

Stacey Abrams' Dark Money Machine Just Got Hit with the Largest Ethics Fine in Georgia History

By James Conrad



Campaign finance violations are nothing new in American politics. When they reach historic proportions, however, voters deserve to know exactly how their democracy is being undermined.

Election integrity remains a cornerstone of our democratic process. Indeed, transparency in campaign funding serves as a vital safeguard against corruption and undue influence. In Georgia, that safeguard was put to the test – and the result sends a powerful message about accountability.

The New Georgia Project, founded by failed Democratic gubernatorial candidate Stacey Abrams, has been ordered to pay a staggering **\$300,000** fine for massive violations during the 2018 election cycle. This is the largest campaign finance penalty ever imposed in Georgia's history.

Let that sink in – \$300,000. That's not just a slap on the wrist. Instead, it's a wake-up call for every organization thinking they can skirt campaign finance laws.

The Investigation Revealed

The Georgia Ethics Commission's investigation uncovered a startling web of financial misconduct. The organization admitted to 16 separate violations of state campaign finance laws. **This includes failure to disclose approximately \$4.2 million in contributions and \$3.2 million in expenditures.**

“This certainly represents the largest fine imposed in the history of Georgia’s Ethics Commission, but it also appears to be the largest ethics fine ever imposed by any state ethics commission in the country related to an election and campaign finance case,” said the Georgia Ethics Commission. David Emadi, the commission’s executive director, didn’t mince words about the severity of the violations. “This represents the largest and most significant instance of an organization illegally influencing our statewide elections in Georgia that we have ever discovered,” he stated. If you’re wondering why election integrity matters, this is exactly why.

The violations weren’t isolated incidents. The organization’s activities included undisclosed canvassing operations, campaign literature distribution, and social media engagement – all aimed at boosting Abrams’ failed 2018 gubernatorial bid and other Democratic candidates.

Even more troubling, the investigation revealed similar activities continued into 2019. That year, the groups reportedly failed to disclose an additional \$646,000 in contributions. They also didn’t disclose \$174,000 in spending while advocating for a ballot initiative.

The organization’s leadership chain raises additional questions. After Abrams’ departure in 2017, Senator Raphael Warnock took the helm as CEO from 2017 to 2019, though his office claims he wasn’t involved in compliance decisions.

Implications for Election Integrity

For those keeping score at home, that's millions in hidden spending finally brought to light. And the implications stretch far beyond Georgia's borders.

Rick Thompson, vice chairman of the ethics commission, captured the gravity of the situation. "Organizations attempting to keep their election spending secret is shameful and does a disservice to our elections and voters," he said. "To continually stall and not cooperate with our investigation is extremely disheartening." The fine's unprecedented size sends a clear message about the consequences of circumventing campaign finance laws.

"I think this sends a pretty clear message to the parties, to the public and to potential bad actors moving forward that if you break the law to influence our elections, we're going to be diligent in our pursuit," Emadi emphasized.

This case sets a crucial precedent for campaign finance enforcement nationwide. Indeed, the outcome serves as a stark reminder that no organization – regardless of political affiliation – stands above the law.

The message is clear: When groups attempt to bypass transparency requirements and hide their political spending from voters, they'll face consequences that match the severity of their actions.

For conservatives who have long championed electoral integrity and campaign finance transparency, this landmark fine represents a victory for accountability in our democratic process. It's additionally a warning to those who would attempt to circumvent it.

Many of us saw through Abrams all along. In the end, this just goes to show that Stacey Abrams has always been as crooked as they come!