

OFFICE OF
GENERAL COUN

Los Angeles, CA 90066

2019 JAN 12 PM 12:18

January 8, 2018

Office of General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20463

MUR # 7309

RE: complaint against Crowdpac (crowdpac.com)

To whom it may concern,

I would like to file a complaint against Crowdpac for operating as a "Certified B Corporation" while their behavior clearly is that of a Democrat PAC. They seem almost indistinguishable from ActBlue, a professed "nonprofit political action committee registered... with the IRS as a 527 political organization."

Ostensibly, Crowdpac says they are an independent platform driven by anonymous non-partisan data. But if you look at both their landing page and their Facebook feed, they exclusively feature Democrat candidates. More so, they are raising money for Democrats in strategic districts against Republican incumbents.

I have raised a request for equal time with such a candidate, Jess Phoenix, for taking a partisan stand on climate change. But they refused my request on January 27. Over a week later, she's still on their front page, and they fund ads for her on Facebook. They've helped this total unknown raise over \$100,000.

I understand that it's hard to account for trending campaigns, but it seems they hide behind their algorithm. Especially considering *half their trending campaigns haven't raised any money in the past week*. Their slant for Democrats bears no resemblance to what the two major parties raise by traditional means. Not to mention, their Facebook page seems to be completely manual, and is completely partisan Democrat politics.

Some examples off their Facebook feed: Join the "resistance". Help the "blue wave". The man with two moms is running! Save Net Neutrality. Jess Phoenix the "climate change Democrat". There's even a "project witch hunt" which literally promotes witch hunts against Republican candidates. I tried bringing up this bias on their Facebook page but their response was to ban me from further comments.

I should also point out several other local Republican candidates have opened up to me about how the site is failing to perform for them, even holding back thousands of dollars of donations due to rejected transactions. Edwin Duterte, Frank DeMartini, and Omar Navarro are other local Republicans who certainly matched these trending campaigns. Though they are not ready to file a complaint themselves I am keeping them abreast of the situation.

I am enclosing some other pieces of evidence of this violation:

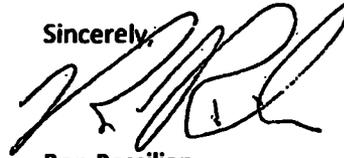
1. Screenshots of their crowdpac.com landing page, spaced one week apart (12/27/17 and 1/4/18)
2. Screenshots of their sponsored Facebook ads, all for Jess Phoenix.

3. My email thread with them directly discussing this bias

If the formatting here is rough, please understand I am not a professional candidate or politician. I'm a private citizen who's decided to run for Congress in California's 37th district. My hope is that the Complaints process is simple and accessible enough where you can take this grievance, investigate it further, and make a just assessment of the merits of the case.

You may contact me anytime at the above address, at info@ronfor37.org or on my cell at
Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,



Ron Bassilian

Signed and sworn to before me to the best of his knowledge, under penalty of perjury:

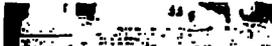
See attached certificate Notary public

Addendums:

Crowdpac trending page, 12/27/2017



Zach Wahls is running for Iowa State Senate
Remember the video of the young man from Iowa with his message? He's running.
Go to his campaign!



This is our chance to make gerrymandering unconstitutional
Created by Arvid Schwarzengger

\$145,329 Raised 4,038 Donations



Joy Silver. Relentlessly Progressive. Joyously Persistent. Helping the 28th
Created by Joy Silver

\$10,498 Raised 88 Donations



Rise Up and Send an Earth Scientist to Congress
Created by Peter Hargis

\$76,316 Raised 1,848 Donations



Put Marge in Charge!
Created by Margo Doyle



LET'S CLEAN HOUSE!
Created by Brandon S. Peters



Attorney and Educator Seeks to Build Coalitions for a Better Arkansas
Created by Nicole Crowley

16044440001

CALIFORNIA JURAT WITH AFFIANT STATEMENT

GOVERNMENT CODE § 8202

- See Attached Document (Notary to cross out lines 1-6 below)
- See Statement Below (Lines 1-6 to be completed only by document signer[s], not Notary)

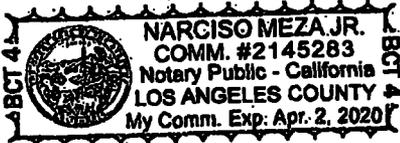
 Signature of Document Signer No. 1

 Signature of Document Signer No. 2 (if any)

A notary public or other officer completing this certificate verifies only the identity of the individual who signed the document to which this certificate is attached, and not the truthfulness, accuracy, or validity of that document.

