

TRUE THE VOTE

True the Vote is a Houston-based, 501(c)(3) organization founded in 2009 by Catherine and Bryan Engelbrecht after Catherine Engelbrecht claimed she and a group of volunteers witnessed “blatant, undeniable acts of election fraud.” True The Vote is an offshoot of the Houston Tea Party group, King Street Patriots, which was also founded by Catherine Engelbrecht in 2009. Engelbrecht describes herself as having been “resolutely apolitical” until President Obama was elected in 2008, at which point she “saw our country headed in a direction that ...really threatens the future of our children.” True The Vote says it provides training and technology to citizens who want to “ensure election integrity in their own communities.” According to the *Los Angeles Times*, True The Vote recruits volunteers, “largely from tea party networks,” to scour voter lists, monitor the polls on election day and challenge the registration of voters they believe are dead or do not live at their listed addresses. True the Vote has a history of widespread voter intimidation and suppression, and has consistently targeted minority communities. The group has repeatedly promoted demonstrably false information on voter fraud, and has previously violated state campaign finance laws.

Key findings include:

True the Vote has been a national leader promoting allegations of voter fraud and election denial, attracting widespread scrutiny and complaints of voter intimidation and suppression, while utilizing methodology that has been found unreliable and false. Since 2010, True the Vote and its parent tea party group, King Street Patriots, have deployed hundreds of mostly white poll observers to minority neighborhoods where they have reportedly hovered over voters as they tried to cast their ballots, blocked lines of people waiting to vote and were “getting in election workers faces.” Since 2012, True the Vote has sued multiple states, including Ohio and Indiana, to try and force them to purge voter rolls, and the group defended Florida’s voter roll purging efforts that the Justice Department said violated the National Voter Registration Act. True the Vote has targeted college students in Alabama, Ohio and Wisconsin, attempting to make them verify addresses and remove students who failed to identify their dorm numbers, and disrupting campus polling stations. After a period of relative inactivity in the 2016 and 2018 election cycles, in 2020, True the Vote launched an aggressive campaign against mail-in voting in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. Catherine Engelbrecht has described the campaign against vote by mail as, “a spiritual battle” for “control of the free world.” True the Vote also filed lawsuits in four states seeking to overturn the results of the 2020 election after Trump loss. In 2022, a Wired review found True The Vote’s algorithm, which purportedly identified opportunities for voter fraud, utilized ineffective and unreliable methodology to determine who should remain on the rolls. According to the report, “experts say that the app weaponizes public data and is more likely to remove eligible voters from the rolls than it is to catch rampant fraud that doesn’t exist in this country.”

Dinesh D’Souza’s “2000 Mules” was co-produced by True the Vote’s Catherine Engelbrecht and Gregg Phillips, and prominently featured research done by the group. The film made numerous false and unsupported claims about the 2020 election. Based on TTV’s analysis of cellphone geotracking data and video surveillance footage of some drop boxes, the film concludes that at least 2000 ballot harvesters, or “mules” as the film calls them, were paid by nonprofits to illegally collect and deliver numerous mail-in ballots to drop boxes in numerous states including Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. Several news sources fact checked the claims in in the film. *The Washington Post* wrote, “there is no such empirical evidence, by a long shot” to support the film’s claim that rampant fraud occurred in the 2020 election. The Associated Press said 2000 Mules was based on “faulty assumptions, anonymous accounts and improper analysis of cellphone location data.”

After the film's release, True the Vote announced that it planned to "pull the ripcord" and release all of the data they collected to the public. In February 2024, True the Vote acknowledged that it had no evidence to support complaints it had filed in 2021 alleging ballot stuffing that were prominently featured in "2000 Mules." In a written response to a Fulton County Judge's order, the group said it had "no names or other documentary evidence to share," the Associated Press reported. In May 2024, Salem Media, which initially distributed the film, issued an apology to settle a defamation lawsuit brought by a Georgia man who the film falsely accused of depositing fraudulent votes in ballot drop boxes. True the Vote has not apologized and said that it stands by its claims – despite the earlier court ruling in which it could not provide evidence. The lawsuit against True the Vote and D'Souza is ongoing.

True the Vote has forged alliances with multiple fringe, right-wing organizations, including so-called "Constitutional Sheriffs" and adherents of the QAnon conspiracy theory. In July 2022, True the Vote leaders spoke at a conference in Las Vegas organized by the Constitutional Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association, which is part of an "antigovernment extremist movement," according to The Southern Poverty Law Center. At the conference, Engelbrecht said sheriffs have been receptive to her claims of voter fraud. "It's the sheriffs," she said, according to the New York Times. "That's who we can trust." True the Vote has worked with members of the movement including Pinal County, Ariz., Sheriff Mark Lamb and Barry County, Mich., Sheriff Dar Leaf. Alongside its work with the sheriffs, True the Vote also has collaborated with adherents of the QAnon conspiracy theory. In September 2022, Media Matters for America documented "True the Vote's extraordinary and blatant collaboration with QAnon figures to push election misinformation." True the Vote also has touted its work with Clean Elections USA, a now defunct group that deployed armed activists to watch ballot drop boxes in 2022 whose founder had espoused QAnon theories.

In 2016, True the Vote board member Gregg Phillips was revealed to be the source of Donald Trump's claim that he would have "won the popular vote if you deduct the millions of people who voted illegally." Phillips originally claimed that his completed analysis of voter registrations found the "number of non-citizens votes exceeded 3 million" and Donald Trump later reiterated this claim, tweeting, "Gregg Phillips and crew say at least 3,000,000 votes were illegal. We must do better!" PolitiFact rated the claim that "millions of people" voted illegally as false and *The Washington Post* wrote, "There's simply no available evidence that Phillips's claim was true." According to the *Associated Press*, Phillips, who described True the Vote's "amazing effort" of finding "thousands of duplicate records and registrations of dead people" is, himself, on the voter rolls in at least 3 states, Alabama, Texas and Mississippi, though records show he only voted in Alabama. As noted by the *Associated Press*, Trump has pointed to people who are registered in multiple states as evidence that voter fraud is rampant in the U.S. Asked if he was aware that he was registered to vote in multiple states, Phillips replied, "Why would I know or care?" True the Vote eventually dropped their plan to conduct a "national audit" of the 2016 vote citing a lack of resources to continue.

In 2021, a prominent conservative donor sued True the Vote after he came to believe the group had misspent \$2.5 million in donations. According to the Washington Post, North Carolina financier Fred Eshelman quickly came to regret his donation to the group after True the Vote failed to provide any evidence for its claims. Eshelman also alleged that much of the money he gave to the group ended up being routed to people or businesses connected to Engelbrecht. True the Vote eventually convinced a court to drop it from the lawsuit, arguing that Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton should probe Eshelman's allegations. Paxton, a previous guest on Engelbrecht's podcast, has been a "helpful ally" to True the Vote, *Reveal* reported in July, and his office did not say whether it had investigated the allegations. A Texas appeals court in November 2022 upheld a decision to dismiss the suit against True

the Vote but allowed Eshelman to continue pursuing claims against the group's lawyer, James Bopp Jr. In April 2022, the investigative journalism organization Reveal reported on a "series of questionable transactions that sent more than \$1 million combined to its founder, a longtime board member romantically linked to the founder and the group's general counsel." The investigation documented six-figure loans from True the Vote to Engelbrecht as well as nearly \$890,000 in payments to companies connected to her and Phillips from 2014 to 2022. In June 2023, the watchdog group Campaign for Accountability filed a complaint with the IRS requesting an investigation into True the Vote. It is unclear whether the IRS ever launched such an investigation.

BACKGROUND

Organization Type: 501c3

Website: [TrueTheVote.org](https://www.TrueTheVote.org)

Address: PO Box 3109 19128, Houston, TX 77253

YouTube: [True The Vote](https://www.youtube.com/TrueTheVote) (8.15K subscribers as of July 2024)

Twitter: [@TrueTheVote](https://twitter.com/TrueTheVote) (79.7K followers as of July 2024)

Facebook: [True The Vote](https://www.facebook.com/TrueTheVote) (56K followers as of July 2024)

True The Vote Said It Formed In 2009 After A Group Of Volunteers Witnessed “Blatant, Undeniable Acts Of Election Fraud.” “True the Vote was established in 2009, after a small group of volunteers worked at our local polls and witnessed firsthand both the need for well-trained election workers and blatant, undeniable acts of election fraud. Since then, we've continued to grow - and now we're a national organization, providing comprehensive, state-specific programs of education, research, and support for volunteers in all 50 states. We have empowered fellow citizens, increased public awareness, advocated for continued election improvements and reforms, and spoken out about the misleading messaging of those who insist voter fraud does not exist. It does.” [True the Vote website, accessed [4/12/17](#)]

True The Vote Was Founded By Catherine and Bryan Engelbrecht, Who Ran An Oil Firm In Texas. “True the Vote was founded by Catherine and Bryan Engelbrecht, a couple who run an oil field equipment manufacturing firm in Rosenberg, Texas.” [Los Angeles Times, [9/26/12](#)]

True The Vote Said It Provided Training, Technology, And Support To Citizens Who Wanted To Ensure Election Integrity In Their Communities. “As the nation’s largest nonpartisan, voters’ rights and election integrity organization, True the Vote exists to inspire and equip volunteers for involvement at every stage of America’s electoral process. We provide training, technology, and support to fellow citizens so that they can ensure election integrity in their own communities.” [True the Vote website, accessed [4/12/17](#)]

True The Vote Used Proprietary Software To “Accelerate The Process Of Challenging Voter Registration” And Claims Its Databases Will Eventually Contain All Voter Rolls In The Country. “True the Vote is now using proprietary software to accelerate the process of challenging voter registrations. It says its databases will ultimately contain all voter rolls in the country. Using computers, volunteers can check those rolls against driver’s license records, property records and other databases, turning the process into an assembly line production. But when True the Vote vetted petition signatures in Wisconsin’s recall election, the state’s Government Accountability Board reported that the process was ‘at best flawed.’ The group raised questions about thousands of signatures that the board deemed valid.” [New York Times, [9/16/12](#)]

LA Times: True The Vote Recruits Volunteers, “Largely Through Tea Party Networks,” To Scour Voter Lists, Monitor The Polls On Election Day, And Challenge The Voter Registrations. “Engelbrecht, a Texas tea party leader, has described True the Vote as an effort to prevent election fraud and clean up voter registration rolls. The group recruits volunteers, largely through tea party networks, to scour voter lists, challenge the registration of those they believe are dead or do not live at their listed address, and monitor the polls on Election Day.” [Los Angeles Times, 10/06/12]

True The Vote: Americans’ Growing Concern About Election Fraud “Jeopardizes Our Entire System Of Government.” “Our Republic flourishes when citizens are confident that their vote is free, fair, and secure. Yet, according to a recent survey 81% of Americans believe that election fraud is a very real problem. This growing concern jeopardizes our entire system of government, eroding our trust in elected leaders and undermining our confidence in the system by which they govern - beginning at the polls and rising up through the highest offices in the land.” [True the Vote website, accessed [4/12/17](#)]

Right Wing Watch: “True The Vote Is One Of The Most Influential Groups Working To Make It Harder To Vote.” “True the Vote is one of the most influential groups working to make it harder to vote by pushing for restrictive voter ID laws and launching challenges against people it thinks might be ineligible to vote, tactics which are supposedly directed at preventing voter impersonation fraud and double voting — crimes that in reality are exceedingly rare.” [Right Wing Watch, PFAW, [9/18/14](#)]

2013: True The Vote Launched 501(c)(4) Outfit, True The Vote NOW, To Help Give The Group “More Latitude” On Messaging. “If you were a fan of True The Vote’s the nonpartisan-ish poll-watcher training and voter roll checks as a 501(c)3 group, then you’re sure to love the new True The Vote NOW, their new 501(c)4 outfit. ‘There is a bigger need for messaging that extends beyond what a (c)3 can say,’ Engelbrecht said. ‘The solution is to start a (c)4 that will give us a little more latitude in our messaging.’ Just what that messaging will sound like, she left up to the imagination.” [Texas Observer, [1/23/13](#)]

- **April 2017: True The Vote Now’s Website Was Defunct.** [True the Vote Now website, accessed [4/26/17](#)]

Maryland True The Vote Volunteer: “We’re There So People Don’t Try To Do Anything Fishy.” “‘Just being in the poll and having a presence in the polling place is a deterrent,’ said Cathy Kelleher, a Maryland real estate agent who started poll watching and voter-roll inspection efforts after getting involved with True the Vote in 2011. ‘We’re there so people don’t try to do anything fishy.’ Voting rights groups say white poll watchers in minority areas can have a disenfranchising impact even if there’s no direct interaction, and as a result the debate has unfolded largely in a racial and partisan context.” [Washington Post, [8/25/12](#)]

True The Vote Poll Volunteer Said He Looked Out For Voters “Registered At Non-Residential Properties” And Reported Fellow Poll Workers Who “Might Be Improperly Influencing A Person’s Ballot.” “Michael Power, a True the Vote volunteer in Alabama contacted by ProPublica from a Tea Party Patriots group web page, said that his work involves looking out for ‘voters who are registered at non-residential properties, vacant lots, those types of things,’ or reporting fellow poll workers ‘who might be improperly influencing a person’s ballot.’ According to Power, voter rolls are purchased from the state, but also from ‘various companies that assemble records from the state,’ a strategy outlined here in this profile by ColorLines Magazine.” [ProPublica.org, State Journal-Register, [9/28/12](#)]

New York Times: Rumor Of Buses Carrying Dozens Of Unregistered Voters To Polling Places Was “Part Of The Election Fraud Gospel According To True The Vote.” “Catherine Engelbrecht, the group’s leader, told a gathering in July about buses carrying dozens of voters showing up at polling places during the recent Wisconsin recall election. ‘Magically, all of them needed to register and vote at the same time,’ Ms. Engelbrecht said. ‘Do you think maybe they registered falsely under false pretenses? Probably so.’ Weeks later, another True the Vote representative told a meeting of conservative women about a bus seen at a San Diego polling place in 2010 offloading people ‘who did not appear to be from this country.’ [...] The buses are part of the election fraud gospel according to True the Vote, which is mobilizing a small army of volunteers to combat what it sees as a force out to subvert elections. Ms. Engelbrecht’s July speech in Montana was titled ‘Voter Fraud: The Plot to Undermine American Democracy.’” [New York Times, [9/16/12](#)]

- **New York Times: “It Might As Well Be Harry Potter’s Invisible Knight Bus, Because No One Can Prove It Exists.”** “It might as well be Harry Potter’s invisible Knight Bus, because no one can prove it exists. The bus has been repeatedly cited by True the Vote, a national group focused on voter fraud.” [New York Times, [9/16/12](#)]
- **Officials In Both San Diego And Wisconsin Had No Evidence That The Buses Were Real.** “Officials in both San Diego and Wisconsin said they had no evidence that the buses were real. ‘It’s so stealthy that no one is ever able to get a picture and no one is able to get a license plate,’ said Reid Magney, a spokesman for the Wisconsin agency that oversees elections. In some versions the bus is from an Indian reservation; in others it is full of voters from Chicago or Detroit. ‘Pick your minority group,’ he said.” [New York Times, [9/16/12](#)]

2013: True The Vote Claimed It Uncovered More Than 348,000 Deceased People On Voter Rolls In 27 States. “Backers say the project, which kicked off this summer, responds to what they call ‘voter suppression’ efforts by states acting at the urging of two groups: The American Legislative Exchange Council, which promotes conservative causes to state legislatures, and True The Vote, which backs voter ID laws and seeks to stop voter fraud. True the Vote claims it uncovered more than 348,000 dead people on the rolls in 27 states, including 30,000 in Florida. Catherine Engelbrecht, president of the Texas-based conservative group, calls the Voting Rights Project a ‘misguided’ effort to divide the electorate. ‘People want to be able to vote and know that their vote has integrity and that it will be counted,’ she said.” [USA Today, [12/04/13](#)]

True the Vote Was an Early Participant in Groundswell, a Group Founded by Ginni Thomas. “Since the founding of the nation, no spouse of a sitting Supreme Court justice has been as overt a political activist as Ginni Thomas. In addition to her perch at the Council for National Policy, she founded a group called Groundswell with the support of Stephen K. Bannon, the hard-line nationalist and former Trump adviser. It holds a weekly meeting of influential conservatives, many of whom work directly on issues that have come before the court. [...] Among the early Groundswell participants was Russell J. Ramsland Jr., an influential Texas-based backer of evidence-free voting-fraud claims who would make a failed congressional run. So was James O’Keefe, the founder of Project Veritas, a right-wing group that has used deception and hidden cameras to try to buttress claims of voter fraud. Another participant was Catherine Engelbrecht, a Texas activist who in 2009 founded True the Vote, a group that says it is battling ‘groups who subvert our elections to serve their own purposes’ and has pushed for voting restrictions.” [The New York Times Magazine, [2/22/22](#)]

TEA PARTY ROOTS

True The Vote Began As An Offshoot Of A Houston Tea Party Group Called King Street Patriots.

“The afternoon before early voting began in the 2010 midterm elections, a crowd of people gathered in the offices of a Houston Tea Party group called the King Street Patriots. [...] The King Street Patriots, as they called themselves, started by scrutinizing voter rolls, ostensibly to weed out ineligible voters, dead people, and duplicate entries. But because the activists focused on addresses with six or more registered voters, poor people and minorities tended to attract the most scrutiny. [...] Then came the 2010 midterms. Under the banner of an offshoot organization called True the Vote, the Patriots dispatched hundreds of observers to minority neighborhoods in and around Houston, where they gathered more than 800 complaints of improper voting.” [The Atlantic, [October 2012](#)]

True The Vote Was Originally Called KSP/True The Vote, But Changed Its Name To True The Votes Inc. In August 2011. “Originally called KSP/True the Vote, the group filed in July 2010 for tax-exempt status as a 501(c)(3) charity organization. In August 2011, the group changed its name to True the Vote Inc.; King Street Patriots has separately been seeking the 501(c)(4) status from the IRS. True the Vote has come under fire for intimidating African-American and other minority voters at the polls.” [Washington Post, [5/21/13](#)]

King Street Patriots Was Founded By Catherine Engelbrecht In 2009. “‘It is not about party or politics; it is about principle,’ Ms. Engelbrecht said. While she portrays True the Vote as nonpartisan, it grew out of a Tea Party group, King Street Patriots, that she founded in Texas. An examination shows that it has worked closely with a variety of well-financed organizations, many unabashed in their desire to defeat President Obama.” [New York Times, [9/16/12](#); Texas Observer, [2/03/11](#)]

New York Times: While True The Vote Poses As Nonpartisan, “It Grew Out Of A Tea Party Group, King Street Patriots.” “In a report this month, the liberal-leaning organizations Common Cause and Demos cited True the Vote as the central player in this effort, which it called a threat to the fundamental right to vote. ‘It is not about party or politics; it is about principle,’ Ms. Engelbrecht said. While she portrays True the Vote as nonpartisan, it grew out of a Tea Party group, King Street Patriots, that she founded in Texas. An examination shows that it has worked closely with a variety of well-financed organizations, many unabashed in their desire to defeat President Obama.” [New York Times, [9/16/12](#)]

PREPARATION FOR 2024 ELECTION

September 2022: NYT Profile: Engelbrecht “was ahead of her time” promoting election conspiracies. “In 2011, Catherine Engelbrecht appeared at a Tea Party Patriots convention in Phoenix to deliver a dire warning. While volunteering at her local polls in the Houston area two years earlier, she claimed, she witnessed voter fraud so rampant that it made her heart stop. People cast ballots without proof of registration or eligibility, she said. Corrupt election judges marked votes for their preferred candidates on the ballots of unwitting citizens, she added. Local authorities found no evidence of the election tampering she described, but Ms. Engelbrecht was undeterred. ‘Once you see something like that, you can’t forget it,’ the suburban Texas mom turned election-fraud warrior told the audience of 2,000. ‘You certainly can’t abide by it.’ Ms. Engelbrecht was ahead of her time. Many people point to the 2020 presidential election as the beginning of a misleading belief that widespread voter fraud exists. But more than a decade before Donald J. Trump popularized those claims, Ms. Engelbrecht had started

planting seeds of doubt over the electoral process, becoming one of the earliest and most enthusiastic spreaders of ballot conspiracy theories.” [New York Times, [9/14/22](#)]

- **GOP allies including Cleta Mitchell have cut ties with Engelbrecht.** “Some of Ms. Engelbrecht’s former allies have cut ties with her. Rick Wilson, a Republican operative and Trump critic, ran public relations for Ms. Engelbrecht in 2014 but quit after a few months. He said she had declined to turn over data to back her voting fraud claims. ‘She never had the juice in terms of evidence,’ Mr. Wilson said. ‘But now that doesn’t matter. She’s having her uplift moment.’ Cleta Mitchell, Ms. Engelbrecht’s former attorney and now a lawyer for Mr. Trump, and John Fund, a conservative journalist, told Republican donors in August 2020 that they could no longer support Ms. Engelbrecht. They said that her early questions on voting were important but that they were confounded by her recent activities, according to a video of the donor meeting obtained by The New York Times. They did not elaborate on why. ‘Catherine started out and was terrific,’ said Ms. Mitchell, who herself claims the 2020 election was stolen from Mr. Trump. ‘But she got off on other things. I don’t really know what she’s doing now.’” [New York Times, [9/14/22](#)]

March 2024: NYT profiled “network of right-wing activists” preparing to challenge election results, including True the Vote. “The Michigan activists are part of an expansive web of grass-roots groups that formed after Mr. Trump’s attempt to overturn his defeat in 2020. The groups have made mass voter challenges a top priority this election year, spurred on by a former Trump lawyer, Cleta Mitchell, and True the Vote, a vote-monitoring group with a long history of spreading misinformation. ... A federal court in January found that the 2021 challenges, which were largely organized by True the Vote, did not amount to voter suppression. Catherine Engelbrecht, the group’s leader, has said the organization intends to ramp up the campaign ahead of the November election. To do so, Ms. Engelbrecht has been promoting new software programs. One will ‘eclipse’ the database used by most state officials, she said in a recent online meeting. Another is designed to help citizens file challenges on their own.” [New York Times, [3/3/24](#)]

VOTER FRAUD CLAIMS AND KEY ACTIONS

Houston Chronicle: True the Vote is “Somewhat Notorious for Making Overly Sweeping Claims About Voter Fraud”. “True the Vote, founded in 2009, is somewhat notorious for making overly sweeping claims about voter fraud, which is rare, in reality, though not nonexistent. In 2016 one of the group’s board members, Gregg Phillips, asserted that his team had identified some 3 million votes cast by non-citizens—a figure that completely defies belief, but one which was nonetheless repeatedly cited by Trump, who was elected in 2016 after losing the popular vote.” [Houston Chronicle, 12/09/20]

Common Cause Issued Warning That True The Vote’s Poll Watcher Training Guide Contained Harmful Errors That Could Lead To Voter Intimidation. “In the final days before the November 6 election, two of the more controversial organizations working to prevent fraud and help enforce laws are spreading misinformation that could lead to voter intimidation throughout the state. That’s the charge of Common Cause, an organization that’s issued warnings about True the Vote (whose voter’s guide, on view below, includes the illustration seen here) and Colorado Voter Protection. [...] This week, Common Cause, a left-leaning advocacy group that has clashed with Gessler on different issues this election season, sent a letter to Gessler, Colorado Attorney General John Suthers and U.S. Attorney John Walsh, alerting them to what they believe are a series of potentially harmful errors in True the

Vote's 'Colorado Poll Watcher Training' guide. The 47-page document, which says, 'Advocate free and fair elections in 2012!' on its front page, features information for poll watchers." [Westword, [11/02/12](#)]

- **Colorado Common Cause Director Elena Nuñez: "It's A Real Concern That They Are Training Their Poll Watchers With Incorrect Information About Colorado Law."** "The letter from Common Cause, also seen below, goes point-by-point through different rules and laws suggested in the pamphlet, arguing how the instructions are misleading and, in some cases, downright incorrect. 'It's a real concern that they are training their poll watchers with incorrect information about Colorado law,' says Elena Nuñez, executive director of Colorado Common Cause. 'We could see challenges that are not allowed in Colorado law that could create a threatening or intimidating environment at the polls.'" [Westword, [11/02/12](#)]

Cincinnati Enquirer: True The Vote Pushed For Tougher Voter ID Laws, Voter Registration Purges And Other Initiatives Viewed As Voter Suppression Efforts "The activities of groups such as True the Vote - which has pushed for tougher voter ID laws, voter registration purges and other initiatives that African-American leaders view as voter suppression efforts - and the allied Ohio Voter Integrity Project are particularly troubling, they say. Non-partisan, or very? Mary Siegel, an Indian Hill resident and leader of the Ohio Voter Integrity Project, insists the group's efforts 'inside or outside the polls ... are not at all partisan,' but rather aimed simply at promoting 'a fair, smooth election in which everyone follows all the rules.'" [Cincinnati Enquirer, 10/31/12]

True The Vote Criticized For Strategy Of Deploying "Mostly White" Poll Watchers To Polling Places Serving Mostly Black And Minority Voters. "True the Vote has said it is mobilizing one million poll watchers to go to voting places across the country. The problem, critics said, is that those watchers are mostly white and many of the polling places they target serve mostly black or minority voters. In 2010, people in Texas complained that poll watchers who were affiliated with True the Vote were being overly aggressive and intimidating. According to Douglas Ray, the senior assistant county attorney for Harris County, Texas, the county where Engelbrecht lives, there were several complaints of True the Vote volunteers being disruptive to voters." [ABC News, [11/02/12](#)]

- **Voting Rights Groups Said White Poll Observers In Minority Areas Can Have A Disenfranchising Effect Even If There Is No Direct Interaction.** "Engelbrecht's poll watchers claimed to have witnessed election workers telling voters how to vote in Houston in 2010 and submitted 800 reports of irregularities to the Harris County Clerk's office in Houston. Nothing came of the complaints. 'Just being in the poll and having a presence in the polling place is a deterrent,' said Cathy Kelleher, a Maryland real estate agent who started poll watching and voter-roll inspection efforts after getting involved with True the Vote in 2011. 'We're there so people don't try to do anything fishy.' Voting rights groups say white poll watchers in minority areas can have a disenfranchising impact even if there's no direct interaction, and as a result the debate has unfolded largely in a racial and partisan context." [Washington Post, [8/25/12](#)]

Lawyers Committee For Civil Rights Under Law: True The Vote Has "Targeted Purposefully African American And Latino Polling Places." "Voting-rights advocates point with particular concern to the tea party-linked True the Vote organization, which has pledged to dispatch thousands of monitors to polling places to guard against potential voter fraud. 'We know they have targeted purposefully African-American and Latino polling places,' said Barbara Arnwine of the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. 'Right now in several states American voters' ability to vote is in jeopardy.'" [Associated Press, [11/06/12](#)]

Texas Harris County Attorney Douglas Ray Said He Saw Maps At True The Vote Offices Detailing The Group’s Intention To Target Specific Minority Areas. “In 2010, people in Texas complained that poll watchers who were affiliated with True the Vote were being overly aggressive and intimidating. According to Douglas Ray, the senior assistant county attorney for Harris County, Texas, the county where Engelbrecht lives, there were several complaints of True the Vote volunteers being disruptive to voters. Ray said he went to the True the Vote offices and saw push pins on a map that he interpreted as the group’s intention to target specific minority areas. This year, he said, his office has already received complaint calls about True the Vote volunteers at early voting locations. The county attorney’s office directed ‘Nightline’ to an early voting location in Houston where there were Caucasian poll watchers in a predominantly African-American neighborhood, where citizens have already begun to complain.” [ABC News, [11/02/12](#)]

- **VIDEO: Asked If There Was A Racial Component To True The Vote’s Targeting, Ray Said: “It Does Appear That There Was.”** In an interview with ABC News, Dan Harris asked Douglas Ray: “So what did you find? We’re these people being disruptive?” RAY: “Some of them were being very disruptive.” HARRIS: “Was there a racial component here?” RAY: “Well, I hate to attach that, but it does appear that there was that.” [ABC News, YouTube, uploaded [11/01/12](#)]

Huffington Post: True The Vote Faced Accusations That “Its Hunt For Voter Fraud Is Tantamount To Organized Voter Intimidation.” “True The Vote has come under fire lately for appearing to focus its energies largely on minority voters. Last week, ABC News reported that True The Vote had been taking minority voters in Cincinnati to court to force them to prove the validity of their registration, and had plans to send observers to minority-heavy polling areas to confront voters on Election Day. As far back as 2010, the group faced accusations — and even a Department of Justice investigation — into reports that its hunt for voter fraud is tantamount to organized voter intimidation.” [Huffington Post, [11/06/12](#)]

Training Session Attendee True The Vote Allegedly Instructed Observers To Use Cameras To Intimidate Voters Entering A Polling Place, Behavior That Violated State Election Laws. “One person told the elections board that she attended True the Vote training sessions and the observers were instructed to use cameras to intimidate voters when they enter the polling place, record their names on tablet computers and send them to a central location, and attempt to stop questionably qualified voters before they could get to a voting machine. ‘You’re going to have problems galore,’ she warned. Board members reassured her that such activity would violation elections law and poll workers would prohibit that kind of behavior. On its Web site today, True the Vote has set up a ‘national election integrity hotline’ and urges viewers, ‘if you see something at the polls that just doesn’t seem right, RECORD IT.’” [Columbus Dispatch, [11/06/12](#)]

2010 Election: True The Vote “Dispatched Hundreds Of Observers To Minority Neighborhoods” Around Houston And Gathered Over 800 Complaints Of Improper Voting. “Then came the 2010 midterms. Under the banner of an offshoot organization called True the Vote, the Patriots dispatched hundreds of observers to minority neighborhoods in and around Houston, where they gathered more than 800 complaints of improper voting. Their efforts made national headlines, and phone calls and e-mails began pouring in from activists around the country who wanted to join the cause. With a presidential election looming, Engelbrecht decided that it was time to take the fight nationwide. Last

year, at True the Vote's first annual summit, she urged attendees to carry the mantle of 'voter integrity-- back to their home regions by forming spin-off groups." [The Atlantic, [October 2012](#)]

King Street Patriots Trained Hundreds Of Poll Watchers "Most Of Them White, Well-Off Suburbanites," To Look For Voting Irregularities In Mostly Minority Precincts. "In 2009, Engelbrecht founded the King Street Patriots, a Tea Party group in Harris County that trained hundreds of volunteer poll-watchers- most of them white, well-off suburbanites like Engelbrecht- to look for voting irregularities, mostly in minority precincts. The group's efforts to, in their phrase, 'True the Vote,' led to fierce battles with progressive get-out-the vote groups and the New Black Panthers. It also led to lawsuits, investigations, complaints and a national media spotlight." [Texas Observer, 2/4/11]

- **Voting Rights Groups Said White Poll Observers In Minority Areas Can Have A Disenfranchising Effect Even If There Is No Direct Interaction.** "Engelbrecht's poll watchers claimed to have witnessed election workers telling voters how to vote in Houston in 2010 and submitted 800 reports of irregularities to the Harris County Clerk's office in Houston. Nothing came of the complaints. 'Just being in the poll and having a presence in the polling place is a deterrent,' said Cathy Kelleher, a Maryland real estate agent who started poll watching and voter-roll inspection efforts after getting involved with True the Vote in 2011. 'We're there so people don't try to do anything fishy.' Voting rights groups say white poll watchers in minority areas can have a disenfranchising impact even if there's no direct interaction, and as a result the debate has unfolded largely in a racial and partisan context." [Washington Post, [8/25/12](#)]
- **Texas Observer: Complaints About Voter Intimidation By King Street Patriots' Poll Watchers Came "Fast And Furious."** "King Street's collaboration with the ethically challenged Vasquez turned Engelbrecht into a Tea Party celebrity. In October, when Engelbrecht dispatched hundreds of King Street volunteers as poll-watchers in many of the same minority precincts during early voting, she became Texas' most influential Tea Party organizer. Complaints about voter intimidation by the King Street 'watchers' came fast and furious. U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, a Houston Democrat and member of the Congressional Black Caucus, asked Justice Department election monitors to come to Houston, which they did." [Texas Observer, 2/4/11]
- **King Street Patriots Poll Watchers Poured Into Black And Hispanic Neighborhoods Around Houston, "Hovering Over Voters, Blocking Lines Of People Who Were Trying To Cast Ballots."** "The next day, King Street Patriots--'many of them aging white suburbanites--'poured into polling places in heavily black and Hispanic neighborhoods around Houston, looking for signs of voter fraud. Reports of problems at the polls soon began surfacing in the Harris County attorney's office and on the local news. The focus of these reports was not fraud, however, but alleged voter intimidation. Among other things, poll observers were accused of hovering over voters, blocking lines of people who were trying to cast ballots, and, in the words of Assistant County Attorney Terry O'Rourke, 'getting into election workers' faces.'" [The Atlantic, [October 2012](#)]

