

America First Policy Institute / America First Works, Inc.

The America First Policy Institute (AFPI) and America First Works (AFW), its advocacy wing, were established in 2021 to further the policy goals of a potential second Trump Administration. Based in Washington, DC, AFPI and AFW have pushed a far-right agenda in conservative legislatures across the country as well as in Congress. The groups have focused on a diverse set of issues including: “election integrity”; parental rights and “school choice” in education; anti-choice advocacy; anti-China policies; anti-voting action; anti-LGBTQ rights; and promotion of fossil energy. The groups are a continuation of the former Trump “dark money” group America First Policies, which was founded in 2017 by former Trump campaign aides to support his agenda.

Key findings include:

The America First Policy Institute has been a key player in Donald Trump’s political rehabilitation. AFPI invited Trump to speak at a policy summit in Washington in July 2022, marking the former president’s first return to the capital since leaving the White House. The group has also hosted fundraising events at Trump’s Mar-a-Lago club in Florida, and soon after its launch it received a \$1 million contribution from a Trump political action committee. The congressional committee investigating the Jan. 6 insurrection highlighted that payment among several suspicious transactions between the former president and groups employing former administration officials who had been called to testify before the committee.

AFPI is part of a network of right-wing activists working to change election laws in key swing states. AFPI’s “Center for Election Integrity” says it promotes policies that make it “easy to vote, but hard to cheat.” Led by former Ohio Secretary of State Ken Blackwell and former Trump spokesman Hogan Gidley, the center has promoted model legislation that would require voters to show photo identification, increase ballot security requirements and ban ranked choice voting. AFPI has also backed lawsuits challenging election procedures in key swing states Georgia and Arizona.

America First Works is a continuation of America First Policies--with both groups focused on implementing the Trump agenda. Founded in 2017, America First Policies was purchased by the Virginia-based America First Works group in 2021 before dissolving. AFW rebranded itself as America First Works in 2020 with many of the same leaders. The group currently brands itself as the “political arm” of the America First Policy Institute, a group of former Trump Administration officials seeking to bolster support for Trump and his policies.

America First Policies staffers had a history of racist, sexist, homophobic, and anti-Semitic views. In 2018, CNN reported that America First Policies hired Carl Higbie, who resigned from the administration after an investigation found he made racist, sexist, anti-Muslim and anti-gay remarks on the radio. According to CNN, Higbie shared a post that referred to Michael Brown as the N-word. Michael Brown was the teenager in Ferguson, Missouri who was shot and killed by police. Higbie also said African Americans were lazier than whites, and that the black race had “lax morals.” America First Policies once employed John Loudon, a policy advisor who suggested President Obama was a Kenyan-born Muslim and made several other anti-Muslim comments on Twitter. CNN also reported that an America First Policies advisor, Juan Pablo Andrade made pro-Nazi comments at a conference that were caught on video. Mediaite reported that Andrade said: “The only thing the Nazis didn’t get right is they didn’t keep fucking going!” America First Policies co-founder Brad Parscale, while working on Trump’s

2016 campaign, created a campaign ad that depicted migrants and immigrants as violent. The ad was rejected by CNN as “racist” and pulled from other networks and Facebook.

America First Policies helped raise over \$100 million for Trump’s reelection in 2020 and later funded organization efforts for January 6th. America First Policies oversaw the creation of America First Action, a Super PAC that supported Trump-aligned Republicans in the 2018 midterms, as well as Trump’s reelection in 2020. Before rebranding to AFW, the group gave \$2.1 million to Event Strategies, Inc., the group that funded J6 organizing efforts.

America First Works has focused recent recruiting efforts on 2024 battleground states while promoting agenda strongly linked to MAGA. The group has listed a number of available positions on its website in multiple battleground states, which focused on election issues in Florida, Ohio, North Carolina, Michigan, Nevada, Georgia, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and Arizona. The group has also launched a joint venture with Turning Point Action—the political action group of Turning Point USA—to “recruit, train, and mobilize thousands of grassroots activists to register and turn out voters” for 2024. AFW has targeted gay marriage, trans rights, abortion access, “woke” initiatives, ESG policies, and education reform in its advocacy efforts. The group has also endeavored to frame the agenda of the Biden White House as harmful to the United States.

AMERICA FIRST POLICY INSTITUTE

Background

Organization Type: 501(c)(3)

Website: AmericaFirstPolicy.com

Address: 1001 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, 1776 K Street NW – [Washington, D.C.](https://www.washington.gov/) 20004

YouTube: [America First Policy Institute](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1p1p1p1p1p1p1p1p1p1p1p) (7.34K subscribers as of July 2024)

Twitter: [@AmericaFirstPolicyInstitute](https://twitter.com/AmericaFirstPolicyInstitute) (46.9K followers as of July 2024)

Facebook: [America First Policy Institute](https://www.facebook.com/AmericaFirstPolicyInstitute) (177K followers as of July 2024)

Instagram: [@a1policy](https://www.instagram.com/a1policy) (44.8 followers as of July 2024)

Financials

AFPI’s total revenue increased by 66% in its second year of existence, rising from \$14.2 million in 2021 to \$23.6 million in 2022; spending on salaries more than doubled over the same period. [AFPI IRS 990s, [2021](#), [2022](#)]

Year	Revenue	Expenses	Grants	Salaries	Fundraising Expenses	Other Expenses
2021	\$14,195,522	\$10,830,742	\$1,000,000	\$4,368,853	\$1,321,522	\$4,898,673
2022	\$23,618,246	\$22,348,233	\$0	\$9,378,374	\$4,436,716	\$11,689,152

November 2022: Daily Beast: “Anonymous Megadonors Propel Pro-Trump Think Tank.” “The America First Policy Institute, a 501(c)(3) organization formed last year by a cadre of Trump administration officials and known informally as a ‘White House in waiting,’ says it exceeded its announced first-year operating budget of \$20 million. ‘Thanks to the generosity of our many supporters and in recognition of the importance of our mission to return the country to the America First policies that work, AFPI continues to meet and exceed its financial goals,’ AFPI spokesperson Marc Lotter told The Daily Beast in a statement, pointing to ‘tremendous growth’ in its staff, from 21 people to ‘more than 150.’ According to the group’s 2021 tax statement, obtained by The Daily Beast, AFPI collected about \$14.9 million in contributions in its first nine months. The donor pool, however, is dominated by a wealthy few. More than \$10 million of that \$14.9 million came from 10 anonymous donors, with the largest single source giving \$3 million. (AFPI is not required to make the names of its contributors public.) Trump accounted for \$1 million, in the form of a transfer last June of donor money from his Save America leadership PAC. Weeks after the transfer, AFPI officials joined Trump at a Mar-a-Lago press conference to announce his ultimately failed class-action lawsuit against social media companies. Both Trump and AFPI used that event to raise money.” [The Daily Beast, 11/27/22]

AFPI has received \$1 million from Donald Trump’s Save America Political Action Committee and multiple six-figure donations from conservative organizations. [FEC records, IRS 990s]

Donor	Amount	Year	Organization Description
SAVE AMERICA	\$1,000,000.00	2021	Leadership PAC founded by Donald Trump
TEXANS FOR LAMAR SMITH	\$500.00	2021	Campaign of former Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX-21)
America First Works Inc	\$3,000,000.00	2021	501C4 Related to AFPI
America First Works Inc	\$119,444.00	2021	501C4 Related to AFPI
Committee To Unleash Prosperity Inc	\$100,000.00	2021	501C3 that counts Larry Kudlow among its cofounders
Greater Houston Community Foundation	\$15,000.00	2021	Donor-advised fund based in Houston, TX
Morgan Stanley Global Impact Funding Trust Inc	\$150,000.00	2021	Donor-advised fund based in Indianapolis, IN
Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program	\$52,000.00	2021	Donor-advised fund based in Malvern, PA
Schwab Charitable Fund	\$86,100.00	2021	Donor-advised fund based in Lone Tree, CO
Fidelity Investments Charitable Gift Fund	\$876,901.00	2021	Donor-advised fund based in Boston
MEUSER FOR CONGRESS	\$35,000.00	2022	Campaign of Rep. Dan Meuser (R-PA-09)
MEUSER FOR CONGRESS	\$25,000.00	2022	Campaign of Rep. Dan Meuser (R-PA-09)

The Tree Of Life Foundation International Inc	\$100,000.00	202 2	501C3 based in Palm Beach, FL., that was founded by conservative donor Amanda Schumacher
Donors Trust Inc	\$25,000.00	202 2	Donor-advised fund that has received support from the Koch brothers
Donors Trust Inc	\$42,000.00	202 2	Donor-advised fund that has received support from the Koch brothers
Christian Community Foundation Inc	\$100,000.00	202 2	Donor-advised fund based in Colorado Springs, CO
T Rowe Price Program For Charitable Giving Inc	\$10,000.00	202 2	Donor-advised fund based in Baltimore, MD
Greater Houston Community Foundation	\$400,000.00	202 2	Donor-advised fund based in Houston, TX
Servant Foundation	\$265,250.00	202 2	Donor-advised fund based in Overland Park, KS
Goldman Sachs Philanthropy Fund	\$502,500.00	202 2	Donor-advised fund based in New York, NY
National Christian Charitable Foundation Inc	\$133,800.00	202 2	Donor-advised fund based in Alpharetta, GA
National Philanthropic Trust	\$250,000.00	202 2	Donor-advised fund based in Jenkintown, PA
Morgan Stanley Global Impact Funding Trust Inc	\$285,000.00	202 2	Donor-advised fund based in Indianapolis, IN
Schwab Charitable Fund	\$114,600.00	202 2	Donor-advised fund based in Lone Tree, CO
MEUSER FOR CONGRESS	\$20,000.00	202 3	Campaign of Rep. Dan Meuser (R-PA-09)
SELF FOR CONGRESS	\$2,604.48	202 3	Campaign of Rep. Keith Self (R-TX-03)

Organization

AFPI has state chapters in Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia and Pennsylvania. [ABOUT AMERICA FIRST POLICY INSTITUTE, accessed, [6/27/24](#)]

AFPI organizes its work across 20 “centers” focused on different policy areas. [ABOUT AMERICA FIRST POLICY INSTITUTE, accessed [6/27/24](#)]

- **Center for 1776**
- **Center for American Freedom**
- **Center for American Security**
- **Center for American Values**

- **Center for Election Integrity**
- **Center for Homeland Security and Immigration**
- **Center for Litigation**
- **Center for New Frontiers**
- **Center for the American Child**
- **Center for the American Worker**
- **Center for a Healthy America**
- **Center for American Prosperity**
- **Center for American Trade**
- **Center for Education Opportunity**
- **Center for Energy & Environment**
- **Center for Law and Justice**
- **Center for Media Accountability**
- **Center for Opportunity Now**
- **Center for the American Dream**
- **China Policy Initiative**

Personnel

Board Chair: Linda McMahon

- **McMahon served in Trump’s cabinet as head of the Small Business Administration.** “Linda McMahon is originally from New Bern, North Carolina, and serves as Chair of the Board and Chair of the Center for the American Worker for AFPI. McMahon served in President Donald Trump’s Cabinet as Administrator of the Small Business Administration. At SBA, McMahon re-imagined the organization, focusing on rural development and championing women entrepreneurs and military veterans. She oversaw natural disaster recovery efforts and helped improve the way the SBA connected small businesses to capital, counseling, and government contracts.” [AFPI Leadership, The Honorable Linda McMahon, accessed [7/5/23](#)]

- **McMahon chaired Trump’s super PAC.** “After her service in the Trump Administration, she served as Chair of the America First Action SuperPAC, and America First Policy, LLC.” [AFPI Leadership, The Honorable Linda McMahon, accessed [7/5/23](#)]
- **Prior to joining the administration, McMahon was CEO of World Wrestling Entertainment.** “Prior to her career in public service, McMahon was the President and later CEO of World Wrestling Entertainment, Inc.” [AFPI Leadership, The Honorable Linda McMahon, accessed [7/5/23](#)]
- **McMahon is married to WWE founder Vince McMahon but the two are “reportedly separated.”** “Vince and Linda are technically still married but reportedly separated in 2022 after Linda learned of Vince’s alleged three-year-long affair with a former employee named Janet Grant.” [InTouch Weekly, [5/1/24](#)]

Board Vice Chair: Larry Kudlow

- **Kudlow is a prominent media figure and previously worked for the Trump administration.** “He is also the host of “Kudlow” on Fox Business and “The Larry Kudlow Show” on WABC Talk Radio. He previously served as Director of the National Economic Council under President Donald Trump, where he led the domestic and global economic policy agendas. Throughout the years, Kudlow has hosted several popular television shows with an economic focus, had a successful career on Wall Street, and worked as an associate director in the Office of Management and Budget during the Reagan Administration.” [AFPI Leadership, The Honorable Larry Kudlow, accessed [7/5/23](#)]
- **Kudlow is a “supply-sider” and supporter of tax cuts and deregulation.** “Kudlow describes himself as a Reagan supply-sider and is a staunch advocate for free markets, tax cuts, and deregulation.” [AFPI Leadership, The Honorable Larry Kudlow, accessed [7/5/23](#)]
- **Kudlow previously co-founded the Committee to Unleash Prosperity, a nonprofit that supports supply-side policies.** “Committee co-founder Larry Kudlow, together with co-author historian Brian Domitrovic (now of the Laffer Center) elegantly established the historic status of President Kennedy in the Supply-Side pantheon in JFK and the Reagan Revolution: A Secret History of American Prosperity.” [Committee to Unleash Prosperity, Our Mission, accessed [7/5/24](#)]

President and CEO: Brooke Rollins

- **A Texas native, Rollins ran the Domestic Policy Council in the Trump White House.** “Brooke Leslie Rollins is originally from Glen Rose, Texas, and serves as the President and Chief Executive Officer of AFPI. Rollins was formerly Director of the Domestic Policy Council and Chief Strategist in the White House under President Donald Trump, where she also previously served as Director of the Office of American Innovation. In these roles, she developed and managed the transformational domestic policy agenda of the Trump Administration, leading to historic achievements for the American people.” [AFPI Leadership, The Honorable Brooke L. Rollins, accessed [7/5/24](#)]

- **August 2022: Real Clear Politics Profile: AFPI CEO Rollins is “detail oriented, much less dramatic, and one of the nicest women in politics.”** “Rollins is the CEO of AFPI, the aforementioned pro-Trump think tank, and its protagonist has accepted her invitation to deliver the keynote address, a speech Rollins is coordinating while also finding ways to get her kids to field hockey on time. If the previous White House was defined by fire and fury then, Rollins personifies the exact opposite: detail oriented, much less dramatic, and one of the nicest women in politics. At least, that’s what those closest to her say.” [Real Clear Politics, 8/9/22]
- **RCP: “If an individual was in Trump World, and stayed in his good graces, they are welcome in the AFPI orbit.”** “Formerly the director of the National Economic Council, Kudlow now chairs AFPI’s ‘Center for American Prosperity.’ Chad Wolf, once the acting secretary for the Department of Homeland Security, now leads the focus on immigration. Previously the Interior Secretary, David Bernhardt now heads the ‘Center for American Freedom.’ And so on and so forth for the other 150 employees. The gang is quite literally all here. Even Lou Holtz, the legendary Notre Dame football coach, and Paula White, the longtime spiritual advisor to the former president have their own policy centers. If an individual was in Trump World, and stayed in his good graces, they are welcome in the AFPI orbit.” [Real Clear Politics, 8/9/22]
- **Rollins previously worked for Texas Gov. Rick Perry then ran the Texas Public Policy Foundation.** “Rollins was a 29-year-old policy aide for Texas Gov. Rick Perry when she was asked to run an Austin-based think tank. It was called the Texas Public Policy Foundation, a conservative policy shop focused on limiting government, protecting business, and expanding school choice reforms.” [Real Clear Politics, 8/9/22]
- **Rollins after Jan. 6: “Now we just have to double down.”** ““When Washington was in a really unfortunate place and the Capitol was being stormed, that was incredibly heartbreaking for me for a lot of reasons,’ Rollins said. Her main fear was that ‘this is going to take away from the policy fight and from the opportunity to really save the country.’ But the worry did not last. ‘I was only that way for a couple of hours,’ she quickly added, ‘and then I realized, ‘You know what? Now we just have to double down.’” [Real Clear Politics, 8/9/22]

AFPI Lists 16 Individuals on its Leadership Team [ABOUT AMERICA FIRST POLICY INSTITUTE, accessed [6/27/24](#)]

Name	Title
The Honorable Linda McMahon	Chair of the Board and Chair, Center for the American Worker
The Honorable Larry Kudlow	Vice Chair of the Board and Chair, Center for American Prosperity
The Honorable Brooke L. Rollins	President and CEO
The Honorable Chad Wolf	Executive Director, Chief Strategy Officer & Chair, Center for Homeland Security & Immigration
Michael Berry	Executive Director, Center for Litigation
Catharine Cypher	Deputy Chief of Staff; Chief Of Staff, Center for Litigation; Advisor, Center for the American Child
Chase Forrester	Chief Events Officer
Martin Gillespie	Chief Development Officer

Jessica Hart Steinmann	General Counsel and Director of Litigation, Center for Litigation
Ashley Hayek	Chief Engagement Officer
The Honorable Doug Hoelscher	Chair, America First Transition Project & Senior Advisor
Renee Hudson	Chief of Staff & Chief Government Affairs Officer
Marc Lotter	Chief Communications Officer
Rachel Wallen Oglesby	Chief State Action Officer & Director, Center for the American Worker
Heidi Overton, M.D., Ph.D.	Vice Chair, Center for a Healthy America & Chief Policy Officer
Adam W. Schindler	Chief Digital Officer

AFPI lists 144 people on its staff, although it is unclear if all are paid positions. [ABOUT AMERICA FIRST POLICY INSTITUTE, accessed [6/27/24](#)]

Name	Title
The Honorable Linda McMahon	Chair of the Board and Chair, Center for the American Worker
The Honorable Larry Kudlow	Vice Chair of the Board and Chair, Center for American Prosperity
The Honorable Brooke L. Rollins	President and CEO
The Honorable Chad Wolf	Executive Director, Chief Strategy Officer & Chair, Center for Homeland Security & Immigration
Madison Alexander	Director of Donor Communications
Jason Allen	Michigan Policy Advisor, Center for Election Integrity
Hannah Anderson	Director, Center for a Healthy America
James Baehr	Senior Fellow, Center for 1776
Dr. Ge Bai	Member, Board of Academic Advisors
Lea Bardon	Director of Development Operations
Michael Berry	Executive Director, Center for Litigation
T.C. Becker	Development Manager
Hilton Beckham	Director of Communications
The Honorable David Bernhardt	Chair, Center For American Freedom
The Honorable J. Kenneth Blackwell	Chair, Center for Election Integrity
The Honorable Pam Bondi	Chair, Center for Litigation and Co-Chair, Center for Law and Justice
Joe Bottari	Project Manager, America First Transition Project
Jack Brewer	Chair, Center for Opportunity Now and Vice Chair, Center for 1776
Brandy Brown	Government Affairs and Strategic Communications Manager
Beatrice Brooke	Senior Advisor, Center for American Prosperity and Center for Energy & Environment
Governor Phil Bryant	Senior Advisor
Samuel Buchan	Visiting Fellow, Center for Energy & Environment
Caleb Burdett	State Policy Analyst
Julia Butch	Policy Analyst, Center for Education Opportunity and Center for 1776
Dr. Richard Valentine Burkhauser	Member, Board of Academic Advisors

Kevin Cabrera	Executive Director, AFPI Florida Chapter & Senior Advisor, National Hispanic Affairs
Alexandra Caro Campana	Director, Center for 1776 and Director, Center for Opportunity Now
Dr. Jeffrey Campbell	Member, Board of Academic Advisors
James Carter	Senior Fellow, Center for American Prosperity
Cale Clingenpeel	Visiting Fellow
John Coale	Senior Advisor, Center for Litigation
The Honorable Doug Collins	Chair, AFPI Georgia
Kellyanne Conway	Chair, Center for the American Child
Catharine Cypher	Deputy Chief of Staff; Chief Of Staff, Center for Litigation; Advisor, Center for the American Child
Jerry C. Davis, Ph.D.	Senior Advisor, Center for 1776
Abi Dills	Project Manager for Athletes for America and Policy Analyst, Center for Opportunity Now
Caity Durning	Senior Events Manager
Scott Erickson	Director, Center for Law & Justice
The Honorable Michael Faulkender	Vice Chair, Center for American Prosperity & Chief Economist
Fred Fleitz	Vice Chair, Center for American Security
Chase Forrester	Chief Events Officer
Drake Franklin	Southeastern Development Director & Policy Analyst, Center for American Values
Hogan Gidley	Vice Chair, Center for Election Integrity & Senior Advisor for Communications
Martin Gillespie	Chief Development Officer
Claire Gute	Case Manager
Mary Clare Hamilton	Events Specialist
Jessica Hart Steinmann	General Counsel and Director of Litigation, Center for Litigation
Kevin Hassett	Chair, Board of Academic Advisors
Ashley Hayek	Chief Engagement Officer
Aaron Hedlund, Ph.D.	Director of Research; Senior Advisor, Center for America Prosperity
Matthew Henderson	Director of Government Affairs
Laura Hendrickson	Senior Editor
The Honorable Doug Hoelscher	Chair, America First Transition Project & Senior Advisor
Lou Holtz	Chair, Center for 1776
Renee Hudson	Chief of Staff & Chief Government Affairs Officer
Davis Ingle	Communications Manager
Matthew Jensen	Director, Office for Fiscal and Regulatory Analysis
The Honorable Bobby Jindal	Chair, Center for a Healthy America
Charlie Katebi	Deputy Director, Center for a Healthy America
Lt. General (Ret.) Keith Kellogg	Co-Chair, Center for American Security
Dr. Alveda King	Chair, Center for the American Dream
Joe Kirkpatrick	Development Operations Manager
Alexandra Kirschbaum	Director of Operations

Jordan Kittleson	Western Regional Policy Director, Center for Election Integrity
Peter Knickerbocker	Project Manager, America First Transition Project
Joseph Lavorgna	Senior Fellow
Robert Law	Director, Center for Homeland Security and Immigration & Senior Editor
Richard Lawson	Senior Litigator, Center for Litigation
Dr. Chris Leader	Chief Advisor, Center for the American Dream
Natalie Leaman	Graphic Designer & Project Manager
The Honorable Robert Lighthizer	Chair, Center for American Trade
Luke Lindberg	Senior Fellow, Center for American Prosperity
Matthew Lobel	Policy Analyst, Higher Education Reform Initiative
Marc Lotter	Chief Communications Officer
Richard Maher	Senior Policy Analyst, AFPI California
Jorge Martinez	Hispanic Outreach Strategist & Spanish Spokesperson
Gloria McDonald	Senior Policy Analyst, Center for American Security
Ryann McEnany	Digital Marketing and Brand Communications Strategist and Engagement Officer
Rob McLeod	Senior Director of Partnerships
Oliver McPherson-Smith, Ph.D	Director, Center for Energy & Environment
Wesley Meadowcroft	Assistant Director of Digital
The Honorable Melissa Melendez	America First California Executive Director, Director of State Chapters
Simon Miller	Operations Coordinator
Steve Moore	Senior Fellow
Dr. Casey Mulligan	Member, Board of Academic Advisors
Frank Murphy	Chair, Athletes for America Coalition
Morgan Murphy	Senior Fellow, Center for American Security
Cole Mushegan	Policy Analyst, Center for 1776
Patricia Nation	Attorney, Center for Litigation
Margo Nicholas	Policy Analyst, Center for American Values
Rachel Wallen Oglesby	Chief State Action Officer & Director, Center for the American Worker
Dr. Lee Ohanian	Member, Board of Academic Advisors
Heidi Overton, M.D., Ph.D.	Vice Chair, Center for a Healthy America & Chief Policy Officer
Kaitlin Owens	Senior Policy Analyst, Center for Law & Justice
Rob Pacienza	Senior Fellow, Center for the American Dream
Jase Panebianco	Associate Attorney, Center for Litigation
Pedro Panelo	Program Manager & Senior Research Analyst
Preston Parry	Strategic Assistant to the President & CEO
The Honorable Rick Perry	Chair, Center for Energy & Environment
Matias Perttula	Fellow, Center for American Values
Jonathan Pidluzny, Ph.D.	Director, Higher Education Reform Initiative
Anna Pingel	Policy Analyst, Center for Election Integrity
James P. Pinkerton	Senior Fellow, Center for American Prosperity

Caelen Philips	Faith Engagement Coordinator
Andy Puzder	Senior Fellow
The Honorable John Ratcliffe	Co-Chair, Center for American Security
The Honorable Michael Rigas	Vice Chair, America First Transition Project
John Rigolizzo	Development Writer & Editor
Dr. Richard Rogers	National Director of Faith Engagement & Senior Fellow, Center for American Values
Ellia Rosado	Director of Communications, AFPI California
Jacob Sagert	Policy Analyst, Center for American Freedom
Jon Sanders	Senior Fellow, Center for American Prosperity
Ambassador Carla Sands	Vice Chair, Center for Energy & Environment
Adam Savit	Director, China Policy Initiative
Stacey Schieffelin	Senior Advisor to the Chair of the Board and Senior Advisor, Center for the American Worker
Adam W. Schindler	Chief Digital Officer
Dr. Christopher Schorr	Senior Policy Analyst, Higher Education Reform Initiative
Allison Schuster	Communications Specialist and Policy Advisor, Center for Education Opportunity; Center for the American Child
Samantha Seal	Special Assistant to the Executive Director and Strategic Communications Coordinator
James Sherk	Director, Center for American Freedom
Travis Shirkman	Director of Donor Relations
Cliff Sims	Senior Fellow, Center for American Security
Dr. Kiron K. Skinner	Member, Board of Academic Advisors
Cooper Smith	Project Manager, Center for Homeland Security & Immigration
Mary Stiffler	Executive Director, AFPI Pennsylvania
Julie Taylor	Director of Institutional Giving
Ken Timmerman	Senior Fellow, Center for American Security
Laurie Todd-Smith, Ph.D.	Director, Center for Education Opportunity & Director, Center for the American Child
Scott Toland	Senior Advisor, America First Transition Project and Deputy General Counsel
Sam Trippie	Development Manager
The Honorable Scott Turner	Chair, Center for Education Opportunity
Mike Vallante	Director, Center for Election Integrity
David Vasquez	Policy Analyst for the Center for American Prosperity, the Center for Energy & Environment
Andrew Whitaker	Senior Project Manager
The Honorable Matthew Whitaker	CO-CHAIR, CENTER FOR LAW & JUSTICE
Paula White-Cain	Chair, Center for American Values
The Honorable Robert Wilkie	Distinguished Fellow, Center for American Security
Gail Wilson	Engagement Officer
Rebecca Yardley	Executive Director, AFPI Georgia
The Honorable Steve Yates	Senior Fellow and Chair, China Policy Initiative
General Mick Zais	Senior Fellow, Center for Education Opportunity

Alex Zemek	Senior Fellow, Center for Homeland Security & Immigration
Weifeng Zhong	Senior Advisor, Office for Fiscal and Regulatory Analysis
Kristen Ziccarelli	Director of Production and Policy Analyst, Center for Homeland Security and Immigration

Policy

AFPI has outlined its overarching policy goals in “The America First Agenda,” which encompasses nine “pillars.” “AMERICA DESERVES A BETTER AND BRIGHTER FUTURE. AMERICAN CITIZENS NEED POLICIES THAT PUT THEM FIRST INSTEAD OF POLICIES THAT STAND IN THEIR WAY. AFPI NOW PRESENTS THE AMERICA FIRST AGENDA. ON THESE PAGES, YOU WILL SEE A PLAN FOR ESTABLISHING POLICIES THAT KEEP AMERICA FIRST, ALWAYS.” [The America First Agenda, accessed [7/1/24](#)]

- **“Pillar I: Make the Greatest Economy in the World Work for All Americans.”**
- **“Pillar II: Put Patients and Doctors Back in Charge of Healthcare”**
- **“Pillar III: Restore America's Historic Commitment to Freedom, Equality, and Self-Governance”**
- **“Pillar IV: Give Parents More Control Over the Education of Their Children”**
- **“Pillar V: Secure the Border, End Human Trafficking, and Defeat the Drug Cartels”**
- **“Pillar VI: Deliver Peace Through Strength and American Leadership”**
- **“Pillar VII: Make America Energy Independent”**
- **“Pillar VIII: Make it Easy to Vote and Hard to Cheat”**
- **“Pillar IX: Provide Safe and Secure Communities so All Americans Can Live Their Lives in Peace”**
- **“Pillar X: Fight Government Corruption by Draining the Swamp”**

Election Related Work

AFPI’s Center for Election Integrity promotes “strong laws ... making it easy to vote, but hard to cheat.” “The Center for Election Integrity will work with relevant stakeholders across the country and within states to help ensure there are strong laws in place at the local level—making it easy to vote, but hard to cheat.” [Center for Election Integrity, accessed [7/3/24](#)]

The center is led by Chairman Kenneth Blackwell, former Ohio Secretary of State. “Ken Blackwell is a native of Cincinnati, Ohio, and serves as the Chair of the Center for Election Integrity at AFPI. Blackwell has an extensive career in public service and is widely regarded as a leading expert on elections and election security. Prior to joining AFPI, Blackwell served as the mayor of Cincinnati, Ohio, and was also elected to serve as the Treasurer and Secretary of State for the State of Ohio.

