

THE AMERICA PROJECT

Election denier and noted conspiracy theorist Patrick Byrne founded The America Project in 2021 to continue the fight against the widespread fraud he insists occurred during the 2020 election. The group was the main financial backer for the Maricopa audit, as well as other efforts to sow doubts about the legitimacy of American democracy. The America Project also has links to anti-vaccine, QAnon, and border security movements. A registered 501c4 nonprofit, the group reported gross receipts of \$14.2 million during [calendar year 2022](#). In 2023, Byrne said only \$3 million of the \$30 million raised by the group had come from “the public,” while the rest came from himself.

Key findings include:

Patrick Byrne, the disgraced former CEO of Overstock.com, launched The America Project in 2021 to continue the fight against the “election fraud” scandal of 2020. Byrne had resigned as CEO after the public revelation of an affair with Russian spy Maria Butina. A leading figure in Trump’s attempt to steal the 2020 election, Byrne was present at an hour-long White House meeting during which he, Sidney Powell, and Michael Flynn urged Trump to overturn the results. The Guardian reported that “Byrne’s America Project seems to aspire to play a key role...in spreading election disinformation...” The Center for Responsive Politics reported that “Byrne falsely claimed voting machines had flipped votes for Trump and suggested he use government resources to seize voting machines.” Byrne has said he recently moved to Florida to live in close proximity to Michael Flynn, whom he has referred to as his “Yoda.” Flynn has been a paid consultant of The America Project and his brother has been an employee. In 2022, Byrne told the AP he had spent \$20 million investigating the 2020 election. The Detroit Free Press reported that “election experts worry...the America Project...blurs the lines between lawful oversight and vigilantism.” As a registered 501c4, The America Project doesn’t have to disclose donors. Insiders, however, have told the AP that most of the organization’s \$7.7 million in annual revenue came from Byrne himself. In 2022, The America Project named Tim Meisburger director of election integrity. In March 2023, it named Thomas Horman CEO. The Marine Corps Times has reported that although Michael Flynn is not listed among The America Project’s officers, “he is the face of the group.”

Press reports have frequently referenced the group’s deep ties to QAnon and various conspiracy theories. The America Project’s website claims it was founded “to advance freedom and preserve the American way of life.” “It was a fraudulent election,” Byrne said of Trump’s loss in 2020. “It didn’t end for us on January 20th.” The Tucson Weekly reported that “Byrne’s Telegram channel is full of conspiracy theories...” In 2022, the Sarasota Herald reported that the group “and its leaders seem eager to take the GOP by storm and push it further...toward embracing Trump’s unfounded election fraud claims, resisting COVID-19 public health mandates, and fighting the school culture wars...” The New York Times reported that the group “has combined its attempts to challenge COVID-19 policies with the relentless promotion of pro-Trump election conspiracy theories...” Ann Arbor News noted that “the America Project continues to be a major player in questioning the legitimacy of US elections.” “Byrne has been at the forefront of efforts to challenge the legitimacy of the last presidential election,” CNN reported in late 2022. The group has deep ties to the QAnon conspiracy theory, and the Guardian reported in 2023 that it touts “multiple missions...including election integrity, medical freedom, and religious freedom...” An Arizona Mirror article in 2023 called the group a “QAnon-friendly political non-profit.” A 2024 article in the Guardian said the America Project “has been in the vanguard of promoting bogus charges of voter fraud.”

Since its founding, The America Project has been linked to various aspects of litigation, legal efforts, and activism, including:

Maricopa Audit. The America Project was the central funder of the 2021 Maricopa County audit, contributing over \$3 million. “This audit is an audit check for all forms of mischief,” Byrne said. While Byrne called it the “most comprehensive and complex election audit ever conducted,” a CNN political correspondent noted that “the fundraising has been murky, and driven...by big personalities making loud, unfounded claims of fraud.” The Sarasota Herald Tribune later reported that while “the audit was hyped for months....it confirmed that President Joe Biden won the county...”

Election Training. In the summer of 2022, The America Project began a self-styled “election integrity” drive to train activists in election canvassing and poll-watching, sparking fears of voter intimidation. Byrne has described the need to “protect the voting process from election meddlers who care only about serving crooked special interest groups that neither respect nor value the rule of law,” while voting rights advocates have called the group’s efforts a “sham.” With the group’s support, Michael Flynn began the One More Mission campaign, which aimed to recruit military veterans and police officers to work at the polls during the midterm elections.

Border Crisis. The group has helped finance several border security events, including a conference in Houston featuring Lara Logan, Tom Homan, Michael Flynn, Roger Stone, Patrick Byrne, Joe Flynn and other leaders in the America First Movement.

Georgia Lawsuit. In 2022, The America Project sponsored lawsuits from Voters Organized for Trusted Elections in Georgia related to fraud that allegedly occurred during the 2020 election. A press release in support of the litigation noted that “numerous independent watchdog groups...have already determined a myriad of fraudulent voting activity or shortfalls in election integrity...” The America Project backed VoterGA, an organization that mounted mass challenges to the voter eligibility of tens of thousands of citizens in Gwinnett County.

Michigan Lawsuit. Nearly two years after the 2020 election was certified, a coalition of grassroots figures and the Macomb County Republican Party asked a federal judge to undo the certification; The America Project sponsored the lawsuit. “We’re not letting...the foot off the gas as to what happened in 2020 because that has to get fixed,” Joe Flynn said. “We’ve got to get to the truth.” In December 2022, Bridge Michigan reported that a hand recount of two ballot proposals that passed overwhelmingly the prior month resulted in very few changes to the results. The America Project helped sponsor the recounts, which cost hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Secretaries of State Races. The America Project was at the forefront supporting election-denying Secretary of State candidates in multiple swing states in 2022. The group organized conferences that hosted Mark Finchem, Kristina Karamo, Jim Marchant, and others, and supported the America First Coalition, a group that formed to support the fringe slate of candidates.

BACKGROUND

Organization Type: 501c4

Website: AmericaProject.[com](https://www.americafirstproject.com)

Address: 8388 S Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL, 34238

Rumble: [The America Project](#) (11.7K Followers as of July 2024)

Instagram: [TheAmericaProj](#) (9,836 Followers as of July 2024)

Twitter: [@TheAmericaProj](#) (6,809 Followers as of July 2024)

2021: Former Overstock.com CEO Patrick Byrne Launched The America Project to Continue Fight against “Election Fraud Scandal” of 2020. “Former Overstock.com CEO Patrick Byrne — who egged on President Trump's election reversal crusade at a bizarre White House meeting last year — is the latest prominent 2020 election conspiracy theorist to put his weight behind financially supporting the questionable audit of Arizona's 2020 election. Byrne, in Telegram posts and interviews, claims to have launched The America Project, which he describes as a 'continuation' of his 'fight' against the 'election fraud scandal' of 2020. So far, the organization's only public focus appears to be raising money for the audit of Arizona's largest county, which has been wrought with controversy since it started last week. An official Twitter account for the audit promoted a fundraising page connected to The America Project, fundtheaudit.com. This audit is historic and the first of its kind in the United States.” [TPM, 4/29/21]

Byrne Resigned as CEO of Overstock after Public Learned of Affair with Russian Spy Maria Butina; Byrne Had Ties to Trump, Mike Lindell, Sidney Powell, and Michael Flynn. “The American Project is run by Patrick Byrne, the former CEO of Overstock, a furniture retailer. Byrne resigned as CEO in 2019 after the public learned of a years-long relationship he had with Maria Butina, a Russian spy, and comments he made about the Deep State conspiracy theory. Byrne has ties to Mike Lindell, Trump attorney Sidney Powell, who is now being sued by Dominion, and General Michael Flynn, a now-prominent believer in QAnon who Trump pardoned last year. Byrne along with Flynn and Powell all circumvented White House security and secret service in late-2020 to get a meeting with Trump in the Oval Office so they could discuss bogus claims of election fraud. Byrne described it in a first-person narrative blog post that was picked up by national media (LINK).” [Yellow Sheet Report, 4/29/21]

