

**The IRS Proposed Rule – What We Know**  
*Prepared by the House Ways and Means Committee*

**We know that there was no confusion:**

- Before February 2010, the IRS was processing and approving Tea Party cases within three months without Washington, DC intervention.
- Tea Party cases were flagged due to “media attention” in February 2010, not as a result of any confusion as to how to interpret 501(c)(4) law.

**We learned that Treasury and the IRS had been working on these guidelines behind closed doors for years.**

- According to interviews with IRS employees, as early as 2011, work started on new 501(c)(4) regulations.
- A June 2012 email between Treasury officials and then-IRS Director of Tax Exempt Organizations Lois Lerner revealed that these potential regulations were being discussed “off-plan” – meaning that the plans for the regulations were not to be published on the public schedule.
- Under these proposed rules, activities such as candidate forums, get out the vote efforts, and voter registration would now be considered “political activity” for 501(c)(4) groups. It is notable to mention that these activities would not be considered political for 501(c)(3)s – who cannot engage in any political activity – or unions.

**Simply put, our investigation is not yet over, the document collection is not yet complete, the IRS and FBI have not interviewed a single victim.**

- Additionally, the Inspector General has not issued his final report from the investigation.
- The notion that the Administration would rush forward with rules intended to remove these groups from the public forum, is simply unacceptable.

**The Committee took an important step and passed legislation, the “STOP the IRS Act” (HR 3865), to prevent Treasury from implementing these rules for one year.**