Blackwell also currently serves as a Senior Fellow for Human Rights and Constitutional Governance at the Family Research Council. He is the Co-Chairman of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems and serves on the Board of Directors for the Public Interest Legal Foundation, the Near East News Agency, and the Institute for Pension Fund Integrity.” [The Honorable J. Kenneth Blackwell, CHAIR, CENTER FOR ELECTION INTEGRITY, accessed [7/3/24](#)]

Blackwell “became notorious for partisan conflicts, attempts to restrict access to the ballot, and chaotic election administration.” “J. Kenneth Blackwell, named in May 2017 to the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity, is perhaps most memorable in political circles for his fraught term as Ohio’s chief election official from 1999 to 2007. In that time, Blackwell became notorious for partisan conflicts, attempts to restrict access to the ballot, and chaotic election administration.” [Former Ohio Elections Chief Blackwell Brings a Troubled Record on Elections to Fraud Commission, Brennan Center for Justice, accessed [7/3/24](#)]

- **Blackwell echoed Trump’s claims of illegal voting in 2016.** “Since leaving office, Blackwell served most recently as chief domestic policy advisor on President Trump’s transition team.¹ He was also one of the very few current or former election officials to echo President Trump’s false allegation of widespread illegal voting in the 2016 election² — most, including many Republicans, have disputed that claim.” [Former Ohio Elections Chief Blackwell Brings a Troubled Record on Elections to Fraud Commission, Brennan Center for Justice, accessed [7/3/24](#)]

Blackwell is “deeply connected [to] ... the right-wing voter suppression agenda.” “Blackwell is deeply connected a number of other organizations and operatives who are leading the right-wing voter suppression agenda. He currently also chairs CNP Action, the political arm of the secretive Christian Right group Council for National Policy. The Council is deeply tied to the Trump administration, #StoptheSteal, and the violent insurrection at the Capitol on January 6, CMD has reported. In May, Blackwell facilitated an ‘Action Session’ at the group’s 40th Anniversary meeting on how to combat the national voting rights effort with election-objector U.S. Rep. Byron Donalds (R-FL) and GOP lawyer Cleta Mitchell, who has promoted Trump’s Big Lie of voter fraud in the 2020 election and advised him on his infamous call pressuring Georgia’s secretary of state to find more Trump votes. Blackwell and Mitchell also serve together on the board of the Public Interest Legal Foundation (PILF), a ‘public interest law firm’ that fights to purge voter rolls and spreads misinformation around voter fraud, much of which contributed to the ‘Big Lie.’” [Exposed by CMD, [9/14/21](#)]

Vice Chair Hogan Gidley is a former Trump spokesman. “Hogan Gidley is from Columbia, South Carolina, and serves as AFPI’s Vice Chair of the Center for Election Integrity & Senior Advisor for Communications. Most recently, he served as National Press Secretary for President Trump’s Re-Election Campaign and Principal Deputy Press Secretary and Deputy Assistant to the President in the Trump Administration.” [Hogan Gidley VICE CHAIR, CENTER FOR ELECTION INTEGRITY & SENIOR ADVISOR FOR COMMUNICATIONS, accessed [7/3/24](#)]

June 2024: AFPI is funding a Georgia election-denier’s lawsuit against a county election board. “When a member of Georgia’s Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections refused to join her colleagues as they certified two primaries this year, she claimed she had been denied her right to examine a long list of election records for signs of fraud or other issues. Now the board member, Julie Adams, an avowed believer in the false theory that the 2020 election was stolen from former president Donald Trump, is suing the board, hoping a judge will affirm that right and potentially empower others

in similar positions elsewhere to hold up the outcome of elections. To voting rights activists, election law specialists and Democrats, such actions represent an ominous sign that could presage a chaotic aftermath to the 2024 election.” [Washington Post, [6/26/24](#)]

- **Plaintiff is “active with” Clela Mitchell’s Election Integrity Network.** “Adams, the plaintiff in the Georgia lawsuit, is active with the Election Integrity Network, a loose affiliation of pro-Trump activists nationwide who have organized drives to scrutinize voter registration databases in search of ineligible voters — and to scrutinize every step of the election process for signs of irregularities. The network is the brainchild of Clela Mitchell, who as one of Trump’s lawyers in 2020 helped him try to overturn his defeat in Georgia and elsewhere. The Fulton County GOP is supporting the suit, and it is being funded by the America First Policy Institute — a nonprofit think tank founded in 2021 by former Trump White House officials to advance policy ideas that he could implement if he is elected to a second term. The group has also set up a robust election-monitoring operation.” [Washington Post, [6/26/24](#)]
- **AFPI Official: “She cannot and should not certify...”** “‘She cannot and should not certify if she’s not given the information,’ said Mike Berry, executive director of the organization’s Center for Litigation, who spoke to The Washington Post after Adams declined to do so. ‘And if she is given the information, there must be a meaningful opportunity to review and evaluate it. And then she’ll do whatever the results require her to do.’” [Washington Post, [6/26/24](#)]
- **Lawsuit seeks to “clarify” that election workers duties are “discretionary.”** “Lawyers from the pro-Trump ‘America First Policy Institute’ filed the lawsuit on May 22 for Julie Adams, a member of the Fulton County elections board since February. The lawsuit asks a court to ‘clarify’ that Adams’ duties to certify the election ‘are, in fact, discretionary’ and not required by law.” [Savannah Morning News, 6/17/24]
- **Pam Bondi, AFPI litigation chair: “It is unfortunate that this action was necessary.”** “‘The bedrock of the American legal system is that we are governed by laws,’ said Pam Bondi, AFPI Chair of the Center for Litigation. ‘It is unfortunate that this action was necessary, but despite repeated requests and efforts to gain access to essential election information, the Board continues to deny Ms. Adams the information she needs to ensure the integrity of elections in Fulton County. The goal of this case is simple: we are asking the Court to tell the Board to follow the law.’” [AFPI Press Release, [5/24/24](#)]

June 2024: AFPI encourages volunteers to become poll watchers. “We are hosting Poll Watcher trainings around the country in collaboration with other organizations. Click below to find a place and time nearest you.” [FACT SHEET | CENTER FOR ELECTION INTEGRITY What is a Poll Watcher? [6/26/24](#)]

June 2024: AFPI op-ed: “[O]ur democracy is threatened by the left's alarming push to allow illegal aliens to vote.” “The founding of our democratic republic is based on the sanctity of free and fair elections, where every legitimate vote counts and the voice of every American citizen is heard. However, this pillar of our democracy is threatened by the left's alarming push to allow illegal aliens to vote. This push is often disguised as a rhetoric of inclusivity and representation, but make no mistake: allowing illegal aliens to vote fundamentally distorts the democratic process.” [Preserving electoral integrity: combating the threat of illegal immigrant voting, [6/11/24](#)]

May 2024: AFPI’s Hogan Gidley “pushed a debunked conspiracy theory” on noncitizens voting. “On Wednesday, House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) along with a handful of Republican representatives and election deniers held a press conference promoting the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act, a bill that would make it illegal for people who are not U.S. citizens to vote in federal elections.... Hogan Gidley, vice chair of the Center for Election Integrity at the America First Policy Institute and former Trump White House official, pushed a debunked conspiracy theory that has gained traction among Trump allies in recent weeks. Gidley claimed at one point that the left is deliberately ‘flooding our country with people here illegally’ as a way to ‘weaken election integrity measures.’ ... ‘It’s a Biden invasion,’ Gidley said. ‘Everyone knows that no one disputes it and at the same time, the left is flooding our country with people here illegally, not by accident, but by design.’” [Talking Points Memo, 5/8/24]

May 2024: Blackwell provides written testimony backing a GOP election bill. “Rapid technological advancements can create a situation in which state-owned technologies, machines, and processes are not as secure and modernized as they could be; provisions in this bill ultimately provide Ohio with a blueprint to ensure that the state keeps in step with procedural and technological advances in the interest of conducting secure elections and helping keep voter data safe.” [Proponent Testimony on HB 472 by former Ohio Secretary of State Hon. Ken Blackwell House Homeland Security Committee, [5/22/24](#)]

May 2024: Blackwell commends Ohio Secretary of State for targeting non-citizen voters. “America First Policy Institute commends you for initiating a confirmation and removal process to ensure that only eligible United States citizens are able to register and vote. This is a simple yet necessary action that affords a measure of election security and confidence for Buckeye State voters. ... As you know, the law forbids non-citizens from voting in federal elections, yet there is no mechanism to enforce the law, and those who seek to subvert the law know this. But thanks to your leadership and your commitment to the rule of law, Ohio is now one step closer to closing these legal loopholes. We commend you and your team for this action, and we stand ready to work together to ensure we make it easy to vote but hard to cheat.” [Congratulatory Letter to the Ohio Secretary of State, [5/20/24](#)]

February 2024: Blackwell supports Ohio bill prohibiting foreign nationals from contributing to state ballot issues. “This fight to stop this influence of foreign money is bigger than any one ballot issue. It is to protect the integrity of our elections. It is to stop people who are not American citizens from funding surrogates and Trojan horses to change the Ohio Constitution.” [Support of Ohio S.B. 215, [2/27/24](#)]

February 2024: AFPI sues to block Arizona limits on poll monitoring. “Today, the America First Policy Institute (AFPI) announced the filing of a lawsuit in Maricopa County on behalf of Arizona Free Enterprise Club to block Arizona’s Secretary of State from limiting concerned citizens from monitoring activities at election drop boxes and polling places during the upcoming 2024 primary and general elections. ‘Transparency in the election process helps protect legal votes and legal voters. So, it makes you really wonder why Governor Hobbs and Secretary Fontes are doing everything they can to stop people from monitoring polling locations and drop boxes,’ said Hogan Gidley, AFPI’s Vice Chair of the Center for Election Integrity.” [AFPI Asks Court to Stop Arizona from Limiting Monitoring of Drop Boxes and Polling Places, [2/12/24](#)]

January 2024: Center applauds proposed ban on ranked choice voting in Georgia. “Ranked Choice Voting is an unnecessarily complicated, confusing system of voting that often results in the candidate who receives fewer initial votes being declared the winner. Studies show Ranked Choice

Voting discourages voter participation, adds wait time for results, increases negative ads, and puts a greater strain on election workers. Where it has been tried, it has proved disastrous for voters. Well done, Georgia, for showing bold leadership to help make it easy to vote but hard to cheat!” [Statement: Center for Election Integrity Applauds Georgia Legislature on Introduction of Legislation Prohibiting Ranked Choice Voting, [1/31/24](#)]

December 2023: Center applauds proposed ban on ranked choice voting in Wisconsin. “Ranked Choice Voting is a confusing, chaotic system of running elections in which the person who gets the most votes is often NOT declared the winner. In fact, studies show that in places where Ranked Choice Voting has been implemented, it’s proven to disenfranchise voters, increase negative advertising, and breed distrust in the outcome. Voters deserve a clear and straightforward voting process, and this constitutional amendment puts power in the hands of Wisconsinites to protect their elections by rejecting Ranked Choice Voting.” [Center for Election Integrity Applauds Wisconsin Legislature on Introduction of Resolution Banning Ranked Choice Voting, [12/11/23](#)]

October 2023: Gidley congratulates N.C. legislature for overriding governor’s veto of election bills. “Today, the America First Policy Institute (AFPI) released the following statement from Hogan Gidley, Vice Chair of the Center for Election Integrity at AFPI, regarding the North Carolina Legislature’s decision to override Governor Roy Cooper’s veto of Senate Bill 747 and Senate Bill 749. Both measures provide significant improvement in election integrity for North Carolina voters, including banning Zuckerbucks and establishing firm deadlines for when all ballots must be received. ‘Ballots returned by Election Day means faster vote counts and faster results. Banning private money used to administer public elections ensures no outside interference with the election process. And retaining accurate election records is necessary to protect legal votes, protect legal voters, and follow federal law. Despite the Governor’s attempt to stop these important election integrity measures from becoming law, the North Carolina Legislature stood strong and protected voters. We congratulate the Legislature because its override means the Tar Heel State will have good laws that make it easy to vote, but hard to cheat.’” [Hogan Gidley Congratulates the North Carolina Legislature on Overriding Governor Cooper’s Veto of SB 747 and SB 749, [10/13/23](#)]

October 2023: Blackwell opposes automatic voter registration in Pennsylvania. “The Governor of Pennsylvania has decided to unilaterally implement a system of automatic voter registration that history has proven is filled with many documented problems. Without discussion, debate, an executive order, or the state legislature’s approval, Pennsylvanians will now be affected by a questionable way of preparing citizens to vote. Automatic voter registration is currently used in 23 states and the District of Columbia. Supporters say it simplifies the registration process and removes barriers to voting, but this is verifiably untrue, and there are many failures of automatic voter registration that make it a deeply flawed system.” [Automatic Voter Registration Opens Door to Voter Fraud, [10/28/23](#)]

July 2023: AFPI supports “American Confidence in Elections Act.” “On behalf of the Center for Election Integrity (CEI) at the America First Policy Institute, we would like to express our support for the passage of the American Confidence in Elections (ACE) Act. Only 33% of Americans are very confident that in elections votes are accurately counted and the proper winners are declared. This proposed legislation is crucial in helping change Americans’ distrust in their election system by protecting elections and improving transparency in our electoral process. Specifically, this legislation addresses several key concerns regarding election integrity, voter confidence, and the protection of political speech, all of which are vital to maintaining the strength and fairness of our democratic system.” [LETTER OF SUPPORT: The American Confidence In Elections (ACE) Act, [7/10/23](#)]

July 2023: AFPI report supports photo ID requirements. “Studies show that photo ID requirements do not negatively affect minority or demographic-specific turnout. By establishing photo ID requirements, policymakers can protect legal voters, support election integrity, and increase confidence in election results across the country.” [RESEARCH REPORT: The Impacts Of Photo Identification Requirements On Voting, [7/10/23](#)]

July 2023: Blackwell celebrates Ohio passage of DATA Act. “The DATA Act establishes new methods of retaining election data, creating better clarity and accountability in election administration. ‘Congratulations to Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose for introducing the DATA Act and working with the legislature to ensure its successful passage. This landmark legislation will bring consistency and transparency to Ohio elections. AFPI is proud to have been an integral part of educating policymakers and the public about this bill, which is bipartisan and can be used as a blueprint in other states to improve their election records retention. Ohio is leading the Nation in the field of election data retention and charting a new course that more states can follow.’” [Statement: Ken Blackwell on the Passage of the Enact Data Analysis Transparency Archive (DATA) Act in Ohio, [7/7/23](#)]

June 2023: AFPI report alleges voter discrepancies in 2022 Arizona election. “A potential 8,241-vote discrepancy was discovered between the total number of registered voters listed as voting and the total number of ballots counted in the 2022 Arizona general election, about 29.4 times the 280-vote difference in the attorney general race. The results indicate that there were either more votes counted than registered voters who voted in the 2022 Arizona general election or that Arizona counties have failed to keep accurate records of who voted in the election. Either way, this study has discovered a concerning issue.” [Voter Discrepancies Found In The Arizona 2022 General Election, [6/26/23](#)]

June 2023: Blackwell cheers Texas withdrawal from ERIC. “Texas’s decision to join several other states and withdraw from ERIC should continue to raise serious concerns for any state still using it. ERIC was initially sold as a non-partisan data system to clean voter rolls. However, it has been transformed into a system that lacks transparency, compromises voter information, and focuses on states registering voters rather than cleaning voter rolls. With Texas joining seven other states around the country and leaving ERIC, Secretaries of State who are still members of the system should conduct an immediate review of ERIC’s effectiveness and validity for their states and voters.” [Statement: Ken Blackwell on Texas’s Withdrawal from ERIC, [6/18/23](#)]

May 2023: Blackwell op-ed: Hobbs ‘Thumbs Nose at Election Integrity.’ “The integrity of our electoral process is vital to maintaining the foundations of democracy. Reliable and secure voting machines play a crucial role in the faith, trust, and confidence of our elections. Knowing and understanding this, the Arizona Legislature just passed H.B. 2613, which would have mandated voting machines used in state elections be made in America. Furthermore, this legislation would have required all those voting machines to have 100% of their parts and components sourced and assembled in the U.S. Unfortunately for the people of Arizona, Governor Hobbs vetoed the legislation. In doing so, she turned her back on American manufacturing and election integrity.” [Op-Ed: Governor Hobbs Thumbs Nose at Election Integrity and American Manufacturing, [5/17/23](#)]

May 2023: AFPI released fact sheet on ballot return deadlines. “The deadline for election officials to receive ballots varies widely by state. Requiring that ballots be delivered to election officials by Election Day will increase trust and transparency in elections administration. For people legitimately unable to vote in person, options such as entrusting a family member or using the U.S. Postal Service are

available. Requiring uniform deadlines will also make it simpler for voters who have moved recently to know when to mail their ballot in order to ensure timely delivery.” [FACT SHEET: All Ballots In By Election Day, [5/16/23](#)]

May 2023: Blackwell praises Mississippi election audit law. “Today, the America First Policy Institute released the following statement from Ken Blackwell, Chair of the Center for Election Integrity (CEI) at the America First Policy Institute, regarding the new Mississippi law: ‘On behalf of CEI and election reformers around the country, we congratulate Governor Reeves and the State Legislature in Mississippi for passing and signing House Bill 1310, which promotes transparency, accountability, and accuracy in elections. This critical measure is consistent with CEI’s vision of making it easy to vote, but hard to cheat. CEI has been working across the country in multiple states to make that happen. Mississippi took another great step forward in protecting and securing their elections with this new law, making them a real leader in election integrity.’” [STATEMENT: Ken Blackwell on The Passage of Mississippi House Bill 1310, [5/3/23](#)]

May 2023: Blackwell praises Georgia ban on private election funding. “I applaud Governor Kemp for signing landmark legislation that closes loopholes in a previous law passed in 2021, which attempted to ban private money in elections administration. Even though the intent of the original law was clear, dark money progressive groups were taking advantage of loopholes to continue funneling private money into elections administration. This new law shuts the door to that practice once and for all. Allowing private money to fund elections administration opens the door for partisan influence in elections, which is unfair to voters, who all deserve to be treated equally. Today, Georgia took another major step forward with this law, making it easy to vote but hard to cheat.’ In the past few months, the Center for Election Integrity submitted a Letter of Information educating senators on the merits of the bill, attended hearings, and participated in legislative meetings about the bill. This new law is a win for all Georgians.” [STATEMENT: Ken Blackwell on Governor Kemp Signing Senate Bill 222 into law, [5/3/23](#)]

April 2023: Blackwell on Maricopa County election issues: “either gross incompetence or a cover-up.” “Today, the America First Policy Institute released the following statement from Ken Blackwell, Chair of the Center for Election Integrity at the America First Policy Institute, regarding the recent discoveries about the 2022 midterm elections in Maricopa County, Arizona: ‘First, Maricopa County election officials blame printers and say they will do better. Common sense and basic competence would dictate election officials assess the capability of the printers BEFORE Election Day. They didn’t. Second, it now appears that not all legal ballots were counted and included in the official results. There is testimonial evidence of people who did not have their votes counted. And in a legal case brought by Arizona Attorney General candidate Abe Hamadeh, evidence shows that then-Secretary of State Katie Hobbs knew that the recount showed discrepancies and failed to disclose those relevant facts to the court in a timely manner before the court made its ruling. This failure to do so is either gross incompetence or a cover-up. Maricopa County failed its voters in 2022, and there should be consequences for that failure.’” [Statement: Ken Blackwell on Issues with Maricopa County Elections, [4/18/23](#)]

April 2023: Blackwell praises Idaho ban on ranked choice voting. “The Center for Election Integrity firmly opposes Ranked Choice Voting because it is a confusing and chaotic system that often results in the candidate with the most votes losing the election. While H179 was pending in committee, we submitted our fact sheet and issue brief for the legislature’s consideration. We are happy we helped educate policymakers on the effects of Ranked Choice Voting. This new law prohibiting Ranked Choice

Voting is a win for all Idahoans.” [Statement: Ken Blackwell on the New Prohibition of Ranked Choice Voting in Idaho, [4/6/23](#)]

March 2023: Blackwell calls on states to drop ERIC. “As a former Secretary of State, I know maintaining clean and accurate voter rolls is vital to fair, honest, and transparent elections,’ said Blackwell. ‘ERIC was supposed to accomplish this, but instead, the system has come under intense scrutiny for its data-sharing operations, partisan ties, and lack of transparency. I salute the Secretaries of State who decided to withdraw from ERIC and ask the remaining Secretaries to reconsider their membership. Clean voter rolls help make it easy to vote but hard to cheat, and ERIC no longer helps achieve that goal.” [Ken Blackwell Calls on States to Withdraw from Membership in ERIC, [3/23/23](#)]

March 2023: Blackwell criticizes Center for Voter Information activity in Wisconsin. “CVI has come under intense scrutiny for mass mailing an undisclosed number of pre-filled absentee ballot applications designed to look like official government documents, and in doing so, caused widespread chaos due to incorrect names and addresses. This is a horrible way to conduct an election. CVI’s overt partisan actions have resulted in possibly millions of unmonitored, misdelivered, incorrect absentee ballot applications being sent out across Wisconsin. This practice confuses voters and creates ample opportunities for fraud. State and local election offices should be the only ones administering elections.” [Statement: Ken Blackwell on Involvement of Center for Voter Information in Wisconsin Elections, [3/20/23](#)]

March 2023: Blackwell urges states to end off-cycle school board elections. “This is what we have seen happen in our nation’s school board elections – particularly those that are held ‘off-cycle’ (anytime other than November of even years). With the persistent agenda from the left to sexualize and indoctrinate our children, school boards must be held accountable, and we must ensure parents have more control over their child’s education. This requires the restoration of parental voices back in the government process by making it easier for parents to vote, and harder for special interest groups to game the system. If we can increase voter turnout in school board elections and get more parents to vote, we are likely to see a school board with policies more representative of the entire constituency rather than one small group. But how do we increase the voter turnout in school board elections? The first step is consolidating school board elections on dates when voters are already headed to the polls. Known as on-cycle elections, these elections would take place on the first Tuesday following the first Monday in November of even-numbered years, when voters are already voting for Congress and the presidency. Having voters vote down the whole ballot on one day is easier than asking them to show up on a different date for local elections.” [USA Today, Ken Blackwell op-ed, [3/15/23](#)]

March 2023: Gidley opposes ranked-choice voting in Montana. “It’s an overly complicated, confusing system of voting that often prevents the candidate who gets the most votes from being

declared the winner. Unfortunately, the Treasure State is the latest area where this system of voting is being considered.” [Op-Ed: Ranked choice voting in Montana: The wrong choice, [3/7/23](#)]

February 2023: Fact sheet promotes photo ID. “INSTEAD OF USING SIGNATURE MATCHING, MAIL-IN BALLOTS SHOULD VERIFY THE SENDER’S IDENTITY BY REQUIRING THE VOTER TO USE ANOTHER FORM OF IDENTIFICATION.” [FACT SHEET: Proper Identification for Mail-In Ballots, [2/13/23](#)]

January 2023: AFPI releases model legislation on photo ID requirements. “A government-issued photo identification (‘photo ID’) is a fundamental requirement of an effective electoral system that protects the validity of every legal vote and legal voter. Out of 47 European countries, 46 require photo ID to vote. Photo IDs are regularly required in personal and professional situations to verify that an individual is who they claim to be. Additionally, obtaining a photo ID for voting should be free of cost. This requirement is vital to ensure each voter is properly identified to protect against voter fraud, guarantee fair outcomes, and help restore trust in the results. These measures will help make it easy to vote but hard to cheat.” [Requiring Photo Id To Vote Act, [1/27/23](#)]

January 2023: Model legislation targets voting machines. “Voting systems are designated as critical infrastructure by the Department of Homeland Security and should therefore be subject to strict regulation regarding component sourcing, manufacturing, and production. This act mandates that states do not use voting machines that contain any part or material sourced from producers of election infrastructure contracting or subcontracting with entities or businesses in countries designated as state sponsors of terrorism by the Department of State as well as the People’s Republic of China and the Russian Federation. This will ensure better security standards for U.S. critical infrastructure and help restore public trust in elections.” [Secure Our Voting Machines Act, [1/19/23](#)]

