

In November of 2018, the Founder of Engage The Right, Laurie Zapp, with the help of volunteers, began researching South Carolina's active registered voter logs. Their focus was on deceased individuals whose names remained on these logs as active registered voters. To date, they have found 4,000 names and some of these individuals passed away as far back as 2010!

On April 8, 2021, Laurie testified to the SC House Legislative Oversight Committee about these findings. After her testimony, Executive Director Marci Andino testified. During Ms. Andino's testimony, she was asked what tools or programs the South Carolina Election Commission (SEC) uses to remove names of deceased voters, as well as names of individuals who move, from the voter logs. She replied that South Carolina uses an organization called Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC), records from the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), as well as The Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC).

After the testimony on April 8, Laurie researched information on ERIC. The mission of ERIC is **“assisting states to improve the accuracy of America’s voter rolls and increase access to voter registration for all eligible citizens.”** States enrolled in, and using, ERIC receive reports identifying voters who have moved within their state or out of state, voters who have died, duplicate registrations within the state, and potentially eligible voters not yet registered.

Reading about ERIC, most would probably agree their mission is an important and valuable one and this would be a great organization to be a part of. **But is it?** Further research prompts the question: Is the purpose of this organization to help maintain voter logs, or is this just another political organization with multiple ties to Democrats and organizations in power?

The links below are provided for you to learn more about ERIC. If your state uses ERIC, Engage The Right suggests you do further research. Some important questions to ask: When did your state join ERIC? Use the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and request the signed agreement between ERIC and the Board of Directors on the ERIC website. How much has your state paid to use ERIC, how much of a grant was provided to your state from The PEW Charitable Trusts, how many people are removed from active voter logs due to information provided from ERIC (ie, people who move out of the state, deceased individuals, people registered in more than one state)?

### **About ERIC**

ERIC was created in 2012 by the Brennan Center for Justice from a grant provided from The Pew Charitable Trusts. ERIC is a nonprofit organization. As a member, each state gets one member who becomes the Board of Director and governs ERIC within the state.

<https://ericstates.org>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electronic\\_Registration\\_Information\\_Center](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electronic_Registration_Information_Center)

To research Brennan Center for Justice and their ties to Democrats and liberal organizations, go to <https://www.brennancenter.org>

When ERIC first launched in 2012, 7 states joined: Colorado, Delaware, Maryland, Nevada, Utah, Virginia, and Washington. As of April 2021, these states have also joined: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wisconsin (the District of Columbia is also a member).

### **Developers**

*John Lindback*, currently retired, was the first executive director of ERIC and part of the working group that created ERIC. He was a senior officer for Elections Initiatives at The Pew Charitable Trusts, Director of Elections in Oregon's Secretary of State's office for eight years, Chief of Staff for the Alaska Lieutenant Governor, President of the National Association of State Election Directors, and served on the US Election Assistance Commission Advisory Board. He was also a lobbyist for The Pew Charitable Trusts.

<https://electionacademy.lib.umn.edu/2017/08/04/electionlineweekly-exit-interview-with-john-lindback/>  
<https://lobbying.wi.gov/Mobile/LobbyistInformation/2009REG/PrincipalsRepresented/4618>

*Jeff Jones*, a data scientist, created ERIC's software. Prior to this, he is credited for solving complex big data problems for companies and governments. In 2005, he sold his company to IBM where he then worked as an IBM Fellow and Chief Scientist of Context Computing. At IBM he "led a team focused on creating next-generation AI for Entity Resolution technology, code-named G2." "At IBM, G2 was deployed in many innovative ways, including modernizing U.S. voter registration through a joint effort with Pew Charitable Trust." In 2016, Jeff started a new company called Senzing where he is CEO and Chief Strategist. According to the Federal Election Commission website, Jeff has given donations to the following Democrat candidates: Harry Reid, Dick Durbin, Obama for America, and Bernie Sanders to name a few.

