



Written by [Veronika Kyrylenko](#) on July 7, 2026

Trump Allies Accused of Using Freedom 250 as a Cash and Data Operation

A new House Democratic staff report accuses President Donald Trump and his allies of using Freedom 250 to turn America's 250th anniversary celebration into a vehicle for political control, donor access, private enrichment, and data collection.

The central claim is direct:

This interim report documents how the machinery built for a national commemoration was converted, deliberately and over a period of months, into an apparatus for raising and spending money in service of the President's ego, political ideology, and pet projects.



AP Images

As a result, "this anniversary has been hijacked and perverted into a hotbed of corruption and self-enrichment," the report claims.

The accusations are serious. They include allegations of potential wire fraud, charitable solicitation fraud, violations of District of Columbia charity law, foreign emoluments concerns, donor deception, political data harvesting, and the steering of federal money to Trump-aligned contractors.

The 55-page document, released last Thursday by Democrats on the House Natural Resources Committee, is not a court finding. It is an interim Democratic staff [report issued](#) by the office of Ranking Member Jared Huffman (D-Calif.) It relies on confidential disclosures from sources interviewed by Committee Democrats, internal Freedom 250 documents and talking points, sworn hearing testimony, written responses from the National Park Foundation and the National Forest Foundation, public records, and press reports.

Democrats have an obvious political interest in the issue. But the core concern is not merely partisan. If public funds, charitable structures, donor relationships, federal branding, and presidential access were indeed routed through a politically controlled anniversary vehicle, the matter warrants scrutiny.

The Two Commissions

Congress [created](#) the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission in 2016 to plan the anniversary. Known as America250 Foundation, the commission was supposed to keep the anniversary above partisan control. It was comprised "of representatives from federal agencies and the private sector, as well as Democratic and Republican Members of Congress," says the report.

That structure apparently changed after Trump returned to office. The White House created "Task Force 250" through [Executive Order 14189](#). The order made Trump and Vice President JD Vance the



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chair and vice chair.

The report quotes Freedom 250 documents from December 2025 describing the new entity as “the official public-private partnership for this historic initiative.” The documents also said Freedom 250 would lead “the delivery of the President’s national signature events,” including the Great American State Fair, Patriot Games, [UFC 250 Fight](#), and a National Prayer Event.

The White House then ostensibly pressed America250 to accept this programming. One source said America250 faced pressure to turn its events into “Trump rallies.” Trump later “confirmed as much on TruthSocial.” When America250 resisted, the White House moved around it, creating “a replacement: [Freedom 250 LLC](#).”

The fight also involved money. In a section titled “Fleecing Congressional Appropriations,” the report says America250 initially planned to seek \$100 million in federal funding, then increased the request to \$150 million. The understanding, apparently, was that \$100 million would support America250 programming and \$50 million would support White House programming. But the report says America250 later received far less than expected, while Freedom 250 “captured the funding America250 had expected.” It also says \$10 million in federal museum funds were transferred from America250 to the National Park Foundation “for the express purpose of financing [Freedom 250’s Freedom Trucks](#).”

Donor Confusion

Freedom 250 was registered in Delaware and the District of Columbia in October 2025. The White House lodged it [inside](#) the National Park Foundation, the nonprofit partner of the National Park Service. The report says this gave the new entity charitable credibility, donor access, and less public disclosure than the congressional commission.

The most serious allegations involve donors:

Freedom 250 may have conducted wire fraud by luring unsuspecting donors who intended to support the congressionally chartered foundation and giving them Freedom 250 bank information instead.

If true, the conduct could be a violation of federal and District of Columbia law. The document also cites “potential wire fraud and charitable solicitation fraud under federal law” and possible charitable solicitation violations in the District.

Moreover, Freedom 250 allegedly pressured America250 donors to redirect their money to the new Trump-backed entity. Some donors allegedly pulled back from earlier commitments to America250, while others asked to remain anonymous, “fearing reprisal from the Trump administration.”

The report also says Freedom 250 misled artists about the Great American State Fair concert. Rapper Young MC and country singer Martina McBride were among the performers who said they were duped and later withdrew from the event:

All the artists who pulled out criticized the event’s organizers for presenting the performance as a “nonpolitical and nonpartisan” event, alleging that their agents and management were misled when they booked the event.