Byrne Present at Hour-Long White House Meeting during which He, Sidney Powell, and Flynn Urged Trump to Overturn 2020 Election. “Byrne was also present at an hour-long meeting at the White House during the final days of Donald Trump's presidency in which he, Sidney Powell and disgraced retired Gen. Michael Flynn urged the president to overturn the election...” [Arizona Mirror, 5/4/21]

2021: Chris Cuomo: “Byrne Is the Guy...with One of the Wildest Allegations I’ve Ever Heard, Saying the So-Called Deep State Was Directing Him...to Pursue a Romantic Relationship with Convicted Russian Operative, Maria Butina...” Chris Cuomo: “Byrne is the guy, who came on this program, a couple years ago, with one of the wildest allegations I've ever heard, saying the so-called Deep State was directing him, before the last presidential election, to pursue a romantic relationship with convicted Russian operative, Maria Butina...” [CNN, 5/25/21]

2021: The Guardian: “Byrne’s America Project Seems to Aspire to Play a Key Role...in Spreading Election Disinformation...” “Byrne's America Project seems to aspire to play a key role in tandem with other conservative pro-Trump bastions in spreading election disinformation: the America Project's website says it wants to ‘lead a new American renaissance by arming citizens with the tools to fight for their freedoms, building like-minded pro-freedom networks and uniting pro-America organizations who want to fight together in support of our nation.’” [The Guardian, 5/29/21]

2021: Byrne Wrote “The Deep Rig,” A Self-Published Conspiracy-Ridden Look at 2020 Election. “Byrne is the founder and ex-chief of the company Overstock, and says he didn't vote for Trump, but this year wrote The Deep Rig, a self-published conspiracy-ridden look at the 2020 elections. Byrne's growing role on the far right comes after he publicly revealed he had an affair with Maria Butina, the convicted unregistered foreign agent for Russia, which prompted his resignation from Overstock in 2019.” [The Guardian, 5/29/21]

- **Daily Beast: “The Deep Rig...Features an Array of Discredited Voter-Fraud Hunters Presenting a Hodgepodge of Theories Claiming that Joe Biden Stole the Election...”** “The Deep Rig, which is based on a book by former Overstock CEO Patrick Byrne, features an array of discredited voter-fraud hunters presenting a hodgepodge of theories claiming that Joe Biden stole the election from Donald Trump. But while Deep Rig's claims may be on the fringe, its premiere drew support from top Arizona Republican officials, with GOP state Sen. Sonny Borrelli and Reps. Mark Finchem and Walt Blackman in the audience.” [The Daily Beast, 6/28/21]

Center for Responsive Politics: “Byrne Falsely Claimed Voting Machines Had Flipped Votes for Trump and Suggested He Use Government Resources to Seize Voting Machines.” “Patrick Byrne, the former CEO of Overstock.com and an ardent Trump supporter, is also leading a group funding the effort. Byrne was involved in what Axios described as the ‘craziest meeting of the Trump presidency,’ a December 2020 summit in the Oval Office that included Michael Flynn and Sidney Powell. Byrne falsely claimed voting machines had flipped votes for Trump and suggested he use government resources to seize voting machines. Byrne also reportedly screamed at representatives from the White House counsel's office, saying they were not sufficiently helping to overturn the election.” [Center for Responsive Politics, 6/9/21]

2021: Dominion Voting Systems Filed Defamation Suit against Byrne and Others. “Dominion Voting Systems, the company that provides Maricopa County's ballot tabulation machines, filed several new defamation lawsuits against people and organizations that have promoted false claims of election fraud, including against leading fundraisers and supporters of the Arizona Senate's election review. The company is seeking \$1.6 billion apiece from former Overstock.com CEO Patrick Byrne and the pro-Trump media outlets One America News Network and Newsmax for lost profits resulting from what Dominion described as a sustained disinformation campaign. The lawsuits also seek punitive damages to be determined at trial. OAN personalities Chanel Rion and Christina Bobb, who has been a regular fixture at the self-styled audit of Maricopa County's election and has used her broadcasts to raise money for the review, are also named in the suit. The complaints are replete with references to the long-running review of the 2020 general election in Maricopa County that was ordered by Senate President Karen Fann. The America Project, a nonprofit group founded by Byrne, paid more than \$3.2 million of the nearly \$5.7 million that outside groups have spent to fund the 'audit.' Voices and Votes, a nonprofit created by Bobb, paid another \$605,000, according to a fundraising breakdown released by Cyber Ninjas, the company leading the review.” [Arizona Mirror, 8/10/21]

Michael Flynn a Paid Consultant of The America Project. “Although Michael Flynn is not listed as a board member of the America Project, Byrne said he and Flynn started the charity, and Flynn is a ‘paid consultant,’ according to the Washington Post.” [Sarasota Herald Tribune, 8/17/21]

Byrne Held PhD in Mathematical Logic from Stanford; Owned Six Properties in Sarasota. “One financier of Cyber Ninjas is Byrne, the former CEO of Overstock, the internet furniture retail company. Through The America Project (Flynn's nonprofit), which lists a UPS store on South Tamiami Trail in

Sarasota as its mailing address, Byrne gave \$3.25 million to Cyber Ninjas' Arizona audit. Byrne, who holds a Ph.D. in mathematical logic from Stanford University, currently owns six properties here worth millions through a company called Manatee Investments. Like Flynn, Byrne has had a troubled relationship with the FBI. He resigned as CEO of Overstock when it was revealed he had a romance with a Russian agent named Maria Butina, an affair he claims was set up by the FBI.” [Sarasota Magazine, 3/1/22]

- **Sarasota Herald Tribune: “Byrne Says...the Main Reason He Moved to the Area Was to Be Close to Michael Flynn...”** “While Byrne says he loves Sarasota's beaches, the reason he moved to the area was to be close to Michael Flynn, Trump's first national security adviser and a leader in the effort to overturn the 2020 election. Michael Flynn bought a house in Englewood last year near other Flynn family members. Byrne soon followed.” [Sarasota Herald Tribune, 3/6/22]
- **“He’s My Yoda and So I Wanted to Be Near Him...”** ““I moved here to start this because Mike Flynn was here and I wanted to start The America Project and he said he would serve as my guide and mentor,” Byrne said, adding that Flynn ‘doesn't have a formal position with (The America Project) anymore, but I view it as something sort of we created together. He's my Yoda. He's my Yoda and so I wanted to be near him.” [Sarasota Herald Tribune, 3/6/22]

2022: In Disclosed Batch of Emails, Trump Campaign Lawyer John Eastman Claimed He Met with Byrne during Chaotic Effort to Keep Trump in Power Following 2020 Election Loss. “In a recently disclosed batch of emails, Trump campaign lawyer John Eastman claimed he had met with former Overstock.com CEO Patrick Byrne during the chaotic effort to keep Donald Trump in power following his 2020 election loss. According to a Jan. 9, 2020 email first obtained by The Denver Post, Eastman was asked by two Colorado business people about a theory pushed by Byrne. ‘I have met with Patrick. There is huge relevance to this, and I have actually had very high-level meetings about it,’ Eastman responded. In an exclusive interview with The Salt Lake Tribune, Byrne confirmed meeting Eastman but did not think anything important came of their Washington, D.C. meeting ‘It doesn't make any sense to me that he would be saying that. It doesn't make any sense at all,’ Byrne said of Eastman's characterization of their Jan. 6 meeting. ‘I met him only one time for about 45 minutes.’” [Salt Lake Tribune, 5/18/22]

2022: Byrne Told AP He Had Spent \$20 Million Investigating 2020 Election. “Patrick Byrne, the founder of Overstock.com, told The Associated Press in August that he's spent \$20 million investigating the 2020 election. Byrne's spending includes funding an organization called The America Project, which has donated \$218,000 to a group called Conservatives for Election Integrity. That group was founded by Jim Marchant, the Republican nominee for secretary of state in Nevada. The organization is intended to support a coalition of secretary of state candidates like Marchant who question the result of the 2020 presidential election. The America Project's spending accounts for roughly half the \$429,000 the group has reported raising.” [Aztec Press, 10/19/22]

2022: Detroit Free Press: “Election Experts Worry...America Project...Blurs the Lines between Lawful Oversight and Vigilantism. “Michigan is one of several states targeted by the America Project, an organization led by allies of former President Donald Trump to recruit citizen election monitors in ways election experts worry blurs the lines between lawful oversight and vigilantism. In a promotional video touting the America Project's launch, Trump's former national security adviser Michael Flynn calls the 2020 presidential election ‘an assault on our sacred election process.’ The America Project's website lists former Overstock.com CEO Patrick Byrne as part of the ‘fearless, battle-tested team.’