<http://www.jeffjonas.com/bio.html>  
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/jeff-jonas>  
[https://www.fec.gov/data/receipts/individual-contributions/?contributor\\_name=jeff+jonas&contributor\\_city=las+vegas&min\\_date=01%2F01%2F1990&max\\_date=12%2F31%2F2022&contributor\\_state=NV](https://www.fec.gov/data/receipts/individual-contributions/?contributor_name=jeff+jonas&contributor_city=las+vegas&min_date=01%2F01%2F1990&max_date=12%2F31%2F2022&contributor_state=NV)

*David Becker* is the Executive Director and Founder of the Center for Election Innovation & Research (CEIR). Prior to founding CEIR, he was Director of the elections program at The Pew Charitable Trusts. As the lead for Pew's analysis and advocacy on elections issues, David spearheaded development of the innovative Electronic Registration Information Center, or ERIC. He also directed Pew's partnerships with state government agencies, and with private sector partners like Google, IBM, Facebook, and others. Before joining Pew, David worked for the Department of Justice where he served as a trial attorney. David is still listed on ERIC's website as a non voting Board Member. During his time at the DOJ, he was accused by coworkers as being unable to be nonpartisan in his job. This quote appears in the following

article, “In his role with the DOJ, he was supposed to be nonpartisan,” van Spakovsky said of Becker, “but his emails uncovered in the Boston investigation revealed nasty, disparaging remarks about Republicans. Very unethical and unprofessional. I would never hire or trust him.”

<https://legalnewsline.com/stories/555822683-mark-zuckerberg-beneficiaries-promoting-fair-elections-not-exactly-non-partisan-as-advertised>

Becker’s feelings regarding the 2020 election: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/election-security-expert-david-becker-on-trumps-election-challenges-amid-assault-on-capitol/>

<https://theamericanleader.org/leader/david-becker-making-elections-more-secure/>

<https://electioninnovation.org/our-team/david-becker/>

<https://electioninnovation.org>

### **Funding**

ERIC has been provided grants from The Pew Charitable Trusts. They were given a grant of \$794,527 in 2012, \$138,879 in 2013, and \$19,691 in 2014. According to the website, the states fund ERIC. Once signing on to use ERIC, the state pays a one-time membership fee of \$25,000. Thereafter, they pay required annual dues.

### **Understanding Pew**

Established in 1948, The Pew Charitable Trusts is a “global nongovernmental organization that seeks to improve public policy, inform the public, and invigorate civic life.” Pew Research Center is a nonpartisan fact tank that “informs the public about the issues, attitudes and trends shaping the world. They conduct public opinion polling, demographic research, content analysis and other data-driven social science research.” This organization states they do not take policy positions. In 2004, The Pew Charitable Trusts established the Pew Research Center as a subsidiary to house its information initiatives. Pew Research Center is a nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization and a subsidiary of The Pew Charitable Trusts, their primary funder.

### **The Pew Charitable Trusts Donations**

The below screenshots and information came from:

<https://www.opensecrets.org/orgs/pew-charitable-trusts/totals?id=D000055375>

In 2020, PEW gave 99.5% of their money to Democrat candidates and not even 1% to Republican candidates.

### Contributions by Party of Recipient <sup>1</sup>

Cycle	Total	Democrats	% to Dems	Republicans	% to Repubs
2020	\$261,918	\$245,941	99.45%	\$1,356	0.55%
2018	\$86,772	\$82,350	96.77%	\$2,750	3.23%
2016	\$78,387	\$73,319	94.07%	\$4,618	5.93%
2014	\$49,714	\$44,750	91.33%	\$4,250	8.67%
2012	\$96,193	\$85,293	89.41%	\$10,100	10.59%
2010	\$16,250	\$14,700	92.16%	\$1,250	7.84%
2008	\$37,749	\$37,199	98.67%	\$500	1.33%

**NOTE: Organizations themselves cannot contribute to candidates and party committees.** Figures on this page include contributions and spending by [affiliates](#).

Recipient	Total	From Individuals <sup>1</sup>	From Organization <sup>1</sup>	Type <sup>1</sup>
Biden, Joe	\$73,234	\$73,234	\$0	Candidate (D-PRES)
Gideon, Sara	\$13,605	\$13,605	\$0	Candidate (D-MES2)
Peters, Gary	\$11,189	\$11,189	\$0	Candidate (D-MIS1)
Harrison, Jaime	\$9,821	\$9,821	\$0	Candidate (D-SCS2)
Bullock, Steve	\$9,650	\$9,650	\$0	Candidate (D-MTS2)
Ossoff, Jon	\$9,062	\$9,062	\$0	Candidate (D-GAS1)

