

Right-Wing Extremist Groups Pushing Anti-Critical Race Theory Activism Are Closely Linked To The Movement To Restrict Voting And Civil Rights

SUMMARY: The Anti-Critical Race Theory [astroturfed](#) “movement” is closely linked to mainstream efforts to roll back voting and civil rights. It is yet another chapter in America’s historic alliance between the far and seemingly ‘moderate’ right to harness white supremacist impulses to restrict the rights and freedom of minority groups and by extension, democracy. It is of no surprise that prominent conservatives are enacting extreme [voter suppression](#) legislation that has been compared to [Jim Crow](#) while simultaneously [pushing legislation](#) that has school districts [cancelling lessons](#) on the civil rights movement.

It is equally unsurprising that many of the groups using legal, legislative, and organizing tools to fight critical race theory are tied to voter suppression and attempts to restrict civil rights. Accountable.US identified eight prominent anti-CRT groups with clear and direct links to anti-voting/civil rights movements. These groups exemplify how close fringe activists [pushing to ban books](#) about Martin Luther King are to leading conservatives who are [blockading efforts](#) to protect our democracy.

- **Parents Defending Education** is a prominent national [anti-critical race theory](#) group founded by Koch Operative [Nicole Neily](#) that uses [legal action](#) and civil rights lawsuits to fight anti-racism programs in schools. **Edward Blum** sits on the [organization’s board](#). Blum is infamous for his [right-wing megadonor funded](#) assaults on civil and voting rights. Blum [litigated](#) the 2013 SCOTUS case that [gutted the heart](#) of the Voting Rights Act and attempted to [do the same](#) to affirmative action.
- **Fight For Schools** and **Parents Against Critical Theory** are prominent groups run by Ian Prior, a former Trump [Department Of Justice official](#), that have descended on the contentious critical race theory debate in [Loudoun County](#). Fight For Schools was a major ally of [pro-voting-restrictions and Trump supported](#) governor [Glenn Youngkin](#), who has relied on them for fundraising and filling out his campaign rallies. Parents Against Critical Theory has [coordinated](#) with the **Heritage Action**, which bragged about crafting [restrictive voter suppression laws](#), to run events.
- **Free To Learn Coalition** is a group running a massive, national anti-critical race theory [ad campaign](#). The group was founded and is likely bankrolled by major dark money group [Judicial Crisis Network](#). Judicial Crisis Network has spent millions to load the Supreme Court with right wing judges and is “[effectively controlled](#)” by Trump’s former judicial advisor and Federalist Society executive **Leonard Leo**. Leo also founded the **Honest Elections Project**, called a “[leading advocate for more restrictive voting laws](#).”
- **Judicial Watch** [recently](#) entered the anti-critical race theory space, suing on behalf a teacher who claimed she was fired for her anti-CRT beliefs. Judicial watch is a long time [right-wing conspiracist](#) group that has [purged millions](#) of [voters](#) from rolls across the country. It’s leader, **Tom Fitton**, called for [explicit voter suppression](#) in the runup to the 2020 election.
- **Moms For Liberty** is a [Florida based](#) right-wing group that is mobilizing and aggravating parents against COVID mandates, ‘[critical race theory](#),’ and the depiction of the [Civil Rights Movement](#) and LGBTQ rights in curriculums. The group’s supporters have disrupted local school board meetings and engaged in [harassment campaigns](#). One of its founders, **Tiffany Justice**, is a [former](#) local school board official who fought [efforts](#) to ensure her school district sufficiently racially integrated following an NAACP lawsuit that alleged the district was not in compliance with a long-standing desegregation order.
- **Alliance Defending Freedom** jumped into the anti-critical race theory fray to start 2022, [suing a Virginia school district](#) on the grounds that teaching critical race theory is a civil rights violation. This new development is similar to Alliance Defending Freedom’s longstanding project of [rolling back](#) LGBTQ rights under the guise of “[religious freedom](#)” first amendment protections. Their extreme anti-LGBTQ views have led them to be classified as a [hate group](#). Alliance Defending Freedom also recently began to praise and rally their supporters to back [restrictive voter suppression laws](#) in 2021 off the back of [Trump’s Big Lie](#).

- **No Left Turn** is a [prominent national anti-critical race theory](#) group that has funded and mobilized right wing parents nationwide to challenge anti-racism initiatives on the local level. No Left Turn coordinated with the **Heritage Foundation**, whose sister group, **Heritage Action**, bragged about crafting [restrictive voter suppression laws](#), as well as [state and local politicians to pass anti-critical race](#) theory legislation.
- **1776 Action** is a well-funded [anti-critical race theory group](#) that claims to support activists at the local level. Notably, it is a rebrand of the former fundraising group headed by **Ben Carson**. Carson has [repeatedly defended](#) strict voter ID Laws, which [have been shown](#) to disproportionately restrict voters of color from the polls.

Anti-Critical Race Theory Astroturf Group Parents Defending Education Includes Edward Blum, Who Successfully Filed A Lawsuit That Gutted The Voting Rights Act, And Nicole Neily, A Koch Operative, As Its President

Parents Defending Education Bills Itself As A “Grassroots” Group That Files Civil Rights Complaints Against School Districts For Activities They Dub As Critical Race Theory

Parents Defending Education Is An Anti-Critical Race Theory Group That Was Founded In January 2021 And Launched Publicly In March 2021. “...the Foundation Against Intolerance & Racism (FAIR) and Parents Defending Education, both of which formed in January and launched publicly in March. Parents Defending Education invites people to anonymously submit material they find concerning” [Time, [6/24/21](#)]

Parents Defending Education Encourages Parents To Submit Tips They Then Use To File Civil Rights Complaints Against School Districts Pursing Activities They Dub As Upholding Critical Race Theory. “the Foundation Against Intolerance & Racism (FAIR) and Parents Defending Education, both of which formed in January and launched publicly in March. Parents Defending Education invites people to anonymously submit material they find concerning, says Erika Sanzi, its director of outreach—links to slide decks from teacher trainings; screenshots of assignments; emails that suggest “activism in the classroom.” The group then uses the tip line to file complaints with the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights, as it did based on one school district’s invite to a Zoom meeting that was described, in the aftermath of the March 16 shootings at Atlanta-area spas, as ‘a safe space for our Asian/Asian-American and Students of Color, *not* for students who identify only as White.” [Time, [6/24/21](#)]

Parents Defending Education Positions Itself As A “Grassroots” Group, Allowing It To Intervene On Any Local Lawsuit Filed By Anti-Critical Race Theory Parents Or Parties. “Movant, Parents Defendant Education, is Plaintiffs’ counterpart. Movant is a nationwide, nonpartisan, grassroots organization, whose members are primarily parents of school-aged children. Its mission is to prevent—through advocacy, disclosure, and, if necessary, litigation—the politicization of K-12 education. Movant has many members with children who are currently enrolled in, or will apply for, the City’s G&T programs or selective schools, including the following:” [Memorandum Of Law In Support Of Parents Defending Education’s Motion To Intervene As A Defendant, Parents Defending Education, [3/22/21](#)]

Parents Defending Education Board Member Edward Blum Is A Prominent Right-Wing Lawyer Who Made His Career Fighting Civil Rights Legislation, Successfully Gutting The Voting Rights Act, With Funding From The Koch Network

Edward Blum Is The Director/Secretary Of Parents Defending Education.