January 2023: Model legislation would ban ranked choice voting. “Ranked Choice Voting (RCV), as defined below, is an overly complicated system that is not popular among the vast majority of Americans and often prevents the candidate receiving the most votes from being declared the winner. Studies show Ranked Choice Voting discourages voter participation, adds wait time for results, does not decrease negative ads, puts a greater strain on election workers, and increases voter distrust. Instead of making it easy to vote but hard to cheat, RCV will confuse voters and discourage more citizens from voting. The purpose of this act is to ban RCV in states.” [Prohibiting Ranked Choice Voting Act, [1/17/23](#)]

January 2023: Model legislation would require domestic voting machines. “This act mandates that electronic voting systems be sourced, manufactured, and assembled in the United States. This will ensure better security standards, make it easier to investigate any machine issues, and help restore public trust in elections. Voting systems are designated as critical infrastructure by the Department of Homeland Security and should therefore be subject to strict regulation regarding component sourcing, manufacturing, and production. If issues arise with a voting machine, it would be easier to discover the cause if the machine hardware and software are created in Birmingham, Buffalo, or Boise, and not Beijing.” [American Made Voting Machines Act, [1/13/23](#)]

January 2023: Model legislation would require ballot delivery by Election Day. “This model policy would require all ballots, with the exception of military personnel serving overseas and American citizens living overseas, to be received by the close of polls on Election Day. Currently, 30 states require ballots to be received by Election Day, although the deadline hour varies. Other states allow ballots to be

received up to 14 days after Election Day. This legislation will decrease the prolonged post-election vote tally, which often leads to public distrust and protracted litigation.” [Ensuring Ballots Received By Election Day Act, [1/11/23](#)]

January 2023: Model legislation would require ID for mail ballots. “This model legislation requires individuals voting by mail to submit their driver’s license number, the number on their government-issued voter ID, or the last four digits of their social security number to validate that they are whom they claim to be. Signature matching was a reasonable way of vetting mail-in ballots in the past when only 20% of voters submitted ballots by mail, but the heavy increase in mail-in ballots now necessitates more secure identification measures. Voter identification is the foundation of election integrity, for in-person and mail-in voting.” [Requiring Identification for Mail-In Ballots Act, [1/5/23](#)]

July 2022: AFPI claimed to have “boots on the ground” in 32 states. “The AFPI is led by Brooke Rollins , a former domestic policy adviser in the White House, who boasted how the 15-month-old organisation put ‘boots on the ground’ in 32 states on issues from ‘election integrity to school choice and patriotic education to health care transparency to taxes and spending to fatherhood initiatives to border security to big tech censorship’. The institute has sued Twitter, Facebook and YouTube for alleged censorship, she added, while fighting Joe Biden’s vaccine mandates all the way to the supreme court and opposing his Build Back Better plan for climate and social spending.” [The Guardian, 7/30/22]

March 2022: AFPI ranks states based on election law restrictiveness. “The methodology is simple: rate states across three key areas of voter protection clearly acknowledged to make it harder to cheat – photo ID requirements, strong laws against ballot harvesting, and ballots returned to election officials by Election Day (an obvious legitimate exception would include military service). States receive either a red, yellow, or green designation depending on the robustness of their election integrity measures across these three areas.” [Center for Election Integrity Launches Color-coded Interactive Map Comparing States’ Key Election Laws, [3/7/22](#)]

Pro-Trump Activity

April 2024: NYT: Trump son-in-law Jared Kushner “continues to offer advice to” AFPI. “Mr. Kushner has said he does not intend to return to the White House. But pressed on whether he would definitively rule out going back to government, he spoke instead about how happy he was in his life right now. He continues to offer advice to America First Policy Institute, a nonprofit set up by former Trump White House officials who are already preparing for a possible return to power.” [New York Times, [4/9/24](#)]

September 2023: Politico: AFPI is helping to implement Project 2025, but its “grandest ambitions” are focused on governors and AGs. “For the America First Policy Institute, which is helping to implement Project 2025, its grandest ambitions lie in soliciting governors and state attorneys general to the cause, among others. AFPI will soon launch America First ‘state chapters.’ Adds Rollins, AFPI’s CEO: ‘What AFPI is building is very much an outside of Washington D.C. approach. There is so much talent and so many really incredible people currently in college or in the private sector who would love to come in.’” [Politico Magazine, [9/21/23](#)]

July 2023: NYT: Former Trump aide who designed order removing federal employment protections now works at AFPI. “The former president views the civil service as a den of ‘deep

staters' who were trying to thwart him at every turn, including by raising legal or pragmatic objections to his immigration policies, among many other examples. Toward the end of his term, his aides drafted an executive order, 'Creating Schedule F in the Excepted Service,' that removed employment protections from career officials whose jobs were deemed linked to policymaking. Mr. Trump signed the order, which became known as Schedule F, near the end of his presidency, but President Biden rescinded it. Mr. Trump has vowed to immediately reinstitute it in a second term. Critics say he could use it for a partisan purge. But James Sherk, a former Trump administration official who came up with the idea and now works at the America First Policy Institute - a think tank stocked heavily with former Trump officials - argued it would only be used against poor performers and people who actively impeded the elected president's agenda. 'Schedule F expressly forbids hiring or firing based on political loyalty,' Mr. Sherk said. 'Schedule F employees would keep their jobs if they served effectively and impartially.'" [New York Times, 7/20/23]

December 2022: Jan. 6 Committee expressed concerns about witnesses “who still rely for their income or employment on organizations linked to President Trump, such as the America First Policy Institute.” “The Select Committee also has concerns regarding certain other witnesses, including those who still rely for their income or employment on organizations linked to President Trump, such as the America First Policy Institute. Certain witnesses and lawyers were unnecessarily combative, answered hundreds of questions with variants of ‘I do not recall’ in circumstances where that answer seemed unbelievable, appeared to testify from lawyer-written talking points rather than their own recollections, provided highly questionable rationalizations or otherwise resisted telling the truth. The public can ultimately make its own assessment of these issues when it reviews the Committee transcripts and can compare the accounts of different witnesses and the conduct of counsel.” [FINAL REPORT Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol, [12/22/22](#)]

- **Trump’s Save America PAC paid AFPI \$1 million while Jan. 6 investigation was ongoing.** “Additionally, Save America has reported other expenditures, like: \$1,000,000 donation to America First Policy Institute, home to several former Trump officials and witnesses subpoenaed to testify before the Committee.” [FINAL REPORT Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol, [12/22/22](#)]

November 2022: Trump slams special counsel at AFPI gala hosted at Mar-a-Lago. “Trump addressed the news Friday night at an America First Policy Institute gala at Mar-a-Lago, slamming what he described as the ‘appalling announcement today by the egregiously corrupt Biden administration and their weaponized Department of Justice.’ He called it a ‘horrendous abuse of power’ and ‘the latest in a long series of witch hunts,’ and insisted he’d ‘done nothing wrong,’” [Associated Press, 11/19/22]

July 2022: Politico: AFPI began as an effort to craft a second-term agenda for Trump; group “often described as the ‘White House in waiting.’” “Brooke Rollins, the domestic policy adviser, Larry Kudlow, Trump’s top economic adviser, and Robert O’Brien, Trump’s national security adviser, initially teamed up, sometimes working from white boards in the West Wing. They were joined at times by Ivanka Trump, Kellyanne Conway and Russ Vought, Trump’s Office of Management and Budget director, along with various policy aides. By the summer of 2020, the group produced a two-page document called ‘Vision 2025,’ reviewed by POLITICO, that outlined 10 priorities. Camp David was reserved for the week after the election to go over their plans, according to Rollins. But the plans were for naught. Trump lost the election. Vision 2025 was never released. The retreat was canceled. Rollins, Kudlow and others haven’t discarded their project, though. Instead, they turned it into a blueprint for a

new non-profit, the America First Policy Institute, often described as a ‘White House in waiting.’” [Politico, [7/25/22](#)]

July 2022: Trump returns to Washington for first time since end of presidency to address AFPI summit. “Former President Trump will return to Washington on Tuesday for the first time since leaving office, delivering a policy speech before an allied think tank that has been crafting an agenda for a possible second term. Trump will address the America First Policy Institute’s two-day America First Agenda Summit as some advisers urge him to spend more time talking about his vision for the future and less time relitigating the 2020 election as he prepares to announce an expected 2024 White House campaign.” [The Hotline, 7/26/22]

- **Trump repeated false election claims in speech.** “Former President Donald Trump returned to Washington for the first time since leaving office Tuesday, vigorously repeating his false election claims that sparked the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. ‘It was a catastrophe that election. A disgrace to our country,’ he said, insisting despite all evidence that he had won in 2020. ‘We may just have to do it again,’ he said, repeating as he does in all recent appearances the ever-clearer hints that he will run again in 2024. He received frequent applause and cheers from his audience, a meeting organized by a group of former White House officials and Cabinet members who have been crafting an agenda for a possible second Trump term.” [Associated Press, 7/27/22]

December 2021: AFPI part of a “network” pushing restrictive voting laws. “A powerful network of conservative election lawyers and groups with links to Donald Trump have spent millions of dollars promoting new and onerous voting laws that many battleground states such as Georgia and Texas have enacted. The moves have prompted election and voting rights watchdogs in the US to warn about the suppression of non-white voters aimed at providing Republicans an edge in coming elections. The lawyers and groups spearheading self-professed election integrity measures include some figures who pushed Trump’s baseless claims of fraud after the 2020 election. Key advocates include Cleta Mitchell with the Conservative Partnership institute; J Christian Adams of the Public Interest Legal Foundation; Hans von Spakovsky of the Heritage Foundation; Jason Snead of the Honest Elections Project; and J Kenneth Blackwell with the America First Policy Institute.” [The Guardian, [12/14/21](#)]

September 2021: AFPI led coalition spending up to \$10m to fight Biden agenda. “A new conservative coalition led by former Trump administration advisers plans to launch an up to \$10 million campaign to attack President Biden’s economic package as it advances through Congress. The effort, set to launch Friday, is being spearheaded by the America First Policy Institute founded earlier this year by former Trump officials, as well as conservative organizations such as the Conservative Partnership Institute, the Committee to Unleash Prosperity, the Texas Public Policy Foundation, and FreedomWorks. Leaders of the campaign, called the ‘Save America Coalition,’ met Wednesday night at the Washington headquarters of the America First group located near the White House. They discussed plans to rally more than 100 conservative organizations and draw donors for advertisements and social media campaigns criticizing the Biden proposal in swing states and districts controlled by centrist Democrats.”

July 2021: AFPI supports Trump lawsuits against tech companies that banned him after Jan. 6. “Former President Donald Trump, who has been banned from most major social media platforms, announced a class-action lawsuit Wednesday against tech giants Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube, along with their respective CEOs Mark Zuckerberg, Jack Dorsey, and Sundar Pichai. The lawsuit represents

the latest development in the blowup between Trump and Big Tech companies such as Facebook and Twitter regarding censorship and content moderation. For his role in the Jan. 6 Capitol riot, Facebook banned Trump from the platform until at least January 2023, Twitter permanently banned him, and YouTube, which is owned by Google, indefinitely banned him. The suit is being filed by America First Policy Institute, a nonprofit group focused on aiding Trump's policies. The organization confirmed to the Washington Examiner that it was helping Trump's legal effort." [The Washington Examiner, 7/7/21]

April 2021: AFPI launched with 35 employees and a \$20 million budget. "A constellation of Trump administration stars today will launch the America First Policy Institute, a 35-person nonprofit group with a first-year budget of \$20 million and the mission of perpetuating former President Trump's populist policies. Why it matters: Two top Trump alumni tell me AFPI is by far the largest pro-Trump outside group, besides Trump's own Florida-based machine." [Axios, [4/13/21](#)]

- **Trump daughter, son-in-law reportedly "informal advisers."** "I'm told that Jared Kushner and Ivanka Trump are informal advisers." [Axios, [4/13/21](#)]
- **Rollins briefed Trump at Mar-a-Lago before AFPI launch.** "Rollins, who met with Trump at Mar-a-Lago last week to update him on plans for the group, told me the group wants to be 'dreamers and ... risk-takers.'" [Axios, [4/13/21](#)]

December 2020: Senior Trump advisers began planning for AFPI launch. "Senior advisers to President Donald Trump are preparing to launch a nonprofit group to promote the president's policies once he leaves office, creating a landing spot for former Trump officials after the White House changes hands. White House domestic policy adviser Brooke Rollins and National Economic Council Director Larry Kudlow have been putting the organization together and are expected to be heavily involved once it gets off the ground. National Security adviser Robert O'Brien and former Energy Secretary Rick Perry are also among those likely to play roles. Word of the yet-to-be-named outfit comes as top White House officials plot their futures and Trump's post-presidential political apparatus gradually comes into focus, featuring a new PAC and potentially other entities as well. The new nonprofit group is expected to become a destination for many of the administration's top policy advisers and Cabinet officials." [Politico, [12/22/20](#)]

- **"The president is very excited about this."** "The president is very enthusiastic about this," Kudlow said in a Tuesday interview." [Politico, [12/22/20](#)]
- **New group "raises questions" about America First Policies, which was seen as "ineffective."** "The formation of the new outfit raises questions about the future of America First Policies, a pro-Trump nonprofit group that many of the party's donors saw as ineffective during Trump's term in office." [Politico, [12/22/20](#)]

AMERICA FIRST WORKS

Background

Organization Type: 501(c)(4)

Association: Political Advocacy

Address: 1001 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, 1776 K Street NW – [Washington, D.C.](#) 20004

YouTube: [@americafirstworks](#)

Twitter: [@America1stWorks](#)

Facebook: [America First Works](#)

Instagram: [@americafirstworks](#)

Leadership

Executive Director: Ashley Hayek

- **Hayek was a political strategist who once ran a non-profit and political fundraising firm in San Diego from her family’s townhouse; she served as Trump-Pence 2020’s National Coalitions Director.** “America First Works Executive Director Ashley Hayek is originally from the small agricultural town of Clovis, California. Hayek is a political strategist with over 15 years of experience in political, non-profit, and organization strategy, most recently serving on the Trump-Pence 2020 presidential campaign as the National Coalitions Director. At the age of 22, she started her first company in the loft of her townhouse in San Diego and within five years became the premier political and non-profit fundraising firm in Southern California. Hayek attended the University of California, San Diego, where she received a degree in Political Science. She is the proud wife of a United States Marine and mom of five.” [AFW Leadership, Accessed: [5/28/24](#)]
- **2023: Hayek published a book entitled “BEAT THE ELITES” which “details with explosive evidence, the ‘elites’ in Washington are making the American people poorer while they get rich.”** “Today, America First Works Executive Director Ashley Hayek launched her new book ‘BEAT THE ELITES’ available at [BeatTheElites.com](#) and Amazon, which exposes a pattern taking shape in Washington—the ‘elites’ waging war on the American people. Here is what people are saying: ‘Ashley Hayek echoes the spirit of our nation’s forefathers with her compelling and resounding voice. ‘Beat the Elites’ is not just a book, but a patriotic call to action – an essential read that rekindles the flame of American resilience.’ Brooke L. Rollins, President and CEO of the America First Policy Institute, Senior Advisor to America First Works...As ‘BEAT THE ELITES’ details with explosive evidence, the ‘elites’ in Washington are making the American people poorer while they get rich, destroying American jobs while never losing theirs, violating Americans’ rights while they protect their own, and putting Americans in danger while they remain safe and sound. ‘BEAT THE ELITES’ is published by America First Publishing, and the ISBN is 979-8-9890429-0-6. The book is 235 pages long.” [AFW Leadership, Accessed: [5/28/24](#)]

Senior Advisor: Brooke Rollins

- **Rollins was the President and CEO of AFW’s parent organization, America First Policy Institute, and once served as Trump’s Director of Domestic Policy, Director of American Innovation, and as his Chief Strategist.** “Brooke Rollins is originally from Glen Rose, Texas, and serves as a Board Member and Senior Advisor to America First Works and as President and

Chief Executive Officer of AFPI. Rollins was formerly Director of the Domestic Policy Council and Chief Strategist in the White House under President Donald J. Trump, where she also previously served as Director of the Office of American Innovation. In these roles, she developed and managed the transformational domestic policy agenda of the Trump Administration, leading to historic achievements for the American people.” [AFW Leadership, Accessed: [5/28/24](#)]

Senior Advisor: Linda McMahon

- **McMahon was AFPI’s Board Chair and Center for the American Worker Chair, served as Trump’s Small Business Administrator and had gained her fortunes and status as President and CEO of WWE, Inc.** “Linda McMahon is originally from New Bern, North Carolina, and serves as a Senior Advisor to America First Works and is Chair of the Board and Chair of the Center for the American Worker for AFPI. McMahon served in President Donald J. Trump’s Cabinet as Administrator of the Small Business Administration. At SBA, McMahon re-imagined the organization, focusing on rural development and championing women entrepreneurs and military veterans. She oversaw natural disaster recovery efforts and helped improve the way the SBA connected small businesses to capital, counseling, and government contracts. Prior to her career in public service, McMahon was the President and later CEO of WWE, INC., which she grew from a small regional corporation to a multinational public company.” [AFW Leadership, Accessed: [5/28/24](#)]

Senior Advisor: Lee Zeldin

- **Zeldin was an Army Veteran who maintained reserve status in 2024 as a Lieutenant Colonel; also served as a GOP representative from New York’s 1st Congressional District.** “Lee Zeldin was elected to the United States Congress in 2014, representing New York’s First Congressional District, and has now won seven consecutive races since 2010 in purple NYC suburban districts, unseating two Democrat incumbents along the way. In Congress, Lee quickly became a leading voice in America on top local, domestic and foreign policy issues. He ran for Governor in 2022, nearly unseating Democrat Kathy Hochul in a state with party registration of a mere 22 percent Republican registration. Lee also served in the state senate in New York. Lee spent four years on Active Duty with the U.S. Army after completing ROTC and served in different capacities, including as a Military Intelligence Officer, Prosecutor, and Military Magistrate. In the summer of 2006, while assigned to the Army’s elite 82nd Airborne Division, Lee deployed to Iraq with an infantry battalion of fellow paratroopers in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. In 2007, Lee returned to Suffolk County with his family. It was at this time that Lee transitioned from Active Duty to the Army Reserve, where he currently serves with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He earned his bachelor’s degree from the State University of New York at Albany and then his law degree from Albany Law School, becoming New York’s youngest attorney at the time at the age of 23.” [AFW Leadership, Accessed: [5/28/24](#)]

Finances

YEAR	REVENUE	LIABILITIES	SPENDING
2021	\$140,100	\$3,200	\$0
2022	\$2,115,505	\$478,166	\$625,238

[ProPublica, Accessed:

[5/28/24](#)]

2022 990: AFW spent \$385,947 on policy and program expenses - \$72,038 of which went to “event fees.” [America First Works Inc. 990EZ, [FY2022](#)]

2022 990: AFW spent \$64,173 on “direct lobbying” efforts to influence a legislative body. [America First Works Inc. 990EZ, [FY2022](#)]

Mission

AFW: “Radical progressive policies threaten the sovereignty of our nation and our personal freedom. The American dream is being challenged by a powerful few, the ‘elites’, who exploit their positions at the expense of the people. Together we are turning the tide.” [AFW Homepage, Accessed: [5/28/24](#)]

Hayek: “We, the America First Patriots, are a force more powerful than any elite few. We are the guardians of our liberty and the architects of our shared destiny. Together we will ensure that the American Dream is preserved for generations to come.” [AFW Homepage, Accessed: [5/28/24](#)]

AFW: “We the People...believe that the power of our Republic rightfully resides with the citizens of the United States.” [AFW Our Mission, Accessed: [5/28/24](#)]

- **AFW: “However, for far too long, the hard-working men and women of our country have had their sovereignty and freedom threatened by government elites.”** [AFW Our Mission, Accessed: [5/28/24](#)]
- **AFW: “We believe that the government exists to serve the people.”** [AFW Our Mission, Accessed: [5/28/24](#)]
- **AFW: “We believe in the American people and that the American Dream should be available to all citizens.”** [AFW Our Mission, Accessed: [5/28/24](#)]

AFW: “Our mission is to rein in government excess, stop an unregulated bureaucracy, and put an end to the erosion of our liberty and security by lifelong bureaucrats.” “America First Works was founded to fight for our America First principles and the American Dream on behalf of all hard-working American citizens. Our mission is to rein in government excess, stop an unregulated bureaucracy, and put an end to the erosion of our liberty and security by lifelong bureaucrats.” [AFW Our Mission, Accessed: [5/28/24](#)]

AFW: “Together, we will revive American exceptionalism through the restoration of our heritage of self-governance.” [AFW Our Mission, Accessed: [5/28/24](#)]

AFW: “We will rise above the division being perpetrated by would-be elites through loving and serving one another in a vibrant market of industry and ideas. We will work to ensure that the government serves ‘We the People’.” [AFW Our Mission, Accessed: [5/28/24](#)]

AFW: “empowers grassroots leaders eager to play a pivotal role in advancing the America First Agenda. If you’re ready to step up, volunteer your time, and help us save America, we’re calling on you to join us.” “The real power in America rightfully belongs to you, the people. America First

Works empowers grassroots leaders eager to play a pivotal role in advancing the America First Agenda. If you're ready to step up, volunteer your time, and help us save America, we're calling on you to join us. It's your time to lead, inspire, and transform our nation from the ground up." [AFW What We Do, Accessed: [5/28/24](#)]

Philosophy

AFW: "We believe in an America First agenda where we put: American jobs first;" [AFW Our Philosophy, Accessed: [5/28/24](#)]

- **"American opportunity first;"** [AFW Our Philosophy, Accessed: [5/28/24](#)]
- **"American security first;"** [AFW Our Philosophy, Accessed: [5/28/24](#)]
- **"American freedom first;"** [AFW Our Philosophy, Accessed: [5/28/24](#)]
- **"American innovation first."** [AFW Our Philosophy, Accessed: [5/28/24](#)]

AFW "proudly believes in American exceptionalism and promotes an America First agenda through the promotion of policy and legislation." [AFW Our Philosophy, Accessed: [5/28/24](#)]

AFW: "Together with the American people, we believe we can rise above the politics of division and chaos created by an elite class of legislators and special interests to promote an American First policy that will benefit all." "Together with the American people, we believe we can rise above the politics of division and chaos created by an elite class of legislators and special interests to promote an American First policy that will benefit all. Together, we will revive American exceptionalism through the restoration of our heritage of self-governance. Together, we will fight to preserve our values and our American way of life." [AFW Working With The American People, Accessed: [5/28/24](#)]

AFW "educates and advocates for the America First agenda with members of Congress, state officials, local officials, and its grassroots army of America First Patriots." [AFW What We Do, Accessed: [5/28/24](#)]

AFW: "We maintain close relationships along all levels of government in order to ensure conservative policies are supported and become law." [AFW What We Do, Accessed: [5/28/24](#)]

AFW: "The integrity of our republic depends on confidence in its elections. From local voting precincts to the halls of state governments, we will do everything possible to make sure that every lawful vote counts." [AFW What We Do, Accessed: [5/28/24](#)]

History and Legacy

Nov. 5, 2021: AFPI "announced the establishment of its affiliated advocacy organization, America First Works." "Today, America First Policy Institute (AFPI) announced the establishment of its affiliated advocacy organization, America First Works. America First Works seeks to transfer power back to the American people and away from government elites by engaging in grassroots advocacy to affect change at the federal, state, and local level." [AFPI Launches New Political Arm: America First Works, [11/5/21](#)]

- **AFW was a 501(c)(4) which “believes in the American people, and will fight for a pro-America America where freedom, equality and justice continue to be the foundation of the republic.”** “America First Works, Inc. is a 501(c)(4) that will ignite the spirit of the nation. America First Works believes in the American people, and will fight for a pro-America America where freedom, equality and justice continue to be the foundation of the republic. America First Works is comprised of patriots who will deliver the America First agenda for generations to come.” [AFPI Launches New Political Arm: America First Works, [11/5/21](#)]

AFW “was first established following former President Trump’s 2016 election and rebranded as America First Works after his failed bid for a second term.” [Center for Media and Democracy, Accessed: [5/28/24](#)]

- **Experts noted that “for some unexplained reason,” AFW1 closed down its shop after facing a massive fundraising decline and then established AFW – the current entity – as a brand new entity with the same name.** “Instead, Fischer and other experts said it appears AFW quietly underwent a wholesale change, while keeping up outward appearances that it never stopped functioning. ‘The in-kind contributions of staff time and office space indicate that AFW employees were still working and on the payroll in 2021,’ Fischer said. Further, AFW’s website issues press releases, and its social media accounts are active. ‘It also would be understandable if AFW was just going to spend down its existing funds and close up shop, but that’s not what’s going on either,’ Fischer said, pointing out that AFW didn’t appear to make any meaningful political expenditures or donations in 2022. ‘Instead, for some unexplained reason, AFW set up a new entity with the same name.’” [Daily Beast, [2/11/23](#)]
- **The original AFW claimed America First Polices was “sold” to them in October 2021, making the organization “new.”** “But that website offers a clue in its first press release, from Nov. 5, 2021. The title, however—‘AFPI Launches New Political Arm: America First Works’—is a lot clearer than the reality. ‘Today, America First Policy Institute (AFPI) announced the establishment of its affiliated advocacy organization, America First Works,’ the release says. It calls AFW ‘a 501(c)(4) that will ignite the spirit of the nation,’ which ‘seeks to transfer power back to the American people and away from government elites by engaging in grassroots advocacy to affect change at the federal, state, and local level.’ But as mentioned above, ‘America First Works’ already existed. It was originally called America First Policies, a group Trump allies first created in 2017, and which raised that whopping \$51 million in 2020. According to IRS records first reported by the Center for Public Integrity, America First Policies changed its name to America First Works the month before the press release. But last December, an AFW spokesperson told The Daily Beast it wasn’t a name change; America First Policies had been ‘sold’ to America First Works ‘in a private deal’ earlier this year, the spokesperson said.” [Daily Beast, [2/11/23](#); Center for Public Integrity, Accessed: [5/29/24](#)]
- **AFW1 paid a grant to the current AFW, which retained the same directors and was registered in D.C. instead of Virginia, before dissolving.** “However, previously unreported tax filings now show that another ‘America First Works’ was created that same year, this one in Washington, D.C. AFW1 reported a \$140,100 grant to the new America First Works (AFW2), which AFW1 cites as a related entity. But The Daily Beast also obtained AFW2’s tax filing, which shows that the two groups share a slate of directors and that the grant comprised all of AFW2’s revenue for 2021. Almost all the money—around \$132,000 of it—was spent on a