# Pew Charitable Trusts

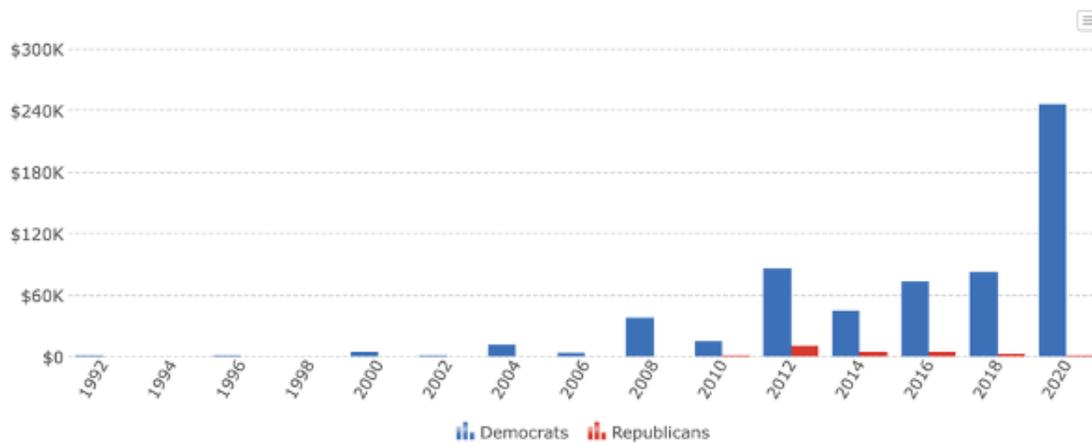
Summary Totals Recipients Congressional Committees Lobbying News Members Invested

Search for another organization

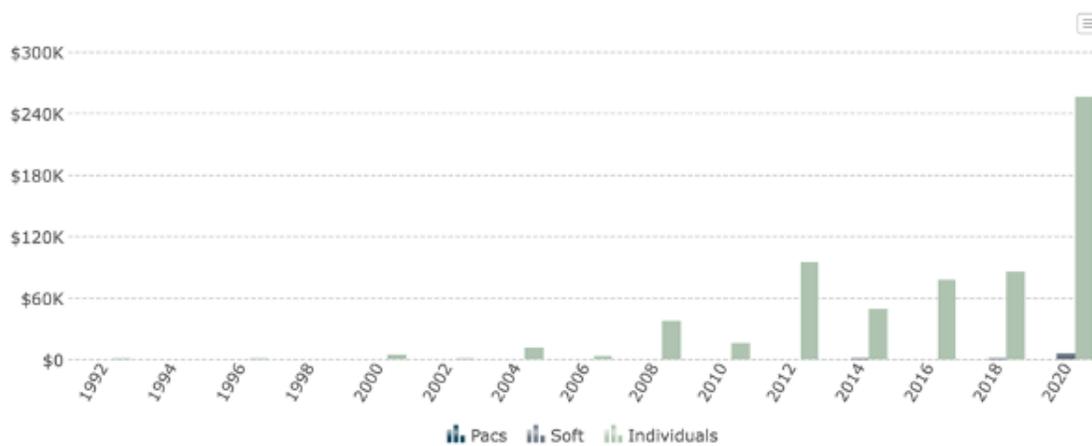


## Contributions

### Total Contributions by Party of Recipient:



### Total Contributions by Source of Funds:



## Pew Grants Provided to States Using ERIC

Once a state becomes a member of ERIC, it must send a mailing to unregistered state potential voters to encourage voter registration. The state can receive grant money from Pew to achieve this task.

South Carolina Election Commission received \$177,000 from The Pew Charitable Trusts.  
<https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2016/01/08/mailing-assistance-grants-available-to-new-eric-participants>  
[https://ericstates.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/ERIC\\_Bylaws\\_01-2020.pdf](https://ericstates.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/ERIC_Bylaws_01-2020.pdf)

### **Learn More About Pew**

<https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/>  
<https://www.influencewatch.org/non-profit/pew-charitable-trusts/>  
<https://www.influencewatch.org/non-profit/pew-research-center/>

Do you feel that both ERIC and The Pew Charitable Trusts are bipartisan organizations? Is your state using ERIC?

Following is some additional information about South Carolinians as a member of ERIC.

### **When did South Carolina join ERIC?**

South Carolina joined ERIC in June of 2018.

