

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE July 25, 2023 **CONTACT:** Juli Lucky media@alaskansforbetterelections.com

## Audio Evidence Reveals Link Between Church & Campaign

APOC Investigating Kelly Tshibaka, Preserve Democracy, Wellspring Ministry

ANCHORAGE—Alaskans for Better Elections today submitted to the Alaska Public Offices Commission (APOC) two supplemental filings, including audio recordings demonstrating <u>Kelly Tshibaka and Preserve Democracy</u> and <u>Art Mathias and Wellspring Ministry</u> violated campaign finance laws in attempting to repeal open primaries and ranked choice voting.

In the recordings from a February 9, 2023 event at Bell's Nursery

- <u>Tshibaka can be heard</u> confirming Preserve Democracy is "working in tandem" with Alaskans for Honest Elections; explaining it's "super important" to "get a counter message out there so that when [22AKHE is] on the ballot, we win; and urging Alaskans to help with Alaskans for Honest Elections' signature-gathering efforts at "Wellspring Church."
- <u>Mathias can be heard</u> saying, "Kelly, I just want to make sure everybody heard: next Thursday night, Wellspring Ministry–that's where you can actually sign the petition. So this is a fabulous turnout. I hope to see every one of you over there, 7 o clock, next Thursday where you can sign up"—which directly contradicts attorney Kevin Clarkson's recent claims that Wellspring Ministries "simply owns the building... and rents a mail depository and office presence to RCEA" and is "<u>not</u>engaged in promoting 22AKHE."

Last week, ABE filed an <u>APOC complaint</u> alleging Tshibaka, Preserve Democracy, and Alaskans for Honest Elections perpetrated more than a dozen campaign finance law violations—including failure to register as a ballot group and failure to report in-kind contributions to Alaskans for Honest Elections. Yesterday, APOC formally accepted the complaint, and notified the respondents they have 15 days to respond to the allegations. On July 12, APOC began investigating the <u>allegation</u> Matthias and Wellspring Ministries subsidized campaign activities without reporting.

ABE thanks APOC for promptly processing its complaint.