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Lincoln Project founders have ties to Russia and tax troubles, docs reveal

By [Ebony Bowden](#)

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Steve Schmidt, from left, John Weaver, Rick Wilson and George Conway

Getty Images (3); AP

WASHINGTON — The founders of the Lincoln Project, a headline-grabbing anti-Trump political action committee formed by GOP operatives who describe the president as a “crook” and “huckster,” have their own checkered dealings with Russia and the tax man, documents obtained by The Post reveal.

Since its inception last November — announced with a blistering [New York Times op-ed](#) — the brainchild of George Conway, Steve Schmidt, Rick Wilson and John Weaver has raked in more than \$19.4 million, [according to FEC filings](#), and has needled President Trump repeatedly with provocative TV ads.

But the group — which the National Review on Monday [dubbed “The Grifter Project”](#) and Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas) [last week dismissed](#) as a “cabal of political consultants all in it for the money” — don’t exactly practice what they preach.

Co-founder Weaver, a political consultant known for his work on John McCain’s and John Kasich’s presidential campaigns, registered as a Russian foreign agent for uranium conglomerate TENEX in a six-figure deal last year, [filings with the Department of Justice show](#).

TENEX’s parent company is Rosatom, a Russian state-owned corporation that also owns Uranium One — the company that paid Bill Clinton \$500,000 in speaking fees and millions to the Clinton Foundation after then-President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton signed off on the [controversial merger in 2010](#).

Weaver backed out of the lobbying gig in May 2019 and [called it “a mistake”](#) in a tweet in which he denied having taken any money from TENEX.

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By Patrick Reilly

October 30, 2021 | 1:36am | Updated



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