Byrne and Flynn participated in failed efforts to overturn the 2020 election that included an attempt to persuade Trump to order the military to seize voting machines. Two leaders from the Michigan GOP — ethnic vice chair Bernadette Smith and grassroots vice chair Marian Sheridan — appeared on panels supported by the America Project.” [Detroit Free Press, 10/26/22]

October 2022: Byrne: “Bad Guys Are Going to Come at Us with Another Rig.” “A recent video from the America Project speaks directly to veteran viewers, telling them that ‘our country needs you once again’ and urging them to ‘beat the cheat’ by applying to serve as poll workers to ensure the integrity of the 2022 election count. Titled ‘One More Mission – The America Project – #ElectionIntegrity,’ the video features clips of news broadcasts discussing alleged ballot irregularities interspersed with black and white World War bombing footage and vintage newsreel commentary. In addition to the video, the group has aimed its recruiting efforts at veterans in Texas, as well as Georgia, Florida, Illinois, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Wisconsin, according to ABC News...he duo paired up with Byrne to launch the America Project, according to ABC News. Byrne recently told viewers during an appearance on a conservative media news show that ‘The America Project has spun up the coup de grâce on the enemy,’ and that ‘bad guys are going to come at us with another rig,’ referring to false claims that a vast network of conspirators collaborated to steal the 2020 election from then-President Donald Trump, ABC reported.” [Houston Chronicle, 10/27/22]

The America Project’s Website Touted “Voter Registration Canvassing” and Inspecting Election Machines. “An Oakland County man, working with groups that have previously spread unproven election fraud claims, filed paperwork and paid a \$428,000 deposit in pursuit of a recount of the votes on an abortion rights ballot proposal in more than 500 Michigan precincts. Jerome Jay Allen of Bloomfield Township signed the recount petitions, which touted unproven theories about election technology potentially altering votes and also requested a recount of the ballots on a separate voting rights proposal in dozens of precincts. The nonprofit Election Integrity Fund and Force announced the recount effort on its Facebook page, saying it was made possible by ‘financial support from’ The America Project, a Sarasota, Fla.-based group that’s led, in part, by Patrick Byrne, former CEO of Overstock.com. The America Project’s website promotes ‘voter registration canvassing’ and inspecting election machines.” [Detroit News, 12/1/22]

Byrne Had Donated Millions to “Election Integrity” Groups. “Byrne is the main funder of the America Project, a nonprofit that pushes election denial narratives. In the current election cycle, Byrne and the America Project have donated over \$330,000 to election denial candidates and super PACs supporting election deniers.’ Byrne said he donated about \$8 million to launch ‘Operation Eagles Wings,’ an ‘election integrity’ drive that trains election denial activists in swing states to work polls and knock on voters’ doors in an attempt to find evidence of fraud. In addition, Byrne has funded an ‘election integrity’ group called Virginians for America First; paid for flights in support of the now-discredited investigation of voting machines in Antrim County, Michigan; and, through the America Project, supported a group called One More Mission that recruits military veterans to monitor polls with videos of war imagery saying ‘beat the cheat.’” [Blue Virginia, 12/19/22]

March 2023: Byrne in Response to How Much He’d Spend Ahead of 2024 Election: “I Have No Children, No Wife...There’s No Point in Me Saving It for Anything..” “(The America Project was launched in 2021 by Patrick Byrne, founder of Overstock.com. Byrne said elections remain a top priority for the group, though it also will focus on border issues. Asked how much he’s planning to spend ahead of the 2024 election, Byrne told the AP, ‘There is no budget.’) (‘I have no children, no wife,’ he said. ‘There’s no point in me saving it for anything.’)” [Boston Globe, 3/18/23]

Boston Globe: “Tax Forms Do Not Detail Where the Group’s \$7.7 Million in Revenue Came from...But...Flynn Told the AP that Most of It Came from Byrne Himself...” “(Recently filed tax forms do not detail where the group's \$7.7 million in revenue came from that year, but Byrne and Michael Flynn's brother, Joseph Flynn, told the AP that most of it came from Byrne himself. The group reported giving \$2.75 million to Cyber Ninjas for a partisan and much-criticized review of the 2020 election in Maricopa County, Arizona, which includes Phoenix.)” [Boston Globe, 3/18/23]

Group Had Sponsored Veteran-Focused Recruitment Programs. “Key actors and organizations mobilizing election deniers at the local level include Steve Bannon; Lieutenant General Michael Flynn, Retired; True the Vote; the Election Integrity Network, and Tea Party Patriots Action. True the Vote and the Flynn-linked organization The America Project have sponsored veteran-focused recruitment programs, joining veteran-specific groups like Veterans for America First (VFAF) to directly target veterans. VFAF has endorsed over 50 candidates in the 2024 elections already.” [States News Service, 11/30/23]

FINANCES

2022 Form 990: America Project Reported Gross Receipts of \$14,284,621. It also reported \$13,783,268 in total expenses, with \$3,211,805 on “salaries, other compensation, and employee benefits.” It listed net assets of \$687,562. Director Joe Flynn had compensation of \$263,077. Director Patrick Byrne reported compensation of \$95,000 from the group. COO Carl Johnson reported compensation of \$237,500. [America Project 2022 [Form 990](#)]

The America Project Set up as a 501c4, which Precluded It from Having to Disclose Donors. “As to who is behind all that money, there's no legal way to find out. The America Project is set up under the Internal Revenue Code as a 501c4 as a ‘social welfare organization.’ And that precludes it from having to disclose the actual donors.” [Eastern Arizona Courier, 8/1/21]

2022: Byrne Said America Project Had Raised \$9.5 Million; Claimed He Donated Close to \$7 Million. “Byrne, who has joined Flynn at some ReAwaken rallies, said in text messages that he and Flynn had a large hand in launching the ReAwaken tour during the spring by bankrolling the events with some ‘tens of thousands of dollars’ from the America Project. Overall, Byrne said that the America Project has raised about \$9.5m, of which he donated close to \$7m. Byrne and the America Project poured over \$3m into a months-long audit of Arizona's largest county, which Trump was banking on to find major fraud, but which resulted in no significant changes to Biden's win there or overall in the state, much to Trump's dismay.” [The Guardian, 1/3/22]

Paid Michael Flynn and Joseph Flynn Handsomely. “Then there's the America Project, a 'nonprofit' started in 2020 by Patrick Byrne (the Overstock dot com guy), and horsepiller brother Joseph, which paid Michael Flynn's business \$200k for 'consulting,' and \$410k to Joseph.” [Wonkette, 6/24/24]

America Project Sent Hundreds of Thousands of Dollars to We the People AZ Alliance and Election Investigation and Lawsuits Inc. “In practice, the America Project and Byrne have sent hundreds of thousands of dollars to the Arizona-based We the People AZ Alliance, and Michigan-based United States Election Investigation and Lawsuits Inc, triggering alarms by election watchdogs and some GOP veterans due to their incendiary election denialist stances and leaders.” [The Guardian, 7/20/24]

2024: Byrne Claimed Only \$3 Million of the \$30 Million Group Had Raised Came from “The Public.” “Byrne, the former CEO of online retailer Overstock.com, said last fall that only \$3m of the \$30m the Florida-based project had raised at that point came from “the public”, with the rest coming from him. In 2022, the America Project almost doubled its revenues to \$14.3m versus some \$7.7m the prior year, according to tax records first disclosed by Issue One, a bipartisan political reform group.” [Guardian, 7/20/24]