State (or Province): VIRGINIA		Zip Code (or Foreign Postal Code): 22207	
First Name: EDWARD	Last Name: BLUM	Title: DIRECTOR/SECRETARY	
Mailing Address: 4532 LEE HWY NUM 119		City: ARLINGTON	
State (or Province): VIRGINIA		Zip Code (or Foreign Postal Code): 22207	

[Parents Defending Education IRS Form 1023, Page 1]

Blum Is A Prominent Right-Wing Lawyer Who Is The “Architect Of A Right-Wing Campaign To Undo Seminal Achievements Of Civil Rights History.” “For decades, Edward Blum has been the well-connected architect of a right-wing campaign to undo seminal achievements of civil rights history. He has taken particular interest in dismantling equal protection and democracy jurisprudence, most famously by orchestrating the attacks on the Voting Rights Act that led to its evisceration in *Shelby County v. Holder*.” [Media Matters, [12/21/20](#)]

Blum’s Efforts Have Been Funded By Donors Trust, Which Funnel Funding From Prominent Right Wing Donors Such As The Bradleys, The DeVos, And The Kochs. “To pay for these repeated trips to an increasingly conservative Supreme Court, Blum has long been a beneficiary of millions of dollars funneled through DonorsTrust, the donor-advised fund that shuffles money from anonymous sources to the entire spectrum of right-wing advocacy. And now, as reported by Alex Kotch for the Center for Media and Democracy, DonorsTrust has apparently branched into funding VDare and American Renaissance, a couple of the most virulent white nationalist hate groups out there.” [Media Matters, [12/21/20](#)]

- **Donors Trust Is The “Dark-Money ATM Of The Right” That Is Funded By Major Right-Wing Megadonors Such As The Bradleys, The DeVos, And The Kochs.** “Donors Trust has mostly avoided any real scrutiny. It is the dark-money ATM of the right. [...] Donors Trust is not the source of the money it hands out. Some 200 right-of-center funders who’ve given at least \$10,000 fill the group’s coffers. Charities bankrolled by Charles and David Koch, the DeVoses, and the Bradleys, among other conservative benefactors, have given to Donors Trust.” [Mother Jones, [2/05/13](#)]

Blum Litigated A SCOTUS Case That Struck Down The Heart Of The Voting Rights Act. “He is behind two of the biggest such cases to reach the Supreme Court: one attacking consideration of race in admissions at the University of Texas, which he lost; the other contesting parts of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, widely considered one of this country’s most important pieces of civil rights legislation, which he won.” [New York Times, [11/19/17](#)]

- **Blum’s Litigation Caused The Supreme Court To “Effectively Strike Down The Heart Of The Voting Rights Act.”** “The Supreme Court on Tuesday effectively struck down the heart of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by a 5-to-4 vote, freeing nine states, mostly in the South, to change their election laws without advance federal approval.” [New York Times, [6/26/13](#)]

Blum Litigated A SCOTUS Case That Experts Feared Could Be The Death Blow To Affirmative Action Legislation. “Court watchers and civil rights advocates believe the Fisher case might be a warm-up for a couple of Blum’s ‘sleeper’ cases that could deal a death blow to affirmative action in college admissions. An organization Blum created, Students for Fair Admissions, is suing Harvard University, accusing it of discriminating against Asian American applicants and drawing comparisons to the university’s past record of bias against Jews.” [Mother Jones, [March/April 2016](#)]

- **Blum Ultimately Lost The Case.** “He is behind two of the biggest such cases to reach the Supreme Court: one attacking consideration of race in admissions at the University of Texas, which he lost; the other contesting parts of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, widely considered one of this country’s most important pieces of civil rights legislation, which he won.” [New York Times, [11/19/17](#)]

The Founder Of Parents Defending Education Is Also President Of Speech First, A Group That Defends The Right Of White Supremacists To Distribute Leaflets At Universities

Nicole Neily Is The Founder And President Of Parents Defending Education. [DefendingEd.org, [Accessed 7/06/21](#)]

Neily Is Also The President Of Speech First. “Nicole Neily is the president of Speech First. Nicole grew up passionate about civil liberties thanks to her family history; her grandparents, both Japanese-American citizens born in California, met in the Manzanar War Relocation Center during WWII. In college, Nicole joined the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) student group and passed out “know your rights” cards to over 8,000

sorority members while serving as vice president of risk management for the University of Illinois' Panhellenic Council, the largest Greek system in the country at the time." [Speech First, Accessed [7/06/21](#)]

- **Speech First Positions Itself As A Student Led, Grassroots Group But Is Staffed And Organized By Koch Network Operators And Former Bush Administration Lawyers.** "From statements like this one, it's easy to assume Speech First is a grassroots, student-led organization. [...] But Speech First looks like something else: a highly professional astro-turfing campaign, with a board of former Bush administration lawyers and longtime affiliates of the Koch family. The group is new to the campus culture wars: It incorporated in December and launched in February. But it has already received endorsements from the Department of Justice, which filed a statement of interest supporting Speech First in the Michigan case, stating in a subsequent press release that "freedom of speech and expression on the American campus are under attack." [The Nation, [7/09/18](#)]
- **Speech First Pursues Lawsuits Against Universities For Supposedly Anti-Conservative Behavior Which In Practice Has Involved Suing University Officials Who Respond To White Supremacist Leafleting And Racist Graffiti On Campus.** "The group also wants Michigan to prevent its 'Bias Response Teams,' made up of staff who report and respond to discrimination claims such as white-supremacist leafleting and racist graffiti, from doing their job. The 'mere threat of being investigated' by the teams, the organization says, causes students 'to err on the side of caution before expressing an opinion that could cause someone to take offense.'" [The Nation, [7/09/18](#)]

Prominent Anti-CRT Groups Fight For Schools And Parents Against Critical Theory Have Close Ties To Conservatives Pushing Voter Suppression Legislation

Prominent Virginia Anti-CRT Group Fight For Schools Was Founded By Ian Prior, A Longtime Conservative Operative And Former Trump Administration Official

Prior Is The Co-Founder Of Anti-Critical Race Theory Group Fight For Schools That Worked To Recall School Board Members. "Prior co-founded Fight for Schools, an organization fighting to recall the county's school board members that has extensively relied on his connections in Republican politics and the right-wing mediasphere to push its agenda" [Vice, [8/05/21](#)]

Prior Was Former Trump Administration Attorney General Jeff Sessions' Deputy Director Of Public Affairs. "Previously he was Principal Deputy Director of Public Affairs for the Department of Justice. Appointed to that role in March 2017, he served through July 2018. At DOJ, he helped provide strategic public affairs guidance to the Attorney General, Deputy Attorney General and Associate Attorney General. Ian also served as the primary spokesman and media strategist for the Department's National Security Division and Antitrust Division." [Unsilenced Majority, [Accessed 6/29/21](#)]

Prior Was Top Communications Official For The National Republican Congressional Committee During The 2016 Election Cycle And Has Also Worked For American Crossroads And McConnell's Senate Leadership Fund. What Fox personalities tend not to mention is Prior's long career as a Republican political operative. He worked in top communications roles during the 2016 election cycle for the National Republican Congressional Committee, the Karl Rove-fronted super PAC American Crossroads, and the Senate Leadership Fund, a super PAC that works to elect Republican senators which was founded by allies of Minority Leader Mitch McConnell. He then spent a year and a half as a top public affairs aide to Trump's first attorney general, Jeff Sessions." [Media Matters, [6/17/21](#)]

Fox News Hosted Ian Prior To Discuss Critical Race Theory At Least 15 Times, Often Framing Him As A Concerned Parent. "Fox has hosted Ian Prior at least 15 times to discuss various 'critical race theory' stories, according to Media Matters' database of weekday cable news guests. Fox hosts and anchors have given him various introductions including 'Loudoun County parent'; a 'father' who 'has gone from concerned parent, like many of you, to legal activist'; and 'a Loudoun County, Virginia, parent and founder of FightForSchools.com.'" [Media Matters, [6/17/21](#)]

Prior Also Created An Anti-Critical Race Theory Group Called Parents Against Critical Theory With Scott Mineo, Who Has Promoted White Supremacist Ideology And Publications Personally And Through Parents Against Critical Theory.