‘security deposit,’ the document shows, though it discloses no other underlying assets. Again, all of these moves and name changes seem designed to do one major thing: confuse...Other filings suggest a shift in AFWs. For instance, Virginia incorporation records show that AFW1 dissolved and voluntarily terminated its status with the state last December. And the IRS notified AFW2 of its nonprofit status in a declaration letter in August.” [Daily Beast, [2/11/23](#)]

- **2017: America First Policies Founded by Six of President Trump’s Top Campaign Aides.** “Six of President Donald Trump’s top campaign aides have banded together to start a nonprofit called ‘America First Policies’ to back the White House agenda. The group includes Trump’s digital and data director Brad Parscale, onetime deputy campaign manager Rick Gates and two campaign advisers to Vice President Mike Pence, Nick Ayers and Marty Obst. David Bossie, another Trump deputy campaign manager, and Katrina Pierson, a senior adviser on the campaign communications team, also will be involved, according to a statement announcing the group.” [Associated Press, [1/30/17](#)]
- **Associated Press: “America First Policies will Conduct Research Into Public Policies And Promote Trump’s Favored Causes”.** “The large — and so far unnamed — group of founders is aimed at quelling reports of dissent among campaign advisers who did not go into the White House. Republican donors Robert and Rebekah Mercer, who finance a data research shop called Cambridge Analytica, have been mulling starting a separate nonprofit. Ayers and Bossie have close ties to the Mercers. Parscale said the group aims to ‘build something unique, just like we did with the campaign.’ America First Policies will conduct research into public policies and promote Trump’s favored causes, such as dismantling and replacing President Barack Obama’s health care law and changing immigration policies.” [Associated Press, [1/30/17](#)]
- **2019: In Addition to Voter Registration Efforts, America First Policies Also Engaged in Messaging and Funded VP Pence’s Appearances to Promote Trade Agreement Changes.** “In addition to voter registration efforts, America First Policies is also engaged in messaging. The group is funding appearances by Vice President Mike Pence in markets, promoting revised trade terms with Mexico and Canada. According to polling released Monday, Orlando won’t necessarily be hospitable territory to find Trump backers. A recent survey released by the Florida Democratic Party shows Trump is wildly unpopular in Orlando. A full 69 percent of respondents will not vote for the President’s re-election.” [Florida Politics, [6/17/19](#)]
- **2018: America First Policies Hired Trump’s Pollsters to Conduct a Wide Range of Political Polling That Raised Concerns About Potential Coordination between the Group, the White House and the RNC.** “America First Policies, a nonprofit group with close ties to President Donald Trump, has hired Trump’s pollsters to conduct a wide range of political polling and research that experts say resembles the kind of expensive work the Republican National Committee has performed for prior GOP administrations. Such a practice breaks with decades of tradition and raises concerns about potential coordination between the pro-Trump dark money group, the White House and the RNC. America First Policies and the RNC have denied coordinating. The White House did not respond to multiple requests for comment.” [CNBC, [3/01/18](#)]

AFW “supports far-right policies and policy initiatives such as voter suppression, school privatization, anti-LGBTQ activism, and ongoing anti-abortion efforts at the state level.”
“America First Works (AFW), the right-wing advocacy arm of the America First Policy Institute

(AFPI), was first established following former President Trump’s 2016 election and rebranded as America First Works after his failed bid for a second term. AFW supports far-right policies and policy initiatives such as voter suppression, school privatization, anti-LGBTQ activism, and ongoing anti-abortion efforts at the state level. AFW has funneled millions of dollars to the ultra-conservative, dark money handlers DonorsTrust and Heritage Action for America. Ashley Hayek, AFW’s executive director, is also chief engagement officer at AFPI and worked as a national coalitions director on Trump’s 2016 campaign.” [Center for Media and Democracy, Accessed: [5/28/24](#)]

AFW opposed ESG policies and the companies supporting them as “energy discriminators,” and endorsed legislation opposing the policies with ALEC. “Like AFPI, AFW rails against BlackRock and other investment banks and asset managers who incorporate ESG policies, calling them “energy discriminators.” In December 2022, the organization endorsed the Eliminate Political Boycotts Act, a proposed piece of model legislation introduced by the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) that would authorize state governments to blacklist corporations promoting either ESG or diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives—or both.” [Center for Media and Democracy, Accessed: [5/28/24](#)]

- **AFW “is also part of a rightwing coalition promoting the Heritage Foundation’s State Pension Fiduciary Duty Act.”** “AFW is also part of a rightwing coalition promoting the Heritage Foundation’s State Pension Fiduciary Duty Act, model legislation that seeks to ban the consideration of ESG factors in the management of public pensions.” [Center for Media and Democracy, Accessed: [5/28/24](#)]

Experts “said it appears from the filings and other incorporation records that the advocacy group—which raised almost no money in 2021—has closed down its original Virginia entity and opened another one in Washington, D.C., under the same name, with the same board of directors.” “Just when it seemed like former President Donald Trump’s dark money maze couldn’t get any darker, it looks like someone shot the lights out. At least, that’s the impression experts in nonprofit law took away from a pair of previously unreported tax filings from the dark money arm of Trump’s political machine, America First Works. Those experts said it appears from the filings and other incorporation records that the advocacy group—which raised almost no money in 2021—has closed down its original Virginia entity and opened another one in Washington, D.C., under the same name, with the same board of directors. The question is why—and it comes as Trumpworld is laying the groundwork for a second Trump term. Or, as Axios put it, “a sprawling infrastructure already preparing to staff a new administration and immediately enact major policies,” which Trump allies see as a key differentiator with potential GOP rival Ron DeSantis.” [Daily Beast, [2/11/23](#)]

America First Policies and AFW1

2017: America First Policies Raised \$26 Million, Included Donations Received from Southern Company, CVS Health, and Dow Chemical. “America First Policies, a nonprofit established last year by former Trump campaign officials, has received donations from Southern Company (\$1 million), CVS Health (\$500,000) and Dow Chemical (\$100,000), according to corporate disclosures. Although America First Policies reportedly raised \$26 million last year, it hasn’t disclosed any details about its finances yet and won’t file its first tax return until November.” [Maplight, [5/31/18](#)]

The original AFW (AFW1) raised \$51 million in 2020, which it spent on grants to organizations like AFPI and Make America Great Again Policies. “According to its 2021 tax filing, which was first obtained by The Daily Beast, AFW—which raised about \$51 million the previous year—doled out

millions of dollars in transfers and grants. That filing shows that the funds all went to a handful of groups that make up a financial and political support network behind the former president. Those transactions included a \$3 million grant to AFW's 501(c)(3) counterpart, America First Policy Institute, and an additional \$250,000 to Make America Great Again Policies—a lesser known entity which has reported having a cost-sharing agreement with a new pro-Trump super PAC. AFW also paid another \$250,000 for “research” to Republican opposition research firm America Rising, according to the document.” [Daily Beast, [2/11/23](#)]

- **AFW1 donated \$1.75 million to America First Action in 2020 – the same figure the PAC was forced to repay to a Canadian billionaire when his donation was rated illegal.** “AFW1 The group also reported about \$75,000 in in-kind contributions (under its old name, America First Policies) to a latent Trump super PAC called America First Action. That’s on top of a \$1.75 million contribution to the same super PAC—a number that exactly offsets the amount in illegal donations the super PAC received from a Canadian billionaire in 2018, which it was ordered to refund last spring.” [Daily Beast, [2/11/23](#)]
- **Daily Beast: “If these transactions seem confusing, with multiple similarly named organizations serving the same purpose, experts say that’s almost certainly part of the point—or at least a welcome side benefit, making the maze maddeningly difficult to follow.”** [Daily Beast, [2/11/23](#)]

AFW1 faced a fundraising drop-off from \$51 million in 2020 to just \$33.00 in 2021. “But the filing also reveals one data point with comparative lucidity: While AFW spent money, its revenue essentially fell to zero. That was a significant drop, from \$51 million to just \$33.00, leaving the group with about \$1.2 million in the bank. Brendan Fischer, deputy director of government watchdog Documented, said that drop-off, in an off-election year, could not simply be chalked up to a change in political cycles.” [Daily Beast, [2/11/23](#)]

- **Documented’s Brendan Fischer: “America First Works served as the dark money arm of Trump’s campaign in 2020, and it is not uncommon for a politically active dark money group to see a decline in revenue during a non-election year. But this drop is precipitous, and can’t be explained by election cycles alone.”** [Daily Beast, [2/11/23](#)]

America First Policies donated \$2.1 million to Event Strategies Inc. – the group which registered as the organizer of the J6 insurrection. “In 2022, political committees tied to Trump routed more payments than ever to one firm involved in the Jan. 6 rally — Event Strategies Inc., the firm named in a permit for the rally that also employed two individuals involved in the demonstration. Event Strategies Inc. was helmed by Tim Unes and Justin Caporale, Trump campaign aides who were listed on permit records as the Jan. 6 rally’s stage and production managers...America First Policies, a “dark money” group aligned with Trump that recently rebranded as America First Works, paid Event Strategies Inc. another \$2.1 million in 2018 and 2019, tax records reviewed by OpenSecrets show.” [Open Secrets, [6/16/22](#)]

America First Policies operated as the “dark money arm of the pro-Trump super PAC America First Action” in 2020. “From 2012 to 2019, the 85 Fund — then operating as Judicial Education Project — was almost exclusively funded through DonorsTrust. Some of the money routed to the 85 Fund through DonorsTrust in 2020 was earmarked for the Honest Elections Project by America First Works, the Center for Public Integrity reported. During the Trump administration, America First Works went

by America First Policies, functioning as the dark money arm of pro-Trump super PAC America First Action. The Daily Beast reported that the group is now ‘under completely new ownership.’” [Open Secrets, [12/16/21](#)]

2021: Open Secrets: “America First Works is backing Trump’s lawsuit against social media companies in a partnership with the America First Policy Institute, another nonprofit run by Trump allies that launched in 2021.” [Open Secrets, [12/16/21](#)]

2020: America First Policies Released Anti-Impeachment, Pro-Trump Ads in Michigan and Pennsylvania. “America First Policies will start airing anti-impeachment ads in Pennsylvania and Michigan today. The Michigan ad will run in the Grand Rapids, Flint, and Traverse City markets. The Pennsylvania ad will run in the Harrisburg and Wilkes Barre region. Each market will air live on broadcast television along with cable spots on Fox News. Each state is receiving over \$200k of broadcast media, combined with the digital spending this represents over \$500k total between these states. As a reminder, we kicked off this advertising last week with a hard-hitting ad in Alabama urging Doug Jones to reconsider his stance. That ad began last Wednesday and will run statewide with a Fox News cable supplement finishing this Thursday. The overall ad buy is \$1 million on television and digital.” [America First Policies, [1/28/20](#)]

2019: America First Policies Spent \$2 Million on Ads Targeting Two Michigan House Democrats. “Conservative-aligned organizations announced a flurry of attack ads launch this month. A GOP nonprofit founded by former Trump campaign aides announced it will include two Michigan House Democrats in a \$2 million ad blitz. America First Policies is targeting Slotkin, Stevens and 25 other members of Congress who are expected to swing a vote on articles of impeachment later this month.” [MLive, [12/11/19](#)]

2017: America First Policies Spent \$452,000 In Support of Former Sen. Luther Strange’s (R-AL) Primary Campaign. “America First Policies reported spending \$452,000 last year to support former Sen. Luther Strange, R-Ala., in his unsuccessful GOP primary bid, and it dropped more than \$1.3 million opposing Democrat Jon Ossoff in the race for an open congressional seat in Georgia. America First Policies has hosted events with Pence around the country this year to promote the Republican tax law.” [Maplight, [5/31/18](#)]

2017: America First Policies Released \$1 Million Ad Campaign Featuring Multiple People Thanking Trump for Various Reasons, Including for “Letting Us Say Merry Christmas Again”. “A political action committee (PAC) supporting President Trump is set to release a new ad that depicts multiple people thanking Trump for various reasons, including for ‘letting us say ‘Merry Christmas’ again.’ The ad, which comes as part of a \$1 million ad buy from pro-Trump PAC America First Policies, is set to begin on Christmas Day. The commercial features numerous people thanking Trump for actions during his presidency, including ‘cutting my taxes,’ ‘fixing our economy’ and ‘supporting Israel.’ One man, who identifies himself as a veteran, thanks Trump for ‘reminding us to stand during our national anthem.’ ‘Thank you, President Trump, for letting us say ‘merry Christmas’ again,’ a girl says at the end of the ad.” [The Hill, [12/21/17](#)]

America First Policies Staffers Had History of Racist, Sexist, Anti-Gay, and Anti-Semitic Views

2018: America First Policies Hired Carl Higbie, Who Resigned from the Administration After an Investigation Found He Made Racist, Sexist, Anti-Muslim and Anti-Gay Remarks on the Radio.

“The new advocacy director at a nonprofit group aligned with President Donald Trump shared an N-word laden post written by someone else on Facebook in December 2014. America First Policies, the nonprofit that works to promote Trump’s agenda, announced Thursday that Carl Higbie would be joining the group to head advocacy, with the group’s president, Brian Walsh, calling Higbie a ‘loyal fighter for the America-first agenda since day one’ in a statement. Higbie, a former Navy SEAL, resigned from the Trump administration in January after a CNN KFile investigation found he made racist, sexist, anti-Muslim and anti-gay remarks on the radio. Higbie later apologized for his remarks on the radio.” [CNN, [3/16/18](#)]

- **Higbie Shared a Post About Teenager Michael Brown, Who Was Shot and Killed by Police, That Referred to Brown as the N-Word.** “Higbie shared the post when the death of Michael Brown, the teenager who was shot and killed by a police officer in Ferguson, Missouri, was in the news. The post refers to Brown by the N-word. ‘So, let us be clear, Michael Brown was a nigger; a sorry assed, criminal, hoodlum, nigger. Nobody wants to say that, but I will,’ the post said. The post later says black people repeatedly riot and again uses the N-word.” [CNN, [3/16/18](#)]
- **Higbie Said African Americans Were Lazier Than Whites and Said “The Black Race” Had “Lax Morals.”** “Carl Higbie, a senior staffer for the group, resigned from the Trump administration in January after older comments he made came to light in which he said African-Americans are lazier than whites, and ‘the black race’ has ‘lax morals.’ Higbie initially apologized for the comments but has recently defended them.” [CNN, [5/21/18](#)]

America First Policies Policy Advisor John Loudon Suggested President Obama Was a Kenyan-Born Muslim, Made Several Anti-Muslim Comments, and Called Obama an “Islamchurian Candidate.” “An adviser for a pro-Trump policy group once suggested then-President Barack Obama was a Kenyan-born Muslim and made several other anti-Muslim comments on Twitter. John Loudon is a policy adviser at America First Policies, a non-profit group tasked with promoting Trump’s policy goals on a range of issues like a wall on the US-Mexico border, Iran and North Korea. Vice President Mike Pence regularly appears at fundraisers and events hosted by the group. A CNN KFile review of Loudon’s Twitter account reveals that, as far back as 2009 and as recently as this year, he used inflammatory and derogatory language while discussing a wide variety of groups of people including women, Muslims and Democrats. In February 2015, Loudon called Barack Obama an ‘Islamchurian Candidate,’ in reference to the book and film about a politician who is brainwashed into becoming an assassin for an international conspiracy.” [CNN, [5/21/18](#)]

- **Washington Post: Loudon Served Briefly as an Advisor to America First Policies in 2017.** “John Loudon served briefly in 2017 as an adviser to America First Policies, a nonprofit advocacy group that promotes Trump’s agenda. Gina Loudon, a radio talk-show host known as Dr. Gina, is a member of the Trump campaign’s media advisory board, a group of about 30 surrogates, according to the campaign.” [The Washington Post, [7/22/19](#)]

America First Policy Advisor Juan Pablo Andrade Made Pro-Nazi Comments, Claimed His Remarks Were Taken Out of Context. “Another policy adviser, Juan Pablo Andrade, was caught on a video reported by Mediaite making seemingly pro-Nazi comments. Andrade claims the video is out of context and he was quoting someone else. He has said he is looking for the full video, which would exonerate him.” [CNN, [5/21/18](#)]

- **Juan Pablo Andrade: “The Only Thing The Nazis Didn’t Get Right Is They Didn’t Keep Fucking Going”.** “While it may seem odd that a political figure tied so closely to the Trump administration felt the freedom to endorse Nazi genocide on-camera, Andrade did so in distinctive company. Also in the hotel room was a close friend of Andrade’s, Cesar Subervi, an alt-right activist who participated in the Charlottesville white supremacist march and has been filmed with Richard Spencer. ‘The only thing the Nazis didn’t get right is they didn’t keep fucking going!’ Andrade exclaimed to Subervi and several other fellow conference attendees in a hotel room that Mediaite learned was paid for by TPUSA.” [Mediaite, [5/10/18](#)]

America First Policies Co-Founder Brad Parscale Once Created Trump Ad That Depicted Migrants and Immigrants as Violent; Ad Was Rejected by CNN as “Racist” and Pulled from Other Networks. “Brad Parscale was riding on Air Force One a week before the midterm elections when his boss, President Trump, had an idea about how to close out a campaign season that had already been laced with fear. The president wanted an ad depicting a migrant caravan and an immigrant who had killed law enforcement officers, according to a person present. Parscale, the manager of Trump’s 2020 reelection campaign, went to work, fine-tuning the script and video. The next day in the Oval Office, he pulled out his iPad and showed the president the spot — an ominous commercial featuring crowds of migrants spilling across roads and a twice-deported immigrant from Mexico boasting about killing two California officers. Trump loved it, according to a person at the meeting, and Parscale signed off on a \$1.5 million national ad campaign. After the ad was rejected by CNN as ‘racist’ and pulled from other television networks and Facebook, Parscale lashed out, tweeting, ‘The #FakeNewsMedia and #PaloAltoMafia are trying to control what you see and how you think.’” [The Washington Post, [11/09/18](#)]

- **Washington Post: Parscale Has Amplified Trump’s Attacks on Immigrants “With Gusto” And Used His Own Twitter To Echo the President’s Messages.** “As the president has escalated his attacks on immigrants — an approach that he is likely to carry into the 2020 race — Parscale has amplified them with gusto, producing inflammatory ads and using his own Twitter feed to echo the president’s messages.” [The Washington Post, [11/09/18](#)]

Affiliations

2024: AFW published a comprehensive list of their partner organizations for the 2024 elections, which included Turning Point Action, Moms for America, the Faith & Freedom Coalition, and Bienvenido USA, among other groups. “In an unprecedented show of unity and commitment to the principles that have long defined the American spirit, leading conservative organizations have released a historic pledge, promising to work together to harness resources, mobilize voters like never before, and stop the disastrous far-left agenda of Joe Biden and the Democratic Party... The growing list of America First leaders includes: Association of Mature American Citizens; Association of Mature American Citizens Action; America First Policy Institute; America First Works; Election Integrity Network Action; American Principles Project; Cascade County Election Integrity Group; EPIC; NC Data Team; Tea Party Patriots Action; Moms for America; Black Conservative Federation; Asian Action Network; Fix USA; Turning Point Action; Faith & Freedom Coalition; CURE America Action; Pure Integrity Michigan Elections; Job Creators Network; Frederick Douglass Foundation; Hispanic Leadership Coalition; Hispanic Impact Panel; Bienvenido USA; Well Versed; The Courage Tour; Job Creators Network Foundation; American Christian Caucus; Pennsylvania Fair Elections; America Back to Basics Action.” [AMERICA FIRST MOVEMENT ORGANIZATIONS UNITE AROUND HISTORIC PLEDGE, [4/4/24](#)]

Policy Advocacy

Biden / Biden Agenda

On its publicly announced founding day, AFW released a battleground state ad “‘Wrecking Ball,’ highlighting the destructive policies that President Joe Biden’s Big Government Socialism Bill will have on hardworking Americans.” “America First Works also released its first ad, ‘Wrecking Ball,’ highlighting the destructive policies that President Joe Biden’s Big Government Socialism Bill will have on hardworking Americans. The ad will be deployed in target districts, including in the states of Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and West Virginia, in conjunction with voter contact and is part of a multi-million-dollar effort with the Save America Coalition. Its goal is to pressure liberals and moderates to listen to their constituents and vote against this wasteful spending and dangerous policies.” [AFPI Launches New Political Arm: America First Works, [11/5/21](#)]

- **Hayek: “President Joe Biden is doing what he said he would do – eliminating the Trump tax cuts and raising taxes on hardworking American families. Unfortunately, his Build Back Better plan is Broke, Borrow, and Bankrupt.”** “‘President Joe Biden is doing what he said he would do – eliminating the Trump tax cuts and raising taxes on hardworking American families. Unfortunately, his Build Back Better plan is Broke, Borrow, and Bankrupt. We implore Congress to do what’s right for the American people: Save America, Kill the Bill,’ stated Ashley Hayek, Executive Director of America First Works.” [AFPI Launches New Political Arm: America First Works, [11/5/21](#)]

2021: AFW complained that “House Democrats passed amnesty for illegal immigrants, special interest carveouts, a tax increase on small businesses and families, and empowered the IRS to spy on Americans as part of President Biden’s Big Government Socialism Bill.” “Earlier today House Democrats passed amnesty for illegal immigrants, special interest carveouts, a tax increase on small businesses and families, and empowered the IRS to spy on Americans as part of President Biden’s Big Government Socialism Bill. This legislation comes with an actual price tag of nearly 5 trillion dollars of taxpayer money. According to a Rasmussen poll, 92% of Americans recognize inflation is a serious problem hurting American families, and 56% agree Biden’s Big Government Socialism Bill will make it significantly worse.” [STATEMENT ON U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PASSING PRESIDENT BIDEN’S BIG GOVERNMENT SOCIALISM BILL, [11/22/21](#)]

- **Hayek: “Their spending bill includes giving billions of dollars in tax breaks to trial lawyers, left-wing journalists, and the wealthiest one percent of Americans.”** “‘Democrat House leadership continues to prove themselves to be the party of big government, out-of-touch cultural elites, and wasteful spending on the backs of hardworking Americans. Their spending bill includes giving billions of dollars in tax breaks to trial lawyers, left-wing journalists, and the wealthiest one percent of Americans,’ stated Ashley Hayek, Executive Director of America First Works. ‘It is now up to Senators Manchin, Sinema, and the Senate Republicans to push back on this tax hike and protect middle-class families, our vulnerable seniors, and minority communities whom this horrific socialist legislation would most severely impact.’” [STATEMENT ON U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PASSING PRESIDENT BIDEN’S BIG GOVERNMENT SOCIALISM BILL, [11/22/21](#)]

2022: AFW attacked Biden’s agenda, saying: “Democrats in Congress and President Biden want to spend more money on their so-called Build Back Better spending plan weeks after proposing another reckless multi-trillion-dollar budget.” “Spending more money to make government bigger will bankrupt America. Ultra-liberals in Congress and White House should practice fiscal restraint and STOP unnecessarily running up the government credit card while families across the country are trying to put food on the table and feeling pain at the pump. Democrats in Congress and President Biden want to spend more money on their so-called Build Back Better spending plan weeks after proposing another reckless multi-trillion-dollar budget, representing the highest tax increase in history and two weeks after signing the last massive big government socialist omnibus spending bill. The last trillion-dollar-plus spending bill, signed by President Biden on March 14, makes government bigger and recklessly gives billions of dollars to the wealthiest one percent of Americans, politicians, country clubs, and media companies. The omnibus spending bill also included supplemental aid for Ukraine and multiple other provisions that should have been handled separately. Three hundred seventy-three American economists agree that more reckless government spending is wrong for America and would hurt the very people President Biden claims to want to help. ‘Policies that increase inflation, increase the federal debt, reduce the number of people working, and hobble economic growth are bad for America.’” [STOP BIG GOVERNMENT SOCIALIST SPENDING!, [4/28/22](#)]

2022: AFW attacked DHS’s proposed “Disinformation Government Board” as a needlessly political “censorship control panel.” “Chad Wolf, former acting Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, says no operational reason for the new Board to exist. Nearly two weeks after a vague announcement from Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, the White House has yet to abandon plans for more government censorship or provide more than a few bullet points of information about their intentions and purpose for a new so-called ‘Disinformation Governance Board’ in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). ‘The creation of this Board in the Secretary’s office is unneeded and politicizes the Department’s mission,’ said Chad Wolf, former acting Secretary of DHS. ‘There is no operational reason to take this responsibility from largely non-political operating components and move it to the Secretary’s office, which is filled with political appointees, including a politically charged individual with no government experience. The move represents a further politicization of the Department under the Biden Administration.’ Secretary Mayorkas announced the creation of a ‘Disinformation Governance Board’ on April 27, 2022 (Politico Playbook), and according to DHS, the Board will be headquartered directly in the Secretary’s office. Secretary Mayorkas also announced Nina Jankowicz as the Board’s Executive Director and provided little to no information about the purpose of the Board. Jankowicz’s appointment is highly problematic, and when pressed to defend her past comments and credentials, Secretary Mayorkas could not answer.” [DEMOCRATS’ NEW ‘CENSORSHIP CONTROL PANEL’ IS A DANGEROUS THREAT TO FREEDOM, [5/11/22](#)]

2022: AFW celebrated the White House’s announcement that it would abandon plans for a DHS Disinformation Governance Board. “The White House announced it’s all but pulling the plug on creating a so-called Disinformation Governance Board at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary’s office less than a month after Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas’s vague announcement of the Board. The announcement follows Nina Jankowicz’s resignation letter, the White House’s controversial pick to lead the censorship Board. ‘I’m glad to see that DHS is stepping back from this terrible idea, but I’m still unnerved by the fact that anybody within DHS or the Biden administration would have thought to green light it in the first place,’ said Chad Wolf, former acting DHS Secretary. The White House did not announce it would formally shutter the Board and stated a DHS advisory council would likely make recommendations in 75 days.” [21 DAYS LATER: DEMOCRATS ‘PAUSE’ (NOT DISBAND) DHS CENSORSHIP CONTROL PANEL, [5/19/22](#)]

2022: Former DHS Acting Sec. Chad Wolf, on behalf of AFW, complained: “[T]he Left in the Senate voted to support the Administration’s arbitrary and capricious rule changes that undermine border security, endanger communities across the Nation, and delegitimize our immigration system.” “Today, America First Works issued the following statement from former Acting Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Chad Wolf after the Senate voted in favor of the Biden Administration’s rule that will increase asylum fraud. ‘Today, the Senate had an opportunity to send the Biden Administration a strong message that their border security strategy is a failed strategy. Instead, the Left in the Senate voted to support the Administration’s arbitrary and capricious rule changes that undermine border security, endanger communities across the Nation, and delegitimize our immigration system. Congress failed the American people by allowing this Administration’s open border policies to continue unabated.’ Since assuming office in January 2021, the Biden Administration has systematically dismantled effective and proven policies that secured our southern border. The Administration has made it clear time and again that its only plan to address the historic border crisis its policies created is to process more and more aliens into the country, as quickly as possible.” [BIDEN POLICY FACILITATES ASYLUM FRAUD, [5/26/22](#)]

