



STATE SENATOR

Eric Wimberger

DISTRICT 30

Testimony on Senate Joint Resolution 78 Senate

*Joint Committee on Shared Revenue, Elections and Consumer Protection and the Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections
Tuesday October 24, 2023*

Dear Chairman Knodl, Krug and members,

In the spring 2020 elections, most polling locations in Green Bay were shut down, and the city had to vote at two locations in high school gymnasiums. The city clerk described that the locations had to be consolidated as most volunteers were elderly and cancelled for health concerns.

In July 2020 an organization called Center for Tech and Civic Life (CTCL), funded by Mark Zuckerberg, approached primarily five cities in Wisconsin and offered a total of \$6.8 million to facilitate the election. While there were other cities that received money as well, 90% of it went to those five cities, the biggest Democrat Party voting areas in the state. Green Bay was one of those cities.

The cities offered the money and accepted it by city council vote. Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) gave guidance that no law prohibited the act. Green Bay voted to take the money and began planning the fall election.

The contract required, however, the City of Green Bay to use a Democrat activist from New York, Michael Spitzer-Rubenstein, as an advisor, among others. Over the course of the next months the City Clerk, Kris Teske, found herself excluded from elections meetings by the "grant team." Due to the stipulations of the grant Spitzer-Rubenstein orchestrated the fall election and acted as a city clerk would act, though paid by CTCL, including managing staff and having access to ballots.

Whether actual ballots were altered or advantages went to one side remains unclear. However, Mayor Genrich is a former Assemblyman and Democrat. Suspicions remain as to why he didn't ask for National Guard assistance in November and instead opted for help from Democrat activists.

In response, the Legislature passed a bill to prevent cities from taking private money for elections administration, and require all monies to be distributed proportionally to all cities via the WEC. Governor Evers vetoed it.

This proposed constitutional amendment passed the legislator last session and is aimed to stop private entities and wealthy individuals from circumventing campaign finance laws, directly giving funds to influence cities and using the government entity as a targeted GOTV effort. By targeting party strongholds with "election assistance," statewide or district wide races could hinge on the extra turnout. The 2016 presidential race was decided by 22,000 votes out of 2,976,000 cast, the 2018 gubernatorial by 30,000 out of 2,673,000, and the 2020 presidential by 30,000 votes out of 3,297,000 cast. Promoting turnout in targeted regions can change the results. Government entities cannot be participants if we want to prevent corruption, live in a society of laws, and we must promote confidence in the elections process.

This constitutional amendment will ensure our elections reflect the will of the people and are not influenced by big corporations. This constitutional amendment will ensure that corporations cannot use targeted dark money to sway the outcome of an election. It will keep the autonomy of local governments intact and keep our elections free and fair from outside influence.

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October 24, 2023

Testimony in Support of AJR 77 & SJR 78

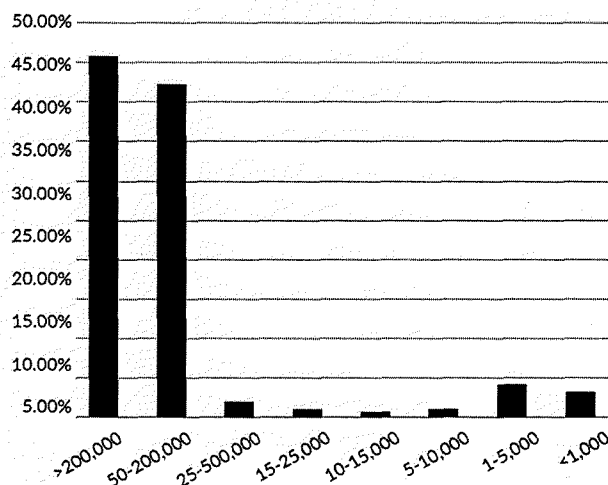
Chairman Krug, Chairman Knodl, Members of the Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections and Members of the Senate Committee on Shared Revenue, Elections and Consumer Protection,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in favor of Assembly Joint Resolution 77 and Senate Joint Resolution 78. My name is Kyle Koenen and I am the Policy Director at the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty, a non-profit law and policy center based out of Milwaukee.

The November 2020 election saw a large infusion of private funds to local government coffers through the Center for Technology and Civil Life (CTCL), a non-profit that received a \$350 million donation from Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg.

