

Pennsylvania Politicians Pushing For Bogus Election Audit Also Peddled The “Big Lie,” Are Connected To Extremist Groups, And Had Histories Of Fighting COVID-19 Precaution – Yet Received Corporate Contributions

SUMMARY: Legislators in Pennsylvania have been pushing the “Big Lie,” arguing the 2020 election results were rigged against incumbent President Donald Trump. Recently, this included a [delegation](#) of legislators traveling to Maricopa County, AZ, to tour the site of a bogus “forensic audit” of election results, for the purposes of examining what one such effort could look like in Pennsylvania.

Legislators connected to the audit push had their own histories of pushing conspiracies, being connected to extremist groups, and engaging in anti-vaccine rhetoric, racism, and bigotry:

- State Representative Rob Kaufman, who called for audits in Pennsylvania and toured Maricopa County, is an ally to local right-wing militia groups. He spoke at a gun rights rally where militia groups were in attendance, including one using white supremacist iconography. Kaufman was also an enemy to LGBTQ folks, who opposed equitable treatment for them under the law. He opposed guidance that allowed for gender neutral parent forms and opposed generally more inclusive language. Kaufman’s major donors have included CenturyLink and AT&T.
- State Senator Doug Mastriano was a right-wing extremist who has been connected to Christian Nationalism. Mastriano traveled to Maricopa County, and has called for similar audit efforts in Pennsylvania. He has also done this in his official capacity, requesting ballot material from three major counties in the state. Mastriano is a member of the far-right movement and has appeared on a QAnon talk show, pushing conspiracy theories about how governors wanted to use COVID to destroy their states. Mastriano’s COVID conspiracies are part of a larger pattern, he has published debunked anti-vaccine propaganda on his personal social media accounts, and even published an op-ed trying to explain why people should be skeptical of not just the COVID-19 vaccine, but vaccines in general. Trade groups make up several of Mastriano’s top donors.
- State Senator Cris Dush called for audits and visited Maricopa County. He also is a right-wing extremist, having attended gun rallies from an organization founded by an anti-government extremist, alongside militias using white supremacist iconography. Dush has also compared Gov. Wolf’s administration to Nazi Germany over COVID-19 policy.

Pennsylvania State Rep. Rob Kaufman, Whose Donors Include CenturyLink and AT&T, Pushed Forensic Audits, Had Spoken At Gun Rights Rally Attended By Prominent Local Militia

Rob Kaufman



POLITICAL OFFICE

Pennsylvania State House District 89 (Franklin County) [Rob Kaufman, accessed [8/13/21](#)]

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

Legislator [Rob Kaufman, accessed [8/13/21](#)]

ACADEMIC HISTORY

Greencastle-Antrim. [Rob Kaufman, accessed [8/13/21](#)]

The American University, B.A. Political Science [Rob Kaufman, accessed [8/13/21](#)]

- Kaufman called for a forensic audit of the 2020 Election after visiting Maricopa County to witness the audit. When asked who paid for the trip, Kaufman refused to answer.
- Kaufman was a keynote speaker at a gun rights rally where a prominent local militia, with what appear to be white supremacist ties, attended.
- Kaufman was against equitable treatment for LGBT people. In addition to signing on to a letter showing opposition against being gender neutral parental identifies on birth certificates in Pennsylvania, he also opposed guidance that included more inclusive language that came out of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission.

Kaufman Joined The Calls For A Forensic Audit Of The 2020 Election Results In Pennsylvania After Going To Maricopa County To Witness The Audit, Which “Impressed” Him

Kauffman Called For A Forensic Audit Of The 2020 Election In Pennsylvania After Observing Arizona’s Audit, Which “Impressed” Him

Kauffman Called For A Forensic Audit Of The 2020 Election In Pennsylvania After Observing Arizona’s Audit, Which “Impressed” Him. “A prominent Pennsylvania House Republican is calling for a forensic audit of the state’s 2020 election after returning from Arizona. Rob Kauffman of Franklin County chairs the Judiciary Committee. He was in Arizona last week to observe the state’s audit by an outside group called cyber ninjas. He says he was impressed by the process and Pa. should do the same.” [ABC 27, [06/07/21](#)]

Kauffman Refused To Say Who Paid For The Trip To Observe Arizona's Audit. "Kauffman declined to say who paid for the Arizona junket, but did say it was not taxpayers or campaign donors." [ABC 27, [06/07/21](#)]

Kauffman Said, "'I Just Frankly Don't Know What The Left Is Scared Of If They Won So Easily And Handily And Neatly.'" "If everything was above board and it was the most ethical and beautiful election in the history of America we will found that out in the forensic audit, I just frankly don't know what the left is scared of if they won so easily and handily and neatly then just let the forensic audit happen,' Kauffman said." [ABC 27, [06/07/21](#)]

After Returning From Arizona, Kauffman Appeared On Talk Radio Alongside State Sen. Doug Mastriano To Claim The Trip Was "'Not About Overturning Anything.'" "The first stop for Mastriano and Kauffman upon returning was their favorite news outlet, WEEO 103.7 FM, or as it is now known to many, 'Mastriano FM'. In an interview, Mastriano and Kauffman said that the Arizona visit is 'not about overturning anything,' but to help 'find out what went right, what went wrong, and how do we have better elections in the future.'" [Public Opinion, [06/10/21](#)]

Kauffman Did, However, Vote For Act 77, A Bill To Allow No-Excuse Absentee Voting

Kauffman Voted For Act 77, A Bill To Allow No-Excuse Absentee Voting Law That Was Criticized By Breitbart. "If that all sounds familiar, it is the same goal of the three months of sham hearings on election integrity held by the PA House State Government Committee under Chairman Seth Grove. The hearings, consisting of 31 ½ hours of testimony, produced a report that states nothing that the voters do not already know. In other words, a lot of heat but not much light. [...] One finding that stands out from the committee report is that 'Act 77 (the Oct 2019 election reform bill) burdened counties with an unsustainable election system, both financially and practically, as well as an impractical administrative timeline in the weeks prior to an election'. Well, guess who voted for Act 77? Yep, Doug Mastriano and Rob Kauffman, so all their headline-grabbing appears to be a continuing attempt to distract us from the fact that they are part of the problem, something which their constituents are telling them. The conservative media is catching on, as shown by a June 4 Breitbart article about Senator Mastriano entitled, 'PA State Senator Championing Election Integrity Voted for No-Excuse Absentee Voting in the State.'" [Public Opinion, [06/10/21](#)]

Kauffman Attended A Gun Rights Rally Where A Local Militia That Appeared To Have White Supremacist Ties Attended

June 7, 2021: Gun Advocates Rallied At The Pennsylvania Capitol In Support Of Legislation To, Among Other Things, Allow Gun Owners To Carry Concealed Firearms Without A Permit. "Gun rights proponents rallied at the state Capitol Monday and called for lawmakers to act on bills that would protect gun-owners rights, including House Bill 659, which would allow gun-owners to conceal carry handguns without obtaining a state permit. State Rep. Aaron Bernstine, R-Lawrence County, said that under House Bill 659, Pennsylvania would become the 23rd state to allow citizens to carry concealed firearms without getting a permit. Among neighboring states, only West Virginia allows gun owners to carry concealed firearms without a permit." [The Daily Item, [06/07/21](#)]

In State Rep. Daryl Metcalfe's Announcement For The "Right To Keep And Bear Arms Rally," He Called The Gun Bills "'Locked And Loaded'" Legislation. "Metcalfe Announces 'Locked and Loaded' Legislation and 'Top Gun' Speakers Lineup for 2021 Right to Keep and Bear Arms Rally [...]" State Representative Daryl Metcalfe (R-Butler) and many other pro-Second Amendment state lawmakers will join together with law-abiding firearm owners from across the Commonwealth for the 2021 Right to Keep and Bear Arms Rally, which will take place this coming Monday June 7, beginning at 10 a.m., front Capitol steps, Capitol Complex, Harrisburg (rain or shine)." [State Rep. Daryl Metcalfe, [06/03/21](#)]

Kauffman Was Named Among The "'Top Gun'" Speakers Featured At The Rally. "This year's outstanding 'Top Gun' featured speakers lineup will include: original PA Castle Doctrine sponsor, U.S. Rep. Scott Perry (PA-10); Joshua Prince, chief counsel, Firearms Industry Consulting Group; Kim Stolfer, president, Firearms Owners Against Crime; Sen. Cris Dush (R-25); PA House Majority Judiciary Chairman Rep. Rob Kauffman (R-

Franklin); PA House Second Amendment Caucus Chairman Rep. Matt Dowling (R-Fayette/Somerset) and Rep. Stephanie Borowicz (R-Clinton/Centre).” [State Rep. Daryl Metcalfe, [06/03/21](#)]

Kauffman Told Rally Attendees “We’re Going To Continue To Push The Envelope” On Gun Rights Legislation. “State Rep. Rob Kauffman, R-Franklin County, the chairman of the judiciary committee, encouraged those at the gun rights rally that they should encourage lawmakers to support the bill, calling it ‘gift-wrapped’ for them. ‘We’re going to continue to push the envelope’ on gun rights bills, he said.” [The Daily Item, [06/07/21](#)]

A “Heavily Armed” Militia Calling Itself The “Iron City Citizens Response Unit” Was Present At The Rally And Its Leaders Refused To Identify Themselves. “During the event, a group of seven uniformed, heavily armed men walked up, calling themselves members of the Pittsburgh-based Iron City Citizen Response Unit militia. Leaders identified themselves only as ‘Hammer’ and ‘Gucci,’ and said their focus was support for the Second Amendment.” [Associated Press, [06/07/21](#)]

Militia-Dressed Individuals Had A Prominent Presence At The Rally:



[The Daily Item, [06/07/21](#)]



[Associated Press, [06/07/21](#)]



[WTMJ, [6/7/21](#)]

The Iron City Citizen Response Unit's Logo Features A Symbol Known As The "Valknut."



