



# 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

MUR # 7589

2019 MAR 28 PM 1:04

OFFICE OF  
GENERAL COUNSEL

**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.<sup>1</sup> The disclaimer “must be presented in a clear and conspicuous manner” and identify the authorized candidate committee paid for the communication.<sup>2</sup>

The Phillips for Congress web page does not contain the required disclaimer on its web sites pages.<sup>3</sup> 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.

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

<sup>2</sup> 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).

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

