From: donkenall@peoplepc.com
To: agencypro2008@fec.gov
Subject: Election concerns
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Dec. 26, 2008

Donald K. Allen, MS, DVM
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Stephen Gura, Deputy Associate General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20463

Dear Mr. Gura,

1. As an independent candidate for President during this year's election, it became painfully obvious to me (and to the other independents candidates I personally know) early in the campaign, that the national news media intended to totally ignore us. We received not one line of text or ten seconds of television or radio coverage. When we were able to access satellite radio talk show hosts, however, the response from the public was powerful. Americans are tired of the dominating two-party system that controls our government and are looking beyond Democrats and Republicans. If they remain unaware of our existence though, they believe there are only two valid choices.

Americans believe they elected our new President, but the fact is that national media elected him through classic Pavlovian conditioning. When you hear the name "Obama" 800 times a day, and the name "McCain" 500 times a day for nine months or more, the public will tend to vote in a ration of 8 to 5. It's a fact.

I also realized during this campaign, that there are American voters who truly believe that they have only two choices when voting for President. I had real difficulty getting a Manpower® employee I hired for petition work to understand that I was running for President as an independent. She truly could not grasp the fact that there were people other than the Republican and Democratic candidates that she could vote for. Perhaps this is due to teaching children in government classes that we have a two-party system, or that the two parties are all they ever hear about via our media. Whatever the reason, I believe she is the tip of an iceberg.

No matter how qualified, valid, viable, credible, and competent we are as independent candidates, we never had a chance due to the media blackout of our very existence. This is wrong. Time magazine is a classic example. If we had 1/1000 of the coverage they gave Obama, we might have been competitive. It's a fact that Joseph Kennedy bought the cover of Time to run a picture of his son, John F. Kennedy during his campaign. It's apparent that someone was buying Time again for this campaign. The media moguls determine what will be run in their publications, and if they tell the gatekeepers to keep us out, we will simply not exist.

I know there are many people who claim to run for office, but are obviously not serious about their efforts. Those that meet the FEC's requirements for official candidate status, however, should be listed as such, along with campaign websites, in national media either on a daily or weekly basis when the campaign is running. This would, at the very least, allow American voters an opportunity to explore the candidates' platforms and backgrounds.

2. Throughout this campaign the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN) blatantly disregarded the political activity restrictions placed on not-for-profit organizations to maintain their tax-exempt status. Several news stories pointed this out, but no government organization indicated any action to correct this violation. Being heavily funded by the federal government, this open support of a candidate is supposedly forbidden, yet it went on throughout the campaign. Many people I spoke with during my campaign expressed fear of losing their tax exempt status if they supported me because they are in not-for-profit 501(c)(3) private organizations. They thought that the FEC and IRS would swoop down and revoke their tax status because of the political involvement clause.

I now know that I can tell them not to worry about political support because ACORN could get away with it, and nothing happened to them.

3. If there is any shadow of a doubt regarding the Constitutional qualifications to run for the highest office in this country, that question must be explored to conclusion. Such is the case with President Elect Obama, but nobody seems willing to pursue this issue, for no other apparent reason than political pressure. If asked to prove his actual country of birth, he should, like myself, produce adequate documentation to include an original birth certificate from the hospital in which he was delivered. At the time of his birth Hawaii was issuing certificates of live birth to babies that were born elsewhere, and this is just one of the facts clouding this case. Apparent evidence of birth in Kenya is also troubling, to say the least. It would seem to me that the FEC is the organization responsible for verifying candidate qualifications. Why aren't you? If the "natural born Citizen" requirement can be ignored, then there are no requirements to run for office.

4. I am still waiting to see what the ballot count for me is in my home county, Mahoning, Ohio. I had 162 votes in Lake County, which I never campaigned in, but am still showing zero votes for

Mahoning and our two adjacent counties of Trumbull and Columbiana on the Secretary of State's website. That's just not possible. I've called the Mahoning County Board of Elections three times and have just been told that they haven't completed their count yet. How can that be? Does that mean that McCain has uncounted votes, too? When you're counting votes the day of election, don't you count them all?

Sincerely,

Donald K. Allen, MS, DVM
www.donaldkallenforpresident.com

Joseph Oliva
Christopher Popham Smith
Bill Ingram
Ruth Bryant White

p.s. Hard copy in the mail