

OFFICE OF
GENERAL COUNSEL

February 7, 2020

Office of the General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
1050 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20463

2020 FEB 24 PM 12:13

MUR # 7708

To Whom It May Concern:

By this letter, we, Michael Saltsman and Austin Samuelson of the Employment Policies Institute (1090 Vermont Ave, NW Suite 800, Washington, D.C. 20005), file a complaint with the Federal Election Commission pursuant to 2 USC §30118(a), 11 CFR §§ 100.52, 100.54, 114.2(b) and (f), 114.9(a)(3) and (b)(3) against Eva Putzova for Congress and the Restaurant Opportunities Center (ROC), a Section 501(c)(3) corporation for violations of federal election law.

Based on information and belief, ROC, a § 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, has provided illegal in-kind contributions, pursuant to 52 U.S.C. §30118(a), to Eva Putzova for Congress by compensating its employee, Steven Piasecki, as he regularly engaged in candidate-related work during the course of the normal workday. The Act and Commission regulations prohibit a corporation from providing any type of contributions to candidates.

Respondents include an individual candidate for federal office, a federal candidate campaign committee and its treasurer, the candidate's campaign communications director, and a § 501(c)(3) corporation.

Respondents

Eva Putzova,
1700 E Linda Vista Dr
Flagstaff, AZ 86004

Eva Putzova for Congress
P.O. Box 677
Flagstaff, AZ 86002

Steven Piasecki

New York, NY 10034

Restaurant Opportunities Center
275 7th Ave
New York, NY 10001

Facts

Except where noted, the facts supporting this complaint are taken from materials publicly available, including Federal Election Commission records. All material facts relied upon in this complaint are cited as to their source.

On January 1, 2019, Ms. Putzova filed her candidacy for the Democratic nomination to be the US Representative for Arizona's 1st Congressional District. Ms. Putzova was the Director of Communications for ROC at the time of her filing; according to her LinkedIn page, she was still employed in that capacity as of this date (February 7,

2020). Attached to this complaint as **Exhibit A** are the statement of organization documents filed with the FEC by Eva Putzova, declaring herself a candidate for the US House of Representatives.

Ms. Putzova's campaign Communications Director, Mr. Steven Piasecki, is also employed by ROC as its Communications Coordinator. He has served in this role since September of 2018, and is primarily responsible for maintaining the group's social media presence.

- Attached as **Exhibit B** are social media postings and a screenshot of ROC's official website demonstrating Ms. Putzova's employment at ROC and Mr. Piasecki's dual employment with Eva Putzova for Congress and ROC.
- **Exhibit C** includes a downloadable document from the official ROC United website. The document serves as a social media toolkit and the ROC official listed as the contact is Mr. Steven Piasecki.

According to FEC filings, Mr. Piasecki's pay for his services to the Putzova campaign is \$600 a month (See **Exhibit B**). However, digital evidence shows a blurry line between Mr. Piasecki's work with ROC and his work with the Congressional campaign as Communications Director—such that ROC is essentially subsidizing his campaign work and that he may be using corporate resources in his work for the campaign.

Mr. Piasecki's overlapping job activity between the nonprofit corporation and Ms. Putzova's campaign is evident in **Exhibit D**, which includes all tweets sent from the Twitter accounts of EvaForCongress, Mr. Piasecki, Eva Putzova, and ROC United during the months of February-October 2019.¹ (During these dates, FEC filings show that Mr. Piasecki was being paid by Ms. Putzova's campaign to act as the Communications Director.)

Mr. Piasecki's digital work for the Putzova campaign overlaps regularly with his digital work for the nonprofit corporation. The time of the day each account is active even shifts with Mr. Piasecki's location; his move from California to New York in June 2019 corresponded with a shift in Twitter activity to reflect "sleeping hours" for a person based on the east coast.²

Mr Piasecki's control of the digital accounts of both ROC and Ms. Putzova's campaign is evident in the device type used to post content, as well as Mr. Piasecki's use of similar content across both accounts.

- According to data from ExportTweet, Ms. Putzova uses an iPhone; before she launched her campaign for Congress, not a single tweet from her account came from an Android device (See **Exhibit E**). After she declared her candidacy and hired Mr. Piasecki as her Communications Director, over half of the tweets from her personal account (which doubles as her campaign account) were sent from an Android device--compared to just 7 percent being sent from an iPhone.
- Similarly, prior to ROC United hiring Mr. Piasecki as its Communications Coordinator, just 2 percent of the group's tweets from 2016-2018 were sent from an Android device. However, after he started his role in late 2018, the number of tweets sent from an Android device on the official ROC United Twitter account increased to over 20 percent.

The data from **Exhibit E** is visualized in **Exhibit D**, where workday tweets are sent moments apart from Mr. Piasecki's personal account, the ROC United Twitter account, and the Eva Putzova for Congress official Twitter account.

¹ Data was obtained and downloaded using ExportTweet

² A screenshot of Steven Piasecki's personal Facebook account has been included in Exhibit D. This screenshot is of a post made by Mr. Piasecki announcing his move to New York in July of 2019. The date of his move to the east coast reflects the time shift of tweets sent from his personal twitter account, Eva Putzova's twitter account, and the ROC United twitter account, further demonstrating that Mr. Piasecki was in fact the operator of these accounts.

Apparent Violations

Complainants have found reason to believe Respondents violated 2 USC §30118(a), 11 CFR §§ 100.52, 100.54, 114.2(b) and (f), 114.9(a)(3) and (b)(3). Eva Putzova for Congress, Eva Putzova, and the Restaurant Opportunities Center United have violated federal law which prohibits donations and contributions by a corporation or labor organization to a candidate for federal office and the acceptance of said contribution by a candidate for federal office.

Relief Requested

Complainants are asking the Federal Election Commission to conduct an investigation, including an audit of named respondent campaign committee, in accordance with the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended. The Commission should also refer to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to determine whether the Restaurant Opportunities Center is eligible to keep its § 501(c)(3) non-profit status.

Complainant, upon information and belief, swear under penalty of perjury that the statements and facts of this complaint are true and correct to the best of his knowledge and belief.



Michael Saltzman, Managing Director
Employment Policies Institute



Austin Samuelson, Research & Communications Associate
Employment Policies Institute

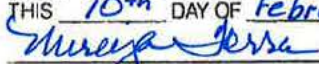
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: ss
SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME
THIS 10th DAY OF February, 2020.

NOTARY PUBLIC
My Commission Expires Sep 14, 2023



EXHIBIT A

Image# 201901189143832097

01/16/2019 14:24

PAGE 1 / 4

**FEC
FORM 1****STATEMENT OF
ORGANIZATION**

Office Use Only

1. NAME OF COMMITTEE (in full) ☐ (Check if name is changed) Example: If typing, type over the lines. 12FE4M5

Eva Putzova for Congress

ADDRESS (number and street)

PO Box 677

☐ (Check if address is changed)

Flagstaff

AZ

86002

CITY ▲

STATE ▲

ZIP CODE ▲

COMMITTEE'S E-MAIL ADDRESS

☐ (Check if address is changed)

info@evaforcongress.com

Optional Second E-Mail Address

COMMITTEE'S WEB PAGE ADDRESS (URL)

☐ (Check if address is changed)

evaforcongress.com

2. DATE 01 16 2019

3. FEC IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ► C C00694091

4. IS THIS STATEMENT ☒ NEW (N) OR ☐ AMENDED (A)

I certify that I have examined this Statement and to the best of my knowledge and belief it is true, correct and complete.

Type or Print Name of Treasurer Zeilman, Lorena...

Signature of Treasurer Zeilman, Lorena...

