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For Immediate Release

### **First Freedoms Files *Amicus* Brief in *Teigen v. WEC*, Showing Brief Massive Ballot Harvesting in 2020 Election**

First Freedoms Foundation has filed an *amicus* brief in the Wisconsin Supreme Court on behalf of national election integrity organization True the Vote.

Authored by constitutional attorneys James Bopp, Jr. and First Freedoms General Counsel Michael Dean, the brief supports plaintiffs in *Teigen v. WEC*, a lawsuit brought by Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty alleging that the Wisconsin Elections Commission (“WEC”) violated state law in 2020 by advising local clerks that *anyone* could collect absentee ballots and deliver them to drop boxes.

The state supreme court’s decision will be pivotal. As the federal Court of Appeals has said, “Absentee voting is to voting in person as a take-home exam is to a proctored one.”

The First Freedoms brief features research from a Special Report on the November 2020 election produced by True the Vote and sponsored by First Freedoms.

The Report analyzes cellphone data collected in Milwaukee-area communities in the two weeks before the election.

Although data showed over 53,000 visits, True the Vote analyzed only those phones that visited boxes 20 times or more and NGOs 5 or more times in that period. The Report shows that 107 of those persons went to drop-boxes a total of 2,824 times – some as many as 10-15 times per day.

Worse, the boxes were unmanned by officials, and Milwaukee and 15 other area municipalities failed to provide or keep any video surveillance at all.

Attorney Dean stated, “WEC and other defendants repeat the familiar talking points that the *Teigen* plaintiffs presented no evidence that collectors and ballot boxes were used for ballot harvesting. True the Vote’s research provides that evidence.”

The *amicus* brief cites tax returns and other information showing that the boxes and other election-related activities were funded with over \$10 Million in grants to Wisconsin municipalities from the Mark Zuckerberg-funded Center for Tech and Civic Life (CTCL).

Over \$9 Million in CTCL grants went to reliably Democratic cities. \$8.8 Million went to Milwaukee, Madison, Green Bay, Racine and Kenosha, with \$4.8 Million expended in Dane and Milwaukee Counties alone.

The *amicus* brief explains that allocating grants almost exclusively to heavily Democratic cities created a partisan advantage, contrary to federal law governing tax-exempt charitable organizations.

In that way, CTCL and local officials achieved a decisive partisan result by circumventing the tax code and evading Wisconsin campaign finance laws using massive, unreported soft money expenditures that only the super-wealthy can afford.

True the Vote will be releasing more research data on Wisconsin ballot harvesting operations in the near future.

On Thursday, March 24, at 10:00 a.m., True the Vote president Catherine Engelbrecht, technical expert Gregg Phillips, and Attorney Bopp will testify before the Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections this Thursday at the State Capitol.

Attorneys Bopp and Dean have litigated numerous election and campaign finance cases in Wisconsin. Among other victories, they litigated the 2014 federal decision *Wisconsin Right to Life v. Barland*, which declared Wisconsin’s campaign finance law unconstitutional, ending the secret John Doe investigation against Gov. Walker and other state organizations and leaders.