Washington Post: Activities Of True The Vote And The King Street Patriots Have Prompted Two Lawsuits And A State Ethics Complaint In Texas Since 2009. "The activities of the King Street Patriots and True the Vote have attracted two lawsuits and a state ethics complaint in Texas since 2009. In a lawsuit brought by the Texas Democratic Party, a judge ruled in March that True the Vote was acting as a political action committee, violating state campaign finance law by providing illegal

contributions to the Republican Party in the form of trained poll watchers and Republican-only candidate forums. Texas Democratic Party general counsel Chad Dunn said he doesn't buy the group's grass-roots image. 'Nobody gets to know what they are doing,' he told News21. 'They are the one and only political operation in Texas that isn't disclosing its donors.'" [Washington Post, [8/25/12](#)]

RACIAL UNDERCURRENTS IN TRUE THE VOTE'S STRATEGY

True The Vote's National Director Said His Goal Was To Train "Watchers" Who Would Make Poll Workers And Voter Feel As If They Were "Driving And Seeing The Police Following You." "At an August summit in the Columbus suburb of Worthington, the national elections director of True the Vote, a conservative Texas-based group, said his goal was to train 'watchers' who this fall would make poll workers and voters feel like 'when you're ... driving and seeing the police following you.'" [Cincinnati Enquirer, 10/31/12]

2020: True The Vote Attempted To Recruit Military Veterans To Serve As "Poll Monitors" In Areas With Large Numbers Of Minority Voters. "They also point to a meeting in February attended by conservative political luminaries and at least one national Republican Party official, sponsored by the Center for National Policy, a group of conservative power brokers. The topic was voter fraud and 'ballot security' operations, particularly in inner cities and areas with Native American populations, according to The Intercept, which published excerpts from a recording of the meeting. One group represented at that meeting, Texas-based True the Vote, is recruiting military veterans to become poll monitors. The group, an offshoot of a Houston Tea Party branch, was scrutinized by local prosecutors after its first poll-monitoring effort in 2012 sparked complaints of voter intimidation. The group's founder, Catherine Engelbrecht, told the gathering that Democrats could inundate the polls with phony votes. 'The swarming tactics of a radicalized socialist mind-set,' she warned, 'is a dangerous thing to behold.' The group did not respond to a request for comment." [New York Times, [5/18/20](#)]

- **Engelbrecht Suggested Using Retired Navy Seals To Combat Democratic "Mob Rule" At Polling Places.** "Engelbrecht gave a lengthy presentation at the strategy meeting. True the Vote, Engelbrecht said, intends on rolling out a new phone-based app and other tools to monitor precincts in battleground states this year for alleged fraud. 'This is an absolute front-line fight. Around every corner, you find a new way to cheat this process,' said Engelbrecht. Democrats, she warned, would use 'mob rule' to siege elections with fraudulent votes. 'The swarming tactics of a radicalized socialist mindset is a dangerous thing to behold.' 'Of interest here, we have a new initiative called 'Continue to Serve,' which is about recruiting veterans and first responders to work inside the polls' she said, before suggesting that former Navy Seals should be tapped to watch the polls. 'You want to talk about people who understand and respect law and order and chain of command.'" [The Intercept, [4/11/20](#)]
- **True The Vote Is Actively Recruiting Police Officers And Former Military Officers To Serve As Poll Watchers.** "True The Vote has since released appeals on its website, along with a sign-up form, to recruit police officers and former military to serve as poll watchers. 'My brothers spilled their blood on the battlefield so people can vote their beliefs,' said Ed "Iron" Hiner, a retired Navy Seal and volunteer with True the Vote, in a recorded message promoting the effort. Hiner, who has been outspoken in the press in support of Eddie Gallager, the Navy Seal accused of murdering a prisoner and attempted murder of civilians in Iraq, described the poll watching program as a continuation of service for members of the military. 'Once you get

out and retire like I did, there's a hole, there's something, you're used to having a mission,' said Hiner, speaking next to Engelbrecht in the video." [The Intercept, [4/11/20](#)]

2010: True The Vote Posted A Video On Its Website About Voter Fraud Featuring Only People Of Color. "In 2010, True the Vote posted a video on its website about voter fraud, in which only people of color were featured. 'White people are shown talking patriotically about the need for a million vigilantes to suppress illegal votes,' noted Glenn Smith for the Rag Blog. 'True the Vote's video is well produced. Participants speak in calm and knowing tones, disguising the racist agenda behind their project.'" [Brattleboro Reformer, 2/13/14]

True The Vote Senior Adviser Anita MonCrief: "There's A High-Level Of Fraud Coming Out Of The African American Communities" "During the meeting, Anita MonCrief, True the Vote's senior adviser, unleashed her vitriol at what she said was a coalition of voter registration groups, accusing them of 'doing voter fraud since at least the early '90s,' she said. 'And these groups target minority areas. Why? Because it's so much easier to go work in those areas where they say people have been forgotten or they don't have a voice. Then, when anybody pays a little bit of attention to the fact that there's a high level of fraud coming out of the African-American communities, they say: 'Oh, you're a racist. You don't want black people to vote,'" said Ms. MonCrief, who is black. 'Vote fraud deniers is what I call them.' [New York Times, [9/16/12](#)]

True The Vote: Updating The Voting Rights Act Would "Exclude Millions Of Americans...Based Solely On The Color Of Their Skin" And Turn Our Elections Over To Eric Holder And Obama. "In a fundraising email today, the voter-fraud mavens at True the Vote claim that a proposed bipartisan update to the Voting Rights Act is in fact a 'move toward race-based segregation' that would 'exclude millions of Americans from the full protection of the law — based solely on the color of their skin' and 'turn our elections over to Eric Holder and Barack Obama.' [...] The proposed formula, like its predecessor, would require states and counties with a history of voting restrictions targeting minority voters to obtain preclearance from the Justice Department before changing their voting laws. The preclearance provision, enacted to stop rampant Jim-Crow-era racial discrimination at the polls has for decades helped stem attempts to disenfranchise minority voters. But according to True the Vote founder Catherine Engelbrecht, the very fact that the Voting Rights Act and the proposed coverage update are meant to stop racial discrimination at the polls means that they are the product of 'race baiters' who want to 'divide voters into color blocks for partisan gain' and 'move toward race-based segregation.'" [Right Wing Watch, [6/11/14](#)]

True The Vote: Obama's Immigration Executive Order, DAPA, A "Clear Violation" Of The Constitution That Will Affect The "Legitimacy Of Our Voter Rolls." "Following President Obama's announcement to unilaterally shield 5 million noncitizens from federal immigration laws requiring deportation, conversations involving unintentional (and even intentional) consequences are beginning around the country. Of particular concern for True the Vote is the challenge this federal action presents for states as they administer public assistance and resource programs – and the effect of the legitimacy of our voter rolls. True the Vote founder Catherine Engelbrecht did not hold anything back in her condemnation of the action Thursday: 'The President's unilateral order for amnesty will force five million illegal aliens into programs and processes that heretofore were reserved for American citizens. This is a clear violation of the United States Constitution and should carry with it no protection of supremacy. The States -- our governors and legislators -- must now act swiftly to protect and defend American citizens from the lawlessness of a dangerously deluded federal government,' True the Vote founder Catherine Engelbrecht said." [True the Vote, [11/21/14](#)]

True The Vote Accused The Government Of “An Open-Borders Approach To Voting.” “An election-integrity group accused the federal government of ‘an open-borders approach to voting’ amid conflicting reports on the citizenship status of a man charged in a deadly mall shooting. Washington state records show Arcan Cetin was registered to vote in 2014 and participated in three election cycles, including the May presidential primary. Initially reported as a noncitizen, Cetin was described on Friday as a naturalized U.S. citizen. On Twitter, the 20-year-old Turkish immigrant bragged about voting for Hillary Clinton. True the Vote said the confusion highlights problems with election integrity. Noting competing federal sources quoted in local media, True the Vote spokesman Logan Churchwell said: ‘Since it looks like the Keystone Cops are enforcing federal immigration laws in Washington state, this whole episode only proves TTV’s underlying point further: We must have citizenship verification in voter registration.’” [Town Hall, [9/29/16](#)]

2022: True the Vote Accused Election Software CEO of Secret Ties to Chinese Government

August 2022: At “The Pit” event, True the Vote accused an election software company of secret ties to China. “At an invitation-only conference in August at a secret location southeast of Phoenix, a group of election deniers unspooled a new conspiracy theory about the 2020 presidential outcome. Using threadbare evidence, or none at all, the group suggested that a small American election software company, Konnech, had secret ties to the Chinese Communist Party and had given the Chinese government backdoor access to personal data about two million poll workers in the United States, according to online accounts from several people at the conference.... Ms. Engelbrecht and Mr. Phillips claimed at the conference and in livestreams that they investigated Konnech in early 2021. Eventually, they said, the group’s team gained access to Konnech’s database by guessing the password, which was ‘password,’ according to the online accounts from people who attended the conference. Once inside, they told attendees, the team downloaded personal information on about 1.8 million poll workers.” [New York Times, [10/3/22](#)]

September 2022: Federal judge issued restraining order against True the Vote, ordering it not to use stole data. “Judge Kenneth Hoyt issued a restraining order against True the Vote, writing that preventing the group from using potentially stolen information to push voter fraud claims ‘would in fact benefit the public’s expectation of integrity in the U.S. election process.’ It’s the latest trouble for True the Vote, a Houston nonprofit that has become one of the nation’s most prominent pushers of election fraud claims. The group and its founders have also been accused of misusing donations, including millions given by a North Carolina businessman who later sued saying the group did not follow through on its promise to use the cash to uncover evidence of election fraud. The order is in response to a lawsuit from the Michigan-based elections software firm Konnech Inc., which claims that True the Vote and its leaders, Catherine Engelbrecht and Gregg Phillips, defamed the company and its founder Eugene Yu.” [Houston Chronicle, [9/16/22](#)]

October 2022: Authorities arrested software exec targeted by True the Vote. “The top executive of an elections technology company that has been the focus of attention among election deniers was arrested by Los Angeles County officials in connection with an investigation into the possible theft of personal information about poll workers, the county said on Tuesday. Eugene Yu, the founder and chief executive of Konnech, the technology company, was taken into custody on suspicion of theft, the Los Angeles County district attorney, George Gascón, said in a statement. ... Konnech came under scrutiny this year by several election deniers, including a founder of True the Vote, a nonprofit that says it is devoted to uncovering election fraud. True the Vote said its team had downloaded personal information

on 1.8 million American poll workers from a server owned by Konnech and hosted in China. It said it obtained the data by using the server's default password, which it said was 'password,' according to online accounts from people who attended a conference about voter fraud where the claims were made. The group provided no evidence that it had downloaded the data, saying that it had given the information to the Federal Bureau of Investigation." [New York Times, 10/4/22]

- **True the Vote said it was “honored to have played a small role” in the investigation.** “True the Vote is honored to have played a small role in what must have been a wide ranging and complex investigation. The organization is profoundly grateful to the Los Angeles District Attorney’s office for their thorough work and rapid action in this matter.... According to True the Vote Founder Catherine Engelbrecht, ‘Election integrity should not be a partisan issue, nor should media try to suppress all conversation about it in a way that benefits one party. We will continue to report evidence of threats to our election process and work with law enforcement to ensure our elections are a secure space for all American voters.’” [PR Newswire, [10/4/22](#)]

October 2022: True the Vote leaders claimed to be FBI informants. “The founder and a contractor for a Houston nonprofit testified under oath last week that they were former FBI confidential informants who worked alongside law enforcement during a 16-month investigation into a software company they allege shared election poll worker data with the Chinese government.... On the witness stand, Engelbrecht and Phillips said they were confidential informants for the FBI who were told by two special agents to take ‘the nuclear option’ and go public about their roles in the data hack and how it contributed to Yu’s arrest Oct. 4 for the possible theft of personal identifying information of Los Angeles County election poll workers.” [Austin American-Statesman, 10/31/22]

October 2022: True the Vote leaders jailed for contempt for refusing to identify source of Chinese hacking claims. “The leaders of True the Vote, an organization that has spread unfounded claims questioning the results of the 2020 election, were taken into custody Monday morning after a federal judge in Texas ruled them in contempt of court. Founder Catherine Engelbrecht and former board member Gregg Phillips were escorted by federal marshals out of a Houston courthouse and into a holding cell following the judge’s decision. The order marked the latest twist in a defamation case brought last month by Konnech, an election software company that True the Vote claimed allowed the Chinese government to have access to a server in China that held the personal information of nearly 2 million U.S. election workers. Konnech has vigorously disputed the claim. The judge overseeing the case, U.S. District Judge Kenneth Hoyt, had ordered Engelbrecht and Phillips to reveal the name of a person who allegedly helped True the Vote access Konnech’s computer systems. When they declined to meet the court’s 9 a.m. deadline, the judge found them in contempt. The pair have claimed, without evidence, that the person who helped them was a confidential FBI informant.” [Washington Post, [10/31/22](#)]

- **They were released one week later.** “A federal appeals court released two members of a Houston-based election conspiracy group Monday after they spent one week in detention for contempt, according to the nonprofit’s spokesperson. The duo were jailed because they’d refused to tell a federal judge the name of a man they said is a confidential FBI informant, said Brian Glicklich, spokesperson for True the Vote attorney Michael Wynne. Catherine Engelbrecht, founder of True the Vote, and contractor Gregg Phillips testified that confidential FBI informants had been investigating Konnech Inc. True the Vote officials accused Konnech of sharing the personal data of nearly 2 million U.S. election workers with the Chinese government.” [Houston Chronicle, 11/9/22]

- **Engelbrecht claimed she spent four days in solitary confinement.** “True the Vote founder Catherine Engelbrecht – who was jailed with colleague Gregg Phillips for refusing to disclose a confidential source in a probe of alleged foreign interference in U.S. elections – says she was put in solitary confinement for four days in a cinder block cell, with a light always on and a ‘glass partition’ allowing her to be watched while she showered and used the bathroom. Engelbrecht and Phillips were ordered jailed without bond in Houston, Texas, by U.S. District Judge Kenneth Hoyt. The two were released one week later after a panel on the U.S. Court of Appeals overruled the order. ‘It was a very eye-opening experience, how prisoners are treated,’ Engelbrecht said in an interview with Gateway Pundit founder Jim Hoft.” [World Net Daily, 11/20/22]

November 2022: Los Angeles County suspended deputy DA who relied on True the Vote claims to prosecute software exec. “A Los Angeles County deputy district attorney has been placed on administrative leave for his role in the questionable prosecution of a Michigan software executive that may have been sparked by conspiracy theorists who deny the validity of the 2020 presidential election. Deputy Dist. Atty. Eric Neff’s leave comes in the wake of Dist. Atty. George Gascon’s decision to drop charges against Eugene Yu, chief executive of Michigan-based Konnech, according to three sources with knowledge of the situation. ... During his initial news conference, Gascon did not mention that his office’s investigation was sparked by a conversation with one of the founders of True the Vote, a Texas-based nonprofit that has fomented conspiracy theories about the 2020 presidential election.” [Los Angeles Times, 11/23/22]

- **Phillips claimed he played a “small role” in probe.** “The extent of True the Vote’s involvement in the district attorney’s office investigation remains unclear; co-founder Gregg Phillips initially claimed that he played a ‘small role.’ Gascon did not acknowledge True the Vote’s involvement in the case at his initial news conference but days later issued a statement confirming that a ‘report’ from Phillips had sparked the investigation. In sworn testimony in the Texas defamation case, Phillips said he was first contacted by Neff in July. Phillips said a district attorney’s office investigator was present at an August event hosted by True the Vote that was dubbed ‘the Pit.’ ... The district attorney’s office has previously sought to downplay True the Vote’s role in the investigation. It remains unclear if prosecutors used any evidence provided by the group or if Phillips testified before a grand jury that returned an indictment against Yu earlier this year. Phillips has said under oath that he testified before an L.A. grand jury. He and the group’s leader, Catherine Engelbrecht, testified that they spoke repeatedly with officials in the district attorney’s office over the summer.” [Los Angeles Times, 11/23/22]

April 2023: Software company withdrew defamation lawsuit against True the Vote. “An election management software company withdrew a lawsuit last week that accused a Houston-based conservative nonprofit of making slanderous statements about the software company’s work during the 2020 election. The company reserved the right to refile the federal case at a later date. The suit had a brief and tumultuous history on the Houston docket. In late October, True the Vote leaders testified that they had learned concerning information about the software company from FBI agents. The federal judge pressed the conservative leaders to disclose more of the details of their accusations. He then held the founder and a contractor for the conservative group in contempt and ordered them to serve time in jail. Then in February, the federal judge recused himself. On April 19, Konnech Inc., a Michigan-based company specializing in election logistic software, asked the newly assigned judge to dismiss the case ‘without prejudice’ against True the Vote. The company is also withdrawing its case against Catherine

Engelbrecht, the organization’s founder, and contractor Gregg Phillips, according to court documents.” [Houston Chronicle, 4/27/23]

- **True the Vote: Lawsuit was “meritless and intended to harass.”** “In a statement posted April 20 to True the Vote’s Twitter, the group called Konnech’s lawsuit ‘meritless and intended to harass.’ ‘They have failed,’ the statement said. ‘We are evaluating our options with regard to holding them accountable for their unwarranted actions. We believe Konnech dismissed its lawsuit because it saw that it would lose.’” [Houston Chronicle, 4/27/23]

January 2024: Los Angeles County agreed to pay \$5M to settle a lawsuit brought by election software executive. “Los Angeles County agreed to pay \$5 million to the top executive of an election software company who had been arrested and charged in 2022 with mishandling voter data in a case that prosecutors dropped a few weeks later, the executive’s lawyer said this week. The payment, which settles a lawsuit filed last year, is yet another twist for Eugene Yu, 66, the co-founder of the software company Konnech. Mr. Yu and his company faced a barrage of right-wing conspiracy theories after the 2020 election including that Konnech, which is based in Michigan, had stored election data in China.” [Los Angeles Times, [1/25/24](#)]

Engelbrecht And King Street Patriots Orchestrated Racially-Motivated Attack On Houston Votes, Resulting In The Group Being Shut Down.

2010: King Street Patriots And Catherine Engelbrecht Falsely Claimed Voting Rights Group “Houston Votes” Was Affiliated With The New Black Panther Party And Tied To Racially-Charged Comments About White People. “By that summer, Houston Votes had come to the attention of the King Street Patriots, a Houston-based tea party group. At the group’s regular meeting in Houston, its leader, Catherine Engelbrecht, talked about the New Black Panther Party. She then played a Fox news clip of an unidentified black man saying: ‘We have to exterminate white people off the face of the planet.’ The clip was 5 years old. It came from a forum in Washington about media coverage of Hurricane Katrina. But after the clip ended, Engelbrecht showed a picture of a house in Houston. She said it was the office of the New Black Panthers, at Main and Dowling streets. Dowling Street is infamous for a 1970 gun battle between police officers and African-American militants, one of whom was killed. ‘Houston has a new neighbor,’ Engelbrecht said. She added that a person outside the house appeared to be an employee of Houston Votes. The house shown on the screen was the office of Houston Votes. It had nothing to do with the New Black Panther Party. And it was about 9 miles from Dowling Street.” [Dallas Morning News, [8/30/14](#)]

- **Houston Votes Was Formed By Nonprofit Group Texans Together, A Community Organizing Group Whose President Was Fred Lewis. The Groups Helped Register Voters.** “[...] according to Fred Lewis, president of Texans Together, the nonprofit parent group of Houston Votes. [...] Fred Lewis formed Texans Together in 2006. The nonprofit community organizing group used volunteers to register voters in 2008 under the name Houston Votes. It registered only about 6,000 people that year. For the next big election, in 2010, Lewis wanted to register 100,000 new voters in Harris County. He knew he couldn’t hit that number with volunteers. Houston Votes decided to use paid workers.” [Dallas Morning News, [8/30/14](#)]
- **King Street Patriots Held Second Meeting Where Former County Assessor Paul Bettencourt Compared Houston Votes To ACORN And The Next Day, Bettencourt’s Successor Held News Conference Accusing Houston Votes Of Orchestrating A “Systematic**

Attack” On County Voter Rolls. “Two weeks later, the King Street Patriots held another meeting. Paul Bettencourt, the former Harris County tax assessor-collector, was a guest speaker. He said Houston Votes was worse at registering voters than ACORN, the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now. Dozens of ACORN employees across the nation were convicted of voter registration fraud. The next day, Bettencourt’s successor as tax assessor-collector, fellow Republican Leo Vasquez, held a news conference. ‘The integrity of the voter roll of Harris County, Texas, appears to be under an organized and systematic attack by the group operating under the name ‘Houston Votes,’ he said. Houston Votes had submitted about 25,000 voter registration applications. Vasquez said many were duplicates, or already registered. Only 7,193 were ‘apparently new voters,’ he said.” [Dallas Morning News, [8/30/14](#)]

- **Claims Against Houston Votes Led Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott To Open A Criminal Investigation Against The Group.** “Houston Votes later pointed to public records showing that at the time of the news conference, about 21,000 of the 25,000 who applied to register were already validated by the county and pending final approval by the secretary of state. Among those 21,000, the state had already given final approval to 7,193. Vasquez announced he was referring the matter for ‘investigation and possible prosecution’ to the Texas secretary of state and the Harris County district attorney. The secretary of state, who advises local election officials on election laws, forwarded Vasquez’s information to the attorney general’s office on Sept. 14, 2010. Abbott’s office opened a criminal investigation soon after. A month before the 2010 general election, Engelbrecht spoke at a tea party rally in The Woodlands. She called Harris County ‘ground zero’ in the election.” [Dallas Morning News, [8/30/14](#)]
- **Two Weeks After Investigation Opened, Attorney General’s Office Raided Offices Of Texans Together, Houston Votes’ Parent Group; Shortly After, Houston Votes Shut Down And Funding For Texans Together Plummeted By More Than \$760,000.** “Abbott’s office opened a criminal investigation soon after. [...] Nearly two weeks later, agents from the attorney general’s office entered the wood-frame and brick headquarters of Lewis’ group on Houston’s north side. On Nov. 30, they raided the Austin office of Texans Together. Here, also, Abbott’s officers seized computers and records involving the voter registration drive. [...] Shortly after the attorney general’s raids on Texans Together, its affiliate, Houston Votes, shut down. Most of its employees quit. The allegations of voter registration fraud that led to the raids also appeared to drive donors from Texans Together. Its funding declined from \$1.2 million in 2010 to \$432,942 the next year, according to the group’s tax returns. Last year’s budget was about \$518,000.” [Dallas Morning News, [8/30/14](#)]
- **Investigation Was Closed One Year After The Raid, With No Charges Filed And Houston Votes’ Property And Records Were Destroyed By The Attorney General’s Office.** “The investigation was closed one year after the raid, with no charges filed. But for Houston Votes, the damage was done. Its funding dried up, and its efforts to register more low-income voters ended. Its records and office equipment never were returned. Instead, under a 2013 court order obtained by Abbott’s office, they were destroyed.” [Dallas Morning News, [8/30/14](#)]
- **Engelbrecht Said She Was Disappointed With The Outcome Of The Investigation.** “Four years after the raids, Engelbrecht, the head of the King Street Patriots, said she stands behind her statement at the 2010 rally in Harris County: ‘If we lose Houston, we lose Texas and if we lose Texas, we lose the nation.’ That, she said, is why the county needs to ‘keep the voter rolls clean.’ She expressed disappointment with the outcome of the Houston Votes investigation. But because

of secrecy around the probe, she said she didn't know whether Abbott's office or the Harris County district attorney took a 'hard look' at the allegations. 'In many respects, it was the classic sound and fury signifying nothing,' she said." [Dallas Morning News, [8/30/14](#)]

True The Vote, An Anti-Voter Fraud Initiative Of The King Street Patriots, Recruited Poll Watchers And "Amped Up Fears" Over Groups Like ACORN. "Harris County, the biggest county in the state, is where a Tea Party group called the King Street Patriots launched an anti-voter fraud initiative called 'True the Vote,' which recruited poll watchers and amped up fears over groups like the community organizing group ACORN." [Talking Points Memo, [10/20/10](#)]

2022: BUILT RELATIONSHIPS WITH "CONSTITUTIONAL SHERIFFS," QANON ADHERENTS

July 2022: True the Vote worked with "Constitutional Sheriffs" to investigate alleged election fraud. "An influential network of conservative activists fixated on the idea that former President Donald J. Trump won the 2020 election is working to recruit county sheriffs to investigate elections based on the false notion that voter fraud is widespread.... The three sheriffs gathered with a few hundred others at a forum this month in Las Vegas hosted by the Constitutional Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association. Attendees included leaders of True the Vote, a group whose work spreading discredited theories of mass voter fraud inspired the conspiratorial film '2000 Mules'; Mike Lindell, the Trump ally and MyPillow chief executive; and other prominent figures in the 2020 election-denial movement. ...Attempts to interview Mr. Lamb, who has not announced local investigations into election issues, were unsuccessful. Discussing his partnership with True the Vote at a Trump rally in Arizona on Friday, he said sheriffs would do more to hold people accountable for violating election laws. 'We will not let happen what happened in 2020,' he said. For conservative activists focused on voter fraud, an alliance with law enforcement seemed natural. True the Vote initially approached state and federal law enforcement agencies with its election claims, but did not provide sufficient evidence to warrant an investigation, officials said. In partnership with Protect America Now, the group has now raised \$100,000 toward a goal of \$1 million for grants to sheriffs for more video surveillance and a hotline to distribute citizen tips. True the Vote's executive director, Catherine Engelbrecht, said in a speech at the Las Vegas event that in sheriffs, she had found a receptive audience for her claims. 'It's the sheriffs,' she said. 'That's who we can trust.'" [New York Times, [7/25/22](#)]

- **Southern Poverty Law Center: Constitutional sheriffs "are devoted members of an antigovernment extremist movement that believes sheriffs are the highest authority in the country."** "A smattering of county sheriffs across the U.S. tested the limits of democracy in 2022, with an assist from extremist law enforcement groups. These constitutional sheriffs are devoted members of an antigovernment extremist movement that believes sheriffs are the highest authority in the country, above even the president. They usurp the duties of the Supreme Court by personally deciding which U.S. laws are legitimate and whether to enforce them. These sheriffs are actively damaging the nation's rule of law and attempting to shape the U.S. into a country where fringe law enforcement officers determine what human, civil and property rights they will enforce." [SPLC, [6/6/23](#)]

September 2022: Media Matters: True the Vote collaborated with QAnon influencers. "True the Vote, a conservative organization that's known for pushing false claims of widespread voter fraud and that was behind the debunked film 2000 Mules, has actively collaborated with QAnon influencers, promising to act as a liaison between them and law enforcement and using them to target an election

software company in Michigan. True the Vote's collaboration with QAnon influencers is a significant development when it comes to the QAnon community's ongoing influence in the election denier movement. Media Matters has previously reported on the community's close associations with election denial efforts; one QAnon influencer is even involved with a coalition recruiting and electing election-denialist secretary of state candidates. A Media Matters investigation into True the Vote's extraordinary and blatant collaboration with QAnon figures to push election misinformation — including during repeated appearances on QAnon-supporting shows and the group's 'The Pit' event that included many QAnon figures — reveals the community's connection with the election denial movement taken to a new level. Most recently, a software company targeted by True the Vote and its QAnon collaborators has sued the group, claiming defamation and saying its founder has left his home due to death threats. True the Vote's leaders claimed the FBI refused to look at their supposed evidence against the company, so they turned their findings over to QAnon-supporting 'citizen researchers.'" [Media Matters for America [9/15/22](#)]

October 2022: Votebeat Arizona: True the Vote worked with Clean Elections USA, part of a “coordinated fast-growing national effort” to monitor polls. “The drop box watchers are part of a coordinated fast-growing national effort with thousands of volunteers who say they want to help try to collect evidence of people illegally depositing others' ballots during the midterm election, according to a Votebeat review of internal discussions among group organizers, internal contact lists, and posts and videos on right-wing media sites.... Representatives of True the Vote and Clean Elections USA have openly talked about their partnership on videos posted online and other communications aimed at supporters, but True the Vote's involvement has drawn little notice outside of that.” [Votebeat Arizona, [10/27/22](#)]

- **4,500 volunteers shared data with True the Vote, sheriffs.** “With early voting underway for the Nov. 8 election, more than 4,500 people have signed up across the country to monitor drop boxes or help otherwise with the effort calling itself Clean Elections USA, which is then feeding photos, videos and information to True the Vote. For its part, True the Vote has said it plans to give that information to local sheriffs through an organization founded by Pinal County Sheriff Mark Lamb, according to the videos and discussions reviewed by Votebeat.... True the Vote has a partnership with Protect America Now, a sheriffs' organization created by Lamb, the Pinal County sheriff. The groups' partnership, as explained on [protectamerica.vote](#), aims to 'provide local Sheriffs with the training, resources and tools to have real-time eyes on voting in their county.' Sixty-eight sheriffs have signed on, according to the organization's website.” [Votebeat Arizona, [10/27/22](#)]

May 2023: Engelbrecht said “freedom won” after Arizona judge allowed ballot box monitoring to continue. “A settlement has been reached in a lawsuit brought by the League of Women Voters of Arizona that alleged people congregating near and surveilling ballot drop boxes during the 2022 midterm elections were intimidating voters. ... True the Vote financially supported Jennings throughout the lawsuit and is behind the debunked film '2,000 Mules,' which states without proof that widespread ballot harvesting occurred during the 2020 presidential election. The conspiracy film inspired many of Arizona's ballot drop box monitors to participate in photographing early voters at the boxes.... Catherine Engelbrecht, president of True the Vote, framed the settlement as 'a win' for free speech and assembly. 'Today, freedom won,' she said in a statement.” [Arizona Republic, [5/24/23](#)]

August 2023: Watchdog group obtains records of True the Vote communication with Michigan sheriff. “On Thursday, American Oversight announced that it had reached a settlement agreement with

Barry County [Mich.] Sheriff Dar Leaf in a lawsuit that successfully forced the sheriff's office to release numerous records of its communications with prominent election deniers and to abandon its claim to a 'law enforcement' exemption. ... The records included copies of communications between Leaf and Engelbrecht, as well as an August 2022 email in which Leaf shared information with four other county sheriffs about a joint meeting with Engelbrecht and 'Greg' from True the Vote, likely referring to director Gregg Phillips. For years, Engelbrecht and True the Vote have spread lies about widespread voter fraud, trained poll watchers to intimidate voters at the polls, and pushed for restrictive voter-ID laws." [American Oversight, [8/3/23](#)]

2022: CO-PRODUCED FILM THAT CAST DOUBT ON THE 2020 ELECTION RESULTS

May 2022: A Film Called "2000 Mules" Was Released That Used Research from True the Vote to Claim Democrat-Aligned Ballot 'Mules' Were Paid to Illegally Collect and Drop Off Ballots in Battleground States. "A film debuting in over 270 theaters across the United States this week uses a flawed analysis of cellphone location data and ballot drop box surveillance footage to cast doubt on the results of the 2020 presidential election nearly 18 months after it ended. Praised by former President Donald Trump as exposing 'great election fraud,' the movie, called '2000 Mules,' paints an ominous picture suggesting Democrat-aligned ballot 'mules' were supposedly paid to illegally collect and drop off ballots in Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. But that's based on faulty assumptions, anonymous accounts and improper analysis of cellphone location data, which is not precise enough to confirm that somebody deposited a ballot into a drop box, according to experts. The movie was produced by conservative filmmaker Dinesh D'Souza and uses research from the Texas-based nonprofit True the Vote, which has spent months lobbying states to use its findings to change voting laws." [Associated Press, [5/03/22](#)]

True the Vote's Catherine Engelbrecht and Gregg Phillips Co-Produced the Film. "For '2,000 Mules,' D'Souza teamed up with True The Vote. The group's executive director, Catherine Engelbrecht, and one of its board members, Gregg Phillips, feature prominently in the film. They are also credited as executive producers. After the 2020 presidential election, True The Vote said it purchased a trove of geolocation data obtained from electronic devices. Marketers often use that kind of data for targeted advertising, and privacy advocates have raised alarms about just how much information companies are collecting and selling." [NPR, [5/17/22](#)]

True the Vote Said it Discovered the 2000 Ballot Harvesters by Purchasing \$2 Million Worth of Cellphone Geolocation Data. "True the Vote has said it found some 2,000 ballot harvesters by purchasing \$2 million worth of anonymized cellphone geolocation data — the 'pings' that track a person's location based on app activity — in various swing counties across five states. Then, by drawing a virtual boundary around a county's ballot drop boxes and various unnamed nonprofits, it identified cellphones that repeatedly went near both ahead of the 2020 election. If a cellphone went near a drop box more than 10 times and a nonprofit more than five times from Oct. 1 to Election Day, True the Vote assumed its owner was a 'mule' — its name for someone engaged in an illegal ballot collection scheme in cahoots with a nonprofit." [Associated Press, [5/03/22](#)]

The Film Also Featured Video Surveillance Footage of Some Ballot Drop Boxes But the Film Doesn't Show Any Person On Camera Going to Multiple Dropboxes. "The film also features video surveillance footage of some ballot dropboxes. But, as D'Souza himself has acknowledged, the film does not show any person on camera going to multiple dropboxes. So the film primarily relies on their

claims about geotracking data, which D’Souza has argued are ‘more reliable than video footage.’” [NPR, [5/17/22](#)]

