“Zuckerbucks” Were a Problem in the 2020 Election

The Center for Tech and Civic Life (CTCL) received $350 million from the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative and provided “COVID-19 response” election administration grants to thousands of local election offices.

CTCL grants (or “Zuckerbucks”) were disproportionately siphoned to left-leaning counties to boost Democrat turnout and influence the outcome of 2020 elections.

In 2020, Mark Zuckerberg and his wife, Priscilla Chan, spent more than $400 million to influence elections across the country.

How funding from private individuals and third parties threatened election integrity:

- The grants gave outsiders a say in how the election was administered by allowing them to dictate how election offices spent funds.
- Targeted funds allowed election offices of CTCL’s choosing to spend more on voter registration drives and get-out-the-vote efforts.
- By paying poll workers and furnishing election offices with new equipment, grants created a direct financial relationship between election administrators and a third party with special interests.
- Acceptance of private funding put pressure on grant recipients to allow CTCL-affiliated operatives to assist in election administration, including assisting with curing absentee ballots.
- Gave CTCL unprecedented access to ballot information, including daily reports of absentee ballot counts and the keys to at least one mail-in ballot storage room.
- The grants helped direct election officials toward CTCL-approved training and helped CTCL connect election officials with other left-leaning organizations to try and influence election practices.
Private Dollars Followed Democrats

States where election results had great consequences were targeted for large Zuckerbucks grants—specifically counties or cities that leaned Democrat.

$45 million
Georgia received more than $45 million in Zuckerbucks and 75 percent of grant counties shifted significantly to the Left.

$25 million
Pennsylvania received more than $25 million in Zuckerbucks and with more than 90 percent of the grant dollars going to counties Joe Biden won.

$8 million
Ohio received more than $8 million in Zuckerbucks. More than 70 percent of counties Joe Biden won received grants while fewer than half of Ohio counties that President Trump carried received grants.

$10 million
Wisconsin received more than $10 million in Zuckerbucks, with $8.5 million spent in only five Democrat cities.

$15 million
Michigan received more than $15 million in Zuckerbucks, with more than $7 million going to the City of Detroit, a Democrat stronghold in a swing state.

BOTTOM LINE:
State and local governments should be prohibited from accepting funding from private individuals and third parties, as occurred in 2020 with Zuckerbucks.