[Electronically Filed]

Date

01

16

2019

NOTE: Submission of false, erroneous, or incomplete information may subject the person signing this Statement to the penalties of 2 U.S.C. §437g. ANY CHANGE IN INFORMATION SHOULD BE REPORTED WITHIN 10 DAYS.

Office
Use
Only

For further information contact:
Federal Election Commission
Toll Free 800-424-9530
Local 202-694-1100

FEC FORM 1
(Revised 06/2012)

EXHIBIT A

Image# 201901190143832990

FEC Form 1 (Revised 02/2009)

Page 2

5. TYPE OF COMMITTEE

Candidate Committee:(a) ☒ This committee is a principal campaign committee. (Complete the candidate information below.)(b) ☐ This committee is an authorized committee, and is NOT a principal campaign committee. (Complete the candidate information below.)Name of Candidate Putzova, Eva, . .Candidate
Party Affiliation

DEM

Office
Sought☒

House

☐

Senate

☐

President

State

AZ

District

01

(c) ☐ This committee supports/opposes only one candidate, and is NOT an authorized committee.Name of
Candidate**Party Committee:**(d) ☐ This committee is a (National, State or subordinate) committee of the (Democratic, Republican, etc.) Party.**Political Action Committee (PAC):**(e) ☐ This committee is a separate segregated fund. (Identify connected organization on line 6.) Its connected organization is a:☐ Corporation ☐ Corporation w/o Capital Stock ☐ Labor Organization☐ Membership Organization ☐ Trade Association ☐ Cooperative☐ In addition, this committee is a Lobbyist/Registrant PAC.(f) ☐ This committee supports/opposes more than one Federal candidate, and is NOT a separate segregated fund or party committee. (i.e., nonconnected committee)☐ In addition, this committee is a Lobbyist/Registrant PAC.☐ In addition, this committee is a Leadership PAC. (Identify sponsor on line 6.)**Joint Fundraising Representative:**(g) ☐ This committee collects contributions, pays fundraising expenses and disburses net proceeds for two or more political committees/organizations, at least one of which is an authorized committee of a federal candidate.(h) ☐ This committee collects contributions, pays fundraising expenses and disburses net proceeds for two or more political committees/organizations, none of which is an authorized committee of a federal candidate.**Committees Participating in Joint Fundraiser**1. FEC ID number C2. FEC ID number C3. FEC ID number C4. FEC ID number C

EXHIBIT A

Image# 201901160143832999

FEC Form 1 (Revised 02/2009)

Page 3

Write or Type Committee Name

Eva Putzova for Congress**6. Name of Any Connected Organization, Affiliated Committee, Joint Fundraising Representative, or Leadership PAC Sponsor**

NONE

Mailing Address

CITY

STATE

ZIP CODE

Relationship

☐ Connected Organization☐ Affiliated Committee☐ Joint Fundraising Representative☐ Leadership PAC Sponsor**7. Custodian of Records:** Identify by name, address (phone number -- optional), and position of the person in possession of committee books and records.

Full Name

Putzova, Eva, . .

Mailing Address

1700 E Linda Vista Dr

Flagstaff

AZ

86004

Title or Position

CITY

STATE

ZIP CODE

Custodian of Records

Telephone number

8. Treasurer: List the name and address (phone number -- optional) of the treasurer of the committee, and the name and address of any designated agent (e.g., assistant treasurer).

Full Name

Zeelman, Lorena, . .

of Treasurer

Mailing Address

814 West Summit Ave

Flagstaff

AZ

86001

Title or Position

CITY

STATE

ZIP CODE

Treasurer

Telephone number

928

310

2482

EXHIBIT A

Image# 201901169143833000

FEC Form 1 (Revised 02/2009)

Page 4

Full Name of Designated Agent Putzova, Eva

Mailing Address 1700 E Linda Vista Dr

Flagstaff AZ 86004

CITY STATE ZIP CODE

Title or Position Designated Agent

Telephone number

9. **Banks or Other Depositories:** List all banks or other depositories in which the committee deposits funds, holds accounts, rents safety deposit boxes or maintains funds.

Name of Bank, Depository, etc.

BBVA Compass Bank

Mailing Address

2 E Birch Ave

Flagstaff

AZ

86001

CITY

STATE

ZIP CODE

Name of Bank, Depository, etc.

Mailing Address

CITY

STATE

ZIP CODE

EXHIBIT B

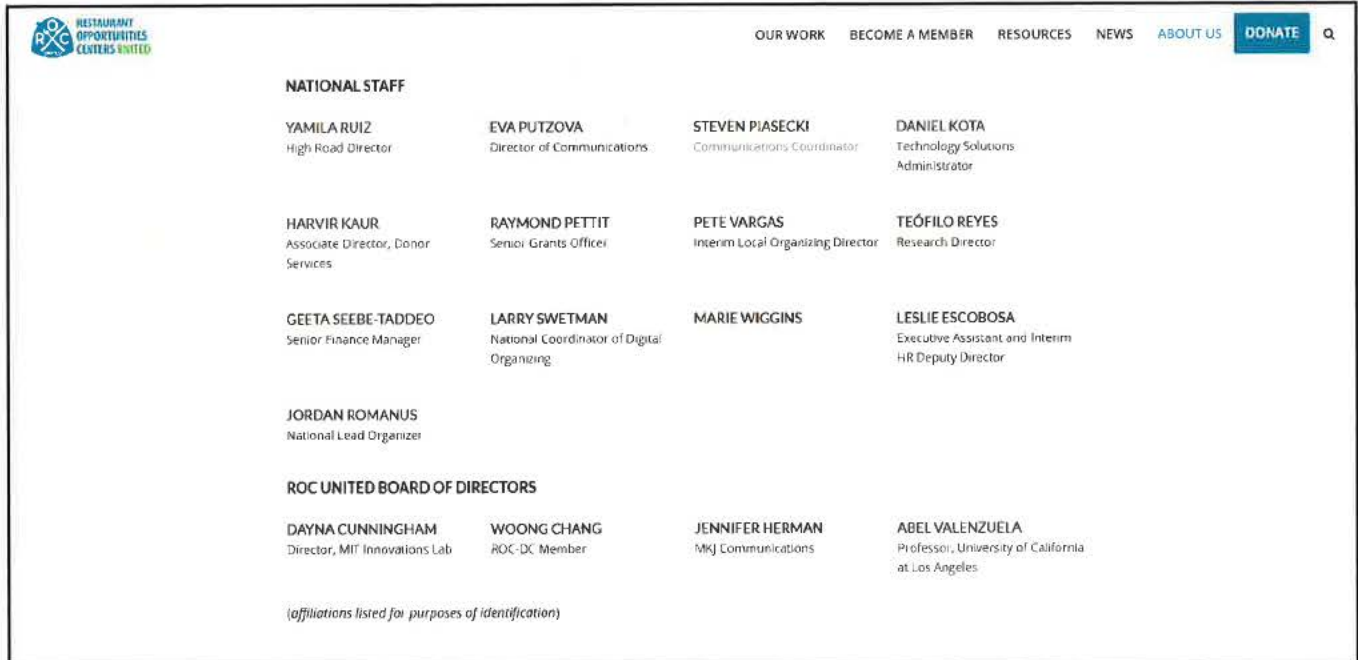


Figure 1: Restaurant Opportunities Center Official Website – Eva Putzova (Director of Communications & Steven Piasecki (Communications Coordinator)

