



FACT

FOUNDATION FOR
ACCOUNTABILITY
AND CIVIC TRUST

March 21, 2019

Ms. Lisa J. Stevenson
Acting General Counsel
Office of the General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
1050 First Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20463

RE: Dean Phillips, Phillips for Congress Violating Disclaimer Law

Dear Ms. Stevenson:

The Foundation for Accountability and Civic Trust (FACT) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting accountability, ethics, and transparency in government and civic arenas. We achieve this mission by hanging a lantern over public officials who put their own interests over the interests of the public good.

We write today to request the Federal Election Commission take appropriate enforcement action to address an apparent violation of the Federal Election Campaign Act by Dean Phillips and Phillips for Congress.

Under federal law, “all Internet websites of political committees available to the general public” must include a disclaimer.¹ The disclaimer “must be presented in a clear and conspicuous manner” and identify the authorized candidate committee paid for the communication.²

The Phillips for Congress web page does not contain the required disclaimer on its web sites pages.³ The recognized standard is for a campaign website to contain the disclaimer at the bottom of each web page, which is absent from Phillips’ website. The majority of Phillips’ websites pages do not contain any the required information, including the main biographical and issues pages and all three media pages. The only place the disclaimer information can be found appears to be inadvertent or is not clear and conspicuous, i.e.

¹ 11 CFR 110.11(a); 11 CFR 100.80 (defining an authorized committee of a candidate as a “political committee”).

² 11 CFR 110.11(b)-(c); Federal Election Commission, Advertising & Disclaimers, available at <https://www.fec.gov/help-candidates-and-committees/making-disbursements/advertising/> (last accessed Mar. 20, 2019).

³ <https://www.phillipsforcongress.org>

only on a photograph of a mailer posted on the website or in small print on the side of the "contact us" page.

Clearly, Phillips is not abiding by federal legal requirement that candidate websites contain a disclosure. FACT respectfully request the Commission ensures the respondent abides by federal law.

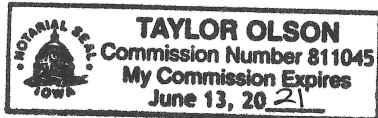
Respectfully submitted,

Karnold

Kendra Arnold, Executive Director
Foundation for Accountability & Civic Trust
1717 K Street NW, Suite 900
Washington, D.C. 20006

STATE OF IOWA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF POLK)

Subscribed and sworn to before me on March 21st, 2019.



Taylor Olson

Notary Public in and for the State of Iowa