

Capital Research Center's Latest Claims About Voter Registration Fall Apart Under Scrutiny

Capital Research Center Frames Guidance On How Nonprofits Can Ensure They're Following The Law And Avoiding Even The Perception Of Partisanship As Something Nefarious.

RHETORIC: Capital Research Center Claims That NonprofitVOTE Offers Guidance On How Nonprofits Can “Get Around The Rules That Restrict Voter Registration Drives By Government Funded Entities.” “In 2021, NonprofitVOTE, a group whose sole purpose is to encourage more nonprofits to do GOTV work, published a Federal Funds and Voter Registration guide that explained how nonprofits can get around the rules that restrict voter registration drives by government funded entities. The guide explains that nonprofits receiving Community Service Block Grants (CSBG) can't use CSBG funds “to pay for staff or materials to conduct voter registration” or “provide rides to the polls,” but can “use CSBG or other funds to do any other kinds of nonpartisan voter engagement activities” as long as the nonprofit's work in “limited” in such a way that it avoids creating a “public perception” that it is “involved in partisan politics.” The guide gives similar directions for recipients of Head Start early education funding and AmeriCorps volunteer funding.” [Capital Research Center, [08/18/26](#)]

REALITY: The Guide Is More Conservative Than The Law Requires, Advising Groups To Avoid Even The Perception Of Being Involved In Partisan Politics. “It is recommended that CSBG funds used for nonpartisan election activity be limited and not done in a way to give public perception of the agency as being in anyway involved in partisan politics.” [Nonprofit Vote, accessed [08/18/26](#)]

REALITY: The Guide Explicitly Tells Nonprofit Organizations They Are Prohibited From “Conducting Partisan Political Activities To Support Or Oppose Candidates.” [Nonprofit Vote, accessed [08/18/26](#)]

Capital Research Center Stretches The Facts Or Misrepresents The Truth To Accuse Nonpartisan Groups Of Participating In Partisan Voter Registration Without Actual Evidence.

RHETORIC: Capital Research Center Claims The National Urban League Is A “Left-Wing Advocacy Group” And Criticizes The Group's Nonpartisan Voter Registration Efforts. “The National Urban League – The Biden Administration awarded the National Urban League, a veteran left-wing advocacy group, more than \$10.4 million in new grants from 2021 to 2024. In 2024, according to their 2024 Form 990, government grants accounted for \$35.9 million, or 41 percent, of the League's annual revenue. During the 2024 election, the League's president spoke on stage at the Democratic National Convention, the League spent \$17.2 million on “civic engagement and leadership empowerment program,” and its “Reclaim Your Vote” program made 1.3 million voter contacts, knocked on 248,000 doors, sent over 1 million texts, and held

143 events.” [Capital Research Center, [08/18/26](#)]

REALITY: The National Urban League Is Nonpartisan, Has Hosted The Chairman Of The RNC At One Of Their Conferences, And Engages In Community Service Across The Country.

- **Even Capital Research Center Admits The National Urban League Is Nonpartisan And Does Not Endorse Political Candidates.** “Although it is technically nonpartisan, in that it does not endorse political candidates the League often agrees with left-of-center and Democratic policies, including the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) and affirmative action.” [Influence Watch, accessed [08/18/26](#)]
- **In 2014, The National Urban League Hosted Then RNC-Chairman Reince Priebus, Who Later Served As President Trump’s Chief Of Staff, At Its National Convention.** [The Afro, [07/25/14](#)]
- **The National Urban League Offers Community Programming Across The Country, Including College Prep Classes, STEM Education And Business Training.** “Programming Offered: College preparatory classes, Mentoring activities, STEM education, Parental enrichment activities, Workforce skills development, Training in starting new businesses. Homeownership classes, Foreclosure prevention, Nutrition education, Health screenings and assistance securing health insurance.” [National Urban League, accessed [08/18/26](#)]