[Iron City Citizen Response Unit, accessed [06/15/21](#)]

- **The Militia Claims It Uses The Valknut Because “It Represents The Loss Of Life And The Sacrifice That Has Been Given To Protect American Values And Freedoms.”** “Why the Valknut? [...] Furthermore, another interpretation of the Valknut references the ‘Slain warrior knot.’ In that regard, it represents the loss of life and the sacrifice that has been given to protect American values and freedoms. For these reasons and for no other reason, we are proud to wear this symbol on our shoulders and these are values we proudly stand for.” [Iron City Citizen Response Unit, accessed [06/15/21](#)]

The Valknut, Also Known As The Valknot, Has Been Deemed A Hate Symbol By The Anti-Defamation League For Its Use By White Supremacists Willing To Sacrifice Their Lives.

Valknut

General Hate Symbols



[Anti-Defamation League, accessed [06/15/21](#)]

- **The Valknut Is Used By White Supremacists Who Use The Symbol “As A Sign That They Are Willing To Give Their Life To Odin,” A Norse God.** “It is often considered a symbol of the Norse god Odin. Some white supremacists, particularly racist Odinists, have appropriated the Valknut to use as a racist symbol. Often they use it as a sign that they are willing to give their life to Odin, generally in battle.” [Anti-Defamation League, accessed [06/15/21](#)]

The “QAnon Shaman,” Known For His Prominent Role In The January 6 Insurrection, Had The Valknut Tattooed Over His Heart. “The self-styled ‘QAnon Shaman’—with his fur robes and horned helmet possibly the most photographed insurrectionist of the day—bore his position on his bare chest. Sloppy tattoos of *Yggdrasil*, or tree of life, covered his left pectoral. The *Mjolnir*, Thor’s hammer, emerged from his waistband. The *valknut*, the Viking ‘knot of the slain,’ was inked over his heart. These are ancient Scandinavian symbols revived and twisted by 19th-century European nationalists and 20th-century Nazis, and their appropriation infuriates contemporary pagans and Heathens.” [National Geographic, [01/12/21](#)]



[NBC News, [05/19/21](#)]

Kaufman Appeared To Oppose Equality For LGBTQ People

Kaufman Signed On To A Letter Speaking Out Against Pennsylvania's Recent Policy In Designating "Parent/Parent" Rather Than "Mother/Father" On Birth Certificates

Kaufman Signed On To A Letter Speaking Out Against Pennsylvania's Recent Policy In Designating "Parent/Parent" Rather Than "Mother/Father" On Birth Certificates "An anti-LGBT state representative this week spoke out against Pennsylvania's recent policy on designating 'parent/parent' rather than 'mother/father' issued on birth certificates.[...] Other Republicans who signed the letter were Matt Baker, Stephen Bloom, Bryan Cutler, Russ Diamond, Cris Dush, Brian Ellis, Garth Everett, Seth Grove, Kristin Hill, Rob Kauffman, Dawn Keefer, Jerry Knowles, John McGinnis, Brett Miller, Tedd Nesbit, Jack Rader Jr., Kathy Rapp, Brad Roae, Frank Ryan, Rick Saccone, Tommy Sankey, Will Tallman, Judy Ward, Ryan Warner, Parke Wentling and Jeff Wheeland." [Philadelphia Gay News, [1/12/18](#)]

Kaufman Claimed The Pennsylvania Human Relations Commissions' Guidance That Expanded The Definition Of "Sex" As It Applies To The State's Discrimination Laws Was Overreaching

2018: Kaufman Opposed The Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission's New Guidance Believing It To Be Overreaching. "For the first time ever, LGBTQ Pennsylvanians have a way to seek recourse from the state if they're the subject of discrimination based on their gender identity or sexual orientation. [...] Still, the commission received dozens of comments from people who see the new guidance as overreach, including from three elected Republicans: Rep. Cris Dush of Brookville, Rep. Rob Kauffman of Chambersburg, and Sen. Mike Folmer of Lebanon." [Billy Penn, [8/15/18](#)]

- **The Pennsylvania Human Relations Commissions issued Guidance To Expand The Definition of Sex To Include Gender Identity And Sexual Orientation.** "For the first time ever, LGBTQ Pennsylvanians have a way to seek recourse from the state if they're the subject of discrimination based on their gender identity or sexual orientation. The Pa. Human Relations Commission last week released new guidance with an expanded definition of 'sex' as it applies to the state's discrimination laws. The word now encompasses not just sex assigned at birth, but also sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, gender transition, and transgender identity." [Billy Penn, [8/15/18](#)]

Kaufman Accepted \$48,350 From Corporate PACS And Trade Associations

Contributors	Total Contributions To Kaufman
Pennsylvania Chamber Of Business & Industry	\$9,075
FirstEnergy Corp	\$6,150
PPL Corp	\$5,400
Pennsylvania Bankers Association	\$4,950
Highmark Health (Blue Cross/Blue Shield)	\$4,475
Verizon Communications	\$4,100
UGI Corp	\$3,400
Farmer	\$2,850
Nisource Inc	\$2,750
CenturyLink	\$2,650
AT&T	2,550
TOTAL:	\$48,350

[Follow The Money, Robert W. Kaufman, accessed [8/12/21](#)]

Pennsylvania State Senator Doug Mastriano Was A “Christian Nationalist” Who Attended The January 6 Stop The Steal Rally, Alleged Fraud In Multiple Podcast Appearances – And Received Contributions From International Paper And First Energy Corp

Doug Mastriano



POLITICAL OFFICE

Pennsylvania State Senate District 33 – Adams County, Franklin County, Cumberland County, York County (January 2019 – Present) [Senator Mastriano, accessed [8/13/21](#)]

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

U.S. Army. [Senator Mastriano, accessed [8/13/21](#)]

Professor- U.S. Army College [Senator Mastriano, accessed [8/13/21](#)]

ACADEMIC HISTORY

1986 - Bachelor of Arts, History, Eastern University, St. Davids, Pennsylvania [Senator Mastriano, accessed [8/13/21](#)]

1992 - Masters Strategic Intelligence, Joint Intelligence College, Washington, DC [Senator Mastriano, accessed [8/13/21](#)]

2001 - Masters Airpower Theory, Air University, Maxwell AFB, AL [Senator Mastriano, accessed [8/13/21](#)]

2002 - Masters Military Operational Art and Science, Air University, Maxwell AFB, AL [Senator Mastriano, accessed [8/13/21](#)]

2010 - Masters Strategic Studies, US Army War College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania [Senator Mastriano, accessed [8/13/21](#)]

201 - Ph.D. University of New Brunswick, Canada (Doctor of History) [Senator Mastriano, accessed [8/13/21](#)]

- Senator Mastriano attended the “Stop the Steal” rally and the violent insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on January 6th. Mastriano encouraged his supporters to attend the rally and used his own campaign funds to pay for buses to shuttle people from Pennsylvania to DC.
- Mastriano led a campaign to push for audits of the 2020 election in Pennsylvania after witnessing the audits taking place in Maricopa County, Arizona. Mastriano joined Steve Bannon on his online web show to discuss how Arizona’s sham “audit” was going to be the new “model” for elections going forward. Mastriano also pushed audit conspiracy theories and uplifted groups that promoted baseless conspiracy theories.

- Mastriano propped up dangerous conspiracy theories for years. Mastriano attended a QAnon-sponsored conference and pushed a range of conspiracy theories on a QAnon talk show. He has used social media to push hateful and conspiratorial content. Mastriano has also used his platform to spread dangerous anti-vaccination myths and dangerous misinformation about COVID-19 and treatment for the coronavirus.
- Mastriano was a Christian Nationalist, a group of religious (white) supremacists that believe in abolishing the barriers between church and state. His bigotry extends to his social media, where he promoted anti-Muslim racism.