Associated Press: TTV’s Claims of a Paid Balloting Scheme Are Supported Only by One Unidentified Whistleblower Said to be From San Luis, Arizona. “The group’s claims of a paid ballot harvesting scheme are supported in the film only by one unidentified whistleblower said to be from San Luis, Arizona, who said she saw people picking up what she ‘assumed’ to be payments for ballot collection. The film contains no evidence of such payments in other states in 2020.” [Associated Press, [5/03/22](#)]

Washington Post: True the Vote Doesn’t Allege that the Ballots Themselves Were Fraudulent But that the Process was Abused. “What’s more, even True the Vote doesn’t allege that the ballots themselves were fraudulent. When the website Just the News first covered the Georgia story, it noted that True the Vote was not making such a claim. When two True the Vote representatives testified in front of a Wisconsin legislative committee, the group’s Catherine Engelbrecht said so publicly. ‘I want to make very clear that we’re not suggesting that the ballots that were cast were illegal ballots,’ she said. ‘What we’re saying is that the process was abused.’ It’s the difference between making and selling a product legally and having someone smuggle that product into another country without your realizing it.” [The Washington Post, [5/11/22](#)]

The Washington Post: There is an Investigation Based on True the Vote’s Research in Georgia Into Whether Laws Were Broken. “There is an investigation based on True the Vote’s research in Georgia into whether laws were broken. But it’s not looking at voter fraud, it’s looking at whether ballots were collected and submitted in violation of the state’s ballot-harvesting prohibition. In fact, Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger (R) has been explicit: ‘Those are still lawful ballots,’ he said in an interview, ‘but they’ve just been handled fraudulently with, obviously, the ballot harvesting.’ Maybe! If that’s proved.” [The Washington Post, [5/11/22](#)]

True the Vote’s Lead Expert for the Film, Gregg Phillips, Gained National Attention After the 2016 Election for Claiming that Millions of Votes Were Cast Illegally. “True the Vote’s lead expert on this project is Gregg Phillips. Phillips gained some national attention in the weeks after the 2016 election when he claimed that millions of votes had been cast illegally (a claim Trump quickly elevated). He never provided any evidence, and, of course, there’s no reason to think that occurred. But this is his position: Rampant fraud occurs. This is the lens through which he considers the evidence. We might therefore be unsurprised that he found what he was looking for.” [The Washington Post, [5/11/22](#)]

The Washington Post: 2000 Mules Was Shown at Trump’s Mar-a-Lago Club and Has Become a Focal Point in Ongoing Efforts to Deny the Legitimacy of the 2020 Election. “True the Vote has raised its profile significantly in recent weeks by collaborating with conservative commentator Dinesh D’Souza on a film that alleges there was widespread ‘ballot harvesting’ in the 2020 election. The film, ‘2000 Mules,’ was shown at Trump’s Mar-a-Lago Club last month and has become a focal point of ongoing efforts to deny the legitimacy of the election. Several such claims were dismissed this week by the Georgia State Elections Board, casting doubt on the premise of the movie.” [The Washington Post, [5/20/22](#)]

PolitiFact: “The movie is based on research by Texas-based True the Vote, a national conservative organization founded in 2010 that has spread misinformation in the past.” [PolitiFact, [5/04/22](#)]

TTV Planned to “Pull the Ripcord” and Release All the Data They Collected for the Film

True the Vote Planned to Perform a Massive Data Dump, Code-Named “Ripcord,” So That All of the Information True the Vote Collected Will be Publicly Available. “The film’s findings are based a review of more than 4 million minutes of ballot drop box surveillance film obtained via public records requests and analysis of a large trove of cell phone geotracking data. True the Vote, a nonprofit organization focused on election integrity issues, obtained the data and retained an investigator, Gregg Phillips, to oversee the analysis. Likely knowing that the fact checkers were going to be out in force immediately to attack the credibility of the film and the data presented therein, Engelbrecht set up a plan to have investigator Phillips perform a massive data dump they’ve code-named ‘ripcord’ so all of the information True the Vote has will be publicly accessible.” [RedState, [5/09/22](#)]

Breitbart: Ripcord is Expected to Provide Further Proof to the Public About True the Vote’s Work. “At the end of the movie, viewers are shown a QR code that, upon being scanned, will direct them to True The Vote’s website, where Engelbrecht and Phillips discuss releasing all of the GPS data they used to make their analysis and all of the raw footage — in the coming weeks. That plan, which they call ‘Ripcord,’ is expected to further provide more proof to the public about the group’s work on this front.” [Breitbart, [5/05/22](#)]

August 2022: True the Vote promised to share additional “2000 Mules” data at “The Pit,” a symposium it organized in Arizona, but it did not release geolocation data. “This month, True the Vote held a symposium in Arizona called ‘The Pit,’ where Phillips promised to roll out ‘devastating’ findings, including ‘the part that was left out of the movie.’ The proceedings were livestreamed on the Right Side Broadcasting Network. But in lieu of a big reveal, Engelbrecht and Phillips announced they were putting up a new website that would include surveillance video taken at drop boxes and documents from various election lawsuits—but not the geolocation data that was the basis for the film’s allegations. And that, they said, would be a wrap on 2000 Mules. ‘The end of Mules!’ Engelbrecht exclaimed. ‘End scene. We’re done.’” [Texas Monthly, [8/22/22](#)]

Fact Checkers on the Film

Associated Press: The Film is Based on “False Assumptions About the Precision of Cellphone Tracking Data and the Reasons That Someone Might Drop Off Multiple Ballots, According to Experts.” “Here’s a closer look at the facts. CLAIM: At least 2,000 ‘mules’ were paid to illegally collect ballots and deliver them to drop boxes in key swing states ahead of the 2020 presidential election. THE FACTS: True the Vote didn’t prove this. The finding is based on false assumptions about the precision of cellphone tracking data and the reasons that someone might drop off multiple ballots, according to experts. ‘Ballot harvesting’ is a pejorative term for dropping off completed ballots for people besides yourself. The practice is legal in several states but largely illegal in the states True the Vote focused on, with some exceptions for family, household members and people with disabilities.” [Associated Press, [5/03/22](#)]

- **Associated Press: Scheme Alleged in D’Souza’s Film “Has Not Been Proven, Nor Do These Researchers Have Any Way of Knowing Whether Any Ballots That Were Collected Contained Votes For Trump or For Biden. There’s No Evidence a Massive Ballot Harvesting Scheme Dumped a Large Amount of Votes for One Candidate Into Drop Boxes”.** “CLAIM: If it weren’t for this ballot collection scheme, former President Donald Trump would have had enough votes to win the 2020 election. THE FACTS: This alleged scheme has

not been proven, nor do these researchers have any way of knowing whether any ballots that were collected contained votes for Trump or for Biden. There's no evidence a massive ballot harvesting scheme dumped a large amount of votes for one candidate into drop boxes, and if there were, it would likely be caught quickly, according to Derek Muller, a law professor at the University of Iowa. 'Once you get just a few people involved, people start to reveal the scheme because it unravels pretty quickly,' he said." [Associated Press, [5/03/22](#)]

- **Associated Press: 2000 Mules is Based on “Faulty Assumptions, Anonymous Accounts and Improper Analysis of Cellphone Location Data”.** “Praised by former President Donald Trump as exposing ‘great election fraud,’ the movie, called ‘2000 Mules,’ paints an ominous picture suggesting Democrat-aligned ballot ‘mules’ were supposedly paid to illegally collect and drop off ballots in Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. But that’s based on faulty assumptions, anonymous accounts and improper analysis of cellphone location data, which is not precise enough to confirm that somebody deposited a ballot into a drop box, according to experts.” [Associated Press, [5/03/22](#)]

The Washington Post: “There is No Such Empirical Evidence, By a Long Shot” to Support the Film’s Claim that Rampant Fraud Occurred in the 2020 Election. “By the end, the pundits have been convinced that rampant fraud occurred, with former Trump administration official Sebastian Gorka outlining all of the evidence that had been presented ‘empirically’ in support of the claim. There is no such empirical evidence, by a long shot. That geolocation data from Phillips and Engelbrecht’s group, True the Vote, which also has executive-producer credits on the film, is used as a purportedly data-driven latticework on which everything else hangs. But beyond lots of harrumphing about how revealing this data is, we see very little of it.” [The Washington Post, [5/11/22](#)]

- **The Washington Post: True the Vote “Obtained a Large Amount of Anonymized Cellphone Geolocation Data and Tried to Figure Out How Often Individual Phones Appeared Near Drop Box Sites Or Near Those Nonprofit Groups. By Itself, This is a Dubious Approach.”** “The theory that Phillips and Engelbrecht present is that nonprofit organizations employed people to collect ballots and then drop them into drop boxes in various cities. They call this ‘ballot trafficking,’ a term meant to connote illegality akin to the transport of narcotics. The people carrying the ballots, then, become ‘mules’ and the nonprofit groups ‘stash houses.’ To test this theory, they obtained a large amount of anonymized cellphone geolocation data and tried to figure out how often individual phones appeared near drop box sites or near those nonprofit groups. By itself, this is a dubious approach.” [The Washington Post, [5/11/22](#)]
- **The Washington Post: “What Appears to Have Happened is Not that True the Vote Found ‘Mules’ and Then Placed Them at Drop Boxes Using Governmental Video Surveillance. Instead, the Group Appears to Be Trying to Imply Overlap Between Two Large, Distinct Data Sets — One with Dots on a Map and One with Unusual-Looking Activity at Drop Boxes.”** “One segment of the movie shows a man depositing multiple ballots in a county in Georgia. But there’s a trivial — and legal — answer, as the Atlanta Journal-Constitution’s Mark Niesse reported: He was dropping off ballots for his family, which he’s allowed by law to do. That the film does not even try to show that man making any geolocated visits to other drop boxes should by now not need to be mentioned. What appears to have happened is not that True the Vote found ‘mules’ and then placed them at drop boxes using governmental video surveillance. Instead, the group appears to be trying to imply overlap between two large, distinct

data sets — one with dots on a map and one with unusual-looking activity at drop boxes.” [The Washington Post, [5/11/22](#)]

- **The Washington post: True the Vote’s Claim is “Wildly Misleading.” Police Arrested a Suspect After He Turned Himself In... “There is No Indication That Geolocation Data Played A Role in Either Arrest, Much Less Data Provided By Phillips’s Team.”** “But looking at the case more closely, you see how the impression you’re meant to have is wildly misleading. The shooting led to the death of Secoria Turner on July 4, 2020. It was far from a ‘cold case’ — police arrested a suspect about two weeks later after he turned himself in. A second suspect was arrested in early August 2021 — not by federal law enforcement but by state officials. There is no indication that geolocation data played a role in either arrest, much less data provided by Phillips’s team. In other words, D’Souza is elevating shaky, misrepresented, incomplete claims to bolster his rhetoric — as I said, an apt summary of the movie overall.” [The Washington Post, [5/11/22](#)]

NPR: Claim in 2000 Mules That True the Vote Helped Solve a Murder “is False” and When Contacted by NPR, True the Vote Acknowledged that They Contacted Law Enforcement Months After Authorities Already Arrested the Suspects, “Meaning it Played No Role in Those Arrests or Indictments.” “A conservative ‘election integrity’ group called True The Vote has made multiple misleading or false claims about its work, NPR has found, including the suggestion that they helped solve the murder of an eight-year-old girl in Atlanta. The claims appear in a new pro-Trump film called ‘2,000 Mules,’ which purports to have ‘smoking gun’ evidence of massive voter fraud in the 2020 election in the form of digital device location tracking data. Former president Donald Trump has embraced the film, which has gained popularity on the political right, along with the claim about the murder case. Trump’s official spokesperson, Liz Harrington, said True The Vote ‘solved a murder of a young little girl in Atlanta. I mean, they are heroes.’ Fans of the film have echoed that message on social media. That claim is false. Authorities in Georgia arrested and secured indictments against two suspects in the murder of Secoria Turner in August 2021. In response to NPR’s inquiries, True The Vote acknowledged it had contacted law enforcement more than two months later, meaning it played no role in those arrests or indictments.” [NPR, [5/17/22](#)]

- **NPR: D’Souza and True the Vote Claimed They Used Data from ACLED to Conclude that “Mules” Participated in Antifa Riots... ACLED Told NPR That the Film’s Claim Was “Categorically False” ... “This is Not the Type of Analysis You Can Use ACLED Data For, and It Is Highly Unlikely That These Conclusions Have Any Basis in Fact.”** “In an interview promoting ‘2,000 Mules,’ D’Souza said that True The Vote had even obtained information showing that the ‘mules’ participated in Antifa rioting. ‘There is an international organization called ACLED [Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project] that monitors the cell phones of all violent rioters around the world,’ D’Souza said on the Dan Bongino Show. ‘What True The Vote did was they took the cell phone data on the mules and matched it against the ACLED data on the rioters. And guess what? There’s a pretty big overlap.’ In the film, Phillips also cites ACLED, which is a nonprofit research organization. ‘There’s an organization that tracks the device IDs across all violent protests around the world. We took a look at our 242 mules in Atlanta and, sure enough, dozens and dozens and dozens of our mules show up on the ACLED databases,’ Phillips says in the film. ‘This is not grandma out walking her dog, these are, you know, violent criminals sometimes.’ ACLED told NPR both claims are categorically false. ‘This is not the type of analysis you can use ACLED data for, and it is highly unlikely that these conclusions have any basis in fact,’ said Sam Jones, senior communications manager at ACLED.

‘This is not what we do - we do not track device IDs,’ Roudabeh Kishi, the director of research and innovation at ACLED, told NPR in an interview.” [NPR, [5/17/22](#)]

Legal Fallout

October 2022: Georgia man sued True the Vote, “2000 Mules” producers over false ballot fraud claim. “A Georgia man and his family ‘have faced threats of violence and live in fear’ since the movie ‘2000 Mules’ falsely accused him of ballot fraud during the 2020 election, according to a federal lawsuit. The widely debunked film includes surveillance video showing Mark Andrews, his face blurred, depositing five ballots in a drop box in downtown Lawrenceville, a suburb northeast of Atlanta. A voiceover by conservative pundit and filmmaker Dinesh D’Souza says: ‘What you are seeing is a crime. These are fraudulent votes.’... The lawsuit names D’Souza and True the Vote, as well as the organization’s executive director Catherine Engelbrecht and Gregg Phillips, who has served on its board. Both Engelbrecht and Phillips appear throughout the film and served as executive producers and producers, the lawsuit says.” [Associated Press, 10/28/22]

August 2023: Georgia man’s libel suit over “2000 Mules” went to trial. “False accusations of voter fraud smeared an Atlanta-area auditor who was shown in the conspiracy movie ‘2000 Mules’ when he legally delivered five absentee ballots for his family, his lawyers said in federal court Thursday. A federal judge considered the defamation lawsuit hours before Donald Trump, who has said he would use the movie in his defense against racketeering charges, turned himself in 4 miles away at the Fulton County Jail. The lawsuit by Mark Andrews says ‘2000 Mules’ damaged his reputation and intimidated him by using a clip from surveillance video as the narrator says: ‘What you are seeing is a crime. These are fraudulent votes.’” [Atlanta Journal Constitution, 8/26/24]

- **True the Vote attorneys claimed film was “opinion.”** “Attorneys for the defendants, which include conservative moviemaker Dinesh D’Souza and True the Vote, said they were stating an opinion that’s protected by the First Amendment’s freedom of speech protections. ‘The film is opinion, based on disclosed facts,’ said Joseph Larsen, who represents True the Vote, a Texas-based organization that collaborated on the movie.” [Atlanta Journal Constitution, 8/26/24]

February 2024: True the Vote admitted it had no evidence to back up Georgia ballot stuffing claims. “A conservative group has told a Georgia judge that it doesn’t have evidence to support its claims of illegal ballot stuffing during the 2020 general election and a runoff two months later. Texas-based True the Vote filed complaints with Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger in 2021, including one in which it said it had obtained ‘a detailed account of coordinated efforts to collect and deposit ballots in drop boxes across metro Atlanta’ during the November 2020 election and a January 2021 runoff. A Fulton County Superior Court judge in Atlanta signed an order last year requiring True the Vote to provide evidence it had collected, including the names of people who were sources of information, to state elections officials who were frustrated by the group’s refusal to share evidence with investigators. In their written response, attorneys for True the Vote said the group had no names or other documentary evidence to share.” [Associated Press, [2/14/24](#)]

- **Allegations were central to “2000 Mules”** “True the Vote’s assertions were relied upon heavily for ‘2000 Mules,’ a widely debunked film by conservative pundit and filmmaker Dinesh D’Souza. A State Election Board investigation found that surveillance camera footage that the film claimed showed ballot stuffing actually showed people submitting ballots for themselves and family members who lived with them, which is allowed under Georgia law. The election

board subpoenaed True the Vote to provide evidence that would assist it in investigating the group's ballot trafficking allegations.” [Associated Press, [2/14/24](#)]

May 2024: Salem Media apologized to Georgia man falsely shown stuffing ballot boxes in “2000 Mules.” “The film features surveillance video of the man from Georgia, Mark Andrews, as he places ballots into a drop box near Atlanta, along with voice-over commentary by Mr. D’Souza calling the action ‘a crime’ and adding, ‘These are fraudulent votes.’... Mr. Andrews sued Mr. D’Souza, along with Salem and two individuals associated with the right-wing election-monitoring group True the Vote, for defamation in October 2022. State investigators in Georgia have since found that Mr. Andrews committed no crime and that he had legally deposited the ballots for himself and several members of his family. ‘It was never our intent that the publication of the ‘2,000 Mules’ film and book would harm Mr. Andrews,’ Salem said in a statement on Friday. ‘We apologize for the hurt the inclusion of Mr. Andrews’s image in the movie, book and promotional materials have caused Mr. Andrews and his family.’” [New York Times, [5/31/24](#)]

- **True the Vote has refused to apologize.** “Notably, the apology came only from Salem; True the Vote didn’t sign on. In a statement about Salem’s apology and retraction, True the Vote said, ‘It is true that Salem is no longer in the case, but their departure does not change our position.’ The group said it stood by the methodologies and claims in the film, despite having admitted earlier this year in a Georgia court filing that it had no evidence to support many of those claims. True the Vote’s statement said that Salem’s apology is ‘gleefully being spread by the legacy media.’” [Votebeat, [6/10/24](#)]

Andrews agreed to remove Salem Media as a defendant in his defamation suit, but he has continued to press his case against D’Souza, True the Vote, Engelbrecht and Phillips. [U.S. District Court Northern District of Georgia (Atlanta) CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 1:22-cv-04259-SDG, accessed 7/23/24]

2022: TESTIFIED BEFORE STATE LEGISLATURES ON VOTER FRAUD CLAIMS

March 2022: True the Vote’s Catherine Engelbrecht and Gregg Phillips Testified Before the Pennsylvania Senate on Claims of Ballot Harvesting and Voter Fraud in the State. “A Senate State Government Committee hearing invited a well-known proponent of voter fraud to testify on a bill concerning election integrity and reform. [...] Also testifying was Gregg Phillips, who has testified in Wisconsin and other states raising the possibility of voter fraud in elections. [...] Phillips, along with Catherine Engelbrecht of True the Vote, presented cellphone GPS data on people passing ballot drop boxes and talked of the potential for ballot harvesting and voter fraud. Phillips suggested the General Assembly should adjust election laws as necessary to clean voter rolls, make vote ‘harvesting’ an illegal act (allowing someone else to drop off a voter’s ballot), prohibit the mass mailing of ballots, not allow private funding for election needs, and increase penalties for election-related violations.” [The Center Square, [3/29/22](#)]

March 2022: True the Vote’s Catherine Engelbrecht and Gregg Phillips Testified in the Wisconsin Assembly. “Next week, the Assembly Committee on Elections and Campaigns is inviting two election conspiracy theorists who have claimed widespread voter fraud for years — including through busloads of out-of-state voters in the 2012 recall elections. Testifying are True the Vote leader Catherine Engelbrecht, who made the 2012 claim, and Gregg Phillips, who has repeatedly promoted the false idea that up to 5 million non-U.S. citizens voted in the 2016 election — a claim Trump seized upon and used

to sow distrust in elections since. Committee chairwoman Janel Brandtjen, R-Menominee Falls, did not immediately say what topic Engelbrecht and Phillips will be addressing. True the Vote filed lawsuits in Wisconsin, Georgia, Michigan and Pennsylvania following the 2020 election alleging widespread voter fraud but quickly dropped them. An attorney for the group, James Bopp, also represents Gableman in lawsuits seeking records from the 2020 probe.” [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 3/15/22]

- **True the Vote Declined to Provide Detailed Evidence Supporting Their Claims About Ballot Harvesting Based on Cellphone Data.** “A group of people who deny the validity of Wisconsin’s 2020 election said Thursday that cellphone tracking data they’ve collected shows the same people were repeatedly in the vicinity of ballot drop boxes in the weeks leading up to the election. However, when asked to provide the detailed evidence supporting such a claim, they declined to provide it. Members of True the Vote, a conservative group investigating elections around the country, said the data suggest those people were delivering ballots that weren’t their own. [...] Testifying before the Assembly elections committee, two members of the group said their analysis found 138 people in Milwaukee, Racine and Green Bay each went near a drop box at least 26 times and near a nongovernmental organization at least five times between Oct. 20 and Nov. 3, 2020.” [The Journal Times, 3/25/22]

June 2022: Arizona Republicans invited True the Vote to testify on fraud claims. “Arizona Republican lawmakers heard Tuesday from members of the Texas-based conservative group that provided research for a widely debunked documentary that alleges widespread voter fraud led to former President Donald Trump’s loss in the 2020 election. Cell phone data analysis done by True the Vote was used by conservative filmmaker Dinesh D’Souza in his film ‘2000 Mules’ to try to show that Democratic operatives were paid to illegally collect and drop off ballots in Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. ...Catherine Engelbrecht, founder of True the Vote, and her associate Gregg Phillips presented their findings to eight Republican lawmakers in a livestreamed meeting at the state Capitol, but they did not present new evidence to support their claims.” [Associated Press, 6/1/22]

2021: CONDUCTED “CLANDESTINE” INVESTIGATION INTO THE 2020 ELECTION

August 2021: Breitbart Obtained a Document Circulated to Prospective Donors Detailing that True the Vote Had Been Conducting a “Massive and Clandestine Voter Fraud Investigation into the 2020 Election.” “Conservative election integrity group True the Vote has been conducting a months-long massive and clandestine voter fraud investigation into the 2020 presidential election, the results of which may soon start coming out, Breitbart News has learned exclusively. A document that the group’s founder Catherine Engelbrecht circulated to prospective donors, obtained by Breitbart News, details several facets of the investigation—which centers on what the group describes as the collection of cell phone GPS ping data in key election hotspots around the country including Georgia, Arizona, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and Michigan. When reached and asked to comment on the forthcoming investigation, Engelbrecht confirmed the authenticity of the document and its contents but declined further comment at this time.” [Breitbart, [8/24/21](#)]

- **The Document Said True the Vote Spent Months Collecting More Than 27 Terabytes of Cell Phone Data That They Claimed Showed Ballot Trafficking in Georgia and Arizona.** “The document says that True The Vote has spent the last several months since late last year collecting more than 27 terabytes of geospatial and temporal data—a total of 10 trillion cell phone pings—between Oct. 1 and Nov. 6 in targeted areas in Georgia, Arizona, Michigan, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and Texas. The data includes geofenced points of interest like ballot

dropbox locations, as well as UPS stores and select government, commercial, and non-governmental organization (NGO) facilities. ‘From this we have thus far developed precise patterns of life for 242 suspected ballot traffickers in Georgia and 202 traffickers in Arizona,’ True The Vote’s document says. ‘According to the data, each trafficker went to an average of 23 ballot dropboxes.’ In other words, what the document says is that True The Vote was able to take cell phone ping data on a mass wide scale and piece together that several people—suspected ballot harvesters—were making multiple trips to multiple drop boxes, raising potential legal questions in a number of these states.” [Breitbart, [8/24/21](#)]

- **True the Vote Said They Also Obtained Surveillance Video of Drop Boxes in Georgia That Showed the Same People Going Multiple Times to the Same Drop Boxes.** “From there, the document continues, True The Vote gathered surveillance video on the drop boxes in Georgia and is attempting to gather similar such surveillance video from other states. The document states that True The Vote has obtained one full petabyte of surveillance footage on drop boxes—two million minutes of video—which it says is broken into 73,000 individual video files. The group is expected to begin releasing some of these videos, which purportedly show the same people going multiple times to the same drop boxes, in the coming weeks. ‘We are building out video stories and have compiled videos of individuals stuffing ballot dropboxes with stacks of ballots, individuals depositing ballots in multiple dropboxes, unauthorized coordination between government workers engaged in the exchange of ballots, and several other tranches of video that capture unusual patterns such as the wearing of gloves to deposit ballots, taking pictures of ballot deposits, etc.,’ True The Vote’s document says.” [Breitbart, [8/24/21](#)]

Former President Donald Trump Said True the Vote’s Investigation Was a “Big Deal.” “Asked about a recent report on a forthcoming investigation from True the Vote — one such election integrity group — that claims it has obtained cell phone GPS ping data from hundreds of alleged ‘ballot traffickers’ who allegedly went to multiple ballot drop boxes in key cities in a number of these swing states multiple times, Trump said he thinks it is a ‘big deal.’ ‘This is a big deal. This is a big deal. I know — I’ve been hearing about it,’ Trump said of True the Vote’s forthcoming investigation.” [Breitbart, [9/02/21](#)]

October 2021: Initially, Georgia Officials Declined to Launch an Investigation Based on True the Vote’s Findings

October 2021: Georgia Bureau of Investigations Declined to Pursue an Investigation into True the Vote’s Claims of Ballot Harvesting Based on the Group’s Purported Cell Phone Data Evidence. “The director of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation told the state’s Republican Party chairman in a letter last month that an investigation was ‘not justified’ after the Georgia GOP and a group, True The Vote, that has pushed fraud claims related to the 2020 election brought what they said was cell phone data linking individuals with repeated trips to ballot boxes. GBI Director Vic Reynolds said in the letter that he had reviewed their materials with agents, experts and the FBI to ‘review the entirety of their case file’ on the matter. The director said that beyond the multitude of geolocation data and documents that purportedly could ‘tie these cell phones... to various organizations,’ there was not ‘any other kind of evidence that ties these cell phones to ballot harvesting.’” [11Alive News, [10/22/21](#)]

- **Georgia Republican Party Chairman and True the Vote Provided the GBI with Cell Phone Data Which They Claimed Identified 279 Cell Phones That Made “Multiple Trips to Within 100 Feet of a Voter Drop Box.”** “According to Reynolds’ letter, Georgia GOP

Chairman David Shafer and True the Vote provided the GBI with ‘25 terabytes of information representing 1.2 trillion mobile signals’ which identified 279 cell phones in Georgia that had ‘made multiple trips to within 100 feet of a voter drop box.’ ‘As it exists, the data, while curious, does not rise to the level of probable cause that a crime has been committed,’ Reynolds wrote. ‘For the GBI to get the same (cell phone geolocation) information you provided, we would need to obtain a search warrant based on such probable cause.’ ‘We cannot make that showing with what has been provided,’ the director added. He concluded based on what Shafer and True The Vote provided that ‘an investigation is not justified.’ ‘Ballot harvesting,’ or the practice of collecting mail-in ballots from voters and submitting them at drop boxes in a mass dump, is outlawed in Georgia.” [11Alive News, [10/22/21](#)]

Atlanta Journal Constitution: “True the Vote Purchased GPS Data to Map Travel Patterns of 1.2 Trillion Mobile Signals Late Last Year, Then Mapped Those Signals to Find Whether They Had Come Close to Ballot Drop Boxes”. “True the Vote purchased GPS data to map travel patterns of 1.2 trillion mobile signals late last year, then mapped those signals to find whether they had come close to ballot drop boxes, according to the organization’s website. ‘One way or another, ballot trafficking will soon be exposed on a massive scale,’ True the Vote’s website says. Further evidence to support their claims, however, has not been produced by the organization. State election officials have conducted multiple investigations into allegations of fraud, including audits and recounts, but none has found organized efforts to change the outcome of the presidential election.” [Atlanta Journal Constitution, [10/21/21](#)]

- **Georgia Constitutional Law Professor Anthony Kreis Called True the Vote’s Investigation into Cell Phone Data “Incredibly Disturbing”.** “Democrats and some legal experts, meanwhile, expressed horror about True the Vote’s approach. The group said on its website it purchased GPS data to map travel patterns of 1.2 trillion mobile signals and then mapped them to find whether they had come close to ballot drop boxes. Anthony Michael Kreis, a constitutional law professor at Georgia State University, said he finds it ‘incredibly disturbing’ that the groups are demanding a criminal investigation into Georgians doing everyday tasks. ‘Not only is the Georgia GOP engaged in this third-rate armchair detective work,’ the professor said, ‘they’re essentially spying on Georgians who are going about their business.’” [Atlanta Journal Constitution, [10/22/21](#)]

Then, in January 2022, Georgia’s Secretary of State Decided to Investigate Possible Illegal Ballot Harvesting Based on Video Footage Provided by True the Vote

January 2022: Georgia’s Secretary of State Launched an Investigation into True the Vote’s Claims of Systematic Ballot Harvesting During the 2020 Election After Receiving a Complaint from the Group, Claiming They Had Evidence and Video Footage of Ballot Harvesting. “Georgia authorities have launched an investigation into an allegation of systematic ballot harvesting during the state’s 2020 general election and subsequent U.S. Senate runoff and may soon issue subpoenas to secure evidence, Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger confirmed to Just the News. Georgia law strictly prohibits third-party activists from picking up and delivering ballots on behalf of voters, a tactic called ‘harvesting’ that liberal organizers have tried to get legalized in many battleground states without success. [...] According to interviews and documents reviewed by Just the News, Raffensperger’s office received a detailed complaint from conservative voter integrity group True the Vote on Nov. 30 saying it had assembled evidence that scores of activists worked with nonprofit groups to collect and deliver thousands of absentee ballots, often during wee-hour operations, to temporary voting drop boxes

distributed around the state during the pandemic. The group informed the secretary its evidence included video footage from surveillance cameras placed by counties outside the drop boxes as well as geolocation data for the cell phones of more than 200 activists seen on the tapes purportedly showing the dates and times of ballot drop-offs, according to documents reviewed by Just the News.” [Just the News, [1/04/22](#)]

- **True the Vote Claimed They Interviewed a Georgia Man Who Admitted to Being Paid Thousands of Dollars to Harvest Ballots in the Atlanta Metropolitan Area.** “The group also said it interviewed a Georgia man who admitted he was paid thousands of dollars to harvest ballots in the Atlanta metropolitan area during the November election and the lead-up to Jan. 5, 2021 runoff for Georgia's two U.S. Senate seats, which were both captured by Democrats and ended GOP control of Congress. The group has yet to identify the cooperating witness to state authorities, referring to him in the complaint simply as John Doe.” [Just the News, [1/04/22](#)]
- **Just the News: True the Vote “Does Not Allege the Ballots Delivered by Couriers Were Fraudulent” But Nonetheless Lawful Ballots Delivered by Third-Party Groups is Illegal in Georgia.** “The group does not allege the ballots delivered by couriers were fraudulent. Nonetheless, lawful ballots delivered by third-parties to drop boxes would run afoul of Georgia's law. Raffensperger confirmed in an interview aired Tuesday on the John Solomon Reports podcast that his office has deemed the allegations credible enough to open an investigation and possibly seek subpoenas from the State Election Board to secure evidence.” [Just the News, [1/04/22](#)]
- **Despite an Analysis that Found “No Suspicious Indicators of Ballot Harvesting,” Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger Said the Allegation that a Specific Individual Engaged in Ballot Harvesting Warranted an Investigation.** “The secretary of state's office did not review video footage from the drop boxes after the 2020 election but a statistical analysis from the federally funded research center Mitre Labs found ‘no suspicious indicators of ballot harvesting,’ Raffensperger said. That said, the allegation a specific individual engaged in illegal harvesting warrants investigation, he added. ‘If people give us, you know, credible allegations, we want to make sure that we do that,’ Raffensperger told Just the News. ‘And we have that right now as an ongoing investigation.’ Raffensperger said his office is considering asking the State Elections Board to issue subpoenas to secure evidence such as the names of suspected ballot harvesters.” [Just the News, [1/04/22](#)]
- **Raffensperger’s Decision to Investigate the Allegations Puts Him at Odds with Georgia’s Governor Brian Kemp, Who’s Office Declined to Investigate True the Vote’s Claims.** “Raffensperger's decision to investigate the allegations and secure the video and phone evidence puts him at odds with Georgia’s governor, fellow Republican Brian Kemp, who received a briefing last spring from True the Vote on its harvesting allegations about but did not take the matter further after True the Vote did not volunteer the names of suspected ballot traffickers. Kemp referred the matter to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, which did not seek subpoenas to try to secure the video surveillance, phone data or suspected names from True the Vote using a subpoena.” [Just the News, [1/04/22](#)]

May 2022: The State Election Board Issued a Subpoena to Compel True to Vote to Turn Over Documents, Recordings, and Names Allegedly Connected to 2020 Ballot Harvesting in Georgia.