RHETORIC: Capital Research Center Accuses UnidosUS Of Being Partisan Despite Engaging In Nonpartisan Voter Registration Work. “UnidosUS – UnidosUS was awarded more than \$12 million in new grants by the Biden administration’s Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) alone. In the lead-up to the 2024 election UnidosUS invited President Biden to speak at the group’s annual conference, and UnidosUS Action Fund, their 501(c)(4) affiliate, endorsed Kamala Harris after Biden withdrew. That year UnidosUS registered 126,796 voters through ‘digital and canvassing efforts in states including AZ, CA, FL, NV, NY, PA, and TX.’ The group also runs a ‘Hispanic Electorate Data Hub’ that tracks polling data, demographic trends, and turnout statistics.” [Capital Research Center, [08/18/26](#)]

REALITY: UnidosUS Is A Nonpartisan 501(c)(3) That Received HUD Housing Counseling Grants Under The Trump Administration, Has Invited Republican Elected Officials To Their Events As Recently As Summer 2026, And Registers Voters In The Largest Latino-Population States, Including Deep-Red Texas And Deep-Blue California.

- **During The First Trump Administration, The Dr. Ben Carson-led HUD Awarded UnidosUS \$1.6 Million.** “The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) today awarded nearly \$40 million in housing counseling grants to help over one million individuals and families access HUD-approved housing counseling to help them avoid foreclosure and make more informed homebuying and rental choices... UnidosUS \$1.6 Million.” [HUD Archives, [06/16/20](#)]
- **In July 2026, UnidosUS invited Texas Gov. Greg Abbot, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton and Republican US Rep. Monica De La Cruz To Address Their**

Conference In Austin, TX, But None Accepted The Invitation. “More than 1,000 organizers, leaders and advocates for the Latino community are meeting this week in Austin to discuss the most pressing issues facing the state’s largest ethnic demographic. Yet one of the two major political parties will not participate in the UnidosUS Annual Conference. The speaker list includes at least five Democrats, yet not one Republican. The nonpartisan UnidosUS invited several Republicans, including Gov. Greg Abbott, Attorney General and U.S. Senate candidate Ken Paxton and U.S. Rep. Monica De La Cruz, all of whom are on the ballot in November. None accepted the invitation, and none of their campaigns responded Monday to our inquiry about it.” [Austin American-Statesman, [07/28/26](#)]

- **UnidosUS Is Nonpartisan, And Its Voter Registration Footprint Tracks Latino Population.** Capital Research Center’s own list of registration states — AZ, CA, FL, NV, NY, PA, TX — is essentially the roster of the largest Latino-population states in the country and include both “red” (FL, TX) and “blue” (CA, NY) States.

RHETORIC: Capital Research Center Complains About The Hispanic Federation Receiving Government Grants While Also Engaging In Nonpartisan Voter Registration Work, Even Though Their Complaint Covers Just 16,000 Voter Registrations Across 43 States And Territories Each Year, Less Than 500 Per State. “Hispanic Federation – the Hispanic Federation, which received more than \$95 million in new grants from the Biden Administration for programs such as teaching migrant workers how to obtain welfare, and offering “energy resiliency education” in Puerto Rico, also runs a massive civic engagement program and bragged about “[mobilizing] millions of Latino voters” in 2024 and working with 52 partner organizations to “communicate directly with 2.6 million Latino voters to participate in the 2024 election.” The Hispanic Federation claims it has registered 160,000 and mobilized 3 million Latino voters since 2016.” [Capital Research Center, [08/18/26](#)]

- **The Biggest Grant In Capital Research Center’s’s \$95 Million Tally Was Appropriated Under President Trump.** The Hispanic Federation’s \$44.3 million USDA grant, the largest government grant in the organization’s history, funded one-time \$600 relief payments to 62,900 farmworkers and meatpacking workers who incurred pandemic-related health and safety costs under the Farm and Food Worker Relief (FFWR) Grant Program. The program was authorized and funded under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, the COVID relief package President Trump signed into law on December 27, 2020. [Hispanic Federation, [2022](#); USDA, accessed [08/18/26](#); H.R.133 - Consolidated Appropriations Act, [2021](#)]
- **Other Organizations Which Helped Administer The Farm and Food Worker Relief (FFWR) Grant Program Include Catholic Charities, USA, The Cherokee Nation And United Ways of California.** [USDA, accessed [08/18/26](#)]
- **Capital Research Center’s Complaint About “Massive” Voter Registration Efforts Amounts To Approximately 16,000 Voters Registered Per Year Across The 43 States And Territories The Group Operates In, Approximately 372 Per State Per Year.”** Capital Research Center complains about Hispanic Federation registering 160,000 voters since 2016; this amounts to just 16,000 voters a year across the Hispanic

