

At the last BOE Board Meeting, a proposed future resolution was discussed to ban acceptance of funds from NGOs to facilitate the election process. Some Board members seem to support the acceptance of NGO funds so long as their use is politically neutral. This “neutral use” standard is improper and puts the Board in a precarious position of politically judging NGO contributors. For example, some Board members feel it was ok to accept the funds from NGO supported by Mark Zuckerberg (Zuckerbucks) since they were not used for political purposes. However, under this standard then, would the Board accept funds from an NGO supported by “white supremacists”, “abdication of the state of Israel”, “pro-choice” or “pro life” or other ultra-right or left wing organizations, just because use of the funds would be politically neutral? I would hope not, but by rejecting an NGO for any reason puts the Board in the position of having to make a political decision. Political decisions by the Board would threaten its impartiality and the diminish the public’s perception of its ability to facilitate fair elections. For these reasons, I support this ban and urge the BOE to approve it.

public comment submitted by Charles Christopher Gregorski, 5/15/2023