

TOM COLE
4TH DISTRICT, OKLAHOMA

DEPUTY WHIP

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
CHAIRMAN



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

PLEASE REPLY TO:

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March 4, 2025

The Honorable Bryan Steil
Chairman
Committee on House Administration
1309 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Joe Morelle
Ranking Member
Committee on House Administration
1309 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Committee on House Administration Full Committee Hearing, "Member Day: Committee on House Administration."

I submit the following statement in support of H.R. 723, the Protect American Election Administration Act of 2025. H.R. 723 would build upon existing federal election administration laws within the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). More specifically, this legislation would make it illegal for election administration entities to solicit, receive, or expend any payment or donation of funds, property, or personal services from a private entity to administer an election for federal office. The only exception to this prohibition would be for the acceptance and use of space to be used as a polling place or early voting site.

During recent elections, especially the 2020 election, election administration in the United States was politically influenced because of multi-millions in private spending by private individuals with political agendas. In return, the private funds expended by many election administration offices were used to implement insecure voting methods, harvest or cure ballots, and conduct extensive outreach campaigns to benefit the donors' preferred candidates. These funds were targeted in Democratic counties to increase turnout in areas that would be beneficial to Democratic candidates.

H.R. 723 would block the private takeover of government election administration, protect states' preferred voting methods, prevent funding for ballot harvesting or curing, stop the usage of election infrastructure for ideologically motivated voter outreach campaigns, and rebuild Americans' confidence in nonpartisan election administration.

I urge the Committee on House Administration to give proper consideration to H.R. 723, the Protect American Election Administration Act of 2025.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Cole", is positioned above a horizontal line.

TOM COLE

Member of Congress