2022: Rollins praised Mayra Flores for winning Texas’s 34th congressional district, which was allegedly traditionally democratic, saying: “Flores’s win now shows us what is coming this fall: a great movement by Americans of all walks of life, to reclaim our country, and rebuild from the ruins of the Biden years.” “Today, Brooke Rollins, Senior Advisor of America First Works and President and CEO of the America First Policy Institute, released the following statement addressing the 34th Congressional District Race and congratulating Mayra Flores: ‘Mayra Flores’s victory in Texas’s 34th Congressional district yesterday is nothing less than historic. For a conservative to win in what was, overwhelmingly, a historically left-dominated district is extraordinary, because it signifies the left’s progressive loss of its own former base. That this same district is also overwhelmingly Mexican-American is revelatory, because it illuminates the increasing conservative appeal to Hispanic and working-class Americans. That the Congresswoman-elect is furthermore an immigrant shows that the conservative message speaks to all Americans — no matter our origin, race, or ethnicity. Flores’s win now shows us what is coming this fall: a great movement by Americans of all walks of life, to reclaim our country, and rebuild from the ruins of the Biden years. She is the harbinger of a bright tomorrow. It’s up to us to fulfill that promise — in Texas, and beyond. At America First Works, we work toward it every day.’” [STATEMENT ON TEXAS 34TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT REPUBLICAN VICTORY, [6/15/22](#)]

2022: AFPI and AFW released a video “highlighting President Biden’s disastrous so-called Inflation Reduction Act and its effect on low and middle-income families throughout America.” “America First Policy Institute (AFPI) and America First Works (AFW), the advocacy arm of AFPI, are releasing a new video highlighting President Biden’s disastrous so-called Inflation Reduction Act and its effect on low and middle-income families throughout America. The bill would weaponize the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in unprecedented ways, adding 87,000 new IRS agents and allocating \$45.6 billion for IRS enforcement. Hardworking American families are already struggling with the largest recession in 40 years, and now many will soon be chief targets of IRS audits. ‘Our country cannot support the Biden Administration’s failed policies that have created the current economic crisis, which will now weaponize our system of government against the American people,’ said Brooke Rollins, President and CEO of the AFPI and former Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council for former President Donald J. Trump. ‘At AFPI, we have heard many incredible stories of people who fled their native countries to escape the same type of authoritarianism they are sadly experiencing today. The

far Left continues to peddle their false promises through grossly misnamed bills such as the ‘Inflation Reduction Act’ that only raise taxes and further bloat our already inflated bureaucracies. Instead of helping American families, this legislation unfairly targets the low and middle-income class. It’s time to save America and defeat this Big Government Socialism Bill.” [AMERICA FIRST POLICY INSTITUTE AND AMERICA FIRST WORKS HIGHLIGHT DISASTROUS EFFECT NEW IRS ENFORCEMENT WILL HAVE ON LOW-INCOME MINORITY FAMILIES, [8/10/22](#)]

2022: Hayek on Biden’s tenure following his SOTU address: “So far, all we’ve gotten is divisive rhetoric, the targeting of political opponents, and radical left policies, and we’re not even halfway through his first and only term.” “President Biden’s speech tonight was an unprecedented rallying cry against half of America. When Biden was sworn into office, he promised to be a unifying leader. That was a blatant lie. So far, all we’ve gotten is divisive rhetoric, the targeting of political opponents, and radical left policies, and we’re not even halfway through his first and only term. In the last month, Biden’s DOJ raided the home of former President Trump, and labeled his supporters ‘semi-fascists’ and ‘threats to democracy.’ Oppose him politically and he will target you. It’s un-American. It’s evident a real threat to our democracy is a President who: Raided the home of his top political opponent and labeled half the country as ‘extremists.’ Targeted parents as ‘domestic terrorists.’ Let 13 U.S. service members die from his botched Afghanistan withdrawal, and simply stared at his watch as caskets returned home. Stayed silent as his supporters threatened Supreme Court Justices and their families to overturn a ruling. Fired working-class citizens and U.S. soldiers for refusing to comply with his vaccine mandate. Blamed the entire pandemic on ‘unvaccinated Americans.’ Financially ruined Americans through the inflation he caused. Intentionally opened our southern border and left our communities defenseless against a wave of violence and drugs. Ignored the baby formula crisis as desperate parents struggle with empty shelves.” [STATEMENT FROM ASHLEY HAYEK AMERICA FIRST WORKS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, [9/22/22](#)]

2022: Hayek argued the FBI raid on Mar-a-Lago represented Biden politically targeting Trump. “President Biden’s speech tonight was an unprecedented rallying cry against half of America. When Biden was sworn into office, he promised to be a unifying leader. That was a blatant lie. So far, all we’ve gotten is divisive rhetoric, the targeting of political opponents, and radical left policies, and we’re not even halfway through his first and only term. In the last month, Biden’s DOJ raided the home of former President Trump, and labeled his supporters ‘semi-fascists’ and ‘threats to democracy.’ Oppose him politically and he will target you. It’s un-American. It’s evident a real threat to our democracy is a President who: Raided the home of his top political opponent and labeled half the country as ‘extremists.’ Targeted parents as ‘domestic terrorists.’ Let 13 U.S. service members die from his botched Afghanistan withdrawal, and simply stared at his watch as caskets returned home. Stayed silent as his supporters threatened Supreme Court Justices and their families to overturn a ruling. Fired working-class citizens and U.S. soldiers for refusing to comply with his vaccine mandate. Blamed the entire pandemic on ‘unvaccinated Americans.’ Financially ruined Americans through the inflation he caused. Intentionally opened our southern border and left our communities defenseless against a wave of violence and drugs. Ignored the baby formula crisis as desperate parents struggle with empty shelves.” [STATEMENT FROM ASHLEY HAYEK AMERICA FIRST WORKS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, [9/22/22](#)]

2022: Hayek: “the soul of our nation would be better off if Joe Biden and the elite, radical Left ruling class were no longer in power.” “Joe Biden is everything he claims his political opponents are. Americans know better. After four years of American greatness for every man, woman, and child, regardless of ethnicity or socio-economic background, Americans know they were better off four years

ago than they are today. The people have been awakened and know the policies of the true America First President are needed now more than ever. And the soul of our nation would be better off if Joe Biden and the elite, radical Left ruling class were no longer in power. This President has no interest in trying to unify the country as he has wasted every moment to do so. Tonight’s speech was no different. Americans know what they heard. President Biden branded half of them as ‘extremists’ all because they oppose him politically. They will not forget it.” [STATEMENT FROM ASHLEY HAYEK AMERICA FIRST WORKS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, [9/22/22](#)]

2023: Hayek, on Biden’s tenure following his SOTU address: “After two years, President Biden and his administration’s promises have all proven empty. To date, nothing is built, nothing is back, and nothing is better.” ““After two years, President Biden and his administration’s promises have all proven empty. To date, nothing is built, nothing is back, and nothing is better. American families struggle under the weight of record inflation. They have experienced formula shortages, record gas price records, surging food costs, and more. From the Afghanistan withdrawal to our open border and, most recently, the president allowing China’s spy balloon to cross the country, Americans have witnessed our national security undermined. President Biden’s so-called Inflation Reduction Act did nothing to reduce inflation. Instead, newly weaponized 87,000 IRS agents will soon wreak havoc on Americans who are already struggling in this economy. Americans deserve better. We once experienced a record-breaking economy, a secure border, energy dominance, and respect among world leaders. Fortunately, there is hope. At America First Works, we are re-energizing Americans to support the policies that will put our people and our country first. We aren’t alone. We applaud America First leaders like Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders, who are doing exactly that. Together, we will make our Nation great again.” [STATEMENT BY AMERICA FIRST WORKS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ASHLEY HAYEK ON PRESIDENT BIDEN’S STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS, [2/7/23](#)]

2023: Hayek, on impeachment proceedings DHS Sec. Alejandro Mayorkas: “We commend our America First allies in Congress for pursuing a responsible, thoughtful, and all-of-the-above approach to hold the Biden Administration accountable for its corrupt and lawless policies and practices.” “Congress voted today to refer an impeachment resolution against President Biden as a result of his mismanagement of our southern border. America First Works issued the following statement on the matter: ‘We commend our America First allies in Congress for pursuing a responsible, thoughtful, and all-of-the-above approach to hold the Biden Administration accountable for its corrupt and lawless policies and practices. This week’s Hunter Biden plea to criminal charges shows a pattern of avoiding basic notions around the rule of law. America First Works will continue working with Congress to hold President Biden and Administration officials accountable for possible impeachable offenses. This includes all efforts to impeach Homeland Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas. An overwhelming amount of evidence and congressional testimony—including two Congressional appearances by AFPI leaders this month—shows that false statements by Secretary Mayorkas before Congress and his dereliction of duty are resulting in a humanitarian and national security crisis for every state in our nation. If the rule of law means anything, if national borders mean anything, if the first role of government is to protect its citizens, then Mayorkas must be removed from office as quickly as possible.’” [AMERICA FIRST WORKS: IMPEACH MAYORKAS, [6/22/23](#)]

2023: Hayek: “This week’s Hunter Biden plea to criminal charges shows a pattern of avoiding basic notions around the rule of law. America First Works will continue working with Congress to hold President Biden and Administration officials accountable for possible impeachable offenses.” [AMERICA FIRST WORKS: IMPEACH MAYORKAS, [6/22/23](#)]

2022: AFW hosted Trump’s keynote address at the Hispanic Leadership Conference in Miami.

“America First Works will host the keynote address, delivered by the 45th President of the United States, Donald J. Trump, at next week’s Hispanic Leadership Conference, on Wednesday, October 5, 2022, in Miami, Florida. ‘As he did with so many Americans, President Trump spoke directly to the hopes, dignity, and dreams of Hispanic Americans — and they responded to his vision and his leadership,’ said Brooke Rollins, Senior Advisor for America First Works and President and CEO of America First Policy Institute. ‘He delivered for them, with record employment and job creation unmatched in the modern era. And they, in turn, took their place among the fiercest advocates for America First.’ This two-day event, hosted by America First Policy Institute, along with Bienvenido and the Hispanic Impact Panel, will feature many of our country’s top conservative Hispanic leaders, including Goya Foods Chief Executive Officer Bob Unanue, Representative Carlos Gimenez (FL), and Representative Mario Diaz-Balart (FL). The closing keynote address by President Trump, hosted by America First Works, will be open to the media on Wednesday, October 5.” [PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP TO KEYNOTE ‘HISPANIC LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE’, [9/28/22](#)]

- **Rollins: “[Trump] delivered for them, with record employment and job creation unmatched in the modern era. And they, in turn, took their place among the fiercest advocates for America First.”** [PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP TO KEYNOTE ‘HISPANIC LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE’, [9/28/22](#)]

2023: Hayek accused Democrats of having “weaponized the government against the rest of America. We now have a two-tiered justice system that is coming not just for their top political opponent but for all of us — even you.”

“Over the past three years, we have seen the Biden Administration turn the American Dream into our worst nightmare. The radical Left, political elite, and legacy media — the SWAMP — have unveiled their true intentions. They have weaponized the government against the rest of America. We now have a two-tiered justice system that is coming not just for their top political opponent but for all of us — even you. They’re targeting the 81-year-old Army veteran who attended the wrong protest, sentencing him to three years of probation. They’re targeting parents who dare speak up at school board meetings and labeling them as ‘domestic terrorists.’ They’re targeting a Catholic pro-life dad of seven who dared to pray outside an abortion clinic. Meanwhile, progressive woke prosecutors have allowed repeat offenders back on the streets, and the IRS has been emboldened with 87k new agents to target middle and low-income Americans. The silent majority can no longer afford to be silent. This goes beyond the unjust prosecution from the Soros-funded Manhattan DA of a political opponent. Their message to us is clear: Say the wrong thing, go to the wrong church, attend the wrong rally or protest, and you’re next.” [AFW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ASHLEY HAYEK ON THE WEAPONIZATION OF GOVERNMENT AGAINST AMERICANS, [3/22/23](#)]

2023: Hayek accused Democrats of politicizing the justice system due to the prosecution of an anti-abortion protestor and Trump.

“Over the past three years, we have seen the Biden Administration turn the American Dream into our worst nightmare. The radical Left, political elite, and legacy media — the SWAMP — have unveiled their true intentions. They have weaponized the government against the rest of America. We now have a two-tiered justice system that is coming not just for their top political opponent but for all of us — even you. They’re targeting the 81-year-old Army veteran who attended the wrong protest, sentencing him to three years of probation. They’re targeting parents who dare speak up at school board meetings and labeling them as ‘domestic terrorists.’ They’re targeting a Catholic pro-life dad of seven who dared to pray outside an abortion clinic. Meanwhile, progressive woke prosecutors

have allowed repeat offenders back on the streets, and the IRS has been emboldened with 87k new agents to target middle and low-income Americans. The silent majority can no longer afford to be silent. This goes beyond the unjust prosecution from the Soros-funded Manhattan DA of a political opponent. Their message to us is clear: Say the wrong thing, go to the wrong church, attend the wrong rally or protest, and you're next.” [AFW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ASHLEY HAYEK ON THE WEAPONIZATION OF GOVERNMENT AGAINST AMERICANS, [3/22/23](#)]

2023: Hayek on the Manhattan DA's case against Trump: “If they can come after a former president on baseless charges, they can come after you.” ““If they can come after a former president on baseless charges, they can come after you. This indictment is a horrific abuse of power and every honest person knows it. In America, we don't weaponize the government against political opponents. That's what third-world countries do. But that's exactly what this Soros-funded prosecutor out of Manhattan has done. Democrats and their media allies cheering this on should be ashamed of themselves – assuming that's even possible anymore. The weaponization of our justice system has officially become a hallmark of Biden's America. The radical Left want the silent majority to be forever silenced. We will not let them.” [AFW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ASHLEY HAYEK ON THE WEAPONIZATION OF GOVERNMENT AGAINST FORMER PRESIDENT TRUMP, [3/30/23](#)]

2023: Hayek: “The same day it's revealed that Biden took a \$5 million Burisma bribe in Ukraine, the corrupt Biden DOJ decides to indict President Trump on made-up charges. It's not a coincidence; it's a coverup.” ““The same day it's revealed that Biden took a \$5 million Burisma bribe in Ukraine, the corrupt Biden DOJ decides to indict President Trump on made-up charges. It's not a coincidence; it's a coverup. This is nothing more than political persecution and revenge against an opponent, which should frighten every American. Nor should this go unpunished. It's time for Congress and State Attorney Generals to use their power to fight against Biden's weaponization of government now. We cannot afford to wait until 2024 while the deep state further corrupts our justice system and interferes in yet another election. This is one of the darkest days in our history and will not be the last unless elected officials who care about America start fighting back.’ – AFW Executive Director Ashley Hayek.” [STATEMENT ON THE INDICTMENT OF PRESIDENT TRUMP BY BIDEN'S CORRUPT DOJ, [6/8/23](#)]

2023: Hayek celebrated Mitt Romney's retirement, saying: “Throughout his career, Romney has certainly shown us a distinct vision of America—one that champions globalism, empowers conglomerates, and leans into the establishment, often against the will of the American people.” ““AFW and all Americans are celebrating the retirement of U.S. Sen. Mitt Romney! Throughout his career, Romney has certainly shown us a distinct vision of America—one that champions globalism, empowers conglomerates, and leans into the establishment, often against the will of the American people. Like Liz Cheney, Adam Kinzinger, Jeff Flake, and many others, Mitt Romney fought harder against the America First movement than he ever did against the radical Left, big media, or the globalist elite. He marched with Black Lives Matter instead of supporting forgotten Americans. He worked hard to undermine President Trump, even voting for the phony impeachment, all while letting President Biden and the Democrats wreck the country we love. Now, the people of Utah finally have a chance for true representation in Congress. His retirement is an incredible opportunity to send true America First patriots to Washington.” [AFW APPLAUDS THE DEPARTURE OF AMERICA LAST POLITICIANS, [9/14/23](#)]

2023: Hayek on the indictment of Trump for 2020 election conspiracy: “This latest flimsy Trump indictment doubles down on tyranny and attacks our constitutional right to free speech and

political dissent.” ““What happened to free speech? What happened to the ability of Americans to exercise their First Amendment right? This latest flimsy Trump indictment doubles down on tyranny and attacks our constitutional right to free speech and political dissent. It is not unconstitutional to question an election or even lobby elected officials. Nor is it a violation of law to ask for a phone number or believe an election outcome is wrong. Did the radical left not protest and challenge the Presidential election all the way to the Supreme Court in 2000? Did they not attempt to delegitimize the 2004 Presidential election over voting machines in Ohio? Or refuse to acknowledge the outcome of 2016 and claim Russian intervention? And there’s Stacey Abrams of course. If questioning election results constitutes a crime, then perhaps Stacey Abrams, Hillary Clinton, almost every Congressional Democrat and fake news media member should be indicted and hauled into court as well. It’s been 35 years since the last time the Democrats acknowledged a presidential-election defeat on election night. Who’s been delegitimizing elections again? Given the stakes, it’s time for the GOP to respond with more than strongly worded tweets. The Left is making up crimes in real time to lock up their opponents, and if we are serious about stopping it, we must fight fire with fire, and the first step is to defund the special counsel. In the meantime, America First Works will continue to fight this corruption at every turn.” [AFW STATEMENT: INDICT HILLARY CLINTON, STACEY ABRAMS, AND ALL ELECTION-DENYING DEMOCRATS TOO, [8/16/23](#)]

- **Hayek: “If questioning election results constitutes a crime, then perhaps Stacey Abrams, Hillary Clinton, almost every Congressional Democrat and fake news media member should be indicted and hauled into court as well.”** [AFW STATEMENT: INDICT HILLARY CLINTON, STACEY ABRAMS, AND ALL ELECTION-DENYING DEMOCRATS TOO, [8/16/23](#)]

2023: Hayek, celebrated Mike Johnson’s election as Speaker: “Americans have been looking for leadership in the House that will champion policies that prioritize the American people — someone who will put the people’s interests ahead of the Swamp’s.” “Today, America First Works (AFW) released the following statement applauding the election of Rep. Mike Johnson (LA-04) as the 56th Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives: ‘Americans have been looking for leadership in the House that will champion policies that prioritize the American people — someone who will put the people’s interests ahead of the Swamp’s. House Republicans were undoubtedly listening and made the right choice in electing Rep. Mike Johnson as Speaker. Rep. Johnson has been an America First stalwart, and we are confident that he will lead the charge in securing the border and reining in out-of-control spending while standing up to and exposing the corruption within the Biden Administration. There is no time to lose, and AFW is eager for the House to return to business.’” [AFW: SPEAKER JOHNSON WILL BE THE AMERICA FIRST LEADER THE NATION NEEDS, [10/25/23](#)]

2023: AFW on Colorado barring Trump from state primary ballot: “This decision, made by a divided court in one of our nation’s most liberal states, is a chilling example of how far certain factions will go to silence a voice that millions of Americans support.” “The court’s unprecedented move to bar former President Donald Trump from the 2024 Colorado primary ballot is a blatant display of judicial overreach and political bias. This decision, made by a divided court in one of our nation’s most liberal states, is a chilling example of how far certain factions will go to silence a voice that millions of Americans support. The majority’s reliance on a scarcely invoked provision of the Constitution’s 14th Amendment is not only a misinterpretation of its intent but also a dangerous manipulation of our legal framework to serve a political agenda. This is blatant attempt to disenfranchise the millions of Americans who support President Trump. This decision is more than just a judicial ruling; it is a threat to the very foundations of our democracy. It sets a dangerous precedent where the

judicial system can be weaponized to suppress the political voice of an individual, thereby undermining the will of the people. This is not just about President Trump; it's about safeguarding the rights of every American to choose their leaders without interference from a biased judiciary.” [STATEMENT ON THE COLORADO STATE SUPREME COURT’S ATTACK ON THE RIGHTS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, [12/20/23](#)]

2024: AFW called for a Christian Day of Prayer and more Christian political involvement: “The urgency of this mission is underscored by the evident corrosion of moral and ethical standards, an affliction stemming from power’s corrupting influence.” “In an era where the foundational values of liberty and truth are under constant siege, America First Works (AFW) is proud to launch a groundbreaking initiative – Christian Visibility Day, slated for November 5th. This day marks a significant mobilization of faith in the public square, reinforcing our commitment to being the light of the world and the salt of the Earth, as instructed by Jesus Christ: ‘At a critical point in America, the call for the Church to actively participate in the marketplace of ideas has never been more urgent. AFW believes that abstaining from engaging in contemporary issues equates to missing a historic opportunity to contribute to the nation’s story and the expansion of the kingdom of heaven on Earth. Christian Visibility Day is more than a call to prayer; it is a clarion call for actionable faith. Our initiatives encourage active participation in the democratic process – to vote, to run for public office, and to be a relentless gospel presence in every sphere of influence. The urgency of this mission is underscored by the evident corrosion of moral and ethical standards, an affliction stemming from power’s corrupting influence. This decline is manifest in our government, media, and educational institutions, challenging the very freedoms our Constitution enshrines. Our fight transcends cultural boundaries; it is about upholding the kingdom of God and fulfilling the Church’s divine mandate in an age shadowed by growing darkness.” [AMERICA FIRST WORKS ANNOUNCES CHRISTIAN VISIBILITY DAY, [3/30/24](#)]

2024: AFW on SCOTUS allowing Trump on Colorado primary ballot: “[Their] unanimous rebuke of the Left’s attempt to disenfranchise millions of voters is what this country needed. Let this be a lesson to Democrat-run states that have threatened the foundations of our democracy.” “Today, America First Works released the following statement after the 9-0 ruling by the Supreme Court to strike down the Left’s efforts to remove President Donald J. Trump from the ballot: ‘The United States Supreme Court’s unanimous rebuke of the Left’s attempt to disenfranchise millions of voters is what this country needed. Let this be a lesson to Democrat-run states that have threatened the foundations of our democracy. In America, voters get to choose their president. We don’t resort to third-world tactics of removing candidates from the ballot.’” [AFW: DEMOCRACY WON TODAY, [3/4/24](#)]

Immigration

2022: AFW supported Texas’s B-Verify Act to Improve Border Security. “Statement from Chad Wolf, former acting Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, supporting Representative Gooden’s proposed bill: ‘Yesterday, Representative Gooden of Texas released the B-Verify Act to Improve Border Security. The bill expands the requirements for collecting biometric data at the border for illegal aliens. It also builds off policies proposed under the Trump Administration and is an effective measure to deter asylum and immigration fraud. The bill also protects migrant children from human trafficking by verifying familial relationships at the border or before being placed with a potential sponsor. The situation along our southern border is a severe humanitarian and national security crisis. This legislation would help curtail the abuse of children and protect American communities.’” [STATEMENT ON THE B-VERIFY ACT TO IMPROVE BORDER SECURITY, [6/9/22](#)]

2024: Hayek, on AZ Gov. Katie Hobbs' (D-AZ) SOTS address: "Hobbs' refusal to combat President Biden's border crisis and prioritize the safety and well-being of her constituents has only exacerbated the devastation of Arizona communities." "Today, America First Works Executive Director Ashley Hayek released the following statement in response to Governor Katie Hobbs' (D-AZ) State of the State Address and how she has failed the people of Arizona: 'Since assuming office, Governor Katie Hobbs of Arizona has failed to protect children or advance policies that will help families in her state. Her actions, which include vetoing more bills than any other governor in the state's history, are unproductive and harmful. Adding to her disastrous legacy is her attempt to dismantle Arizona's landmark school choice program and neglect of the state's election integrity issues. One of her initial decisions, to stop the construction of Arizona's shipping container border fence, starkly signaled her unwillingness to confront the Biden Administration. Hobbs' refusal to combat President Biden's border crisis and prioritize the safety and well-being of her constituents has only exacerbated the devastation of Arizona communities. Inaction and failure have persisted throughout her tenure. Arizonans urgently need a governor who will prioritize them first.'" [AFW STATEMENT: GOVERNOR HOBBS HAS FAILED ARIZONA, [1/9/24](#)]

2024: AFW called for the impeachment of DHS Sec. Mayorkas and said: "Yesterday's failure by the House of Representatives to impeach Secretary Mayorkas was an insult to the American people." "America First Works (AFW) calls on the House of Representatives to correct their failure and impeach Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas for systematically refusing to enforce the law and secure the border: 'Last year, AFW called for the impeachment of Secretary Mayorkas for making false statements before Congress as well as his dereliction of duty, resulting in a humanitarian and national security crisis for every state in our Nation. Yesterday's failure by the House of Representatives to impeach Secretary Mayorkas was an insult to the American people. Mayorkas has been the architect of the deadly Biden border crisis and has utterly refused to enforce the law. If Members of Congress truly want to prioritize the security and sovereignty of our Nation, they will vote to remove Secretary Mayorkas from office. We encourage Majority Leader Scalise and America First Representatives to hold the line in the fight to protect our country.'" [AFW: MAYORKAS IMPEACHMENT FAILURE IS INEXCUSABLE, [2/7/24](#)]

2024: AFW "applauds the House for the impeachment of Secretary Mayorkas," and blamed him for the border crisis. "America First Works (AFW) released the following statement applauding the House of Representatives for finally impeaching Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas. AFW is now calling on the Senate to proceed to trial and remove him. 'AFW applauds the House for the impeachment of Secretary Mayorkas. Since last year, AFW has been calling for this as the border crisis has left American communities destroyed by the wave of illegal immigrants, families in mourning from the fentanyl epidemic, and police officers beaten in our streets. Now, the Senate must remove him from office. If they do not, they would be giving a stamp of approval for the deadly costs of this border emergency.'" [AFW: REMOVE MAYORKAS FROM OFFICE, [2/14/24](#)]

2024: AFW called on AZ Gov. Katie Hobbs to sign an anti-immigration measure, stressing: "Amid the dire crisis at our southern border, the Arizona Legislature has taken decisive action by passing SB 1321, a measure to protect Arizonans from the crime and destruction triggered by illegal border crossings." "Amid the dire crisis at our southern border, the Arizona Legislature has taken decisive action by passing SB 1321, a measure to protect Arizonans from the crime and destruction triggered by illegal border crossings. America First Works released the following statement urging Governor Katie Hobbs to sign this legislation immediately: 'SB 1321 is a necessary step in asserting

Arizona’s right to protect itself and its citizens in the absence of federal action. The urgency with which lawmakers acted reflects the gravity of the border crisis — a crisis that demands immediate action. Now is not the time for partisan politics but the time for public safety, sovereignty, and the rule of law. We are calling on you to stand with the people of Arizona and prioritize their safety and well-being, which continue to be threatened by a wide-open border. This is your duty as their governor.” [AN URGENT CALL TO ACTION FOR GOVERNOR KATIE HOBBS: SIGN SB 1231 NOW, [3/5/24](#)]

