, in a brazen act of lawlessness and defiance the Alliance [selected DeKalb County](#) Voter Registration & Elections to join the Centers for Election Excellence with an initial grant award of \$2 million.

Make no mistake, CTCL’s re-branded scheme to privatize Georgia’s elections and impact election policy are in direct violation of state law. The Alliance has emerged not only as a proxy organization attempting to circumvent Georgia Code, but also to test the resolve of the state’s elected leaders. In fact, the organization has been intentionally structured to thwart oversight and accountability, and ultimately to get around the “Election Integrity Act of 2021.” According to a [recent watchdog report](#) published by the Honest Elections Project and The John Locke Foundation:

Membership and grant agreements...reveal an unusual and complex structure that seems designed to thwart meaningful oversight and accountability. For instance, after the Alliance had recruited its first cohort of members it announced plans to begin charging offices to join. However, the Alliance also created ‘scholarships’ to cover those membership costs, which are instantly converted into ‘credits’ that member offices can use to buy services from CTCL and other Alliance partners. As a result, offices receive access to funds they can spend exclusively on services provided by left-wing companies and nonprofits, entirely outside normal public funding channels.

Furthermore, the Alliance’s DeKalb County grant is also a clear violation of the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution as well as Article One of the Georgia State Constitution, which guarantee equal protection under the law. It is unconstitutional for DeKalb County voters to receive \$2 million while the voters in all other counties are prohibited under the “Election Integrity Act of 2021” from receiving any direct private monies. In reality, CTCL and the Alliance once again chose DeKalb because it is the bluest county in Georgia, averaging an 85% to 15% margin of victory for Democrats.

The General Assembly and the governor acted to explicitly prohibit such election interference. We urge your attention to this important matter, that you expeditiously examine the Alliance’s illegal grant made to DeKalb County, and to continue the process of cleaning up the use of private money selectively funneled into local election offices. We trust you will aggressively enforce Georgia’s election laws—in consideration of their spirit and intent—to the fullest extent possible.

In September 2022, Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares issued an [advisory opinion clarifying](#) that Virginia's own law prohibiting the use of private money in elections covers the Alliance's activities in the Commonwealth.

The corrupting influence of Big Tech oligarchs to privatize our elections dilutes the voices and votes of Georgians while undermining trust and confidence in the democratic process. If not curtailed, disenfranchised voters will continue to question the legitimacy and accuracy of our elections and doubt whether they were conducted with fairness and honesty. Every election law should be adhered to as written, and everyone should play by the same set of rules. That is the certainty voters deserve.

Sincerely,



Ken Cuccinelli

Chairman, Election Transparency Initiative
Fmr. Virginia Attorney General, Virginia State
Senator & Acting Deputy Secretary of DHS
Original Member of the COVID-19 Task Force

cc/

Brian Kemp
Governor

Burt Jones
Lieutenant Governor

Rep. Jon Burns (159th)
Speaker of the House

Sen. John Kennedy (18th)
President Pro Tempore

Sen. Max Burns (23rd)
Chairman, Senate Committee on Ethics

Rep. Buddy DeLoach (167th)
Chairman, House Committee on Ethics

Sen. Marty Harbin (16th)
Chairman, Senate Committee on
Government Oversight

Rep. John LaHood (175th)
Chairman, House Committee on
Governmental Affairs

Rep. Robert Leverett (123rd)
Chairman, Elections Subcommittee
House Committee on Governmental Affairs

Rep. Barry Fleming (125th)

Mr. William S. Duffey
Chair, State Election Board