In 2021, WILL released “*Finger on the Scale: Examining Private Funding of Elections in Wisconsin*,” an in-depth investigation on how grants from the Center for Technology and Civil Live (CTCL) were administered in Wisconsin. Our review found that \$10.3 million was distributed to 196 communities statewide. These funds were distributed in a manner that showed a significant bias towards larger communities that tend to vote Democratic, with approximately 86% of that funding going to the five largest cities in the state (Milwaukee, Madison, Green Bay, Kenosha and Racine). The figure below shows the distribution of funds by community size in Wisconsin. The vast majority of communities that received a grant in Wisconsin, received \$5,000, but as you can see the vast majority of spending was dedicated to communities that were 50,000 people or higher.

FIGURE 3. DISTRIBUTION OF CTCL SPENDING BY MUNICIPALITY SIZE



We also found disparities in funding on a per-capita basis, with cities like Racine and Green Bay receiving \$36 and \$53 per 2016 voter respectively. For comparison, Appleton and Waukesha only received \$0.51 and \$1.18 per 2016 voter respectively.

A statistical analysis also found that CTCL grants benefited President Biden to the tune of 8,000 votes. When you see how some communities spent some of this funding, this is unsurprising. We found that 16 communities \$547,050 reported spending a total of \$547,050 on “non-partisan voter outreach,” a category that covered activities by municipalities to increase voter turnout. While this may seem innocuous, 99% of that voter outreach money was spent by left leaning cities – Milwaukee, Green Bay, Madison and Racine. It total, the 16 communities that spent money on “non-partisan voter outreach” voted 71.5% for Biden compared to 49.4% statewide.

In the interest of upholding fairness and safeguarding the integrity of our democratic process, it is essential to maintain a non-partisan electoral system that is free from external financial influences. The concerns that have been expressed regarding Mark Zuckerberg's extensive funding of election administration in Democratic-leaning communities closely parallel the worries that would emerge if a donor with right-leaning inclinations were to direct their resources exclusively toward Republican-leaning areas. AJR 77 and SJR 78 underscore the need to establish a clear standard: private funding should not have a role in the administration of Wisconsin's elections.

By eliminating the role of private funds, these resolutions aim to ensure that all communities, regardless of their political affiliations, are provided with a level playing field in the administration of Wisconsin's elections.

Testimony for Joint Public Hearing
Tuesday, October 24, 2023

Thank you, Chairman Krug, Chairman Knodl and Members of the respective Committees.

It is with profound respect and appreciation that these comments are being presented in strong support of the common-sense election integrity initiatives in the manifestation of AJR76 & 77 and SJR71 & 78.

Not knowing exactly how much time citizens would be given to speak, these comments are compressed into a 3-4 minute testimony.

Who would have ever thought that Wisconsin voters would have had to be presented the privilege of voting in a statewide election on whether or not Zuckerberg Staff, monies and equipment would have to be permanently banned from ever possibly interfering with the administration of elections in Wisconsin ever again with the approval of AJR77 and SJR78?

Who would have thought that Wisconsin voters would have to weigh in during a statewide election to make sure that only United States Citizens would participate in our elections with the approval of AJR76 and SJR71?

Just 3 short years ago, almost everyone in Wisconsin would have thought this was unimaginable falling into the "conspiracy" range for anyone who dared to suggest this was even remotely possible.

Unfortunately, with countless documented cases of massive election fraud that clearly affected the outcome of past elections, the voters will finally be given a "voice" as to how they want the administration of elections to be processes in 2024 and beyond without the interference of the Zuckerberg big bucks and non-citizens of the United States.

The following perspectives demonstrate that Wisconsin elections can never be compromised again with what appears to be malfeasance on the part of the leadership at the Wisconsin Elections Commission:

- Wisconsin Supreme Court ruling July 8, 2022, declaring the 2020 Presidential Election results were "illegitimate" because voters were harmed and injured due to the illegality of the Zuckerberg illegal absentee ballot drop boxes scattered across Wisconsin (See attached Justice Bradley Elections Illegitimate).
- Office of Special Counsel Report from March of 2022 clearly demonstrates countless examples of the illegality of the Zuckerberg Staff, funds and absentee ballot drop boxes to administer elections in Wisconsin (**click here - [Wisconsin Office of the Special Counsel - Second Interim Investigative Report 20220301 - DocumentCloud](#)**).
- Nationally respected and authentic election integrity non-profit organization, True the Vote, demonstrated in March of 2022, through the geospatial technology used by many federal law

enforcement agencies during the January 6th colossal, that a minimum of some 137,551 illegal absentee ballots were deposited into the illegal Zuckerberg absentee ballot drop boxes scattered throughout Wisconsin ([click here - FILE 5193_no-meta.pdf \(truethevote.org\)](#)).