Parents Against Critical Theory Is A Group Founded To Oppose Critical Race Theory In Loudoun County Public Schools. [Facebook, Accessed [6/28/21](#)]

Ian Prior Is Listed As The Organizer Of Parents Against Critical Theory On The Group's Articles Of Incorporation. [Virginia State Corporation Commission Clerk's Information System, [Accessed 6/29/21](#)]

On Parents Against Critical Theory's Website, Scott Mineo Is Listed As The "Founder" Of Parents Against Critical Theory. [ParentsAgainstCRT.com, [Accessed 6/28/21](#)]

- **Mineo Promoted Ideas That Parallel That Of The Great Replacement Theory Claiming That Muslims Refuse To Assimilate Into White Cultures And Worship A Pedophile.** "At least two posts made the claim that Muslims refuse to assimilate when they immigrate to the United States and western Europe. 'My son's girlfriend is Muslim,' Mineo said, when asked about one of the posts. 'Whatever.' In another 2017 post, 'Vito Malara' wrote: 'These people will not assimilate, they only assassinate. How can anyone defend an ideology, not a religion, where the brainwashed murdering losers worship a man, a pedophile named Mohammad who married a 6-year-old girl.'" [Raw Story, [5/11/21](#)]
- **Mineo Floated The Conspiracy Theory That The Charlottesville White Supremacy Rally Was Actually Planned By Left Wing Operatives.** "Posting on the 'Vito Malara' account, Mineo has previously floated a conspiracy theory on Facebook that Unite the Right was contrived by shadowy left-wing operatives. Sharing a Breitbart story that notes that Unite the Right organizer Jason Kessler at one time supported President Obama, 'Vito Malara' wrote, 'There's always more to the story when Liberals get all bent out of shape.'" [Rawstory, [6/24/21](#)]

Parents Against Critical Theory Shared An Article On Their Website From An A White Supremacist Outlet Which Drummed Up Key Support For The Charlottesville Unite The Right Rally . "On Thursday morning, the PACT website re-published an article that appeared two days earlier on the National Justice website. [...] Striker, whose real name is Joseph Jordan, is the editor-in-chief of the National Justice website, described by the Southern Poverty Law Center as a 'junk news website' As the SPLC reported, Jordan helped found the similarly named National Justice Party in 2019, along with other contributors to The Right Stuff podcast, a hub for alt-right and white supremacist propagandists that played an influential role in generating interest for the 2017 Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville, Va. Jordan marched with the now-defunct neo-Nazi group Traditionalist Worker Party at Unite the Right, which erupted in clashes between neo-Nazis and antifascists, and resulted in the death of an antiracist activist who was murdered in a white supremacist car-ramming attack." [Raw Story, [6/24/21](#)]

Parents Against Critical Theory Organized An Anti-Critical Race Theory Rally In Loudoun County Alongside Heritage Action For America, Which Bragged About Their Role In Passing Voter Suppression Legislation In 2021.

Heritage Action For America Organized A Large Anti-CRT Rally With Parents Against Critical Theory That Featured Prior As A Speaker

Parents Against Critical Theory And Heritage Action For America Organized An Anti-Critical Race Theory Rally In Loudoun County, Virginia That Was Attended by Ian Prior. "Rivera, 55, was one of the many concerned Loudoun County parents, teachers, and other locals who attended the Saturday rally outside the Loudoun County Government Center to protest the teaching of critical race theory in the county's public schools. Rally attendees heard from a variety of speakers, who included concerned teachers and parents as well as Ian Prior, executive director of the group Fight for Schools, and Mike Gonzalez, a senior fellow at

The Heritage Foundation. [...] A new group called Parents Against Critical Theory, working with Heritage Action for America, organized the rally. Heritage Action is the partner organization of The Heritage Foundation, and The Daily Signal is Heritage's multimedia news outlet." [Daily Signal, [6/14/21](#)]

Heritage Action For America's Leaders Bragged To Donors About Their Key Role In Creating Restrictive Voter Suppression Laws

March 2021: Georgia's Republican Legislature And Governor Passed A Voter Suppression Law That The New York Times Called "A Breathtaking Assertion Of Partisan Power In Elections." "Go page by page through Georgia's new voting law, and one takeaway stands above all others: The Republican legislature and governor have made a breathtaking assertion of partisan power in elections, making absentee voting harder and creating restrictions and complications in the wake of narrow losses to Democrats." [New York Times, [5/13/21](#)]

- **In Addition To Its Partisan Takeover Of The State's Election, The Bill Restricted Absentee Voting, Increases Voter ID Requirements, And Criminalizes Offering Voters Waiting In Line Food And Water, Among Other Restrictions.** "Voters will now have less time to request absentee ballots. There are strict new ID requirements for absentee ballots. It's now illegal for election officials to mail out absentee ballot applications to all voters. Drop boxes still exist ... but barely. Mobile voting centers (think an R.V. where you can vote) are essentially banned. Early voting is expanded in a lot of small counties, but probably not in more populous ones. Offering food or water to voters waiting in line now risks misdemeanor charges." [New York Times, [5/13/21](#)]

May 2021: The Head Of Heritage Action For America Bragged About Their Key Role In Crafting Georgia's 2021 Extremely Restrictive Voter Suppression Law. "In a private meeting last month with big-money donors, the head of a top conservative group boasted that her outfit had crafted the new voter suppression law in Georgia and was doing the same with similar bills for Republican state legislators across the country. 'In some cases, we actually draft them for them,' she said, 'or we have a sentinel on our behalf give them the model legislation so it has that grassroots, from-the-bottom-up type of vibe. The Georgia law had 'eight key provisions that Heritage recommended,' Jessica Anderson, the executive director of Heritage Action for America, a sister organization of the Heritage Foundation, told the foundation's donors at an April 22 gathering in Tucson, in a recording obtained by the watchdog group Documented and shared with Mother Jones." [Mother Jones, [5/13/21](#)]

Big Lie Apologist And Anti-Voting Rights Governor Glenn Youngkin Turned To Fight For Schools To Help His Fundraising And Campaign Efforts—Many Mainstream Pundits Have Credited Youngkin's Anti-CRT Platform As A Key Part Of His Electoral Victory

Youngkin Turned To Support From Fight For Schools And The Anti-CRT Movement To Boost His Campaign—A Move Many Pundits Credit As A Key Aspect Of His Victory

As The Republican Virginia Gubernatorial Candidate, Glenn Youngkin Attended A Fundraiser And Rally Hosted By Fight For Schools In September 2021. "Youngkin attended a fundraiser and rally last month for Fight for Schools, and his campaign has at times asked Prior's group for help building crowds for the Republican's campaign events. The rally it helped sponsor last weekend drew about 100 people in front of the Loudoun County Supervisors Building in the leafy town of Leesburg to protest 'divisive educational programs being advanced in our very own backyards.'" [Associated Press, [10/06/21](#)]

Youngkin Also Reportedly Asked Prior And Fight For Schools For Help Building Crowds For His Campaign Events. "Youngkin attended a fundraiser and rally last month for Fight for Schools, and his campaign has at times asked Prior's group for help building crowds for the Republican's campaign events. The rally it helped sponsor last weekend drew about 100 people in front of the Loudoun County Supervisors Building in the leafy town of Leesburg to protest 'divisive educational programs being advanced in our very own backyards.'" [Associated Press, [10/06/21](#)]