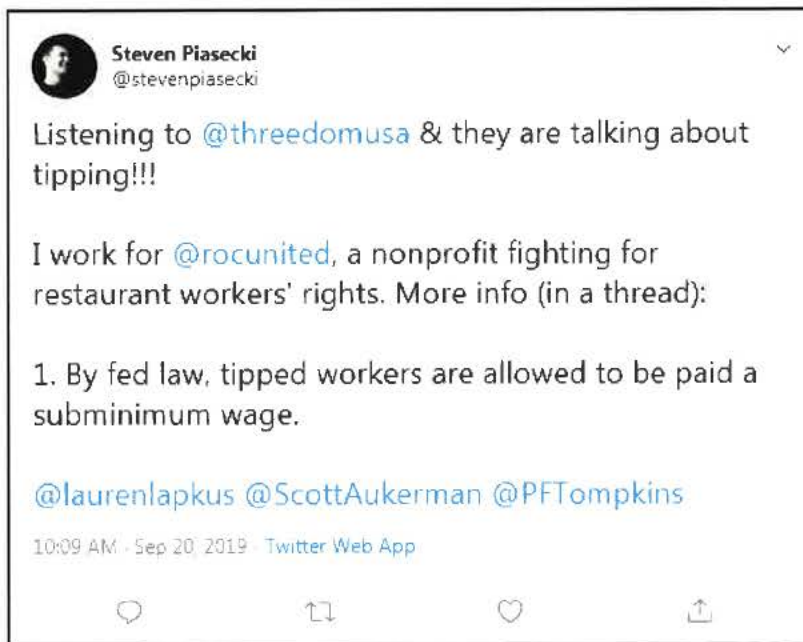


Figure 2: Steven Piasecki tweet dated September 20, 2019 stating that he is employed by the Restaurant Opportunities Center

EXHIBIT B

Steven Piasecki

Timeline About Friends Photos More ▾

DO YOU KNOW STEVEN?

To see what he shares with friends, send him a friend request.

Add Friend

Intro

Communications Coordinator at Restaurant Opportunities Centers United (ROC United)

Former Jr Content Editor at Ring

Steven Piasecki
September 5 at 2:51 PM

Woo!!!!!!!!!! So proud to be a part of this campaign!!!! Eva Putzova

BRAND NEW CONGRESS 2020

"I will continue to fight for people's interests—not the interests of fossil fuel, arms manufacturers, the private prison industry or other industries that put profit before people."

Eva Putzova
Arizona 1st

Eva Putzova for Congress
September 5 at 2:45 PM

Like Page

I'm so humbled and excited to join BrandNew Congress' 2020 slate!


BrandNew Congress is a volunteer-led org ready to change Congress for the better. They understand that Congress should put #PeopleFirst & fight for a future that works for everyone.

Let's get to work & change #AZ01.

7



Figure 3: Steven Piasecki Facebook page. Introduction section of page lists Communications Coordinator at Restaurant Opportunities Center United (ROC United) as employer. A September 5, 2019 post by Mr. Piasecki shared an official Eva Putzova for Congress facebook page post with a caption that read "Woo!!!!!!!!!! So proud to be a part of this campaign!!!! Eva Putzova"

EXHIBIT B



Steven P. · 3rd
 Communications Director at Eva For Congress
 Los Angeles, California · 292 connections · [Contact info](#)


[Message](#) [More...](#)

 Eva Putzova for Congress
 UC Berkeley

About

I am a self-starter with demonstrated experience in marketing, social media strategy, and creative writing, specializing in digital and online. As a recent graduate of UC Berkeley with a B.A. in Communications and Media Studies, I am passionate about sharing fresh, evolving narratives through unique visual and editorial campaigns. I want to ... see more

Experience

 **Communications Director**
 Eva Putzova for Congress
 Feb 2019 – Present · 8 mos


 **Communications Coordinator**
 Restaurant Opportunities Centers United
 Sep 2018 – Present · 1 yr 1 mo
 Remote

Figure 4: : Mr. Piasecki's LinkedIn page which lists "Communications Director for Eva Putzova for Congress" and "Communications Coordinator at Restaurant Opportunities Center United" as his current employers.

EXHIBIT B

Eva Putzova · 3rd
2020 Candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives
Flagstaff, Arizona · 500+ connections · [Contact info](#)

[Message](#) [More...](#)

Eva Putzova for Congress
University of Economics, Bratislava

Highlights

Reach out to Eva for...
Advising companies Contracting and free-ancing Paid consulting

[Message Eva](#)

About

Fighting for a just, generous, and inclusive America where healthcare is a right and not privilege, college education is tuition free, women are equal, immigrants are welcome, Indigenous people are truly sovereign, our planet is protected, and you can be you without discrimination.

Experience

2020 Candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives
Eva Putzova for Congress
Jan 2019 – Present · 5 mos
Flagstaff, Arizona Area

As a policymaker I consistently put people first, and intend to bring that perspective into the Congress. While valuing fairness, inclusion, justice, peace, and democracy, I will champion universal healthcare; tuition-free college; immigration overhaul; meaningful, large-scale climate action; and Indigenous, women's reproductive, and workers' rights. I will also raise a strong voice against the never-ending wars of choice that cost thousands of lives, drain our resources, and make us less safe. As a progressive Democrat, I will fight for a just, generous, and inclusive America.

National Communications and Technology Director
Restaurant Opportunities Centers United
May 2018 – Present · 1 yr 5 mos

Manage organization's internal and external communications strategy; provide communications oversight for the One Fair Wage project--a national campaign to raise the subminimum tipped wage to the full minimum wage, and serve as a member of the organization's senior leadership team.

Figure 5: Eva Putzova LinkedIn profile—lists “National Communication and Technology Director at Restaurant Opportunities Center United” as current position, beginning May 2018. Also lists “2020 Candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives Eva Putzova for Congress” beginning January 2019.

EXHIBIT B

EVA PUTZOVA FOR CONGRESS	PIASECKI, STEVEN	CA	SOCIAL MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSULTING	06/14/2019	\$600.00
EVA PUTZOVA FOR CONGRESS	PIASECKI, STEVEN	CA	SOCIAL MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSULTING	05/18/2019	\$600.00
EVA PUTZOVA FOR CONGRESS	PIASECKI, STEVEN	CA	SOCIAL MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSULTING	04/16/2019	\$600.00
EVA PUTZOVA FOR CONGRESS	PIASECKI, STEVEN	CA	COMMUNICATIONS CONSULTING SERVICES	03/15/2019	\$600.00
EVA PUTZOVA FOR CONGRESS	PIASECKI, STEVEN	CA	COMMUNICATIONS CONSULTING SERVICES	02/15/2019	\$600.00

Figure 6: Eva Putzova for Congress official FEC spending report showing \$600 disbursements to Steven Piasecki for communications and social media services during the months of February, March, April, May, and June of 2020.

EXHIBIT C



ROC UNITED

RESTAURANT OPPORTUNITIES CENTER UNITED
275 7TH AVE. STE. 1703 NEW YORK, NY 10001
events@rocunited.org • (212) 343-1771

Basic Social Media Toolkit

Follow Us

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Instagram](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

[Youtube](#)

[Website](#)