“The State Election Board is seeking evidence from a conservative election organization to back up

allegations it has raised about ballot harvesting in the 2020 election in Georgia. Ballot harvesting involves collecting multiple absentee ballots and turning them in to election officials or drop boxes, which is illegal in Georgia. There are exceptions for family members and caregivers. True the Vote filed a complaint on Nov. 30 alleging that unnamed organizations paid unnamed individuals \$10 per absentee ballot delivered to drop boxes in metro Atlanta. The group did not provide details supporting its allegations. The State Election Board voted in March to issue subpoenas to compel True the Vote to turn over documents, recordings and names allegedly connected to ballot harvesting. ‘They need to provide us the names of those people that they say harvested the ballots. We’re going to find out who they are and where they live, were they paid, and how much were they paid,’ Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger said during a debate in Ellijay.” [Atlanta Journal Constitution, 5/01/22]

2020: SOUGHT TO UNDERMINE THE ELECTION AND OVERTURN TRUMP’S LOSS

September 2020: True the Vote Launched a Six-Figure Ad Campaign Warning that Nancy Pelosi Could Become President if Citizens Did Not Vote In-Person on Election Day. “True the Vote is launching a six-figure ad campaign warning that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi could emerge as commander-in-chief next year if citizens don’t vote in-person in November, The Washington Times has learned. The group’s founder, Catherine Englebrecht, is urging people to vote in-person and become poll watchers or else risk election chaos that could send the country careening toward a constitutional crisis before the next inauguration. The ads warn that Americans will not know on Nov. 3 who won the presidential election and they need to begin preparing now for the bitter legal battles that could ensue. The thrust of the argument is a doomsday scenario where the House of Representatives is charged with picking a president if no victor emerges from the Electoral College.” [The Washington Times, 9/17/20]

Oct. 2020: True the Vote Filed a Friend-of-the-Court Brief in Support of Efforts to Stop North Carolina’s Elections Board from Counting Absentee Ballots Received Between Nov. 7 and Nov. 12. “The U.S. Supreme Court will decide soon whether N.C. election officials count absentee ballots received by mail between Nov. 7 and Nov. 12. Two sets of plaintiffs filed paperwork Sunday, Oct. 25, arguing for the high court to block those ballots from being counted. The plaintiffs are seeking an emergency injunction to block counting of ballots received after Nov. 6, which is three days after Election Day. A 5 p.m. Nov. 6 deadline is set by state law. [...] The emergency application for an injunction sits with U.S. Chief Justice John Roberts, who hears all emergency appeals from the federal court system’s 4th Circuit. Roberts set a Saturday deadline for filings from other parties in the case. In addition to responses from the original defendants in both cases, three other groups are attempting to sway Roberts and his Supreme Court colleagues. The national election-integrity group True the Vote filed a friend-of-the-court brief Friday. True the Vote supports efforts to stop the state elections board from rewriting N.C. election law.” [The Daily Courier, 10/27/20]

New York Times: True the Vote, “One of the Most Prominent Promoters of the False Narrative that ‘Voter Fraud’ is Rampant in the U.S.,” Sought to Help Trump Build His Case About Fraud During the 2020 Election. “After initially echoing Mr. Trump’s warnings about electoral fraud, Mr. Barr muted his statements, and Mr. Trump complained to aides about the department’s lack of action. But a supportive outside group, True the Vote — one of the most prominent promoters of the false narrative that ‘voter fraud’ is rampant in the United States — sought to help Mr. Trump build his cases. On Friday, it announced it had formed a \$1 million ‘Whistleblower Defense Fund’ to ‘incentivize’ witnesses to step forward with charges of malfeasance. No state was seeing more legal activity than Pennsylvania, where the Trump campaign and local Republicans had brought at least a half-dozen lawsuits immediately before and after Election Day.” [The New York Times, 11/06/20]

Washington Post: True the Vote’s Lawsuits Sought Poll Lists and Other Information They Believed Could Be Used to Block Certification of the Election Results in Numerous States. “True the Vote’s lawsuits sought expedited discovery of poll lists and other information that the group said could prove that enough illegal votes had been cast to justify blocking certification of the results in numerous states. But the litigation failed to gain immediate traction in courts, Bopp said, and the nonprofit withdrew the complaints on Nov. 16. The complaints were among scores of unsuccessful post-election lawsuits filed by Trump or his allies. Eshelman became disillusioned with True the Vote’s efforts and sought the return of his \$2.5 million donation — suing the nonprofit in federal court and then in Texas state court, where the case was dismissed and is now pending on appeal.” [The Washington Post, [5/20/22](#)]

November 2020: True the Vote Formed a \$1 Million “Whistleblower Defense Fund” to Incentivize Witnesses to Step Forward with Charges of Election Crimes. “After initially echoing Mr. Trump’s warnings about electoral fraud, Mr. Barr muted his statements, and Mr. Trump complained to aides about the department’s lack of action. But a supportive outside group, True the Vote — one of the most prominent promoters of the false narrative that ‘voter fraud’ is rampant in the United States — sought to help Mr. Trump build his cases. On Friday, it announced it had formed a \$1 million ‘Whistleblower Defense Fund’ to ‘incentivize’ witnesses to step forward with charges of malfeasance. No state was seeing more legal activity than Pennsylvania, where the Trump campaign and local Republicans had brought at least a half-dozen lawsuits immediately before and after Election Day.” [The New York Times, 11/06/20]

November 2020: True the Vote Backed a Federal Lawsuit Seeking to Delay Certification of Election Results in Multiple Michigan Counties. “A federal lawsuit filed Nov. 11, backed by True the Vote, a nonprofit with Tea Party roots that says it fights voter fraud, named as defendants a man who resigned from the Ingham County Board of Canvassers in October. Although it seeks to delay certification of results in Washtenaw and Ingham counties, as well as in Wayne County, the suit contains only one specific allegation related to Washtenaw County and none related to Ingham County. But the True the Vote federal lawsuit does cite a temporary scrambling of unofficial vote totals in Antrim County, in northern Michigan. State officials say the glitch in Antrim, which for a short time showed Biden winning a GOP county, was the result of a one-off human error by the Republican clerk. Antrim is not a defendant in any of the cases.” [Detroit Free Press, 11/15/20]

Associated Press: True the Vote “One of Several Conservative Groups That Have Tried to Sow Doubts About President-Elect Joe Biden’s Victory.” “Based in Houston, True the Vote is one of several conservative groups that have tried to sow doubts about President-elect Joe Biden’s victory. Following Trump’s lead, True the Vote founder Catherine Engelbrecht accused states that Biden won of counting illegal votes without presenting evidence. ‘All we want are the facts - regardless of the final outcome - so that we can determine where vulnerabilities in the election system exist and take steps to fix them,’ Engelbrecht said in a statement Friday announcing the group’s Wisconsin lawsuit.” [Associated Press, 11/17/20]

November 2020: True the Vote Dismissed Voter Fraud Lawsuits Filed in Four States, Including Wisconsin, Georgia, Michigan, and Pennsylvania. “A conservative group on Monday moved to dismiss voter fraud lawsuits it had filed in four states, including Wisconsin, days after the group’s leader made baseless allegations questioning the integrity of the election. Lawyers for True the Vote filed notices to dismiss cases in Georgia, Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania less than a week after suing

in all four states. Jim Bopp Jr., an attorney for the group, declined to say why they were ending their lawsuits but confirmed there were no other cases pending from the group. The action highlighted the dwindling legal options that President Donald Trump has as he continues to insist - against overwhelming evidence to the contrary - that fraud cost him an election he claims to have won.” [Associated Press, 11/17/20]

- **True the Vote: “While We Stand By the Voters’ Testimony That was Brought Forth, Barriers to Advancing our Arguments, Coupled with Constraints on Time, Made It Necessary For Us to Pursue a Different Path.”** “On Monday, the conservative nonprofit True the Vote, a Houston-based conservative advocacy group dedicated to ‘securing’ American elections, withdrew four cases filed that supported Trump’s allegations of election improprieties. The group’s leaders had set up a hotline and claimed to have a \$1 million fund to pay ‘whistleblowers’ with information about fraud to step forward. But on Tuesday, they released a statement acknowledging the ‘difficult decision to dismiss our current lawsuits in Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.’ ‘While we stand by the voters’ testimony that was brought forth, barriers to advancing our arguments, coupled with constraints on time, made it necessary for us to pursue a different path,’ the organization said.” [ABC News, 11/17/20]

November 2020: NC Donor Fred Eshelman Sued True the Vote After He Donated \$2.5 Million to the Group and Later Sought His Money Back After the Group Failed to Overturn Biden’s Win. “A political donor wants millions he gave to a pro-Trump group returned after it abandoned legal efforts to turn up fraud in the 2020 election. North Carolina investor Fred Eshelman donated \$2.5 million to Houston-based True the Vote to help the organization challenge election results in seven battleground states, according to a lawsuit filed Wednesday in a Texas federal court. The organization said it needed over \$7.3 million for its Validate the Vote 2020 project. Eshelman, a donor to President Donald Trump and former pharmaceutical executive, created the Eshelman Institute for Innovation at the University of North Carolina’s School of Pharmacy, which also is named for him. Eshelman says he ‘regularly and repeatedly’ asked for updates on the effort and was met with ‘vague responses, platitudes, and empty promises of follow-up that never occurred,’ according to the lawsuit. According to the lawsuit, True the Vote initially didn’t respond to emails by Eshelman seeking return of the funds and sought to delay giving back money.” [Charlotte Observer, 11/27/20]

Associated Press: Organizations Litigating 2020 Elections Cases Like True the Vote Received a “Substantial Portion of Financing” From Dark Money. “On the conservative side, organizations including Judicial Watch, the Honest Elections Project, True the Vote and the Public Interest Legal Foundation are litigating cases related to voting procedures across the U.S. A substantial portion of the financing comes from Donors Trust, a nonprofit often referred to as the ‘dark money ATM’ of the conservative movement. The organization helps wealthy patrons invest in causes they care about while sheltering their identities from the public. In other instances, funding comes from charitable foundations built by the fortunes of Gilded Age industrialists.” [Associated Press, [7/27/20](#)]

True the Vote Participated in a November 14, 2020 Call with Sen. Lindsay Graham and Sean Hannity, Among Others, Where Strategies to Contest the 2020 Election Were Discussed. “Larry Ellison, the billionaire co-founder and chairman of the software company Oracle and the biggest backer of Elon Musk’s attempted Twitter takeover, participated in a call shortly after the 2020 election that focused on strategies for contesting the legitimacy of the vote, according to court documents and a participant. The Nov. 14 call included Sen. Lindsey O. Graham (R-S.C.); Fox News host Sean Hannity; Jay Sekulow, an attorney for President Donald Trump; and James Bopp Jr., an attorney for True the

Vote, a Texas-based nonprofit that has promoted disputed claims of widespread voter fraud. Ellison's participation illustrates a previously unknown dimension in the multifaceted campaign to challenge Trump's loss, an effort still coming into focus more than 18 months later." [The Washington Post, [5/20/22](#)]

- **Details About the Call Were Revealed from New Filings as Part of a Lawsuit Against True the Vote.** "Details of the November 2020 call and questions about Ellison's role in it were revealed in new filings made in litigation brought against True the Vote and its representatives by Fair Fight, a political action committee associated with the voting rights organization founded by Georgia Democratic gubernatorial candidate Stacey Abrams. 'Jim was on a call this evening with Jay Sekulow, Lindsey O. Graham, Sean Hannity, and Larry Ellison,' True the Vote's founder, Catherine Engelbrecht, wrote to a donor on the night of the call, referring to Bopp, her organization's lawyer." [The Washington Post, [5/20/22](#)]

April 2022: In an Interview with Right-Wing Pundit Charlie Kirk, True the Vote Alleged There Was Rampant Criminal Activity in the 2020 Election, Particularly in Philadelphia. "This week, representatives for the voter-fraud-alleging group True the Vote were interviewed by right-wing pundit Charlie Kirk. They allege rampant criminal activity in the 2020 election using a combination of technospeak and vague allegations. But they also identified Philadelphia as a hotbed of this purported nefarious activity — something that Trump was quick to point out in his condemnation of McSwain. In other words, McSwain promised a noodle that True the Vote now says it has delivered, and Trump's irritated that McSwain didn't." [The Washington Post, [4/12/22](#)]

2020: CHALLENGED THE ELIGIBILITY OF 364,000 GEORGIA VOTERS

December 2020: True the Vote Worked with the Georgia Republican Party to Challenge the Eligibility of more Than 364,000 Georgia Voters Ahead of the January Runoff Election. "A Texas-based organization is working with Georgia Republican Party members to challenge the eligibility of more than 364,000 Georgia voters who might have moved, an attempt to disqualify their ballots in the U.S. Senate runoffs. The effort questions voters' residencies and leaves decisions over whose ballots should count to county election boards. The election watchdog group True the Vote targeted voters whose names showed up on U.S. Postal Service lists showing their addresses had changed." [Atlanta Journal Constitution, 12/23/20]

- **True the Vote Enlisted Republicans in Dozens of Counties to File Voter Challenges with Their Local Election Boards.** "The organization enlisted Republicans in dozens of counties to file voter challenges with their local election boards. The effort has gained traction in at least two counties, Forsyth and Muscogee, questioning the eligibility of more than 9,000 voters who will be forced to use provisional ballots if they show up at the polls. Election boards in many other counties have rejected similar objections to voters, including in Athens-Clarke, Cobb, DeKalb, Fulton and Gwinnett counties." [Atlanta Journal Constitution, 12/23/20]
- **In Albany, City Commissioner B.J. Fletcher Challenged 2,700 Names on the Dougherty County Voter List on Behalf of True the Vote.** "B.J. Fletcher laughs now at the irony of her statement. 'You know me; you know how hard it is for me to be quiet,' Fletcher, a businesswoman and nine-year veteran on the Albany City Commission, said Friday. [...] Fletcher said her announced endorsement of Republican U.S. Senatorial candidate Kelly Loeffler and U.S. Rep. Sanford Bishop may have been the start of what turned into a hectic few months

for the commissioner. But the fireworks actually started flying when Fletcher, on behalf of the Texas-based group True the Vote, challenged 2,700 names on the Dougherty County voter list. ‘That kind of started when I got an absentee ballot in my mother’s name,’ Fletcher said. ‘I knew that, unless heaven changed its address, that was not right because my mom had been in heaven for two years. I started looking into this, and when others said they’d had the same thing happen to them, that’s when I was contacted by True the Vote...’” [The Albany Herald, [3/27/21](#)]

- **Voting Right Group Said True the Vote was Trying to Disenfranchise Voters Using Unreliable Change-of-Address Lists to Cancel Ballots.** “Voting rights groups say True the Vote is trying to disenfranchise voters, using inexact and unverified change-of-address lists to cancel ballots in a major election that will decide control of the U.S. Senate. It’s ‘one of the oldest tricks in the voter suppression play-book,’ said Sean Young, an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union of Georgia. He called it an example of ‘voter caging,’ the practice of using mail lists to seek large cancellations of registrations. ‘It’s unsurprising that political operatives would pull this out in the middle of a contentious election,’ Young said. ‘There’s no shortage of conspiracy theories in this election. Mass voter challenges attempt to make those conspiracies real and disenfranchise hundreds of thousands of voters in the process.’” [Atlanta Journal Constitution, 12/23/20]
- **AJC: At Least 2,203 of the Voters of True the Vote’s List Voted in Person in the 2020 General Election, Meaning They Were Active Voters Who Showed Photo ID at the Polls.** “At least 2,203 of the voters on True the Vote’s list voted in person in the general election, meaning they’re active voters who showed photo ID at the polls, according to the Brennan Center. The Gwinnett elections board voted 3-2 on Monday to deny a challenge of the eligibility of more than 15,000 voters. ‘This is nightmarish from an adjudication standpoint, a practical standpoint,’ said Stephen Day, a Democratic Party board member. ‘I think that this is ill-conceived and ill-timed and violates the law in many places.’” [Atlanta Journal Constitution, 12/23/20]
- **The Glynn County Board of Elections Rejected a Challenge to 262 Registered Voters that Was Backed by True the Vote.** “The Glynn County Board of Elections voted to take no action on a challenge from a state representative to the eligibility of 262 registered voters. Georgia law allows a registered voter to challenge the eligibility of another voter if probable cause can be shown that the voter does not meet the qualifications to vote. Rep. Jeff Jones, R-St. Simons Island, based his challenge on the voters’ residency. He brought to the board’s attention data produced by Mark Davis, Derek Somerville and a Texas-based organization called True the Vote, he explained. The residences listed on voter registration records were compared to the U.S. Postal Service’s national change of address database, Jones said.” [The Brownsville Herald, 12/23/20]
- **December 2020: A Federal Judge Blocked True the Vote’s Push to Disqualify Roughly 4,000 Voters in Two Georgia Counties: Muscogee County and Ben Hill County.** “A federal judge on Monday blocked a push to disqualify thousands of registered voters in the Georgia runoffs for U.S. Senate. Like similar complaints filed in Richmond County and around the state, a group affiliated with Texas-based True the Vote challenged the eligibility of 4,033 Muscogee County and 152 Ben Hill County voters whose names also appeared on the National Change of Address database. True the Vote claims there are about 360,000 voters around the state whose eligibility is in question because their names appear on the database, and it promised challenges

in all 159 Georgia counties. Most counties, including Richmond, have rejected the eligibility challenges, but Republican Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger leapt at the opportunity Tuesday to slam Georgia Middle District Judge Leslie Abrams Gardner's ruling, which stopped the two counties from disqualifying the voters." [The Augusta Chronicle, 12/30/20]

Voting Rights Group Fair Fight Filed a Lawsuit Against True the Vote to Block Their Effort Challenging the Eligibility of 364,541 Voters. "Last week, a group called True the Vote announced it is challenging the 'potential ineligibility' of 364,541 Georgia voters in all 159 counties ahead of the runoffs. The voter rights group Fair Fight announced it is filing a lawsuit to block the effort. Georgia's two U.S. senators, Republicans David Perdue and Kelly Loeffler, face Democrats Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock in runoffs that could shift the balance of power in the Senate to Democrats. Statewide, more than 1.9 million voters have already submitted ballots in the runoffs, including 679,209 who returned ballots by mail and 1.2 million who voted in person, according to the data site Georgiavotes.com. In Richmond County, that includes more than 25,000 votes already cast." [The Augusta Chronicle, [12/23/20](#)]

- **A Federal Judge Denied Fair Fight's Request for an Immediate Stop to True the Vote's Eligibility Challenges But Expressed "Grave Concerns" About True the Vote's Challenges.** "A federal judge has denied a request to immediately stop challenges to the eligibility of more than 364,000 Georgia voters amid the runoff election, but he said the challenges may be illegal. The Texas-based group True the Vote says the voters appear on a national change-of-address database, indicating they may have moved and may not be eligible to vote. Working with Georgia Republicans, the group has challenged the eligibility of those people to vote in Tuesday's runoff election, which will determine which political party controls the U.S. Senate. The voting rights group Fair Fight recently filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Gainesville that says the challenges amount to illegal voter intimidation and harassment. Late Friday, U.S. District Judge Steve Jones rejected Fair Fight's request for a temporary restraining order halting the challenges. But the litigation continues, and the judge expressed 'grave concerns regarding defendants' coordinated, broad-strokes challenges to more than 360,000 Georgia voters on the eve of an unprecedented two-seat Senate runoff.'" [Atlanta Journal Constitution, 1/03/21]
- **True the Vote Filed a Counterclaim Alleging They Were the Ones Being Intimidated by Fair Fight.** "Fair Fight had sued True the Vote, alleging it was engaging in voter intimidation. True the Vote then filed a counterclaim that said it was the one being intimidated. "Fair Fight Action's legal attack sought to chill the efforts of True The Vote and Georgia voters across the state who petitioned their counties to protect the right to vote for all legal voters in the Jan. 5 runoff election," True the Vote President Catherine Engelbrecht said in a statement earlier this week. She didn't return a message seeking comment Friday." [Atlanta Journal Constitution, 1/16/21]
- **March 2021: True the Vote's Countersuit was Still Ongoing in a U.S. District Court in Gainesville.** "True the Vote has filed a counterclaim in that lawsuit, saying Fair Fight sought to illegally stop its efforts to ensure the integrity of the election. The lawsuit is still pending in U.S. District Court in Gainesville." [Atlanta Journal Constitution, [3/31/21](#)]

Atlanta Journal Constitution: After a Vast Effort by True the Vote to Challenge the Eligibility of 360,000 Georgia Voters, Election Officials Rejected Just a Few Dozen Ballots, Undermining Suspicions of Significant Voter Fraud. "After a vast effort to challenge the eligibility of 360,000

Georgia voters, election officials rejected just a few dozen ballots, undermining suspicions of significant voting fraud. The allegations of ineligible voters came from the Texas-based group True the Vote, which worked with members of the Republican Party in an attempt to disqualify ballots of voters whose names showed up on lists showing they had moved. Bipartisan election boards across the state found few illegitimate voters as they finished certifying results of the U.S. Senate runoffs Friday. In Forsyth County, where over 5,000 voters were challenged, county election officials disqualified just six absentee ballots from people who had moved to different states.” [Atlanta Journal Constitution, 1/16/21]

October 2023: Trial began in lawsuit challenging True the Vote’s mass challenges of Georgia voters’ eligibility. “A federal trial opened Thursday with allegations that the conservative group True the Vote intimidated Georgia voters through 250,000 unverified challenges to their eligibility before runoffs that decided control of the U.S. Senate in early 2021. True the Vote countered that it didn’t threaten anyone when it followed a Georgia law that allows citizens to question whether a voter still lives where they’re registered. The lawsuit filed by Fair Fight asks a judge to banish Texas-based True the Vote from operating in Georgia and from disputing voter eligibility in the future. Fair Fight, founded by Democrat Stacey Abrams, contends that True the Vote violated the Voting Rights Act’s protections against intimidation.” [Atlanta Journal Constitution, 10/27/23]

January 2024: True the Vote won victory in lawsuit over voter challenges; judge rules group’s efforts were not intimidation. “A federal judge ruled Tuesday in favor of the conservative group True the Vote, deciding that mass challenges of Georgia voters’ eligibility didn’t amount to illegal voter intimidation. U.S. District Judge Steve Jones wrote in a 145- page order that there was insufficient evidence that True the Vote tried to threaten or coerce voters. Jones’ ruling is a defeat for Fair Fight Action, the voting rights group founded by Democrat Stacey Abrams that was the lead plaintiff in the case. Fair Fight alleged True the Vote and its allies violated the Voting Rights Act when they challenged the eligibility of 250,000 Georgia voters before runoffs that decided control of the U.S. Senate in early 2021. County election boards rejected the vast majority of the voter challenges. ‘Not only have plaintiffs failed to overcome the fact that their actions did not result in any direct voter contact or alone include or direct county boards of elections to pursue an eligibility inquiry, but there is no evidence that defendants’ actions caused (or attempted to cause) any voter to be intimidated, coerced, or threatened in voting,’ Jones wrote.” [Atlanta Journal Constitution, 1/3/24]

- **Judge: True the Vote methodology “verges on recklessness.”** “But Jones faulted True the Vote’s methods, which relied on huge spreadsheets that listed voters who had submitted change-of-address forms with the U.S. Postal Service. Fair Fight argued the challenges targeted eligible voters who wanted their mail forwarded but remained Georgia residents with full voting rights, including members of the military, students and relocated workers. ‘TTV’s list utterly lacked reliability. Indeed, it verges on recklessness. The court has heard no testimony and seen no evidence of any significant quality control efforts, or any expertise guiding the data process,’ Jones wrote. ‘It is clear that TTV did not engage in a quality process to create the list, nor did they have proper review or controls in place.’ Still, Georgia law allows residents to file challenges against the eligibility of voters who they believe no longer live at the addresses where they’re registered.” [Atlanta Journal Constitution, 1/3/24]
- **True the Vote had offered “bounty” rewards, recruited SEALs to monitor polls.** “Jones also rejected Fair Fight’s claims of intimidation related to True the Vote’s offer of ‘bounty’ money and recruitment of Navy SEALs to monitor polling places. Engelbrecht testified that the bounty money was intended to compensate people who reported election fraud, and statements about

Navy SEALs were meant to recruit volunteer election workers rather than to intimidate voters, according to Jones' order." [Atlanta Journal Constitution, 1/3/24]

2020: WORKED TO BLOCK THE EXPANSION OF MAIL-IN VOTING DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

May 2020: True The Vote's Catherine Engelbrecht Called The Fight Against Mail-In Voting A "Spiritual Battle" For "Control Of The Free World." "President Donald Trump's political operation is battling efforts to expand vote-by-mail and his religious-right backers are helping lead the charge. On Intercessors for America's monthly prayer call on May 1, True the Vote leader Catherine Engelbrecht told a group of pro-Trump prayer warriors that the struggle over expanded vote-by-mail is a 'spiritual battle' for 'control of the free world.' [...] Engelbrecht claimed on IFA's call that the expansion of vote-by-mail is an effort to 'absolutely destroy free and fair elections.'" [Right Wing Watch, [5/8/20](#)]

May 2020: True The Vote Filed Suit To Limit Access To Absentee Voting In Virginia. "In Virginia, True the Vote filed a preliminary injunction to stop the Virginia State Board of Elections from designating everyone in Virginia as "disabled" as a means to illegally allow all voters to request an absentee ballot, even though current law passed by the Virginia State Assembly prevents them from doing so. This action will result in disenfranchisement of voters, since Virginia election officials are not equipped with the resources needed to handle a mass influx of mail ballots, and they do not have procedures in place to guarantee that all eligible voters will receive a ballot." [True the Vote, [5/14/20](#)]

April 2020: True The Vote Filed Suit In Nevada To Block A Mail-In Primary. "A right-leaning voting fraud prevention group based in Texas filed a federal lawsuit against the secretary of state on Tuesday over plans to conduct an all-mail primary election, claiming that the plan would "all but ensure an election replete with ballot fraud." Attorneys for True the Vote filed the lawsuit on Tuesday in federal District Court on behalf of three Nevada voters, claiming that the planned all-mail primary election ballot would violate voter protections that exist in state law and invite fraud. Secretary of State Barbara Cegavske called for the all-mail primary election, with limited in-person polling sites, last month as a way to mitigate potential spread of COVID-19. [...] The lawsuit from True the Vote, which was filed by Reno attorney David O'Mara, states that the planned mail-only election would harm plaintiffs by 'diluting their votes with illegal votes given the removal of safeguards against illegal voting established by the Legislature.' 'Though some actual absentee-ballot safeguards remain under the mail-in-ballot Plan, the elimination of the necessity to request a ballot through the usual procedures is a safeguard that must not be omitted because of the fraud potential of having unrequested, perhaps unexpected ballots arriving around the state,' the lawsuit states, adding that a large number of unrequested mailed ballots 'invites voter fraud.' The lawsuit also argues that the secretary of state's plan goes beyond what is authorized by the Legislature, and that concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic do not mean election officials can 'jettison constitutional and statutory rights and mandates and fashion a remedy essentially out of whole cloth.'" [Nevada Independent, [4/21/20](#)]

- **A Federal Judge Ruled Against TTV's Suit.** "A federal judge has ruled against a conservative group's lawsuit that sought to block the state's planned all-mail primary election in June. Judge Mirandu Du issued the order on Thursday evening rejecting the request by True the Vote, a Texas-based voting monitoring group, to block the planned all-mail election over concerns of voter fraud, saying the motion lacked standing and that Secretary of State Barbara Cegavske's office was well within its rights to move to an all-mail election in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. 'The Court finds that Defendants' interests in protecting the health and safety of

Nevada's voters and to safeguard the voting franchise in light of the COVID-19 pandemic far outweigh any burden on Plaintiffs' right to vote, particularly when that burden is premised on a speculative claim of voter fraud resulting in dilution of votes,' Du wrote in the order." [Nevada Independent, [4/30/20](#)]

- **May 2020: A Federal Judge Rejected True the Vote's Second Attempt to Stop Nevada's Mail-In Primary.** "A federal judge has again rejected a lawsuit filed by a conservative group that sought to stop the June 9 mail-in primary election on grounds that potential voter fraud would dilute the voting rights of legitimate voters. U.S. District Court Chief Judge Miranda Du, in a strongly worded ruling, said the group True the Vote 'glaringly repackages old arguments to achieve a different disposition without necessary justification' and concludes, 'ultimately, plaintiff's second proverbial bite at the apple is no more fruitful than the first.' Du in April rejected an initial request to issue a preliminary injunction against the primary, saying the state's plans to conduct the election by mail to prevent the spread of COVID-19 'far outweigh any burden' on the group's voting rights. Further, that ruling said claims the mail-in election would facilitate voter fraud were speculative." [Las Vegas Review-Journal, 5/29/20]

May 2020: True the Vote Filed Suit For A Second Time Seeking To Block A Mail-In Primary In Nevada, Claiming It Was No Longer Necessary To Limit The Risk Of Spreading Covid-19.

"Nevada plaintiffs backed by a conservative voting-watch group are trying again to block the state's all vote-by-mail June 9 primary, arguing that mail-only balloting is no longer necessary to limit the risk of COVID-19 spreading among voters. The True the Vote group's revised complaint seeking an injunction also argues that Clark County's procedures for distributing ballots and conducting the election unduly favor that county's voters over those in other parts of the state. 'Expanding mail balloting is unnecessary to combat COVID-19,' lawyers for the plaintiffs wrote in a complaint filed Wednesday. 'There has been no established causal link between in-person voting and the contracting of COVID.'" [Las Vegas Review Journal, [5/16/20](#)]

- **A Federal Judge Rejected TTV's Amended Suit Calling It "Simply Insufficient."** "A federal District Court judge has again blocked a lawsuit filed by a conservative vote-monitoring group asking to effectively cancel the state's mostly mail primary election. In an order released Wednesday evening, Judge Miranda Du denied the amended request by Texas-based True the Vote and several Nevada voters to block the state's election plan over fears of voter fraud, as well as because of an agreement between Democratic groups and Clark County election officials to mail ballots to inactive voters. In her order, Du wrote that the group's amended complaint 'glaringly repackages old arguments' and failed to address most if not all of the issues she previously identified in her initial ruling denying the group's request, including a lack of standing and that Secretary of State Barbara Cegavske's office was not violating any constitutional rights by changing the election structure to lessen spread of COVID-19. She also wrote that the new claims and articles cited by the group — plaintiffs alleged mailing ballots to inactive voters in Clark County could increase voter fraud — were 'simply insufficient' to establish any kind of standing that potentially increased fraudulent votes warranted upending the entire election process." [Nevada Independent, [5/27/20](#)]

April 2020: True the Vote Funded A Lawsuit Seeking To Block A Mail-In Primary In New Mexico Calling It The "Tip Of The Spear Of A Concerted National Effort By The Left And The Democrat Party To Engineer Epic Levels Of Election Chaos." "Today New Mexican voters moved to intervene in a lawsuit in which several county clerks and the New Mexico Secretary of State, without opposition,

are requesting the Supreme Court of New Mexico to order that the upcoming June 2nd primary election be restricted to mail-in ballots only, eliminating entirely both in-person and absentee balloting. These Democrat government officials based their request on the national health crisis caused by the COVID-19 virus. Under the New Mexico Constitution, only the Legislature has the authority to determine the time, place, and manner of voting in New Mexico elections. The government officials assert, however, that the legislature is wholly incapable of addressing this problem and that the New Mexico Supreme Court should order the election be conducted by mail-in ballot only, dispensing of all other state laws that protect elections from voter fraud. In contrast, the voters seeking to intervene in the case claim that their fundamental right to vote will be violated by a mail-in-ballot only election since their votes will be diluted by illegal voting if the fraud prevention provisions of in-person and absentee ballot are dispensed with. Furthermore, due to inaccuracies in the voter registry many eligible voters will not get ballots and their ability to vote will be comprised. Catherine Engelbrecht, President of True the Vote, the organization funding the lawsuit, remarks: ‘This unchallenged petition is the tip of the spear of a concerted national effort by the Left and the Democrat Party to engineer epic levels of election chaos. Limiting votes only to mail-in ballots, as proposed in the New Mexico suit, would all but ensure an a process fraught with both ballot fraud and vote harvesting. Under this scheme, the legal safeguards that are attendant to in-person and absentee voting would be dispensed with entirely.’” [True the Vote, [4/2/20](#)]

Idaho Press Tribune: The Irony is that Without the Right to an Absentee Ballot, “100% of Persons Who Fear Coronavirus Enough to Avoid the Polls Will be Disenfranchised.” “True the Vote is suing three of these states Virginia, Nevada, and New Mexico and claiming that people are committing a felony by stating they are ill when they aren’t, and that many will be disenfranchised when ballots are lost in the mail or miscounted. The irony, obviously, is that without the right to an absentee ballot, 100% of persons who fear coronavirus enough to avoid the polls will be disenfranchised.” [Idaho Press-Tribune, 5/26/20]

2020: PLANNED TO RECRUIT MILITARY VETERANS AND POLICE OFFICERS TO MONITOR POLLING PLACES IN INNER CITIES AND NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

2020: True The Vote Attempted To Recruit Military Veterans To Serve As “Poll Monitors” In Areas With Large Numbers Of Minority Voters. “They also point to a meeting in February attended by conservative political luminaries and at least one national Republican Party official, sponsored by the Center for National Policy, a group of conservative power brokers. The topic was voter fraud and ‘ballot security’ operations, particularly in inner cities and areas with Native American populations, according to The Intercept, which published excerpts from a recording of the meeting. One group represented at that meeting, Texas-based True the Vote, is recruiting military veterans to become poll monitors. The group, an offshoot of a Houston Tea Party branch, was scrutinized by local prosecutors after its first poll-monitoring effort in 2012 sparked complaints of voter intimidation. The group's founder, Catherine Engelbrecht, told the gathering that Democrats could inundate the polls with phony votes. ‘The swarming tactics of a radicalized socialist mind-set,’ she warned, ‘is a dangerous thing to behold.’ The group did not respond to a request for comment.” [New York Times, [5/18/20](#)]

- **Engelbrecht Suggested Using Retired Navy Seals To Combat Democratic “Mob Rule” At Polling Places.** “Engelbrecht gave a lengthy presentation at the strategy meeting. True the Vote, Engelbrecht said, intends on rolling out a new phone-based app and other tools to monitor precincts in battleground states this year for alleged fraud. ‘This is an absolute front-line fight.