Mastriano Attended The “Stop The Steal” Rally And Violent Insurrection On January 6. Mastriano Encouraged Supporters To Attend And Used Campaign Funds To Help People Travel There

Mastriano Was On The Grounds of The Capitol The Day Of The Insurrection

Mastriano Was Photographed On The Grounds On The Day of The Insurrection. “After photos emerged of Mastriano posing on Capitol grounds with former State Rep. Rick Saccone not long before the breach, the senator was quick to state that he had personally steered clear of police barricades and left soon afterward.” [WHYY, [05/25/21](#)]

Mastriano Claimed He Left When “It Was Apparent” The Riot “Was No Longer A Peaceful Protest.” “After photos emerged of Mastriano posing on Capitol grounds with former State Rep. Rick Saccone not long before the breach, the senator was quick to state that he had personally steered clear of police barricades and left soon afterward. ‘When it was apparent that this was no longer a peaceful protest, my wife and I left the area and made our way out of the area,’ Mastriano said. ‘At no point did we enter the Capitol building, walk on the Capitol steps, or go beyond police lines.’” [WHYY, [05/25/21](#)]

- **Crowdsourced Information Showed That Mastriano And His Wife Appeared To Have Breached The Police Barricades.** “Yet over the weekend, individuals using the hashtag “#SeditionHunters,” which has been used to crowdsource information about the riot from social media and many hours of streamed video, uncovered screenshots that appear to show Mastriano much closer to the action. In one, he is visible standing on the Capitol lawn with his wife. In another, Mastriano appears poised to stroll past police barricades as rioters push past them. These images were first published on Monday by Pennsylvania Spotlight, a progressive accountability and investigative organization, and later by the Huffington Post, leading Mastriano to issue a statement Tuesday insisting that he followed police instructions at all times.’ Even disingenuous internet sleuths know that police lines did shift throughout the course of the day,’ the statement reads. ‘I followed those lines as they existed.’” [WHYY, 1/12/21]

Mastriano Pushed His Following To Attend The January 6th Insurrection

Mastriano Urged His Followers To Attend The Capitol Insurrection. “Doug Mastriano, a Republican state senator from Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and parts of neighboring counties, was a little-known figure in state politics before the coronavirus pandemic. But, in the past year, he has led rallies against mask mandates and other public-health protocols, which he has characterized as ‘the governor’s autocratic control over our lives.’ He has become a leader of the Stop the Steal campaign, and claims that he spoke to Donald Trump at least fifteen times between the 2020 election and the insurrection at the Capitol, on January 6th. He urged his followers to attend the rally at the Capitol that led to the riots, saying, ‘I’m really praying that God will pour His Spirit upon Washington, D.C., like we’ve never seen before.’” [New Yorker, 5/9/21]

Mastriano Used Campaign Funds To Charter Buses For The Capitol Hill Insurrectionists

Mastriano's Campaign Committee Spent \$3,354 On Busses Six Days Before The "Save America" Rally. "Campaign finance records show that State Sen. Doug Mastriano's campaign spent thousands of dollars on charter buses ahead of the Washington D.C. rally that ended with supporters of President Donald Trump violently storming the halls of Congress last week during an insurrection. Mastriano (R-Franklin), rumored to be a future GOP gubernatorial candidate, has faced calls to resign for attending the rally. A review of the state senator's campaign finance records shows that his committee paid \$3,354 to Wolf's Bus Lines in three installments for "bus reservations" about six days before Trump's 'Save America' rally." [WHYY, 1/12/21]

Mastriano Faced Calls For His Resignation By Both Colleagues And Local Non-Profits

Colleagues Called For Mastriano's Resignation After It Was Revealed He Was At The Capitol Insurrection

State Rep. Brian Sims Calls For Mastriano's Resignation. "Republican Sen. Doug Mastriano now faces calls for his resignation after he attended the Capitol Hill protests that turned fatal Wednesday afternoon. Mastriano – who represents the 33rd district in parts of Adams, Franklin, Cumberland and York counties – immediately condemned the violence that resulted in the deaths of four protesters in Washington D.C., including an Air Force veteran who was shot and killed inside the Capitol building. [...] Rep. Brian Sims, D-Philadelphia, called Mastriano a 'criminal' and said he wasn't surprised by the "sedition spewing from my elected 'colleagues.' He joined Sen. Tim Kearney, D-Springfield, in demanding the senator resign." [The Center Square via The Record Online, [1/8/21](#)]

State Sen. Tim Kearny Called For Mastriano's Resignation. "Republican Sen. Doug Mastriano now faces calls for his resignation after he attended the Capitol Hill protests that turned fatal Wednesday afternoon. Mastriano – who represents the 33rd district in parts of Adams, Franklin, Cumberland and York counties – immediately condemned the violence that resulted in the deaths of four protesters in Washington D.C., including an Air Force veteran who was shot and killed inside the Capitol building. [...] Rep. Brian Sims, D-Philadelphia, called Mastriano a 'criminal' and said he wasn't surprised by the "sedition spewing from my elected 'colleagues.' He joined Sen. Tim Kearney, D-Springfield, in demanding the senator resign." [The Center Square via The Record Online, [1/8/21](#)]

Common Cause Pennsylvania Called For Mastriano's Resignation

Common Cause Pennsylvania Called For Mastriano's Resignation. "In the wake of yesterday's insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, Common Cause Pennsylvania is calling for Sen. Doug Mastriano to immediately resign, due to his actions to undermine the outcome of the November 3rd election and his participation in yesterday's events at the US Capitol.." [Common Cause Pennsylvania. [1/17/21](#)]

Mastriano, After Visiting Maricopa County, Began A Campaign To Push Audits In Pennsylvania, Going So Far As To Prop Up And Push Dangerous Conspiracy Theories

After Visiting Maricopa County To Observe The Election Audit, Mastriano Called For A Similar One In Pennsylvania

Mastriano Called For An Audit Of the 2020 Election. "Dozens of people were in Harrisburg Saturday for what organizers called a victory celebration for the passage of two referendums limiting the governor's emergency powers. One of the speakers, State Senator Doug Mastriano spoke about wanting an audit of November's election too.[...] Though there is no evidence of widespread voter fraud, he wants the same to happen in Pennsylvania. It started as a rally to celebrate limiting the governor's power through two referendums on the ballot." [WHZTM, [6/6/21](#)]

- **Mastriano Called For The Audit After Going To Maricopa County To Witness The Audit In Arizona.** “Dozens of people were in Harrisburg Saturday for what organizers called a victory celebration for the passage of two referendums limiting the governor’s emergency powers. One of the speakers, State Senator Doug Mastriano spoke about wanting an audit of November’s election too. Mastriano recently returned from a trip to Arizona where Republican lawmakers organized an audit of their election.” [WHZTM, [6/6/21](#)]
- **Mastriano Claimed The Arizona Audit Was “The Model” For Future Post-Election Vote Counts.** “In a June 2 interview with Steve Bannon, state Sen. Doug Mastriano, a prospective candidate for governor who claims Trump’s backing, described the partisan audit taking place in Maricopa County, Arizona, as “the model” for future post-election vote counts.” [Insider, [6/4/21](#)]

Mastriano Promoted A Pro-Audit Group, Whose Co-Founder Promoted A Conspiracy Theory That Wayfair Was Selling Trafficked Children

Mastriano Promoted The Pro-Election Audit Group “Audit The Vote PA.” “We have a grassroots movement coming out of Pittsburgh,” he said. ‘Three young ladies are frustrated by the lack of action and so they have an Audit The Vote PA. And they have 60,000 signatures already, and they’re going to hit 100,000 pretty quick.’ Mastriano, who local outlet WHYY found used campaign funds to bus protesters to the US Capitol on January 6, also promoted the petition on his personal Facebook page.” [Insider, [6/4/21](#)]

The Group’s Co Founder Promoted A Baseless Conspiracy Theory That Wayfair Was Trafficking Children. “A review by Insider shows at least two of the women behind the effort have promoted QAnon-linked conspiracy theories, including the bizarre and baseless claim that online furniture retailer Wayfair was selling trafficked children on its website.” [Insider, [6/4/21](#)]



Audit the Vote PA" co-founder Toni Shuppe promoted the claim that Wayfair was engaged in child sex trafficking. Screenshot/Facebook

[Insider, [6/4/21](#)]

- **Toni Scuppe Used The QAnon “WWG1WGA” And Promoted “PizzaGate.”** “The author of the petition itself, Toni Schuppe, has used the QAnon hashtag ‘WWG1WGA’ and promoted ‘PizzaGate,’ the unfounded conspiracy theory that John Podesta and other prominent Democrats were involved in a pedophile ring.” [Insider, [6/4/21](#)]