After His Election In November 2021, Many Pundits Credited Youngkin’s Anti-CRT Platform As A Key Aspect Of His Victory. “A little over a day after Democrats’ brutal defeat in the Virginia governor race, a bipartisan consensus was already emerging about what happened: Republican Glenn Youngkin’s message about the evils of ‘critical race theory’ in schools crushed Democrat Terry McAuliffe.” [Vox, [11/4/21](#)]

Youngkin Courted Trump During His 2021 Campaign And Declined To Say If He Believed Joe Biden Legitimately Won The 2020 Election

In February 2021 Youngkin Declined To Say If He Believed Joe Biden Legitimately Won The 2020 Election. Youngkin has been stressing the need for greater ballot security on the campaign trail and this month sent out a text message inviting ‘concerned, law-abiding citizens’ to join him in forming an ‘election integrity task force.’ Asked at a campaign appearance in Lynchburg this month if that policy focus stems from a belief that Biden stole the election, Youngkin answered, ‘No.’ But he declined to say if he believes Biden was legitimately elected.” [Washington Post, [2/22/21](#)]

Trump Has Enthusiastically Backed Youngkin’s Campaigns. “The disgraced former president has enthusiastically backed Youngkin, thereby tying the businessman to the MAGA movement and providing an easy target for McAuliffe. Simply because Youngkin is not as unhinged as Amanda Chase does not mean he is a viable gubernatorial candidate.” [Washington Post, [2/22/21](#)]

Youngkin Advocated Restricting Voting Access During His Campaign, Calling For An “Election Integrity Oversight Task Force,” Voter ID Laws, And Other Restrictions On Voting That Disproportionately Harm Nonwhite Communities

Youngkin Sent A Text To His Supporters In 2021 Asking “Law Abiding Citizens” To Join An “Election Integrity Oversight Task Force.” Youngkin has been stressing the need for greater ballot security on the campaign trail and this month sent out a text message inviting ‘concerned, law-abiding citizens’ to join him in forming an ‘election integrity task force.’ Asked at a campaign appearance in Lynchburg this month if that policy focus stems from a belief that Biden stole the election, Youngkin answered, ‘No.’ But he declined to say if he believes Biden was legitimately elected.” [Washington Post, [2/22/21](#)]

During His Campaign Youngkin Called For Voter ID Laws As Well As Mail-Ballot Obstacles Such As Proof Of Citizenship And Increased Witness Signatures. “Youngkin has called for photo IDs for all ballots; an application to prove citizenship before casting mail-in ballots; a non-partisan Department of Elections; two witness signatures for mail-in ballots; signature-matching software for signatures; and audits of voting machines within 30 days of elections.” [VPM NPR, [5/10/21](#)]

There Is A Large Body Of Evidence To Suggest That Strict Voter ID Laws Disproportionately Harm Voters Of Color. “Over the past decade, scholars have studied myriad ways in which certain state voting rules make participation disproportionately difficult for Americans of color — including strict voter ID laws, lines faced on Election Day, and other facets of our election system. This analysis catalogs some of the most prominent research findings on the negative impact of voting restrictions on voters of color. There is a large and growing pile of evidence that strict voter ID laws disproportionately impact voters of color.” [Brennan Center For Justice, [Accessed 1/19/22](#)]

The Free To Learn Coalition Is An Anti-Critical Race Theory Group Bankrolled By The Powerful Right-Wing Dark Money Group Judicial Crisis Network, Which Is Effectively Run By Prominent Voting Restrictions Activist Leonard Leo

The Free To Learn Coalition, Which Launched A Seven Figure Anti-Critical Race Theory Ad-Buy, Is A Front For A Dark Money Right Wing Group Effectively Controlled By Trump Judicial Advisor Leonard Leo’s Concord Fund/Judicial Crisis Network

The Free To Learn Coalition Launched An Immensely Expensive Media Campaign Against Critical Race Theory

The Free To Learn Coalition Launched A Seven Figure Ad Buy To Promote Anti-Critical Race Theory Ideology In Key States Such As New York, Virginia, And Arizona. “Today, the Free to Learn Coalition launched with an initial seven-figure national ad campaign of well over \$1 million advocating for classrooms independent from political influence. The ad will air nationally on cable and in local markets in New York, Virginia, and Arizona, as schools across the nation have become increasingly political while the U.S. falls behind other nations in basic skills like reading, writing, math, and science. The ad specifically calls out Grace Church School in New York, Fairfax County Public Schools in Virginia, and the Peoria Unified School District in Arizona.” [Associated Press, [6/24/21](#)]

The Free To Learn Coalition Is Another Name For The Concord Fund/Judicial Crisis Network, A Dark Money Right-Wing Group Run By Trump’s Former Judicial Advisor Leonard Leo

The Free To Learn Coalition Is Registered As A Nonstock Corporation Name Of The Concord Fund, Listing Gary Marx As Its President. [Virginia State Corporation Commission Clerk’s Information System, [Accessed 7/02/21](#)]

The Concord Fund Is Also Known As The Judicial Crisis Network. “The Concord Fund (CF), a right-wing dark money group also known as the Judicial Crisis Network (JCN), recently poured nearly \$2.1 million into the Republican Attorneys General Association (RAGA), according to a filing made to the IRS this week and reviewed by Documented.” [Documented, [10/16/20](#)]

Judicial Crisis Network Is “Effectively Controlled” By Trump Judicial Advisor Leonard Leo. “JCN is closely tied to Trump’s top judicial adviser Leonard Leo, a longtime executive at the Federalist Society, the conservative lawyers’ network based in Washington, DC. The Daily Beast reported in 2018 that Leo ‘effectively controls the Judicial Crisis Network.’ Since 2017, the group has reported paying more than \$1.4 million to a Virginia LLC linked to Leo.” [Jacobin, [9/29/20](#)]

Leonard Leo Also Founded The Honest Election Project, A “Leading Advocate For More Restrictive Voting Laws” That Spread Disinformation About Elections Prior To The 2020 Presidential Election

Leonard Leo Founded The Honest Elections Project Which Was Called A “Leading Advocate For More Restrictive Voting Laws” By The Associated Press. “As Donald Trump made false allegations about voting fraud and tried to overturn the will of the people in last year’s election, one of his chief allies was conspicuously silent. The Honest Elections Project, a leading advocate for more restrictive voting laws, stayed away from Trump’s doomed effort. But now the group founded by conservative activist and informal Trump adviser Leonard Leo, is re-joining the debate with a new set of recommendations likely to guide GOP lawmakers as they overhaul voting systems.” [Associated Press, [3/02/21](#)]

The Honest Election Project Was Created By Leo To Combat Legislation That Made Voting Easier And Safer During The First Year Of The COVID-19 Pandemic. “The Honest Elections Project was created in early 2020 to advocate for greater controls on elections. The group has drawn scrutiny in part because of Leo’s influence in conservative legal circles. [...] Last year, Honest Elections was part of the GOP legal strategy to fight voting changes, many of which were aimed at making voting easier during the pandemic. It sued Michigan, forcing the state to clean up its list of registered voters, and blocked a settlement easing absentee voting rules in Minnesota.” [Associated Press, [3/02/21](#)]