2024: AFW “strongly condemns yesterday’s vote by the 148 radical Left House Members opposing the detention and deportation of illegal aliens who have assaulted law enforcement officers.” “America First Works (AFW) strongly condemns yesterday’s vote by the 148 radical Left House Members opposing the detention and deportation of illegal aliens who have assaulted law enforcement officers. ‘The lack of respect for the brave men and women in law enforcement sends a dangerous message that illegal aliens and violent offenders can assault our dedicated officers without facing serious consequences,’ said Ashley Hayek, AFW Executive Director. ‘If you’re an illegal alien and you assault one of our police officers, you should be detained and deported immediately. Sadly, a majority of Democrats have shown they don’t believe that should be the case and prioritize illegal aliens over American lives,’ Hayek added.” [AMERICA FIRST WORKS CONDEMNS HOUSE DEMOCRATS FOR VOTING AGAINST THE DETENTION AND DEPORTATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WHO ASSAULT LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, [5/16/24](#)]

LGBTQ+ Rights

2022: Hayek: “America was built on the idea of freedom of religion, but the unnecessary ‘Respect for Marriage Act’ threatens this fundamental protection.” ““America was built on the idea of freedom of religion, but the unnecessary ‘Respect for Marriage Act’ threatens this fundamental protection. This is yet another egregious and deliberate attack on religious liberty by the radical Left. No ‘conservative’ lawmaker should have played along. When churches, organizations, and individuals are charged with violating the law for practicing their religion, remember the 12 ‘conservative’ Senators who voted to deny Americans their First Amendment, God-given, rights.” [STATEMENT FROM ASHLEY HAYEK, AMERICA FIRST WORKS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, [12/13/22](#)]

- **Hayek urged AFW supporters to “remember the 12 ‘conservative’ Senators who voted to deny Americans their First Amendment, God-given, rights.”** [STATEMENT FROM ASHLEY HAYEK, AMERICA FIRST WORKS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, [12/13/22](#)]

2023: AFW “applauds the Tennessee Legislature and Governor Bill Lee for the passage of the Protecting Children from Gender Mutilation Act.” “America First Works (AFW) applauds the Tennessee Legislature and Governor Bill Lee for the passage of the Protecting Children from Gender Mutilation Act. AFW Executive Director Ashley Hayek released the following statement in support of the bill: ‘Tennessee has joined the growing list of states committed to protecting the youth against permanent, life-altering procedures on minor children. More than 75% of children do not carry gender dysmorphia with them into adulthood — so why are so many leftist government leaders opposed to waiting until adulthood to make these decisions? Governor Lee and the Tennessee Legislature asked this very question and came to the right conclusion. America First Works commends Governor Bill Lee, Senator Jack Johnson, and Representative William Lamberth for their commitment to our kids.’” [AMERICA FIRST WORKS APPLAUDS TENNESSEE’S BAN ON GENDER MUTILATION OF CHILDREN, [3/2/23](#)]

2023: AFW called on Gov. Mike DeWine (R-OH) “to sign H.B. 68, the Save Adolescents from Experimentation (SAFE) Act, which protects Ohio’s children from irreversible ‘gender’ surgeries and prevents men from participating in women’s sports.” “America First Works (AFW) is calling on Governor Mike DeWine (R-OH) to sign H.B. 68, the Save Adolescents from Experimentation (SAFE) Act, which protects Ohio’s children from irreversible ‘gender’ surgeries and prevents men from participating in women’s sports. AFW released the following statement: ‘Protecting children from the Left’s gender lunacy and saving women’s sports is simple, common sense. No child in America should be subjected to permanent mutilation or harmful hormone blockers. And no female athlete should have her dreams demolished because a man is pretending to be something he is not. This is a critical moment in our history. We must stand up for kids and women across America. America First Works applauds the Ohio State Legislature for doing so through its passage of the SAFE Act. Governor DeWine has an easy win on his desk awaiting his signature, and we hope he takes it.’” [AFW URGES GOVERNOR DEWINE TO SIGN SAFE ACT, [10/18/23](#)]

2024: AFW “praised the Ohio General Assembly for overriding Governor Mike DeWine’s veto of H.B. 68, the SAFE Act, which protects Ohio’s children from irreversible ‘gender’ surgeries and prevents men from participating in women’s sports.” “Today, America First Works (AFW) praised the Ohio General Assembly for overriding Governor Mike DeWine’s veto of H.B. 68, the SAFE Act, which protects Ohio’s children from irreversible ‘gender’ surgeries and prevents men from participating in women’s sports. AFW released the following statement: ‘Fortunately for Ohio’s children, the Ohio State Legislature was looking out for them after Governor DeWine shamefully refused. Allowing the Left to prey on children with permanent ‘gender’ surgeries is a nonstarter in the America First movement, as is allowing men to compete in women’s sports, and Governor DeWine’s top priority should have been protecting them. Instead, he caved to leftist special interests. The SAFE Act should have never been vetoed. Thankfully, Ohio’s House of Representatives and Senate corrected this wrong because they understand who they serve: The people of the Buckeye State!’ [AFW APPLAUDS OHIO LEGISLATURE FOR PROTECTING CHILDREN AND OVERRIDING GOV. DEWINE’S VETO, [1/24/24](#)]

Education

2022: AFW announced the release of an anti-American Federation of Teachers ad, and claimed the group “advocates for radical, liberal policies.” “The American Federation of Teachers (AFT), which advocates for radical, liberal policies, is endorsing several Republican candidates running for election to the Texas House of Representatives including: Justin Berry, Republican candidate for Texas House District 19; Barron Casteel, Republican candidate for Texas House District 73; Texas Representative Ernest Bailes, Republican candidate for Texas House District 18. The people of Texas must tell them to reject AFT policies! To highlight the union’s unusually radical political behavior in a Texas Republican primary, America First Works released a video of controversial remarks by Randi Weingarten, President of the American Federation of Teachers, supporting ideas like Critical Race Theory and mask mandates in schools.” [MUST WATCH: NEW VIDEO EXPOSES TEACHER’S UNION – AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS TEXAS – RADICAL POLICIES, [3/17/22](#)]

2022: Hayek supported Florida’s Parental Rights in Education Bill, HB 1557, saying: “The classroom is no place for dark curricula or experimental politics. Florida is leading the charge in making our Nation’s classrooms safe and protecting the sacred rights of parents.” “In response to Governor Ron DeSantis signing the Parental Rights in Education Bill (HB 1557), Ashley Hayek, Executive Director of America First Works, and Scott Turner, former Texas State Representative who

played in the NFL and Chairman of the Center for Education Opportunity at the America First Policy Institute, made the following statements. ‘This bill, supported by America First Works, will finally put guardrails to prevent politicians from cutting Florida’s parents from the classroom,’ said Hayek. ‘The classroom is no place for dark curricula or experimental politics. Florida is leading the charge in making our Nation’s classrooms safe and protecting the sacred rights of parents. Thank you, Governor DeSantis and leaders in the Florida Legislature, for putting our children first.’ ‘I congratulate Florida leaders on the passage of HB 1557,’ said Turner. ‘The Parental Rights in Education bill ensures kindergartners will not be taught gender ideology and empowers parents to be involved in their child’s emotional and physical health. This bill creates greater transparency, protects children from topics that are not age-appropriate, recognizes the well-being of children and the right of their parents to raise and teach them, and stands up to radical out-of-state interest groups.’” [AFW APPLAUDS GOVERNOR DESANTIS AND FLORIDA GOP FOR PUTTING PARENTS FIRST, [3/29/22](#)]

2022: AFW Senior Advisor Brooke Rollins called TX Gov. Gregg Abbott’s school choice agenda “the beginning of an incredible movement that will set a national standard for educational opportunity.” “Brooke Rollins, President and CEO of the America First Policy Institute and Senior Advisor to America First Works, released the following statement today commending Governor Gregg Abbott for prioritizing Texas families by making funding for school choice in Texas a priority. ‘For years, we have worked toward allowing every Texas family to choose what education is best for their children. Thank you, Governor Abbott, for putting the educational needs of our children and families first. Texas policymakers should heed this call and make school choice in Texas a reality,’ said Brooke Rollins. ‘This is the beginning of an incredible movement that will set a national standard for educational opportunity.’ As the advocacy arm of the America First Policy Institute, America First Works is focused on America First policies and will deliver the America First agenda for generations to come.” [AMERICA FIRST WORKS COMMENDS GOVERNOR ABBOTT FOR PRIORITIZING SCHOOL CHOICE PROPOSALS, [5/11/22](#)]

2022: Hayek, on pro-school choice candidates in Iowa: “Every child should have equal access to quality education. Iowa voters rejected the radical, liberal policies of national unions and instead embraced America First education.” “Today, Ashley Hayek, Executive Director of America First Works, released the following statement congratulating pro-school choice candidates in Iowa: ‘Education opportunity and freedom is a priority of America First Works. It is so encouraging to see pro-school choice candidates win their races,’ said Hayek. ‘Every child should have equal access to quality education. Iowa voters rejected the radical, liberal policies of national unions and instead embraced America First education.’ America First Works supports the policies that put jobs first, opportunity first, security first, freedom first, innovation first—America First. America First Works empowers patriots passionate about the America First agenda to accomplish their policy and legislative goals.” [PRO-SCHOOL CHOICE CANDIDATES ADVANCE IN IOWA, [6/8/22](#)]

2022: Hayek: “By supporting H.B. 2169, Pennsylvania legislators can demonstrate their commitment to the education freedom movement and help provide their constituents with the American dream of equal access to quality education.” “Today, America First Works announced its support for Pennsylvania’s H.B. 2169—a Lifeline Scholarship Program sponsored by Representatives Clint Owlett and Martina White. This legislation provides an opportunity for children who are in the bottom 15% performing school districts in Pennsylvania. Since the COVID-19 school closures began, education success has suffered. Student test scores in Pennsylvania as measured by the standardized tests fell sharply last year in all subject areas. English scores dropped 3.5% for fourth graders and 7% for eighth grade students. Math scores for fourth graders fell by 7 percent and eighth graders to 11%.

Science scores were down 2% to 7% for fourth and eighth grade students respectively. According to the National Bureau of Economic Research, minority students have suffered the greatest. ‘A Lifeline Scholarship—and education opportunity—will improve student success and long-term outcomes. It ensures taxpayer dollars have a more direct impact on students and their success,’ said Ashley Hayek, Executive Director of America First Works. ‘By supporting H.B. 2169, Pennsylvania legislators can demonstrate their commitment to the education freedom movement and help provide their constituents with the American dream of equal access to quality education. If passed, this will allow students to have the chance to achieve greater success, which benefits both the child and communities.’” [PENNSYLVANIA HB 2169 ESTABLISHING A LIFELINE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IS A WIN FOR PENNSYLVANIA’S KIDS AND TAXPAYERS, [6/13/22](#)]

2022: AFW on Arizona’s HB 2853, a school voucher bill: “This historic bill empowers Arizona families to invest their taxpayer dollars directly on what is best for them, ensuring equal access to quality education.” “Today, America First Works announced its support for Arizona House Bill (H.B.) 2853, which advances education opportunity for children by expanding the school voucher program to all 1.1 million Arizona students. ‘This historic bill empowers Arizona families to invest their taxpayer dollars directly on what is best for them, ensuring equal access to quality education,’ said Brooke Rollins, America First Works Senior Advisor and America First Policy Institute’s President and CEO. ‘By passing H.B. 2853, Arizona legislators can empower parents, restart their education engine, and reverse the downward trend of student achievement since the pandemic. This will benefit all Arizona children who suffered the past 2 years.’ Following the COVID-19 pandemic, school choice is even more crucial in ensuring the growth of our Nation’s children. Public student test scores in Arizona were reaching shocking lows in 2021, with only 35% of 3rd-graders passing their English language arts exam and only 27% of 8th-graders passing their math exam.” [AMERICA FIRST WORKS SUPPORTS PARENTS’ RIGHTS AND EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY IN ARIZONA, [6/21/22](#)]

2022: Hayek: “[AFW] applauds Congresswoman Ashley Hinson’s (R-IA) amendment blocking federal student loan debt cancellation. Calls for student loan forgiveness truly amount to debt redistribution to American families.” “America First Works submitted the following statement on Congressman Ashley Hinson’s amendment to Block the Biden Administration from Transferring Student Loan Debt in House Appropriations Committee: ‘America First Works applauds Congresswoman Ashley Hinson’s amendment blocking federal student loan debt cancellation. Calls for student loan forgiveness truly amount to debt redistribution to American families, whether they attended college or not. Nor would discharging debts solve the underlying problem. College is too expensive, and students are being saddled with debt they cannot afford because postsecondary institutions have few incentives to deliver a rigorous, workforce-aligned education at a reasonable price. Until underlying problems are addressed, loan forgiveness is at best a Band-Aid solution, and student loan balances will continue to balloon the moment Fall tuition bills come due.’ – Ashley Hayek, Executive Director of America First Works.” [AMERICA FIRST WORKS STATEMENT ON THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION TRANSFERRING STUDENT LOAN DEBT IN HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, [7/1/22](#)]

2022: AFW: “The gold standard for school choice legislation became reality today in the Grand Canyon State as Governor Doug Ducey signed H.B. 2853, the Arizona Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA), into law.” “The gold standard for school choice legislation became reality today in the Grand Canyon State as Governor Doug Ducey signed H.B. 2853, the Arizona Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA), into law. The ESA program will allow families of all 1.1 million students to exercise control over where and how they spend their education funds. This advancement will

revolutionize education flexibility and financial freedom, enabling Arizona to reclaim the number one ranking in the Nation for educational opportunity. ‘Thanks to this legislation, children and parents are now being put first in the state of Arizona,’ said Ashley Hayek, Executive Director for America First Works. ‘These families will have the freedom to decide how to spend their taxpayer dollars on their children’s education. Arizona’s education system is the leading example of American educational freedom and provides hope to other families fighting for school choice across the country.’ America First Works applauds Arizona House Majority Leader Ben Toma for this innovative legislation that will help heal the damage inflicted by the COVID-19 pandemic and destructive political agendas permeating classrooms. This new law makes Arizona’s education system the leading exemplar of American educational freedom and is a modern development of the American Dream.” [AMERICA FIRST WORKS CELEBRATES ARIZONA’S EMPOWERMENT SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNT AS A SCHOOL CHOICE VICTORY, [7/7/22](#)]

2023: Hayek: “Iowa is on the verge of making education opportunity a reality for families, and America First Works urges the state legislature to pass Governor Kim Reynolds’ ‘Students First Act’ swiftly.” “‘Iowa is on the verge of making education opportunity a reality for families, and America First Works urges the state legislature to pass Governor Kim Reynolds’ ‘Students First Act’ swiftly. Finally, funding will follow the student and empower parents with more choice regarding educational costs, including tuition, books, uniforms, and food costs. The ‘Students First Act’ should serve as a model for the rest of the Nation. Iowa legislators must send this bill to Governor Reynolds’ desk immediately!’” [STATEMENT FROM ASHLEY HAYEK, AMERICA FIRST WORKS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, URGING IOWA LEGISLATORS TO PASS GOVERNOR REYNOLDS’ ‘STUDENTS FIRST ACT’, [1/23/23](#)]

2023: Complaining about the 2022 midterm results, Hayek compared Republican election efforts to a “JV team” trying to compete with an NFL team – especially on mail-in and early voting. “Republicans suffered election losses in several states Nov. 7, and one political strategist told Fox News Digital it shows the GOP is playing like a ‘JV team’ that needs to make several key changes. ‘When I was looking back at all of the election results, the first thing that I realized was that we had an absence of a cohesive, well-funded machine for conservatives in terms of our tactics,’ said Ashley Hayek, executive director of America First Works, who served as the national coalitions director for Trump’s 2020 campaign. ‘We are still very much lagging in mail votes and early votes, and I would say the conservative effort is more like the JV football team compared to an NFL team in terms of our ability to turn out voters early through mail and just really mobilize our ground game,’ Hayek told Fox News Digital.” [Fox News, [11/12/23](#)]

2023: AFW on Missouri’s school choice HB 253 and SB 5: “This legislation on the table in Missouri is a great place to start, as it enables Missouri’s K–12 students to attend a school that fits their needs outside their district or in a charter school.” “America First Works, the advocacy arm of AFPI, is urging Missouri legislators to pass HB 253 and SB 5 for the sake of its students. As Kellyanne stated yesterday, we need an ‘education renaissance’ in Missouri and throughout America. This legislation on the table in Missouri is a great place to start, as it enables Missouri’s K–12 students to attend a school that fits their needs outside their district or in a charter school. Without delay, this bill needs to head to Governor Mike Parson’s desk.” [STATEMENT BY AMERICA FIRST WORKS: KELLYANNE CONWAY FEATURED ON MISSOURI RADIO TO HIGHLIGHT SCHOOL CHOICE EFFORTS, [2/21/23](#)]

2023: AFW praised Oklahoma representatives for passing “House Bill 1935, the Parental Choice Tax Credit Act, adding Oklahoma to a growing list of states committed to expanding education opportunity for America’s children.” “Yesterday, the Oklahoma House of Representatives passed House Bill 1935, the Parental Choice Tax Credit Act, adding Oklahoma to a growing list of states committed to expanding education opportunity for America’s children. America First Works (AFW) Executive Director Ashley Hayek released the following statement applauding the passage: ‘Oklahoma parents should be able to decide the best education for their children. We have seen from depressed test scores, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic, that a one size fits all education system is not in the best interest of students. Speaker Charles McCall delivered a win for parents and students, and AFW is urging the Oklahoma State Senate to do the same. Education freedom should be available to every student in the Sooner State,’ AFW Executive Director Ashley Hayek said. Oklahoma House Bill 1935, the Parental Choice Tax Credit Act, allows Oklahoma families to qualify for a \$5,000 per child education tax credit that puts private education within reach for students. This would be a huge win for Oklahomans, and that’s why AFW is urging for its swift passage. Governor Kevin Stitt has already voiced support for this bill, leaving the Oklahoma State Senate with the greenlight to deliver school choice for the Sooner State.” [AMERICA FIRST WORKS APPLAUDS OKLAHOMA HOUSE PASSAGE OF THE PARENTAL CHOICE TAX CREDIT ACT, [2/23/23](#)]

2023: Hayek: “For too long, education freedom has been denied for many Georgia families. This week, the Georgia Legislature can change that by passing The Georgia Promise Scholarship Act.” “Today, America First Works Executive Director Ashley Hayek released the following statement supporting The Georgia Promise Scholarship Act, led by State Senator Greg Dolezal and Lt. Governor Burt Jones, and urging the Georgia Legislature to send it to Governor Brian Kemp’s desk immediately: ‘For too long, education freedom has been denied for many Georgia families. This week, the Georgia Legislature can change that by passing The Georgia Promise Scholarship Act. No student should ever be trapped in a school failing to meet their needs. Yet, many Democrats in the Peach State disagree, and their recent rhetoric against parents who just want the best for their kids is appalling. Thankfully, Georgia has leaders who care about putting students first. Former Speaker Newt Gingrich, State Senator Dolezal, Lt. Governor Jones, Governor Kemp, and many others should be applauded for the historic education changes coming soon to Georgia.’” [AFW URGES THE GEORGIA LEGISLATURE TO PASS ‘THE GEORGIA PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP ACT’, [3/27/23](#)]

2023: AFW praised the SC legislature for passing “H.B. 3728, the Transparency and Integrity in Education Act, which ensures that parents have more control over their child’s education.” “This week, the South Carolina legislature overwhelmingly passed H.B. 3728, the Transparency and Integrity in Education Act, which ensures that parents have more control over their child’s education. America First Works (AFW) proudly supports this win for South Carolina families, as it will bring transparency, accountability, and integrity to the state’s education system. South Carolinian and AFW Director of State Affairs Madison Berube released the following statement applauding the effort: ‘South Carolina sent a loud and clear message: We do not co-parent with the government. Parents are the ultimate stakeholder in their children’s education, yet many on the Left seek to undermine this fundamental truth. Moms and dads should not have to fight for transparency in the classroom, and now they will not have to. AFW applauds State Rep. Raye Felder and the South Carolina Legislature for protecting parental rights and passing the Transparency and Integrity in Education Act.’” [AFW CELEBRATES SOUTH CAROLINA’S TRANSPARENCY AND INTEGRITY IN EDUCATION WIN, [5/12/23](#)]

2024: AFW “commends Missouri Governor Mike Parson for his commitment to parents’ rights by signing SB 727, critical legislation that expands educational freedom and empowers families

across Missouri.” “America First Works commends Missouri Governor Mike Parson for his commitment to parents’ rights by signing SB 727, critical legislation that expands educational freedom and empowers families across Missouri. ‘Governor Parson’s signing of the MO Scholars expansion is a victory for parents’ rights and reinforces our commitment to educational freedom. At America First Works, we are excited to support this major victory toward ensuring that parental choice stands at the forefront of education policy in Missouri. We are eager to continue our work with Governor Parson and other leaders to champion the rights of all Missouri parents.’” [AMERICA FIRST WORKS COMMENDS GOVERNOR PARSON FOR CHAMPIONING EDUCATION FREEDOM WITH MISSOURI SCHOLARS PROGRAM, [5/9/24](#)]

Elections

June 2019: America First Policies Announced Plans to Launch a \$20 Million Campaign to Register Voters in Four States: Florida, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and Georgia. “America First Policies, a nonprofit that supports President Trump’s agenda, will launch a \$20 million campaign Tuesday to register voters in four states that could determine whether the president gets a second term. It will start by registering people who attend Mr. Trump’s 2020 kickoff rally at the Amway Center in Orlando, Florida. The group believes there are 9 million unregistered, eligible voters up for grab in the vital swing state. Besides Florida, it is looking to register voters in Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Georgia — electoral vote-rich states Mr. Trump won in 2016 and will likely need again to defeat whoever emerges from the crowded Democratic primary field.” [The Washington Times, [6/17/19](#)]

America First Policies President Brian Walsh: “There Are Millions Of Patriotic Americans Who Believe In The America First Movement, But Aren’t Registered To Vote.” “Trump is slated to have a campaign kickoff rally that evening at the 20,000 capacity Amway Center, and pro-Trump America First Policies is kicking off its own voter registration efforts. ‘There are millions of patriotic Americans who believe in the America First movement, but aren’t registered to vote,’ said America First Policies President Brian O. Walsh.” [Florida Politics, [6/17/19](#)]

America First Policies Gave \$238,000 to the Urban Revitalization Coalition, a Group Run by Trump Supporter Rev. Darrell Scott, That Offered \$25,000 Cash Giveaway to Attract Black Voters. “In December, news broke that a nonprofit group founded by a Trump ally raffled envelopes of cash to attendees at an event targeting black voters in Cleveland. The event, hosted by the Rev. Darrell Scott’s Urban Revitalization Coalition, honored White House official Ja’Ron Smith and featured ‘lavish’ praise of Trump and his policies. The ‘\$25,000 Cash Giveaway’ was part of the group’s nationwide strategy to lure black voters into listening sessions about Trump. While many have rightly condemned this effort as cynical and disrespectful, it could also put the coalition and White House staff in legal trouble. The coalition was founded in 2017 as a section 501(c)(3) nonprofit entity and certified by the Internal Revenue Service in April 2019. [...] In addition, public records show that in 2018, the coalition received a \$238,000 donation from America First Policies, a politically active group backing Trump’s reelection. These facts suggest that the coalition is exploiting tax laws to serve as a front for political advocacy.” [The Washington Post, [2/03/20](#)]

An Employee of Florida First, a Group Created by America First Policies, Was Arrested for Submitting Fraudulent Voter Registration Forms

2019: America First Policies Established Florida First, a Florida-Specific Voter Registration Organization. “Since 2011, the Democratic Party has sent local election offices almost 10 times the

65,000 registration applications that the Republican Party of Florida has submitted. But this summer, for the first time since the state began tracking third-party voter registration organizations, the Republican National Committee signed up to register voters in the state. The Trump-affiliated America First Policies also established a Florida-specific voter registration organization on Aug. 15, called Florida First.” [Miami Herald, [8/26/19](#)]

March 2020: An Employee of Florida First Was Arrested and Charged with 10 Felony Counts of Submitting False Voter Registration Information. “The Lake County Sheriff’s Office arrested a woman in Clermont they believe falsified voter registration information for 119 individuals living in Lake County. Clermont resident Cheryl Hall, 63, was arrested when she turned herself in at the LCSO’s South Lake office about 1 p.m. Thursday. She is charged with 10 felony counts of submitting false voter registration information. According to a statement from the Lake County Sheriff’s Office, the investigation into 10 of the fraudulent documents revealed that each could be tied back to serialized registration documents issued to Hall by Winter Park-based Florida First. The organization is a third-party voter registration organization that Supervisor of Elections Alan Hays said at a Wednesday press conference had been very cooperative in the investigation.” [Daily Commercial, [3/05/20](#)]

Lake County Elections Officials Accused Cheryl Hall Of Falsifying 119 Voter Registration Forms But Were Only Charging Her For 10 of the Forms Based on the Voter Complaints Lodged. “According to a probable cause affidavit from the Lake County Sheriff’s Office, deputies used Florida First’s records to tie serial numbers to registration forms assigned to Hall and obtained a warrant for her arrest. Because only 10 residents filed complaints, only 10 charges could be lodged, despite allegations that Hall submitted 119 fraudulent documents.” [Daily Commercial, [3/05/20](#)]

Former America First Policies Advisor John Loudon Created Group Pushing for a Constitutional Amendment Specifying “Only a Citizen” Can Vote

America First Policies’ Former Policy Advisor John Loudon and Wife Co-Founded Florida Citizen Voters, a Group Pushing for Constitutional Amendment Specifying “Only a Citizen” Can Vote. “Gina Loudon has proudly proclaimed Donald Trump to possibly be the ‘most sound-minded’ president in the nation’s history and boasted about spending time with him on Air Force One. She even once appeared as a ‘staunch tea party activist’ on the television show ‘Wife Swap’ to promote her conservative family values. Now, the West Palm Beach-based political commentator and her husband have a new mission — pushing a ballot initiative that would change the Florida Constitution to specify that ‘only a citizen’ can vote. The couple’s recently formed group — Florida Citizen Voters — already has raised nearly \$2 million to fund the petition drive needed to get the question on the 2020 presidential ballot. That makes it the top fundraiser this year among Florida political committees so far. [...] Her husband, John Loudon, has worked as a policy adviser for the pro-Trump dark money organization America First Policies. He served 14 years in the Missouri Legislature, leaving in 2008 because of term limits. [Sun-Sentinel, [3/15/19](#)]

Washington Post: Loudon Served Briefly as an Advisor to America First Policies in 2017. “John Loudon served briefly in 2017 as an adviser to America First Policies, a nonprofit advocacy group that promotes Trump’s agenda. Gina Loudon, a radio talk-show host known as Dr. Gina, is a member of the Trump campaign’s media advisory board, a group of about 30 surrogates, according to the campaign.” [The Washington Post, [7/22/19](#)]

America First Policies Policy Advisor John Loudon Suggested President Obama Was a Kenyan-Born Muslim, Made Several Anti-Muslim Comments, and Called Obama an “Islamchurian Candidate.” “An adviser for a pro-Trump policy group once suggested then-President Barack Obama was a Kenyan-born Muslim and made several other anti-Muslim comments on Twitter. John Loudon is a policy adviser at America First Policies, a non-profit group tasked with promoting Trump’s policy goals on a range of issues like a wall on the US-Mexico border, Iran and North Korea. Vice President Mike Pence regularly appears at fundraisers and events hosted by the group. A CNN KFile review of Loudon’s Twitter account reveals that, as far back as 2009 and as recently as this year, he used inflammatory and derogatory language while discussing a wide variety of groups of people including women, Muslims and Democrats. In February 2015, Loudon called Barack Obama an ‘Islamchurian Candidate,’ in reference to the book and film about a politician who is brainwashed into becoming an assassin for an international conspiracy.” [CNN, [5/21/18](#)]

2016 Election Interference

Parscale Was Among Senior Campaign Officials Donald Trump Jr. Told About Contact With Wikileaks. “When Donald Trump Jr. received the first private message from WikiLeaks during a 10-month correspondence, he emailed senior officials in his father’s presidential campaign about the contact, among them digital director Brad Parscale of San Antonio, according to a published report. The Atlantic this week made public a portion of Trump Jr.’s correspondence with WikiLeaks that took place during the time the transparency group was publishing hacked emails from Democratic officials. Trump Jr. later posted the messages on his Twitter account, noting that he’d responded just three times. In the correspondence, exchanged via Twitter’s direct messaging, WikiLeaks urged Trump Jr. to publicize its stolen Democratic emails and advised his father to challenge the election results if he lost.” [San Antonio Express News, [11/15/17](#)]

Parscale Denied That That His Work on Trump’s Campaign Was Intertwined “In Any Way, Shape or Form” With Russian Operatives’ Online Election Interference. “San Antonio digital strategist Brad Parscale denied that the work he did on President Donald Trump’s campaign was intertwined ‘in any way shape or form’ with alleged Russian operatives to use social media to influence the election. ‘Absolutely not,’ Parscale said on Fox News’ ‘The Story with Martha MacCallum’ on Tuesday. He emphasized that the Trump campaign got the data it used here in America. ‘In the United States, we actually have access to some of the best data, and the data we used on this campaign directly came from the Republican National Committee, and what they did after the 2012 election to build a data set like never seen before,’ Parscale said. ‘We didn’t need data, we didn’t need it from anyone else, it was right here in the United States of America, and the best data is right here.’” [San Antonio Express News, [6/01/17](#)]

- **Parscale Did Not Address Whether or Not His Firm Used “Bots” to Repost False Information on Social Media.** “Former FBI Special Agent Clint Watts told Congress in March that computer ‘bots’ were used to repost false information on social media to influence the U.S. election. Computer bots are software applications that run repetitive functions. During the campaign season, bots allegedly linked to Russia pushed information on Twitter and other social media in an attempt to manipulate the presidential election. Parscale, who ran Trump's digital operations during the campaign, didn't address in his interview on Fox News whether or not his firm used bots as part of Trump's online strategy.” [San Antonio Express News, [6/01/17](#)]

In 2016 Campaign, Parscale Hired Cambridge Analytica, the Firm Accused of Improperly Collecting Information on Over 50 Million Facebook Users and Using it for Voter Targeting.