The Other Founder, Jamie Sheffield, Shared A Meme That Suggested President Biden Was Not Actually Inaugurated. “Another founder of the group, Jamie Sheffield, has shared a viral meme suggesting that

President Joe Biden was not actually inaugurated on January 20, claiming to have personally confirmed six of the nine claims. As USA Today noted, however, none of the claims were in fact true.” [Insider, [6/4/21](#)]



A co-founder of "Audit the Vote PA" shared a meme that suggested President Joe Biden was not actually inaugurated on January 20. In comments, they said they had personally confirmed six of the claims. Screenshot/Facebook

[Insider, [6/4/21](#)]

The Group Pushed Conspiracy Theories That Have Been Proved To Be False

The Group Pushed The Conspiracy Theory That Claimed That Dominion Voting Machines Had To Be Connected For Wi-Fi. “A Pennsylvania Republican — and a rising star among supporters of former President Donald Trump — is endorsing a campaign to ‘audit the vote’ in the commonwealth. Its founders assert that the Chinese government hacked the state's voting machines to elect President Joe Biden, a wild claim that federal and state elections officials say has no connection to reality. [...] Among other things, the group's petition states that Dominion voting machines were shown to be ‘connected to WiFi and an individual was able to hack into the machines through his phone giving him direct access to the votes in real time.’” [Insider, [6/4/21](#)]

- **This Claim Came From The Conspiracy Theorist Who Claimed Bamboo Were In Ballots.** “That is a reference to a claim from J. Hutton Pulitzer. Before promoting conspiracy theories about the 2020 election, Pulitzer was best known as the inventor of a cat-shaped personal barcode reader called the ‘CueCat,’ described by Time magazine as ‘a massively expensive failure’ and one of the worst inventions of all time. [...] At a hearing in Georgia earlier this year, Pulitzer — the apparent originator of the claim that ballots containing bamboo were imported from China, and currently involved in Arizona's controversial audit — alleged that he had hacked into the state's Dominion election system. Specifically, he claimed to have been able to access a PollPad, a tablet device that allows poll workers to check voter rolls.” [Insider, [6/4/21](#)]
- **The Device Alleged To Be Connected To The Internet Was Not On Election Day, Nor Was It Capable Of Connecting To Any Voting Or Ballot-Counting Equipment.** “At a hearing in Georgia earlier this year, Pulitzer — the apparent originator of the claim that ballots containing bamboo were imported from China, and currently involved in Arizona's controversial audit — alleged that he had hacked into the state's Dominion election system. Specifically, he claimed to have been able to access a PollPad, a tablet device that allows poll workers to check voter rolls. But that device is not connected to the internet on Election Day, nor is it capable of connecting to any voting or ballot-counting equipment.” [Insider, [6/4/21](#)]

Mastriano Tweeted A False Claims About The Number Of Mail-In Ballots That Were Returned And His Tweet Went Viral

Mastriano Tweeted A False Claim About The Number Of Mail-In Ballots That Were Returned That Went Viral. “Republican state Sen. Doug Mastriano on Nov. 27 shared misinformation that went viral. He shared data to suggest there were more mail-in votes than mail-in ballots. Below the data, he said, ‘Pennsylvania reports having mailed out 1,823,148 ballots, of which 1,462,302 were returned. Yet total mail-in voters number 2,589,242? From where did the extra 1,126,940 votes come?’ His tweet had more than 135,000 likes, about 71,000 retweets and more than 19,000 comments. But what Mastriano didn’t say was that the numbers he was citing for the general election also included totals from the primary.” [York Daily Record, [1/19/21](#)]

Mastriano Was Called An “Embarrassment” By The York Dispatch Editorial Board

EDITORIAL: Mastriano Isn’t A Hack. He’s Much Worse. [York Dispatch, Editorial, 12/3/20]

The York Dispatch Blasted Mastriano As An “Embarrassment.” “One thing’s for certain: State Sen. Doug Mastriano is an embarrassment. But his crusade to disenfranchise more than 6 million Pennsylvanians is something much more insidious.” [York Dispatch, Editorial, 12/3/20]

Mastriano Engaged With QAnon, Attending A Conference And Even Appearing On A QAnon Talk Show

Mastriano Appeared At The “Patriots Arise, Awakening The Dead” Conference, A QAnon Event

Mastriano Was Listed As A Speaker At The “Patriots Arise, Awakening The Dead” Conference, Which Was A QAnon Event. “A Pennsylvania state senator and a Philadelphia judge who’s running for the state’s highest court are set to appear at a QAnon-branded conference in June, according to posts from a conspiracy-laden podcast.

State Sen. Doug Mastriano, R-Franklin, and Judge Paula Patrick, a Republican running for state Supreme Court, are listed as speakers at the event, titled ‘Patriots Arise, Awakening the Dead!’” [Pennsylvania Capital-Star, [4/28/21](#)]

Mastriano Pushed Conspiracy Theories On A QAnon Talk Show

Mastriano Pushed Violence and Pro-Coup Rhetoric On A QAnon Youtube Show. “Mastriano pushed pro-coup and violent rhetoric during a December 21 appearance on the QAnon-dedicated program *The Common Sense Show*, which airs on the Patriots’ Soapbox network. NBC News’ Brandy Zadrozny and Ben Collins wrote in August 2018 that the Patriots’ Soapbox is ‘a round-the-clock livestreamed YouTube channel for Qanon study and discussion. The channel is, in effect, a broadcast of a Discord chatroom with constant audio commentary from a rotating cast of volunteers and moderators.’” [Media Matters For America, [1/7/121](#)]

During His Appearance, Mastriano Claimed That Trump Won The Election. “During his December appearance on the QAnon program, Mastriano repeatedly pushed false claims that the election was stolen from Trump and said: ‘I think in the end, assuming truth prevails, that he will have a second term.’” [Media Matters For America, [1/7/121](#)]

During His Appearance, Mastriano Praised Militia Group Members. “He also praised militia members carrying guns at protests, stating: ‘They’re not burning down cities and killing people on the streets. That would be the leftists in Portland, a living example, and Seattle and elsewhere. Show me where the right is the problem.’” [Media Matters For America, [1/7/121](#)]

During His Appearance, Mastriano Claimed That Democratic Governors Used COVID To Destroy Their Home States. “You know, Andy even if it was an honest mistake when and you know I doubt it but even if it was that they still owe us because the destruction and you know how so many Democrat Governors and our nation of use this as a weapon to destroy our states you know I just can’t make this stuff up here.” [The Commonsense Show, Patriot Soapbox, [12/21/20](#)]

During His Appearance, Mastriano Compared Socialism, And The Left, To The Rise Of Nazism And Adolf Hitler. "HOST (00:36:28:00) 'Yeah. I mean I think they're wanting to move us toward socialism and you know what they say about socialism? You can vote it in but you have to shoot your way out.' MASTRIANO: 'Hitler was voted into power and he brought in national socialism. He was voted into power and in the early 30s German people voted him in. There was one guy who could have stopped him, who had the love and admiration of the German Army in, 1934 -- it was General von Schleicher retired, German Army General from the first World War, and he worked in the Weimar Republic. They had a republic, not a Democracy, and Hitler knew but Hitler is a good socialism has, so they come and calling people names. Was it socialism of All Brands? Whether it's Nazism, or Communism, or electricity ology the pinheads and University. Relabel Nazism is his right wing idea. Is they're fools because their souls, they wanted to, you know, have the ink of Hitler's with them. But yet it's a leftist idea, the more right, you go, the less government you have. " [The Commonsense Show, Patriot Soapbox, [12/21/20](#)]

Mastriano Promoted Racism And Bigotry On Social Media

While As A State Senate Candidate, Mastriano Posted "Conspiratorial, Anti-Muslim Memes" On Facebook

HEADLINE: "Conspiratorial, Anti-Muslim Memes Populated Facebook Page of State Senate Candidate."
[Pennsylvania Capital-Star, [5/6/19](#)]



[Pennsylvania Capital-Star, [5/6/19](#)]

While Running For State Senate, Mastriano Posted Anti-Muslim Memes On Facebook. “A decorated military veteran who’s running to represent parts of south-central Pennsylvania in the state Senate has shared a stream of conspiracy theories and Islamophobic memes and articles on his campaign’s Facebook page. The posts are mixed among standard conservative calls for tax cuts, regulatory reform, and infrastructure spending that Republican nominee Douglas Mastriano has shared with more than 27,000 Facebook followers as he looks to succeed ex-Sen. Richard Alloway in the state Senate.” [Pennsylvania Capital-Star, [5/6/19](#)]