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Access, Foreign Money, and Davos

The Democrats also accuse Freedom 250 of monetizing access to Trump:

Presidential access was sold to those willing to pay for it.

It says sponsorship packages started at \$500,000 and exceeded \$10 million. They allegedly offered VIP access, speaking roles, private receptions, and a “historic photo opportunity” with Trump.

The National Park Foundation told Committee Democrats that it does not accept foreign donations and that Freedom 250 cannot do so either. But Freedom 250 leaders appeared to openly court foreign support:

At Davos, Freedom 250 CEO Keith Krach emphasized that the effort is “not a government campaign” but a “public-private movement” intended to engage “allies, partners, and institutions around the world.” [Addressing](#) global leaders directly, Krach asked not how they would observe America’s 250th anniversary, but “how will you shape a moment that will influence American leadership for the next generation.”

The report quotes Under Secretary of State Sarah Rogers, who asked how individuals, organizations, and foreign governments at Davos could become involved. Krach replied, “We would love to work with you.” He added,

And what could be funner [sic] than marketing America? Or really, marketing freedom.

The report then suggests Freedom 250’s foreign fundraising was in violation of the Constitution.

It says the group’s “tiered packages promise its largest donors private audiences with the President.” For foreign contributors, that promise “turns the semiquincentennial into a marketplace for foreign influence.” The concern centers on the [Foreign Emoluments Clause](#) of the U.S. Constitution, which bars the president and other federal officials from accepting any present, emolument, office, or title from a foreign state without congressional consent. At the same time, the Department of justice (DOJ) has long read the clause broadly, as a prohibition on federal officials receiving profit or benefit from a foreign state unless Congress approves it. On that basis, foreign money routed into Trump-related “vanity projects ... would clearly violate the Constitution.”

Contracts and Political Operatives

Several Trump campaign figures ostensibly sit at the center of the structure, including Meredith O’Rourke, Chris LaCivita, Justin Caporale, and Brad Parscale. The document says they “played key roles in sidelining America250 and engineering Freedom 250.”

[Event Strategies Inc.](#), a firm tied to Caporale, receives particular attention. ESI helped plan Army 250 before America250 fired the company in December 2025. The company also received an indefinite master contract worth up to \$100 million. Since the beginning of 2025, ESI has received 18 federal contract awards totaling almost \$40 million, according to the report. At least six were tied directly to semiquincentennial events and totaled more than \$17 million.

The report does not prove that every contract was improper. But it argues the structure let federal



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money move toward firms tied to Trump's political operation without enough disclosure.

Data Harvesting

The report's section on data harvesting raises another set of concerns. First of all, users who visit [250.gov](#) are redirected to [freedom250.org](#):

The page that handles registration for Freedom 250 events, [www.events.freedom250.org](#), is powered by Campaign Nucleus, a firm founded by Brad Parscale, the digital operative behind President Trump's 2016 and 2020 campaigns. It collects each registrant's name, state, zip code, and mobile number for Freedom 250 events.

The data may have political uses:

When a person signs up to attend an event, Campaign Nucleus uses artificial intelligence to analyze that person's data and assign them a score to better identify and target "persuadable" voters.

The report cites a free FIFA World Cup Fan Zone on the National Mall as an example. It says thousands of fans may have given personal information to a partisan political vendor while signing up for a government-branded public event.

Unanswered Questions

The report closes by stressing that key facts remain unknown:

Significant questions remain unanswered, beginning with the complete donor lists and the ultimate disposition of the funds that Freedom 250 has raised and spent.

Its final conclusion is broader than one event: "Freedom 250 is a blueprint, not a one-time abuse." The Democrats cautioned the same model can capture a trusted nonprofit, solicit money from interested donors, move contracts to political allies, and collect data from the public.

Committee Democrats say their inquiry will continue. Meanwhile, NPR reported that "Republicans on the committee have so far refused to conduct any oversight on the issue, despite Democrats raising concerns at [previous hearings](#)."

Huffman warned that, if Democrats reclaim the House in November, they could pursue subpoenas or criminal referrals where warranted.



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