

CONGRESSIONAL INTEGRITY PROJECT

To: Interested Parties
From: Kyle Herrig, Executive Director, Congressional Integrity Project
Re: Today's MAGA House Administration Committee Hearing a Political Stunt to Reprise the Big Lie In Run Up of 2024 Election
Date: May 16, 2024

MAGA House Republicans have engaged in a three-ring circus of political stunts to protect and promote Donald Trump. Today's House Administration Committee hearing is no different. Billed as an effort to ensure "American confidence in elections," today's stunt only provides a platform for election-deniers and conspiracy theorists to reprise the Big Lie that the 2020 presidential race was stolen and sow seeds of doubt about the outcome of the 2024 election.

Election Deniers on the House Administration Committee

The House Administration Committee has traditionally been bipartisan and relatively unknown; this Congress, the extreme MAGA House has weaponized this committee to undermine voting rights, election laws, and rewrite history of the January 6th Insurrection.

The committee, led by Rep. Bryan Steil (R-WI), is made up of [election-deniers, right-wing extremists, and controversial House Republicans](#). Four of the eight Republican members objected to certifying the 2020 presidential election. Three of them signed an amicus brief to lawsuits seeking to overturn the election results in key swing states. Five members voted against creating a January 6th Committee. And one member, Rep. Barry Loudermilk (R-GA), led a tour of the Capitol complex one day before the Insurrection.

Witnesses Will Spew Election Denying and Conspiracy Theories

MAGA Republican members of the House Administration Committee won't be the only ones trafficking in election-denial and conspiracy theories. The witnesses the MAGA Republicans have invited have a history of doing the same thing:

- Americans for Public Trust, led by Caitlin Sutherland, a right wing organization that receives the vast majority of its funding from right-wing puppetmaster Leonard Leo's donor network, has close ties to Adam Laxalt, the co-chair of Trump's re-election

campaign in 2020. Laxalt “[spearheaded](#)” Trump’s legal challenges in the state, which judges dismissed and officials criticized for trying to undermine confidence in our elections.

- The Heritage Foundation’s Hans von Spakovsky uses his perch to spread misinformation and conspiracy theories to promote policies that restrict voting rights, especially for communities of color and young people. Von Spakovsky runs Heritage’s Election Fraud Database, which Donald Trump tried to use for his “[Fraud Commission](#)” to claim the election was stolen.
- The Public Interest Legal Foundation (PILF), led by J. Christian Adams, uses false and misleading accusations of voter fraud in an attempt to purge voter rolls. It has also led the call to nullify the 2020 presidential election. In the year after the 2020 election, PILF “[brought nine election-law cases in eight states](#).” It has amassed some of the most visible lawyers obsessed with election fraud, including [Cleta] Mitchell, who is its chair and sits on its board.”

Right Out of Trump’s Playbook – Casting Doubt on Election Results

The pretext for today’s hearing is non-citizen voting in elections, despite the fact that [non-citizens cannot vote in federal elections](#). This non-issue isn’t about solving issues, it’s about taking a page from Donald Trump’s playbook and casting doubt on election results. These are the [same, false, unsubstantiated claims](#) Donald Trump made to try to convince himself he won the popular vote in 2016.

Conclusion

Given the makeup of the Republican majority in the House Administration Committee and the witnesses that will attend, people should see through the feigned concern about “election integrity” they claim today’s hearing will be about. **Instead, their history of election denial and conspiracies outline their true motivations: to sow seeds of doubt about the 2024 election and inject the Big Lie back into the mainstream.**