State of California
 County of Los Angeles

Subscribed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me
 on this 9 day of January, 2018
 by Ron Bassilian
 (1) _____
 (and (2) _____),
 Name(s) of Signer(s)



proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence
 to be the person(s) who appeared before me.

Signature: Narciso Meza Jr.
 Signature of Notary Public

Seal
 Place Notary Seal Above

OPTIONAL

Though this section is optional, completing this information can deter alteration of the document or fraudulent reattachment of this form to an unintended document.

Description of Attached Document
 Title or Type of Document: Complaint against Crowdpc Document Date: Jan. 9, 2018
 Number of Pages: 3 Signer(s) Other Than Named Above: _____

1604444001

Crowdpac trending page, 1/5/2018

This is our chance to make gerrymandering unconstitutional

Created by Arnold Schwarzenegger

\$144,079 Raised 4,068 Donations



Put Marge in Charge!
Created by Marge Doyle

\$17,439 Raised 191 Donations

Joy Silver. Relentlessly Progressive. Joyously Persistent. Helping the 28th

Created by Joy Silver

\$10,499 Raised 89 Donations



LET'S CLEAN HOUSE!
Created by Brandon S. Peters

\$34,773 Raised 92 Pledges

Rise Up and Send an Earth Scientist to Congress

Created by Peter Hinga

\$102,629 Raised 2,340 Donations



Attorney and Educator Seeks to Build Coalitions for a Better Arkansas
Created by Nicole Clowney

\$7,168 Raised 60 Donations

Jess Phoenix sponsored Facebook ads. Keep in mind Crowdpac actively pays to feature these on Facebook.

Zahava Czare likes Crowdpac

Crowdpac Sponsored at

"We have to rise up and tell Trump that the Grand Canyon matters more than corporate profits."



Meet Jess Phoenix
The only earth scientist running for Congress

CROWDPAC.COM

Learn More

2

Sponsored

Create Ad



Jess Phoenix for Congress
crowdpac.com
Help scientists fight back against Trump's agenda.

10007440001

Subject: Re: Global warming - equal time?
From: Ron For 37 <info@ronfor37.org>
Date: 12/28/2017 3:01 PM
To: Support <feedback@crowdpac.com>
CC: info@crowdpac.com
BCC: Bret Osterberg <Bosterberg@leelalb.com>

Thanks so much for your answer. I understand that trending articles operate under their own physics. But it does seem odd that all your trending campaigns are Democrat, and all your featured campaigns on Facebook also lean left.

So you understand why it would leave some unanswered questions. Especially from Republicans who come on your site assuming it's a non partisan platform.

Is there really a huge blue wave going on? Is everyone in the country giving money only to Democrats? If this is true, it's quite extraordinary, and it might be worth posting something about this.

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 28, 2017, at 10:34 AM, Support <feedback@crowdpac.com> wrote:

Hello Ron, and thanks so much for reaching out! I hope life on the campaign trail is treating you well this Holiday Season.

We frequently spotlight or recommend candidates who are trending on our platform, however these decisions aren't made on the basis of any particular stance or issue.

Thanks again for contacting us and please let us know if we can ever be of assistance.

Cheers,

Mason

Mason

Please take a second to rate my reply...

It was awesome

It was OK

It was bad

Ron for 37th on December 27, 2017 at 10:53pm wrote:

Hi there! I noticed you've been promoting a Democratic challenger to the incumbent

Republican in California's 25th congressional district (Palmdale) based on her vow to fight climate change. As a Republican candidate in the 37th district, I'd like to make a request for equal time. I have my own stance on the issue, considering Republicans are quite maligned on the topic. <https://www.crowdpac.com/campaigns/347150/ron-bassilian/updates/1572> Let me know if you can help out in any way. Thank you. - Ron Bassilian

10034444000