Mastriano Spread Dangerous Anti-Vaccination Myths

Mastriano Posted A Video That Claimed Vaccines Kill & Cause Autism

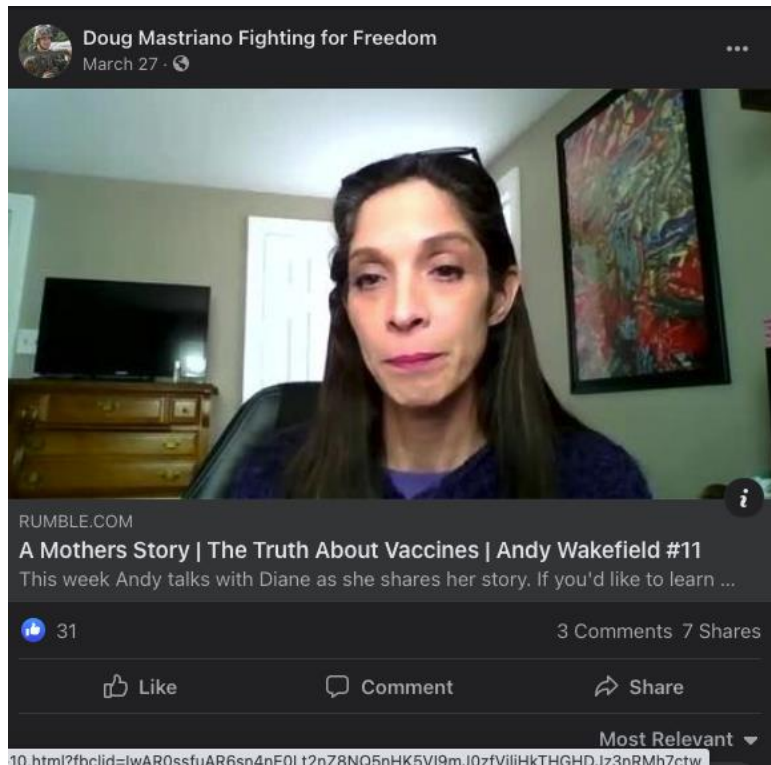
Mastriano Posted A Video That Claimed Vaccines Kill & Cause Autism. [Facebook, Doug Mastriano Fighting For Freedom, 4/12/21]



[Facebook, Doug Mastriano Fighting For Freedom, 4/12/21]

Mastriano Posted A Video Featuring Prominent Anti-Vaxxer, Andrew Wakefield, Who Previously Suggested That The Mumps And Rubella Vaccines Were Linked To Autism

Mastriano Posted A Video Featuring Andrew Wakefield. [Facebook, Doug Mastriano Fighting For Freedom, 3/27/21]



[Facebook, Doug Mastriano Fighting For Freedom, 3/27/21]

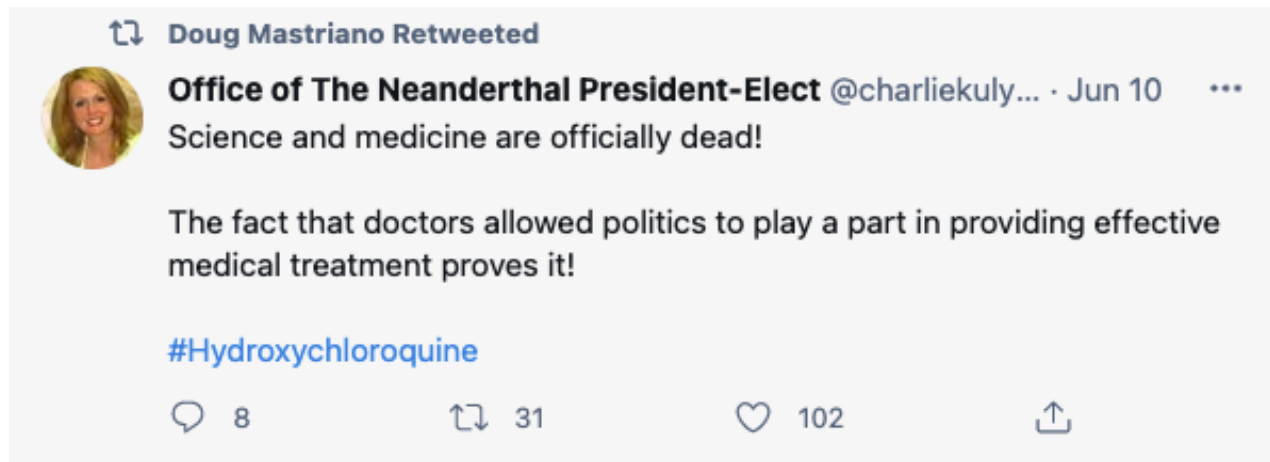
- Andrew Wakefield Was A Discredited Physician Who Suggested There Was A Link Between The Measles, Mumps, And Rubella Vaccines And Autism.** “Two decades ago, an esteemed medical journal published a small study that has become one of the most notorious and damaging pieces of research in medicine. The study, led by the now discredited physician-researcher Andrew Wakefield, involved 12 children and suggested there’s a link between the measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine — which is administered to millions of children around the world each year — and autism. The study was subsequently thoroughly debunked. *The Lancet* retracted the paper and Wakefield was stripped of his medical license. Autism researchers have shown decisively again and again that the developmental disorder is not caused by vaccines.” [Vox, 3/5/19]

Mastriano Used His Platform To Promote Misinformation About Both COVID And COVID Treatments

Mastriano Repeatedly Pushed False Information About Hydroxychloroquine

Mastriano Retweeted: Science and Medicine And Officially Dead! The Fact That Doctors Allowed Politics To Play A Part In Providing Effective Medical Treatment Proves it. #Hydroxychloroquine.

“Science and medicine are officially dead! The fact that doctors allowed politics to play a part in providing effective medical treatment proves it! #Hydroxychloroquine” [Twitter, @charliekulyrwah, 6/10/21]



[Twitter, @charliekulyrwah, 6/10/21]

Mastriano Reweeted: “Another One Bites The Dust.” “Another one bites the dust! Hydroxychloroquine with zinc could increase COVID-19 survival rates by as much as nearly 200%.” [Twitter, @DineshaDSouza, 6/10/21]



[Twitter, @DineshaDSouza, 6/10/21]

- **2021: A Study Showed That Hydroxychloroquine Increased The Survival Rate Of Severely Ill Covid Patients.** “A new study shows that the controversial drug hydroxychloroquine touted by former President Donald Trump increased the survival rate of severely ill coronavirus patients. The observational study, published by medRxiv, found that antimalarial drug hydroxychloroquine, along with zinc, could increase the coronavirus survival rate by as much as nearly 200% if distributed at higher doses to ventilated patients with a severe version of the illness.” [Yahoo News, 6/9/21]

The FDA Guidance Cautioned Against Using Hydroxychloroquine For COVID. “A summary of the FDA review of safety issues with the use of hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine to treat hospitalized patients with COVID-19 is now available. This includes reports of serious heart rhythm problems and other safety issues, including blood and lymph system disorders, kidney injuries, and liver problems and failure.” [Food & Drug Administration, 7/2/20]

- **June 2020; The FDA Revoked It's Emergency Issue Use Of Hydroxychloroquine Citing Potential Health Risks.** "By mid-June, the FDA formally revoked Trusted Source this emergency issue, claiming the potential benefits of the drug in cases of COVID-19 did not outweigh existing and potential health risks." [Medical News Today, 3/4/21]

Mastriano Posted A Meme On Facebook Implying That CNN Was Inflating The COVID Numbers

Mastriano Posted A Meme On Facebook Implying That CNN Was Inflating The COVID Numbers.