Contact

Steven Piasecki

steven@rocunited.org

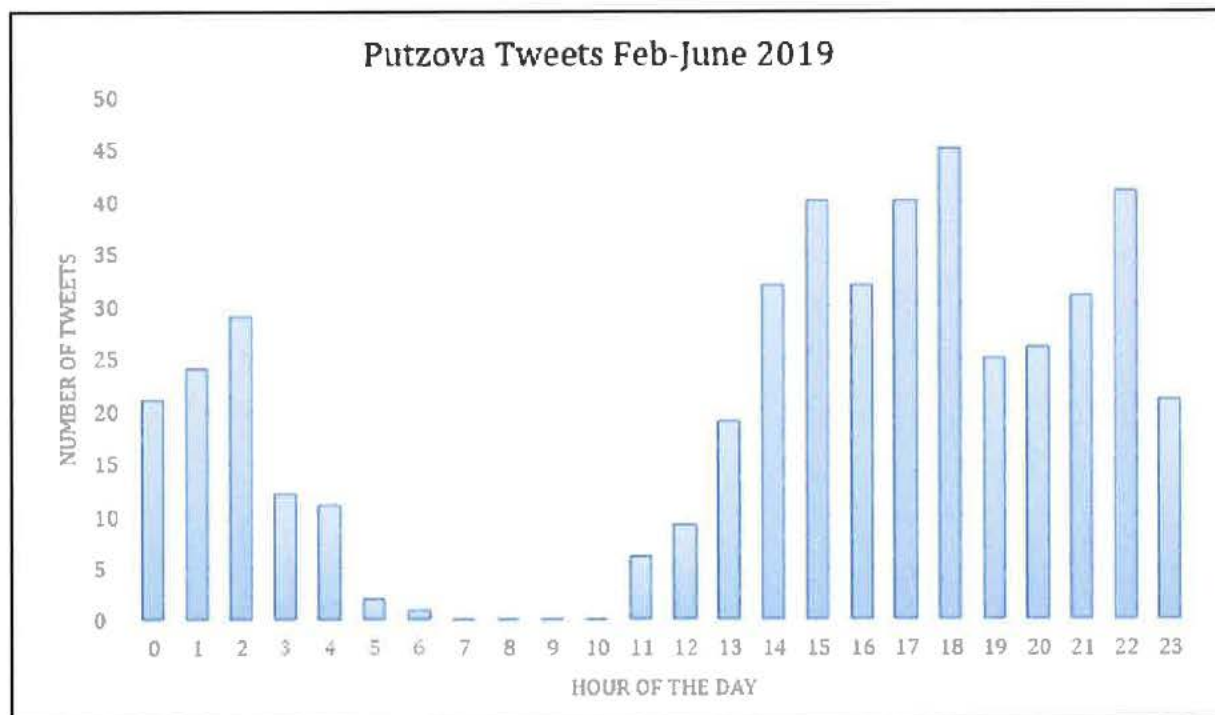
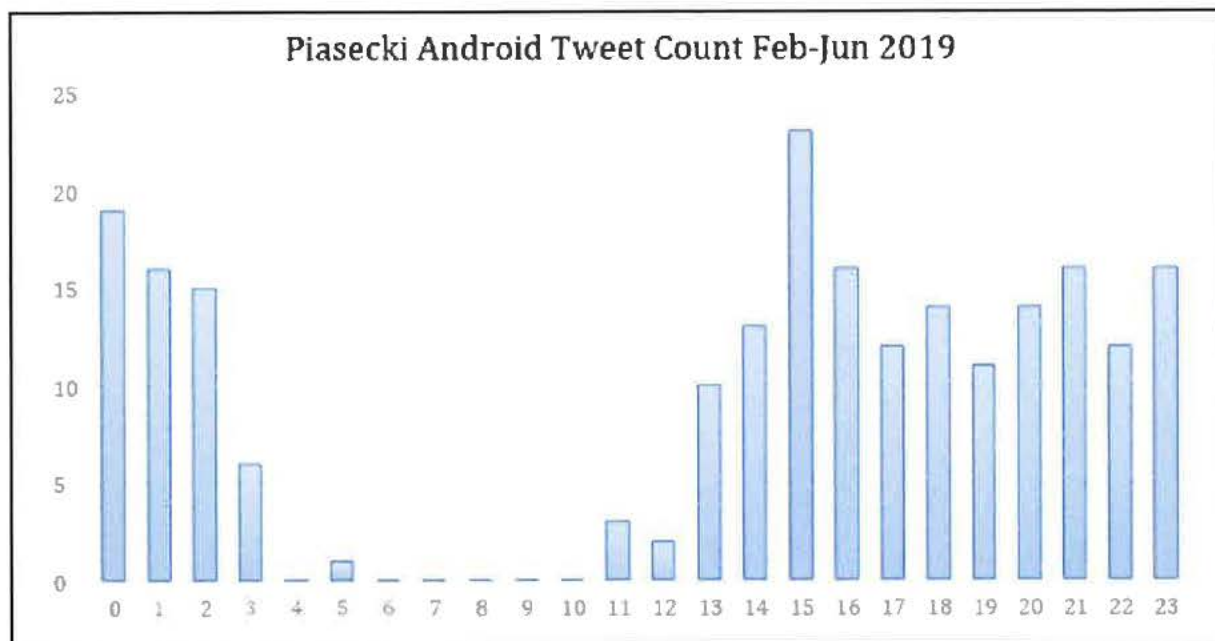
EXHIBIT D

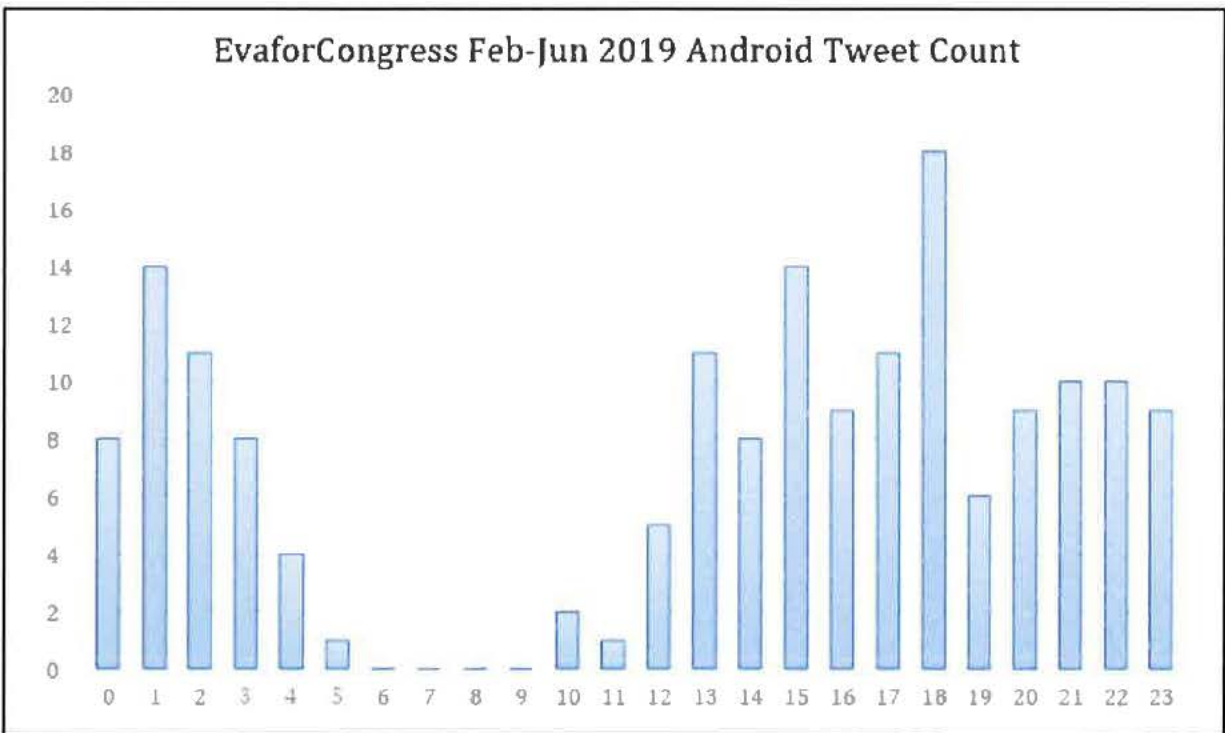
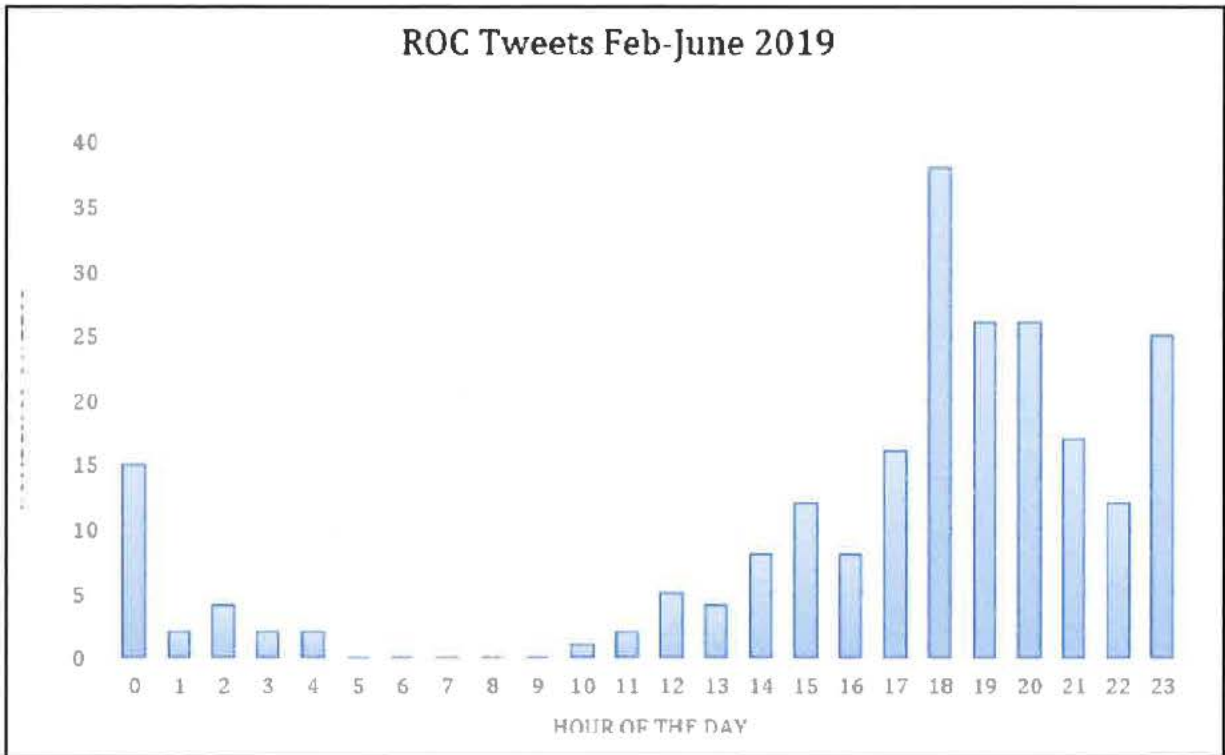