“Over the weekend, several Democrats said they were extremely concerned about recent media reports that Cambridge Analytica, the conservative data analytics firm Parscale hired for the campaign, had improperly collected information on more than 50 million Facebook users and likely used it in the voter-targeting operation. The new reporting, in The New York Times and the Observer of London, also suggested that Cambridge Analytica has previously undisclosed connections to Russia.” [POLITICO, [3/19/18](#)]

As AFW

2022: AFW supported DeSantis signing a “free and fair elections” bill, arguing in the context of 2020 that: “These reforms are necessary and common sense, especially for a state like Florida with its mobile population of snowbirds, and they will immediately deter future election criminals.” “To restore faith in our election system and curb the shattering of public trust following radical changes made to state election laws during the 2020 election, Governor Ron DeSantis signed an AFW supported bill that protects free and fair elections. ‘By making these reforms, Governor DeSantis has ensured Florida remains at the forefront of putting all Americans first. These reforms are necessary and common sense, especially for a state like Florida with its mobile population of snowbirds, and they will immediately deter future election criminals. Other states should follow Florida’s lead. Voting, double voting, voting under an alias, and other crimes have been a problem without consequence in the Sunshine State. This new law will change that and strengthen other election laws put in place last year,’ said Honorable Ken Blackwell, former Ohio Secretary of State, AFW Senior Advisor, and chairman of the America First Policy Institute’s Center for Election Integrity. The Public Interest Legal Foundation released a report detailing the election crime problem in Florida, documenting, through public records requests, at least 156 case referrals from just nine of Florida’s 67 supervisors of elections made to prosecutors during the 2020 election cycle. Prosecuting election crimes requires resources, time, and election law experience that many local county prosecutors lack. Governor DeSantis understands this problem.” [AMERICA FIRST WORKS APPLAUDS FLORIDA’S MOVE TO ENACT LANDMARK LAW TO BOOST TRUST IN ELECTIONS, [4/26/22](#)]

2022: AFW “launched Protect the Vote Pledge for elected officials to sign to ensure their state has election laws that allow for free and fair elections.” “Today, America First Works (AFW) launched Protect the Vote Pledge for elected officials to sign to ensure their state has election laws that allow for free and fair elections. Election laws changed in many states during the 2020 Election due to the coronavirus global pandemic. Nearly two-thirds of eligible voters cast their 2020 election ballot outside traditional walk-up polling locations. The consequences of these drastic, highly irregular, sometimes deceitful, and even radically motivated changes to our election law brought on a historic shattering of trust in government and our election system. Many of these changes still exist except for a few states, like Florida. ‘Confidence in our elections is at an all-time low, and this Pledge aims to change that,’ said Ken Blackwell, former Secretary of State of Ohio and Senior Advisor to America First Works. ‘Free and fair elections are the backbone of our democracy, and the Protect the Vote Pledge is a commitment that politicians from both parties are making to their constituents, promising to strengthen and restore trust in our election system – and earn back the trust of voters.’” [AMERICA FIRST WORKS LAUNCHES LEGISLATORS PLEDGE TO PROTECT OUR ELECTIONS, [5/19/22](#)]

- **AFW on COVID election protocols in 2020: “The consequences of these drastic, highly irregular, sometimes deceitful, and even radically motivated changes to our election law**

brought on a historic shattering of trust in government and our election system.”

[AMERICA FIRST WORKS LAUNCHES LEGISLATORS PLEDGE TO PROTECT OUR ELECTIONS, [5/19/22](#)]

- **AFW: “These efforts can ensure that fraud and other irregularities never happen in our elections again.”** “By strengthening our election system, AFW will ensure it is easy to vote and impossible to cheat. Some measures to secure our elections include requiring government-issued photo identification for in-person and mail-in voting, ending the practice of ballot trafficking, and eliminating private money to conduct public elections. These efforts can ensure that fraud and other irregularities never happen in our elections again. By signing this pledge, elected officials and candidates vow to the American people that they stand for election integrity and will make sure that 2022, 2024, and beyond are the safest elections. The American people demand and deserve it!” [AMERICA FIRST WORKS LAUNCHES LEGISLATORS PLEDGE TO PROTECT OUR ELECTIONS, [5/19/22](#)]

2022: AFW published a pledge for election officials which read: “In America today, Elected Officials have no excuse to ignore voter protection policies. It’s time to make it easy to vote and impossible to cheat. The American people demand it and deserve it.” [AMERICA FIRST WORKS LAUNCHES LEGISLATORS PLEDGE TO PROTECT OUR ELECTIONS, [5/19/22](#)]

- **“Will you sign your name and pledge to: Support and vote for measures that require government-issued photo voter identification to vote in person and state-issued voter identification for anyone casting an absentee ballot by mail.”** [AMERICA FIRST WORKS LAUNCHES LEGISLATORS PLEDGE TO PROTECT OUR ELECTIONS, [5/19/22](#)]
- **“Will you sign your name and pledge to: Support and vote for measures that ensure clean and accurate voter rolls.”** [AMERICA FIRST WORKS LAUNCHES LEGISLATORS PLEDGE TO PROTECT OUR ELECTIONS, [5/19/22](#)]
- **“Will you sign your name and pledge to: Support and vote for measures that eliminate mass mailing of unrequested ballots to voters.”** [AMERICA FIRST WORKS LAUNCHES LEGISLATORS PLEDGE TO PROTECT OUR ELECTIONS, [5/19/22](#)]
- **“Will you sign your name and pledge to: Support and vote to eliminate private money accepted by local governments from private individuals and third parties to conduct public elections.”** [AMERICA FIRST WORKS LAUNCHES LEGISLATORS PLEDGE TO PROTECT OUR ELECTIONS, [5/19/22](#)]
- **“Will you sign your name and pledge to: Support and vote for measures that do NOT allow ballots to be accepted after polls close on Election Day, except for members of the military serving overseas.”** [AMERICA FIRST WORKS LAUNCHES LEGISLATORS PLEDGE TO PROTECT OUR ELECTIONS, [5/19/22](#)]
- **“Will you sign your name and pledge to: Support and vote for measures that require MADE IN AMERICA voting machines and that ONLY American citizens should have the right to vote in American elections.”** [AMERICA FIRST WORKS LAUNCHES LEGISLATORS PLEDGE TO PROTECT OUR ELECTIONS, [5/19/22](#)]

- **“Will you sign your name and pledge to: Support and vote for measures that end the unsecured practice of mass ballot trafficking.”** [AMERICA FIRST WORKS LAUNCHES LEGISLATORS PLEDGE TO PROTECT OUR ELECTIONS, [5/19/22](#)]

2023: Hayek: “Ranked Choice Voting should be banned.” “Last week, Governor Katie Hobbs vetoed House Bill 2552, which would have banned Ranked Choice Voting throughout Arizona. To date, she has vetoed more than 60 bills. America First Works Executive Director Ashley Hayek released the following statement denouncing her actions: ‘Arizona’s overwhelming distrust of the election system has been worsened by Governor Katie Hobbs’ refusal to sign legislation that would take a step in restoring integrity. Ranked Choice Voting should be banned not just in Arizona but throughout America. This outrageous system turns democracy on its head by allowing for the second-place vote-getter to win potentially. This week, Hobbs broke an Arizona record for most vetoes in one day, with 11 in total. So far, more than 60 bills have been vetoed, making it clear she is not so much a governor as she is a radical placeholder for that office. She has no agenda, no plan, and no vision for Arizona. In other words, her only hope for re-election will be more chaos at the ballot box, which may be where Ranked Choice Voting comes in.’” [AFW DENOUNCES GOVERNOR KATIE HOBBS’ VETO AGENDA, [4/21/23](#)]

2023: AFW and Turning Point Action started a joint effort to “recruit, train, and mobilize thousands of grassroots activists to register and turn out voters.” “In an unprecedented move, Turning Point USA’s sister organization, Turning Point Action, and the America First Policy Institute’s sister organization, America First Works, are joining forces to create a massive effort over the next 16 months to recruit, train, and mobilize thousands of grassroots activists to register and turn out voters: ‘Whether we like it or not, it’s time for conservatives to accept that our elections have been fundamentally transformed from traditional same-day voting to an early vote mobilization game. It’s time for our side of the aisle to adapt and respond. Our new coalition will build and execute an early vote juggernaut, giving us the upper hand in this logistical battle. From now on, we will play by the Left’s rules and chase every vote before Election Day even begins.’ – Tyler Bowyer, Turning Point Action Chief Operating Officer. ‘Conservatives can no longer take the risk of waiting and hoping for Election Day votes. For the America First movement to continue to succeed, we must mobilize voters early. In partnership with Turning Point Action, we will outmatch the Left’s early vote and ballot harvesting machine and, finally, even the election playing field. Our side has the winning message and the winning policies. And through this coalition, we will no longer wake up after an election wondering what went wrong.’ – Ashley Hayek, America First Works Executive Director.” [TURNING POINT ACTION & AMERICA FIRST WORKS LAUNCH ‘CHASE THE VOTE ALLIANCE’ A STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FOR VOTER MOBILIZATION, [7/17/23](#)]

- **Hayek: “In partnership with Turning Point Action, we will outmatch the Left’s early vote and ballot harvesting machine and, finally, even the election playing field. Our side has the winning message and the winning policies.”** [TURNING POINT ACTION & AMERICA FIRST WORKS LAUNCH ‘CHASE THE VOTE ALLIANCE’ A STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FOR VOTER MOBILIZATION, [7/17/23](#)]

2024: Hayek: “America First Works is proud to be a founding member of the Only Citizens Vote Coalition, the mission of which is to ensure that only U.S. citizens are allowed to vote in any American election and that proof of U.S. citizenship be required to register to vote.” “America First Works announced today that it is joining forces with dozens of national, state, and local organizations to work together to stop noncitizen voting in the 2024 elections. ‘America First Works is proud to be a founding member of the Only Citizens Vote Coalition, the mission of which is to ensure that only U.S.

citizens are allowed to vote in any American election and that proof of U.S. citizenship be required to register to vote,’ said Ashley Hayek, America First Works Executive Director. ‘We will work with other leaders, activists, and public officials to educate our fellow Americans of citizen-only voting and secure enactment of laws and practices at all levels of government to prevent noncitizen registration and voting.’ ‘To that end, we urge Congress to enact the Safeguarding American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act to protect our 2024 elections and beyond from any noncitizen votes,’ Hayek added. Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT) also announced that he will introduce a companion to the SAVE Act in the U.S. Senate. ‘Voting is both a sacred right and responsibility of American citizenship, and allowing the people of other nations access to our elections is a grave blow to our security and self-governance,’ Sen. Lee said.” [AMERICA FIRST WORKS JOINS ONLY CITIZENS VOTE COALITION TO CALL ON CONGRESS TO ENACT THE SAVE ACT, [5/9/24](#)]

2024: AFW and Turning Point Action reportedly met with the Trump campaign team in Palm Beach to discuss their fundraising efforts, which included utilizing the RNC and outside groups to maximize donations. “This year, the Trump team only started taking control of the RNC in March. His reelection machine had \$102 million in cash at the end of that month and had raised just \$147 million in the past three months, though advisers say fundraising has picked up since then. His team expects to make up part of the difference by taking advantage of a recent change in FEC guidance, which now allows campaigns to coordinate canvassing programs with outside groups that can raise and spend money from wealthy donors without limit. During a donor retreat last weekend in Palm Beach, Blair met with representatives from several influential outside groups — including America First Works and Turning Point USA, a right-wing nonprofit — to discuss potential collaboration on canvassing efforts. Blair praised Turning Point in particular as a group that is doing ‘great work.’” [Washington Post, [5/10/24](#)]

2024: AFW listed “Project 19,” election-related jobs available on their careers page for Florida, Ohio, North Carolina, Michigan, Nevada, Georgia, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and Arizona. [America First Works – Careers, Accessed: [5/29/24](#)]

Climate and the Environment

2022: AFW on SEC rule that companies disclose environmental impact data: “These new rules by the SEC are nearly impossible for public companies to follow and would unnecessarily strangle growth and kill jobs.” “Today, America First Works (AFW) released the following statement in response to sweeping new job-killing regulations by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) regulators requiring public American businesses to disclose onerous environmental data about their operations and information regarding their suppliers and partnering operators. ‘These new rules by the SEC are nearly impossible for public companies to follow and would unnecessarily strangle growth and kill jobs,’ said Ashley Hayek, Executive Director of AFW. ‘We should allow American businesses to determine how to run their businesses for the financial interest of their shareholders instead of by unelected bureaucrats at the SEC. These rules blatantly bypass the Constitution, forcing the extreme political opinions of a few on to many.’” [SWEEPING NEW SEC RULES KILL JOBS, OBFUSCATES CONSTITUTION!, [2/22/22](#)]

2022: AFW supported Oklahoma’s anti-ESG House Bill 2034, with Hayek saying: “This bill protects Oklahomans by making the state free from discrimination against the oil and gas industry before these out-of-staters even arrive.” “America First Works released the following statement praising the Oklahoma legislature for its continued leadership on the Energy Discrimination

Elimination Act (House Bill 2034). This bill, which passed the Oklahoma Legislature today with bipartisan support, would keep the state out of deals with corporations that boycott oil and gas production. ‘Extremist groups hijack corporations and weaponize environmental, social, and governance principles to political ends,’ said Ashley Hayek, executive director for America First Works. ‘This bill protects Oklahomans by making the state free from discrimination against the oil and gas industry before these out-of-staters even arrive. We look forward to Governor Stitt signing this legislation into law.’ Anti-American extremists are sweeping the country, looking for new ways to impose their radical political viewpoints, and American businesses are only their latest target. These groups are using corporations, mainly banks and investment firms, as a vehicle to try to restrict capital to American energy companies. House Bill 2034 protects the state of Oklahoma from this politically motivated discrimination and stands up to corporations that would put political ideology ahead of their fiduciary duties and the interests of taxpayers and, most importantly, Oklahomans.” [OKLAHOMA BILL TO BLOCK ANTI-AMERICAN ENERGY EXTREMISTS CROSSES FINISH LINE, [5/4/22](#)]

2022: Hayek thanked Oklahoma for making the Energy Discrimination Elimination Act, HB 2034, law, complaining: “Anti-American extremist groups are using corporations to impose their political ideology and bully American energy companies, only causing more pain at the pump for families.” “To ensure Oklahoma continues to lead the Nation in energy production, Governor Stitt signed the America First Works-supported Energy Discrimination Elimination Act (HB2034) into law this week. This new law, which will take effect on November 1, 2022, protects Oklahoma from engaging in deals with corporations that boycott oil and gas production. ‘Anti-American extremist groups are using corporations to impose their political ideology and bully American energy companies, only causing more pain at the pump for families,’ said Ashley Hayek, executive director for American First Works. ‘Thanks to Governor Stitt’s leadership and supporters from both parties in the Oklahoma legislature, this new law will end these practices.’ This new law provides the state of Oklahoma with the ability to combat politically motivated and discriminatory investment practices promoted by extreme environmental groups, who are weaponizing environmental, social, and governance investing principles for their own ends.” [OKLAHOMA ENACTS AFW-SUPPORTED LAW TO BLOCK ANTI-AMERICAN ENERGY EXTREMISTS FROM STATE DEALS, [5/13/22](#)]

2022: AFW supported West Virginia’s move to add U.S. corporations, including BlackRock and JP Morgan, to its “Restricted Financial Institution List” for their ESG policies. “In West Virginia, state leadership is fighting back against corporations that espouse anti-American values and work against the interests of West Virginians. On Friday, June 10, state Treasurer Riley Moore informed six financial corporations, including BlackRock Inc. and JP Morgan Chase & Co., that they will be placed on West Virginia’s Restricted Financial Institution List in 45 days. Corporations on this list are barred from entering or retaining contracts with the state and have 30 days to respond to the claim that they are boycotting the fossil fuel industry. America First Works supports the efforts of state leaders to reject doing business with corporations that advance ESG (environmental, social and governance) investment policies and undermine the fossil fuel industry. Treasurer Moore was one of the first to demonstrate the need to recommit to fair treatment of the fossil fuel industry by leading the effort to withdraw from BlackRock funds earlier this year. With gas prices hitting record levels, we applaud him for standing up to anti-American woke corporations and fighting for West Virginians. As the advocacy arm of the America First Policy Institute, America First Works is focused on America First policies. As fuel and energy prices hit record highs, divesting from fossil fuels is an America Last policy. This trend for financial corporations to act politically and against the interests of their shareholders and the American people must end.” [AMERICA FIRST WORKS COMMENDS TREASURER MOORE FOR

China

2022: AFW announced an ad attacking U.S. Corporations for “abandoning their fiduciary responsibilities and political neutrality to cozy up to China, prioritize racial and gender discrimination, and indoctrinate employees on critical race theory.” “From Nike to American Express, to J.P. Morgan Chase to Coca-Cola, more and more American corporations are abandoning their fiduciary responsibilities and political neutrality to cozy up to China, prioritize racial and gender discrimination, and indoctrinate employees on critical race theory. A new video released by America First Works highlights the hypocrisy of American corporations selling off American values to pander to China and politically favored groups. The video highlights: American Express telling its employees that capitalism is racist (New York Post); J.P. Morgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon ‘bowing’ to China (New York Times); Coca-Cola telling employees to ‘try to be less white’ during an online training (New York Post); Nike, BMW, Gap, Disney, and others criticizing America while ignoring worse issues in China.” [NEW VIDEO: ‘WOKE’ CORPORATIONS, ANTI-AMERICAN VALUES, [3/23/22](#)]

2022: AFW attacked U.S. Corporations, like J.P. Morgan, for continuing to do business in China despite closing their operations in Russia. “The images flashing across American television screens that showcase Vladimir Putin’s violence and aggression in Ukraine are stoking American businesses to shutter their operations in Russia. But the actions of U.S. companies to avoid any role in this aggression against a sovereign democratic nation are exposing hypocrisy. How long should our largest U.S. businesses wait to remove their operations from any nation when it works to undermine its neighbors and American interests? For example, big U.S. banks like J.P. Morgan Chase were among the first to leave Russia. A spokesman for J.P. Morgan wrote, ‘we have actively been unwinding Russian business and have not been pursuing any new business in Russia.’ While this response seems noble, every Chase customer and shareholder should be asking, ‘What about your operations in China?’ Fewer than 5,000 miles from Ukraine, China’s invasion of Taiwan is looming. The Chinese Communist Party has already crushed all free speech in Hong Kong. Unmarked police have also targeted independent news sources there and are hunting down and arresting innocent Hong Kongers. Even Chinese Communist Party leader Xi Jinping’s statement aimed at Hong Kong and Taiwan that ‘those who engage in separatist activities in any part of China will be smashed to pieces’ sounds eerily familiar to recent statements by Putin.” [MUST READ: RUSSIA IS SMALL BEANS. WHAT WILL THE FINANCIAL INDUSTRY DO ABOUT CHINA?, [4/12/22](#)]

- **AFW: “China’s hair-thin temperament, saber-rattling, and threats to impose the ‘worst consequences’ on any country that provides military support to Taiwan call to question corporate America’s response.”** “China’s hair-thin temperament, saber-rattling, and threats to impose the ‘worst consequences’ on any country that provides military support to Taiwan call to question corporate America’s response. Why are they waiting to detach from China like they are rushing to detach from Russia? And when will these corporations put Americans first?” [MUST READ: RUSSIA IS SMALL BEANS. WHAT WILL THE FINANCIAL INDUSTRY DO ABOUT CHINA?, [4/12/22](#)]
- **AFW: “Corporations like J.P. Morgan should gain no goodwill by leaving Russia over its abuses against Ukraine when they excuse the same behavior by China that is building against Taiwan.”** “Corporations like J.P. Morgan should gain no goodwill by leaving Russia

over its abuses against Ukraine when they excuse the same behavior by China that is building against Taiwan. War in Ukraine has compelled most U.S. corporations to leave Russia. Are these companies waiting for the same violent images in Taiwan, or will they act against China's abuses while it still matters? We have an obligation to recognize the importance of human dignity, and as Americans lead by example." [MUST READ: RUSSIA IS SMALL BEANS. WHAT WILL THE FINANCIAL INDUSTRY DO ABOUT CHINA?, [4/12/22](#)]

2022: AFW released an ad attacking J.P. Morgan for its "all-in approach" to China. "America First Works is releasing a new video to highlight J.P. Morgan's 'all-in approach' to China, and CEO Jamie Dimon's blind eye to the disasters unfolding at the hands of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). Following a recent earnings announcement and during his annual assessment of the global economy, Jamie Dimon skipped any mention of the Coronavirus lockdowns and supply chain problems in China, where JP Morgan is making significant investments. This shields China from global embarrassment, and fuels speculation about possible padded future payouts to J.P. Morgan and corporate America for their ongoing pandering to the CCP." [NEW VIDEO: J.P. MORGAN 'ALL IN' ON CHINA DESPITE COVID LOCKDOWN AND SUPPLY CHAIN CRISIS, [4/27/22](#)]

2023: AFW "released a video highlighting the threat to America posed by China, specifically focusing on the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) attempts to buy American land and the Biden family's corrupt ties to the CCP." "Today, America First Works (AFW) released a video highlighting the threat to America posed by China, specifically focusing on the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) attempts to buy American land and the Biden family's corrupt ties to the CCP. 'Today, China is the biggest foreign threat that America faces. They unleashed COVID-19 on the world, flooded our borders with fentanyl, spied on us from the skies, and now they're buying our land. The CCP has no right to own U.S. agricultural land but is exploiting our Nation's vulnerabilities. And make no mistake, U.S. citizens and companies do not have the same privilege of purchasing land in China. Meanwhile, President Biden refuses to stand up to China, and his family's corrupt ties to the CCP are undoubtedly why,' AFW Executive Director Ashley Hayek said. 'It is up to the states to protect us since the Biden Administration will not. South Dakota, Texas, Mississippi, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina and many others are leading by example in trying to prevent China from owning our lands. AFW is committed to supporting efforts in the states to protect America and stop China.'" [AFW RELEASES VIDEO HIGHLIGHTING CHINA'S THREAT TO AMERICA AND THE BIDEN FAMILY'S CORRUPT TIES TO THE CCP, [3/17/23](#)]

2024: AFW worked with AFPI to promote state laws which banned Chinese ownership of agricultural land. "The America First Policy Institute, a think tank inspired by former President Donald Trump, is working to enact U.S. state laws aimed at banning foreign ownership -- especially Chinese ownership -- of agricultural land. Adam Savit, director of the China Policy Initiative at AFPI, told Nikkei Asia in an interview that the game plan is to share model legislation among states to ensure smooth passage of the bills. 'You can't always get legislation through at the federal level, so you want to focus on the experimental areas of democracy. We have 50 states that we can experiment in,' Savit said. Teaming with the institute's advocacy arm America First Works, the group targets states 'where we thought there was a good ability to move bills.'" [Nikkei Asia, [2/10/24](#)]

