

January 25, 2023

Ronna McDaniel, Chair
Republican National Committee
Joe Gruters, Chair
Ashley MacLeay, Co-Chair
RNC Election Integrity Task Force
310 First Street SE
Washington, DC 20003

Dear RNC Officials:

We, the undersigned citizen leaders in the Election Integrity Network (“EIN”), are writing to express our recommendations regarding the RNC’s plans for its Election Integrity program. We offer the input and suggestions below for two reasons: 1) To maximize our mutual effectiveness in enhancing election integrity throughout the states and nation, and 2) To facilitate nonpartisan citizen-group engagement in the election process as election workers and observers.

EIN is composed of state election integrity coalitions, local election integrity task forces and local, state and national working groups and organizations dedicated to election integrity. None of us are writing as partisans. However, state laws require that election workers and often poll challengers and observers be designated, appointed, or authorized by one of the two major political parties. We have reached out to Democratic Party officials for their assistance in working to improve election integrity.¹

Preventing cheating in our nation’s elections is a priority to voters. Rasmussen reports [84% of likely U.S. voters](#) believe the issue of election integrity to be important, and 61% say it is *very important*. [Gallup reports](#), “a wider partisan divide than Gallup has ever recorded on this question.”

EIN has worked with the RNC Election Integrity Unit since its inception in August 2021. In testament to the inclusive attitude and outstanding leadership of Director Josh Findlay, as well as his staff and several outstanding state EI Directors, significant bridges were built in the runup to the 2022 election.

Today, grassroots organizations have a higher degree of willingness to work with a political party to become part of the election system. These educated and motivated volunteers stand ready to give of their time, talents, and treasure to the election integrity cause.

¹ Our suggestions for the Democratic Party regarding election integrity are being sent in a separate letter to Democratic Party leadership.

Three Recommendations

Below are three key recommendations for the RNC for continuing to build the all-important election integrity infrastructure.

1. Election Integrity is *not* a seasonal or political campaign activity. The Election Integrity Unit should be reconstituted and designated as its own RNC Department of Election Integrity.

When the EI Unit was first announced, we understood from Chairman McDaniel's public statements that this was to be a "year-round election integrity effort." Finally, at long last, the RNC was committing ongoing resources and efforts to fortifying the election systems in each state.²

We were distressed, to say the least, to learn that all the state EI Directors and the entire field staff were to be terminated, effective December 15, 2022. Among the heads to roll were outstanding leaders, including Matthew Siefert in Michigan, Thomas Lane in Virginia, Andrea Raffle in Pennsylvania, and Johnny Mosely in Georgia. A fifth stellar state EI Director was Ryan Retza in Wisconsin. Once he knew the RNC was terminating his employment, he took another job with the Wisconsin state legislature. The loss of Retza's institutional memory about Wisconsin in this election cycle serves as an example of why EI staff must be full time and year-round—not treated as seasonal campaign workers.

When EIN leaders expressed our concerns, Chairman McDaniel stated that the action was taken without her knowledge or consent and she immediately (albeit temporarily) reinstated four of the most outstanding EI State directors, and we appreciate her swift, corrective actions.

Going forward, the RNC's Election Integrity staff must be exempt from the layoffs to which RNC political staff are subject after every election.

In addition, we recommend the RNC operate its Election Integrity Unit as a separate and distinct department within the RNC, on the same level as other departments such as Political and Legal. EI should not be constrained or have its focus and responsiveness diluted by operating as a unit within the RNC Political Department.

While it is true that there are political and legal aspects of election integrity, neither of those departments should control the work of the Election Integrity staff. For legal and

² Officials said that a "year-round election integrity operation" will be created. They said that will include "hiring in-state election integrity directors, monitoring state and county-level election processes to ensure laws are being followed, training thousands of poll watchers to observe all steps in the elections process and continuing to engage in lawsuits that protect and promote election integrity."

<https://news.yahoo.com/exclusive-report-confirms-2020-cheating-123500306.html>

compliance reasons and in order to operate efficiently and effectively, nonprofit allies should deal with a department focused solely on election *systems*.

This situation should never happen again. One of the RNC's core principles should become that election integrity is not a seasonal activity, and losing the institutional memory every two years is no way to fight the Left's substantial investment and continued, decades-long thrust to undermine our election systems across the country for their purposes.

As the book, *The Blueprint: How the Democrats Won Colorado* by Schrage and Witwer documents, the Left and its billionaire donors are committed to changing election systems in order to manipulate the outcomes. The RNC needs to become cognizant of this fact. It must understand ongoing and imminent threats to election integrity.

We urge that the EI Unit be reconstituted and redesignated as the Election Integrity Department of the RNC.

2. The RNC Election Integrity Task Force established in 2021 addressed and made recommendations in multiple areas regarding America's election systems—and *all* of those areas should be part of the Election Integrity Department's Programs.