Around every corner, you find a new way to cheat this process,' said Engelbrecht. Democrats, she warned, would use 'mob rule' to siege elections with fraudulent votes. 'The swarming tactics of a radicalized socialist mindset is a dangerous thing to behold.' 'Of interest here, we have a new initiative called 'Continue to Serve,' which is about recruiting veterans and first responders to work inside the polls' she said, before suggesting that former Navy Seals should be tapped to watch the polls. 'You want to talk about people who understand and respect law and order and chain of command.'" [The Intercept, [4/11/20](#)]

- **True The Vote Is Actively Recruiting Police Officers And Former Military Officers To Serve As Poll Watchers.** "True The Vote has since released appeals on its website, along with a sign-up form, to recruit police officers and former military to serve as poll watchers. 'My brothers spilled their blood on the battlefield so people can vote their beliefs,' said Ed "Iron" Hiner, a retired Navy Seal and volunteer with True the Vote, in a recorded message promoting the effort. Hiner, who has been outspoken in the press in support of Eddie Gallagher, the Navy Seal accused of murdering a prisoner and attempted murder of civilians in Iraq, described the poll watching program as a continuation of service for members of the military. 'Once you get out and retire like I did, there's a hole, there's something, you're used to having a mission,' said Hiner, speaking next to Engelbrecht in the video." [The Intercept, [4/11/20](#)]

Colorado Independent's Jim Hightower: True the Vote, a "Manic Fringe Group of Trumpeteers," is Signing Up a Freelance Militia to Enforce "Ballot Security" in Communities of Color. In an op-ed, The Colorado Independent's Jim Hightower wrote: "The national GOP has been recruiting and training up to 50,000 partisans to confront voters in 15 key states. Adding to the mayhem, True the Vote, a manic fringe group of Trumpeteers, is signing up a freelance militia that includes off-duty police and veterans to enforce 'ballot security' in communities of color. The group leader explained the scheme at a February meeting of Republican operatives: 'You get some [Navy] SEALs in those polls, and they're going to say 'No, no... This is how we're going to play this show.' Don't want Black people to vote? Or tribal members on reservations? Or students on campus? Simple: Eliminate their polling places. Or just slash the budgets for voting machines, poll workers and early voting in their precincts, creating punishingly long lines and waits. COVID can turn this systemic disenfranchisement lethal. In Georgia's June primary, for example, poll closures and machine malfunctions created seven-hour waits for many Black citizens to vote." [Colorado Springs Independent, Author: Jim Hightower, [9/30/20](#)]

2018: OPPOSED H.R. 1, CLAIMING IT WOULD ENSURE THAT "OUR ELECTIONS WILL BE AS OPEN AS OUR BORDERS"

True The Vote Opposed House Democrats' Voting Rights Package Claiming It Would Ensure That "Our Elections Will Be An Open As Our Borders." "House Democrats' first bill of the 116th Congress, titled H.R. 1, the 'For the People Act,' is described as 'the most transformational and comprehensive suite of democracy reforms ever proposed.' [...] True The Vote's Catherine Engelbrecht shares much of Popper's skepticism about H.R. 1. She calls same-day registration 'another nightmare situation' for efforts to ensure honest elections. 'Give states the ability to check same-day registrations with tech that supports real-time verification of identity, residency, and citizenship at the polling place, then let's talk about same-day registration,' Engelbrecht told The Epoch Times. Her Houston-based nonprofit provides 'training, technology, and support to fellow citizens, so that they can ensure election integrity in their own communities.' Engelbrecht's group gained national attention in 2013 when it was revealed IRS officials improperly targeted hundreds of conservative, evangelical, and Tea Party non-profit applicants for lengthy delays during the 2010 and 2012 election campaigns. Engelbrecht, an

advocate of block-chain-based digital registration security, said she has ‘no objection to the concept of online voter registration, generally speaking,’ because the ‘technology exists to support it, it would be more convenient, more people would likely register to vote-all good things.’ But, she said, ‘the states need support to get the job done right, because automating a fundamentally broken process won’t make it any less broken.’ Engelbrecht’s bottom-line on H.R. 1? ‘There is no question that this bill would hurt election integrity. Our election processes are already easily manipulated. H.R.1 ensures that our elections will be as open as our borders.’” [Epoch Times, 1/8/18]

2016: BACKED TRUMP’S CLAIM THAT “MILLIONS” VOTED ILLEGALLY

True The Vote Board Member Gregg Phillips, Who Trump Promoted As An Authority On Voter Fraud, Made Unsubstantiated Claim That There Were 3 Million Illegal Votes In 2016 Election. “A man who President Donald Trump has promoted as an authority on voter fraud was registered to vote in multiple states during the 2016 presidential election, the Associated Press has learned. Gregg Phillips, whose unsubstantiated claim that the election was marred by 3 million illegal votes was tweeted by the president, was listed on the rolls in Alabama, Texas and Mississippi, according to voting records and election officials in those states. He voted only in Alabama in November, records show. In a post earlier this month, Phillips described ‘an amazing effort’ by volunteers tied to True the Vote, an organization whose board he sits on, who he said found ‘thousands of duplicate records and registrations of dead people.’” [Associated Press, [1/30/17](#)]

- **Phillips Tweeted That His Analysis Of Voter Registrations Found That More Than 3 Million “Non-Citizens” Voted In The Election.** “Phillips has been in the national spotlight since Nov. 11, when he tweeted without evidence that his completed analysis of voter registrations concluded the ‘number of non-citizen votes exceeded 3 million.’ Thousands of people liked and retweeted the claim, which led to a viral article three days later on InfoWars.com, a site known to traffic in conspiracy theories. Phillips also has previously tweeted about the dangers of ‘inactive voters’ being able to vote in U.S. elections. ‘There is already law that compels states to remove inactive voters. Many don’t,’ Phillips tweeted Nov. 29. [Associated Press, [1/30/17](#)]
- **Washington Post: “There’s Simply No Available Evidence That Phillips’s Claim Was True.”** “Repeatedly asked for proof of his claim that millions had voted illegally, that guy, Gregg Phillips (who is associated with a group called True the Vote), repeatedly declined to do so. There’s simply no available evidence that Phillips’s claim was true. (True the Vote also declined to substantiate his claims.)” [Washington Post, [1/24/17](#)]

The Atlantic: Gregg Phillips “The Source” Of Trump’s Claim That 3 Million People Voted Illegally In 2016. “Did 3 million people vote illegally in the 2016 election? There’s no evidence that’s true, but President Trump certainly believes so, making news his first week in the White House by ordering an investigation into that allegation. Even if only partly substantiated, it would probably be the single largest instance of voter fraud in American history. The source for Trump’s convictions seems to be a Twitter account run by Texan businessman and former public official Gregg Phillips, the founder of VoteStand, a mobile app designed to allow users to report incidents of voter fraud. Using data from conservative nonprofit True the Vote, Phillips claimed that he identified millions of illegal votes.” [The Atlantic, [1/31/17](#)]

- **Washington Post: Trump Insisted That He Would Have Won The Popular Vote If Not For Between 3 Million And 5 Million Illegal Votes.** “Days after being sworn in, President Trump insisted to congressional leaders invited to a reception at the White House that he would have won the popular vote had it not been for millions of illegal votes, according to people familiar with the meeting. [...] He also told them that between 3 million and 5 million illegal votes caused him to lose the popular vote.” [Washington Post, [1/23/17](#)]
- **Trump: “Gregg Phillips And Crew Say At Least 3,000,000 Votes Were Illegal. We Must Do Better!”** On January 27, 2017, Donald Trump tweeted, “Look forward to seeing final results of VoteStand. Gregg Phillips and crew say at least 3,000,000 votes were illegal. We must do better!” [Twitter, @realDonaldTrump, [1/27/17](#)]
- **PolitiFact: Trump’s Claim That “Millions Of People” Voted Illegally Rated “Pants On Fire.”** “Trump tweeted that he ‘won the popular vote if you deduct the millions of people who voted illegally.’ Neither Trump nor his allies have presented any evidence of widespread illegal voting. In reality, studies have consistently shown that voter fraud is nowhere near common enough to call into question millions and millions of votes. Indeed, the ability to carry off such a far-reaching conspiracy — potentially involving millions of people over the course of several months and without being noticed by election administration officials, many of them in states controlled by Republicans — is ridiculously illogical. We rate Trump’s statement Pants on Fire.” [PolitiFact, [11/28/16](#)]

True The Vote Backed Donald Trump’s Claim That “Millions Of People” Voted Illegally In The 2016 Election. “True the Vote, an organization founded to stop voter fraud, has backed President-elect Donald J. Trump’s statement Sunday that ‘millions of people’ had voted illegally. Trump made his statement as he claimed to have won the popular vote, in addition to the electoral vote, on Nov. 8. The claim was a partial response to Democrats’ efforts to recount votes in Wisconsin, which Trump won. True the Vote released a press statement on Sunday, which is reproduced below, in full (original emphasis): ‘True the Vote absolutely supports President-elect Trump’s recent comment about the impact of illegal voting, as reflected in the national popular vote.’ [Breitbart News, [11/28/16](#)]

2016: True The Vote Sent Fundraising Email Suggesting Hillary Clinton Might Steal The Presidential Election. In 2016, True the Vote sent a fundraising email that stated, “Do you believe Hillary is capable of stealing the election? If your answer is yes, then please give generously to True the Vote. The Republican Party can’t and won’t stop this election from being stolen. [...] If you want honest elections, True the Vote is your best defense. We will keep fighting when others cannot – or will not.” [Election Law Blog, [2/18/16](#)]

True The Vote Released Its Election Observer Training Throughout Wisconsin For Prospective Volunteers. “True the Vote (TTV), the nation’s leading voters’ rights and election integrity organization, today released election observer training details for Wisconsin citizens interested in volunteering at the polls on November 8th. ‘True the Vote is excited to announce election observer training opportunities throughout the Badger State,’ True the Vote Founder Catherine Engelbrecht said. ‘TTV looks forward to helping engaged voters who are willing to roll up their sleeves and volunteer their time in support of free and fair elections.’” [Press Release, True The Vote, [10/11/16](#)]

True The Vote Offered Its Smartphone App, VoteStand, For Citizens And Media Outlets To Report And Gather Election Incidents In Real Time. “True the Vote (TTV), the nation’s leading

voters' rights and election integrity organization, offers its smartphone app, VoteStand, to the general public and media outlets to report and gather election incidents in real-time. 'We developed VoteStand in response to requests from voters who'd experienced problems at the polls and felt helpless to do anything about it,' True the Vote Founder Catherine Engelbrecht said. 'True the Vote exists to help empower voters. With the VoteStand app if voters, poll workers, or election observers see something—they can say something. Our network of watchdogs and election officials can receive reports in real time and take appropriate action.'" [Press Release, True The Vote, [11/07/16](#)]

2016: True The Vote Said It Was Collecting Data With The Intention Of Publishing A Study On The Impact Of Illegal Voting And How Trump Should Best Address The Problem. "November 27, 2016: True the Vote (TTV), the nation's leading voters' rights and election integrity organization, today released a statement with respect to President-Elect Donald Trump's claim that 'millions' of individuals illegally voted in the 2016 Election. 'True the Vote absolutely supports President-elect Trump's recent comment about the impact of illegal voting, as reflected in the national popular vote. We are still collecting data and will be for several months, but our intent is to publish a comprehensive study on the significant impact of illegal voting in all of its many forms and begin a national discussion on how voters, states, and the Trump Administration can best address this growing problem.'" [Press release, True the Vote, [11/28/16](#)]

2017: True The Vote Announced That It Lacked The Funds To Continue To Investigate Trump's False Claim That "Millions" People Voted Illegally In 2016. "The Houston-based organization that fueled President Donald Trump's unsubstantiated claim that "millions" of people voted illegally in the 2016 election says it's scaling back its effort to catalogue the fraudulent votes it alleged True The Vote, a watchdog group focused on 'election integrity,' says it's short on the cash needed to complete a forensic audit of the 2016 election - an effort Trump applauded in his first days in the White House. 'As it stands, we do not have the funding to do what we want to do. We've gathered 2016 voter rolls, we've gathered information from thousands of [Freedom of Information Act requests], but we're limited by the lack of resources,' Catherine Engelbrecht, the group's founder, said Tuesday in a video message to supporters. 'Next steps up are for us to sort of pull back on the national audit, and focus on targeted investigations.'" [Texas Tribune, 6/21/17]

2014: SUED MISSISSIPPI SECRETARY OF STATE AND GOP CLAIMING VOTER FRAUD IN PRIMARY WHERE TEA PARTY CANDIDATE LOST TO SENATOR THAD COCHRAN

2014: True The Vote Sued The Mississippi Secretary Of State And GOP, Claiming They Refused To Respond To Requests To Review Possible "Double Voting" In Primary Against Senator Thad Cochran. "A conservative group filed a lawsuit in federal court Tuesday challenging the outcome of the bitter Mississippi GOP Senate primary, saying that investigators should take more time to determine whether election laws have been broken and whether illegal ballots were cast. True The Vote, which bills itself as the nation's leading voters' rights and election integrity organization, said that it had no choice but to file a lawsuit after the Mississippi secretary of state and Mississippi GOP refused to respond to requests to review possible 'double-voting' in the state's primary, where Sen. Thad Cochran was declared the winner over tea party-backed state Sen. Chris McDaniel. The group said the outcome could have been diluted by some of the votes cast and said it could be in violation of the Equal Protection Clause under the Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution." [Washington Times, [7/01/14](#)]

- **True The Vote's Lawsuit, Filed By 22 Mississippians Who Supported Cochran's Tea Party Opponent Alleged They Were Denied Access To Voting Records And That Some Records**

Had Been Tampered With. “A hearing was conducted Thursday in Jackson related to the lawsuit filed by True the Vote and 22 Mississippians against Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann, the state Republican Party and election commissions in nine counties. U.S. District Judge Nancy Atlas of Texas, appointed to hear the case, said Thursday in court that the case is technically about what documents can be seen. [...] True the Vote claims it was denied access to voting records in Copiah, Hinds, Jefferson Davis, Lauderdale, Leake, Madison, Rankin, Simpson and Yazoo counties. The group also claims records have been destroyed or tampered with. Most of the Mississippians who joined with True the Vote in the lawsuit were supporters of state Sen. Chris McDaniel in his challenge of U.S. Sen. Thad Cochran.” [Clarion-Ledger, [7/26/14](#)]

- **True The Vote Requested Access To The Birth Dates Of Mississippi Voters.** “A federal judge and a state attorney raised questions Thursday about the Texas-based group True the Vote's motive in wanting birth dates of Mississippi voters. [...] Atlas asked Englebrecht if True the Vote would use detailed voter information in any way other than verifying voters in elections. Englebrecht replied that her organization is a 501(3)(c) nonprofit and therefore doesn't get involved in specific election contests. Mike Wallace, attorney for the Mississippi Republican Party, asked Englebrecht about a fundraising letter she sent out on behalf of True the Vote on June 25, a day after the Cochran-McDaniel runoff. She admitted sending out the letter.” [Clarion-Ledger, [7/26/14](#)]
- **Englebrecht Admitted That Despite True The Vote's 501(c)(3) Status, She Sent A Fundraising Email Ahead Of The Cochran-McDaniel Run-Off.** A federal judge and a state attorney raised questions Thursday about the Texas-based group True the Vote's motive in wanting birth dates of Mississippi voters. [...] Atlas asked Englebrecht if True the Vote would use detailed voter information in any way other than verifying voters in elections. Englebrecht replied that her organization is a 501(3)(c) nonprofit and therefore doesn't get involved in specific election contests. Mike Wallace, attorney for the Mississippi Republican Party, asked Englebrecht about a fundraising letter she sent out on behalf of True the Vote on June 25, a day after the Cochran-McDaniel runoff. She admitted sending out the letter.” [Clarion-Ledger, [7/26/14](#)]

2012: SUED MULTIPLE STATES TO FORCE VOTER ROLLS PURGE; PLANNED TO DEPLOY 1 MILLION POLL OBSERVERS

2012: True The Vote Filed Lawsuits In Ohio And Indiana To Force State Officials To Clean Up Voter Rolls. “True the Vote's plan is to scrutinize the validity of voter registration rolls and voters who appear at the polls. Among those in their cross hairs: noncitizens who are registered to vote, those without proper identification, others who may be registered twice, and dead people. In Ohio and Indiana, True the Vote recently filed lawsuits to force officials to clean up voter rolls. Efforts to tighten voter requirements have become a major issue in the presidential election. Over the last few years, many states have passed voter identification laws, and many of those are being challenged in court.” [New York Times, [9/16/12](#)]

2012: True The Vote And Judicial Watch Sued The State Of Indiana, Claiming It Violated The National Voter Registration Act By Failing To Maintain Voter Registration List. “Judicial Watch, the public interest group that investigates and fights government corruption, announced that it filed a lawsuit (Judicial Watch, et. al v. King, et. al (1:12-cv-00800)) in partnership with True the Vote against election officials in the State of Indiana alleging violations of the National Voter Registration Act

(NVRA). Specifically the lawsuit alleges that Indiana Secretary of State Connie Lawson and Indiana Elections Division Co-Directors J. Bradley King and Trent Deckard have failed to maintain clean voter registration lists and make records related to voter registration list maintenance available as required by Section 8 of the NVRA. (Judicial Watch’s co-plaintiff, True the Vote, is a grassroots election integrity watchdog.)” [Judicial Watch, [6/12/12](#)]

2012: True The Vote Filed Motion Defending The State Of Florida’s Voter Roll Purging That Led To Federal Lawsuit. “True the Vote, a nonpartisan, nonprofit grassroots organization focused on preserving election integrity, and Judicial Watch, the public interest group that investigates and fights government corruption, announced Tuesday that they have filed a Motion for Intervention defending the State of Florida’s efforts to clean up voter registration lists against an Obama administration lawsuit (The United States of America v. State of Florida and Ken Detzner (No. 4:12-cv-285)). The motion was filed jointly in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Florida, Tallahassee Division: [Judicial Watch and True the Vote] seek to enter this lawsuit in order to demonstrate that, not only are the State of Florida’s list maintenance activities valid, proper, and timely, but that they also are required under federal law. Intervention will ensure that the organizational interests of Proposed Intervener True the Vote and the rights and interest of the members of Proposed Intervener Judicial Watch, Inc. are adequately protected and preserved.” [Press Release, True the Vote, [6/28/12](#)]

- **Justice Department Found That Florida’s Voter Roll Purge Violated The National Voter Registration Act.** “The Justice Department sent a letter to Florida Secretary of State Ken Detzner Thursday evening demanding the state cease purging its voting rolls because the process it is using has not been cleared under the Voting Rights Act, TPM has learned. DOJ also said that Florida’s voter roll purge violated the National Voter Registration Act, which stipulates that voter roll maintenance should have ceased 90 days before an election, which given Florida’s August 14 primary, meant May 16. Five of Florida’s counties are subject to the Voting Rights Act, but the state never sought permission from either the Justice Department or a federal court to implement its voter roll maintenance program. Florida officials said they were trying to remove non-citizens from the voting rolls, but a flawed process led to several U.S. citizens being asked to prove their citizenship status or be kicked off the rolls.” [Talking Points Memo, [6/01/12](#)]
- **Political Groups Said The Voter Roll Removals Disproportionately Targeted Minority Voters.** “Past efforts to purge the voter rolls of noncitizens ahead of the 2012 election created a national furor, as elections supervisors resented targeting voters with data they viewed as unreliable and political groups said the removals disproportionately targeted minority voters. Some groups accused the Scott administration of seeking to scrub the voter file of people who might not be inclined to support Republican candidates. The 2012 list of about 180,000 suspect voters was based on driver’s license data. The state soon whittled it to 2,600 and then to 198. Ultimately, about 85 voters were removed from the rolls.” [Miami Herald, [3/27/14](#)]

Ohio League Of Women Voters Sent Letter To Ohio Secretary Of State, Jon Husted, Voicing Concerns Over A True The Vote Affiliate’s Attempt To Train Poll Workers Beyond The State-Sanctioned Training. “The League of Women Voters of Ohio remains concerned about poll workers who might have been trained by a conservative outside group. A group affiliated with True the Vote reportedly has been trying to train poll workers on top of the required training given by county elections boards. The league sent a letter last week to Secretary of State Jon Husted, asking him to instruct county elections boards to inform poll workers that conduct on Election Day must be based solely on state-sanctioned training. True the Vote focuses on voter-fraud concerns. Husted has said he has heard rumors

but is unaware of any actual training. ‘We believe that it would be contradictory for the secretary of state to forbid boards to use inconsistent training materials and at the same time ignore information that third parties are providing outside training to poll workers that differs from the official training,’ the letter said.” [Columbus Dispatch, 11/06/12]

ProPublica.org: “Despite Scant Evidence Of Voter Fraud” True The Vote Planned To Deploy One Million Volunteer Poll Watchers On 2012 Election Day. As Nov. 6 approaches, the efforts of True the Vote, a Texas anti-voter fraud group recently profiled by the New York Times, are gaining national attention. Despite scant evidence of voter fraud, the group is laser-focused on weeding it out. It has pushed for voter-ID laws, voter roll purges and other controversial voting-related measures in a host of states. (Here is our guide to the voter ID controversy, where we note that evidence on both sides of the issue is lacking.) True the Vote also has promised to deliver 1 million volunteer poll watchers on Election Day, though its resources appear to be quite modest.” [ProPublica.Org, [9/27/12](#)]

2012: More Than 30 States Had Groups That Used True The Vote’s Model. “More than 30 states have groups that use True the Vote's model, said Catherine Engelbrecht, the initiative's founder and president. "The database that we provide and train people to use is really nothing more than a well-constructed combination of a number of databases that are all public records," she said.” [Baltimore Sun, [6/26/12](#)]

True The Vote Filed Lawsuit Against Florida County Supervisor Of Elections Gertrude Walker For Denying Access To Voting Records From 18th District’s 2012 Congressional Race. “A voter advocacy group with ties to the tea party has filed a lawsuit against St. Lucie County Supervisor of Elections Gertrude Walker to inspect voting records from the District 18 race between ex-Congressman Allen West and U.S. Rep. Patrick Murphy. True the Vote, a nonprofit that stems from a Texas Tea Party chapter, said in a news release that Walker's office denied access to poll books, voter credit lists, felon files and other records. The organization is collecting the info to perform its own audit of the District 18 race. True the Vote's lawsuit, filed in federal court in Fort Pierce, cites the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 and the Florida Constitution to demand those records and more. Many of the requests deal with lists of inactive, ineligible and noncitizen registered voters.” [Treasure Coast News, [2/04/13](#)]

- **Palm Beach County Tea Party Leader Pamela Wohlschlegel Joined The Lawsuit As A Plaintiff.** “Pamela Wohlschlegel, who heads the Palm Beach County Tea Party, joined the Houston-based group as a plaintiff in the lawsuit. The clock is ticking on the opportunity for a comprehensive, outside audit of this recount, True the Vote President Catherine Engelbrecht said in a release. ‘Each passing day heightens the risk of critical documents being disposed of. If you thought voter fraud could erode America's confidence in elections, unchecked incompetence in the vote tabulation process will destroy all faith remaining in our systems.’” [Treasure Coast News, [2/04/13](#)]
- **Supervisor Walker Said Her Office Made The Records Available To True The Vote, But The Group Never Showed Up To Check Them Out.** “St. Lucie County Supervisor of Elections Gertrude Walker has responded to a voter advocacy group’s lawsuit by claiming her office did make about a half-million documents from the 2012 election available. True the Vote, which requested the records and then sued Walker over their availability, never showed up to check them out, Walker’s legal response states. [...] Reached on Friday, True the Vote President Catherine Engelbrecht disagreed. ‘True the Vote requested access to election records and was

never given formal permission to inspect,' Engelbrecht said. 'Litigation was deemed necessary as our lawsuit details.'" [Treasure Coast News, [2/22/13](#)]

- **True The Vote Reached Agreement With Walker To Examine More Than 118,000 Ballots And Registration Records.** "A conservative group plans to examine more than 118,000 ballots and sift through voter registration records in St. Lucie County, the site of litigation and tabulating problems that drew national scorn in Democrat Patrick Murphy's narrow congressional victory over Republican Allen West in November. The group True The Vote says it will send 10 to 50 people to Fort Pierce to look at the ballots and records under an agreement reached this week with St. Lucie County Elections Supervisor Gertrude Walker." [Palm Beach Post, [5/10/13](#)]

True the Vote Encouraged Citizens to Call True the Vote Election Integrity Hotline to Report Fraud in 2012. According to a Press Release, "True the Vote (TTV), the nonpartisan election integrity organization, today announced the availability of its Election Integrity Hotline, to help document illegal activity inside or outside of America's polling places...Concerned citizens are encouraged to report any incidents outside of polling locations with True the Vote's official Election Integrity Hotline (<http://www.truethethevote.org/incident-report/>). Citizens may submit incidents over the phone by dialing 855-444-6100. Descriptions and photos should be directed to freeandfair@truethethevote.org. True the Vote will verify credible reports and submit those appropriate local authorities." [Press Release, [11/5/12](#)]

- **Vote Stand Submissions are Reviewed By True the Vote and Submitted to Relevant Election Authorities.** According to a Press Release, "VoteStand empowers voters to help identify, document and, in some cases, capture images of voter fraud or suppression in their varying forms. Submissions are given careful review by TTV and are then referred to appropriate authorities for official action as needed. Users can view referred cases based on their location within the app and share on major social networking sites. Version 2.0, available for the 2014 election, will allow voters to report instances of: Absentee vote fraud, Voter identity fraud, Illegal electioneering, Machine tampering, Felon vote fraud, Misinformation/Suppression, Multiple voting, Voter intimidation, Voter registration fraud, and Vote buying." [Press Release, [10/27/14](#)]
- **Citizens Reported 18 Incidents Through Vote Stand App in 2014 Elections.** According to an article in Right Wing Watch, "A week before Election Day, the 'voter integrity' group True the Vote released a new smart phone app to empower its army of citizen detectives to report suspected incidents of voter fraud and intimidation across the country, in the hopes of creating, as True the Vote's founder Catherine Engelbrecht put in an interview on Monday, 'an archive that will finally pull the curtain back on the myth that there is no voter fraud.' But it seems that the evidence of massive voter fraud that Engelbrecht hoped to expose failed to materialize. In the week that the app was available, users recorded only 18 incidents of election irregularities, the vast majority of which had nothing to do with True the Vote's policy priorities." [Right Wing Watch, [11/5/14](#)]

2012: True The Vote Hosted A Summit In Ohio And Planned To Host A Second, National Summit In Houston. "The group is hosting its 2012 summit Saturday in Ohio, a critical swing state. At True the Vote's national summit in Houston this spring, Engelbrecht laid out the group's mission in fighting terms for more than 300 people from 32 states. 'You have all been chosen because you are all warriors,'

the 42-year-old mother of two said to cheers at the Sheraton Houston Brookhollow Hotel.” [Washington Post, [8/25/12](#)]

2012 WISCONSIN RECALL ELECTION

2011: True The Vote Partnered With Two Tea Party Groups In Wisconsin To Review Nearly One Million Signatures On Recall Petitions. “The boiling political caldron of Wisconsin was the next stop for True the Vote. It teamed up with two Tea Party organizations to review nearly one million signatures on petitions demanding the recall of Gov. Scott Walker, a Republican. The partnership called itself Verify the Recall. ‘We have been hearing reports of duplicate signatures, questionable practices and downright fraud in the gubernatorial recall effort,’ Verify the Recall said in a pitch to volunteers. ‘The integrity of Wisconsin’s elections and associated processes are at stake; free and honest elections — the cornerstone of our political process — are being threatened.’” [New York Times, [9/16/12](#)]

True The Vote Began Working In Wisconsin In 2011, After Receiving \$35,000 Grant From The Lynde And Harry Bradley Foundation, Whose President Was Gov. Walker’s Campaign Manager. “True the Vote began working in Wisconsin in 2011, the same year it received a \$35,000 grant from the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, which is based in Wisconsin and is a major backer of conservative causes, including Americans for Prosperity. The foundation’s president and chief executive, Michael Grebe, was Mr. Walker’s campaign chairman for his 2010 campaign and for the recall election, which he won.”