LEADERSHIP

2022: The America Project Hired Bianca Gracia, Co-Founder of Latinos for America First, as Chief Strategist. “Bianca Gracia, Co-founder of Latinos for America First, will serve as TAP's Chief Strategist going into the 2022 and 2024 election cycles. Gracia, a former Democrat who was inspired by President Trump's historic campaign in 2016, left the Democrat party nearly two decades ago when she realized the party didn't align with her America First beliefs. Gracia is a regular commentator on Fox News and Steve Bannon's War Room broadcast, where she continues to advocate for President Trump's legacies and policies. As part of her role as TAP's Chief Strategist, Gracia will focus on the Spanish conservative market in places like Florida and Texas, along with other areas in America where conservative Hispanic populations are on the rise. This will include everything from educating voters about how to document irregularities in the voting process, promoting Hispanic community involvement and media training.” [PR Newswire, 4/11/22]

2022: The America Project Named Tim Meisburger Director of Election Integrity. “Tim Meisburger has been brought on as the Director of Election Integrity for The America Project... The America Project, founded by Patrick Byrne, General Flynn and Joe Flynn, is a 501c4 non-profit dedicated to election integrity, is expanding its staff to include a key Trump Administration political and policy veteran... Tim Meisburger Tim Meisburger is a democracy and governance specialist who spent many years overseas developing and managing elections and democratization programs in autocracies and emerging democracies. He is a 30-year veteran of election integrity and was appointed by the Trump Administration as Director of the Center for Democracy Rights and Governance (DRG) for the US Agency for International Development (USAID). As Director of the DRG, Tim spearheaded the Agency's response to Chinese human rights abuses and oversaw the development of a strategic response to the growing ideological and information conflict with China and Iran.” [Press Release, 4/18/22]

Flynn’s Brother Joseph Served as President. “Flynn and Patrick Byrne, founder of Overstock.com, last year launched The America Project, with Flynn's brother Joseph as president. The group said it planned to spend \$50 million in the 2021 budget year, according to a filing with North Carolina charity regulators. But Joseph Flynn and Byrne separately told AP that it had spent tens of millions less, though each gave different totals.” [Marine Corps Times, 9/7/22]

Marine Corps Times: “While (Michael) Flynn...Is Not Listed among Its Officers, He Is the Face of the Group...” “While Flynn himself is not listed among its officers, he is the face of the group, and it's described as ‘General Flynn and Patrick Byrne's America Project.’ Byrne says Flynn is his closest adviser, telling the AP and ‘Frontline’ that Flynn is his ‘Yoda’ and ‘rabbi.’” [Marine Corps Times, 9/7/22]

Tom Homan, Law Enforcement Veteran, Named CEO. “The America Project (TAP) proudly announces Mr. Thomas D. Homan as our Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Homan is a 34-year veteran of law enforcement, with 33 years dedicated to the enforcement of our nation's border and immigration law. In his new role as CEO, Mr. Homan assumes leadership of an organization on a national scale

defending Rights & Freedoms, Election Integrity, and Border Security for all Americans. The America Project welcomes Tom Homan as CEO!” [Press Release, 3/15/23]

PHILOSOPHY

2021: Byrne: “It Was a Fraudulent Election...It Didn’t End for Us on January 20th.” “It actually was founded earlier this year by Patrick Byrne, the former CEO of Overstock.com. And Byrne, in an interview last month with NTD.com, said he was setting up the organization to continue the fight over the 2020 election results. ‘It was a fraudulent election,’ he told the television network, short for New Tang Dynasty, which its web site says was set up by Chinese-Americans who fled Communism. ‘It didn’t end for us on Jan. 20.’” [Sierra Vista Herald, 4/29/21]

2021: The America Project’s Website Said It Was Founded to “Advance Freedom and Preserve the American Way of Life.” “Also outside the coliseum, numerous groups are fundraising around the audit. Patrick Byrne, the former CEO of overstock.com who has written a book purporting to show how the election was rigged, is among them. Byrne launched a nonprofit advocacy organization called The America Project that is raising money for the audit, according to his posts on a web app called Telegram. Byrne said on Telegram he donated \$1 million to The America Project to go toward the audit. The nonprofit’s website says that it was founded to ‘advance freedom and preserve the American way of life,’ but Byrne said on Telegram that ‘every penny you give goes to fund this Maricopa audit.’” [Arizona Republic, 5/16/21]

2021: Byrne: “This Isn’t over by a Longshot...We’re Not Going to Let This Happen Again, But Don’t Believe for a Minute that 2020 Is over Yet.” BYRNE: “This isn’t an over by a longshot. At the very least, you have to be ready for 2022 to take it all back. You know we’re not going to let this happen again, but don’t believe for a minute that 2020 is over yet.” [CNN, 5/24/21]

2021: Tucson Weekly: “Byrne’s Telegram Channel Is Full of Conspiracy Theories about the Election, and He Often Shares Information from Other Prominent Pro-Trump Figures that Includes Baseless Allegations about Election Fraud.” “Byrne’s Telegram channel is full of conspiracy theories about the election, and he often shares information from other prominent pro-Trump figures that includes baseless allegations about election fraud. Some of those people, like Jovan Pulitzer, are also a part of Arizona’s audit. Byrne has been a leading voice in 2020 election fraud claims and has railed against the so-called ‘deep state.’ Some of his claims came after it was revealed he had an affair with accused Russian spy Maria Butina, which he claimed the FBI encouraged him to do. Byrne was also present at an hour-long meeting at the White House during the final days of Donald Trump’s presidency in which he, Sidney Powell and disgraced retired Gen. Michael Flynn urged the president to overturn the election.” [Tucson Weekly, 7/28/21]

2022: Sarasota Herald: “The America Project And Its Leaders Seem Eager to Take the GOP by Storm and Push It Further...toward Embracing Trump’s Unfounded Election Fraud Claims, Resisting COVID-19 Public Health Mandates, and Fighting the School Culture Wars.” “Much like Trump, The America Project and its leaders seem eager to take the GOP by storm and push it further to the right toward embracing Trump’s unfounded election fraud claims, resisting COVID-19 public health mandates, and fighting the school culture wars. ‘We have to have the guts to look one of our own in the eyes and say if you do this, we’re done with you,’ Mayo said of Republican leaders. ‘We’re done voting for you, we’re done giving you our money, we’re done.’” [Sarasota Herald, 1/30/22]

- **“We Are Trying to Build the Largest Pro-Freedom Network that’s Ever Been Built in the Country.”** “The America Project is supporting a group formed by Florida firefighters to fight vaccine mandates, paying for a bus so they could travel to the D.C. rally. Joe Flynn joined the firefighters on the rally stage, Mayo said. The America Project is ‘not here to reinvent the wheel’ Mayo said, but instead will focus on supporting existing organizations that align with its mission. ‘We are trying to build the largest pro-freedom network that’s ever been built in the country,’ Mayo said.” [Sarasota Herald, 1/30/22]

Byrne Rented Several Rooms at Trump Hotel for Months—Paying Full Rack Rate of Roughly \$800,000; Byrne Considered Hotel “Safest Place in DC for a Command Bunker...” “The president and his loyalists, together and independently, had been working toward this end in various ways since Election Day. Byrne told me that he and Flynn’s attorney, Sidney Powell, met with Trump’s legal adviser Rudy Giuliani in Arlington, Va., shortly after the election to offer their assistance. Through Powell, Flynn soon became part of the group as well. Byrne said he had rented several rooms at the Trump Hotel for a few months — paying a full rack rate of about \$800,000 — which he, Flynn, Powell and others would move in and out of. Byrne considered the hotel ‘the safest place in D.C. for a command bunker.’ But Flynn suggested that they also establish a separate working area far from the Beltway. Powell contacted Wood, who agreed to host them at his secluded estate. As the group began to assemble in mid-November, Wood told me that he was surprised and ‘honored’ to discover that Flynn, whom he had never met, was among his guests.” [New York Times, 2/4/22]