EXHIBIT D


Figure 7: These graphs demonstrate clear coordination and trends during the months of February, March, April, May, and June of 2016--the months Mr. Piasecki was being paid by the Eva Putzova for Congress campaign and ROC United.




EXHIBIT D




 **Steven Piasecki** is in **New York, New York.**
July 14, 2019 · 🌐


New home 🏠 Paul Hogue




 **New York, New York**
City · United States
Carly Georgia and 39 others have been here

   32

 Like  Comment  Share

 Write a comment



Save
No visible co
1 Comment

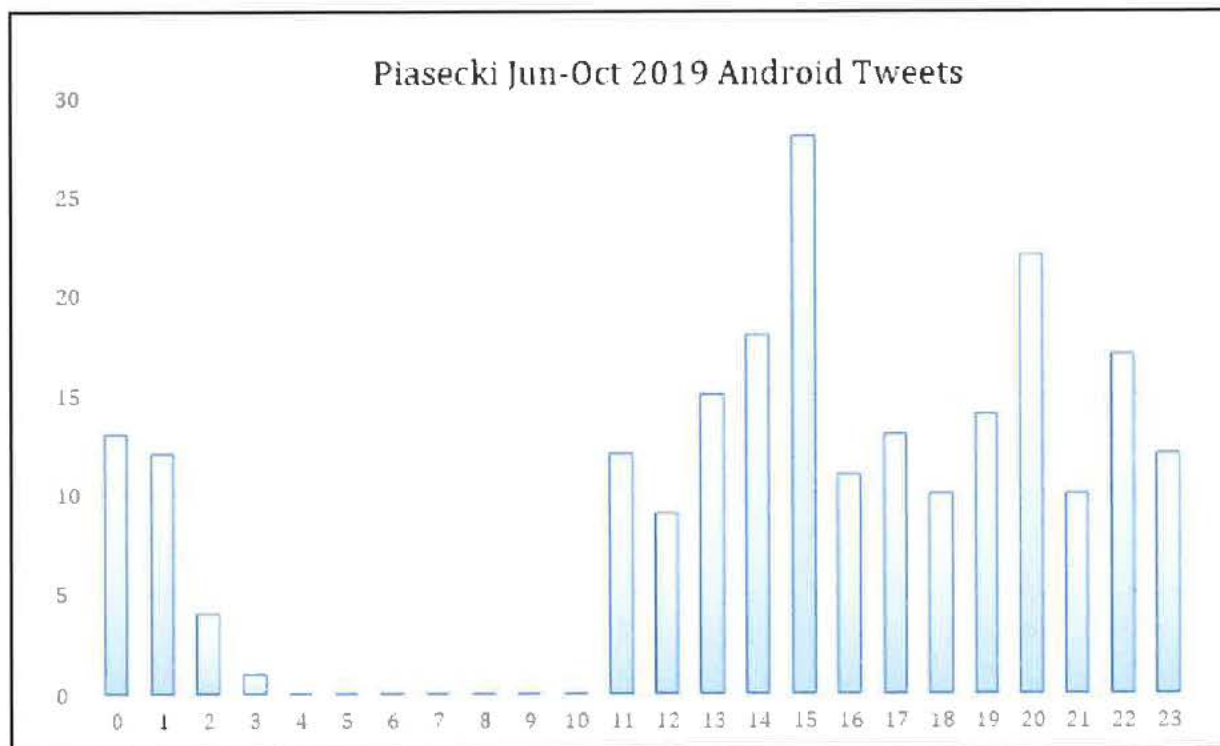
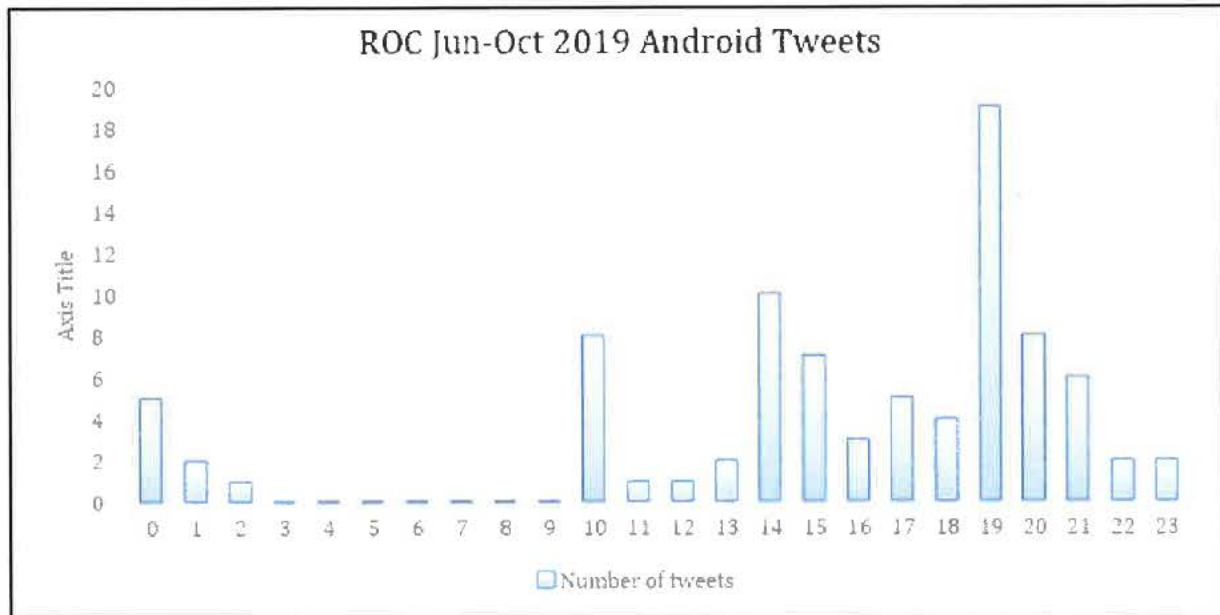
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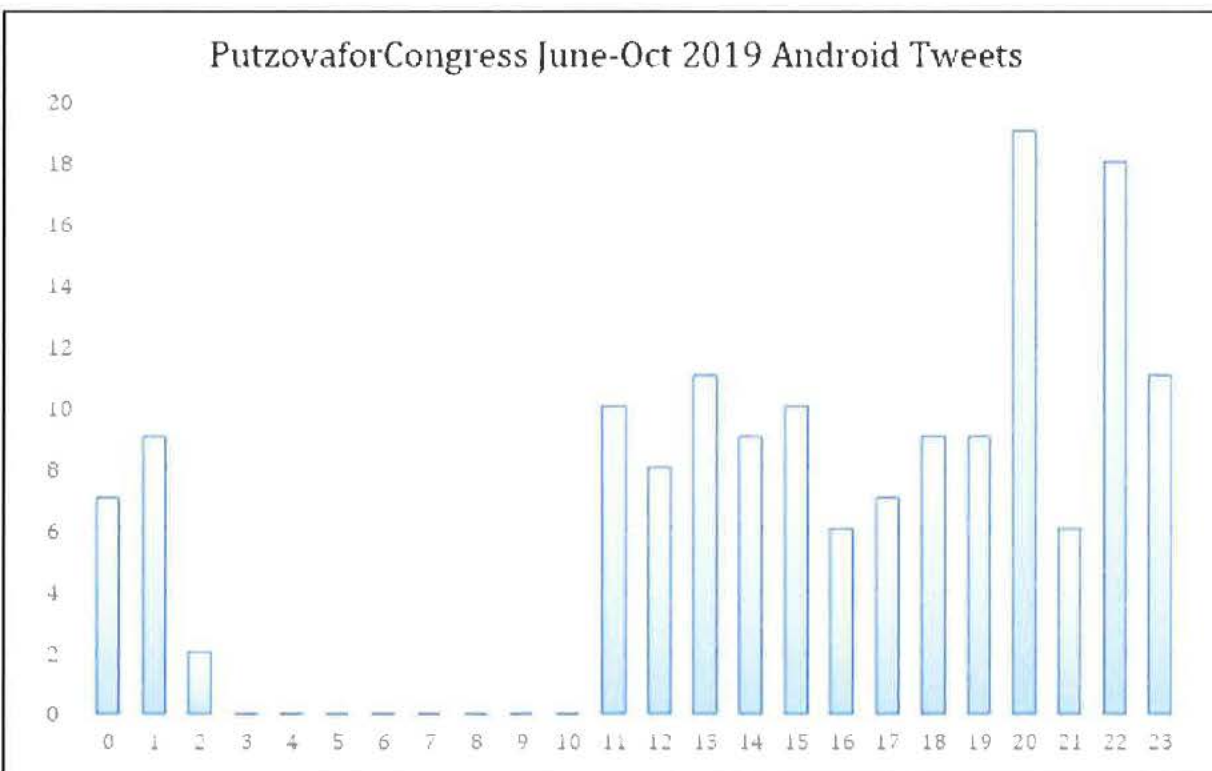
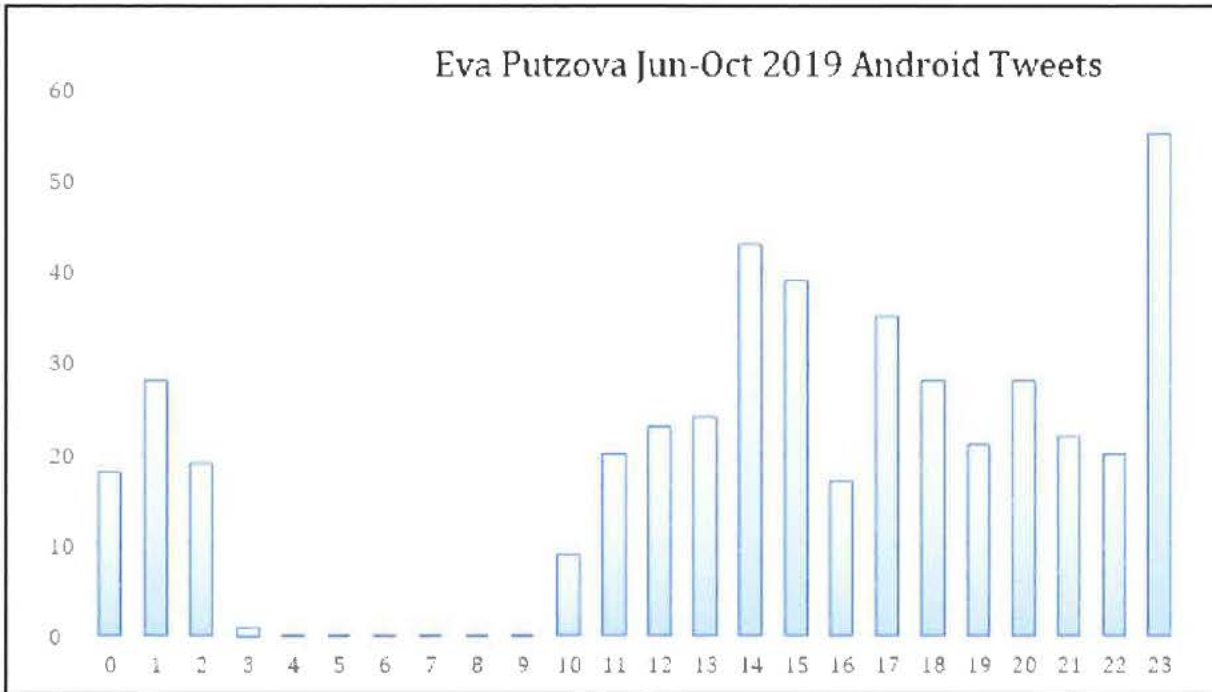
EXHIBIT D

