

# PUBLIC INTEREST

— LEGAL FOUNDATION —

October 18, 2016

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

Re: Complaint Against Hillary for America, the Democratic National Committee, Democracy Partners, Americans United for Change, and other known and unknown individuals and groups.

To Whom It May Concern:

## Complainant

The Public Interest Legal Foundation (“PILF”) is a non-profit educational and legal foundation dedicated to protect the right to vote, preserve the Constitutional framework of American elections, and educate the public on the issue of election integrity. As part of its mission, PILF gathers and analyzes information regarding potential violations of federal and state election laws and informs the public about these violations and concerns.

This complaint is filed on behalf of the Public Interest Legal Foundation by Joseph A. Vanderhulst, Legal Counsel with PILF at 209 West Main Street, Plainfield, Indiana 46168, pursuant to 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(1).

## Respondents

Hillary for America  
(Committee ID C00575795)  
P.O. Box 5256  
New York, NY 10185-5256

Jose H. Villarreal  
Treasurer, Hillary for America  
P.O. Box 5256  
New York, NY 10185-5256

Democratic National Committee  
430 South Capitol Street Southeast  
Washington, DC 20003

Democracy Partners  
1250 Eye Street, NW, Ste. 250  
Washington, DC 20005  
Bob Creamer  
Strategist, Democracy Partners  
1250 Eye Street, NW, Ste. 250  
Washington, DC 20005

Americans United for Change  
P.O. Box 34606  
Washington, D.C. 20043  
202-470-6954

Scott Foval  
National Field Director, Americans United for Change  
P.O. Box 34606  
Washington, D.C. 20043  
202-470-6954

Voces de la Frontera Action  
1027 S. 5th Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53204  
Tel. 414-643-1620

Unknown Groups and Individuals Associated with Respondents

### Summary

This complaint is based on information and belief that respondents have engaged in public communications, campaign activity, targeted voter registration drives, and other targeted GOTV activity under 11 C.F.R. 100.26 and 11 C.F.R. 114.4 at the request, direction, and approval of the Hillary for America campaign committee and the Democratic National Committee in violation of 11 C.F.R. 109.20 and 11 C.F.R. 114.4(d)(2) and (3).

Complainant's information and belief is based on findings from an investigation conducted by Project Veritas Action and their published reports regarding the same, as well as on news sources.

“If the Commission, upon receiving a complaint . . . has reason to believe that a person has committed, or is about to commit, a violation of [the FECA] . . . [t]he Commission shall make an investigation of such alleged violation . . . .” 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(2); *see also* 11 C.F.R. § 111.4(a).

## Facts and Violations

### *Alien Registration Drives*

On information and belief based on published reports and findings from an investigation by Project Veritas Action, several groups including Americans United for Change and Voces de la Frontera Action and other unknown groups have engaged in voter registration drives and other GOTV activity during the 2016 election cycle. These activities potentially registered persons who were not citizens. This activity is regulated under 11 C.F.R. 114.4.

On the same information and belief, these voter registration drives and other GOTV activity were coordinated with DNC and HFA by express communication through agents of Democracy Partners and The Foval Group. These communications resulted in coordination of voter registration activity in violation of 11 C.F.R. 114.4(c)(2) and (d)(2)-(4) by all parties involved.

Also, because they were coordinated with a political party or campaign, these voter registration activities deliberately targeted demographic groups because they were statistically more likely to support a particular party or candidate in violation of 11 C.F.R. 114.4(c)(2) and (d)(2)-(4) by all parties involved.

### *Paid Protesters*

As reported in several news sources, disruptions, including incidents of violence, have occurred at rallies held by the Trump for President campaign. Based on published reports, these disruptions were instigated by paid professional protestors arranged by third party groups at the coordination and direction of agents of Democracy Partners and The Foval Group at the request and approval of agents of DNC and HFA.

On information and belief based on published reports and findings from an investigation by Project Veritas Action, these disruptions include the payment of protestors “wherever Trump and Pence are going to be.” Based on these reports, it appears that all violent disruptions at Trump for President campaign rallies have been executed by paid protestors trained and instructed in their speech and conduct to advocate against Trump and in support of Clinton.

On information and belief based on the same source, agents of DNC and HFA communicated with the third party groups and individuals engaging in the activity and content through agents of Democracy Partners and The Foval Group in order to request and approve the communications. Through a direct chain of communication, this constituted coordination under 11 C.F.R. 109.21(d)(1)-(5).

### *Other Public Communications and Campaign Activities*

On information and belief based on published reports, all public communications as defined in 11 C.F.R. 109.21(c) done by Americans United for Change, including the activities described in Exhibit A, were done at or with the direction, approval, suggestion, or after material discussion

regarding the timing, content, and audience of the communications, of the DNC and Hillary for America campaign.

Conclusion

Upon information and belief, and based upon the facts set forth above, Respondents Hillary for America, the Democratic National Committee, Democracy Partners, Americans United for Change, and their agents, named and unnamed above, have, each of them, individually and collectively, violated the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended, and must be held accountable and liable for their unlawful actions.

On behalf of PILF, I hereby request an investigation into whether the respondents identified above, or any other related parties, have violated federal campaign finance laws. The information uncovered by this investigation, including this initial complaint, will be used by PILF to educate the American people about the laws governing our elections and current and potential threats to election integrity.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. Please contact me if you have further questions.

Respectfully submitted,

PUBLIC INTEREST LEGAL FOUNDATION

Joseph A. Vanderhulst  
Legal Counsel

I hereby affirm and state under penalty of perjury that the foregoing statements are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

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Joseph A. Vanderhulst

Subscribed and sworn to me on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2016, by Joseph A. Vanderhulst, President and General Counsel of Public Interest Legal Foundation.

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Notary Public