- Countless studies have shown that the illegal use of Zuckerberg Staff to administer elections and his endless supply of funds clearly had an effect on the outcome of elections in heavy democrat areas ([click here - How Mark Zuckerberg's Money Helped Benefit Democrats In Wisconsin \(thefederalist.com\)](#)).
- A peer reviewed study of illegal aliens voting in the 2020 Presidential Election shows approximately 5,010 cast ballots in Wisconsin ([click here - Quantifying Illegal Votes Cast by Non-Citizens in the Battleground States of the 2020 Presidential Election - Just Facts Daily](#)).
- Millions of additional illegal aliens have entered America since January 2021 according to Congressional Testimony from CIS Director Todd Bensman ([click here - 2023-07-26-BSECTI-HRG-Testimony.pdf \(house.gov\)](#)).
- It is incredibly easy to obtain illegal social security cards and fake ID's in order to register to vote ([click here - FOREIGNERS OBTAIN SOCIAL SECURITY ID WITH FAKE PAPERS - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](#)).
- Many democrats want illegal aliens to be able to vote in America at all election levels ([click here - Over 42,000 Non-Citizens, Including Perhaps 20,000 Illegal Immigrants, Could Vote in D.C. Elections \(cis.org\)](#)).

We strongly request to change the date from November of 2024 to April of 2024 for AJR76 and SJR71 in the "Explanation of Proposal" section on the first page of both Joint Resolutions to prevent any non-US citizens from participating in the November 2024 Presidential Election as was documented in the 2020 Presidential Election.

The last time Wisconsin had something so bad as this with the administration of their elections was the Governor's Race of 1855 when the Wisconsin Supreme Court had to decide the outcome of the election because the incumbent Democrat Governor Barstow refused to leave office after it was found out that massive election fraud involving phantom voters affected the outcome of that election. The Wisconsin Supreme Court declared the Republican Candidate Bashford the winner after 5 months of delays ([click here - https://www.wicourts.gov/courts/history/article11.htm](https://www.wicourts.gov/courts/history/article11.htm)).

Thank you, Chairman Krug, Chairman Knodl and Members of the Committees for this opportunity to share these thoughts.

Please pass these extremely important election integrity Joint Resolutions during the November 7-16, 2023, Floor Session.

As you know, thank goodness, Joint Resolutions for the approval of constitutional amendments on a statewide ballot, cannot be vetoed by the governor's office.



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF AJR-77 and SJR-78

Wisconsin State Legislature

**Senate Committee on Shared Revenue, Elections, and Consumer
Protection**

Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections

October 24, 2023

Madeline Malisa

Visiting Fellow

Opportunity Solutions Project

Chair Knodl, Chair Krug, and honorable members of the committees, my name is Madeline Malisa, and I am a Visiting Fellow at the Opportunity Solutions Project. OSP is a non-partisan, non-profit organization. I appreciate the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of AJR-77 and SJR-78.

Billionaires shouldn't be able to fund Wisconsin elections, but current law allows them to. In fact, special interest groups can funnel unrestricted money into election administration without consequences. These groups aren't bound by campaign finance laws like the members of your committees. And their donations aren't subject to the legislative budget process.

The funding of election operations, and where and how funds are being spent, are decisions that you—Wisconsin lawmakers—should make and not unaccountable special interest groups. Private funding of elections effectively allows private actors to influence who the winners and losers will be. These bills will safeguard Wisconsin elections from outside influence by prohibiting local governments from applying for, accepting, or spending any funding from private individuals or third parties for election administration. It will also allow *only* election officials to administer elections.

In 2020, Mark Zuckerberg, the California Facebook billionaire, and his wife funneled \$400 million to election offices across the country under the guise of alleviating the burden of COVID-19-related costs.¹ These grants—known as Zuckerbucks—found their way into nearly every state, including Wisconsin.²⁻³ Most Zuckerbucks were provided to the Center for Tech and Civic Life (CTCL), a left-leaning non-profit run by a former Obama Foundation fellow.⁴ Despite being labeled as COVID-19 response grants, only a fraction of the money was used to buy personal protective equipment (PPE).⁵ The funds were used predominantly to get out the vote in select jurisdictions.⁶ Across the country, CTCL decided which counties should get money, how much they should receive, and what the private funds could be spent on.