2022: Byrne: “In Order to Restore America’s Trust in the Integrity of Our Elections, We Need to Do Everything in Our Power to Protect the Voting Process from Election Meddlers Who Care Only about Serving Crooked Special Interest Groups that Neither Respect Nor Value the Rule of Law.” “With Americans from both sides of the political aisle concerned about the integrity of our elections heading into the 2022 mid-terms and 2024 presidential election, The America Project (TAP) is prepared to fund an eight-state effort in hopes of monitoring the 2022 elections and train activists on how to expose political shenanigans at the ballot box. Arizona, Florida, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Texas, Wisconsin, Georgia and Virginia will serve as the first eight states where TAP implements their efforts, which they are dubbing ‘Operation Eagles Wings.’ According to TAP Founder Patrick Byrne, Operation Eagles Wings will educate election reform activists on everything from grassroots training to election canvassing and fundraising. Operations Eagles Wings also plans on preparing and circulating commentary on current election policies, where the strengths and weaknesses are in regards to the current laws on the books, in order to ensure the American people have access to fact-based truths about the election process across the United States. ‘Our goal is to not only provide the proper training for Americans who want to make sure that there are no repeats of the errors that happened in the 2020 election, but also to educate them on how to manage volunteers and fundraise for their efforts in a way that allows each state to become self-sustaining and financially secure. In order to restore America’s trust in the integrity of our elections, we need to do everything in our power to protect the voting process from election meddlers who care only about serving crooked special interest groups that neither respect nor value the rule of law,’ stated Byrne.” [PR Newswire, 2/23/22]

2022: New York Times: “The America Project Has Combined Its Attempts to Challenge Covid-19 Policies with the Relentless Promotion of Pro-Trump Election Conspiracy Theories...” “That latter group, the America Project, has combined its attempts to challenge Covid-19 policies with the relentless promotion of pro-Trump election conspiracy theories. The group is run by Patrick Byrne, the former chief executive of Overstock.com, who, with General Flynn, was central in a bizarre plot to persuade the former president to use the military to seize voting machines in a bid to stay in power.” [New York Times, 2/24/22]

2022: Growing Number of Prominent Christian Leaders Sounding Alarms about Threats to Democracy Posed by ReAwaken America Rallies Where Trump Loyalists Spread Misinformation; Byrne and The America Project Helped Launch Rallies. “A growing number of prominent Christian leaders are sounding alarms about threats to democracy posed by ReAwaken America rallies where Donald Trump loyalists Michael Flynn and Roger Stone and rightwing pastors have spread misinformation about the 2020 elections and Covid-19 vaccines, and distorted Christian teachings. The falsehoods pushed at ReAwaken gatherings have prompted some Christian leaders to warn that America’s political and spiritual health is threatened by a toxic mix of Christian nationalism, lies about Trump’s loss to Joe Biden, and ahistorical views of the nation’s founding principle of the separation of church and state... The ReAwaken tour was launched by a conservative Oklahoma talk show host and entrepreneur named Clay Clark in tandem with Flynn, who briefly served as Trump’s first national security adviser. Flynn pleaded guilty twice to lying to the FBI about contacts he had with Russia’s ambassador before Trump took office, but in late 2020 Trump pardoned him. The Trump loyalist and multimillionaire Patrick Byrne, the former CEO of Overstock, told the Guardian last year the America Project, an advocacy group he founded that boasts Flynn as a special adviser and spokesman, put up ‘tens of thousands of dollars’ to help launch the rallies in 2021, and that he has attended some himself.” [The Guardian, 6/14/22]

Donated \$100,000 to Group Supporting Tina Peters. “Through it all, Ms. Peters has parlayed the episode into a national political profile on the right, speaking at events across the country where she is celebrated as a hero. Influential election deniers have come to her aid: Mike Lindell, the MyPillow executive who supports a stable of lawyers and researchers promoting bogus theories, says he has funneled as much as \$200,000 to Ms. Peters's legal defense. Others, including Patrick Byrne, a former Overstock executive, have run ads attacking her primary opponent... In the closing days of the campaign, Ms. Peters has received other assistance. A new super PAC in Colorado called Citizens for Election Integrity has spent roughly \$100,000 on advertisements attacking Pam Anderson, one of Ms. Peters's opponents for the Republican nomination, according to campaign finance disclosures. The group recently received a \$100,000 donation from The America Project, a group founded by Mr. Trump's former national security adviser, Michael Flynn, another figure in the fight to overturn the 2020 election, and Mr. Byrne.” [New York Times, 6/27/22]

2022: Ann Arbor News: “The America Project Continues to Be a Major Player in Questioning the Legitimacy of US Elections.” “The America Project continues to be a major player in questioning the legitimacy of U.S. elections. It brought a mass challenge of voter eligibility in Georgia last week and Byrne continues to actively tour to promote conspiracy theories to zealous believers that maintain the election was stolen from former president Donald Trump. The America Project was also the largest funder of a heavily-criticized audit of Arizona election results, which was fruitless and found no evidence of fraud. Byrne told Reuters the group raised \$10 million in 2021.” [Ann Arbor News, 9/6/22]

2022: The Guardian: “The America Project...Promoted Serial Misinformation about the 2020 Election.” “The America Project, which was founded by Michael Flynn and Patrick Byrne, who have promoted serial misinformation about the 2020 election.” [The Guardian, 10/5/22]

2022 America Project Attempted to Interview Officials in Nearly 200 Counties across Eight Swing States; Survey Reflected Debunked Conspiracies and Misleading Information about Elections. “The America Project, an organization founded by Michael Flynn, a retired three-star general and former national security adviser, and former Overstock CEO Patrick Byrne, has so far interviewed or attempted to interview officials in nearly 200 counties across eight swing states, according to copies of

notes, recordings of the interviews, and other documents Votebeat found on web pages associated with the organization. The survey questions reflect the same debunked conspiracies and misleading information about elections that Flynn and Byrne have been propagating for years. The survey questions appear intended to detect potential weaknesses in local election systems and gather detailed information about how elections are run. Election experts say the information could easily be used to fuel misinformation campaigns, disrupt voting, or challenge results.” [Arizona Mirror, 9/30/22]

- **Counsel at Protect Democracy: “It Seems Consistent with Their Efforts to Really Understand How to Manipulate the Machinery of Election Administration in this Country...”** “It seems consistent with their efforts to really understand how to manipulate the machinery of election administration in this country,' said Ben Berwick, counsel at national nonprofit Protect Democracy, a research and advocacy group.” [Arizona Mirror, 9/30/22]

Reuters Investigation Found The America Project Surveyed Election Officials without Revealing Agenda; Told Officials They Were Nonpartisan Observers Conducting Surveys for Educational Purposes. “A right-wing group founded by prominent conspiracy theorists and Donald Trump allies ran a covert nationwide campaign to fuel the former president’s plans to upend the nation’s elections after his 2020 defeat. An investigation from Reuters discovered that the influential America Project surveyed more than 260 election officials in eight battleground states without revealing the group’s agenda and its founders’ explicit attempts to seize voting machines. According to Reuters , interviewers told election officials that they were nonpartisan observers conducting the surveys only for educational purposes. But in reality, the surveyors fed responses to the America Project and misrepresented their answers, which were ‘riddled’ with mistakes, according to the report. The America Project was co-founded by former Trump-era national security adviser Michael Flynn , who has since campaigned across the US amplifying election fraud claims and aligned with QAnon-affiliated groups and Christian nationalists.” [The Independent, 10/23/22]

- **In Statement, The America Project Spokesperson Said Group Was “Proud” of Survey; Said It Was “Concrete Example of How We Are Promoting Election Integrity in Our Fundraising Efforts.”** “A statement from an America Project spokesperson to Reuters denied hiding the group’s involvement in the survey project, adding that the group is ‘proud of it, and refer to it as a concrete example of how we are promoting election integrity in our fundraising efforts.’” [The Independent, 10/23/22]
- **Over a Dozen Election Officials Said Survey Answers Were Misrepresented.** “Among the 45 election officials that spoke with Reuters, only two were aware of the group’s involvement in the survey. Thirteen respondents said their answers were misrepresented. The America Project financially supports spurious litigation that has sought to overturn the results of the 2020 election and donated heavily to groups backing election deniers now competing for state offices that could have enormous impact on future elections.” [Belfast Telegraph, 10/24/22]

October 2022: CNN: “Byrne Has Been at the Forefront of Efforts to Challenge the Legitimacy of the Last Presidential Election.” “Byrne has been at the forefront of efforts to challenge the legitimacy of the last presidential election. A group he helped found, The America Project, helped underwrite a widely derided review of ballots cast in Maricopa County, Arizona, that in the end only confirmed Biden’s victory there.” [CNN, 10/6/22]

