

## Twitter Thread by Garance Franke-Ruta

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### **The investigation into what happened at the Capitol will need to include deep financial forensics to determine the extent to which it was an Astroturf Rebellion**

"In the days before a violent mob of Trump supporters stormed the U.S. Capitol building...President Trump's political apparatus worked behind the scenes with pro-Trump groups to plan and promote events in Washington, D.C., that ultimately led to Wednesday's attack on Congress."

"While the 'March to Save America' rally was publicly promoted as being organized by groups not directly tied to the president's team... behind the scenes White House staff and close allies of the president, including former Trump campaign staff, worked with the organizers"

"Since the November election, the president's campaign has significantly trimmed down its staff despite massive fundraising hauls, and has largely leaned on the behind-the-scenes help of outside groups like 'Women for America First' and 'Stop the Steal'."

If any money raised by Trump's campaign or PACs got funneled into the attack on the Capitol, or events leading up to it, we need to know.

Of course there's a Roger Stone angle... <https://t.co/Z4N6V5PMT4>

According to disinformation and extremist researchers, the Jan. 6 gathering will look similar to November's Million MAGA March — a mashup of garden-variety Trump supporters and more extreme members of the far right, with no apparent central organizing apparatus. Stop the Steal, a group affiliated with pro-Trump super PACs and allies of Trump adviser Roger Stone, has filed for permits and plans to protest outside the Capitol, but other groups have also claimed to be the true official planners.

"WildProtest, a subgroup of Stop the Steal, is asking attendees to gather by the north entrance of the Capitol....MAGA world's A-list names are also slated to speak, including Stone...Reps. Marjorie Taylor-Greene and Lauren Boebert and Joe Flynn, brother of...Michael Flynn."

"Militia groups like the Three Percenters, Proud Boys and Oath Keepers have also vowed to attend"

Here's a good pre-rally [@pbump](#) roundup on "Stop the Steal" organizer Ali Alexander, "a right-wing personality who has worked with a rogue's gallery of notorious characters in that world: Alex Jones, Roger Stone, Jacob Wohl, Laura Loomer" <https://t.co/bOYfQVNWWA>

Dark money is only dark when there are no potential crimes involved. Federal investigators should have the power to uncover who financed what in the wake of the attack on the Capitol. <https://t.co/ML9picHwu0>

NEW: A web of pro-Trump dark money groups organized the rally that led to the deadly Capitol Hill riot

- Women for America First hosted what they called a "caravan" to D.C. for the rally
- Pro-Trump vendor Event Strategies led production <https://t.co/wwPaiQLy5l>

— Brian Schwartz (@schwartzbCNBC) [January 9, 2021](#)

More dark-money groups involved: <https://t.co/30yO3MwFGP>

The organization that works to elect Republican state AG's -- many of whom joined the failed Texas lawsuit -- sent robocalls telling people to march on the Capitol ahead of Wednesday's unrest, [@NBCNews](#) reports. <https://t.co/hPVF4CM1Da>

— Bryan Lowry (@BryanLowry3) [January 9, 2021](#)

And of course let us not forget that Parler, where some of the most extreme insurrectionists organized and declared their plans, was funded by the same woman who backed Trump's 2016 bid <https://t.co/fJqmLg9upy>