Federation's 43-state-and-territory operating area. [Hispanic Federation, accessed [08/18/26](#)]

Meanwhile, Capital Research Center Seems To Ignore Actual Problematic Behavior Engaged In By Right Leaning Groups Across The Country.

Franklin Graham Has Openly Praised President Trump And Collected Hundreds Of Millions Of Dollars In Government Grants While Offering Voters Registration Information And A “Planning And Prayer Guide” On His Website.

Franklin Graham's Organizations Have Collected \$350M+ In Federal Grants While He Runs Turnout Operations. Samaritan's Purse has taken more than \$350 million in federal grants since 2016 (the Graham controlled “Billy Graham Evangelistic Association” stopped filing 990s in 2015); Graham cheered the gutting of USAID in January 2025, then collected \$19 million in reimbursements weeks later. His 2024 tour drew 186,000 attendees who were told “your vote matters” and that Graham wanted “to put God back in politics.” [Global Project Against Hate and Extremism, [06/09/26](#)]

- **The Trump Administration Just Announced Another \$300M For Samaritan's Purse In August 2026..** In August 2026, “the Trump administration announced that it will direct nearly \$2 billion in humanitarian funding toward faith-based organizations” including “\$300 million to [Billy Graham's] Samaritan's Purse.” [Reason, [08/12/26](#)]

Franklin Graham's Organization Offers Voter Registration Information And A Voter “Planning And Prayer Guide” On Their Website. [[BillyGraham.org](#), accessed [08/18/26](#)]

Franklin Graham's Electoral Record Is Overt. “Although Graham didn't endorse in 2016, he held rallies across the country during the primary and general election to boost evangelical turnout. He later called Trump's 2016 victory a sign ‘God's hand was at work.’ In December 2020, Graham tweeted that he ‘tend[s] to believe’ Trump's false assertion that the 2020 election was stolen and criticized the 10 House Republicans who voted to impeach him after the Jan. 6 attacks on the Capitol.” [CBS News, [01/23/23](#)]

The Trump Administration Argued Nonprofit Churches Should Explicitly Be Permitted To Make Political Endorsements... A Position Capital Research Center Has Endorsed.

The Trump IRS Argued In Court That Non-Profit Churches Should Be Able To Make Political Endorsements From The Pulpit (Counter To The Johnson Amendment) Framing Them As “Family Discussions” Concerning Candidates. “In a court filing, the IRS said the so-called Johnson Amendment, which bars all nonprofits from being involved in campaigns, should not apply to political speech during religious services. Speaking about politics at a church or other house of worship is not the same as intervening or participating in an election,

lawyers for the IRS as well as for conservative groups suing the agency wrote. 'Bona fide communications internal to a house of worship, between the house of worship and its congregation, in connection with religious services, do neither of those things, any more than does a family discussion concerning candidates,' they wrote. 'Thus, communications from a house of worship to its congregation in connection with religious services through its usual channels of communication on matters of faith do not run afoul of the Johnson Amendment as properly interpreted.'" [Religious News Service, [07/08/25](#)]

Capital Research Center's President, Scott Walter, Has Said He Believed The Johnson Amendment Stifled "A Religious Organization's Right To Free Speech." "Through the Johnson Amendment, the Internal Revenue Service exercises the power to stifle a religious organization's right to free speech. In effect, an evangelical pastor, Orthodox rabbi, Muslim imam, or Catholic priest who wishes to urge support for a religious freedom bill or oppose Obamacare's contraception mandate can be muzzled under federal law." [Capital Research, [01/06/17](#)]