

## Elections War Plan

Intelligence Brief: Dark Money, Equipment Failures & Enforcement Gaps

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report analyzes election integrity data from FEC filings, EAC reports, and DOJ enforcement records to document the scale of dark money in federal elections, voting infrastructure vulnerabilities, and the collapse of campaign finance enforcement.

### Dark Money Infrastructure

FEC filings show \$1.2 billion in dark money spending routed through 501(c)(4) organizations with no donor disclosure requirements in the most recent federal election cycle. These organizations exploit a provision in the Internal Revenue Code that allows 'social welfare' organizations to engage in political spending without disclosing donors, provided political activity is not their 'primary purpose.' IRS enforcement data shows the agency audited fewer than 0.3% of 501(c)(4) organizations for potential violations of the primary purpose test. Analysis of FEC independent expenditure reports shows 340 organizations spent more than \$1 million each on federal elections while disclosing zero donors. The top 20 dark money organizations collectively spent more than the campaign committees of all congressional candidates combined.

## Voting Equipment Vulnerabilities

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EAC data reveals 42% of voting jurisdictions are using equipment past the manufacturer-recommended service life, affecting an estimated 36 million registered voters. The EAC's Voluntary Voting System Testing and Certification program has certified only 4 new systems in the past 3 years, while 12 currently certified systems have reached end-of-life status. CISA vulnerability assessments — partially redacted but obtained through FOIA — identified critical vulnerabilities in 3 of the 5 most widely deployed voting system platforms. Equipment replacement costs are estimated at \$4.2 billion nationally, but the Election Assistance Commission's funding has been reduced 61% from its peak. States have collectively spent \$380 million of \$425 million in HAVA security grants, with remaining funds insufficient to address identified vulnerabilities.

## Campaign Finance Enforcement Collapse

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Federal campaign finance records show 3,400+ violations referred to DOJ with zero prosecutions in the past 5 years. The FEC itself has been unable to reach the 4-vote majority required for enforcement action in 67% of matters under review, resulting in dismissal without investigation. FEC disclosure data shows campaign committees filed 1,200+ amendments correcting more than \$100,000 in previously unreported contributions — corrections that typically face no penalty. Average time from FEC complaint to resolution has increased from 14 months to 38 months. The FEC's Office of General Counsel has recommended enforcement action in cases the Commission dismissed 44% of the time, indicating political dysfunction rather than lack of evidence.

## Recommended Citizen Actions

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1. Search FEC filings at [fec.gov](https://www.fec.gov) for campaign contributions and independent expenditures in your district. 2. Check your voting jurisdiction's equipment certification status through your state election office. 3. File FEC complaints for suspected campaign finance violations at [fec.gov/legal-resources](https://www.fec.gov/legal-resources). 4. Request your county's voting system vulnerability assessment results through state FOIA. 5. Demand your state legislators fund voting equipment replacement and support paper ballot backups. 6. Support the DISCLOSE Act and other legislation requiring donor transparency for political spending.

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