"Seriously though." [Facebook, Doug Mastriano Fighting For Freedom, 5/3/20]



[Facebook, Doug Mastriano Fighting For Freedom, 5/3/20]

During An Appearance On The QAnon Talk Show, The Commonsense Show, Mastriano Pushed The Myth That COVID Was A Bioweapon Created By The Chinese

During An Appearance On The QAnon Talk Show, The Commonsense Show, Mastriano Claimed That COVID Was A Bioweapon Created By The Chinese Government. "MASTRIANO (00:34:28:00): 'And then you have Governor wolf has been hiding in his some basement or bunker for the past and we both test positive, you know, with within a week or two of each other. I wanted to flee and who was the most effective leader? You know, the one hiding, and COVID still tracked him down, or the guy who was out there[...] And it guess what? You know, for me, it wasn't that bad. I know for some people, it's and, but one thing I was thinking China, you suck. Thanks a lot for manufacturing this bioweapon here. And I agree with the president that they are culpable. [The Common Sense Show, Patriot Soapbox, 12/21/20]

- **The Idea That COVID-19 Was A Super Weapon Was A Conspiracy Theory.** "Don't you just love conspiracy theories? Especially when two groups of people have pretty much the same conspiracy theory about each other. Some folks including politicians in both the U.S. and China have suggested that the COVID-19 coronavirus (SARS-CoV2) that's causing the pandemic may actually be a

bioweapon that was manufactured in a lab. The only difference between their conspiracy theories is who's being accused of doing the manufacturing." [Forbes, 5/17/20]

Mastriano Spoke At Several Anti-COVID Restrictions Protests

Mastriano Spoke At An Anti-Covid Restriction Protests

Mastriano Spoke At An Anti-Covid Restriction Protests. "No more masks. No more restrictions. And, they said, no more tyranny. That was the rally cry of several hundred people who gathered on the Capitol steps Wednesday, calling for Gov. Tom Wolf to lift all coronavirus-related restrictions. [...] State Sen. Doug Mastriano energized the crowd, telling them Pennsylvania, the birthplace of freedom, is in a fight for its freedoms today. When they choose to go into a store without a mask and someone confronts them, 'tell them to mind your own business and say you're exempt,' Mastriano told the crowd. 'Walk as a free person. It's a choice.'" [Pennsylvania Real-Time News, 7/22/20]

Mastriano Considered Throwing A Mask Burning Party

Mastriano Considered Throwing A Mask Burning Party. "However, for some people, masks are seen as a symbol of government overreach. At a recent motorcycle rally in Gettysburg, Republican State Sen. Doug Mastriano of Greene Township said Levine and Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf's mask-wearing order was grounds for a rebellion reminiscent of the Boston Tea Party of 1773. 'I'm really tempted to have a mask-burning party,' Mastriano said to the crowd gathered outside. 'I got a box of them in my car.'" [WITZTF, 7/20/20]

Mastriano Told Citizens, Protesting On The Steps Of The Capital, To "Rise Up" Against Governor Wolf, And The State's COVID Lockdowns

Mastriano Told An Anti-COVID Lockdown Protest At The Capital That It Is "Time To Rise Up". "It was barely 10:30 a.m. Monday when Mike Nester began unloading the final bits of merchandise he brought with him to sell at the rally to reopen Pennsylvania. Taking place in front of the state's Capitol building, the gathering was aimed at putting pressure on Gov. Tom Wolf to lift restrictions he put in place weeks ago to battle the COVID-19 outbreak. Yet instead of offering items that encouraged the state to get back to work, Nester was taking inventory of gear that promoted a different topic altogether: President Trump. Flags. Signs. Shirts. He had them all, and each one depicted a different slogan designed to rally the troops not behind the day's proceedings, but rather, the president of the United States. [...] Doug Mastriano had better luck. The Republican senator who represents the state's 33rd District began his speech by leading the crowd in the Pledge Of Allegiance. He then spoke about how he felt Wolf's order to close businesses was an overreach of his authority. 'Never before in the history of this commonwealth has a governor exercised so much power,' Mastriano said. 'Never before has a governor decided what businesses are essential and non-essential – 'you shall be closed, you shall be open.' ... It's time to rise up.'" [Williamsport Sun-Gazette, 4/21/20]

Mastriano Penned An Op-Ed Blasting Vaccine Passports

Mastriano Wrote An Op-Ed Fearmongering Over Vaccine Passports. "One year after COVID shutdown orders radically changed the way we live our lives, Pennsylvania is slowly returning to some semblance of normalcy as the Wolf administration begins to relax certain restrictions. [...] But imagine that you and your family are planning to attend a ball game. The usher at the entrance takes your ticket and then asks to see a 'Passport App' on your smartphone. The app reveals you have yet to receive a COVID vaccination. The usher is forced to deny entry to you and your family in the name of public safety. Sadly, this scenario is not a fantasy or a conspiracy theory." [Tribune-Democrat, Doug Mastriano op-ed, 4/14/21]

- **Mastriano Claimed That Vaccine Passports Are Forcing The Population To Comply To An Order.** "While providing an update on vaccination efforts in the state, the secretary said: 'How do we collectively partner on making sure folks understand that the facts and science are there, that the health and safety of our communities is reliant upon us getting vaccinated? And that the freedom that so many folks want ... will be facilitated best when we have the most folks vaccinated in the community. 'With all

due respect to the acting secretary, freedom to live life is not something that the government can hold hostage to force a population to comply with an order. Freedom is not something the government gives; we receive it as an American birthright from the Bill of Rights.” [Tribune-Democrat, Doug Mastriano op-ed, 4/14/21]

- **Mastriano Gave Credence To Going Unvaccinated For The Novel Coronavirus.** “There are a number of reasons why someone might be reluctant to receive a vaccination. An individual may not feel comfortable due to medical reasons, religious beliefs or moral convictions. Additionally, some are wary of taking a vaccine that is still brand new and has had some documented negative effects. According to CDC Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) data as of March 26, more than 2,200 individuals have died shortly following a COVID shot. During that same period, there were more than 50,000 cases of adverse effects reported.” [Tribune-Democrat, Doug Mastriano op-ed, 4/14/21]
- **Mastriano Cited Side Effects From All Vaccines As Reason To Not Want To Be Vaccinated.** “In 2020, there were more than 48,000 reported cases of adverse effects from all vaccinations and 343 deaths and 130 of these adverse effects were life threatening, required hospitalization or a trip to the ER. Regardless of whether we agree with an individual’s decision to receive a vaccine or not, it is not our place to make that decision for him or her.” [Tribune-Democrat, Doug Mastriano op-ed, 4/14/21]

Mastriano Is A Christian Nationalist - A Dangerous Movement That Seeks To Topple The Separation Of Church And State

Mastriano Is A Christian Nationalist

According To A Description From The New Yorker, Mastriano Is An Example Of Christian Nationalism.

“On May 9, the New Yorker published a feature story by Pulitzer winner Eliza Griswold about Pennsylvania state Sen. Doug Mastriano, who could well be the Republican nominee for governor next year, as a flagship example of the swelling power of Christian nationalism within today’s GOP.” [Salon, [6/12/21](#)]

- **Mastriano Saw The Cold War As A Spiritual Journey.** “Mastriano, like many conservative Christians, came to see the Cold War as a spiritual campaign, applying religious notions of good and evil to U.S. foreign policy. ‘Seeing awful things in the East, and atheistic, communistic, socialist regimes oppressing people’ convinced him of the need for “protecting freedom, the free people of the West,” he told “Crosspoint,” a Christian podcast, in 2018.” [New Yorker, [5/9/21](#)]

Christian Nationalism Is A Belief System Rooted In White Supremacy That Has Been Rebuked By The Church And Embraced By Right Wing Forces

Christian Nationalism Is Defined By The Preservation Of Social Order Which Is Allegedly Being Threatened By People Of Color, Immigrants, And Muslims.

“The defining concern of Christian nationalism is the preservation of a certain kind of social order, one threatened by people of color, immigrants, and Muslims. Crucially, Whitehead and Perry find that Christian nationalism is *not* the same as personal religiosity.” [New Yorker, [9/2/20](#)]

Christian Nationalism Is Aligned With White Supremacist Ideology. “Increasingly, members of the media, academics, Americans United and others are using the term ‘Christian nationalism’ and often “white Christian nationalism” to describe a political movement that seeks to topple church-state separation and declare America a ‘Christian nation’ – with ‘Christian’ in this case being far to the right and supremely fundamentalist. While they’re sometimes openly aligned with racist movements, their ultimate goal is seen as a branch of white supremacy because it would result in a society governed by conservative white Christian men who would make decisions for everyone else.” [American’s United For Separations of Church And State, [4/2021](#)]

Christian Nationalism Seeks To End The Separation of Church And State. “These people soon attracted the attention of political commentators. In the wake of the failed coup, a spate of columns appeared in *The*

New York Times, *Rolling Stone*, *The Washington Post* and other media outlets focusing on the role Christian nationalists played in the riot. A column in *The Times* by Thomas B. Edsell carried the blunt headline: ‘The Capitol Insurrection Was As Christian Nationalist As It Gets. ‘Increasingly, members of the media, academics, Americans United and others are using the term “Christian nationalism” and often ‘white Christian nationalism’ to describe a political movement that seeks to topple church-state separation and declare America a “Christian nation” – with ‘Christian’ in this case being far to the right and supremely fundamentalist.” [American’s United For Separations of Church And State, [4/2021](#)]

In 2021, One Hundred Faith Leaders Wrote A Letter Expressing Concerns Over Christian Nationalism.