The Honest Elections Project Accused Democrats Of Cheating And Spread Election Disinformation Prior To The 2020 General Election. “The project announced it was spending \$250,000 in advertisements in April, warning against voting by mail and accusing Democrats of cheating. It facilitated letters to election officials in Colorado, Florida and Michigan, using misleading data to accuse jurisdictions of having bloated voter rolls and threatening legal action.” [The Guardian, [5/27/20](#)]

The Honest Elections Project Sued In An Attempt To Instigate A Voter Roll Purge In Michigan Prior To The 2020 Election. “In June, the Honest Elections Project made good on its threat over voter rolls, joining a local conservative activist to file suit in Michigan. Trump won the state by just 12,000 votes in 2016, the thinnest margin in the country. Michigan’s Democratic secretary of state, Jocelyn Benson, who is fighting the lawsuit, rejects the characterization of state rolls as ‘abnormally’ high” [NBC News, [11/01/20](#)]

In 2021, The Honest Elections Project Publicly Advocated For Strict Voter ID Laws And A More Stringent Absentee Ballot System. “The suggestions range from ones that are likely to be embraced by Democrats and voting rights groups — allowing election offices to start processing mail ballots weeks before Election Day — to ones likely to spark fierce opposition, such as mandatory voter identification for both mail and in-person voting, and creation of a secure system that would link an absentee ballot to its voter.” [Associated Press, [3/02/21](#)]

Conspiracy Mongering Group Judicial Watch Decided To Enter The Anti-Critical Race Theory Foray After Pushing To Purge Millions Of Voters From Voter Rolls And Explicitly Calling For The Elimination Of Mail-In Ballots

Judicial Watch Is A Conspiracy Mongering Right-Wing Activist Group Which Came To Prominence Attacking The Clintons

Judicial Watch Is A Right-Wing Activist Group Which Came To Prominence Attacking The Clintons. “The questions came not from the F.B.I., which has closed its investigation into the issue, or from Congress, or even from a news outlet. They came from a nonprofit organization called Judicial Watch. If the 2016 election has brought forward a new generation of Clinton antagonists — WikiLeaks, Breitbart, Russia — it has also reintroduced America to an old one. Judicial Watch was one of the Clintons’ original tormentors, a charter member of what Mrs. Clinton famously called a “vast right-wing conspiracy” to destroy her and her husband by seizing on any potential scandal. [New York Times, [10/13/16](#)]

Judicial Watch Is Known For Providing A Platform For Conspiracy Theories. “Conservative anti-Clinton group Judicial Watch announced a ‘special panel presentation’ promising a ‘scandal update’ on the Clinton Foundation and the emails of Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton. Judicial Watch, itself a hub for baseless smears against the Clintons, invited to the panel two discredited Clinton conspiracy theorists known for making claims based on “bogus” data.” [Media Matters, [9/22/16](#)]

In Late 2021 Judicial Watch Sued On Behalf Of A Public School Teacher Allegedly Fired For Refusing To Teach Critical Race Theory

Judicial Watch Sued On Behalf Of A Public School Teacher Allegedly Fired For Refusing To Teach Critical Race Theory. “Judicial Watch announced today that it filed a federal civil rights lawsuit on behalf of Kari MacRae, a Massachusetts high school teacher who was fired in retaliation for posts on social media objecting to the inclusion of critical race theory in schools (MacRae vs. Matthew Mattos and Matthew A. Ferron (No. 1:21-cv-11917)). The lawsuit, which was filed in the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts, asks for damages against Hanover School Superintendent Matthew Ferron and Hanover High School Principal Matthew Mattos for retaliating against MacRae, a math/business teacher at Hanover High School, for exercising her First Amendment rights.” [Judicial Watch, [11/29/21](#)]

- **The Teacher Was Fired After A Meeting Following Parental Complaints Concerning Controversial Social Media Posts She Made.** “After her tweets and memes were featured in a Boston Globe article, the principal at MacRae’s school had a meeting with her Sept. 24, the lawsuit says. The lawsuit goes on to say Mattos told MacRae in their meeting he was investigating the impact of the social media posts she had made. Days after that meeting, MacRae was fired.” [Fox 11 News, [12/02/21](#)]

Judicial Watch's Leader, Tom Fitton, Called For Overt Voter Suppression Shortly Before The 2020 Election

Shortly Before The 2020 General Election Judicial Watch Head Tom Fitton Called On Conservatives To Prevent Mail-In Ballots From Being Distributed At All Costs. “Expressing concern about voter fraud and disenfranchisement, Fitton called on the audience to find a way to prevent mail-in ballots from being sent to voters. ‘We need to stop those ballots from going out, and I want the lawyers here to tell us what to do,’ said Fitton, whose organization is a tax-exempt charity. ‘But this is a crisis that we’re not prepared for. I mean, our side is not prepared for.’” [Washington Post, [10/14/20](#)]

Judicial Watch Has Pushed For Massive Voter Roll Purges And Other Lawsuits Targeting Voting Laws Around The Country

Judicial Watch Is Closely Linked To A Network Of Right-Wing Lawyers That Have Filed At Least 61 Lawsuits Targeting Voting And Election Rules Since 2012. “Four nonprofits run by or linked to this network of lawyers – the Public Interest Legal Foundation, the American Constitutional Rights Union, Judicial Watch and True the Vote - have been involved in at least 61 lawsuits over election rules since 2012, according to a Reuters examination. More than half have been initiated since Trump took office in 2017, including 11 cases concerning absentee or mail-in voting.” [Reuters, [9/02/20](#)]

Judicial Watch Was Involved In a 2012 Lawsuit That Disproportionately Purged Democrats From Ohio's Voter Rolls. “At least one lawsuit Adams was involved in, however, triggered a purge that disproportionately cut voters from the rolls in Democratic areas. In 2012 in Ohio, Judicial Watch and True the Vote, with Adams as one of the attorneys, sued the Secretary of State's office, saying that, in some counties, registered voters outnumbered the total adult population.” [Reuters, [9/02/20](#)]

Shortly Before The 2020 Election Judicial Watch Sued To Purge 800,000 Voters From Pennsylvania's Rolls—A Key Swing State Trump Barely Carried In 2016. “Pennsylvania was critical to Donald Trump's win in 2016. He won by less than 1 percentage point [...] The suit claims that there are up to 800,000 inactive voters in the three counties, meaning they are ineligible to vote. That would amount to more than 65 percent of all registered voters across the three counties. Judicial Watch claims that its analysis of voter registration data shows that the Pennsylvania counties ‘removed almost no names under NVRA procedures for identifying and updating the registrations of those who have moved.’” [The Intercept, [5/28/20](#)]

- **Judicial Watch Filed Numerous Other Similar Lawsuits In Key Swing States In The Lead Up To The 2020 Election.** “The group has filed similar suits in North Carolina and Maryland. The Pennsylvania lawsuit follows notices Judicial Watch sent to 19 counties in Pennsylvania, California, Virginia, Colorado, and Kentucky last December, threatening lawsuits unless they removed ineligible voters from rolls.” [The Intercept, [5/28/20](#)]

Under Pressure From Judicial Watch, Counties In California And Kentucky Began To Purge Close To Two Million Voters From Their Rolls. “One Pennsylvania county buckled under pressure and made changes to its voter rolls, while the three that are currently being sued did not. Counties in California and Kentucky, facing pressure from Judicial Watch, last year started the process to remove close to 2 million voters from their rolls.” [The Intercept, [5/28/20](#)]

- **In 2017 Judicial Watch Sued LA County In An Attempt To Purge 1.5 Million Voters From Their Rolls.** “But this is completely wrong. The lawsuit had nothing to do with people who had voted — but people who had not voted. Judicial Watch, a conservative group, in 2017 sued the state and Los Angeles County to meet requirements under the National Voter Registration Act to clean up its voter registration files. The group said that the state had not done so for at least two decades and that there were more than 1.5 million registrations on the county's file of inactive registered voters” [Washington Post, [4/09/20](#)]

