

FAIR ELECTION FUND REPORT

GROUPS FUNDED BY THE ARNOLD'S GRANTEES BLOCK PRESIDENT TRUMP'S VOTER INTEGRITY EO

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Fair and free elections are the cornerstone of America's representative democracy. A lack of faith in our voting systems would mean a lack of faith in election results and ultimately in the laws that are passed by elected officials. That is why it is imperative that U.S. voting laws are applied consistently and fairly across the country.

President Trump has made voting integrity a key policy goal heading into the 2026 midterm elections. Where Congress has failed, the President has stepped up efforts to ensure votes are cast in compliance with the law. Unfortunately, groups funded by John and Laura Arnold are working to protect ineligible voters and using the courts to block the enforcement of President Trump's voter integrity policies.

KEY REPORT TAKEAWAYS AND FINDINGS

- President Trump signed an **Executive Order** to prevent undocumented aliens casting illegal votes through the U.S. Postal Service on March 31, 2026.
- Organizations funded by John and Laura Arnold, including the ACLU, are leading lawsuits to block the President's EO.
- As a result of this lawsuit the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts granted an injunction to block the EO on September 4, 2026.
- Other groups funded by the Arnold's filed court documents in favor of the lawsuit against President Trump.
- The following research shows that at least five legal and policy advocacy organizations that have received at least \$15 million from John and Laura Arnold also actively worked to block President Trump's voter fraud EO.
- The President's citizenship verification EO is now blocked for the midterms.

PRESIDENT TRUMP ISSUED EO TO ENFORCE VOTING LAWS

In March 2026, President Trump issued an Executive Order to ensure that only legal, eligible, and registered American citizens voted in our nation's federal elections. Pursuant to federal laws, the EO defined a person eligible to vote in a federal election as:

- A citizen of the United States;
- 18 years of age or older by the date of the upcoming election; and
- Qualified under the laws of his or her State.

These three simple tests are consistent with the laws of the nation and our Constitution. As such, upholding these standards at the federal level would seem like the non-controversial duty of the Executive Branch. Astonishingly, liberal activist groups are spending time and resources to block enforcement of President Trump's voter integrity order.

President Trump's order required the federal government to compile and keep a list of Americans who meet federal voting qualifications. To ensure that only eligible persons vote, the EO then instructed the United States Postal Service (USPS) to only send ballots to eligible voters. On August 21, 2026, the USPS released final guidance to enforce the new voter integrity standards. Groups funded by the Arnolds immediately jumped in to stop these rules from going into effect. As a result of these lawsuits, a U.S. District in Massachusetts issued an injunction to block President Trump's EO from being implemented before the midterm elections. Liberal groups funded by the Arnold's were a major reason why the EO was blocked.

LIBERAL GROUPS HAVE MOBILIZED TO PROTECT INELIGIBLE VOTERS

Prior to the implementation of the new USPS rules, liberal groups and Democratic activists have rushed to the defense of ineligible voters. Using legal action, these groups have temporarily stopped enforcement of the EO in a bid to protect ineligible, non-citizen voters. **Our research has discovered that many of the groups fighting to protect ineligible voters were funded with over \$15 million from Laura and John Arnold.**

1. ACLU

**BETWEEN \$5 MILLION AND \$9.99
MILLION FROM THE ARNOLDS**

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is leading the legal attack on the President's EO as the lawyers representing the plaintiffs in lawsuit against President Trump. The ACLU consists of "500 staff attorneys, thousands of volunteer attorneys, and offices throughout the nation" and is active in litigation "that will have the greatest impact, cases that have the potential for breaking new ground and establishing new precedents." The ACLU has also been one of the biggest opponents of the president's executive order and is supplying the lawyers to ensure undocumented aliens can vote.

- March 31, 2026: Released a statement condemning President Trump's executive order, saying it continued "a pattern of unconstitutional attacks on our freedom to vote."
- April 2, 2026: The ACLU and ACLU of Massachusetts represented a coalition in filing a lawsuit in federal district court challenging the constitutionality of the order.
- July 21, 2026: Filed a renewed request for a preliminary injunction to block the United States Postal Service from enforcing portions of President Trump's order that affect mail-in voting.
- August 26, 2026: Moved to block USPS's finalized mail ballot rule.
- September 4, 2026: The ACLU celebrated the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts issuing a preliminary injunction barring USPS from enforcing its mail ballot rule.

2. BROOKINGS

**MORE THAN \$5.7 MILLION
FROM THE ARNOLDS**

The Brookings Institution is a Washington, D.C.-based think tank that proudly proclaims that it “has been at the forefront of public policy for over 100 years, providing data and insights to inform critical decisions during some of the most important inflection points in recent history.” In that self-appointed role, Brookings has come out squarely against President Trump’s election integrity efforts.