- **Donation Ultimately Returned After True The Vote Failed To Obtain Tax-Exempt IRS Status.** “Mr. Grebe said in an interview that the grant was for activities unrelated to the recall. He said the donation was ultimately returned because it was given on the premise that True the Vote would be granted tax-exempt status by the I.R.S., which Ms. Engelbrecht said has not happened despite several attempts.” [New York Times, [9/16/12](#)]

True The Vote Pledged To “Man Each And Every Voting Location” In Wisconsin With Poll Observers. “Tom Barrett’s campaign cried foul Monday over conservative anti-voter fraud organization True the Vote’s pledge to ‘man each and every voting location’ in Wisconsin with election observers. True the Vote’s goal is ‘to man each and every voting location with a trained poll watcher to ensure the integrity of the (recall) election,’ according to its website. The Tea Party-backed group hosted in-person and online election observer training from May to June in an effort to prevent what the group described as ‘Wisconsin’s long history of election fraud.’” [Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, [6/04/12](#)]

True The Vote Claimed That Their Analysis Found Only 534,685 Recall Signatures Were Valid, Nearly 6,000 Short Of The Required 540,000. True The Vote Never Reviewed 14,305 Petitions. “True the Vote states that volunteers from around the U.S. entered approximately 820,000 of the recall signatures into a database developed by True the Vote, and their analysis showed that only 534,685 recall signatures are eligible, almost 6,000 short of the required 540,000 mark. Their executive summary states they only processed 138,203 of the total 152,508 petitions submitted -- meaning over 14,305 pages were never entered. True the Vote boasts in their summary that each signature line was entered an average of 2.67 times. It is not known why they entered names and signatures nearly three times each into the database but failed to input the complete data set.” [Center for Media and Democracy, PR Watch, [3/02/12](#)]

Wisconsin’s Accountability Board Found That True The Vote’s Results Were “Less Accurate, Complete And Reliable” Than The Board’s Review And Analysis “Ms. Engelbrecht has said her goal was not to stop the recall election, which had been backed by labor unions, but to prove to those behind it “that unions cannot strong-arm America.’ She said thousands of volunteers helped enter petition signatures into a database, which was then analyzed by the group’s software. Of the one million signatures, True the Vote said 63,038 were ineligible, 212,628 required further investigation and 584,489 were valid. The [state’s Government] accountability board concluded that about 900,000 signatures were valid and, in a memorandum reviewing True the Vote’s work, criticized its methods. [...] While the board commended the group for encouraging ‘a strong level of civic engagement,’ it found that True the Vote’s results ‘were significantly less accurate, complete and reliable than the review and analysis completed by the G.A.B.” [New York Times, [9/16/12](#)]

2012: True The Vote Sent “Election Observers” To Milwaukee Polling Place, Who Were Seen Watching Voters And “Taking Notes.” “As Jamila Gatlin waited in line at a northside Milwaukee elementary school to cast her ballot June 5 in the proposed recall of Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker she noticed three people in the back of the room. They were watching, taking notes. Officially called ‘election observers,’ they were white. Gatlin, and almost everyone else in line, was black. ‘That’s pretty harassing right there, if you ask me,’ Gatlin said in the hall outside the gym. ‘Why do we have to be watched while we vote?’ Two of the observers were from a Houston-based group called True the Vote, an offshoot of the Houston tea party known as the King Street Patriots. Their stated goal is to prevent voter fraud, which the group and founder Catherine Engelbrecht claims is undermining free and fair elections.” [Washington Post, [8/25/12](#)]

2012: True The Vote Volunteers Received Two Warnings For “Disruptive” Behavior At Lawrence University Polling Place That Caused Lines To Slow And “Some Students Gave Up And Left.” “On Election Day, poll watchers appeared to have slowed voting to a crawl at Lawrence University in Appleton, where some students were attempting to register and vote on the same day. Charlene Peterson, the city clerk in Appleton, said three election observers, including one from True the Vote, were so disruptive that she gave them two warnings. “They were making challenges of certain kinds and just kind of in physical contact with some of the poll workers, leaning over them, checking and looking,” said John Lepinski, a poll watcher and former Democratic Party chairman for Outagamie County. He said that as a result of the scrutiny, the line to register moved slowly. Finally, he said, some students gave up and left. Ms. Engelbrecht said the True the Vote observer at Lawrence University believed that students were being permitted to register and vote without proper identification.” [New York Times, [9/16/12](#)]

New York Times: Voters Complained that True the Vote’s Poll Watchers Were Disruptive, Discouraged Voters From Waiting in Line and Circulated Unsubstantiated Voter Fraud Rumors. “In 2010, there were numerous accounts in Houston of voters in predominantly Black and Latino precincts feeling intimidated by a Tea Party group called the King Street Patriots, which started an initiative called True the Vote. Texas does not allow voters to be challenged on Election Day, but some voters reported that the watchers hovered over them or admonished them. Many states, including Texas, forbid election watchers from speaking directly to voters. [...] True the Vote also appeared in Wisconsin in 2012, during a recall election for Scott Walker, the Republican governor at the time. Election officials there complained that poll watchers were disruptive, slowed voting enough to discourage some of those waiting in line, and circulated unsubstantiated reports of busloads of people coming from other states to illegally vote.” [The New York Times, 10/30/20]

2012: TARGETED STUDENTS ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES

2012: True The Vote Sent A Fax To An Alabama Historically Black College Attempting To Verify The Addresses Of 130 Students. “A volunteer network started by Tea Party members in Texas has taken steps to verify the addresses of college students in Huntsville, prompting local Democrats to cry foul. True the Vote last month sent a fax to Oakwood University, a historically black Seventh-day Adventist college in Huntsville, to verify the addresses of more than 120 students who are registered voters. The list included names alongside dates of birth. [...] Parsons' fax to Oakwood College officials reads: "Please just mark the 'yes' or 'no' column to let me know if the student is still there. As I stated on the phone, I don't need to know if they graduated or just stopped attending. No additional information is needed." Oakwood didn't respond, and instead contacted local Democrats this week.” [Huntsville Times, [10/21/12](#)]

2012: True The Vote Volunteers Received Two Warnings For “Disruptive” Behavior At Lawrence University Polling Place That Caused Lines To Slow And “Some Students Gave Up And Left.” “On Election Day, poll watchers appeared to have slowed voting to a crawl at Lawrence University in Appleton, where some students were attempting to register and vote on the same day. Charlene Peterson, the city clerk in Appleton, said three election observers, including one from True the Vote, were so disruptive that she gave them two warnings. “They were making challenges of certain kinds and just kind of in physical contact with some of the poll workers, leaning over them, checking and looking,” said John Lepinski, a poll watcher and former Democratic Party chairman for Outagamie County. He said that as a result of the scrutiny, the line to register moved slowly. Finally, he said, some students gave up and left. Ms. Engelbrecht said the True the Vote observer at Lawrence University believed that students were being permitted to register and vote without proper identification.” [New York Times, [9/16/12](#)]

Ohio Voter Integrity Project’s Top Priority Was To Remove College Students From Voter Rolls For Failure To Specify Dorm Room Numbers. “In Ohio, election records show, one of the project's top priorities has been to remove college students from the voter rolls for failure to specify dorm room numbers. (As a group, college students are strongly in Obama's camp.) Voters challenged include 284 students at the Ohio State University campus in Columbus, 110 at Oberlin College, 88 at College of Wooster, 38 at Kent State — and dozens more from the University of Cincinnati, Miami University, Lake Erie College, Walsh University, Hiram College, John Carroll University and Telshe Yeshiva, a rabbinical college near Cleveland. So far, every county election board that has reviewed the dorm challenges found them invalid... In some cases, the Ohio tea party researchers have correctly identified voters who have died or moved, speeding up the official updating of registration files. They also found voters registered at a Cincinnati trailer park that no longer exists. ‘We wouldn't know to take those folks off the rolls if it weren't for this project,’ said Alex Triantafilou, a Republican member of the Hamilton County Board of Elections.” [Los Angeles Times, [9/26/12](#)]

- **Ohio Voter Integrity Project Is An Offshoot Of True The Vote.** “The tea party groups, scattered around the state, have joined forces under the banner of the Ohio Voter Integrity Project. It is an offshoot of True the Vote, a Texas organization that has recruited volunteers nationwide to challenge voter rosters and work as poll watchers.” [Los Angeles Times, [9/26/12](#)]

2010: DISPATCHED HUNDREDS OF POLL OBSERVERS TO MINORITY NEIGHBORHOODS

During The 2010 Elections, True The Vote “Dispatched Hundreds Of Observers To Minority Neighborhoods” Around Houston And Gathered Over 800 Complaints Of Improper Voting.

“Then came the 2010 midterms. Under the banner of an offshoot organization called True the Vote, the Patriots dispatched hundreds of observers to minority neighborhoods in and around Houston, where they gathered more than 800 complaints of improper voting. Their efforts made national headlines, and phone calls and e--’mails began pouring in from activists around the country who wanted to join the cause. With a presidential election looming, Engelbrecht decided that it was time to take the fight nationwide. Last year, at True the Vote’s first annual summit, she urged attendees to carry the mantle of ‘voter integrity-- back to their home regions by forming spin-off groups.” [The Atlantic, [October 2012](#)]

- **Harris County Democratic Party Chair: Influx Of White Poll Watchers Brought Back “Memories Of A Time When Racial Intimidation Was Commonplace In The South.”** “As a result of the organization’s work in 2010, 400 to 500 voters were put on “suspense,” forcing them to provide additional information verifying their addresses. By the fall 2010 election, volunteers again appeared to focus on minority neighborhoods, this time as election observers, Mr. Ray said. “The first day of early voting, at many of the 37 locations, primarily in minority neighborhoods, dozens of poll watchers showed up sent by King Street Patriots,” Mr. Ray said. The influx of white election observers in black neighborhoods caused friction with voters and poll workers, bringing back memories of a time when racial intimidation at the polls was commonplace in the South, said Gerald M. Birnberg, a lawyer and former chairman of the Harris County Democratic Party. True the Vote has strongly denied that it has engaged in voter suppression. “Whether that was the intention or just born of some innate paranoia is largely irrelevant,” Mr. Birnberg said. “That’s how it was perceived by people at the polls.” [New York Times, [9/16/12](#)]

True The Vote’s Efforts Caused At Least 400 Voters To Be Put On “Suspense” And Forced To Provide Additional Information To Verify Their Addresses. “They had one particular case I remember very well,’ said Douglas Ray, the Harris County assistant attorney who represents the election registrar. ‘They had identified an address where eight or 10 people were registered to vote. There was no building there.’ Mr. Ray found out that the building had been torn down and that the people simply moved. As a result of the organization’s work in 2010, 400 to 500 voters were put on ‘suspense,’ forcing them to provide additional information verifying their addresses.” [New York Times, [9/16/12](#)]

The New York Times: “The Flood of the Mostly White Observers into Black Neighborhoods Caused Friction, and Resurfaced Not-Too-Distant Memories When Racial Intimidation at the Polls was Commonplace in the South.” “In Texas, the leaked video of the Harris County Republican Party’s training, which was published by the voting rights group Common Cause, recalled a similar episode from the 2010 midterm elections. That year, a Tea Party-affiliated group in Houston known as the King Street Patriots sent poll watchers to downtown polling locations. The flood of the mostly white observers into Black neighborhoods caused friction, and resurfaced not-too-distant memories when racial intimidation at the polls was commonplace in the South. The King Street Patriots would eventually evolve into True the Vote, one of the major national organizations now seeking more voting restrictions. Last year, True the Vote joined several lawsuits alleging fraud in the election (all failed) and led countrywide drives to try to recruit more poll watchers.” [The New York Times, [5/01/21](#)]

True The Vote Targeted Sheila Jackson Lee’s Congressional District Believing That Thousands Of Addresses Housing Six Or More Registered Voters Was An Indication Of Inaccurate Registrations. In Houston, the group targeted the Congressional district represented by Sheila Jackson

Lee, a Democrat who is black. Ms. Engelbrecht said the group settled on Ms. Lee’s district because thousands of addresses there housed six or more registered voters, which it took as an indication of inaccurate registrations. The methodology, which the group still uses, could disproportionately affect lower income families. Volunteers spent five months analyzing 3,800 registrations in Ms. Lee’s district, discovering more than 500 voters that the group said were problematic. More than 200 voters were registered at vacant lots, prompting Ms. Engelbrecht to later remark that those voters had a ‘Lord of the Rings Middle Earth sort of thing going on.’” [New York Times, [9/16/12](#)]

Washington Post: Engelbrecht’s Poll Watchers Claimed They Witnessed Election Workers Telling Voters How To Vote In Houston In 2010. “Engelbrecht and True the Vote volunteers describe themselves as the front line in a war against voter fraud. Engelbrecht's poll watchers claimed to have witnessed election workers telling voters how to vote in Houston in 2010 and submitted 800 reports of irregularities to the Harris County Clerk's office in Houston. Nothing came of the complaints.” [Washington Post, [8/25/12](#)]

True the Vote Later Denied Involvement. “In 2010, the Harris County Attorney's Office received multiple such complaints of poll watchers at early voting polling places in predominantly Black and Hispanic neighborhoods including Kashmere Gardens and Moody Park. The complaints included poll watchers ‘hovering over’ voters, ‘getting into election workers’ faces’ and blocking or disrupting lines of voters waiting to cast their ballots. The county Democratic Party blamed volunteers with ties to True the Vote, a Houston-based voter watchdog group that started as a project of a tea party organization. The group denied the accusations.” [The Houston Chronicle, [4/09/21](#)]

INVESTIGATIONS AND ETHICAL ISSUES

WIRED DOCUMENTS EXPOSE FLAWS IN TRUE THE VOTE REPORTING APP

November 2022: Wired: True the Vote voter challenge app uses an ineffective and unreliable methodology to determine who should remain on the rolls. “Best known for its work on the widely debunked film 2,000 Mules, True the Vote had developed an algorithm that matched names in voter rolls with data kept by the USPS about individuals who changed addresses. The group’s goal was to aggressively cull voter rolls, under the suspicion that inaccurate registrations lead to voter fraud, which is extremely rare in the US. ... True the Vote sent the names of approximately 4,000 supposedly ineligible voters to the leader of the Republican Party in Muscogee County, Alton Russell, a toilet paper salesman, who in turn submitted them to the county Board of Elections to challenge their voter registrations. But the scheme didn’t work: Most of the counties in Georgia rejected True the Vote’s challenges, and Turner successfully sued the Muscogee County Board of Elections to ensure his ballot would be counted in the 2021 runoff election. Undeterred, True the Vote has quietly rolled out a web app called IV3 to replicate this process around the country. The browser-based application has led to the challenges of hundreds of thousands of voter registrations, the group claims. Yet little is known about IV3. The app is not active in most states, and to get access, you need to provide True the Vote with a valid form of identification. But by analyzing the code IV3 uses for its frontend, WIRED has been able to piece together how the tool likely functions. Our review found that the app ultimately uses an ineffective and unreliable methodology to determine who should remain on the rolls. Experts say that the app weaponizes public data and is more likely to remove eligible voters from the rolls than it is to catch rampant fraud that doesn’t exist in this country.” [Wired, [11/8/22](#)]

March 2024: Engelbrecht predicted election fraud could be “exponentially worse.... We’re not going to back down.” “It could be exponentially worse than what we saw in 2020, but we’re going to be awake, we’re going to be engaged, we are going to understand the process, and we’re going to have options to continue to hold to those truths,” Engelbrecht said during a March webinar titled ‘Election Integrity Team Building 101.’ ‘We’re not going to back down. There’s too much to lose.’ The hour-long presentation was delivered from a hotel room in Denver, with Engelbrecht laying out what could sound like a relatively benign plan to monitor elections and check voter rolls. ‘Keep a soft heart, keep a kind word in your mouth, approach people irrespective of party with love. You will find that things will be much better if that is the approach that is taken,’ Engelbrecht said. The session, she said, was overbooked. Engelbrecht then began speaking about elections being ‘perilously close to cracking in half,’ and her presentation became a highlight reel of election conspiracies, references to crystals, Christian nationalist rhetoric, and militaristic jargon. ‘If this republic’s to be saved, it’s because [of] people like all of you that are on this webinar right now. There are some bad actors out there and we live in particularly chaotic and caustic times,’ said Engelbrecht. ‘If we wait on somebody to do something, we will watch freedom slip away on our watch. That’s how close we are.’” [Wired, [4/8/24](#)]

- **True the Vote planned to relaunch IV3 app, new tool.** “Undeterred, True the Vote announced last week that it was relaunching IV3. Phillips claims that the software’s database now has close to ‘100 billion data elements about every single voter in the United States.’ WIRED has not seen proof of this claim. The new IV3 system will soon be available in all 50 states, the organization said. On Thursday, the group held a webinar to train local activists on how to use it. The new system also relies on data from the US Postal Service, but Engelbrecht claimed during the presentation that Phillips and his team had ‘normalized’ the data from all 50 states to ensure the system would not produce inaccurate results. She also said that thousands of people across the country were already registered, and that they had a long waiting list. Additionally, she said that another software tool developed by Phillips’ team, called Ground Fusion, would be released soon; it is aimed at organizations and PACs looking to identify voting irregularities across larger geographic regions.” [Wired, [4/8/24](#)]
- **True the Vote “Americans are questioning the trustworthiness of the system.”** “Americans are questioning the trustworthiness of the system by which we cast and count our votes. How does this get better? Voters can take action by helping to improve the accuracy of our voter rolls. True the Vote is pleased to re-introduce our web-based app that empowers voters with a way to confirm accuracy, identify ineligible records, report findings to local authorities, and stay up to date on the recent changes to your local voter rolls: IV3.” [truethevote.org/iv3, accessed [7/23/24](#)]

ARIZONA AG FINDS NO EVIDENCE TO SUBSTANTIATE FRAUD CLAIMS

October 2022: Arizona AG’s office sought investigation of True the Vote. “The office of Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich is asking the FBI and IRS to investigate True the Vote, a conservative vote-monitoring nonprofit Donald Trump has repeatedly touted for its efforts to raise doubts about the legitimacy of the 2020 election. Reginald Grigsby, an investigator with Brnovich’s office, described a series of questionable interactions with the group’s leaders and suggested there may be evidence of financial improprieties if the agencies pursued them. ‘Given TTV’s status as a nonprofit organization, it would appear that further review of its financials may be warranted,’ Grigsby wrote. The letter, dated Friday, is particularly remarkable coming from the office of Brnovich, a Republican who once vied for Trump’s support in a Senate GOP primary bid that hinged on false claims about the 2020 election results.” [Politico, [10/14/22](#)]

- **AZ official said True the Vote never provided promised evidence of voter fraud.** “Grigsby urged the federal agencies to pursue the group after what it described as multiple suspicious interactions with leaders Catherine Engelbrecht and Gregg Phillips. Grigsby said the pair met with state investigators three times since early 2021 and promised to provide data it said would prove widespread fraud in the 2020 election — but the evidence never arrived.... In an April 2022 meeting, Grigsby said the group claimed to have evidence of ‘243 mules’ who had stuffed ballot boxes in Arizona. But they presented no hard evidence to back it up, he said. In his most recent meeting with the group on June 1, Grigsby said Engelbrecht and Phillips indicated they had shared all their data with the FBI and were working with the bureau as informants. But he said the FBI’s Phoenix field office quickly confirmed this to be false and said the group had, in turn, told FBI agents to contact Brnovich’s office to obtain their data.” [Politico, [10/14/22](#)]

Arizona AG investigated fraud claims, hid finding that they were unfounded. Nearly a year after the 2020 election, Arizona’s then-attorney general, Mark Brnovich, launched an investigation into voting in the state’s largest county that quickly consumed more than 10,000 hours of his staff’s time. Investigators prepared a report in March 2022 stating that virtually all claims of error and malfeasance were unfounded, according to internal documents reviewed by The Washington Post. Brnovich, a Republican, kept it private.... That timeline emerges from documents released to The Post this week by Brnovich’s successor, Kris Mayes, a Democrat. She said she considered the taxpayer-funded investigation closed and, earlier this month, notified leaders on Maricopa County’s governing board that they were no longer in the state’s crosshairs.” [Washington Post, [2/22/23](#)]

- **Memo: True the Vote, other election deniers “did not provide any evidence to support their allegations.”** “Of the more conspicuous claims examined by investigators — including those circulated by Cyber Ninjas, Texas-based True the Vote and others — the groups ‘did not provide any evidence to support their allegations,’ the memo concluded. The information they did provide ‘was speculative in many instances and when investigated by our agents and support staff, was found to be inaccurate.’” [Washington Post, [2/22/23](#)]

TRUE THE VOTE LEADERS ACCUSED OF ABUSING NONPROFIT STATUS FOR PERSONAL GAIN

February 2021: Conservative donor sued True the Vote sued to recoup \$2.5 million donation.

“Like many Trump supporters, conservative donor Fred Eshelman awoke the day after the presidential election with the suspicion that something wasn’t right. His candidate’s apparent lead in key battleground states had evaporated overnight. The next day, the North Carolina financier and his advisers reached out to a small conservative nonprofit group in Texas that was seeking to expose voter fraud. After a 20-minute talk with the group’s president, their first conversation, Eshelman was sold.... Over the next 12 days, Eshelman came to regret his donation and to doubt conspiracy theories of rampant illegal voting, according to court records and interviews. Now, he wants his money back.” [Washington Post, [2/15/21](#)]

- **Documents show True the Vote’s “private assurances ... repeatedly fizzled,” group steered money to Engelbrecht.** “Documents that have surfaced in Eshelman’s litigation, along with interviews, show how True the Vote’s private assurances that it was on the cusp of revealing illegal election schemes repeatedly fizzled as the group’s focus shifted from one allegation to the next. The nonprofit sought to coordinate its efforts with a coalition of Trump’s allies, including

Trump attorney Jay Sekulow and Sen. Lindsey O. Graham (R-S.C.), the documents show. Eshelman has alleged in two lawsuits — one in federal court has been withdrawn and the other is ongoing in a Texas state court — that True the Vote did not spend his \$2 million gift and a subsequent \$500,000 donation as it said it would. Eshelman also alleges that True the Vote directed much of his money to people or businesses connected to the group’s president, Catherine Engelbrecht.” [Washington Post, [2/15/21](#)]

- **Donor representative: “We were just not getting any data or proof.”** “The court documents and interviews show how quickly Eshelman and his allies became disillusioned with True the Vote. ‘We were just not getting any data or proof,’ said Tom Crawford, who had worked for Eshelman as a lobbyist and served as his representative on the True the Vote effort. ‘We were looking at this and saying to ourselves, “This just is not adding up.”’” [Washington Post, [2/15/21](#)]
- **Reveal: Texas AG Ken Paxton was a “helpful ally” to True the Vote.** “Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton is pretty familiar with Catherine Engelbrecht. He’s been a guest on her podcast, chatting about their shared passion: rooting out voter fraud. They both have gone to great lengths to try to support former President Donald Trump’s lie that the 2020 election was stolen. And when Engelbrecht, founder of the nonprofit True the Vote, has found herself in hot water, Paxton’s office has turned out to be a helpful ally. Most recently, a state judge sided with Engelbrecht’s argument that it should be Paxton’s office – not a court – that should probe allegations made by a True the Vote donor who says he was swindled out of \$2.5 million. But more than a year after the case was dismissed, Paxton’s office won’t say whether it ever investigated the donor dispute. Last month, Reveal from The Center for Investigative Reporting found that True the Vote had engaged in a series of questionable transactions that sent more than \$1 million to Engelbrecht and other insiders, while failing to back up its voter fraud claims.” [Reveal, [7/21/22](#)]
- **November 2022: Texas appeals court upheld removal of True the Vote from former donor Fredric Eshelman’s lawsuit.** “A Texas appellate court has revived claims against conservative lawyer James Bopp Jr. in a case involving a donor who alleges \$2.5 million in funds he donated to fight the 2020 presidential election results weren’t spent as he agreed. The Fourteenth Court of Appeals in Houston ... agreed that claims against True the Vote Inc. and other defendants should be dismissed because they showed there were no conditions to the donation, it said the same is not true for Bopp, who was acting as the charity’s general counsel.” [Law360, 11/4/22]

June 2022: True the Vote leaders accused of using nonprofit for personal gain. “Over the last two presidential election cycles, True the Vote has raised millions in donations with claims that it discovered tide-turning voter fraud. It’s promised to release its evidence. It never has. Instead, the Texas-based nonprofit organization has engaged in a series of questionable transactions that sent more than \$1 million combined to its founder, a longtime board member romantically linked to the founder and the group’s general counsel, an investigation by Reveal from The Center for Investigative Reporting has found. ...A review of thousands of pages of documents from state filings, tax returns and court records, however, paints the picture of an organization that enriches Engelbrecht and partner Gregg Phillips rather than actually rooting out any fraud. According to the documents, True the Vote has given questionable loans to Engelbrecht and has a history of awarding contracts to companies run by Engelbrecht and Phillips. Within days of receiving \$2.5 million from a donor to stop the certification of

the 2020 election, True the Vote distributed much of the money to a company owned by Phillips, Bopp’s law firm and Engelbrecht directly for a campaign that quickly fizzled out.” [Reveal, [6/8/22](#)]

- **Records show six-figure loans, payments from True the Vote to employees and related firms.** “The records show: True the Vote regularly reported loans to Engelbrecht, including more than \$113,000 in 2019, according to a tax filing. Texas law bans nonprofits from loaning money to directors; Engelbrecht is both a director and an employee. Companies connected to Engelbrecht and Phillips collected nearly \$890,000 from True the Vote from 2014 to 2020. The largest payment – at least \$750,000 – went to a new company created by Phillips, OPSEC Group LLC, to do voter analysis in 2020. It’s unclear whether OPSEC has any other clients; it has no website and no digital footprint that Reveal could trace beyond its incorporation records. The contract, which one expert called ‘eye-popping’ for its largess, did not appear to be disclosed in the 2020 tax return the organization provided to Reveal. True the Vote provided Bopp’s law firm a retainer of at least \$500,000 to lead a legal charge against the results of the 2020 election, but he filed only four of the seven lawsuits promised to a \$2.5 million donor, all of which were voluntarily dismissed less than a week after being filed. The donor later called the amount billed by Bopp’s firm ‘unconscionable’ and ‘impossible.’ The organization’s tax returns are riddled with inconsistencies and have regularly been amended. Experts who reviewed the filings said it makes it difficult to understand how True the Vote is truly spending its donations.” [Reveal, [6/8/22](#)]
- **Engelbrecht “has maintained an oversized control ... small board of directors that’s been packed with potential conflicts of interests.”** “As True the Vote has gained prominence, Engelbrecht has maintained an oversized control of the charity as its only employee in recent years and a member of a small board of directors that’s been packed with potential conflicts of interests. ‘That’s a real problem,’ said Styron, of CharityWatch.” [Reveal, [6/8/22](#)]
- **Donor alleged Engelbrecht and Phillips were “lovers.”** “Engelbrecht and Phillips’ ties go beyond True the Vote. Their companies have shared the same mailing address, and Engelbrecht in 2016 was named the CFO of one of Phillips’ companies. In court filings, a donor later alleged that the two were ‘lovers,’ something they haven’t denied. When Reveal asked Bopp about their relationship, he said: ‘I do not know the facts because it’s none of my business, whether they’re in a romantic relationship or not.’” [Reveal, [6/8/22](#)]

June 2023: Complaint to IRS seeks investigation into alleged self-enrichment by True the Vote leaders. “Conservative activists Catherine Engelbrecht and Gregg Phillips used the nonprofit True the Vote to enrich themselves, according to a complaint filed to the IRS. On Monday, the nonprofit watchdog group Campaign for Accountability called for an investigation into True the Vote, which has made repeated false claims about voter fraud in elections. The complaint said True the Vote may have violated state and federal law when the charity used donations to issue loans to Engelbrecht, its founder, and lucrative contracts to Gregg Phillips, a longtime director. The organization also failed to disclose the payments to insiders in its tax returns, including excessive legal bills paid to its general counsel at the time, who filed election-related lawsuits in four states, the complaint said.” [ProPublica, [6/5/23](#)]

DESPITE TAX-EXEMPT STATUS AND NONPARTISAN CLAIMS, TRUE THE VOTE ENGAGED IN OVERTLY POLITICAL ACTIVITY

2016: True The Vote Sent Fundraising Email Suggesting Hillary Clinton Might Steal The Presidential Election. In 2016, True the Vote sent a fundraising email that stated, “Do you believe Hillary is capable of stealing the election? If your answer is yes, then please give generously to True the Vote. The Republican Party can’t and won’t stop this election from being stolen. [...] If you want honest elections, True the Vote is your best defense. We will keep fighting when others cannot – or will not.” [Election Law Blog, [2/18/16](#)]

2014: True The Vote Filed A Lawsuit With Several Mississippians Who Supported Tea Party Candidate Chris McDaniel, Against State Officials, Over Voting Records They Claimed Had Been Tampered With And Destroyed. “A hearing was conducted Thursday in Jackson related to the lawsuit filed by True the Vote and 22 Mississippians against Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann, the state Republican Party and election commissions in nine counties. U.S. District Judge Nancy Atlas of Texas, appointed to hear the case, said Thursday in court that the case is technically about what documents can be seen. [...] True the Vote claims it was denied access to voting records in Copiah, Hinds, Jefferson Davis, Lauderdale, Leake, Madison, Rankin, Simpson and Yazoo counties. The group also claims records have been destroyed or tampered with. Most of the Mississippians who joined with True the Vote in the lawsuit were supporters of state Sen. Chris McDaniel in his challenge of U.S. Sen. Thad Cochran.” [Clarion-Ledger, [7/26/14](#)]

- **Lawsuit Alleged That Requests To Review Possible “Double Voting” In The Primary Race Had Been Ignored.** “True The Vote, which bills itself as the nation’s leading voters’ rights and election integrity organization, said that it had no choice but to file a lawsuit after the Mississippi secretary of state and Mississippi GOP refused to respond to requests to review possible ‘double-voting’ in the state’s primary, where Sen. Thad Cochran was declared the winner over tea party-backed state Sen. Chris McDaniel.” [Washington Times, [7/01/14](#)]
- **Engelbrecht Admitted That Despite True The Vote’s 501(c)(3) Status, She Sent A Fundraising Email Ahead Of The Cochran-McDaniel Run-Off.** A federal judge and a state attorney raised questions Thursday about the Texas-based group True the Vote's motive in wanting birth dates of Mississippi voters. [...] Atlas asked Englebrecht if True the Vote would use detailed voter information in any way other than verifying voters in elections. Englebrecht replied that her organization is a 501(3)(c) nonprofit and therefore doesn’t get involved in specific election contests. Mike Wallace, attorney for the Mississippi Republican Party, asked Englebrecht about a fundraising letter she sent out on behalf of True the Vote on June 25, a day after the Cochran-McDaniel runoff. She admitted sending out the letter.” [Clarion-Ledger, [7/26/14](#)]

2013: True The Vote Filed Lawsuit Against Florida County Supervisor Of Elections Gertrude Walker For Denying Access To Voting Records From 18th District’s 2012 Congressional Race. “A voter advocacy group with ties to the tea party has filed a lawsuit against St. Lucie County Supervisor of Elections Gertrude Walker to inspect voting records from the District 18 race between ex-Congressman Allen West and U.S. Rep. Patrick Murphy. True the Vote, a nonprofit that stems from a Texas Tea Party chapter, said in a news release that Walker's office denied access to poll books, voter credit lists, felon files and other records. The organization is collecting the info to perform its own audit of the District 18 race. True the Vote's lawsuit, filed in federal court in Fort Pierce, cites the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 and the Florida Constitution to demand those records and more. Many of the requests deal with lists of inactive, ineligible and noncitizen registered voters.” [Treasure Coast News, [2/04/13](#)]

- **Palm Beach County Tea Party Leader Pamela Wohlschlegel Joined The Lawsuit As A Plaintiff.** “Pamela Wohlschlegel, who heads the Palm Beach County Tea Party, joined the Houston-based group as a plaintiff in the lawsuit. The clock is ticking on the opportunity for a comprehensive, outside audit of this recount, True the Vote President Catherine Engelbrecht said in a release. ‘Each passing day heightens the risk of critical documents being disposed of. If you thought voter fraud could erode America’s confidence in elections, unchecked incompetence in the vote tabulation process will destroy all faith remaining in our systems.’” [Treasure Coast News, [2/04/13](#)]

2012: Judge Found That True the Vote Violated Campaign Finance Rules By Acting As A PAC And Providing “Illegal Contributions” To The Republican Party In The Form Of Poll Watchers And Candidate Forums. “The activities of the King Street Patriots and True the Vote have attracted two lawsuits and a state ethics complaint in Texas since 2009. In a lawsuit brought by the Texas Democratic Party, a judge ruled in March that True the Vote was acting as a political action committee, violating state campaign finance law by providing illegal contributions to the Republican Party in the form of trained poll watchers and Republican-only candidate forums. Texas Democratic Party general counsel Chad Dunn said he doesn’t buy the group’s grass-roots image. ‘Nobody gets to know what they are doing,’ he told News21. ‘They are the one and only political operation in Texas that isn’t disclosing its donors.’” [Washington Post, [8/25/12](#)]

2012: Despite Nonprofit Designation, True The Vote Donated \$5,000 To The Republican State Leadership Committee. Engelbrecht Later Called The Donation A Mistake. “In the filings, the group stated its goal in 2010: ‘Educated, informed and registered voters.’ In 2011, that changed to ‘mobilizing and training volunteers to work as election monitors.’ Volunteers ‘aggressively pursued fraud report(s) to ensure prosecution where appropriate,’ the group said in the 2011 IRS document. Despite the nonprofit designation, last August True the Vote donated \$5,000 to the Republican State Leadership Committee, an avowedly political organization that says its ‘mission is to elect down ballot, state-level Republican office-holders.’ In an emailed statement, Engelbrecht called the \$5,000 donation a mistake.” [Houston Chronicle, [10/23/12](#)]

- **Facing South: True The Vote’s Donation “Would Appear To Disqualify The Group From Being A 501(c)(3) Nonprofit.”** “Legally, True the Vote’s gift to the RSLC would appear to disqualify the group from being a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Tax lawyers who specialize in election law consulted by Facing South said that, because a 527 group is by definition oriented towards political activity, it would likely be impermissible for a 501(c)(3) nonprofit to make such a contribution.” [Facing South, [10/10/12](#)]

2011: True The Vote Partnered With Two Tea Party Groups In Wisconsin To Review Nearly One Million Signatures On Recall Petitions. “The boiling political caldron of Wisconsin was the next step for True the Vote. It teamed up with two Tea Party organizations to review nearly one million signatures on petitions demanding the recall of Gov. Scott Walker, a Republican. The partnership called itself Verify the Recall. ‘We have been hearing reports of duplicate signatures, questionable practices and downright fraud in the gubernatorial recall effort,’ Verify the Recall said in a pitch to volunteers. ‘The integrity of Wisconsin’s elections and associated processes are at stake; free and honest elections — the cornerstone of our political process — are being threatened.’” [New York Times, [9/16/12](#)]

2011: True The Vote Began Working In Wisconsin, After Receiving \$35,000 Grant From The Lynde And Harry Bradley Foundation, Whose President Was Gov. Walker’s Campaign Manager.