The Election Integrity Task Force ("the Task Force") worked diligently and produced an excellent blueprint for reclaiming America's election systems. However, the EI Unit during 2021-2022 was allowed to focus on only *one* component of election integrity: the recruitment, training, and deployment of election workers and observers.

That limited recruitment was vitally important and a function that the RNC largely ignored in state/local parties for decades, due in no small part to the Consent Decree. However, laws of every state require a role for the political parties in terms of election officials and electoral board positions, election workers, and citizen challengers, and observers.

Never until this past 18 months has the RNC taken any significant action to understand, much less engage in, ensuring that Republicans fill the statutory roles allotted to the GOP under state law.

These statutory roles are *not* campaign or political activities. They are fundamental to ensuring honest and fair elections. The Republican Party's recent retooling to fulfill the statutory roles and ensure that GOP designees were placed in positions as authorized under state law required gargantuan efforts in state after state.

Here again, Director Findlay and team excelled, recruiting and enlisting the participation of more than 80,000 workers and observers. EIN and its state coalition organizations worked hard to assist the GOP in recruiting and training volunteers to fill election roles across the nation.

In some cases, as in Flint, Michigan, the effort to ensure political parity required litigation to force compliance. The state GOP and grassroots EIN coalitions initiated litigation to great effect.

Having said that, it is important to note that fulfilling this legal requirement for citizen checks and balances was but *one* aspect of the Task Force's recommendations. These recommendations covered multiple aspects of the election process, from voting systems and technology, to legislation, litigation, and more.

All of the areas that the Task Force addressed are important. Yet, *none* of the areas (other than the election worker/poll observer and litigation efforts) became part of the EI Unit's work in the 2021-2022 cycle.

The Election Integrity Department should encompass and be tasked with fulfilling the entirety of the Task Force's recommendations.

3. The 80,000 volunteer election workers and poll watchers/observers must be channeled into year-round, ongoing state efforts such as those lead by EIN to create a permanent election integrity infrastructure in every state.

Director Findlay managed to execute impressive and transformative change at the RNC within the EI Unit, constituted this past election cycle. He built the EI program from scratch and navigated multiple, competing pressures from grassroots and party structures. In concert with state and local parties *and grassroots efforts among scores of national and state election integrity and conservative groups*, Findlay's team recruited, trained, and deployed more than 80,000 individuals as part of the election 2021-2022 apparatus.

It is now vital to engage those 80,000-plus volunteers and others joining daily to work to secure the integrity of our elections. We urge the EI Department within the RNC to encourage the participation in the Election Integrity Network with its State Election Integrity Coalitions and their local task forces, with the several National Working Groups on the topics referenced in the Task Force Report.

These committed citizens are dedicated to helping ensure that laws are followed and upheld in every state. They comprise the cornerstone on which the next phase of election integrity engagement will be built. Failing to engage these resources *now* would be a monumental mistake with long-term, perhaps irreversible consequences.

The Election Integrity Network, built in multiple states over the past two years, can put these individuals to work so they are prepared to reengage as election workers and observers at election time. But much more is necessary to accomplish than simply serving at election time.

That is why each area addressed by the RNC Task Force is so important.

The growing EIN is prepared to put these volunteers to work in the herculean tasks that require their efforts. Please let us help engage these volunteers to keep them involved between the elections and in various voter segments. Failure to do so would be a travesty to the two-party system, to election integrity, and to the fiber of the republic.

In conclusion, we have all learned a great deal since 2021-2022 and our initial round of election integrity work. But let us face facts. We are just getting started. We are years behind our opponents. More—much more—is necessary to right the ship of state.

The RNC's efforts to restore and protect election integrity are laudable, vital, and in their infancy. Significant issues remain for the RNC to address, from the need to clean bloated and corrupted voter rolls, to ensuring that election technology is transparent and unbiased.

Changes are needed in state laws.

Litigation should be initiated now to enforce existing laws.

The RNC needs to participate in all the critical facets of election integrity as envisioned by the Task Force.

EIN is already engaged in each of these areas. Please join and support our efforts.

The commitment by the Left and its billionaire donors to change election systems, so the outcomes can be manipulated by leftwing, partisan operatives must be met with equal determination and effective actions from patriotic conservatives. Only then can we restore integrity to our elections.

All Americans deserve to have legitimate confidence that elections are fair and honest. All groups—voters, candidates, and political parties alike—deserve to know that election outcomes are reliable and true.

Creating an independent department for election integrity will enhance the trust of the American people in election integrity as a priority of the GOP and serve a vital role in restoring the most fundamental and necessary element of our free republic: fair elections.

We urge the RNC to restructure and expand its election integrity efforts internally, and to work with the EIN to fully engage an army of volunteers as we build on what we have learned and engage in the full spectrum of what is necessary to reclaim our elections in America.

Sincerely,

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Executive Committee, Virginia Fair Elections

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