2023: The Guardian: “America Project Touts Multiple Missions...Including Election Integrity, Medical Freedom, and Religious Freedom...Likens Its Role to that of a ‘Symphony Conductor’

with the Goal of ‘Magnifying the Efforts of those Who Wish to Ally...’ “The America Project touts multiple missions – including election integrity, medical freedom and religious freedom – and likens its role to that of a ‘symphony conductor’ with the goal of ‘magnifying the efforts of those who wish to ally with us through connecting, training, funding and working together to save America.’ America’s Frontline Doctors, the group Gold founded, is listed among its allies.” [The Guardian, 1/30/23]

2023: Two-Day Event at Arizona Capitol Was Linked to QAnon. “A two-day event planned next week at the Arizona Capitol to address the COVID-19 pandemic response is being flagged as a blatant callout to people who believe in QAnon conspiracy theories because of its conspicuous name, and how it is partially funded by The America Project. The America Project is a political organization that has promoted a host of unfounded conspiracies about elections. Former Overstock.com CEO Patrick Byrne and Mike Flynn, once national security adviser to former President Donald Trump, founded the group.” [Arizona Daily Star, 5/20/23]

Senior Researcher with Southern Poverty Law Center: “The Fact that the America Project Is Involved...Alone Is Enough to Be Concerned that the Rhetoric and Beliefs Are QAnon Based...” “It’s a little too coincidental for experts reached by The Arizona Republic to believe it’s not a callout to QAnon followers. ‘That is an interesting set of coincidences,’ said Michael Simeone, an associate research professor at Arizona State University who is a fellow with New America, a nonprofit, nonpartisan Washington, D.C., think tank, where he has studied public responses to actions such as government lockdowns and also how social media has been used to promote political violence. ‘That seems pretty conspicuous given the deployment of that acronym as a promise for political revolution, or whatever revolution QAnon is supposed to bring about,’ he said. Rachel Goldwasser, a senior research analyst with the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Ala., agreed. ‘The fact that The America Project is involved, that alone is enough to be concerned that the rhetoric and beliefs are QAnon based,’ Goldwasser said. The Southern Poverty Law Center tracks hate groups and domestic extremists.” [Arizona Daily Star, 5/20/23]

Arizona Mirror Described America Project as “the QAnon-Friendly Political Non-profit.” [Arizona Mirror, 10/21/23]

2024: Arizona Mirror: America Project “Has Promoted QAnon and QAnon Influencers.” [Arizona Mirror, 3/15/24]

2024: Guardian Said America Project “Has Been in the Vanguard of Promoting Bogus Charges of Voter Fraud...” [Guardian, 4/17/24]

LITIGATION, LEGAL EFFORTS, & ACTIVISM

ARIZONA AUDIT

2021: The America Project Raised Funds for Maricopa Audit. “Ken Bennett directed auditor donors to a website Tuesday of a ‘dark money’ nonprofit run by a former furniture CEO and conspiracy theorist who was in a relationship with a Russian spy that is hoping to raise nearly \$3 million for the audit. That’s in addition to the agreed upon \$150,000 from the Senate and other fundraising avenues. The website Bennett pushed, FundtheAudit.com, says it’s supported by an organization called The America Project. On the site, it explicitly states its goal is to ‘raise \$2,800,000 to support and pay for expenses of the Maricopa Audit.’ If it raises more money than the goal, ‘The America Project will use the funds for

other election integrity activities to included audits in other areas and related expenses.” [Yellow Sheet Report, 4/29/21]

Social Media Posting by Man Overseeing Audit for Arizona Senate Encouraged People to Donate to The America Project. “A social media posting by the man the Arizona Senate has overseeing the ballot audit of the 2020 election is trying to get people to donate to a private operation to help finance the ballot-counting effort. The private fundraising effort being pushed by Ken Bennett — the Senate-appointed liaison for the audit — can keep the identity of donors secret from the public. And Senate President Karen Fann, R-Prescott, who tapped Bennett for the liaison role, said through a spokesman that she knows nothing about the posting on Twitter. Maricopa Arizona Audit is listed as the ‘official (Twitter) account managed on behalf of Senate Liaison Ken Bennett.’ He serves as the person retained by Fann to be the link between the Senate, which ordered the audit, and Cyber Ninjas, the private firm with whom she signed a contract to conduct it. But now that Twitter operation is directing people who want to help to fundtheaudit.com, where people can donate by credit card or e-check.” [Arizona Daily Star, 4/30/21]

The America Project Wanted to Raise \$2.8 Million to “Support and Pay for Expenses of the Maricopa Audit.” “And that is the website being operated by The America Project, started by a millionaire who says the election results were fraudulent. It is trying to raise \$2.8 million ‘to support and pay for expenses of the Maricopa Audit.’ That’s the audit that was billed as costing taxpayers no more than \$150,000, according to a contract Fann signed with Doug Logan, the CEO of Cyber Ninjas. Just that choice itself has raised questions: Logan has previously made statements questioning whether Donald Trump lost the election. Now comes the question of not just having Bennett’s official Twitter feed trying to raise outside money, but where he is telling people they can send their donations. Bennett told Capitol Media Services Thursday that he has no problem directing followers to The America Project website. ‘I’m just trying to give information to people if they want to support the fund, to support the audit financially,’ he said. He said the website is ‘a legitimate place to do so.’” [Arizona Daily Star, 4/30/21]

CNN Headline: Arizona Audit Funding Cloaked in Secrecy. ‘The America Project, a non-profit run by Overstock founder Patrick Byrne, who met with Trump in the Oval Office in December to discuss tactics for overturning the election results, according to The Washington Post. The America Project claims on its fundraising website to have raised \$1.6 million, with a goal of \$2.8 million, for the audit. At a press conference on April 28, Bennett called on people to donate to the audit through the America Project’s website. Neither Byrne nor the America Project responded to repeated requests for interviews by CNN, nor to questions about whether it has forwarded donations and to whom. [CNN Wire, 5/16/21]

2021: The America Project to Play Role in Selecting People Counting Recount Ballots. “A fundraising group for the partisan ‘audit’ of Maricopa County, Arizona’s 2020 election results will now reportedly play a role in selecting the people counting Arizonans’ ballots. The group, backed by ex-Overstock CEO Patrick Byrne, will handle background checks and non-disclosure agreements for audit workers, the Arizona Republic reported Saturday based on an email it obtained. The audit was authorized and funded in part by Arizona’s Republican-controlled state Senate, but in practice is being led by contractors fueled by private donations. Byrne, part of a chorus of Trump dead-enders who claim the former president’s second term was stolen, has been promoting the fundraiser for Arizona’s audit for weeks. He established the group, The America Project, which is behind FundTheAudit.com, the site linked in the email reported by the Republic. According to that email, the audit is also requiring that workers be registered Maricopa County voters who participated in the 2020 election, though it’s unclear if these are new requirements, the Republic noted. Despite substantial fundraising for the audit by Byrne

and others — the ex-CEO has personally committed \$1 million to the audit effort, the report noted — the email emphasized the need for volunteers, not paid workers.” [Talking Points Memo, 5/24/21]

Byrne: “This Audit Is an Audit Check for All Forms of Mischief.” “But Byrne's central role in funding the Arizona audit and how it is being run is attracting growing scrutiny. Byrne has acknowledged that he had some brief contacts last December with Doug Logan, the head of the little-known Florida-based cybersecurity firm Cyber Ninjas, which was selected by Arizona officials to lead the audit, even though it had no experience in doing one previously. ‘This is an audit like none that has ever been performed,’ Byrne boasted to the AP. ‘This audit is an audit check for all forms of mischief.’” [The Guardian, 5/29/21]

The America Project Was Top Contributor to Arizona Audit at \$3.25 Million. “A private company conducting a widely denounced review of ballots in Arizona's largest county says it has received more than \$5.7 million in private funds to support its examination of the 2020 presidential results. The majority of the money has come from organizations tied to people aligned with former President Donald Trump and his false claims of a stolen election. Cyber Ninjas, a Florida-based firm hired by the Republicans who control the Arizona Senate to run the so-called ‘audit,’ released the donor list Wednesday night -- after months of secrecy. The top contributor: The America Project at \$3.25 million. The group is led by Patrick Byrne, the former CEO of Overstock.com, who has authored a book and produced a movie claiming election fraud robbed Trump of the presidency.” [CNN, 7/29/21]

