

The Delray Democrat

A Christmas Grift for the Nation*

Rob Resnick

The Trump campaign and many of his MAGA supporters continue to push the false and ridiculous narrative that by some mysterious conspiracy Democrats stole the election from him. Using the slogan, “Stop the Steal,” Trump has raised over \$200 million dollars in the month since election day and he is still going. While some equate Trump’s blatantly dishonest attacks on the election as a modern-day coup (and they are clearly an attack on our democracy), others recognize it as just part of Trump’s ongoing pattern of criminality. He is using the election and the misplaced passion of his followers to steal from them.

Trump’s attempts to literally steal the election from Joe Biden are epically failing, which is critical for the nation to see. Trump’s team knows he did not win the election and that they cannot use the courts to change what is a clear and incontrovertible outcome. Their aim is to moderate the demonstrable mental health challenges that resulted in his refusal to concede the race and his desperate attempts to feel relevant and powerful. More importantly, they are using this quixotic battle just to raise large sums of money. While most people wonder why Trump continues to wage unwinnable fights and has already lost each of the contested states three times over, he is winning the cash game.

Lax regulations, made even weaker by the Supreme Court in Citizens United, allow PACs to do almost anything with little check on their activities. Trump is heavily soliciting money from millions of small donors across the country (the big money has long abandoned his folly) through one of his PACs. Predominantly, these supporters believe they are directly supporting efforts to fight the election results. It is bad enough that these uninformed individuals have been exploited into rabid fervor, perhaps forever believing, albeit completely unfounded, that there was something untoward with the election, but they are also being duped into donating. In order to actually send any money to the election fights or to the RNC, they must donate over \$5,000. Everything below \$5,000 per gift goes to Trump’s personal PAC. Remember, these are small donors who will not come near \$5,000, thus none will actually be supporting the election challenges they intended to back.

There are widespread questions and concerns over what Trump can and will do with this incredible amount of money (that he continues to raise). The Trump family criminal enterprise has plenty of ideas. Trump is personally heavily in debt as are many of his properties and will manipulate the relative inability to regulate to use the money for his properties and to “pay” family members. Despite tighter controls, the campaign successfully squandered significant amounts of money paying Trump family members for purported services, and this would technically be even easier to do now. Whatever they do, you can bet it will be to further his personal interests, not those of the nation or his supporters.

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