Radical Anti-Critical Race Theory Group Moms For Liberty, Which Has Advocated For Banning The Teaching Of The Civil Rights Movement In School, Was Founded By A Right-Wing Former School Board Official Who Fought Efforts To Desegregate Her District

Moms For Liberty Is A Conservative Group Using Right Wing Cultural Flash Points To Mobilize Right Wing Supporters To Disrupt, Harass Public Education Officials—And Jump Start Republican Voter Registration Efforts

Moms For Liberty Is A Conservative Group Using Cultural Flash Points On Issues In Public Schooling, Such ‘Critical Race Theory’ And COVID Mandates To Mobilize Right Wing Voters. “Hand’s anger offers a window into Moms for Liberty, a controversial organization looking to play a major role in next year’s elections. Launched initially in Brevard County to support ‘parental rights’ in public schools, Moms for Liberty chapters have spread nationwide. Its leaders hope to convert brawlish pandemic-era cultural divisions into lasting political power. The organization is channeling a powerful frustration among conservative mothers, who feel increasingly sidelined by school administrators and teachers. And their targets are sprawling — not only mask mandates but also curriculums that touch on LGBTQ rights, race and discrimination, and even the way schools define a scientific fact.” [Washington Post, [10/15/21](#)]

Moms For Liberty’s Supporters Regularly Attend And Disrupt School Board Meetings, As Well As Harassing Public Officials Outside Of Those Meetings. “Within days of its formation, Jenkins said some members of Moms for Liberty began targeting her. Jenkins said members picketed in front of her house, followed her to her car shouting epithets after school board meetings and sent threatening mail to her home and office. She said someone has even filed a report with the county department of Child and Family Services falsely accusing her of abusing her daughter and using drugs. [...] But Anthony Colucci, president of the Brevard Federation of Teachers, said Moms for Liberty has helped disintegrate the comity of local government, including turning school board meetings into ‘The Jerry Springer Show.’ It has made it nearly impossible, he said, to discuss how to best serve students.” [Washington Post, [10/15/21](#)]

Florida GOP Operatives Credit Moms For Liberty For Causing A Massive Uptick In Their Voter Registration Push. “Christian Ziegler, vice chairman of the Florida Republican Party and a Sarasota County commissioner, credits Moms for Liberty and the broader issue of ‘parental rights’ for bringing new voters to the GOP. Since December, Florida Republicans have narrowed Democrats’ voter-registration advantage from about 100,000 to 23,000, and the GOP appears poised to pass Democrats in registration for the first time.” [Washington Post, [10/15/21](#)]

A Moms For Liberty Chapter Received National Attention After Calling For A School District To Ban Materials Used To Teach The History Of The Civil Rights Movement And Appeared To Suggest That Jim Crow And Slavery Were “Positive Achievements”

The Williamson County, Tennessee Chapter Of Moms For Liberty Filed A Complaint With The Local School Board In An Attempt To Ban Materials Used To Teach The History Of The Civil Rights Movement In Elementary Schools. “According to Salon.com, the Williamson County, Tennessee chapter of the group ‘Moms for Liberty’ had filed an 11-page complaint with the state, claiming that a second grade curriculum, which includes works about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., has a “heavily biased agenda” that would make kids ‘hate their country, each other and/or themselves.” [Essence, [12/03/21](#)]

The Complaint Appeared To Suggest That Jim Crow And Slavery Were “Positive Achievements,” Wanted Books About MLK And Ruby Bridges Banned, And Complained That Schools Were Showing Children Photographs Of The Violence Inflicted On Civil Rights Activists. “The signed complaint was delivered by the local group’s chairperson, Robin Steenman, who Reuters has called ‘an Air Force veteran and white mother of three,’ and appears to suggest slavery and Jim Crow were ‘positive achievements, like unity and the overall improvement of our country.’ Inside the complaint, “Moms for Liberty” take issue with several books in the school’s offered curriculum, including Frances Ruffin’s Martin Luther King Jr. and the March on Washington, and the autobiographical Ruby Bridges Goes to School: My True Story. The complaint also cites

'photographs of white firemen blasting Black children to the point of 'bruising their bodies and ripping off their clothes.'" [Essence, [12/03/21](#)]

One Of Moms For Liberty's Founders Actively Fought Efforts To Desegregate To Her School System And Was Criticized By The NAACP For Her Obstruction Of Racial Equity Efforts

Moms For Liberty Was Founded In 2021 By Tina Descovich And Tiffany Justice In Florida, Both Former Local School Board Officials. "Descovich, 47, conceived of Moms for Liberty last fall, after being unseated from the Brevard County school board by former school employee Jennifer Jenkins, who campaigned against Descovich's opposition to teacher raises and mask mandates. Jenkins won the election by 10 percentage points in this heavily Republican county of about 600,000. After she lost, Descovich connected with Tiffany Justice, who had recently stepped away from her own school board." [Washington Post, [10/15/21](#)]

The School District Board Justice Served On Had A Long-Standing Desegregation Order They Were Not In Compliance With, Resulting In An NAACP Lawsuit That Attempted To Force The Board To Meet The Desegregation Criteria. "The Indian River County School Board has been under a desegregation order since 1967. In 1994, the county's NAACP chapter brought the district back to court over unmet desegregation standards. In 2017, the board had still not met the court ordered desegregation criteria. In 2018, it came to a partial agreement with the NAACP in which the court would no longer 'oversee integration of school facilities, the ratio of black non-teaching staff to white, and the ratio of black administrators to white administrators.'" [Media Matters, [11/15/21](#)]

As A Result Of The Lawsuit And Subsequent Negotiations, School Board Officials Suggested Rezoning To Ensure A Racially Diverse Population After It Recognized Their Population Was "Increasingly Segregated." "After this agreement was reached, in an effort to ensure that the district had a racially diverse population, the board considered 'rezoning portions of the district' because it had become 'increasingly segregated.' Justice opposed busing students in, arguing, as Vero News put it, that it would be 'costly and create discomfort' among parents." [Media Matters, [11/15/21](#)]

Justice Publicly Fought The Rezoning Efforts, Claiming Busing Students In Would "Create Discomfort" Among Parents. "After this agreement was reached, in an effort to ensure that the district had a racially diverse population, the board considered 'rezoning portions of the district' because it had become 'increasingly segregated.' Justice opposed busing students in, arguing, as Vero News put it, that it would be 'costly and create discomfort' among parents." [Media Matters, [11/15/21](#)]

While Justice Was A School Board Official She Attempted To Interfere and "Intimidate" The District's African American Achievement Committee And Was Criticized By The NAACP. "Co-founder Tiffany Justice, a former Indian River County School Board member, attempted to interfere with and 'intimidate' her district's African American achievement committee and was criticized by the NAACP. Justice allegedly took 'over direction of committee meetings and altered agendas while failing to clarify that she speaks as a private citizen, using her clout to direct school staff on the committee while ignoring citizen volunteers' recommendations.'" [Media Matters, [11/15/21](#)]

Alliance Defending Freedom, A Recognized Hate Group And One Of The Most Prominent Groups Attacking LGBTQ Rights, Used Their Anti-LGBTQ Playbook To Attack Critical Race Theory And Recently Began To Engage In Voter Suppression Efforts

Alliance Defending Freedom Is A Recognized Extremist Group For Its Hardline Anti-LGBTQ Views And Is One Of America's Leading Groups Fighting Against LGBTQ Rights

Alliance Defending Freedom Is A Recognized Extremis Group By The Southern Poverty Law Center For Its Hardline Ant-LGBTQ Views. "Founded by some 30 leaders of the Christian Right, the Alliance Defending Freedom is a legal advocacy and training group that has supported the recriminalization of homosexuality in the U.S. and criminalization abroad; has defended state-sanctioned sterilization of trans people abroad; has

linked homosexuality to pedophilia and claims that a “homosexual agenda” will destroy Christianity and society. ADF also works to develop “religious liberty” legislation and case law that will allow the denial of goods and services to LGBT people on the basis of religion. Since the election of President Donald Trump, the ADF has become one of the most influential groups informing the administration’s attack on LGBT rights working with an ally in Attorney General Jeff Sessions.” [\[SPLC, Accessed 1/20/22\]](#)

Alliance Defending Freedom’s Foundational Belief Is That Conservative Christians Face Discrimination In American Society, And That “Religious Liberty” Must Be Protected To Fight This “Discrimination.”