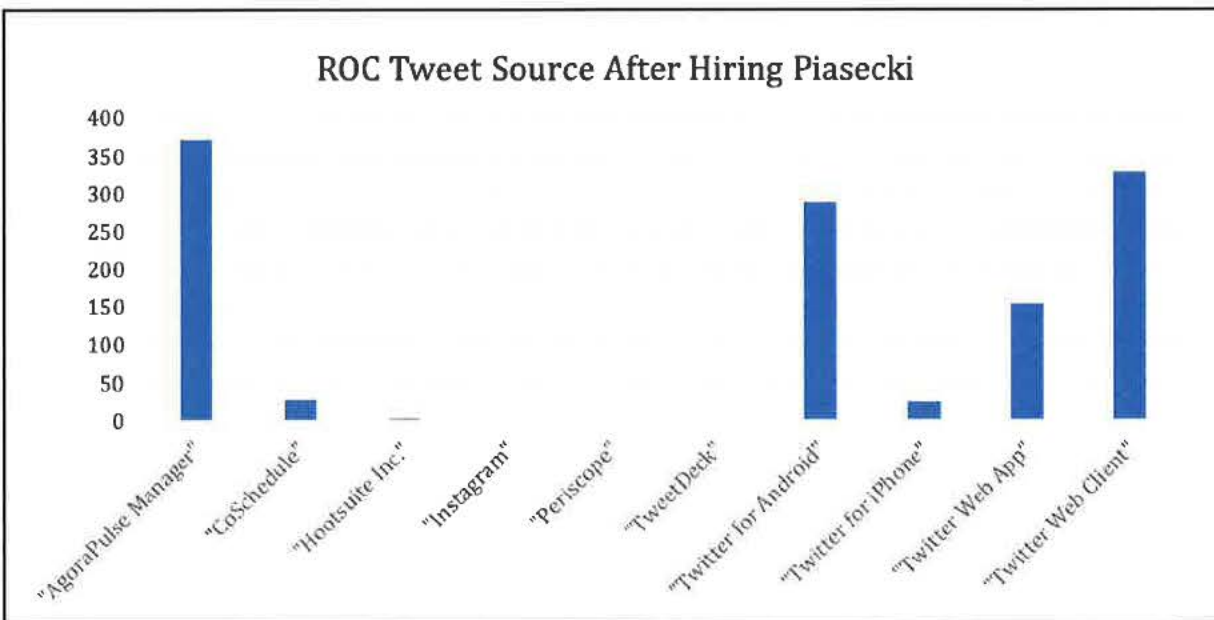
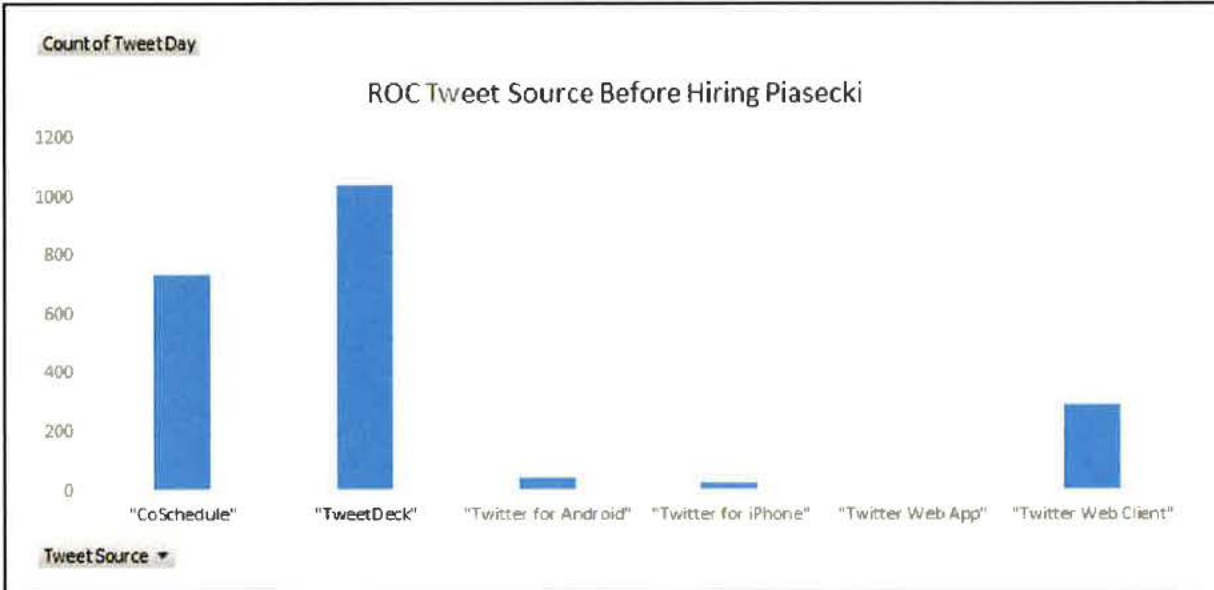
EXHIBIT E

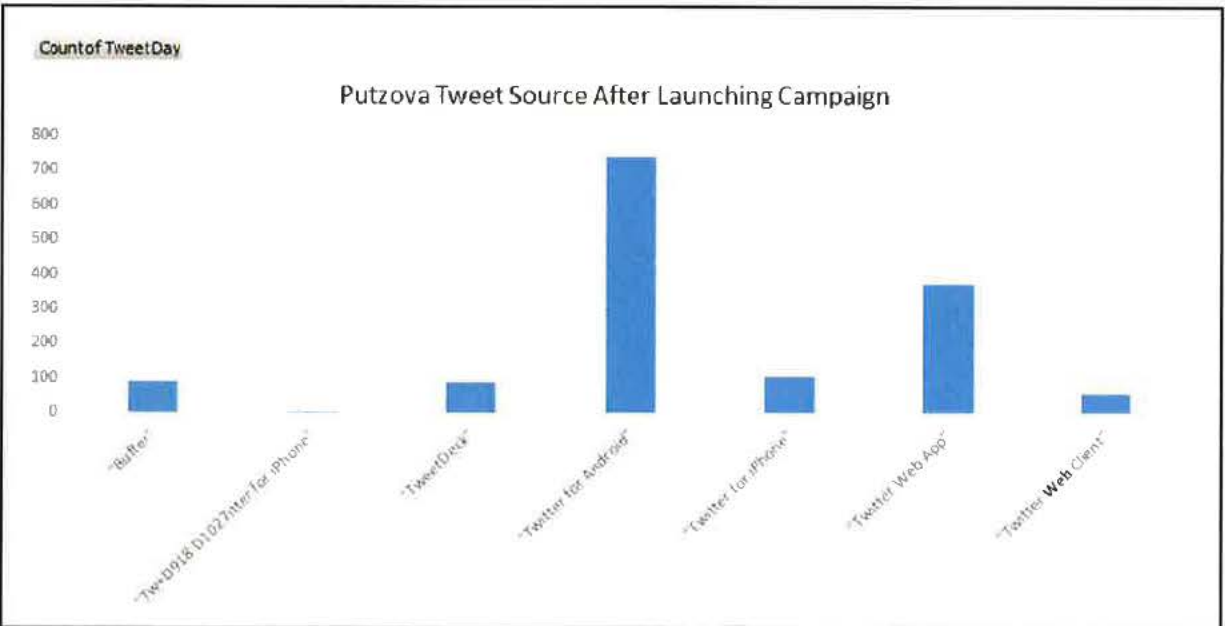
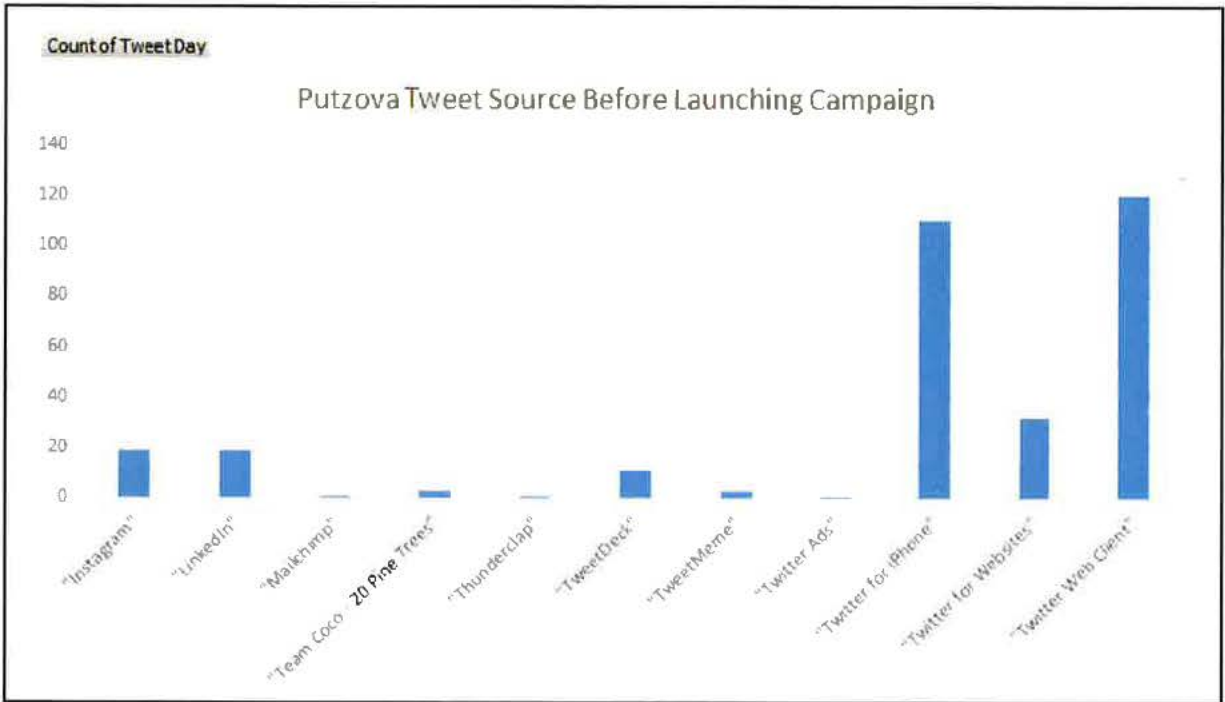
EXHIBIT E