- March 28, 2025: Brookings responds to the president’s first executive order on election integrity, saying that it “threatens to undermine American elections.” As Brookings wrote, “the EO’s components run contrary to the right to vote which is fundamental to our democratic system.”
- May 14, 2026: Analyzed the president’s second election integrity EO, blithely commenting that the president was “again attempting what many legal and election experts consider a serious overreach of executive authority.” Brookings further continued that “this new executive order ... raises legal concerns, questions about implementation and feasibility, and clear risk of disenfranchisement.”

3. BIPARTISAN POLICY CENTER

**MORE THAN \$2.25 MILLION
FROM THE ARNOLDS**

The Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) pays lip service to the idea that “Americans want lasting, bipartisan solutions” and that “[e]nduring policy is built on collaboration.” In practice, however, BPC acts as a foil to President Trump as it opposes key pieces of his presidential agenda.

- February 20, 2026: Released a report claiming that “[m]ail voting is a safe, secure, and reliable method used by voters of all political parties.”
- July 2, 2026: Submitted a public comment on USPS’s proposed mail ballot rule with suggestions that undermine the purpose of President Trump’s EO, including recommending that “USPS should not require election officials to submit lists of mail voters or refuse to deliver mail ballots to voters” and that “USPS should delay implementation of any rulemaking until after the 2026 general election.”

4. CENTER FOR AMERICAN PROGRESS

**MORE THAN \$1.5 MILLION
FROM THE ARNOLDS**

The Center for American Progress (CAP) is a liberal organization headed by a former senior aide to Presidents Barack Obama and Joe Biden. Unsurprisingly, CAP has emerged as one of the most vocal opponents to President Trump's election integrity efforts.

- March 3, 2026: In anticipation of the president's EO that will eventually be released at the end of March, CAP released a scathing criticism of the president, arguing that "President Trump's reported executive order would be nothing but another escalation in his anti-democratic attempts to spread disinformation about the security of American elections, deny people their right to vote, and sabotage election results to lock in his political power."
- August 12, 2026: Published a report claiming that "the administration is waging an unconstitutional effort to subvert voters' will in the November 2026 midterm elections" in order "to entrench the imperial presidency." As CAP contends, "[a] sitting president and his administration have created a near-constitutional crisis involving the very elections that have sustained U.S. democracy."
- August 24, 2026: CAP released a video claiming that "[t]he Trump administration is weaponizing federal databases to quietly purge Americans from the voter rolls," describing it as "one of the election interference tactics being deployed by the Trump administration to cement its political power and escape accountability from voters."
- August 26, 2026: Published an op-ed in response to the USPS mail ballot rule contending that "[t]he Postal Service is just the start of Trump's plan to subvert the midterms."
- September 1, 2026: Further attacked the USPS mail ballot rule by releasing a video claiming that the president is "weaponizing the U.S. Postal Service against voters and unconstitutionally taking election authority away from the states."
- September 2, 2026: Posted an article arguing that "[i]f the Trump administration attempts to unilaterally alter election procedures, those actions would be another escalation in its anti-democratic attempts to spread disinformation about the security of elections; deny everyday Americans their right to vote; and subvert election results."

5. BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE

**MORE THAN \$1.6 MILLION
FROM THE ARNOLDS**

The Brennan Center for Justice is based at the New York University School of Law, and its stated role is to be “an independent, nonpartisan law and policy organization that works to reform, revitalize, and defend our country’s systems of democracy and justice.” Contrary to that ideal, however, the Brennan Center has positioned itself as a constant critic of President Trump’s goal to secure American election integrity.

- April 2, 2026: Along with the ACLU and others, the Brennan Center signed on as co-counsel to represent the coalition suing to challenge President Trump’s executive order on voting.
- April 3, 2026: Published an essay in *The New Republic* demonizing the president, arguing that “Trump and his allies in Washington and around the country have spent a year in a frenzy of activity all toward a singular goal: undermining elections. Between conspiracy theories, FBI raids, late-night social media rants, and more, these moves can confuse or distract.” Ultimately, the Brennan Center believes that “Trump is waging war on our elections.”
- April 8, 2026: Wrote an analysis of the president’s EO, saying it “aims to illegally rewrite the rules for federal elections. ... If implemented, the executive order would inject chaos into our elections, block eligible American citizens from voting, undermine voter privacy, and expose election officials and others to criminal prosecution simply for doing their jobs.”
- June 22, 2026: Kept the drumbeat going against President Trump’s EO by claiming that “[t]hese efforts seek to undermine state policies for when mail ballots may be counted” and “are centered on false claims about mail ballots and misreading of election law ...”
- August 6, 2026: Argued that the president “wishes to trample the election system and cement his power” by “trying to meddle in elections ahead of the midterms. This coordinated campaign includes attempts to limit who can vote, wrestle away states’ authority over elections, and undermine public confidence in election outcomes.”