“This burgeoning ‘legal army’ has helped ADF advance its foundational narrative: that conservative Christians, in particular, face persecution in the United States[...] But no organization has played a more pivotal role than ADF in shaping and testing ‘religious freedom’ as the Christian right’s latest legal strategy in the culture wars. And while the Federalist Society has positioned itself as the right’s screening agency for the federal judiciary, no other conservative Christian legal organization has propelled so many attorneys into state and federal government, where they are now in positions to oversee the restructuring of civil-rights and First Amendment law in ADF’s mold.” [\[The Nation, 11/28/17\]](#)

Media Matters: ADF Is The Most Influential Group Working To Roll Back LGBTQ Rights In America.

“The group is in many ways the most influential group working to roll back LGBTQ equality in the country, frequently targeting basic protections for transgender students and pushing religious exemptions policies.” [\[Media Matters, 7/30/18\]](#)

2021: Alliance Defending Freedom Began To Engage In Voter Suppression Efforts And Push Voter Fraud Conspiracies

At A 2021 Rally To Organize Grassroots Efforts To Restrict Voting, Alliance Defending Freedom’s President Publicly Celebrated The Right-Wing Effort To Pass State Voter Suppression Bills. “Tony Perkins, the group’s president, expressed optimism about the number of voting bills that were moving along and suggested that last year’s election results were tainted. ‘We’ve got 106 election-related bills that are in 28 states right now,’ he said to the audience. ‘So here’s the good news: There is action taking place to go back and correct what was uncovered in this last election.’ Joining Mr. Perkins on the stage was Michael P. Farris, the president of the deep-pocketed and powerful Christian legal group Alliance Defending Freedom. He chimed in approvingly: “Let me just say, ‘Amen,’ he said.” [\[New York Times, 3/19/21\]](#)

The President Of Alliance Defending Freedom Gave A Speech In 2021 Claiming That “Constitutional Irregularities” Led To An Incorrect Vote Counts That Cost Trump The 2020 Election. “In early February, the Family Research Council’s president, Tony Perkins, led a discussion at the influential megachurch Cornerstone Chapel in Virginia with Michael Farris, a longtime conservative activist and now president of the Christian-right legal powerhouse Alliance Defending Freedom. Declaring election integrity ‘vital for our future,’ Farris claimed to have undertaken a ‘thorough study’ of the 2020 election and to have found ‘constitutional irregularities in many, many states,’” particularly in those where the election was close. He claimed the ‘central problem was the failure to follow the preestablished process in counting the votes’ and insisted that if votes had been properly tallied, Trump would have won.” [\[Vox, 9/28/21\]](#)

2022: Alliance Defending Freedom Filed A Lawsuit Claiming That Teaching Critical Race Theory Discriminates Against Its Students, A Similar Claim It Has Used To Attempt To Restrict LGBTQ Rights

Alliance Defending Freedom Filed A Lawsuit Claiming That Teaching Critical Race Theory Discriminates Against Its Students. “A lawsuit filed by a Christian legal organization against a Virginia school district alleges it teaches critical race theory that discriminates against students because it ‘classifies all individuals into a racial group and identifies them as either perpetually privileged oppressors or perpetually victimized.’ The Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) is a Christian, conservative legal nonprofit based in Arizona that has won landmark Supreme Court cases allowing bakers to refuse to sell cakes celebrating same-

sex weddings and companies to refuse to pay for employee contraceptive coverage because of religious beliefs of employers.” [Washington Post, [1/14/22](#)]

Alliance Defending Freedom Has Repeatedly Argued In Court That Anti-Discrimination Laws That Protect LGBTQ Persons Actually Violate The Right To Religious Freedom. “ADF now rivals some of the nation’s top private law firms in Supreme Court activity. It has trained thousands of lawyers, many of whom have gone on to government service at the federal, state, and local levels. [...] As the courts have ruled in favor of marriage equality over the past decade, ADF has positioned itself at the very center of the efforts to curtail LGBTQ rights under the guise of religious freedom.” [The Nation, [11/28/17](#)]

No Left Turn Is A National Anti-Critical Race Theory Group That Has Coordinated With The Heritage Foundation, Which Bragged About Its Role In Rolling Back Voting Rights In 2021

No Left Turn Is An Anti-Critical Race Theory Group Boosted By Tucker Carlson That Has Coordinated With The Heritage Foundation And State Politicians To Fight Anti-Racism Teaching Via Legislative Action

No Left Turn Is An Anti-Critical Race Theory Group Boosted By Tucker Carlson And Fox News. “So Fishbein moved her children to private school and started a group to advocate against anti-racist teaching. She called it No Left Turn in Education. ‘The schools have been hijacked,’ she said in an interview. ‘Our kids are captive audiences. And they think they can do whatever they want with our kids.’ Fishbein’s endeavor received a significant boost in September, when she appeared on Tucker Carlson’s prime-time Fox News show. By the next day, No Left Turn’s Facebook page had shot up from fewer than 200 followers to over 30,000. The group now has 30 chapters in 23 states, a rapid expansion Fishbein credits to Carlson’s show.” [NBC News, [6/15/21](#)]

No Left Turn Founder Elana Fishbein Said She Attended A Heritage Foundation Briefing With State Lawmakers From Numerous States To Discuss Passing Legislation To Block Critical Race Theory. “Fishbein said she took part in a private briefing hosted by the Heritage Foundation in May that featured lawmakers from Idaho, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Texas and other states to discuss model legislation to block critical race theory. Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Montana, Oklahoma and Tennessee have already advanced some form of a restriction, and 15 states have legislation pending. The Heritage Foundation declined to comment.” [NBC News, [6/15/21](#)]

No Left Turn Has Pushed To Ban Books Centering Black And LGBTQ Characters From Public School Libraries

No Left Turn Has Pushed To Ban Books Centering Black And LGBTQ Characters From Public School Libraries. “School districts in at least 30 other states are embroiled in book debates like the one in Texas. At least two groups that have been at the forefront of attacks on targeted books—Moms for Liberty and No Left Turn in Education—have grown explosively since their creation in the past two years and are poised to play a formidable role for conservatives in this year’s midterm elections. Two governors seeking reelection this year—Republicans Greg Abbott of Texas and Henry McMaster of South Carolina—have called for investigations into school library books, often involving Black or LGBTQ characters, they describe as pornographic” [Pew Trusts, [1/13/22](#)]