“True the Vote began working in Wisconsin in 2011, the same year it received a \$35,000 grant from the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, which is based in Wisconsin and is a major backer of conservative causes, including Americans for Prosperity. The foundation’s president and chief executive, Michael Grebe, was Mr. Walker’s campaign chairman for his 2010 campaign and for the recall election, which he won.” [New York Times, [9/16/12](#)]

- **Donation Ultimately Returned After True The Vote Failed To Obtain Tax-Exempt IRS Status.** “Mr. Grebe said in an interview that the grant was for activities unrelated to the recall. He said the donation was ultimately returned because it was given on the premise that True the Vote would be granted tax-exempt status by the I.R.S., which Ms. Engelbrecht said has not happened despite several attempts.” [New York Times, [9/16/12](#)]

2010: True The Vote Targeted Sheila Jackson Lee’s Congressional District Believing That Thousands Of Addresses Housing Six Or More Registered Voters Was An Indication Of Inaccurate Registrations. In Houston, the group targeted the Congressional district represented by Sheila Jackson Lee, a Democrat who is black. Ms. Engelbrecht said the group settled on Ms. Lee’s district because thousands of addresses there housed six or more registered voters, which it took as an indication of inaccurate registrations. The methodology, which the group still uses, could disproportionately affect lower income families. Volunteers spent five months analyzing 3,800 registrations in Ms. Lee’s district, discovering more than 500 voters that the group said were problematic. More than 200 voters were registered at vacant lots, prompting Ms. Engelbrecht to later remark that those voters had a ‘Lord of the Rings Middle Earth sort of thing going on.’” [New York Times, [9/16/12](#)]

2010: Ahead Of 2010 General Election, Engelbrecht Said “If We Lose Houston, We Lose Texas And If We Lose Texas, We Lose The Nation.” “A month before the 2010 general election, Engelbrecht spoke at a tea party rally in The Woodlands. She called Harris County ‘ground zero’ in the election. ‘If we lose Houston, we lose Texas and if we lose Texas, we lose the nation,’ she said.” [Dallas Morning News, [8/30/14](#)]

- **Engelbrecht Said Her Statement Showed Why The Country Needed To Keep Voter Rolls Clean.** “Four years after the raids, Engelbrecht, the head of the King Street Patriots, said she stands behind her statement at the 2010 rally in Harris County: ‘If we lose Houston, we lose Texas and if we lose Texas, we lose the nation.’ That, she said, is why the county needs to ‘keep the voter rolls clean.’” [Dallas Morning News, [8/30/14](#)]

LA Times: True The Vote Recruits Volunteers, “Largely Through Tea Party Networks,” To Scour Voter Lists, Monitor The Polls On Election Day, And Challenge The Voter Registrations. “Engelbrecht, a Texas tea party leader, has described True the Vote as an effort to prevent election fraud and clean up voter registration rolls. The group recruits volunteers, largely through tea party networks, to scour voter lists, challenge the registration of those they believe are dead or do not live at their listed address, and monitor the polls on Election Day.” [Los Angeles Times, 10/06/12]

New York Times: While True The Vote Poses As Nonpartisan, “It Grew Out Of A Tea Party Group, King Street Patriots.” “In a report this month, the liberal-leaning organizations Common Cause and Demos cited True the Vote as the central player in this effort, which it called a threat to the fundamental right to vote. ‘It is not about party or politics; it is about principle,’ Ms. Engelbrecht said. While she portrays True the Vote as nonpartisan, it grew out of a Tea Party group, King Street Patriots,

that she founded in Texas. An examination shows that it has worked closely with a variety of well-financed organizations, many unabashed in their desire to defeat President Obama.” [New York Times, [9/16/12](#)]

True The Vote First Filed Application For Tax Exempt, 501(c)(3) Status In July 2010 And Was Granted Tax Exempt Status In September 2013. “In July 2010, True The Vote filed an application with the IRS seeking 501(c)3 tax exempt status. After discovering in May 2013 that its application was part of the bigger IRS scandal targeting Tea Party organizations, True The Vote filed a lawsuit in federal district court in Washington, D.C. requesting that its tax-exempt status application be approved. The IRS granted the tax-exempt status on Friday night and then filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit all in the same document. True The Vote is accepting the tax-exempt status, but will file a counter motion to continue fighting the other counts of the lawsuit against the IRS.” [Breitbart, [9/23/13](#)]

- **“Originally Called KSP/True The Vote, The Group Filed In July 2010 For Tax Exempt Status,” Changed Its Name To True The Votes Inc In August 2011.** “Originally called KSP/True the Vote, the group filed in July 2010 for tax-exempt status as a 501(c)(3) charity organization. In August 2011, the group changed its name to True the Vote Inc.; King Street Patriots has separately been seeking the 501(c)(4) status from the IRS. True the Vote has come under fire for intimidating African-American and other minority voters at the polls.” [Washington Post, [5/21/13](#)]

2021: ACCUSED OF ILLEGALLY COORDINATING WITH THE GEORGIA GOP IN MULTIPLE COMPLAINTS

March 2021: Two Watchdog Groups Filed an FEC Complaint Accusing the Georgia Republican Party of Illegally Accepting In-Kind Contributions from True the Vote. “Two government watchdog groups have filed a complaint with the Federal Election Commission accusing the Georgia Republican Party of illegally accepting in-kind contributions from True the Vote, a nonprofit that engaged in election-related activities around the Georgia Senate runoffs. True the Vote, a 501(c)3 based in Texas, has been active for over a decade. It has advocated for voting policy changes like voter ID laws and stricter voting regulations, organizing poll-watching operations and other grassroots efforts, and suing jurisdictions over the state of their voter rolls, and often partnered with large and well-known conservative organizations. In the complaint, filed Wednesday morning and first obtained by Insider, lawyers for Campaign Legal Center Action and Common Cause Georgia accuse the Georgia GOP of unlawfully taking and then failing to properly report in-kind corporate contributions from the group in violation of the Federal Election Campaign Act. [...] ‘True the Vote is prohibited from making in-kind contributions to political parties, and True the Vote is prohibited from coordinating political expenditures with parties, like the Georgia Republican Party,’ Brendan Fischer, director of Campaign Legal Center Action’s federal reform program and one of the lawyers filing the complaint, told Insider.” [Business Insider, [3/31/21](#)]

- **Ahead of Georgia’s January 2021 Runoff, True the Vote Publicly Announced a Partnership with the Republican Party for Election-Related Activities, a Violation of Law.** “Ahead of the January 5 dual US Senate runoffs in Georgia, True the Vote publicly announced a partnership with the Republican party, which was working to elect former Republican Sens. Kelly Loeffler and David Purdue, who are not accused of any wrongdoing in the complaint. [...] The organization was more than open about its coordination in those activities with the Georgia GOP. As the complaint lays out, the group announced their partnership in a press release on its

website that quoted Georgia Republican Party Chairman David Shafer’s praise of the group, promoted the partnership on social media, and touted it in fundraising emails to raise more money for the effort. [...] The organization’s open coordination with the Georgia Republican Party in its efforts to fund election-related activity, the complaint said, puts them squarely in violation of the law.” [Business Insider, [3/31/21](#)]

- **Business Insider: In a Press Release True the Vote Claimed They Made a Similar Offer to the Democratic Party, But According to the FEC Complaint, Metadata Showed the Release Was Edited to Include That Information Weeks After the Fact.** “Their press release stated that the group made a similar offer to provide election integrity-related resources to the Georgia Democratic Party, but the FEC complaint said that metadata from the site shows that the release was edited to add that information weeks after the fact.” [Business Insider, [3/31/21](#)]

Business Insider: “This Isn’t the First Time True the Vote Has Been Accused of Such Tactics.” In 2010, TTV Was Accused of Making Illegal In-Kind Contributions to the Harris County Republican Party in Texas. “This isn’t the first time True the Vote has been accused of such tactics. Over a decade ago in 2010, groups including the Texas Democratic Party and Texans for Justice Public charged in a lawsuit and a complaint with the Texas Ethics Commission that True the Vote made illegal in-kind contributions to the Harris County Republican Party in the form of recruiting partisan poll watchers.” [Business Insider, [3/31/21](#)]

December 2021: Campaign For Accountability Filed an IRS Complaint Accusing True the Vote of Violating 501(c)3 Rules by Engaging in Political Activity with the Georgia GOP. “In late December, the watchdog group Campaign for Accountability filed a separate complaint with the Internal Revenue Service accusing True the Vote of running afoul of its 501(c)3 nonprofit status by explicitly engaging in political activity through its partnership with the Georgia GOP. ‘This case touches on the fact that voter suppression and big money in politics are two sides of the same coin,’ Fischer said. ‘Efforts to limit the vote and to protect or expand the influence of secret donors, ultimately they’re both having the effect of depriving average voters a voice in the political process.’” [Business Insider, [3/31/21](#)]

2012: TEXAS JUDGE FOUND TTV VIOLATED CAMPAIGN FINANCE RULES

March 2012: Judge Found That True the Vote Violated Campaign Finance Rules By Acting As A PAC And Providing “Illegal Contributions” To The Republican Party In The Form Of Poll Watchers And Candidate Forums. “The activities of the King Street Patriots and True the Vote have attracted two lawsuits and a state ethics complaint in Texas since 2009. In a lawsuit brought by the Texas Democratic Party, a judge ruled in March that True the Vote was acting as a political action committee, violating state campaign finance law by providing illegal contributions to the Republican Party in the form of trained poll watchers and Republican-only candidate forums. Texas Democratic Party general counsel Chad Dunn said he doesn’t buy the group’s grass-roots image. ‘Nobody gets to know what they are doing,’ he told News21. ‘They are the one and only political operation in Texas that isn’t disclosing its donors.’” [Washington Post, [8/25/12](#)]

2010: TRUE THE VOTE AND KING STREET PATRIOTS PROBED BY DOJ

Please note: this incident was not included in key findings because we were unable to find any other mention of the DOJ probe beyond these two sources.

2010: Justice Department Launched Probe Of True The Vote’s Alleged Voter Intimidation Efforts During The Midterm Elections In Houston-Area Districts. “In 2010, the Department of Justice launched a probe of alleged voter intimidation efforts by True the Vote poll watchers during the midterm elections in districts near Houston. That year, a national voter hotline received more than 200 calls alleging voter intimidation – as well as other election snafus – from several states, Texas included. It’s unclear to what extent True the Vote was responsible for those complaints.” [ProPublica.org, [9/27/12](#)]

- **Justice Department’s Civil Rights Division Interviewed Witnesses And Said, “We Are Currently Gathering Information Regarding This Matter.”** “Poll watchers in Harris County, Texas -- where a Tea Party group launched an aggressive anti-voter fraud effort -- were accused of ‘hovering over’ voters, ‘getting into election workers’ faces’ and blocking or disrupting lines of voters who were waiting to cast their ballots as early voting got underway yesterday. Now, TPMuckraker has learned, the Justice Department has interviewed witnesses about the alleged intimidation and is gathering information about the so-called anti-voter fraud effort. ‘We are currently gathering information regarding this matter,’ Justice Department spokeswoman Xochitl Hinojosa said in a statement confirming the Civil Rights Division’s involvement.” [Talking Points Memo, [10/20/10](#)]
- **DOJ’s Investigation Did Not Proceed Further.** “The Justice Department investigation didn’t proceed any further. True the Vote didn’t respond to our questions about the episode.” [ProPublica.org, [9/27/12](#)]

BARRED FROM POLL OBSERVING IN OHIO’S FRANKLIN COUNTY

2012: True The Vote Prohibited From Monitoring Voting Stations Around Columbus, Ohio After The Group’s Ohio Branch, The Voter Integrity Project, Allegedly Falsified Application Forms. “The right-wing group True The Vote has been prohibited from monitoring elections in voting stations around Columbus, Ohio, and may soon find itself under investigation for fraud, the Columbus Dispatch reported Tuesday. The Houston-based group, which is dedicated to challenging the legitimacy of voters it considers suspect, had its status as an official vote monitor denied in Franklin County, after the necessary number of candidates to assign poll observers withdrew their support for the group, according to the Dispatch. Elections officials in Franklin County told the paper that some of application forms requesting observer status for the group’s Ohio branch, the Voter Integrity Project, appeared to have supporting names that were falsified or forged.” [Huffington Post, [11/06/12](#)]

- **Over The Allegation, Most Of The Candidates Who Supported True The Vote’s Efforts Withdrew Their Backing, Leading The County Board To Deny Them Observer Status.** “A Houston-based group that wanted to monitor 30 Franklin County polling places for potential voter fraud was thwarted yesterday by the county elections board. True the Vote - whose Ohio branch is called the Voter Integrity Project - was denied status as official observers because at least most of the candidates who supported the organization's effort withdrew their backing. State law allows groups of at least five candidates to assign poll observers, and the group originally had obtained signatures from a bipartisan group of six candidates for county office.” [Columbus Dispatch, [11/06/12](#)]
- **Columbus Dispatch: “There Were Charges That The Candidates’ Names Had Been Falsified Or Copied On Observer Request Forms; Falsification Is A 5th-Degree Felony.** “There were charges yesterday that the candidates' names had either been falsified or merely

copied on forms requesting observer status for the True the Vote at several Franklin County polling places. Many are in predominantly African American neighborhoods. Elections Director William A. Anthony Jr. said the group may be investigated for possibly falsifying documents after today's election. The forms themselves warn that elections falsification is a fifth-degree felony.” [Columbus Dispatch, [11/06/12](#)]

- **True The Vote Founder Denied The Charges, Calling It A “Desperate Attempt To Deny Citizens Their Right To Observe Elections.”** “True The Vote President Catherine Engelbrecht denied the charges in a strongly worded statement and warned the group would be taking legal action. ‘This is a final, desperate attempt to deny citizens their right to observe elections,’ said Engelbrecht. ‘The Ohio Democratic Party has projected paranoia on an international scale by promoting the idea that concerned citizens would dare observe elections to ensure a fair process. If the Ohio Democratic Party thinks True the Vote-trained poll watchers are legion, wait until it meets our lawyers.’ [Huffington Post, [11/06/12](#)]
- **True The Vote Poll Watchers In Ohio Were Reported For “Aggressively Scrutinizing” Voters’ Registration Documents And** “In Ohio, activist poll watchers from the group have been reported for aggressively scrutinizing the identification and registration documents of prospective voters, following them with cameras and standing right next to them as they fill out paperwork.” [Huffington Post, [11/06/12](#)]

INVESTIGATED BY HOUSE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE OVER REPORTS OF VOTER SUPPRESSION

Congressman Elijah Cummings Opened Investigation Into True The Vote Over Reports That The Group Had Tried To Remove Thousands Of Voters From Rolls Across The Country. “A Maryland congressman has opened an investigation into a group that has tried to remove thousands of voters from registration rolls across the nation in advance of the presidential election. The inquiry by Rep. Elijah E. Cummings, a Democrat, is being started a week after Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., urged the Justice Department to enforce voting rights laws, citing a Los Angeles Times article detailing attempts by an Ohio offshoot of the group, True the Vote, to strike hundreds of students and others from voting rolls. [...] The Times article described efforts by the Ohio Voter Integrity Project, a spinoff of True the Vote, to remove more than 2,100 names from voter rolls. Hundreds of them were college students the group tried to strike for failure to specify their dorm room numbers. Local election boards declined to remove any of them.” [Los Angeles Times, 10/06/12]

- **Cummings: “At Some Point, An Effort To Challenge Voter Registration By The Thousands Without Any Legitimate Basis May Be Evidence Of Illegal Voter Suppression.”** “‘At some point, an effort to challenge voter registrations by the thousands without any legitimate basis may be evidence of illegal voter suppression,’ Cummings told True the Vote founder Catherine Engelbrecht in a letter Thursday. ‘If these efforts are intentional, politically motivated and widespread across multiple states, they could amount to a criminal conspiracy to deny legitimate voters their constitutional rights.’ Cummings is the ranking minority member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. [...] ‘True The Vote has forwarded Congressman Cummings' letter to its legal team and is more than happy to avail itself to the congressional committee, the group's spokesman, Logan Churchwell, said by email. ‘In the interim, True the Vote invites Congressman Cummings, or any other interested parties, to participate in any training sessions in the weeks ahead.’” [Los Angeles Times, 10/06/12]

- **In Letter, Cummings Asked True The Vote To Provide Information About The Data It Used To Challenge Voter Registrations And The Training It Provided To Volunteers.** “In his letter, Cummings expressed concerns about the Ohio voter challenges, as well as others reported in North Carolina, Wisconsin and Maryland. He asked True the Vote to provide information ‘about the data you have been using to challenge voter registrations, the training you have been providing volunteers to conduct these activities, and the manner in which you have been determining where to deploy your resources in select jurisdictions.’” [Los Angeles Times, 10/06/12]

October 18, 2012: Cummings Sent Second Letter To Engelbrecht About True The Vote’s Reported Plan To Deploy Thousands Of Observers On Election Day To “Intimidate Legitimate Voters” In Minority Communities. “Today, Rep. Elijah E. Cummings, Ranking Member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, sent a new letter to Catherine Engelbrecht, President and Founder of True the Vote, requesting documents relating to the group’s plan to deploy hundreds of thousands of personnel across the country on Election Day to challenge access to the polls for people they believe should not be allowed to vote. ‘There have been reports from multiple states during the past two years that your organization is targeting predominantly minority communities and coordinating with the Republican Party in an attempt to intimidate legitimate voters,’ wrote Cummings. Cummings’ letter follows a previous letter on October 4, 2012, requesting documents relating to allegations that True the Vote and its affiliated organizations have been challenging the registration of thousands of legitimate voters across the country based on insufficient, inaccurate, and faulty evidence.” [Rep. Elijah Cummings Press Release, [10/18/12](#)]

- **Cummings Said True The Vote Had Declined To Produce A Single Document He Requested In His First Letter To The Group.** “Cummings’ letter notes that True the Vote has declined to produce a single document. ‘If you are truly committed to transparency in our nation’s voting process-and if you continue to deny that your organization is challenging thousands of legitimate voters across the country for partisan political purposes-then you should have no reason to withhold documents from Congress about your activities,’ wrote Cummings.” [Rep. Elijah Cummings Press Release, [10/18/12](#)]

Cummings Pointed To Allegations Made By Texas’ Harris County Attorney Doug Ray That There Were “Several Incidents” Where Voters Complained About True The Vote Volunteers Hovering Over Them As They Attempted To Cast Their Ballots. “Cummings’ letter also provides new information about voter suppression allegations in Texas in 2010. Contrary to claims by True the Vote that there were no instances of voter intimidation, Harris County Senior Assistant County Attorney Doug Ray reported to Cummings’ staff that ‘King Street Patriots and True the Vote volunteers were not fully exonerated for acts of intimidation while serving as poll watchers in 2010.’ Ray said ‘there were in fact several incidents in which voters complained that True the Vote volunteers were ‘hovering,’ and standing too close to voters to allow them to cast a confidential ballot.’ When Ray visited True the Vote’s offices in Harris County, he found maps on the wall with push pins indicating that the polling places True the Vote was targeting were primarily in minority precincts.” [Rep. Elijah Cummings Press Release, [10/18/12](#)]

Engelbrecht Filed An Ethics Complaint Against Rep. Elijah Cummings After He Began Investigating True The Vote. In an interview with Lou Dobbs, Catherine Engelbrecht said, “Congressman Cummings sent me three letters in total. We responded to all three. I offered to go meet

with him. I offered to try and explain as best as I could his confusion, which -- which stemmed from a fundamental misunderstanding of what True the Vote's about. His allegation of our sending things to voters -- we don't have the authority to do that. We've never done anything like that. It was all just complete fabrication. But yet he decided on committee letterhead to announce that he was opening an investigation. And so that's the question that we're asking now with our ethics violation complaint. Is it OK for a congressman to single out a private citizen and an organization like True the Vote and declare an investigation afoot (ph)? We'll see.” [Lou Dobbs Tonight, 2/10/14]

- **Engelbrecht: Elijah Cummings Has Committed Defamation Against Us.** In an interview on Fox News' *The Kelly File*, Catherine Engelbrecht said, “Now, I think it's outrageous. Elijah Cummings has committed time and again de facto per se against us, defamation per se against us and the thought that he is now sitting on that committee to preside over what is certainly one of the greatest scandals this administration has been involved in is just it's disgusting.” [The Kelly File, Fox News, 5/21/14]

True the Vote Accused IRS Of Violating Their Constitutional Rights

June 2019: True The Vote Claimed A “Big Victory” In Its Suit Against The IRS After Being Awarded Attorney’s Fees By A District Court Judge. “The 'True the Vote' v. IRS lawsuit has finally come to an end. And it's being seen as a big victory for freedom in the IRS-Lois Lerner saga in which conservative organizations were targeted and blocked from gaining tax-exempt status to keep them from being involved in the 2012 election. This remarkable new ruling by US District Court Judge Reggie Walton was in favor of True the Vote, penalizing the IRS with extensive attorneys' fees. The ruling indicates that, throughout the case, the IRS displayed unconstitutional discrimination and unethical behavior against True the Vote, a group that fights for election integrity. The judge's decision marks the end of a nearly decade long battle that first began in 2010.” [CBN, [6/7/19](#)]

January 2018: The Trump DOJ Settled True The Vote’s Lawsuit Alleging That It Was Unfairly Targeted By The IRS And The Obama Administration. “The Trump administration, after years of litigation, settled a lawsuit Tuesday with yet another Tea Party group that claimed it was targeted unfairly by the IRS under the Obama administration. The Justice Department announced that it had entered into a settlement with conservative group True the Vote, which, among many other groups, faced a delay in its tax-exempt status dating back to 2013 ‘based solely on their viewpoint or ideology.’” [Fox News, [1/16/18](#)]

August 2017: Engelbrecht Claimed That What The IRS Did To Her Group Was “Criminal” and “Very Personal.” “The leader of a conservative group on Monday praised a federal judge for ordering the IRS to release the names of employees involved in targeting conservative and Tea Party groups, and said the group will keep pressure on the Trump administration to prohibit the IRS from future discrimination against groups based on their political views. ‘We're thrilled the judge has taken this step and it feels good to have it recognized that they need to be held to account,’ Catherine Engelbrecht, president of True the Vote, told Fox News on Monday. ‘What happened to me was very personal -- my name was thrown around the IRS, and the names of the people involved need to be known. What they did was criminal.’ The IRS targeting scandal emerged in 2013 when former IRS official Lois Lerner admitted that the agency was providing extra scrutiny to conservative groups applying for nonprofit status, prolonging their applications for months and even years. Engelbrecht's group and dozens of others sued the IRS to get the names of the officials involved in the scandal. Last week, Judge Reggie B. Walton of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia said in addition to releasing the names of

the employees involved, the IRS must also explain which groups were targeted and why.” [Washington Examiner, 8/21/17]

- **Engelbrecht Said She Would “Love To See Some Perp Walks” Of IRS Staff.** “Walton's order was a turning point for True the Vote President Catherine Engelbrecht in her legal battle with the IRS that began in 2013. ‘We've come so far, and I believe that we are going to bring this thing to a head,’ Engelbrecht told the Washington Examiner. ‘I believe we will see the IRS correct its ways, and as to accountability, I'd love to see some perp walks.’” [Washington Examiner, 8/25/17]

May 2017: True The Vote’s Founder Testified Before Congress Claiming That Her Group Was Harassed By The IRS. “As it happens, religious organizations and charitable organizations like True the Vote share the same non-profit class designation, so that is what brings me to this chamber; to share the story of my experiences with the Internal Revenue Service, an agency so emboldened through years of partisan exploitation that now it presumes itself to be America's arbiter of free speech. In fact, it concerns me that we should need to examine any American's right to free speech. Free speech is a Constitutional right. Not a privilege. It cannot be taken away, and those who try will, ultimately, always fail. In 2010, I filed a 501c3 non-profit application with the IRS on behalf of True the Vote. Since that filing, my private businesses, my nonprofit organizations, and I, personally, have been subjected to more than fifteen instances of audit, inquiry, or investigation by federal agencies, including IRS, OSHA, ATF, and the FBI. These inquisitions began only after my filing of True the Vote's application for tax-exemption, an act that unwittingly put both my organization and me on the radical radar of a political machine that places its own survival above the rights of its citizens. Politicians have long used the IRS to intimidate their enemies. Entrenched agency bureaucrats are their all-too-willing enforcers. So it is now, and so it was in 1954 when the Johnson Amendment became part of the IRS Revenue Code. Today, abetted by the Johnson Amendment, the IRS can and does dictate who can speak, what they can say, and to whom they can say it.” [Catherine Engelbrecht Testimony, House Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on Government Operations and Health Care, Benefits and Administrative Rules, 5/4/17]

True The Vote’s Founder Sued The IRS, Claiming That The Group Had Been Targeted, Violating Their Constitutional Rights. “IRS officials have recently admitted improperly giving special scrutiny to conservative groups seeking tax-exempt status because the agency was ‘swamped with applications’ and looking for ‘shortcuts’. But in a federal lawsuit filed last week, Engelbrecht claims the IRS’ actions toward her interests actually created a great deal more effort and paperwork for all concerned. The trouble began shortly after Engelbrecht founded True the Vote, which trains election volunteers and aims to root out voter fraud; and King Street Patriots, a group with ideals similar to the Tea Party. Both sought tax-exempt status from the IRS in July 2010. And both organizations drew the ire of Democrats. Democrats accused True the Vote of intimidating voters in its poll watching efforts, which the group denies. And the Texas Democratic Party successfully sued King Street Patriots, arguing that it’s an unregistered political action committee. [...] In the lawsuit filed last week, True the Vote accuses the IRS, along with several top administrators and employees, of violating the group’s constitutional rights. IRS officials declined to comment. Nearly three years later, there’s still no answer on tax-exemption for either of Engelbrecht’s organizations.” [CBS News, [5/29/13](#)]

- **True The Vote Filed Application Seeking IRS 501(c)(3) Status In July 2010; Claimed They Discovered The Application Was A Part Of IRS Targeting Scheme In May 2013.** “In July 2010, True The Vote filed an application with the IRS seeking 501(c)3 tax exempt status. After

discovering in May 2013 that its application was part of the bigger IRS scandal targeting Tea Party organizations, True The Vote filed a lawsuit in federal district court in Washington, D.C. requesting that its tax-exempt status application be approved. The IRS granted the tax-exempt status on Friday night and then filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit all in the same document. True The Vote is accepting the tax-exempt status, but will file a counter motion to continue fighting the other counts of the lawsuit against the IRS.” [Breitbart, [9/23/13](#)]

- **True The Vote Asked A DC District Court To Grant Its Request For Tax-Exempt, 501(c)(3) Status And To Award \$85,000 In Damages For The IRS’ Unlawful Conduct.** “The lawsuit, filed by the conservative ActRight Legal Foundation, asked the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia to grant its request for tax-exempt status and award damages for what it described as unlawful conduct by the IRS. True the Vote, which was founded in June 2010, is affiliated with the King Street Patriots, a tea party group which started in December 2009. [...] The suit — which names numerous defendants including former acting IRS commissioner Steven Miller, former commissioner Douglas Shulman, and Lois G. Lerner, head of the agency's tax-exempt organizations division — seeks immediate recognition of True the Vote as a 501(c)(3) and damages of more than \$85,000.” [Washington Post, [5/21/13](#)]
- **2016: Court Of Appeals Ruled Reversed A Lower Court’s Ruling That The IRS Had Not Targeted True The Vote And Other Groups. Case To Be Sent Back To Trial Court Unless IRS Seeks Full Appellate Panel Hearing.** “The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia found that the tax agency’s promises of reform and cessation of ‘Be-On-The-Lookout’ targeting of conservative groups’ applications for tax-exempt status were not satisfactory and, therefore, True the Vote and others should not have had their cases dismissed by lower courts as moot. If the IRS elects to not seek a full appellate panel hearing, the case will be sent back to the trial court for further discovery regarding their claims of civil rights violations. True the Vote Founder Catherine Engelbrecht hailed the decision in a statement obtained by Breitbart Texas. ‘We are now closer than we’ve ever been to revealing the collusions and cover-ups used in the weaponization of the IRS against the American People ... No one should be subjected to what True the Vote was made to endure. Today our fight continues on behalf of all Americans.’” [Breitbart, [8/05/16](#)]

2014: Conservatives, Including Representative Darrell Issa, Later Claimed That Cummings Colluded With The IRS To Target True The Vote. “The war between Oversight Committee chairman Darrell Issa and the committee’s ranking member, Elijah Cummings, rages on. Issa on Wednesday accused the Maryland Democrat of colluding with the Internal Revenue Service in its targeting of the conservative nonprofit group True the Vote, whose founder, Catherine Engelbrecht, said she received multiple letters from Cummings in 2012 and personal visits from the IRS and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Explosives. Engelbrecht’s True the Vote is one of the many conservative groups that claims to have been improperly targeted by the IRS while it scrutinized the applications of tea-party groups. In a letter signed by his five subcommittee chairmen, Issa raised the possibility that Cummings coordinated with the IRS, ‘surreptitiously’ contacting the agency to request information about True the Vote.” [National Review, 4/9/14]

AFFILIATED GROUPS

COLORADO VOTER PROTECTION

Jeff Kelly Is The Founder Of Colorado Voter Protection, Which Had Trained More Than 500 Poll Watchers For Election Day In November 2012. “Jeff Kelly, the founder of Colorado Voter Protection -- which Common Cause also criticized in a recent letter it sent to state officials -- sees all the negative press around True the Vote as completely unwarranted. From his perspective, he said, it seems like all these different groups essentially have the same goal of ensuring fair elections. He told us that his organization, which he founded over the summer as a nonprofit, has helped train more than 500 volunteers to do poll watching on election day.” [Westword, 11/06/12]

- **Jeff Kelly Described As A True The Vote State Leader.** “A full day of Election Integrity training, networking & inspiration. Learn HOW to use True the Vote tools & training to verify the accuracy of your voter rolls and safeguard your polls on Election Day. Learn WHY from national election experts John Fund & Christian Adams, Colorado Secretary of State Scott Gessler, TTV founder Catherine Engelbrecht, Colorado Voter Protection founder & TTV State Leader Jeff Kelly.” [Facebook, True the Vote Colorado Summit, [8/18/12](#)]

Colorado Voter Protection Said It Implemented “Tools And Processes Devised By The True The Vote (TTV) Initiative.” “Colorado Voter Protection is an initiative developed by citizens for citizens, meant to inspire and equip volunteers for involvement at every stage of our electoral process. We promote ideas that actively protect the rights of legitimate voters, regardless of their political party affiliation. We are working to restore integrity to the American system of electing its leaders. We are implementing the tools and processes devised by the True The Vote (TTV) initiative. TTV has ‘deconstructed the entire process, focusing on educating voters, examining the registry, recruiting, training and mobilizing election workers and poll watchers, training how to collect data all along the way, then use the data to shape government action and legislative agendas to support desperately needed election code reform.” [Colorado Voter Protection, archived [9/02/13](#)]

Common Cause Issued Warning That True The Vote And Colorado Voter Protection Were Spreading Misinformation In Its Training That Could Lead To Voter Intimidation. “In the final days before the November 6 election, two of the more controversial organizations working to prevent fraud and help enforce laws are spreading misinformation that could lead to voter intimidation throughout the state. That’s the charge of Common Cause, an organization that’s issued warnings about True the Vote (whose voter’s guide, on view below, includes the illustration seen here) and Colorado Voter Protection. [...] This week, Common Cause, a left-leaning advocacy group that has clashed with Gessler on different issues this election season, sent a letter to Gessler, Colorado Attorney General John Suthers and U.S. Attorney John Walsh, alerting them to what they are believe are a series of potentially harmful errors in True the Vote’s ‘Colorado Poll Watcher Training’ guide. The 47-page document, which says, ‘Advocate free and fair elections in 2012!’ on its front page, features information for poll watchers.” [Westword, [11/02/12](#)]

Colorado Secretary Of State Scott Gessler Spoke Alongside A True The Vote Representative On A Panel Titled, “Stealing Elections: What The Left Doesn't Want You To Know About Voter Fraud.” “Secretary of State Scott Gessler likes to say that it should be easy to vote and tough to cheat, but his critics argue that he is a lot more focused on the latter -- especially when it comes to voters who aren’t Republican. While Gessler has tried to disprove those accusations, his appearance this week at a conservative voter-fraud panel is not doing much to appease critics. And it’s made worse by the fact that he will be speaking alongside a representative of a controversial organization called True the Vote, recently profiled by the New York Times. Ellen Dumm, the founder of Campaign for a Strong Colorado, a coalition of nonprofits, alerted us to the schedule of the Conservative Political Action Conference in

Denver on Thursday. That event, a day after the first presidential debate, includes a panel called ‘Stealing Elections: What the Left Doesn’t Want You to Know About Voter Fraud,’ where Gessler will be speaking alongside Catherine Engelbrecht, president of True the Vote.” [Westword, 10/02/12]

True The Vote Held A Colorado Convention In 2012 With Secretary Of State Gessler, And “Colorado Voter Protection Founder & TTV State Leader Jeff Kelly.” “A full day of Election Integrity training, networking & inspiration. Learn HOW to use True the Vote tools & training to verify the accuracy of your voter rolls and safeguard your polls on Election Day. Learn WHY from national election experts John Fund & Christian Adams, Colorado Secretary of State Scott Gessler, TTV founder Catherine Engelbrecht, Colorado Voter Protection founder & TTV State Leader Jeff Kelly.” [Facebook, True the Vote Colorado Summit, 8/18/12]

- **Gessler Encouraged People To Work With True The Vote.** “Just last month, Colorado Secretary of State Scott Gessler, in a brief speech to Colorado's delegation to the Republican National Convention, encouraged people to work with True the Vote, a poll-watching organization that grew out of a Texas tea party group.” [Press Release, Common Cause, [9/10/12](#)]

Huffington Post: Colorado Voter Protection “Will Be Out In Force At Polling Places Tomorrow, Looking To Prevent Fraud.” “In Colorado, the right-leaning group Colorado Voter Protection will be out in force at polling places tomorrow, looking to prevent fraud. That group leaned heavily in its trainings on controversial Houston-based group True the Vote. Progressive voter protection groups like Common Cause have pointed out errors in the True the Vote training material used in Colorado that Common Cause believes might lead to voter intimidation and erroneous accusations about voter eligibility.” [Huffington Post, [11/05/12](#)]

TAMPA VOTE FAIR

True The Vote Provided Training To Tampa Vote Fair, A Like-Minded Group. “True the Vote's website has helped provide data for like-minded groups like Tampa Vote Fair, which was founded by Kimberly Kelley, a 45-year-old registered Republican from Lithia. She said her group will station 40 certified poll watchers inside and outside the largest precincts in Hillsborough County. Although her group is primarily interested in removing illegal registrants from the rolls, she said her members will mainly watch poll workers to make sure they properly distribute, collect and store ballots. ‘We’re not issuing challenges unless it’s really blatant,’ Kelley said, citing one example as someone bold enough to be spotted voting twice.’ [Tampa Bay Times, [10/31/12](#)]

Tampa Vote Fair Filed A Challenge Questioning The Voting Status Of 76 Hillsborough Residents They Believed Were Felons; Tampa Bay Times: Those Voters “Will Learn Of The Challenge Only When They Go Vote.” “True the Vote's website has helped provide data for like-minded groups like Tampa Vote Fair, which was founded by Kimberly Kelley, a 45-year-old registered Republican from Lithia. [...] Kelley’s group already has filed a challenge questioning the status of 76 Hillsborough voters who she claimed are illegally registered because they are felons. Kelley sent the list to the Hillsborough County supervisor of elections, which then sent it to the Florida Division of Elections. Yet the people on the list don’t know their rights are being challenged because they haven’t been notified. They will learn of the challenge only when they go vote. Then, according to Florida law, they will be allowed to cast only a provisional ballot, which has a higher rejection rate than regular ballots. If groups like Tampa Vote Fair seek to limit access to voting, groups like the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under

Law seeks to protect access to the polls. ‘We’re well aware of Tampa Fair Vote,’ said Lindenbaum. ‘We’ll be watching them closely.’” [Tampa Bay Times, [10/31/12](#)]

Tampa Vote Fair Was Member of 9.12, A Glenn Beck Inspired Tea Party Group. “Although a member of 9.12 (a Glenn Beckinspired, Tea Party-esque organization), Kelley says her group of 100 cohorts is bipartisan, which is why she says she signed up to work with them. ‘What made me choose True the Vote was that they were the only group where you could not see party affiliation,’ referring to the voter database lists that are supplied by the parent group. She says around 30 members of her group are Democrats, and says she offered to speak at a Democratic party meeting (Hillsborough County Democratic chair Chris Mitchell says he doesn’t recall getting such a request).” [Creative Loafing, [10/4/12](#)]

Tampa Vote Fair Mainly Focused On Removing “Illegal Registrants” From Voter Rolls, But Also Planned To Station Poll Watchers In Hillsborough County On Election Day In 2012. “True the Vote’s website has helped provide data for like-minded groups like Tampa Vote Fair, which was founded by Kimberly Kelley, a 45-year-old registered Republican from Lithia. She said her group will station 40 certified poll watchers inside and outside the largest precincts in Hillsborough County. Although her group is primarily interested in removing illegal registrants from the rolls, she said her members will mainly watch poll workers to make sure they properly distribute, collect and store ballots. ‘We’re not issuing challenges unless it’s really blatant,’ Kelley said, citing one example as someone bold enough to be spotted voting twice. Kelley’s group already has filed a challenge questioning the status of 76 Hillsborough voters who she claimed are illegally registered because they are felons.” [Tampa Bay Times, [10/31/12](#)]

Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law: “We’re Well Aware Of Tampa Fair Vote...We’ll Be Watching Them Closely.” “If groups like Tampa Vote Fair seek to limit access to voting, groups like the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law seeks to protect access to the polls. ‘We’re well aware of Tampa Fair Vote,’ said Lindenbaum. ‘We’ll be watching them closely.’” [Tampa Bay Times, [10/31/12](#)]

NEVADA CLEAN UP THE VOTE

2016: Nevada Clean Up The Vote Web Site Featured “True The Vote” Logo. Archived versions of the website for Nevada Clean Up The Vote from 2012 to 2016, show an image of True the Vote’s logo, on its homepage.