EXHIBIT F



Figure 8: On August 22, 2019, it again appears as if the official ROC United twitter account and their Communications Director and candidate for Federal Office, Eva Putzova coordinated tweets that were sent from the same platform just 20 minutes apart.

EXHIBIT F

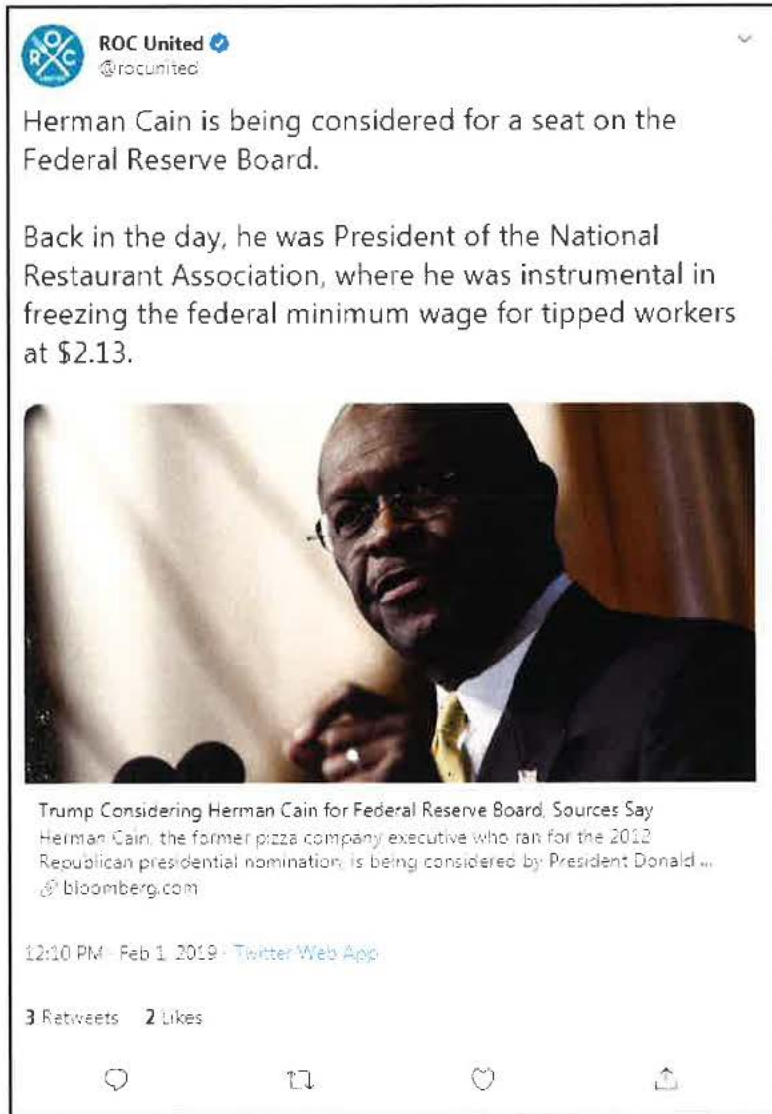


Figure 9: On January 31 and February 1, 2019, it appears as if there is direct coordination between the ROC United and their Communications Director, Congressional Candidate Eva Putzova to oppose the nomination of a political appointee.

EXHIBIT F



Figure 10: As displayed here in Figure 14, Steven Piasecki has continued his work as Eva Putzova's campaign manager into October. Mr. Piasecki is still employed by ROC, according to his LinkedIn.

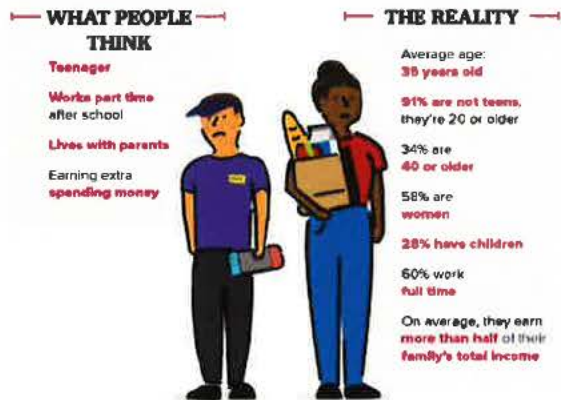
EXHIBIT F



Eva Putzova
@EvaPutzova

Hearings for the Raise The Wage Act of 2019 start today. If passed, it would mean that workers across the country — many who earn low wages, have families to support, and are struggling to get by — would finally earn a fair, living wage.

Who benefits from a higher minimum wage?



Source: Economic Policy Institute, "Minimum Wage Facts," 2014.
The above information is for informational purposes only.
More at epi.org/raisethewage

Economic
Policy
Institute

12:50 PM · Feb 7, 2019 · Twitter for Android

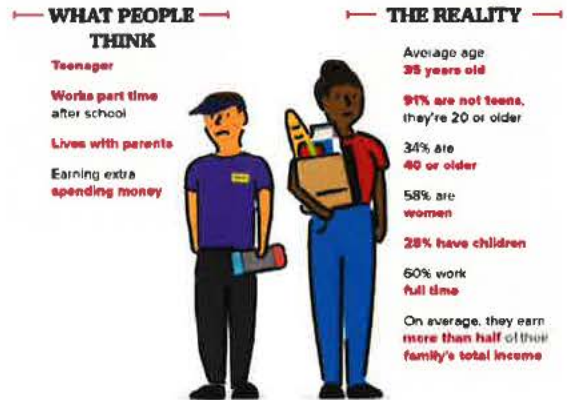
9 Retweets 14 Likes



ROC United
@rocunited

In addition to generating \$120 billion in addt wages, the Raise the Wage Act of 2019 would also mean that tipped workers across the country — 70% of whom are 24-65 years old, 64% are female, and 36% are mother: — would finally be paid #1FairWage.

Who benefits from a higher minimum wage?



Source: Economic Policy Institute, "Minimum Wage Facts," 2014.
The above information is for informational purposes only.
More at epi.org/raisethewage

Economic
Policy
Institute

1:00 PM · Feb 7, 2019 · AgoraPulse Manager

16 Retweets 20 Likes