### **Since joining ERIC, how much has South Carolina paid into ERIC?**

\$25,000 one-time membership fee paid June 2018  
\$15,895 membership fee (July 2018 - December 2018)  
\$14,306 membership fee (January 2019 - June 2019)  
\$29,296 membership fee (July 2019 - June 2020)  
\$28,417 membership fee (July 2020 - June 2021)  
\$28,417 membership fee (July 2021 - June 2022)  
Total: \$141,331

### **Who sits on ERIC's board from South Carolina?**

Marci Andino, Executive Director of South Carolina Election Commissions

### **What we learned from Ms. Andino's and Chris Whitmire's testimony on June 30, 2021.**

Watch the testimony - <https://www.scstatehouse.gov/video/archives.php?key=11426&part=1>

As of June 30, 2021, the South Carolina Election Commission has received 54,455 names of deceased individuals still listed as active registered voters. DHEC provided 45,000 names, 6,600 were from county boards or other sources, and 2,600 were provided by ERIC. (This is around the 2:01:00 time frame in the testimony.)

Around the 3:03:00 mark of Ms. Andino's testimony, we learned that of all the modules ERIC has to offer, **not all have been implemented**. In 2020, South Carolina implemented deaths, which is still an ongoing process.

Around the 4:15:25 mark Chris Whitmire stated, "ERIC death removals were implemented in spring of 2019." Remember, names of only 2,600 of the 54,455 only were provided by ERIC.

Around the 5:19:00 mark, Chris Whitmire is forced to admit that ERIC has access to South Carolina's entire voter registration list.

### **What can South Carolina voters do if you agree we need to stop using ERIC?**

South Carolina residents are encouraged to email, write, and call state legislatures who sit on the House Legislative Oversight Committee. Information can be found at:

<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/committee.php?chamber=H#leg>

### **Did you know?**

Georgia is a member of ERIC. Brad Raffensperger, Secretary of State, announced in June of 2021, that his office identified nearly 100,000 names that needed to be removed to keep the voter logs accurate.

<https://nypost.com/2021/06/20/georgia-removing-nearly-100k-outdated-names-off-voter-rolls/>

Pennsylvania is a member of ERIC. A lawsuit had to be filed for Pennsylvania to follow state laws to remove deceased people from the active voter logs. Why would Pennsylvania purposely not remove over 21,000 names of deceased individuals? These people were finally removed in April 2021.

<https://dailycaller.com/2021/04/09/officials-remove-dead-people-voting-lists-pennsylvania/>

Michigan, a member of ERIC, removed 177,000 from their active registered voter logs in February of 2021 AFTER THE ELECTION because of a legal case.

<https://freebeacon.com/elections/michigan-removes-177000-voters-from-voter-rolls-after-legal-challenge/>

**If ERIC is efficient at providing names of those who move or are deceased, why were all these names STILL on the active voter logs PRIOR to the 2020 election? Is ERIC a useful organization that states need to pay into annually, or is this just another political organization with ties to the Democrats and liberals in power? You decide. If you agree that your state should opt out of ERIC, take action and reach out to your state legislatures TODAY!**

# Electronic Registration Information Center

## South Carolina joined ERIC in 2018



### Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC)

### The Inspiration

The Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) is a non-profit organization with the sole mission of assisting states to improve the accuracy of America's voter rolls and increase access to voter registration for all eligible citizens. ERIC is governed and managed by states who choose to join, and was formed in 2012 with assistance from The Pew Charitable Trusts.

### Which States Are Members Of ERIC?

As of March 2020 Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. The District of Columbia is also a member. (30 states plus D.C.)

### Who Controls ERIC?

The states. The chief elections official from each member state designates a Member Representative to the ERIC Board of Directors. Each state's Member Representative serves as a voting member of the board.

## Marci Andino

Executive Director, South Carolina  
State Board of Elections

### Who Pays For ERIC Operations?

The member states. Each state pays annual dues, which are determined by a formula approved by the ERIC membership. The formula includes citizen voting age population as a factor. Large states pay more than small states. The annual budget for FY 2019-20 is approximately \$947,000.

### What Reports Do States Receive From ERIC?

Each member state receives reports that show voters who have moved within their state, voters who have moved out of state, voters who have died, duplicate registrations in the same state and individuals who are potentially eligible to vote but are not yet registered.