[Nevada Clean Up The Vote website, archived [3/20/16](#)]

NOTE: As of April 12, 2017, Nevada Clean Up The Vote’s website is no longer active.

Nevada Clean Up The Vote Described Itself As A Nonpartisan Group Of Volunteers That Want To “Take Responsibility For The Quality Of The Voting Process.” “In order to protect that privilege, each one of us has a duty to ensure that the integrity of the process is maintained. Without that integrity, our country is no longer distinguishable from other countries with corrupt elections. We MUST rise above the fray. What our group is ‘hoping’ to do is to ensure that the integrity of this process is maintained for ALL Nevadans. We are a non-partisan group of volunteers that want to take responsibility for the quality of voting process. We do not campaign or support candidates, we work to maintain the right to vote for Nevadans.” [Nevada Clean Up The Vote website, archived [3/20/16](#)]

Clean Up The Vote Claimed To Have 700 Poll Watchers For The 2012 Election. According to NPR, “Our goal is not to stop people from voting,’ says Cathy Kelleher, who is with Election Integrity Maryland, one of dozens of such grass-roots organizations. [...] Still, her group is affiliated with True the Vote, a Houston-based Tea Party offshoot that has progressive voting rights groups nervous. The group's founder, Catherine Engelbrecht, vowed earlier this year to recruit and train a million volunteers to watch the polls. But it appears the group has fallen far short of that goal. For example, Election Integrity Maryland has only about 200 recruits. Nevada Clean Up the Vote has about 700. Engelbrecht calls complaints that they plan to intimidate voters ‘outrageous.’” [NPR, [10/25/12](#)]

American Prospect: Many Disparate State Groups “Call Themselves ‘Empowered’ By True The Vote,” One Illinois Leader Described True The Vote As “Almost Like A Parent Group But Not Exactly.” According to the American Prospect, “It’s impossible to accurately assess the national reach of True the Vote, partly because much of the training and organizing is occurring with state and local groups that have only a loose connection with the national organization. Many of these disparate groups call themselves ‘empowered’ by True the Vote, and have the national group’s orange-and-black logo stamped somewhere on their websites. On a radio program, one of the leaders of Honest Elections Illinois, one of the ‘empowered’ groups, described True the Vote as ‘almost like a parent group but not exactly.’” [The American Prospect, 10/10/12]

OHIO VOTER INTEGRITY PROJECT

Ohio Voter Integrity Project Is An Offshoot Of True The Vote. “The tea party groups, scattered around the state, have joined forces under the banner of the Ohio Voter Integrity Project. It is an offshoot of True the Vote, a Texas organization that has recruited volunteers nationwide to challenge voter rosters and work as poll watchers.” [Los Angeles Times, [9/26/12](#)]

Ohio Voter Integrity Project’s Top Priority Was To Remove College Students From Voter Rolls For Failure To Specify Dorm Room Numbers. “In Ohio, election records show, one of the project's top priorities has been to remove college students from the voter rolls for failure to specify dorm room numbers. (As a group, college students are strongly in Obama's camp.) Voters challenged include 284 students at the Ohio State University campus in Columbus, 110 at Oberlin College, 88 at College of Wooster, 38 at Kent State — and dozens more from the University of Cincinnati, Miami University, Lake Erie College, Walsh University, Hiram College, John Carroll University and Telshe Yeshiva, a rabbinical college near Cleveland. So far, every county election board that has reviewed the dorm challenges found them invalid... In some cases, the Ohio tea party researchers have correctly identified voters who have died or moved, speeding up the official updating of registration files. They also found voters registered at a Cincinnati trailer park that no longer exists. ‘We wouldn't know to take those folks off the rolls if it weren't for this project,’ said Alex Triantafilou, a Republican member of the Hamilton County Board of Elections.” [Los Angeles Times, [9/26/12](#)]

Ohio Voter Integrity Project’s Leader, Mary Siegel, Was Active In The Indian Hill Tea Party.

“[Mary] Siegel, the Ohio project leader who is active in the Indian Hill Tea Party outside Cincinnati, called the project a nonpartisan attempt to ensure honest elections by cleaning up voter registration files. The project does not single out voters by race, party affiliation or neighborhood, she said.” [Los Angeles Times, [9/26/12](#)]

Ohio Voter Integrity Project Falsely Challenged An Ohio Family’s Voting Status, Misidentifying The Family’s Home As A Vacant Lot; Challenge Thrown Out By Election Officials.

“Teresa Sharp, a homemaker and grandmother, has lived in Hamilton County, Ohio, for nearly 30 years. A former poll worker and a Democrat, she says she has voted in every election since she was 18. [...] So naturally, Sharp was surprised when she received a letter in the mail that said, ‘You are hereby notified that your right to vote has been challenged by a qualified elector under RC 3503.243505.19.’ ‘Nobody’s ever challenged me, especially my right to vote,’ Sharp said. ‘I’m confused. I’m concerned and pretty darn mad.’ Her husband, Herbert, her sons, Christopher and Herbert Jr., her daughters, Aseneth and Eleanor, and her elderly aunt, all residents at the same family home in Hamilton County, also received a similar letter. [...] The letter came from the county board of elections, and was prompted by an official challenge submitted by a member of The Ohio Voter Integrity Project, a local affiliate of a grassroots organization called True the Vote. [...] But this election cycle, the challenge against Sharp was among 1,077 citizen challenges received by the Hamilton County Board of Elections alone. The challenge against Sharp incorrectly cited her property as a vacant lot, but after a hearing Hamilton County election officials threw it out.” [ABC News, [11/02/12](#)]

- **Ohio Voter Integrity Project Withdrew Their Challenge And Apologize To The Sharp Family.** “In the case of Ms. Sharp, a representative of the Ohio Voter Integrity Project withdrew the challenge and apologized to the family.” [New York Times, [9/16/12](#)]

Ohio Voter Integrity Project’s Leader, Mary Siegel, Signed 422 “Challenge Of Right Of Person To Vote” Forms And Submitted Them To Hamilton County’s Election Board.

“[Mary] Siegel, the Ohio project leader who is active in the Indian Hill Tea Party outside Cincinnati, called the project a nonpartisan attempt to ensure honest elections by cleaning up voter registration files. The project does not single out voters by race, party affiliation or neighborhood, she said. All told, the Ohio group has questioned registrations in 13 counties, according to Siegel. In 2008, Obama won nine of them. ‘We really aren’t trying to challenge people’s right to vote,’ Siegel said. But Siegel signed 422 ‘Challenge of Right of Person to Vote’ forms and submitted them to Hamilton County’s elections board in July. She sought to remove the names from the voter rolls based on a Postal Service change-of-address registry. Siegel withdrew the challenges when the state declared the postal registry to be insufficient grounds to challenge voting rights.” [Los Angeles Times, [9/26/12](#)]

Ohio Senate Democrats Sent Letter Ohio Secretary Of State Jon Husted Accusing The Voter Integrity Project And True The Vote Of Using “Questionable And Possibly Illegal Methods.”

“Mary Siegel, an Indian Hill resident and leader of the Ohio Voter Integrity Project, insists the group’s efforts ‘inside or outside the polls ... are not at all partisan,’ but rather aimed simply at promoting ‘a fair, smooth election in which everyone follows all the rules.’ Critics remain skeptical. Ohio Senate Democrats, for example, recently sent a letter to [Ohio Secretary of State Jon] Husted accusing True the Vote and the Voter Integrity Project of using ‘questionable, and possibly illegal, methods.’ ‘Organizations like True the Vote are still concocting ways to limit voting, especially in communities representing people of color,’ said the Advancement Project’s Hair. On Election Day, her group plans to

have 3,000 monitors at polling places in nine states, including Ohio, to address any voter intimidation efforts.” [Cincinnati Inquirer, 10/31/12]

True The Vote Founder Catherine Engelbrecht Said The Ohio Group Had No Intention Of Challenging Properly Registered Voters And Stood by Its “Well Intentioned Efforts.” “In a statement dated Oct. 1 on True the Vote's website, Engelbrecht said the group's Ohio volunteers had no intention of challenging properly registered voters and were ‘completely unprepared for the partisan gamesmanship and media spectacle they were subjected to.’ ‘They trusted in the system and were betrayed at every turn,’ Engelbrecht said. ‘True the Vote stands by the well-intentioned efforts of these citizens and is disgusted by the attempts of some within government and media to warp what should have been a simple, legal process into a calculated partisan charade.’” [Los Angeles Times, 10/06/12]

FINANCES

The following table outlines True the Vote’s total revenue, including contributions and grants, and its net assets from 2010 until 2018, the most recent IRS 990 available:

True the Vote Financial Summary (2010-2015)			
Year	Contributions and Grants	Total Revenue	Net Assets
2022	\$4,794,504	\$4,794,504	-\$115,217
2021	\$1,694,560	\$1,694,560	-\$289,157
2020	\$5,035,228	\$5,039,228	\$434,846
2019	\$731,921	\$731,921	\$445,061
2018	\$436,046	\$436,046	\$64,743
2017	\$423,535	\$423,535	\$54,107
2016	\$434,795	\$434,795	\$99,244
2015	\$940,764	\$940,766	\$100,177
2014	\$1,193,092	\$1,193,219	\$-23,769
2013	\$1,082,535	\$1,359,081	\$114,219
2012	\$754,723	\$1,797,013	\$134,564
2011	N/A *	--	--

2010	\$64,687	\$64,687	\$25,799
True the Vote 990 forms, CY 2010-2018 *True the Vote did not file a 990 in 2011			

Washington Post: Engelbrecht Said True The Vote Raised Most Of Their Money By “Passing Around An Old Felt Cowboy Hat” At Weekly Meetings. “Engelbrecht said her groups raise most of their money by passing around an old felt cowboy hat at weekly meetings at King Street’s headquarters. The group raised \$64,687 in 2010, according to federal tax documents, reporting it all as gifts, contributions and grants. After initially offering to provide its 2011 tax records to News21, Engelbrecht later declined.” [Washington Post, [8/25/12](#)]

Founder Catherine Engelbrecht Said True The Vote’s Funding Came Mostly From “\$10 And \$20 Donations From People Across The Country.” “In Texas, like Florida, poll watchers must represent a party or candidate. Engelbrecht said it was her understanding some trained by True the Vote were appointed by Democrats. She said funding comes mostly from ‘\$10 and \$20 donations from people across the country, and what we do is not very capital-intensive.’” [Tampa Tribune, [4/10/12](#)]

GRANTS

The following table lists the grants received by True the Vote, from 2010 to 2018, from organizations including the Bradley family network of foundations, the Koch-funded group, Donor Trust and the ALEC and Koch-tied group, State Policy Network:

True the Vote Grant Receipts (2010-2018)		
Grantmaker	Year(s)	Amount
Hook Family Foundation	2019	\$300,000
Greater Houston Community Foundation	2018, 2017, 2015, 2013, 2010	\$178,400
Bradley Impact Fund	2017, 2016, 2015, 2014	\$166,000
The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, Inc.	2014	\$142,833
Donor Trust	2013	\$100,000
The Randolph Foundation	2014	\$100,000
Bosarge Family Foundation	2018	\$100,000
National Christian Charitable Foundation	2018, 2017, 2016	\$58,000
Franklin Center for Government & Public Integrity	2012	\$50,000
State Policy Network	2012	\$40,000
Schwab Charitable Foundation	2019, 2017, 2016, 2015	\$34,450
Wheeler Family Foundation, Inc.	2015	\$21,000
Gardner Grout Foundation	2015	\$20,000

Immanuel Charitable Foundation	2019, 2015, 2014	\$20,000
Mills Family Foundation, Inc.	2012	\$10,000
League of American Voters	2012	\$10,000
The Crawford Family Foundation	2014-2020	\$10,000
Gogo Foundation	2020, 2016	\$9,000
The Sandra and Lawrence Post Family Foundation	2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2011	\$8,500
Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program	2014	\$8,000
Wodecroft Foundation	2015, 2014	\$8,000
Eric Javits Family Foundation	2018, 2017, 2016, 2015	\$6,500
John N. & Kathleen S. MacDonough Foundation, Inc.	2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013	\$3,000
McLin Family Foundation	2016	\$2,000
Nathan and Priscilla Gordon Roundation	2017, 2016	\$2,000
Richard & Beth Sackler Foundation Inc.	2015	\$1,200
Greater Milwaukee Foundation	2014	\$1,000
Getsch Charitable Trust	2020	\$1,000
Bank of America Charitable Foundation	2018, 2017, 2016	\$750
Shell Oil Company Foundation	2018, 2017, 2016, 2015	\$717
The David P. Nolan Foundation, Inc.	2013	\$250
Abbvie Foundation	2019	\$200
TOTAL:		\$974,790
ProPublica , accessed 6/13/20		

Charles Koch Foundation Major Funder Of Donors Trust and Donors Capital Fund. According to Conservative Transparency, “While most of Donors Trust and Donors Capital Fund’s contributors are unknown, several major conservative funders have reported contributions to them, including the Searle Freedom Trust, the Richard and Helen DeVos Foundation, the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, and the Charles G. Koch Foundation.” [Conservative transparency, accessed [3/20/17](#)]

State Policy Network Revenue Consisted Largely Of Funding From Donors Trust And Donors Capital Fund, And Members Included ALEC and David Koch’s Americans For Prosperity. “According to the report’s analysis of IRS filings, the State Policy Network and its think tanks’ combined revenue in 2011 topped \$83 million, in large part with funding from conservative money groups like the Donors Trust and Donors Capital Fund, which receive large donations from groups tied to the Koch brothers and other prominent conservatives. The State Policy Network’s associate members also include a who’s who of conservative organizations, including ALEC, David Koch’s Americans for Prosperity Foundation, FreedomWorks, Grover Norquist’s Americans for Tax Reform, the Cato Institute and The Heritage Foundation.” [Politico, [11/13/13](#)]

Rolling Stone: The Bradley Foundation is a Long-Time Funder of True the Vote. Bradley Has Given Heavily to Groups that Spread Election Misinformation. “The biggest right-wing megadonors in America made major contributions to Claremont in 2020 and 2021, according to foundation financial records obtained by Rolling Stone. The high-profile donors include several of the most influential families who fund conservative politics and policy: the DeVoses of West Michigan, the Bradleys of Milwaukee, and the Scaifes of Pittsburgh. [...] Bradley in particular has given heavily to groups that traffic in misleading or baseless claims about ‘election integrity’ or widespread ‘voter fraud.’ Thanks to a \$6.5 million infusion from the Bradley Impact Fund, a related nonprofit, the undercover-sting group Project Veritas nearly doubled its revenue in 2020 to \$22 million, according to the group’s tax filing. Bradley is also a long-time funder of the Heritage Foundation, which helped architect the wave of voter suppression bills introduced in state legislatures this year, and True the Vote, a conservative group that trains poll watchers and stokes fears of rampant voter fraud in the past.” [Rolling Stone, [1/12/22](#)]

STAFF & DIRECTORS

The following table lists the staff and board members of True the Vote from 2010 until 2018:

True the Vote Staff and Board of Directors (2010-2018)		
Name	Current Position	Year(s)
Catherine Engelbrecht	Executive Director	2010-2018
Dianne Josephs	Board Member	2010-2018
Gregg Phillips	Board Member	2014-2018
Brent Mudd	Board Member	2014-2018
Bryan Engelbrecht	Secretary	2010-2013
True the Vote 990 forms, CY 2010-2018		

CATHERINE ENGELBRECHT

True The Vote Was Founded By Catherine and Bryan Engelbrecht. “True the Vote was founded by Catherine and Bryan Engelbrecht, a couple who run an oil field equipment manufacturing firm in Rosenberg, Texas.” [Los Angeles Times, [9/26/12](#)]

Catherine Engelbrecht Was “Resolutely Apolitical” Until President Obama Was Elected, At Which Point She Said: “I Saw Our Country Headed In A Direction That, For Whatever Reason—It Didn’t Hit Me Until 2008—This Really Threatens The Future Of Our Children.” “Engelbrecht, 42, grew up in Rosenberg and often tells audiences that until four years ago she was resolutely apolitical. She and her husband looked after their two children and ran a successful oil field machinery business together. Her epiphany came in 2008, she says, shortly after the election of Barack Obama as president. As she told the New York Times recently, ‘I saw our country headed in a direction that, for whatever reason - it didn’t hit me until 2008 - this really threatens the future of our children.’” [Houston Chronicle, [10/23/12](#)]

Catherine Engelbrecht: “You Don’t Need A Whole Lot Of Election Fraud; You Just Need A Little Bit In The Right Places To Swing An Election.” Engelbrecht points to Mississippi law, which has fairly strict absentee ballot eligibility rules, as a reason why many of the absentee ballots could be

thrown out, and she notes there's plenty of other reasons why they could be discarded upon further review. 'There are so many pieces that would potentially invalidate many of these absentee ballots, for instance, if the application is not properly filled out, if the notary is not a proper and duly designated notary--which we've seen historically happen in Mississippi as it relates to absentee ballot harvesting,' Engelbrecht said. [...] She then asserted, 'You don't need a whole lot of election fraud; you just need a little bit in the right places to swing an election.'" [Breitbart News, [6/27/14](#)]

2011: Engelbrecht Testified Before The Legislature In Favor Of Texas' Photo ID Law, Which The U.S. Justice Department Blocked Over Concerns The Law Would Suppress Hispanic Votes. “

Engelbrecht testified in favor of the photo ID law in the Texas legislature in 2011. The U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division blocked the measure in March, claiming it could disproportionately suppress Hispanic votes. A three-judge district court panel in Washington, D.C., heard arguments in the Texas case in July.” [Washington Post, [8/25/12](#)]

True The Vote Founder Catherine Engelbrecht Spoke At Meetings Sponsored By Americans For Prosperity. “

Also looking for fraud is True the Vote, a national group with tea party roots from Houston. Its founder, Catherine Engelbrecht has spoken at meetings sponsored by Americans for Prosperity, according to the New York Times, to promote her group's efforts to remove ineligible voters from the rolls, such as noncitizens, felons and people registered at multiple addresses. She has pledged her group will have 1 million poll workers.” [Tampa Bay Times, [10/31/12](#)]

J. CHRISTIAN ADAMS

J. Christian Adams Was a Senior Advisor At True The Vote. According to a True the Vote web video uploaded in November 2012, J. Christian Adams, a former Department of Justice attorney, was a senior advisor for True the Vote. [YouTube, uploaded [11/04/12](#)]

Adams Joined The U.S. Justice Department In 2005, Prosecuting Cases Involving Violations Of The 1965 Voting Rights Act. “

Adams is now a contributor to the conservative Internet website, Pajamasmedia.com, and still practices law in Virginia. He attended Hempfield Area High School, West Virginia University and the University of South Carolina law school before becoming counsel to the South Carolina Secretary of State. He joined the Justice Department five years ago and has prosecuted cases involving violations of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.” [Pittsburgh Tribune, [7/02/10](#)]

Adams Resigned After The Department Scaled Down A Voter-Intimidation Case Against The New Black Panther Party, Alleging That The Department Did Not Want To Protect White People's Civil Rights “

A former Justice Department lawyer hired during the Bush administration alleged on Tuesday that the department scaled down a voter-intimidation case against the New Black Panther Party last year because his former colleagues do not want to protect white people's civil rights. In testimony before the Commission on Civil Rights, J. Christian Adams, who recently resigned from a voting rights position in the Justice Department's civil rights division, decried the decision by department superiors in May 2009. “We abetted wrongdoing and abandoned law-abiding citizens,” Mr. Adams said of the decision to reduce the scope of the New Black Panthers case, which he had helped to develop. [...] The case arose after two members of the New Black Panther Party stood outside a polling place in a majority-black precinct in Philadelphia on Election Day in 2008. A video of the men, posted online, showed them dressed in paramilitary clothing, and one carried a billy club.” [New York Times, [7/06/10](#)]

2007: Adams Used The Voting Rights Act To Prosecute A Black Politician In Mississippi For Voter Fraud; Adams Said The Politician Was Trying To Dissuade Voters From Voting. “Adams gained attention in 2007 for using the federal Voting Rights Act to prosecute a black politician in Mississippi for voter fraud. It was the first time in that state that the act was used against a black politician. Adams said Ike Brown tried to dissuade voters from voting by listing their names in a newspaper and then declaring he would challenge them if they tried to vote.” [Pittsburgh Tribune, [7/02/10](#)]

Adams Is The Author Of NYT Bestseller, “Injustice: Exposing the Racial Agenda Of The Obama Justice Department.” “As Christian Adams chronicles in his powerful book, “Injustice,” President Obama and his attorney general, Eric H. Holder Jr., have mounted an alarming assault on the rule of law in this country. [...] Mr. Adams recounts the egregious conduct of local officials in places such as Noxubee and Wilkinson Counties in Mississippi, and Hale and Perry Counties in Alabama, where white voters were systematically disenfranchised by black authorities through a variety of illegal practices. Enforcement against these practices was haphazard at the best of times. Today, under the Obama administration, a resurgence of “fraud, forced assistance and lawlessness” is simply being ignored.” [Washington Times, [10/12/11](#)]

GREGG PHILLIPS

Gregg Phillips Served As Texas’ Deputy Health and Human Services Commissioner; Ran Human Services Department in Mississippi; Created Vote Stand. Phillips “used to serve as Texas Deputy Health and Human Services Commissioner and once headed Mississippi’s Human Services Department, according to the Jackson *Clarion-Ledger*. . . Phillips is now behind a mobile app called VoteStand, which allows Americans to report and read about suspected incidents of voter fraud at nearby and national polls. He is also a board member of True the Vote, a nonpartisan group that grew out of a Tea Party effort in Texas, according to *The New York Times*.” [Time, [1/27/17](#)]

Phillips Has Served On True The Vote’s Board Of Directors Since 2014. [True The Vote, IRS 990 Form, CYs 2014-2015]

Phillips Made Unsubstantiated Claim That There Were 3 Million Illegal Votes in 2016

Phillips Tweeted That His Analysis Of Voter Registrations Found That More Than 3 Million “Non-Citizens” Voted In The Election. “Phillips has been in the national spotlight since Nov. 11, when he tweeted without evidence that his completed analysis of voter registrations concluded the ‘number of non-citizen votes exceeded 3 million.’ Thousands of people liked and retweeted the claim, which led to a viral article three days later on InfoWars.com, a site known to traffic in conspiracy theories. Phillips also has previously tweeted about the dangers of ‘inactive voters’ being able to vote in U.S. elections. ‘There is already law that compels states to remove inactive voters. Many don’t,’ Phillips tweeted Nov. 29. [Associated Press, [1/30/17](#)]

Trump: “Gregg Phillips And Crew Say At Least 3,000,000 Votes Were Illegal. We Must Do Better!” On January 27, 2017, Donald Trump tweeted, “Look forward to seeing final results of VoteStand. Gregg Phillips and crew say at least 3,000,000 votes were illegal. We must do better!” [Twitter, [@realDonaldTrump, 1/27/17](#)]

True The Vote Backed Donald Trump’s Claim That “Millions Of People” Voted Illegally In The 2016 Election. “True the Vote, an organization founded to stop voter fraud, has backed President-elect Donald J. Trump’s statement Sunday that ‘millions of people’ had voted illegally. Trump made his statement as he claimed to have won the popular vote, in addition to the electoral vote, on Nov. 8. The claim was a partial response to Democrats’ efforts to recount votes in Wisconsin, which Trump won. True the Vote released a press statement on Sunday, which is reproduced below, in full (original emphasis): ‘True the Vote absolutely supports President-elect Trump’s recent comment about the impact of illegal voting, as reflected in the national popular vote.’ [Breitbart News, [11/28/16](#)]

- **Washington Post: “There’s Simply No Available Evidence That Phillips’s Claim Was True.”** “Repeatedly asked for proof of his claim that millions had voted illegally, that guy, Gregg Phillips (who is associated with a group called True the Vote), repeatedly declined to do so. There’s simply no available evidence that Phillips’s claim was true. (True the Vote also declined to substantiate his claims.)” [Washington Post, [1/24/17](#)]
- **PolitiFact: Trump’s Claim That “Millions Of People” Voted Illegally Rated “Pants On Fire.”** “Trump tweeted that he ‘won the popular vote if you deduct the millions of people who voted illegally.’ Neither Trump nor his allies have presented any evidence of widespread illegal voting. In reality, studies have consistently shown that voter fraud is nowhere near common enough to call into question millions and millions of votes. Indeed, the ability to carry off such a far-reaching conspiracy — potentially involving millions of people over the course of several months and without being noticed by election administration officials, many of them in states controlled by Republicans — is ridiculously illogical. We rate Trump’s statement Pants on Fire.” [PolitiFact, [11/28/16](#)]
- **The Atlantic on Claim That 3 Million People Voted Illegally In 2016: “There’s No Evidence That’s True.”** “Did 3 million people vote illegally in the 2016 election? There’s no evidence that’s true, but President Trump certainly believes so, making news his first week in the White House by ordering an investigation into that allegation. Even if only partly substantiated, it would probably be the single largest instance of voter fraud in American history. The source for Trump’s convictions seems to be a Twitter account run by Texan businessman and former public official Gregg Phillips, the founder of VoteStand, a mobile app designed to allow users to report incidents of voter fraud. Using data from conservative nonprofit True the Vote, Phillips claimed that he identified millions of illegal votes.” [The Atlantic, [1/31/17](#)]

Washington Post: Trump Insisted That He Would Have Won The Popular Vote If Not For Between 3 Million And 5 Million Illegal Votes. “Days after being sworn in, President Trump insisted to congressional leaders invited to a reception at the White House that he would have won the popular vote had it not been for millions of illegal votes, according to people familiar with the meeting. [...] He also told them that between 3 million and 5 million illegal votes caused him to lose the popular vote.” [Washington Post, [1/23/17](#)]

Phillips Touted True The Vote Volunteers’ “Amazing Effort” In Finding Thousands Of Duplicate Voting Records And Registrations Of Dead People. “In a post earlier this month, Phillips described ‘an amazing effort’ by volunteers tied to True the Vote, an organization whose board he sits on, who he said found ‘thousands of duplicate records and registrations of dead people.’ Trump has made an issue of people who are registered to vote in more than one state, using it as one of the bedrocks of his overall

contention that voter fraud is rampant in the U.S. and that voting by 3 to 5 million immigrants illegally in the country cost him the popular vote in November.” [Associated Press, [1/31/17](#)]

Associated Press: Donald Trump Has Pointed To People Who Are Registered In Multiple States As Evidence That Voter Fraud Is Rampant In The U.S. “Trump has made an issue of people who are registered to vote in more than one state, using it as one of the bedrocks of his overall contention that voter fraud is rampant in the U.S. and that voting by 3 to 5 million immigrants illegally in the country cost him the popular vote in November.” [Associated Press, [1/31/17](#)]

Phillips Registered to Vote in Multiple States: “Why Would I Know or Care?”

AP: Gregg Phillips, Who Sits On True The Vote’s Board, Was Registered To Vote In Multiple States During The 2016 Election. “A man who President Donald Trump has promoted as an authority on voter fraud was registered to vote in multiple states during the 2016 presidential election, the Associated Press has learned. Gregg Phillips, whose unsubstantiated claim that the election was marred by 3 million illegal votes was tweeted by the president, was listed on the rolls in Alabama, Texas and Mississippi, according to voting records and election officials in those states. He voted only in Alabama in November, records show. In a post earlier this month, Phillips described ‘an amazing effort’ by volunteers tied to True the Vote, an organization whose board he sits on, who he said found ‘thousands of duplicate records and registrations of dead people.’ [...] At the time of November’s presidential election, Phillips’ status was ‘inactive’ in Mississippi and suspended in Texas. Officials in both states told the AP that Phillips could have voted, however, by producing identification and updating his address at the polls.” [Associated Press, [1/31/17](#)]

- **Asked If He Was Aware Of The Multiple Registrations, Phillips Said, “Why Would I Know Or Care?”** “Reached by telephone Monday, Phillips said he was unaware of his multiple registrations but asked, ‘Why would I know or care?’ ‘Doesn’t that just demonstrate how broken the system is?’ he asked. ‘That is not fraud — that is a broken system. We need a national ID that travels with people.’” [Associated Press, [1/31/17](#)]
- **Phillips Touted True The Vote Volunteers’ “Amazing Effort” In Finding Thousands Of Duplicate Voting Records And Registrations Of Dead People.** “In a post earlier this month, Phillips described ‘an amazing effort’ by volunteers tied to True the Vote, an organization whose board he sits on, who he said found ‘thousands of duplicate records and registrations of dead people.’ Trump has made an issue of people who are registered to vote in more than one state, using it as one of the bedrocks of his overall contention that voter fraud is rampant in the U.S. and that voting by 3 to 5 million immigrants illegally in the country cost him the popular vote in November.” [Associated Press, [1/31/17](#)]