NEBRASKA TAXPAYERS FOR FREEDOM ISSUE PAPER:

STOP THE BIDEN REGIME ELECTION MEDDLING.

BACKGROUND. President Biden unconstitutionally is using the federal bureaucracy to sway national, state, and local elections. His Executive Order 14019 directs each federal agency to provide a strategic plan to his Domestic Policy Advisor detailing how an agency will help increase voter registration and participation. It also mandates that the agencies support "approved" non-government organizations to provide voter registration services on federal agency premises. Biden approved soliciting and facilitating these leftist third-party organizations and state officials. He is using our tax dollars to subsidize leftwing nonprofits to provide voter registration materials, mail in ballots, voting instructions, and candidate materials to likely Democrat voters from specific demographic groups. Under the Biden order, agencies are supposed to issue strategic plans for implementing it. Federal departments supposedly must turn over to Congress their respective documents showing how they intend to comply with the Biden order. However, federal agencies have not shown transparency with Congress or taxpayer watchdogs about nonprofit groups with which they are coordinating or the contents of the strategic plans. Despite attempts by conservative groups to acquire these plans, the Biden Regime routinely has ignored such efforts by delaying its response to them and to federal court orders and heavily redacted related documents it has released.\(^1\)

THE BILL. Conservative Cong. Claudia Tenney (N.Y.), founder and co-chairman of the House Election Integrity



Caucus, introduced HR 3072, the Promoting Free and Fair Election Act. This bill is in the Committee on House Administration, awaiting a vote to advance it to the full House for debate. This bill would defund the dictatorial Biden executive order that threatens both the safety and security of our elections. Her legislation would guarantee that our elections are transparent and remain nonpartisan by prohibiting federal agencies from engaging in partisan voter operations at taxpayer expense. HR 3072 would prevent federal agencies from making agreements with leftist nonprofit organizations to use organization authority, influence, resources, and their federal funding to boost voter registration and other electoral activities like Get Out the Vote. The Tenney bill would prohibit federal agencies from conducting or outsourcing to nonprofits the distribution of voter registration application forms, providing assistance to applicants in completing an application, accepting completed voter-registration forms, and transmitting completed applications to state election officials. The legislation includes a requirement that all

federal agencies submit to Congress, within 30 days of the order effective date, a report describing all activities they carried out with these nonprofits. It also would prohibit use of federal funds to carry out voter activities. Voter registration efforts are almost always a Democrat venture and often involve leftwing groups that abuse their nonprofit status to target likely Democrat voters. The bill would ban nonprofits from donating to election organizations. HR 3072 also would amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to bar public universities from using taxpayer-funded Federal Work Study programs to pay college students to engage in voter registration campaigns. In April, 2022, the Biden Regime informed colleges that they could use work study funds, used to provide part-time campus jobs to help students with tuition costs, to engage in such activities. "President Biden's EO 14019 allows the federal government to use its power and your taxpayer dollars to influence our elections," said Cong. Tenney, "As the Election Integrity Caucus co-chair, it is my privilege to introduce this legislation to restore transparency and confidence in our democratic process, while keeping federal bureaucrats and the swamp from deliberately tipping the balance of our elections." With more than 60 members, the Tenney caucus dedicates itself to preserving the sanctity of our elections and boosting confidence in the democratic process. The aim of this legislation is to stop the Biden Regine from using the power of federal agencies and offices, located in states across the country, to engage in voter registration and mobilization efforts designed to benefit Democrats.

WHAT IS HAPPENING. The Justice Department announced guidance for states to increase encouragement of voting rights for convicted criminals, in compliance with the Biden order. States differ on restoring voting rights to convicted felons after they serve their sentences. The Dept. of Housing and Urban Development is engaging in voter registration efforts that in some cases allow mass collection of registration forms by local public housing officials and nonprofits. The Dept. of Homeland Security said it will focus on voter registration at the end of naturalization ceremonies for the hundreds of thousands of individuals naturalized each year. The Education Department said it will focus on increasing

¹ The Federalist. Shawn Fleetwood, Republicans Move to Curb Biden's Federal Interference in Elections, May 5, 2023.

² Ibid.

civic engagement at the elementary school, secondary school, and higher education levels, advising more than 67 million students.³ All these activities geared to mobilize Socialist Democrat voters.

SENATE COMPANION BILL. Conservative Sen. Tedd Budd (N.C.) sponsors an identical Senate companion bill.

COUNTER ACTION. In 2022, then-Rep. Tedd Budd led a coalition of 36 House members to send a letter to Acting



Director of the Office of Management and Budget Shalanda Young requesting documents and an investigation into the executive order empowering every federal agency to engage in election-related activities. Foundation for Government Accountability (FGA) sued the Justice Dept., after several federal executive agencies failed to respond to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests for documents regarding the executive order, which federal law requires the government to share. Despite a court ruling in favor of FGA ordering DOJ to produce all documents required to produce under the law, DOJ is continuing to withhold documents in violation of the FOIA law. The lawsuit continues, with a final ruling expected soon. Critics expressed outrage that it violates the Hatch Act, which forbids political activity by federal employees on federal property or during work time, violates the Anti-deficiency Act, which prohibits federal

employees from obligating tax dollars not authorized by Congress as well as an agency from accepting voluntary service from individuals, and violates the National Voter Registration Act, a 1993 law better known as the "motor voter" law. This last law authorizes federal agencies to engage in specified activities to ease voter registration, but the Biden order goes beyond the boundaries of the law.⁵

TAKE ACTION NOW. This Executive Order, left unchecked, will lead to undue and inappropriate influence on our election process resulting in the election of candidates who do not represent the will of the people. Federal agencies should not use taxpayer funds to actively engage with leftist groups in partisan voter mobilization operations that have nothing to do with group core missions. Americans deserve to know that their elections are free and fair, not influenced by the heavy hand of the Biden Regime and its special interest groups. The Biden use of federal agencies to meddle in elections and steamroll state governments is a flagrant abuse of executive authority and should not set a precedent for future administrations. Our federal, state, and local elections never again will appear transparent and honest, if the Socialist Democrats brazenly break the law and use federal agencies and their employees to muster Democrat votes. HR 3072 would provide Americans with transparency and reassurance that federal agencies are using taxpayer dollars lawfully and in their best interests. Using the information above, lobby your congressman to support and vote for HR 3072 all the way to passage. Email netaxpayers@gmail.com for congressional contact information and to join our NTF Congress Watch Project.

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³ The Daily Signal. Fred Lucas, <u>GOP Takes on Biden Executive Election Takeover</u>, May 2, 2023.

⁴ Foundation for Government Accountability, Sen. Budd and Rep. Tenney take Bidenbucks Fight to Both Chambers, May 2, 2023.

⁵ The Daily Signal. Fred Lucas, GOP Takes on Biden Executive Election Takeover, May 2, 2023.