Energy

2023: AFW "proudly supports Utah's Energy Security Bill, HB 425, which defends against the Biden Administration's mandates that shut down coal-fired power and weaken Utah's energy

security.” “America First Works (AFW) proudly supports Utah’s Energy Security Bill, HB 425, which defends against the Biden Administration’s mandates that shut down coal-fired power and weaken Utah’s energy security. AFW Executive Director Ashley Hayek released the following statement applauding the effort: ‘Biden’s anti-American energy crusade is leaving states defenseless. Energy independence used to be a national issue. With Biden’s Green New Deal regulations, our states must now guard their energy independence against our government. Utah’s Energy Security Bill is a model for other states to follow. We are not Europe. With our abundant resources, there is no excuse for any part of America to lack energy capacity. We must protect American energy industries, especially coal, from being shut down by Biden.’” [AMERICA FIRST WORKS APPLAUDS UTAH’S ENERGY SECURITY BILL TO DEFEND AGAINST FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MANDATES, [3/2/23](#)]

2023: AFW supported House Republicans’ Lower Energy Costs Act, HR 1, and complained: “Biden has managed to raise energy prices for Americans and energy imports from foreign countries.” “Today, America First Works (AFW) released a statement regarding the urgency of passing House Republicans’ Lower Energy Costs Act, H.R. 1, which will help American families with the increased cost of living in the Biden economy. AFW Executive Director Ashley Hayek said the following: ‘President Biden started a war on American energy, and it has cost American families dearly. Biden has managed to raise energy prices for Americans and energy imports from foreign countries. The path to reconciling this is simple — make it easier to tap into our own energy supply, and the cost to heat homes and at the pump will decrease. We had energy dominance just a few short years ago, and Congress owes every American a path to getting it back. The Lower Energy Costs Act is the right answer to combating the Left’s Green New Deal lunacy.’” [AFW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ASHLEY HAYEK ON THE URGENCY OF PASSING THE LOWER ENERGY COSTS ACT, [3/28/23](#)]

Abortion

2022: AFW: “We are thrilled to see proposed legislation to stop late term abortions and provide new resources to reduce infant mortality in Florida with the introduction of both HB 5 and SB 146.” “We are thrilled to see proposed legislation to stop late term abortions and provide new resources to reduce infant mortality in Florida with the introduction of both HB 5 and SB 146. Modern medicine and science now confirm the substantial developmental milestones of an unborn baby at 15 weeks of gestational age, information that was not known or understood when Roe v. Wade was decided nearly half a century ago. Today, we are also aware of the severe health risks late term abortions pose for women. We optimistically await the passage of these bills and ultimately Governor DeSantis’ signature codifying this legislation into state law to better protect women, support families, and preserve life.” [STATEMENT FROM PASTOR PAULA WHITE-CAIN ON FLORIDA’S INTRODUCTION OF HB 5 AND SB 146 TO STOP LATE TERM ABORTIONS, [3/10/22](#)]

2022: AFW Senior Advisor, Pastor Paula White-Cain, on Florida anti-abortion bills: “I am so encouraged to see my home state of Florida enact the strongest pro-life bill in state history to protect our voiceless and most vulnerable population.” “Pastor Paula White-Cain, human rights advocate, Senior Advisor to America First Works, and Chair for the Center for American Values at the America First Policy Institute, made the following statement today in support of Florida Governor Ron DeSantis signing the Reducing Fetal and Infant Mortality Bill (House Bill 5), also known as the 15-week abortion ban bill, into law. ‘I am so encouraged to see my home state of Florida enact the strongest pro-life bill in state history to protect our voiceless and most vulnerable population,’ said Pastor Paula White-Cain. ‘Our sunshine state is fortunate to have a governor and so many in the legislature who prioritize protecting the unborn, supporting women and family health, and preserving the fundamental

right to life.’ Of the nearly 75,000 abortions reported in Florida in 2020, there were an estimated 3,330 abortions performed at 15-week gestation or later, according to the Charlotte Lozier Institute and data from the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration. The new Florida law will ban most abortions after 15 weeks. Laws challenging abortion rights have already been enacted this year in Mississippi and Arizona, and a survey shows more Americans support the idea of a 15-week abortion ban than oppose it. In October 2022, Texas enacted one of the strictest abortion laws, making it illegal after six weeks.” [PASTOR PAULA WHITE-CAIN APPLAUDS FLORIDA FOR ENACTING AFW SUPPORTED PRO-LIFE LAW, [4/12/22](#)]

2022: Rollins, on SCOTUS’s Dobbs decision: “Yesterday’s historic Supreme Court decision does not mark the end of the near half-century fight for life; it correctly returns this issue to the people’s elected representatives in each of the states.” “America First Works (AFW) issued the following statement from Brooke L. Rollins, President & CEO for America First Policy Institute and Senior Advisor for America First Works: ‘Yesterday’s historic Supreme Court decision does not mark the end of the near half-century fight for life; it correctly returns this issue to the people’s elected representatives in each of the states. The hopes of future generations now rest within the purview of lawmakers, who will decide whether America will continue spiraling down the Left’s extreme path of taxpayer- funded, on-demand abortion up until the moment of birth or a path of compassion, support, and care for both the lives involved in this difficult issue — the mother and the baby — and fulfilling the Founders’ vision of a country that cherishes everyone’s inalienable right to LIFE, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It should also be noted that this historic day for democracy, nearly 50 years in the making, would not have been possible without the leadership and commitment to life of President Donald J. Trump. Thank you, Mr. President!’” [STATEMENT FROM BROOKE L. ROLLINS ON SCOTUS DECISION ON ROE V. WADE, [6/25/22](#)]

2022: Rollins on Democrats’ abortion agenda: “It is hard to imagine that in America we would mirror the same unhumanitarian policies of the regimes of North Korea and China, but unfortunately the radical Left’s extreme, late-term abortion stance is no different.” ““Is it ok to allow an abortion in the 7th, 8th, or even 9th month when a baby can experience pain and distress? Every lawmaker who advocates for abortion needs to answer that question. This includes the 49 Democrat Senators who voted in favor of extreme, late-term abortion this past summer. It is hard to imagine that in America we would mirror the same unhumanitarian policies of the regimes of North Korea and China, but unfortunately the radical Left’s extreme, late-term abortion stance is no different. These radical policies have no place in our great Nation. In California, Democrats’ new abortion playbook amends a state constitution to allow babies to be aborted in the third trimester when babies can experience and feel pain and can survive outside their mother’s womb. That’s where the radical left stands today. California is just the beginning...” [STATEMENT FROM BROOKE L. ROLLINS, SENIOR ADVISOR TO AMERICA FIRST WORKS, ON THE RADICAL LEFT’S ABORTION EXTREMISM, [9/21/22](#)]

2023: Hayek complained about YouTube taking down AFW’s anti-choice video which attacked Democrats as abortion extremists. ““Yesterday, YouTube censored America First Work’s (AFW) video highlighting the Left’s extreme abortion policy, stating it ‘violated their content policy for violent or graphic content.’ While no graphic or violent imagery was shown, AFW did include clips of Democrat leaders calling for seventh, eighth, and ninth-month abortions on demand up until the moment of birth when a baby can feel pain. Given the information we learned in the ‘Twitter Files’ on big tech’s biased censorship methods, perhaps YouTube agrees that the Left’s abortion policy is both graphic and violent and they want to hide the truth from the American people. Or maybe they did not want this

evidence to be discovered the week before March for Life. AFW will continue to combat the Left's horrific campaign against our most vulnerable. On the other hand, YouTube is setting itself up to be on the wrong side of history. And let's hope, someday soon, they may find themselves on the wrong side of congressional investigations for their flagrant and biased censorship efforts against pro-life Americans.” [STATEMENT FROM ASHLEY HAYEK, AMERICA FIRST WORKS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ON CENSORSHIP BY YOUTUBE, [1/10/23](#)]

- **Hayek: “[P]erhaps YouTube agrees that the Left’s abortion policy is both graphic and violent and they want to hide the truth from the American people.”** [STATEMENT FROM ASHLEY HAYEK, AMERICA FIRST WORKS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ON CENSORSHIP BY YOUTUBE, [1/10/23](#)]

2023: Hayek: “Senator Tuberville is righteously fighting to stop the DoD from spending taxpayer dollars on elective abortions. The Pentagon is not Planned Parenthood.” “Today, America First Works Executive Director, Ashley Hayek, released the following statement regarding Senator Tommy Tuberville’s (R-AL) efforts to stand firm against the Department of Defense’s (DoD) radical abortion policy, blocking promotions by unanimous consent: ‘Senator Tuberville is righteously fighting to stop the DoD from spending taxpayer dollars on elective abortions. The Pentagon is not Planned Parenthood. It should focus on advancing our national defense and security goals, not allocating taxpayer-funded federal resources to abortions. Secretary Lloyd Austin can reverse course at any time but has made it clear that tax-payer-funded abortion is a higher priority than his DoD nominations. This is a disgrace. Biden’s radical social agenda at the DoD needs to end immediately. Until it does, Senator Tuberville is right to hold the line.’” [AFW STATEMENT ON SENATOR TUBERVILLE’S BLOCK OF PENTAGON NOMINEES, [5/23/23](#)]

2023: Hayek: “The North Carolina Legislature stood up for families against Governor Cooper’s radical agenda. The ‘Care for Women, Children, and Families Act’ provides more than \$160 million for foster care, childcare, and parental leave, and prevents abortion after 12 weeks of pregnancy.” “Today, America First Works (AFW) praised the North Carolina General Assembly for overriding Governor Roy Cooper’s veto of S.B. 20, which cares for women, children, and families, creating a culture of life and opportunity for North Carolina families. AFW Executive Director Ashley Hayek released the following statement in support of yesterday’s vote: ‘The North Carolina Legislature stood up for families against Governor Cooper’s radical agenda. The ‘Care for Women, Children, and Families Act’ provides more than \$160 million for foster care, childcare, and parental leave, and prevents abortion after 12 weeks of pregnancy when a baby can feel pain. The legislature also took into account the safety of the mother, allowing an exemption should her life be at risk. North Carolina has taken a step to care for the whole unit — the mother and the baby. Governor Cooper’s veto was out of line with North Carolinians and the entire county, as most Americans believe a pregnancy involves two lives. Thanks to North Carolina’s legislators, S.B. 20 will now be the law of the land in the Tar Heel State. AFW applauds their efforts and fully endorses legislation like this one that protects the unborn.’” [AFW APPLAUDS THE NC LEGISLATURE FOR OVERRIDING THE GOVERNOR’S VETO OF THE ‘CARE FOR WOMEN, CHILDREN, AND FAMILIES ACT’, [5/17/23](#)]

Children’s Rights

2022: AFW “applauds the Florida House of Representatives for the unanimous passage of House Bill 7065, legislation that targets the growing crisis that has emerged across the Nation: fatherlessness.” “America First Works released the following statement regarding the Florida House of

Representative’s passage of House Bill 7065: Child Welfare sponsored by Representative Thad Altman (R-Indiatlantic). ‘America First Works applauds the Florida House of Representatives for the unanimous passage of House Bill 7065, legislation that targets the growing crisis that has emerged across the Nation: fatherlessness. HB 7065 gained bipartisan support because it favors real action over political talking points and provides meaningful support and resources to the single fathers and male role models in Florida communities. Further, it encourages responsible fatherhood, alleviates the crisis of at-risk boys, and supports foster children, especially those who age out of care. Additionally, this legislation also designates June as Responsible Fatherhood Month in Florida.’ [AMERICA FIRST WORKS APPLAUDS FLORIDA HOUSE ON UNANIMOUS PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION ADDRESSING FATHERHOOD CRISIS, [2/21/22](#)]

2022: AFW Senior Advisor Jack Brewer on Florida HB 7065 – a fatherhood and foster care bill: “Enacting House Bill 7065 into law will give the sunshine state the tools to fight the growing crisis of fatherlessness.” “America First Works’ Senior Advisor, Jack Brewer, issued the following statement in support of Florida Governor Ron DeSantis signing AFW supported House Bill 7065. ‘Governor DeSantis and those in the Florida legislature who supported this bill will have a true and meaningful impact on the lives of millions of Florida children,’ said Jack Brewer. ‘Enacting House Bill 7065 into law will give the sunshine state the tools to fight the growing crisis of fatherlessness. For far too long, our society has denied the unique roles fathers play in their children’s lives. We are now paying a high price for that neglect. This new law is a much-needed step to recognize and encourage the importance of fatherhood.’ HB 7065, introduced by Representative Thad Altman (FL-52), encourages responsible fatherhood, alleviates the crisis of at-risk boys, and supports foster children—especially those who age out of care. The bill passed the Florida legislature with bipartisan support. Fatherlessness and the destruction of the ‘nuclear’ family are often at the center of every significant social issue we face as a Nation today. Its effects range from education, homelessness, mental health, crime, and more.” [AFW CELEBRATES NEW FLORIDA LAW ADDRESSING THE FATHERHOOD CRISIS, [4/22/22](#)]

2022: AFW Senior Advisor Jack Brewer on Congressional Resolution on fatherhood: “If Congress is serious about establishing policies to help rebuild the foundation of righteousness in America, they will support this resolution to support a father’s critical role in children’s lives.” “America First Works Senior Advisor Jack Brewer issued the following statement in support of Congressman Burgess Owens’ (UT-04) and Congressman Bryon Donalds’ (FL-19) House Resolution that addresses the importance of fatherhood and the fatherlessness crisis plaguing America: ‘Today, our Nation is facing a serious crisis—the destruction of the nuclear family and fatherlessness. This resolution could not come at a better time, and I am incredibly grateful Congressman Burgess Owens and Congressman Byron Donalds are taking the first step in addressing this issue head-on,’ said Brewer. ‘This Resolution encourages responsible fatherhood, as fathers are head of households, which will uplift all Americans, especially those in vulnerable communities. Fatherlessness is at the center of every major issue we are facing today, and its effects range from education, health, crime, and more. If Congress is serious about establishing policies to help rebuild the foundation of righteousness in America, they will support this resolution to support a father’s critical role in children’s lives.’” [STATEMENT ON HOUSE RESOLUTION PROMOTING FATHERHOOD IN AMERICA, [6/16/22](#)]

2023: Hayek: “The North Carolina Legislature stood up for families against Governor Cooper’s radical agenda. The ‘Care for Women, Children, and Families Act’ provides more than \$160 million for foster care, childcare, and parental leave, and prevents abortion after 12 weeks of pregnancy.” “Today, America First Works (AFW) praised the North Carolina General Assembly for overriding Governor Roy Cooper’s veto of S.B. 20, which cares for women, children, and families,

creating a culture of life and opportunity for North Carolina families. AFW Executive Director Ashley Hayek released the following statement in support of yesterday's vote: 'The North Carolina Legislature stood up for families against Governor Cooper's radical agenda. The 'Care for Women, Children, and Families Act' provides more than \$160 million for foster care, childcare, and parental leave, and prevents abortion after 12 weeks of pregnancy when a baby can feel pain. The legislature also took into account the safety of the mother, allowing an exemption should her life be at risk. North Carolina has taken a step to care for the whole unit — the mother and the baby. Governor Cooper's veto was out of line with North Carolinians and the entire county, as most Americans believe a pregnancy involves two lives. Thanks to North Carolina's legislators, S.B. 20 will now be the law of the land in the Tar Heel State. AFW applauds their efforts and fully endorses legislation like this one that protects the unborn.'" [AFW APPLAUDS THE NC LEGISLATURE FOR OVERRIDING THE GOVERNOR'S VETO OF THE 'CARE FOR WOMEN, CHILDREN, AND FAMILIES ACT', [5/17/23](#)]

"Woke" Agenda

2022: AFW announced an ad attacking U.S. Corporations for "abandoning their fiduciary responsibilities and political neutrality to cozy up to China, prioritize racial and gender discrimination, and indoctrinate employees on critical race theory." "From Nike to American Express, to J.P. Morgan Chase to Coca-Cola, more and more American corporations are abandoning their fiduciary responsibilities and political neutrality to cozy up to China, prioritize racial and gender discrimination, and indoctrinate employees on critical race theory. A new video released by America First Works highlights the hypocrisy of American corporations selling off American values to pander to China and politically favored groups. The video highlights: American Express telling its employees that capitalism is racist (New York Post); J.P. Morgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon 'bowing' to China (New York Times); Coca-Cola telling employees to 'try to be less white' during an online training (New York Post); Nike, BMW, Gap, Disney, and others criticizing America while ignoring worse issues in China." [NEW VIDEO: 'WOKE' CORPORATIONS, ANTI-AMERICAN VALUES, [3/23/22](#)]

2022: AFW argued Florida Senate Bill 4-C, to break-up Disney's Independent District, was "sending a strong signal that the state of Florida is governed by the will of the people and not the Leftist ideologies of a few corporate executives in California." "Today, America First Works (AFW) issued the following statement supporting Senate Bill 4-C: Independent Special Districts. By voting to terminate Walt Disney World's Reedy Creek Improvement District, the Florida Legislature is sending a strong signal that the state of Florida is governed by the will of the people and not the Leftist ideologies of a few corporate executives in California. Out-of-touch corporate executives everywhere should think twice before trying to come between parents and their children. AFW supports this effort by the Florida Legislature and Governor Ron DeSantis to defend the values of Floridians and eliminate special privileges for corporations that put them beyond the reach of local voters. Public companies have a fiduciary responsibility to put the interests of their shareholders ahead of the personal interests and projects of their executives. In this case, Disney allows its employees in California to lead attacks on Floridians who do not share their novel and anti-American views. We commend Florida's elected leaders who defended Florida and the interest of all Americans." [CONGRATULATIONS TO FLORIDA FOR STANDING UP TO CORPORATE CALIFORNIA BULLYING, [4/22/22](#)]

2022: AFW released an ad attacking Pastors for Texas Children and claimed: "The group is masquerading as a religiously affiliated non-profit 'ministry' that instead, advocates for Anti-American woke ideology, not educational opportunity." "Pastors for Texas Children is using the pulpit to push the same progressive agenda used by radical teachers' unions on Texas children. The

group is masquerading as a religiously affiliated non-profit ‘ministry’ that instead, advocates for Anti-American woke ideology, not educational opportunity. Most notably, the Leftist astroturfing group Pastors for Texas Children: CLAIMS to be a non-partisan ministry BUT is funded almost exclusively by educational special interests and Washington, D.C. lobbying groups like the National Education Association, a political teachers union that spent \$48 million during the 2020 Election cycle — 94% of which went to Democrats.” [NEW VIDEO – EXPOSED: PASTORS FOR TEXAS CHILDREN’S TEACHERS UNION CONNECTION, [5/6/22](#)]

2022: AFW released a video attacking Disney for alleged hypocrisy for promoting content “to sensitize American audiences, including children, to new sexual and gender theories,” while not publishing such works in certain other countries. “Today, America First Works released a new video exposing the hypocrisy of The Walt Disney Company. The company has been advancing a new content strategy in the U.S., which its executives have indicated is intended to sensitize American audiences, including children, to new sexual and gender theories. Recently leaked footage of videoconference calls among Disney executives shows them touting sexual messaging in their current and upcoming movies. The footage includes disclosure by an Executive Producer that she works to insert a ‘not-at-all secret gay agenda’ in the company’s animated content for children. Another executive stated that Disney has inserted ‘many, many, many LGBTQIA characters’ in the company’s films. According to a third executive, this includes ‘trans characters, canonical asexual characters, (and) bi-sexual characters.’ At the same time, Disney is working on expanding the distribution of its content to 10 countries in North Africa and the Middle East that do not allow such content and ban homosexuality.” [DISNEY TO MARKET IN 10 COUNTRIES THAT BAN THE SAME SEXUAL CONTENT IT IS PUSHING IN AMERICA, [6/22/22](#)]

2022: AFW released a video “to highlight Disney’s new culture of progressive politics, which has created a hostile work environment for employees who disagree with extremist ‘wokeism.’” “America First Works is releasing a new video to highlight Disney’s new culture of progressive politics, which has created a hostile work environment for employees who disagree with extremist ‘wokeism.’ The culture has led to high dissatisfaction rates among employees, who prefer that the company stay neutral regarding political issues, as has traditionally been the case. Employees who disagree with the ‘new’ Disney are being pushed out of the company or are leaving. On the other hand, activist employees staged walkouts against Disney CEO Bob Chapek for supposedly not doing enough to fight Florida’s Parental Rights in Education Act. This bill forbids classroom discussion of age-inappropriate sexual topics for kindergarten through third grade. But it turns out that the group of activist employees was not speaking out of turn. In fact, Disney’s CEO made clear that they spoke for the company too. Disney’s embrace of woke politics was not just for the cameras either; it applied to their entire work environment. Notable departures from Disney include communications chief Geoff Morrell and Chapek’s own deputy Peter Rice. Disney has created a culture of fear among its non-activist employees. Remaining employees now state that morale is terrible as Chapek steers Disney toward a fuller embrace of ‘wokeism.’ Rather than change course, Disney doubled down, recently extending Chapek’s contract with the company. So, Disney’s message to its employees and customers is simple: Disney is woke, and that is not changing.” [WALT DISNEY COMPANY’S ‘WOKE’ MANAGEMENT CREATING HOSTILE WORK ENVIRONMENT, [7/11/22](#)]

2023: Hayek, on affirmative action: “The Supreme Court righted a decades-long wrong today by boldly declaring that race-based college admissions are unconstitutional. The future of our students should not be blocked right out of the gate simply because of the color of their skin.” “Today, America First Works Executive Director Ashley Hayek released the following statement in

response to the United States Supreme Court’s decisions in *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. President and Fellows of Harvard College* and *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. University of North Carolina*: ‘The Supreme Court righted a decades-long wrong today by boldly declaring that race-based college admissions are unconstitutional. The future of our students should not be blocked right out of the gate simply because of the color of their skin. That is what affirmative action does. Anyone still defending it is on the wrong side of history. For America to become a merit-based society, as it should, we cannot stop by only ending racial discrimination on college campuses. We need to root it out everywhere else it exists, especially race-based hiring and DEI initiatives. The Supreme Court reaffirmed that the Constitution and equality for all is the law of the land, and no institution or business is above it.’” [AFW APPLAUDS SUPREME COURT DECISION TO END UNCONSTITUTIONAL AFFIRMATIVE ACTION, [6/29/23](#)]

2024: Hayek celebrated the ouster of Portland, OR, DA Mike Schmidt – whom she called “a poster child for the disastrous and dangerous progressive prosecutor movement.” “In a dramatic and long-overdue turn of events, Portland voters have thrown out incumbent District Attorney Mike Schmidt, a poster child for the disastrous and dangerous progressive prosecutor movement. In his place, they have elected Nathan Vasquez, who promises to restore sanity and safety to a city ravaged by leniency and lawlessness. Portland voters have spoken with a clarion call for law and order and a fiery rejection of the radical Left’s failed experiment. Mike Schmidt’s tenure has been nothing short of a catastrophe. Elected with a whopping 77% of the vote amid the chaos of the 2020 riots, Schmidt quickly made his priorities clear: protect the offenders and neglect the victims. In his first week, he announced he would only prosecute protesters involved in property damage, theft, or violence. The result? An astonishing 895 protest-related cases were rejected between June 2020 and June 2022, representing 82% of all protest arrests. Schmidt’s policies emboldened violent groups like Antifa, leading to the creation of an anarchic autonomous zone. What happened next was all too predictable. Portland spiraled into chaos as crime soared, police morale plummeted, and businesses and residents suffered.” [Ashley Hayek Op-Ed, Daily Caller, [5/26/24](#)]

Economy and Jobs

2022: AFW on Florida’s anti-union HB1197 / SB1458: “Employees should have the freedom to decide to pay union dues in any manner they choose and not just payroll deductions, while also making union membership a choice, free from coercion.” “Today, Brooke Rollins released the following statement urging the Florida State Senate to act swiftly on a bill that would give power to workers rather than union bosses. The legislation cleared the Florida House of Representatives (HB1197) and has been idly sitting in the Florida Senate (SB1458) since March 4th. ‘Florida’s State Senate could further back up Florida’s status as a right-to-work state and send this bill to Governor Dasani’s desk tomorrow. The time to act is now. Policies like these that put Floridians first — Americans first — are part of the America First agenda. Employees should have the freedom to decide to pay union dues in any manner they choose and not just payroll deductions, while also making union membership a choice, free from coercion.’” [FLORIDA STATE SENATE MUST PASS LEGISLATION FAVORING FLORIDA WORKERS NOW!, [3/8/22](#)]

2023: AFW urged democrats to support the House’s Limit, Save, Grow Act of 2023, arguing: “This legislation is the best path forward for the country in raising the debt ceiling.” “America First Works (AFW) calls on President Biden and the U.S. Senate to quickly get behind the Limit, Save, Grow Act of 2023, passed by the House of Representatives last month. This legislation is the best path forward for the country in raising the debt ceiling. AFW Executive Director Ashley Hayek released the

following statement: ‘It’s time for President Biden and the Senate to get behind the House of Representatives. So far, the Limit, Save, Grow Act is the only solution on the table to raise the debt ceiling responsibly, as Democrats have offered nothing. Biden must come back to America and close the deal with Speaker McCarthy. The clock is ticking. The Limit, Save, Grow Act is the key to solving our debt crisis as it would save us from defaulting and reduce massive amounts of wasteful spending. There’s no reason for taxpayers to have to foot the bill for billions of unspent COVID-19 funds or Biden’s student loan bailout. Nor should they put up with a government that doles out federal benefits without work requirements or sends federal payments to illegal immigrants. All should be eliminated and will be under this plan. We need to save America and pass this bill immediately.’” [ICYMI: AFW CALLS ON PRESIDENT BIDEN AND THE SENATE TO SUPPORT THE LIMIT, SAVE, GROW ACT, [5/19/23](#)]

2024: AFW released a petition in support of Kansas City Chiefs Kicker Harrison Butker, following his Benedictine College remarks. “Today, America First Works (AFW) proudly announces a petition to support Harrison Butker, Kansas City Chiefs Super Bowl Champion Kicker, who stood firm in his convictions during his powerful commencement address at Benedictine College. With courage and clarity, Butker championed the timeless virtues of family, faith, and the sanctity of life. His bold proclamation of a pro-family, pro-God, and pro-life worldview resonated deeply, reminding us of the enduring strength found in our foundational beliefs. Harrison’s speech was not just words but a call to action — a directive to embrace our vocations over mere cultural expectations, guiding young minds toward a path of purpose and integrity. His unwavering dedication to his Christian principles brought a refreshing sincerity and profound depth to the commencement, inspiring us to live authentically and fearlessly. As Coach Lou Holtz famously said, ‘God did not put us on this Earth to be ordinary.’ Butker embodies this sentiment, recognizing the responsibility that athletes bear in upholding and championing American values. His courageous stance deserves our unwavering support.” [AMERICA FIRST WORKS ANNOUNCES PETITION IN SUPPORT OF NFL SUPER BOWL CHAMPION HARRISON BUTKER, [5/16/24](#)]