CNN Political Correspondent: “Like So Many Aspects of the Maricopa Ballot Review, the Fundraising Has Been Murky, and Driven...by Big Personalities Making Loud, Unfounded Claims of Fraud.” SARA MURRAY, CNN POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT: That's Patrick Byrne, the former Overstock.com CEO, and the man leading the number one fundraising effort for Arizona so-called audit. Like so many aspects of the Maricopa County ballot review, the fundraising has been murky, and driven, largely, by big personalities, making loud, unfounded claims of fraud. [CNN, 7/29/21]

2021: Byrne: “This Audit Has Been the Most Comprehensive and Complex Election Audit Ever Conducted.” “According to Patrick Byrne with the America Project: ‘This audit has been the most comprehensive and complex election audit ever conducted. It involved the hand count of approximately 2.1 million ballots with a forensic paper inspection and a forensic review of the voting machines. Most important—an in-depth analysis of the voter roll and the 2020 general election final file.’ ‘57,000 votes and 734 ballots with serious issues were identified in the audit including improper voter registration and improper voter discrepancies—this is a conservative estimate.’” [The Geller Report, 9/25/21]

The America Project Controlled Sharp-Tongued Twitter Accounts for the Audit before They Were Suspended. “It was Patrick Byrne's people at The America Project, and Steve Montenegro, and sometimes Ken Bennett. One of the quirky mysteries surrounding the Republican audit of Arizona's election is who ran the sharp-tongued Twitter accounts for the audit before the social-media platform suspended them for violating its policies in July. Documents that a judge ordered to be released Friday show that, at least part of the time, Montenegro, a former state lawmaker, political operative and one-time congressional candidate, was directing the tweets, along with Bennett, the audit liaison. Bennett said The America Project controlled the accounts.” [Arizona Republic, 9/28/21]

2022: Sarasota Herald Tribune: “The Audit Was Hyped for Months...But It Confirmed that President Joe Biden Won the County...” “Byrne is pumping millions into The America Project, which helped fund the audit of presidential ballots in Arizona's Maricopa County. Led by Sarasota-based

company Cyber Ninjas, the audit was hyped for months by Trump and his supporters as a potential turning point in their bid to overturn the 2020 results, but it confirmed that President Joe Biden won the county.” [Sarasota Herald Tribune, 3/6/22]

ELECTION TRAINING

July 2022: The America Project Began Self-Styled “Election Integrity” Drive to Train Activists in Election Canvassing and Poll-Watching, Sparking Fears of Voter Intimidation. “A conservative group called the America Project that boasts Donald Trump loyalists and ‘big lie’ pushers Roger Stone and Michael Flynn as key advisers, has begun a self-styled ‘election integrity’ drive to train activists in election canvassing and poll-watching, sparking fears from voting rights watchdogs about voter intimidation. Patrick Byrne, the multimillionaire co-founder of the America Project, has said he has donated almost \$3m to launch the drive, dubbed ‘Operation Eagles Wings’, with a focus on eight states including Arizona, Michigan and Pennsylvania, which Trump lost, plus Texas and Florida, which he won. The drive was unveiled in late February at a press event where Byrne touted plans to educate ‘election reform activists’ to handle election canvassing, grassroots work and fundraising ‘to expose shenanigans at the ballot box’ in what has echoes of Trump’s false claims that the 2020 election was rigged, and could become a sequel to those charges.” [The Guardian, 7/7/22]

- **Byrne Said Mission Was to “Make Sure that There Are No Repeats of the Errors that Happened in the 2020 Election;” Byrne Stressed “Need to Protect the Voting Process from Election Meddlers Who Care Only about Serving Crooked Special Interest Groups that Neither Respect Nor Value the Rule of Law.”** “Byrne, for instance, has said the operation’s mission is to ‘make sure that there are no repeats of the errors that happened in the 2020 election,’ and stressed the ‘need to protect the voting process from election meddlers who care only about serving crooked special interest groups that neither respect nor value the rule of law.’” [The Guardian, 7/7/22]
- **Voting Rights Advocates Called It a “Sham.”** “But voting rights advocates have voiced sharp criticism of Operation Eagles Wings, calling it a ‘sham,’ given the roles of Stone, Flynn, Byrne and others, and warning that it could lead to voter harassment at the polls and suppress legitimate votes.” [The Guardian, 7/7/22]

2022: Michael Flynn Funding New Campaign, One More Mission, to Recruit Military Veterans and Police Officers to Work at Polls during Midterms. “A group co-founded by Donald Trump’s first national security adviser, Michael Flynn, is funding a new campaign to recruit military veterans and police officers to work at the polls for the midterm elections. The effort, called One More Mission, describes itself in a press release as a ‘non-partisan, non-party affiliated campaign providing an opportunity for your service to matter’ and the ‘perfect apolitical solution to a national issue.’ Its website urges people to sign up to become ‘a patriot poll worker’ on Nov. 8.” [Boston Globe, 10/21/22]

- **Funded by America Project.** “One More Mission says that it is funded by The America Project, an organization co-founded by Flynn and former Overstock.com Chief Executive Officer Patrick Byrne, both prominent backers of the former president’s lie that the 2020 election was stolen. On Dec. 18, 2020, Flynn urged Trump to consider seizing voting machines, according to the House committee investigating the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol.” [Boston Globe, 10/21/22]
- **America Project Website Included Series of “Election Integrity” Manuals for Nine States.** “The America Project website encourages poll watching and challenges to voters. It includes a

series of 'election integrity' manuals for nine states, including the swing states Arizona, Georgia, Florida, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania. The organization also recently funded a Georgia group that unsuccessfully challenged tens of thousands of voter registrations in a Democratic county in suburban Atlanta." [Boston Globe, 10/21/22]

BORDER CRISIS

2022: Held Conference in Houston to Highlight Border Crisis. "Lara Logan, Tom Homan, General Flynn, Roger Stone, Patrick Byrne, Joe Flynn and other leaders in the America First Movement come together in Houston to highlight the crisis at the border...The America Project, a 501c4 non-profit organization focused on promoting pro-Freedom, pro-Constitution and pro-Judeo Christian Values will be holding an event in Houston, Texas on August 27th for a discussion focusing on the current illegal immigration crisis on the Southern Border. Running from 10am to 6pm, the conference is set to feature investigative journalists, law enforcement officials, victims of crime and human trafficking, national security experts, advocacy and legislative experts who have been waiting for President Joe Biden to take meaningful action to secure America's border." [PR Newswire, 7/19/22]

GEORGIA LAWSUIT

2022: The America Project Sponsoring Lawsuits from Voters Organized for Trusted Elections in Georgia; Lawsuits Related to Election Fraud that Allegedly Took Place in 2020. "The America Project, created by Overstock.com founder Patrick Byrne and General Michael Flynn, will be sponsoring upcoming lawsuits from Voters Organized for Trusted Elections in Georgia relating to the fraud that occurred during the 2020 election. TAP is a 501c4 non-profit dedicated to improving election integrity in the United States and rooting out voter fraud." [PR Newswire, 8/22/22]

- **Press Release: "Numerous Independent Watchdog Groups...Have Already Determined a Myriad of Fraudulent Voting Activity Or Shortfalls in Election Integrity..."** "Georgia residents upset about the election fraud that occurred during the 2020 elections are taking the next step to identifying those involved in weakening election integrity and voter fraud in 2020. Numerous independent watchdog groups and citizen led investigations have already determined a myriad of fraudulent voting activity or shortfalls in election integrity, but lawsuits from Voters Organized for Trusted Elections in Georgia, sponsored by The America Project, could provide even more details to help uncover the who, what, where, when, and why." [PR Newswire, 8/22/22]