Wisconsin received at least \$10.1 million in Zuckerbucks, and \$8.5 million of that went to just five Democratic cities—Milwaukee, Madison, Green Bay, Kenosha, and Racine.⁷ Milwaukee received two grant awards from CTCL, totaling more than \$3.4 million, while Madison received more than \$1.2 million.⁸ More than \$1 million was funneled into Green Bay, amounting to nearly \$20 per registered voter.⁹ For context, Green Bay's total elections budget in 2020 was \$329,820, and the private funding increased their budget by a staggering 331 percent.¹⁰ Racine was also awarded almost \$1 million or \$24 per registered voter.¹¹

Only a fraction of the total funds requested or spent in Wisconsin were used for PPE. In fact, Milwaukee spent a mere 5.8 percent of their grant funds on PPE and some jurisdictions did not spend any of their grant award on PPE at all.¹² Brookfield spent their \$14,090 award on election administration equipment.¹³ And Menasha spent their entire award on absentee voting equipment and supplies.¹⁴ Green Bay spent only 0.8 percent of grant funds on PPE—instead purchasing two new 2020 Ford 550s and paying a public relations firm nearly \$150,000 for voter outreach.¹⁵ West Allis spent the bulk of their grant funding on drive-thru voting, absentee voting equipment, and election administration equipment.¹⁶

Other swing states across the country where election results had great consequences were also targeted for large Zuckerbucks grants. Georgia received more than \$45 million in Zuckerbucks and

75 percent of grant counties shifted significantly to the Left.¹⁷ In Pennsylvania, \$25 million in Zuckerbucks were awarded with more than 90 percent of the grant dollars going to counties Joe Biden won.¹⁸ Michigan received more than \$15 million in Zuckerbucks, with more than \$7 million going to the City of Detroit, a Democrat stronghold in another crucial state.¹⁹

In 2020, it was Mark Zuckerberg who spent hundreds of millions of dollars circumventing the legislative processes to privately fund election administration. But in the next election, it could be a different wealthy tech tycoon or special-interest group with Wisconsin elections in their sights.

Banning billionaires from funding election administration has received bipartisan support across the country. Democratic Governor Tom Wolf signed Pennsylvania's ban into law, the Democrat-controlled Virginia Senate passed their bill unanimously, and both chambers in South Carolina passed a ban with unanimous support.

In the last three years, 27 states have passed similar Zuckerbucks legislation including, Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Utah, and West Virginia.

Continuing to allow billionaires to interfere with election operations sets a dangerous precedent for the security and integrity of future Wisconsin elections. AJR-77 and SJR-78 will ensure that political operatives and corporations don't make election operations a commodity to be bought and sold again. Thank you.

References

¹ CEIR, "Priscilla Chan and Mark Zuckerberg increase support for safe and reliable voting by \$19.5 million," Center for Election Innovation & Research (2020), <https://electioninnovation.org/press/chan-zuckerberg-increase-2020-election-support>.

² "Press Release: CTCL Receives Additional \$100M Contribution to Support Critical Work of Election Officials," Center for Tech and Civic Life (2020), <https://www.techandciviclelife.org/100m>.

³ Tiana Epps-Johnson, Center for Tech and Civic Life, <https://www.techandciviclelife.org/team/tiana-epps-johnson>.

⁴ Hayden Dublois and Tyler Lamensky, "Zuckerberg went down to Georgia: How Zuckerbucks influenced the Georgia elections," Foundation for Government Accountability (2021), <https://thefga.org/paper/zuckerbucks.influenced-georgia-elections>.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ Final report on 2020 COVID-19 response grant program and CTCL 990s, Center for Tech and Civic Life (2021), <https://www.techandciviclelife.org/2020covidsupport/>.

⁸ Alli Fick & Tyler Lamensky, How Zuckerbucks Infiltrated the Wisconsin Election, FGA (June 14, 2021), <https://thefga.org/paper/zuckerbucks-wisconsin-election/>.

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹² *Ibid.*

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁷ Hayden Dublois and Tyler Lamensky, "Zuckerberg Went Down to Georgia: How Zuckerbucks Influenced the Georgia Elections," Foundation for Government Accountability (2021), <https://thefga.org/?s=zuckerbucks>.

¹⁸ Trevor Carlsen, "Zuckerbucks Followed Biden Voters in Pennsylvania," Foundation for Government Accountability (2021), <https://thefga.org/research/zuckerbucks-pennsylvania/>.

¹⁹ Final report on 2020 COVID-19 response grant program and CTCL 990s, Center for Tech and Civic Life (2021), <https://www.techandciviclelife.org/2020covidsupport/>.