“A coalition of evangelical Christian leaders is condemning the role of "radicalized Christian nationalism" in feeding the political extremism that led to the violent insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6 by supporters of former President Donald Trump. In an open letter, more than 100 pastors, ministry and seminary leaders, and other prominent evangelicals express concern about the growing "radicalization" they're seeing, particularly among white evangelicals.” [NPR, [2/24/21](#)]

Mastriano Accepted \$21,150 From Corporate PACS And Trade Associations

Contributors	Total Contributions To Mastriano
Pennsylvania Chamber of Business And Industry	\$3,500
Pennsylvania Bankers Association	\$2000
Blue Cross Blue Shield (Highmark PAC of High Mark and Capitol Bluer PAC PA)	\$2,000
PA Association Of Deer Farmers	\$1,500
Pennsylvania Aggregates & Concrete Association	\$1,500
International Paper	\$1250
Shipley Energy Committee	\$1,000
S and T Bank Pennsylvania PAC	\$1,000
First Energy Corp	\$1,000
Nisource Inc	\$1,000
Norfolk Southern	\$1,000
Pennsylvania Association of Realtors	\$1,000
Pennsylvania Bar Association	\$1,000
Energy Transfer	\$1,000
Erie Indemnity Co	\$1,000
Pennsylvania State Corrections Offices	\$1,000
Pugliese Associates	\$1,000
UGI Corp	\$1,000
Gmerek Government Relations	\$1,000
TOTAL:	\$21,150

[Follow The Money, Campaign Finance Profile Doug Mastriano, accessed [8/2/21](#)]

Pennsylvania State Senator Cris Dush Had Pushed The Big Lie, Has Appeared At Multiple Events With Local Militias, And Compared COVID-19 Restrictions To “Hitler’s Nazi Regime”

Cris Dush



POLITICAL OFFICE

Pennsylvania State Senate District 25 – Cameron County, Clearfield County, Clinton County, Elk County, Jefferson County, McKeon County, Potter County, and Tioga County [Pennsylvania State Senate, accessed 8/13/21]

- Pennsylvania House District 66 (2015-2020) [Voterly, Chris Dush, accessed [8/13/21](#)]

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

U.S. Air Force 1982-1990 Pennsylvania Air National Guard 2000 - 2016 [Pennsylvania State Senate, accessed 8/13/21]

ACADEMIC HISTORY

Attended

Brookville Area High School [Pennsylvania State Senate, accessed 8/13/21]

Community College of the Air Force, AAS Degree in Criminal Justice [Pennsylvania State Senate, accessed 8/13/21]

Clarion State College [Pennsylvania State Senate, accessed 8/13/21]

University of Louisville [Pennsylvania State Senate, accessed 8/13/21]

Southern Illinois Carbondale [Pennsylvania State Senate, accessed 8/13/21]

Alan Hancock College [Pennsylvania State Senate, accessed 8/13/21]

U Academy [Pennsylvania State Senate, accessed 8/13/21]

Military Service

U.S. Air Force 1982-1990 Pennsylvania Air [Pennsylvania State Senate, accessed 8/13/21]

- .S. Air Force Non-Commissioned Officer [Pennsylvania State Senate, accessed 8/13/21]

National Guard 2000 - 2016 [Pennsylvania State Senate, accessed 8/13/21]

- Senator Dush pushed Trump’s Big Lie and even tried to overturn Pennsylvania’s results in the presidential election. He called for a special session after the election in an attempt to raise doubts about the security of the election. Dush also visited Maricopa County, Arizona to tour the sham “audit” being pushed by Trump’s supporters. Dush also called on state officials to withdraw Pennsylvania’s election certification and made other attempts to cast doubt after admitting their initial efforts had fizzled.
- Dush has appeared at multiple events with militia groups in attendance wearing white supremacist iconography, including a group started by Larry Pratt, considered the father of the modern right wing militia movement.
- Dush compared Governor Wolf’s COVID response to “Hitler’s Nazi regime”.
- Dush has pushed conspiracy theories on social media. Dush promoted an interview by disgraced Trump attorney Sidney Powell, who is currently facing sanctions for making false claims in a court filings as she tried to overturn the results of the election. He also uplifted a fake “social media site” where prominent conspiracy theorist and Trump supporter Mike Lindell pushed disinformation about the 2020 election and COVID-19.

Dush Pushed Trump’s Big Lie By Trying to Sow Doubt In The 2020 Election and Joined Efforts to Overturn Pennsylvania’s Results

Dush Called For A Special Legislative Session After The 2020 Election In An Attempt To Raise Doubts About The Security Of The Election

Dush Called For A Special Legislative Session After The 2020 Election. “A group of conservative Pennsylvania lawmakers have embarked on an attempt to launch a special session of the Legislature – a move that would require convincing either the Democratic governor or many of their more moderate colleagues to join them to succeed. The 32 legislators include one, Sen.-elect Cris Dush, who will be in the Senate in the 2021-22 session, and 31 who will be in the House of Representatives. In a news release from Rep. Daryl Metcalfe, R-Cranberry Township, announcing the effort, they claimed that a special session is needed since the Legislature is not scheduled to convene its new session before Jan. 5, and they remain concerned about the outcome of the Nov. 3 election.” [The Center Square, [12/2/20](#)]

Dush Went To Maricopa County To Tour The Sham “Audit”

Dush Flew To Maricopa County In Arizona To Witness The Maricopa County Audit Taking Place. “A Pennsylvania Republican lawmaker who toured the Arizona state Senate’s review of Maricopa County’s recent election said he “absolutely” wants to replicate the controversial process in his home state. On Wednesday, GOP Sens. Cris Dush and Doug Mastriano, as well as Rep. Rob Kauffman, met with Arizona Republican lawmakers, the private firms conducting the state Senate’s recount and audit of the general election returns in Maricopa County, and toured Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Phoenix, where the recount is taking place. A photo of the Pennsylvania legislators’ visit to the Arizona Capitol showed them with Republican Sens. Wendy Rogers, Sonny Borrelli and David Gowan, as well as GOP Rep. Leo Biasucci. [KJZZ, [6/2/21](#)]

Dush Was One Of Twenty-Six House Republicans That Called For Withdrawing Certification Of Election Results

As A Member Of The Pennsylvania House Of Representatives, Dush Was One Of Twenty-Six Republicans That Called On “Gov. Tom Wolf And Secretary Of State Kathy Boockvar To Withdraw Their Certification Of The Nov. 3 Election Results.” “Declaring the results of statewide electoral contests in the 2020 general election to be in dispute, a group of House Republican lawmakers have announced their intention to introduce a resolution calling for Gov. Tom Wolf and Secretary of State Kathy Boockvar to withdraw their certification of the Nov. 3 election results in the presidential and other statewide contests. [...] Those who have signed on as co-sponsors of the resolution are: Reps. Russ Diamond, Eric Nelson, Paul Schemel, Greg Rothman, Frank Ryan, Dawn Keefer, Mike Jones, David Rowe, Michael Puskaric, Barbara Gleim, Bud Cook, Cris Dush, Stephanie Borowicz, David Zimmerman, Daryl Metcalfe, David Maloney, Dan Moul, Brad Roae, Kathy Rapp, Jim Cox, Rob Kauffman, Matthew Dowling, Eric Davanzo, Rich Irvin, Aaron Bernstine, and Andrew Lewis.” [Penn-Live, [11/27/21](#)]

Dush Moved On To Other Efforts to Cast Doubt on The Election After He Acknowledged The Attempts To Overturn The Election Had “Fizzled”

2020: Right After The Election, When He Was A State Rep., Dush Acknowledged The Attempts To Overturn The Election Had Fizzled. “Some of Pennsylvania's most conservative Republicans have given up a push to review and block the state's presidential election results, citing legal hangups, a flurry of lawsuits, and little buy-in from their GOP colleagues. The effort was first announced at a press conference last week. On Nov. 10, 26 House and Senate Republicans — barely a fifth of all GOP lawmakers — called for the General Assembly to delay the certification of Pennsylvania's 2020 results until lawmakers could conduct their own election audit. [...] Conservatives such as state Rep., soon-to-be state Sen., Cris Dush (R-Jefferson) acknowledged that their stronger push had fizzled.” [Philadelphia Tribune, 11/23/20]

Dush Joined Hands With Extremists And White Supremacists

Dush Attended A Gun Rights Rally With A Militia That Bore White Supremacist Symbology

Dush Attended State Rep. Daryl Metcalfe’s Gun Rights Rally. “Organized by Rep. Daryl Metcalfe, R-Cranberry Township, the event will feature U.S. Rep. Scott Perry, R-Pa., and several activists speaking in support of three pending bills that would allow permitless concealed carry and preempt both federal and local officials from imposing new regulations that contradict state gun laws. Metcalfe sponsored one of the latter proposals, House Bill 357, which he's dubbed the Right to Bear Arms Protection Act. More than 60 legislators have co-sponsored, so far. [...] House Judiciary Chairman Rob Kauffman, R-Chambersburg; House Second Amendment Caucus Chairman Matt Dowling, R-Uniontown; Rep. Stephanie Borowicz, R-Lock Haven, and Sen. Cris Dush, R-Wellsboro will also attend.” [The Center Square, [6/4/21](#)]