- **No Left Turn Has A List Of 60 Books They Want To Ban For Teaching “Radical And Racist Ideologies To Students,” And Nearly all Of Them Feature Black Or LGBTQ Characters.** “No Left Turn in Education, which also has surged in growth, features more than 60 books on its website it deems inappropriate, including books used to spread what it calls, ‘radical and racist ideologies to students.’ Nearly every book on the list, from children’s picture books to history tomes, features either Black or LGBTQ characters.” [Pew Trusts, [1/13/22](#)]

The Heritage Foundation’s Sister Group, Heritage Action For America, Bragged To Donors About Their Key Role In Creating Restrictive Voter Suppression Laws

Heritage Action For America Is The Sister Group Of The Heritage Foundation. [Heritage Action For America, [Accessed 1/20/22](#)]

The Head Of Heritage Action For America Bragged About Their Key Role In Crafting Georgia's 2021 Extremely Restrictive Voter Suppression Law. "In a private meeting last month with big-money donors, the head of a top conservative group boasted that her outfit had crafted the new voter suppression law in Georgia and was doing the same with similar bills for Republican state legislators across the country. 'In some cases, we actually draft them for them,' she said, 'or we have a sentinel on our behalf give them the model legislation so it has that grassroots, from-the-bottom-up type of vibe. The Georgia law had 'eight key provisions that Heritage recommended,' Jessica Anderson, the executive director of Heritage Action for America, a sister organization of the Heritage Foundation, told the foundation's donors at an April 22 gathering in Tucson, in a recording obtained by the watchdog group Documented and shared with Mother Jones." [Mother Jones, [5/13/21](#)]

1776 Action Is A Well-Funded Anti-Critical Race Theory Group Tied To Ben Carson, Who Has Repeatedly Defended Strict Voter ID Laws That Have Been Shown To Disproportionately Restrict Voters Of Color

1776 Action Is A Well-Funded Anti-Critical Race Theory Group Launching National Ad Campaigns

1776 Action Is A 501(c)4 Group That Uses A National Presence To Encourage Right Wing Parents To Launch Anti-Critical Race Theory Actions At The Local Level. "The group known as 1776 Action is rolling out a series of efforts this week to support New Hampshire's legislation banning critical race theory. Adam Waldeck, the group's president, told Fox News his group plans to also be active in Loudoun County, Virginia, which has seen a clash between disgruntled parents and schools pursuing the controversial ideology. Last month's launch of 1776 Action, a 501(c)4 tax-exempt organization, augmented a growing resistance to diversity trainings and curricula in U.S. institutions. Like Parents Defending Education, which Fox News reported on last week, 1776 Action intends to empower parents to challenge these ideas at the local level." [Fox News, [4/08/21](#)]

- **1776 Action Launched A Multimedia Campaign To Oppose Critical Race Theory In New Hampshire.** "A national organization opposed to the spread of Critical Race Theory and promoting what it calls our nation's founding principles of liberty and equality has launched a local multi-media campaign in New Hampshire on behalf of HB 544, the so-called 'divisive content' bill. The organization, 1776 Action, has the support of national conservative activists like former HUD Secretary Dr. Ben Carson and former U.S. Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich." [NH Journal, [4/05/21](#)]

1776 Action Grew Out Of The Trump Administration's Attempt To Push Anti-Anti-Racist Historical Narratives By Releasing Documents Compelling School Districts To Push A Right Wing, Inaccurate, Brand Of American History. "Released on Martin Luther King Jr. Day this year—Trump's penultimate day in office—the 1776 Commission's report did not have any power to compel school districts to do anything. Nor was it especially concerned with historical accuracy; an American Historical Association statement signed by 47 academic organizations condemned it as 'a simplistic interpretation that relies on falsehoods, inaccuracies, omissions, and misleading statements' and 'a screed against a half-century of historical scholarship.' [...] Adam Waldeck was one of the people who saw Biden's decision to nix the 1776 Commission as "a major slap in the face." Waldeck, a 36-year-old former South Carolina state director and coalitions director for Newt Gingrich, works for a new issue-advocacy group called 1776 Action" [Time, [6/24/21](#)]

1776 Action Is A Rebrand Of The American Legacy Fund, A Fundraising Nonprofit Run By Former Trump Administration Official Ben Carson That Was Embroiled In Controversy After Enriching Its Founders

1776 Action Is A Rebrand Of The Nonprofit American Legacy Fund. [Virginia State Corporation Commission Clerk's Information System, [Accessed 7/02/21](#)]

- **American Legacy Center Initially Used Newt Gingrich As Its Face And Came Under Fire For Enriching Its Staff Rather Than Pursuing Its Political Mission—Donating Less Than 3% Of Its Raised Funds To Political Candidates When Carson Joined.** “The PAC was originally launched in 2010 and used former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, another member of Trump’s inner circle, as its front man. Early reporting on the PAC suggested that it was used to enrich Gingrich’s business allies, including a number of political vendors, while donations, many of which were less than \$200, weren’t making it to candidates. During the 2012 cycle, the group made \$515,321 from donations and only doled out \$9,000 to Republican candidates, which accounts for just 1.7 percent. Donations included \$250 to Rep. Michele Bachmann and \$2,500 to eventual Republican nominee Mitt Romney and \$2,500 to Gingrich, who also ran for president that year.[...] When Carson joined on in January 2014, the group had donated less than 3 percent of contributions to candidates in 2013. By the end of 2014, American Legacy PAC had donated \$132,900 to conservative candidates, while receipts totaled \$7,991,435, according to Open Secrets. Again, much of the money was going to businesses and vendors in the Gingrich orbit.” [Black Christin News, [11/17/16](#)]

Former Trump HUD Secretary Ben Carson Assumed Control Of Fundraising Group American Legacy Center To Work On Supreme Court Fights In 2016. “Retired neurosurgeon and former Republican presidential hopeful Ben Carson confirmed that he turned down a position in Donald Trump’s cabinet. ‘That is true, and I’d like to take a moment to explain why,’ he wrote in an email today. The email was a fundraising plea for the American Legacy Center, which is likely a more lucrative deal for Carson, as opposed to government service. Carson explained that he would be working on a Supreme Court-oriented project for the group and then asked supporters for their email addresses and donations from \$25 to \$5,000.” [Black Christin News, [11/17/16](#)]

Ben Carson Has Repeatedly Defended Strict Voter ID Laws, Which Disproportionately Restrict Voters Of Color

2015: Ben Carson Praise Voter ID Laws, Rebutted Claims They Harm Communities Of Color.

“Republican presidential candidate Ben Carson on Wednesday denied that voter identification laws and other voter suppression laws are racist, calling such restrictions necessary because voting should be ‘done by the appropriate people.’” [HuffPost, [2/12/15](#)]

2021: Ben Caron Defended Georgia’s Strict Voter ID Law. “Carson noted that while Bastian opposed a law strengthening ID requirements for Georgia voters, it is very unlikely that he would allow someone to board one of his commercial airplanes without identification. ‘I find it rather funny that the CEO of Delta and American Airlines would be saying that requiring voter I.D. is racist. Trying to get on a Delta flight or American Airlines flight without an official I.D: You're not going to get on there.’” [Fox News, [4/6/21](#)]

There Is A Large Body Of Evidence To Suggest That Strict Voter ID Laws Disproportionately Harm Voters Of Color. “Over the past decade, scholars have studied myriad ways in which certain state voting rules make participation disproportionately difficult for Americans of color — including strict voter ID laws, lines faced on Election Day, and other facets of our election system. This analysis catalogs some of the most prominent research findings on the negative impact of voting restrictions on voters of color. There is a large and growing pile of evidence that strict voter ID laws disproportionately impact voters of color.” [Brennan Center For Justice, [Accessed 1/19/22](#)]

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