

# Auditor Who Dismissed 2020 Fraud Failed to Declare THOUSANDS of Dollars from Zuckerberg Election Interference Fund.

[thenationalpulse.com/2022/05/11/zuckerberg-funded-election-official-dismissed-election-fraud/](https://thenationalpulse.com/2022/05/11/zuckerberg-funded-election-official-dismissed-election-fraud/)

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An election official from a county which received funds from the Mark Zuckerberg’s Center for Tech and Civic Life used a local newspaper column to dismiss evidence of election fraud, praising mail-in ballots in the process, and helping dismiss notions of foul play despite his obvious conflict of interest.

Paddy McGuire, who penned his article for the *Shelton-Mason County Journal* in 2020, also falsely claimed mail-in voting ensures unparalleled “safety and security,” while also defending the county’s decision to ban in-person election observers.

McGuire, the Auditor for Washington’s Mason County, authored over one dozen articles for the *County Journal* during the lead-up to the 2020 election, but never disclosed that his county received a cash grant from the Center for Tech and Civic Life (CTCL).

CTCL in turn praised McGuire’s column – “*Election Matters*” – in a feature: “*Mason County, Washington Builds Trust Through Local Newspaper Column.*”

Launched in January 2020, the bi-weekly column was highlighted by CTCL for its efficacy in “help[ing] to present his office as a source of trusted information” and “preemptively quell[ing] misinformation.”

CTCL used hundreds of millions of dollars from Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg’s organization — the Chan-Zuckerberg Initiative — to overrule local election officials and increase turnout in almost exclusively Democratic districts through mail-in voting in 2020. Proving the partisan conflict of interest, leaders from the CTCL overpowered and overruled election authorities and, through coercion, allegedly accessed mail-in ballots ahead of the election.

Financial records from CTCL reveal that the Mason County Treasurer received a grant worth \$32,904 intended to “support the safe administration of public elections during the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Schedule I (Form 990)		CENTER FOR TECHNOLOGY AND CIVIC LIFE			47-2158694		Page 1
Part II Continuation of Grants and Other Assistance to Domestic Organizations and Domestic Governments (Schedule I (Form 990), Part II.)							
(a) Name and address of organization or government	(b) EIN	(c) IRC section if applicable	(d) Amount of cash grant	(e) Amount of non-cash assistance	(f) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)	(g) Description of non-cash assistance	(h) Purpose of grant or assistance
KING COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS - 919 SW GRADY WAY - RENTON, WA 98057	91-6001327	COUNTY GOVERNMENT	1292652.	0.			TO SUPPORT THE SAFE ADMINISTRATION OF PUBLIC ELECTIONS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC
KITSAP COUNTY ELECTIONS 614 DIVISION STREET PORT ORCHARD, WA 98366-9948	91-6001348	COUNTY GOVERNMENT	118747.	0.			TO SUPPORT THE SAFE ADMINISTRATION OF PUBLIC ELECTIONS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC
KLICKITAT COUNTY AUDITOR 205 S. COLUMBUS AVENUE ROOM 203 GOLDENDALE, WA 98620	91-6001350	COUNTY GOVERNMENT	11001.	0.			TO SUPPORT THE SAFE ADMINISTRATION OF PUBLIC ELECTIONS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC
MASON COUNTY TREASURER P.O. BOX 400 SHELTON, WA 98584	91-6001354	COUNTY GOVERNMENT	32904.	0.			TO SUPPORT THE SAFE ADMINISTRATION OF PUBLIC ELECTIONS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

2020 990 Filing.

CTCL’s grant to McGuire’s county – which was never discussed in any of his columns – appears to present a conflict of interest with the opinions expressed in McGuire’s column, which he used to defend the security of mail-in voting, despite the method being rife with fraud and errors, and the integrity of the 2020 election.

In an op-ed “We Prepare and We Plan,” McGuire outlined how his office wasn’t allowing in-person election observers, allegedly due to COVID-19.

“Those requirements include allowing observers to watch us and being open to the public so people can register to vote in person during the last two and a half weeks before the election. My office is in a building closed to the public by the Board of Mason County Commissioners, so even if I wanted to be open, I can’t,” he reasoned.

## Spreading false information is unpatriotic

I have friends on the political spectrum who are far left and friends who are far right. When rampant fires burned up and down the West Coast, I saw a few friends on the far left posting on Facebook with conspiracy theories about far-right arsonists setting the fires, often with pictures as proof. I also saw a few friends on the far right post the same pictures as proof that far-left arsonists had set the fires.

What did I do with this contradictory information? I went to a source that I trust, the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I Googled "FBI fires" and found this statement: "FBI Portland and local law enforcement agencies have been receiving reports that extremists are responsible for setting wildfires in Oregon. With our state and local partners, the FBI has investigated several such reports and found them to be untrue."