The Rally Was Attended By The Iron City Citizen Response Unit Militia. “A couple hundred gun rights enthusiasts attended an annual pro-gun rally on the Pennsylvania Capitol steps Monday, with many pushing for a proposal to let anyone who can legally possess firearms to conceal them without a license or permit when carrying them in public. The organizer of the Right to Keep and Bear Arms Rally, state Rep. Daryl Metcalfe, said the attendance may have been the lowest in the 16 years for the event. Dozens of Republican representatives and senators, however, were there ahead of what was a legislative business day. [...] During the event, a group of seven uniformed, heavily armed men walked up, calling themselves members of the Pittsburgh-based Iron City Citizen Response Unit militia. Leaders identified themselves only as “Hammer” and “Gucci,” and said their focus was support for the Second Amendment” [AP, [6/7/21](#)]

The Iron City Citizen Response Unit Wore The Valknut, Which Was Associated With White Supremacist Groups. “The protest started at noon and about 20 minutes in, a group of armed civilians joined the protest. The 10 or so armed civilians identified as the Iron City Citizens Response Unit, and most of them wore patches with the group’s insignia. Part of that insignia includes a symbol of three interlocking triangles called the

Valknot, or Valknut. Some members of the Iron City Citizens Response Unit also wore separate patches that had larger versions of the Valknot. According to the Anti-Defamation League, the Valknot is an old Norse symbol that often represented the afterlife and the Norse god Odin. The ADL notes it has gained popularity as of late with some white nationalist and white supremacist groups." [Pittsburgh City Paper, [4/20/20](#)]

Dush Compared Gov. Wolf's Handling Of The Coronavirus Pandemic To "German Democratic National Socialist Party, The Nazi Party."

Dush Claimed Wolf's "Lack Of Transparency" To The "German Democratic National Socialist Party, The Nazi Party." "A Pennsylvania state representative has been condemned after comparing what he saw as Gov. Tom Wolf's lack of transparency during the coronavirus pandemic to Hitler's Nazi regime. Rep. Cris Dush, a Republican serving Jefferson County, described Wolf's apparent withholding of information such as recovery rates to the press as reminiscent of a "socialist playbook" during a House State Government Committee hearing. [...] 'More and more I go back to the German Democratic Nationalist Socialist Party, the Nazi Party. I go to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the USSR. This is a socialist playbook.'" [Newsweek, [5/5/20](#)]

- **The Philadelphia Anti-Defamation League And The Jewish Federation Of Greater Pittsburgh Condemned Dush's Remarks.** "Elsewhere, a coalition of Jewish-affiliated organizations, including the Philadelphia branch of the Anti-Defamation League and the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, issued a group statement condemning Dush's remarks. 'Such rhetoric diminishes the horrific atrocities committed by the Nazis and is offensive and wrong,' the statement said." [Newsweek, [5/5/20](#)]

Dush Appeared At An Event With A Group Founded By A Gun Rights Extremist

January 2020: Dush Appeared At The Indiana Fox And Coon Club With The Gun Owners Of America. "A public meeting will be held Feb. 9 at 1 p.m. at the Indiana Fox and Coon Club, 255 Ramsey Run Road. Speaking on the growing number of unconstitutional gun laws that are being proposed will be Gun Owners of America representative Val Finnell, Pastor Paul Price, Indiana County Second Amendment Sanctuary Ordinance coordinator Deborah Shreckengost and volunteers Cory Schaeffer and Larry Breisch. Scheduled to attend are state Sen. Joe Pittman, R-Indiana; state Rep. Jim Struzzi, R-Indiana; and state Rep. Cris Dush, R-Brookville." [Indiana Gazette, [1/23/20](#)]

The Executive Director Of Gun Owners Of America, Larry Pratt, Was Called By The Sothern Poverty Law Center A "Pivotal Figure In The Rise Of Right-Wing Militia." "Larry Pratt stands at the intersection of guns and Jesus, lobbying for absolutely unrestricted distribution of firearms while advocating a theocratic society based upon Old Testament civil and religious laws. A pivotal figure in the rise of right-wing militia, or "Patriot," groups, he spoke at the notorious 1992 "Gathering of Christian Men" in Estes Park, Colo., where 160 neo-Nazis, Klan members, anti-Semitic Christian Identity adherents and others arguably laid the groundwork for the militia movement that would explode in 1994. He believes that white Christians must arm themselves for self-protection in the inevitable social implosions and riots that are soon to come. [...] During his nearly 40-year tenure as executive director of Gun Owners of America (GOA), Larry Pratt has positioned the organization as a more radical alternative to the National Rifle Association (NRA). This radicalism is reflected not only by an absolute "no-compromise" stance on gun control, but also by Pratt's ties to the militia movement, white supremacist organizations, and Christian theocrats. Nonetheless, with the support of GOA's 300,000 members and a Beltway lobbying effort, Pratt continues to be heeded by some in Congress and the national media. Born in Camden, N.J., on Nov. 13, 1942, Pratt graduated from American University with a political science degree. When he joined GOA in 1976, it was just one year old, a spinoff of Gun Owners of California. That group was founded by California state senator Bill Richardson in response to proposed legislation that would have banned all handguns in the state. Richardson, who was chairman of the California Senate Fish and Game Committee, led a successful effort to defeat the legislation and subsequently expanded the organization nationally." [Sothern Poverty Law Center, accessed [6/24/21](#)]

Dush Promoted Conspiracy Theories And Disinformation On Social Media

Dush Retweeted A Video Of Disgraced Conspiracy Theorist And Trump Attorney Sidney Powell, Who Is Facing Sanctions For Her Lies About The 2020 Election

Dush Re-Tweeted A Video Of Sidney Powell. “Things are getting interesting...” [Twitter, @Cris49048966, [11/15/20](#)]



[Twitter, @Cris49048966, [11/15/20](#)]

Powell Promoted The Baseless Conspiracy Theory That Software Changed Ballots. “A baseless conspiracy theory claims that a secret supercomputer was used to switch votes from Donald Trump to Joe Biden. Experts — and the federal Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency — have said the theory is a hoax and that safeguards, including paper trails, would deter such an effort. [...] Sidney Powell, an attorney who has represented Michael Flynn, Trump’s former national security adviser, espoused it on Fox Business on Nov. 6 — saying that ballots were changed “using the Hammer program and a software program called Scorecard” — and that she had ‘evidence that that is exactly what happened.’ She repeated the theory two days later to Fox News’ Maria Bartiromo.” [FactCheck.org, [11/13/20](#)]

- **Powell Was Sued Over Her False Claims.** “As Republicans around the country continue to rally around false claims of fraud in the 2020 election, two of former President Donald Trump's closest allies who helped push those false claims appeared in court Thursday for the first time as part of a pair of defamation lawsuits filed against them. Former Trump legal team member Sidney Powell and MyPillow CEO Mike Lindell appeared in court in Washington, D.C., for a hearing in the billion-dollar defamation lawsuits brought by Dominion Voting Systems, the voting machine company at the center of numerous conspiracy theories related to the election.” [ABC News, [6/24/21](#)]
- **Powell Faced Sanctions In Federal Court For Making False Statements In Court Filings.** “Attorneys who made false claims in court filings after the 2020 general election to reverse election results to favor former President Donald Trump have been summoned to appear in Detroit for a sanctions hearing. Federal judge Linda Parker ordered Sidney Powell and other attorneys who had represented Trump in an election results dispute last year to appear in court at 2 p.m. July 6.” [Detroit Free Press, [6/19/21](#)]

Dush Retweeted A Post Promoting Mike Lindell’s Fake “Social Media” Website That Was Rife With Disinformation

Dush Retweeted A Post Promoting Frank Speech. “home.frankspeech.com #Newsmax #ClintonFoundation http://frankspeech.com #AZAudit #2020Election.” [Twitter, @alexandraheuser, [5/19/21](#)]



[Twitter, @alexandraheuser, [5/19/21](#)]

Frank Speech Was A Social Media Website With Only Circulated Information Such As Voter Fraud Allegations And Criticism Of COVID Vaccines. “Frank Speech is advertised as a ‘social-media site,’ but it currently does not operate that way. It’s a one-way communication platform where Lindell and a handful of others circulate information, including allegations of voter fraud and criticism of COVID-19 vaccines.”[SDPB, [5/11/21](#)]

Dush Accepted \$2,250 From Corporate PACS And Trade Associations

Contributors	Total Contributions To Dush
Associated Builders & Contractors Of Western Pennsylvania	\$1,000
Damiani, Salvatore, & Teri	\$500
National Fuel Gas	\$500
Pennsylvania Coal Association	\$250
Crisci Associates	\$250
Nisource Inc.	\$250
TOTAL:	\$2,750

[Follow The Money, Campaign Finance Profile Cris Dush, accessed [8/2/21](#)]