2022: VoterGA, Backed Financially by The America Project, Mounted Mass Challenges to Voter Eligibility of Tens of Thousands of People in Gwinnett County. "One morning in late August, Zach Manifold showed up at his job running the elections office in Gwinnett County, Georgia, to find eight boxes waiting, all filled with documents challenging the eligibility of tens of thousands of people to cast ballots. It was the physical manifestation of a law passed by the Republican-controlled state legislature in 2021, making it explicit that any voter in the state could challenge an unlimited number of fellow Georgians' voter registrations. Conservative activists have seized on that power to attempt to remove thousands of voters from the rolls with just weeks to go before the October 17 start of in-person early voting in this battleground state... Gwinnett County, an increasingly Democratic Atlanta suburb that Biden won in 2020, has seen the most challenges so far, with the eligibility of more than 37,000 voters questioned. According to a recent news release, VoterGA, the group that mounted the mass challenges in Gwinnett County, is backed financially by The America Project -- an organization founded by onetime Trump national security adviser Michael Flynn and Patrick Byrne, the former CEO of

Overstock.com. The America Project previously helped fund a widely discredited review of ballots cast in Maricopa County, Arizona. The group's financial support for VoterGA was first reported by Bloomberg News.” [CNN, 9/29/22]

- **Activists Described Themselves as Engaging in “People’s Audit.”** “Activists aligned with the group have described themselves as undertaking a ‘people’s audit’ of elections. In some cases, they have used commercially available bulk change-of-address data and compared it to the county voter rolls to argue that some voters have moved and no longer qualify to cast ballots in Georgia.” [CNN, 9/29/22]

MICHIGAN LAWSUIT

Nearly Two Years after 2020 Election Was Certified, Coalition of Grassroots Figures and Macomb County Republican Party Asked Federal Judge to Undo Decision. “Six hundred forty eight days after the results of Michigan's 2020 election were certified, a coalition of grassroots figures and the Macomb County Republican Party have asked a federal judge to undo that decision. The chair of the Macomb GOP, Mark Forton, appeared on a video posted to conservative social media site Rumble with most of the other plaintiffs Tuesday morning. ‘Ever since the 2020 election, my vice chair and I have been pushing and pushing We really haven't gained much at all in two years,’ Forton said in the video. ‘I don't believe a single iota of our elections has been repaired since 2020. There has been different legislative things and so on and so forth but our elections are just as corrupt today as they were then.’” [Ann Arbor News, 9/6/22]

- **The America Project Sponsored Lawsuit.** “Russell Newman, an attorney affiliated with The America Project, one of the most prominent election denial organizations in the country, is representing one of the plaintiffs. A spokesperson for the organization confirmed to MLive it is sponsoring the lawsuit. The organization was founded by former Overstock.com CEO Patrick Byrne and former national security adviser Michael Flynn, both longtime proponents of election-related conspiracy theories.” [Ann Arbor News, 9/6/22]
- **Joe Flynn, Leader at The America Project: “We’re Not Letting...the Foot Off the Gas as to What Happened in 2020 because that Has to Get Fixed.”** “Joe Flynn, Michael Flynn's brother and another leader at The America Project, said in the video his organization is in for a long-term fight in Michigan and elsewhere. ‘We're not letting off the foot off the gas as to what happened in 2020 because that has to get fixed. Even if it takes another three or four years -- doesn't matter,’ Flynn said. ‘We've got to get to the truth.’” [Ann Arbor News, 9/6/22]

December 2022: Hand Recount of Two Ballot Proposals that Overwhelmingly Passed Cost Hundreds of Thousands of Dollars and Resulted in Very Few Changes. “A hand recount of two ballot proposals that passed by overwhelming margins in November cost hundreds of thousands of dollars and resulted in very few changed votes, according to preliminary figures released Tuesday. Funded by a conservative group that sought to de-certify the 2020 presidential election, the partial recounts produced a net gain of 109 votes for Proposal 3, which enshrined abortion rights into the state constitution, and six net votes against Proposal 2, which changed voting rules. In all, more than 4 million voters cast ballots on the measures. The hand recount involved about 500 precincts spread across 43 counties and 117 Michigan municipalities, including Detroit, Grand Rapids, Lansing and Ann Arbor. There are about 4,751 voting precincts in the state...” [Bridge Michigan, 12/20/22]

America Project Spent \$1.2 Million Funding Lawyers and Groups in Michigan during the 2022 Election Year. “The America Project, a national nonprofit that's been focused on railing against the country's voting system, spent \$1.2 million funding lawyers and groups in Michigan during the 2022 election year, according to a recently filed tax document. The Florida-based nonprofit co-founded by former Overstock.com CEO Patrick Byrne reported it gave \$429,875 to the law office of Oakland County attorney Stefanie Lambert for "legal support." Lambert was charged with four felonies in August 2023 for allegedly participating in a scheme to improperly access voting machines used in the 2020 presidential election. The America Project also said it provided \$700,000 for a Waterford Township organization that's connected to Lambert and called ‘United States Election Investigation and Lawsuits.’ The money was for ‘election integrity,’ according to the nonprofit's tax filing, which didn't include additional details about the expenditure. The nonprofit's annual tax submission to the Internal Revenue Service for 2022 was dated January 2024 and published online by the media outlet ProPublica.” [Detroit News, 4/11/24]

SECRETARIES OF STATE RACES

2022: Four Election-Denying Republican SOS Candidates Appeared at Conference inside South Florida Hotel Ballroom. “Four Republicans seeking to overhaul how elections are run by becoming their state’s chief election official said Saturday they were fighting against a corrupt system — even pointing a finger at mysterious forces within their own party. The candidates —Arizona’s Mark Finchem, Michigan’s Kristina Karamo, Nevada’s Jim Marchant and New Mexico’s Audrey Trujillo —appeared at a conference inside a South Florida hotel ballroom that featured numerous speakers falsely claiming the 2020 election was stolen from former President Donald Trump...” [The Independent, 9/10/22]

- **The America Project Organized SOS Coalition.** “With less than nine weeks before the November election, the candidates took time off the campaign trail in their own states to appear at the event, organized by the secretary of state coalition and the Florida affiliate of The America Project. The America Project was founded by Michael Flynn, the retired lieutenant general and Trump’s former national security adviser, and Patrick Byrne, founder of Overstock.com. It was the latest in a nationwide effort to question the results of the 2020 election and promote conspiracy theories about voting machines and the workings of election offices. The forums, held for well over a year, have helped to undermine confidence in elections among broad swaths of the Republican Party.” [The Independent, 9/10/22]

2022: CNN: “Byrne Has Contributed to Marchant, Kristina Karamo...and...Tina Peters.” “And the America Project is among the donors to a political action committee, Conservatives for Election Integrity, overseen by Jim Marchant, the Republican nominee for Nevada secretary of state, who has said he would not have certified Biden's victory there and has led a campaign to encourage counties to ditch voting machines and instead hand count ballots. Individually, the Issue One report found -- and state records show -- that Byrne has contributed to Marchant; Kristina Karamo, the GOP nominee for Michigan secretary of state, and to Tina Peters, the Mesa County, Colorado, clerk and recorder, who lost the GOP nomination for Colorado secretary of state this year.” [CNN, 10/6/22]

Byrne Attended and Participated in Inaugural Meeting of America First Coalition. “The America First coalition held its inaugural meeting on May 1, 2021, at the Trump International Hotel Las Vegas. Participants in that meeting included MyPillow CEO Mike Lindell, Overstock.com founder Patrick Byrne, Claremont Institute founder Brian Kennedy, and Jim Hoft, who operates the far-right Gateway Pundit website, which promotes conspiracy theories and hoaxes. The coalition has endorsed more than a dozen candidates for secretary of state, all of whom have refused to accept the legitimacy of Biden's

victory in 2020 and have promised to dramatically restrict voting rights if elected.” [Center for Responsive Politics, 10/13/22]

- **The America Project Made Significant Contributions to Conservatives for Election Integrity.** “In addition to the individual candidates' campaigns, the America First coalition has an affiliated state-level PAC for fundraising Conservatives for Election Integrity. The PAC reported raising \$331,422 during the first six months of 2022, OpenSecrets' review of campaign finance records found. More than 40% of that total came from one donor the America Project, a far-right group co-founded last year by former Trump advisor and retired Gen. Michael Flynn and Byrne, a prominent election denier. The America Project helped fund Republican lawmakers' widely-criticized election review in Maricopa County, Ariz., last year. The group later contributed \$100,000 to a super PAC in Colorado that sought to boost Republican secretary of state candidate Tina Peters, an election denier who lost her primary.” [Center for Responsive Politics, 10/13/22]