Social media has a ton of misinformation. In the next month, as we lead up to the Nov. 3 presidential election, it will become more prevalent and more outrageous. It is important for all of us to check out the information and its source before passing it on. If the source of the news item is something you've never heard of, look for that information from a source you know and trust.

Just because "news" confirms a preconceived notion we have, that doesn't make it true. It's important to check things out before hitting the share button.

Our enemies around the world have an interest in sowing discord in this country. On the left and right, we are playing into



By **PADDY  
McGUIRE**

their hands by repeating misinformation that might originate in Beijing, Moscow or Tehran. Let's resist that urge. Let's all work to share truthful, factual information.

Before you share information from a source you don't know and trust yourself, check it out. If there is information about voting here in Mason County, check our website [masoncountyelections.us](http://masoncountyelections.us) or the Secretary of State's website [sos.wa.gov](http://sos.wa.gov) to see whether the information is true. Or pick up the phone and call. Our Elections Office is 360-427-9670 x470.

Just prior to the August primary, rumors were circulating on Facebook that if Mason County voters don't remove the stub on the top of your ballot that says "Voter please remove and discard this stub" we will throw out your ballot. I can tell you, from my time processing ballots and tearing off hundreds of these stubs that voters left on, we count those ballots. Rather than checking with the source, Mason County Elections, people were angry and hit share and the misinformation spread. The people who benefit from the misinformation and the outrage that follows are in Beijing, Moscow and Tehran.

With the presidential election a month away, I know tensions are high and nerves frayed. My staff and I are working hard to ensure that everyone who is eligible to vote and wants to vote gets to vote and that nobody who isn't eligible doesn't get to vote. You can help by checking things out from a source that you trust before you share information with others.

■ *Paddy McGuire is the Mason County auditor.*

Commenting on the article to CTCL, McGuire noted that "being so proactive about outreach helped blunt the criticism that we didn't allow observers." Citizens could instead watch live streams of ballot counting, according to officials.

In a November 26th, 2020 article "*All Our Systems Just Worked During The Election*" he claimed, "there is no credible evidence that anyone interfered with the outcome of the election anywhere."



**ELECTION MATTERS**

# All our systems just worked during the election

On Dec. 31, 1999, at about 11 p.m., my family went out on the beach at Cannon Beach, Oregon, to ring in the new millennium. For a couple of years leading up to that time, we had heard dire predictions about computer malfunctions, known as the Y2K bug, bringing down the electrical grid and all manner of computer operated systems at the stroke of midnight.

As the clock rolled over to midnight, pretty much nothing happened because industry and government had spent those years preparing and repairing systems so nothing would happen.

The Nov. 3rd presidential election was similar in many ways. There was foreign interference in the 2016 election and the elections community had spent the intervening four years working together to see that it didn't happen again. Like that midnight years ago on the beach in Oregon, all our systems just worked.

A lot changed in the four years since 2016 in Mason County, in Washington and around the country

to ensure this success. Here we have a new ballot tally system, ClearBallot, that is the state of the art. We also have a new security system in the ballot processing room, including a camera on our new drive-up drop box at our office.



By PADDY McGUIRE

All the counties in Washington are now linked with the Secretary of State's Office in a new voter registration system, VoteWA, that allows us to detect in real time if a Kitsap County voter is trying to register and vote in Mason County. It is also hardened to resist intrusion. We know that foreign adversaries were able to get into voter registration systems in Illinois and Florida in 2016 and we had to work together to see that could not happen here.

The federal government played a critical part too, with the Department of Homeland Security treating the country's election system and critical infrastructure, akin to the electrical grid in terms of national importance. Congress appropriated money that allowed for the development of VoteWA and for prepara-

tions for holding an election during a pandemic.

Industry played a part. Social media companies including Facebook and Twitter took a much more aggressive stance against misinformation and disinformation in 2020 than they did in 2016. They deleted fake accounts of foreigners posing as Americans that promoted discord.

There is now an alphabet soup of organizations to facilitate exchange of information on security and threats, including the Elections Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EI-ISAC) that I participate in, along with my colleagues from around the country.

All of this preparation led to an election where the will of the people, free from foreign interference, won out. While it is always tough for losers to accept the results, there is no credible evidence that anyone interfered with the outcome of the election anywhere.

For an election official, an election as exciting as Y2K is the definition of success.

■ Paddy McGuire is the Mason County Auditor.

In the same article, he also praised Facebook for taking a “much more aggressive stance against misinformation and disinformation in 2020 than they did in 2016.”

McGuire also repeatedly amplified left-wing talking points about how delayed election results were normal, insisting “getting final results takes time” beyond election night. Similarly, he advocated in favor of mail-in ballots, writing on June 18th, 2020:

“I am a huge fan of vote-by-mail. I hope the safety, security and voter convenience that we enjoy here will one day be available across the country.”

McGuire’s column is yet another piece of evidence showing how the CTCL and its Zuckerberg-funded backer aimed to change the election landscape in the U.S. in favor of mail-in voting.

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