



## **The SHIELD Act of 2019**

- ❖ **Creates a duty to report illicit offers of campaign assistance from foreign governments and their agents.**

Most Americans already know that if a foreign adversary reaches out about interfering in our elections, you should report that contact. Department of Justice investigators and others identified more than a hundred contacts between Trump associates and Russian nationals or WikiLeaks. In fact, the Trump campaign welcomed the help, and sought to hide it from the American people.

The SHIELD Act requires political campaigns, parties, and political committees like PACs and Super PACs to report attempts by foreign governments, foreign political parties, and their agents to influence our elections to authorities at the Federal Election Commission (FEC) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). This ensures violations can incur criminal or civil liability. The SHIELD Act also requires campaigns to establish compliance mechanisms.

- ❖ **Helps prevent foreign interference in future elections by improving transparency of online political advertisements.**

Russia attempted to influence the 2016 presidential election by buying and placing political ads on platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and Google. The content and purchasers of those online advertisements were a mystery to the public because of outdated laws that have failed to keep up with evolving technology. The SHIELD Act takes steps to prevent hidden, foreign disinformation campaigns in our elections by ensuring that political ads sold online are covered by the same rules as ads sold on TV, radio, and satellite.

- ❖ **Closes loopholes that allow foreign nationals and foreign governments to spend in U.S. elections.**

Strengthens the foreign money ban by prohibiting foreign nationals from participating in decision-making about contributions or expenditures by corporations, PACs, Super PACs, and other entities and closes other avenues of foreign spending to influence elections, including digital advertising. Closes other gaps in the law that allow foreign governments to influence American elections.

❖ **Restricts exchange of campaign information between candidates and foreign governments and their agents.**

President Trump's campaign officials shared campaign polling data with a person associated with Russian intelligence and with the expectation it would be shared with an oligarch linked to the Russian government. The SHIELD Act closes this gap in the law by deeming the offering of non-public campaign material to foreign governments and those linked with foreign governments and their agents as an illegal solicitation of support.

❖ **Prohibits deceptive practices about voting procedures.**

Independent experts have identified voter suppression tactics the Russians used on social media, including malicious misdirection designed to create confusion about voting rules. The SHIELD Act incorporates the Deceptive Practices and Voter Intimidation Prevention Act to prohibit anyone from providing false information about voting rules and qualifications for voting, provides mechanisms for disseminating correct information, and establishes strong penalties for voter intimidation.