

RESOLUTION

NO: 2022-06-069

LIVINGSTON COUNTY

DATE: June 13, 2022

Resolution Optimizing Election Integrity as it Pertains to the Acceptance of Unregulated Private Monies for Funding Elections – Board of Commissioners

WHEREAS, Livingston County through the Board of Commissioners has the authority to accept or reject a proposed donation/grant to the County in the form of cash, personal property, and real property; and

WHEREAS, funding and managing elections has always been a government function, not a private one, and for good reason. Private organizations are not subject to the laws for public employees and institutions — they are not required to hold public hearings, cannot be monitored via open-records requests and other mechanisms of administrative and financial transparency, are not subject to the normal checks and balances of the governmental process, and are not accountable to citizens if the public disapproves of their actions; and

WHEREAS, while Livingston County did not accept any of Zuckerberg’s funding, considering election irregularities across our nation, it is appropriate to implement a new County policy to eliminate any future possibility of private monies being used to skew elections in our County.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Livingston County Board of Commissioners affirms that funding and managing elections is a government function, not a private one.

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that prior to acceptance or any other action including provision of a donation/grant receipt, County Departments shall submit any proposed donation/grant of cash or personal or real property for use in, or purposes of funding and managing elections to the Board of Commissioners for consideration of whether such donation/grant shall be accepted or rejected by Livingston County. Proposed donations/grants requiring Board of Commissioner approval will be first submitted to the Finance and Asset Management Committee, and if approved by the Finance and Asset Management Committee, shall be placed on the agenda for full Board of Commissioners consideration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is position of the Livingston County Board of Commissioners that the Board of Commissioners shall not approve or accept the donations/grants of private monies or personal or real property to the County for use in or purposes of funding and managing elections.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Livingston County Board of Commissioners directs the County Clerk to send a copy of this resolution to all Michigan counties and our State Representatives, State Senator, and Members of Congress.

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**MOVED:
SECONDED:
CARRIED:**



June 6, 2022

Livingston County Board of Commissioners
304 E Grand River Ave
Suite 201
Howell, MI 48843

Dear Fellow Commissioners,

I have submitted a resolution titled, "Resolution Optimizing Election Integrity as it Pertains to the Acceptance of Unregulated Private Monies for Funding Elections." This letter summarizes my rationale for submitting this resolution.

Private organizations funded by multi-billionaire Mark Zuckerberg, poured millions of dollars into the 2020 Elections. To put it in perspective, federal and state matching funds for COVID-19-related election expenses in 2020 totaled \$479.5 million. The Zuckerberg-funded Center for Tech and Civic Life (CTCL) and Center for Election Innovation and Research (CEIR) contributed \$419.5 million. These two private non-profits were responsible for an 85 percent increase in total additional election funding — and that largess was concentrated in a relatively small number of municipalities which shared Zuckerberg's political ideology.

Zuckerberg's private unregulated "tainted money" had nothing to do with traditional financing of modern elections. It had to do with financing the infiltration of election offices at the city and county level by activists and using those offices as a platform to implement preferred administrative practices, voting methods, and data-sharing agreements, as well as to launch intensive outreach campaigns in areas heavy with voters sharing the billionaire's political preferences.

CTCL also demanded the promotion of universal mail-in voting through suspending election laws, extending deadlines that favored mail-in over in-person voting, greatly expanding opportunities for "ballot curing," expensive bulk mailings, and other lavish "community outreach" programs that were directed by private activists.

CTCL drove the proliferation of unmonitored private drop boxes (which created major chain of custody issues) and opportunities for novel forms of "mail-in ballot electioneering," allowed for the submission of numerous questionable post-election-day ballots and created opportunities for illegal ballot harvesting.

Funding and managing elections have always been a government function, not a private one, and for good reason. Private organizations are not subject to the laws for public employees and institutions — they are not required to hold public hearings, cannot be monitored via open-records requests and other mechanisms of administrative and financial transparency, are not subject to the normal checks and balances of the governmental process, and are not accountable to citizens if the public disapproves of their actions.

Your approval of this resolution prevents private entities from wielding their influence in our election process.

Thank you for your consideration of this important topic.

Wes Nakagiri
Chairman
Livingston County Board of Commissioners