



AGENDA DOCUMENT NO. 15-08-A

**MINUTES OF AN OPEN MEETING
OF THE
FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2015**

PRESENT:

Ann M. Ravel, Chair, presiding

Matthew S. Petersen, Vice Chairman

Lee E. Goodman, Commissioner

Caroline C. Hunter, Commissioner

Steven T. Walther, Commissioner

Ellen L. Weintraub, Commissioner

**Patricia Orrock, Chief Compliance Officer,
representing Alec Palmer, Staff Director**

Lisa J. Stevenson, Deputy General Counsel - Law

Shawn Woodhead Werth, Secretary and Clerk

Chair Ann M. Ravel called the Federal Election Commission to order in an open meeting at 10:07 A.M. on Thursday, January 15, 2015 with a quorum present. She asked everyone to enjoy the fortune cookies in the reception area in recognition of the great, fortunate New Year.

Chair Ravel recognized Vice Chairman Petersen who

MOVED to waive the rules on the late submission of documents in order to consider Agenda Document No. 15-03-A, Draft Advisory Opinion 2014-19, ActBlue.

The motion carried by a vote of 6-0 with Commissioners Goodman, Hunter, Petersen, Ravel, Walther, and Weintraub voting affirmatively for the decision.

I. CORRECTION AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Minutes for December 11, 2014
Agenda Document No. 15-01-A**

**Minutes for December 17, 2014
Agenda Document No. 15-04-A**

Chair Ravel recognized Vice Chairman Petersen who

MOVED to approve the minutes for the meeting held on December 11, 2014 as set forth in Agenda Document No. 15-01-A and the minutes for the meeting held on December 17, 2014 as set forth in Agenda Document No. 15-04-A.

The motion carried by a vote of 6-0 with Commissioners Goodman, Hunter, Petersen, Ravel, Walther, and Weintraub voting affirmatively for the decision.

II. 2015 MEETING DATES (JULY – DECEMBER)

Memorandum from Chair Ann M. Ravel dated January 8, 2015

Agenda Document No. 15-02-A

Chair Ravel introduced the matter.

Chair Ravel recognized Vice Chairman Petersen who

MOVED to approve Agenda Document No. 15-02-A, the meeting dates for July – December 2015.

The motion carried by a vote of 6-0 with Commissioners Goodman, Hunter, Petersen, Ravel, Walther, and Weintraub voting affirmatively for the decision.

III. DRAFT ADVISORY OPINION 2014-19

**ActBlue
by Melissa Flores, Esq. and Steven Gold, Esq.**

**Agenda Document No. 15-03-A (Draft A)
(Submitted Late)**

Chair Ravel recognized Mr. Gold and Ms. Flores, the requestor's counsel, who were available to answer Commissioners' questions.

Chair Ravel recognized Ms. Joanna Waldstreicher of the General Counsel's Office who presented the draft advisory opinion concerning the

application of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended, and the Commission regulations to ActBlue's request. ActBlue is a non-connected political committee that serves as an intermediary for contributions earmarked for specific candidates and political committees. It currently offers contributors the ability to make contributions that are earmarked for party nominees that have not yet been identified, known as nominee funds, and contributions earmarked for individuals who may become candidates but have not yet registered authorized committees, known as draft funds. ActBlue asks whether it may offer variations on nominee and draft funds which are intended to appeal to contributors who wish to support a female candidate for President in 2016.

Ms. Waldstreicher participated in the discussion that followed.

Chair Ravel recognized Vice Chairman Petersen who

MOVED to approve Agenda Document No. 15-03-A, and authorize the Office of General Counsel to make technical and conforming changes if necessary.

The motion carried by a vote of 6-0 with Commissioners Goodman, Hunter, Petersen, Ravel, Walther, and Weintraub voting affirmatively for the decision.

IV. DRAFT ADVISORY OPINION 2014-20

**Make Your Laws PAC, Inc.
by Sai, President and Treasurer**

This matter was held over to the next meeting at the request of the requestor.

V. REMARKS BY CHAIR ANN M. RAVEL

Chair Ravel stated that 2015 is important, because it is the Commission's 40th anniversary. She explained that the Agency's essential purpose is to protect our democracy by ensuring a level playing field, providing predictability and clarity to those involved in the political process, and disclosing who is behind political messages. She said that although the Commission exists to serve the public, the Commission has mainly heard from certain stakeholders with a direct interest in its actions and rarely has interacted with the public. Therefore, she asked staff to assess how to engage stakeholders and the public, address the effectiveness of these efforts, and provide recommendations for improvement. In this spirit, she noted she will continue the town hall meetings previously held by Commissioners Hunter and Goodman, and will encourage the public to express their views on campaign finance policy by submitting written comments and requests to testify at the February 11 public hearing by

midnight today, January 15. Chair Ravel said that, to date, the Commission has received over 17,000 written comments on this topic.

Chair Ravel noted that the Commission is lagging behind in internal technologies and in deciding which may be used in campaigns. Thus, she stated that the Commission must be kept abreast of technological innovations. To that end, she explained that the Commissioners will participate in a symposium in San Francisco on February 19 and 20, 2015 to learn about technology's impact on the future of campaigns and on civic engagement.

She said that she is committed to seeking common ground with her fellow Commissioners, as she did last year on the Citizens United/McCutcheon rulemaking, and hopes that the Commission will build on those efforts and provide clear guidance to the public and stakeholders about how to comply with the law.

Finally, she explained that she and Vice Chairman Petersen will hold meetings throughout 2015 to increase the amount of information provided to staff and, in turn, to gain their feedback. She emphasized that each Commission employee makes a valuable contribution to the Agency's work which is breathtakingly significant and important.

VI. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

**There being no further business to come before the Commission,
the meeting adjourned at 10:30 A.M.**

Signed:

**Ann M. Ravel
Chair of the Commission**

Attest:

**Shawn Woodhead Werth
Secretary and Clerk of the Commission**