

## Zuckerbuck Sucker Punch

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Who should fund our  
public elections?

Partisan billionaires?

Last election, Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg and his wife, Dr. Priscilla Chan, "gave \$419 million to two nonprofit organizations that disbursed grants in 2020 to more than 2,500 election departments," reports *The New York Times*.

The idea was to help officials deal with holding an election during a pandemic. No laws were necessarily broken. Apparently, private individuals and groups can give money to government election offices — even "with strings attached."

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"Some conservatives see this largesse of 'Zuckerbucks,'" informs a *Wall Street Journal* editorial, "as a clever plot to help Democrats win." In fact, a Capital Research Center (CRC) analysis found the liberal non-profit "consistently gave bigger grants and more money per capita to counties that voted for Biden."

"[A] deep dive into the available data shows that the funds were largely requested for get-out-the-



vote efforts, influenced voter turnout in favor of Democrats, and may have impacted the results of the election in some states," explains the Foundation for Government Accountability. "According to currently available information, less than one percent of the funds were actually spent on PPE nationwide."

Can you imagine the outcry if a group with "conservative ties" funded by Charles Koch was giving grants to help Republican-rich jurisdictions rock the vote?

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That's why 16 states have since passed laws to restrict private funding of election programs.

Mr. Zuckerberg himself sees the danger in Zuckerbucks: "To be clear, I agree with those who say that government should have provided these funds, not private citizens." Last week, he announced he would not be providing such funding in the 2022 elections.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.