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April 13, 2026

VIA FEDEX AND EMAIL (EnfComplaint@fec.gov)

Federal Election Commission
Office of the General Counsel
1050 First Street NE
Washington, DC 20002

Re: Complaint against Giffords PAC, Hickenlooper for Colorado, Jon Ossoff for Senate, Spanberger for Governor, Schiff for Senate, Mikie Sherrill for Governor, Elect Katie Hobbs, Friends of Sherrod Brown, Minnesotans for Klobuchar, and Cooper for North Carolina

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to file a complaint pursuant to 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(1) against Giffords PAC (C00540443) and Hickenlooper for Colorado (C00716720), Jon Ossoff for Senate (C00718866), Spanberger for Governor¹, Schiff for Senate (C00646871), Mikie Sherrill for Governor², Elect Katie Hobbs³, Friends of Sherrod Brown (C00916288), Minnesotans for Klobuchar⁴ and Cooper for North Carolina (C00913566) (collectively, the "Campaigns") for apparent violations of Federal Election Commission ("FEC" or "Commission") regulations.

Giffords PAC has sent fundraising emails signed by representatives of the Campaigns that jointly solicit contributions for both Giffords PAC and the Campaigns. These joint solicitations are a form of joint fundraising, yet Giffords PAC and the Campaigns do not appear to be complying with the FEC's joint fundraising regulations. In addition, regardless of whether the Giffords PAC emails constitute regulated joint fundraising, the emails do not appear to comply with the disclaimer requirements set forth in FEC regulations. There is reason to believe that Giffords PAC and the Campaigns have violated FEC regulations and I urge the Commission to take action.

¹ Spanberger for Governor is the Virginia gubernatorial campaign committee of Gov. Abigail Spanberger. It is registered with the Virginia State Board of Elections. See Reports for Spanberger for Governor (CC-23-02436), <https://cfreports.elections.virginia.gov/Committee/Index/60e10dc7-c59e-4a79-afca-e688c1efed65>.

² Mikie Sherrill for Governor is the New Jersey gubernatorial campaign committee of Gov. Mikie Sherrill. It is registered with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission. See Reports for Mikie Sherrill for Governor, searchable at <https://www.njelecefilesearch.com/searchcandidateports>.

³ Elect Katie Hobbs is the Arizona gubernatorial campaign committee of Gov. Katie Hobbs. It is registered with the Arizona Secretary of State's office. See Reports for Elect Katie Hobbs (201800057), <https://seethemoney.az.gov/Reporting/Explore#JurisdictionId=0|Page=11|startYear=2025|endYear=2027|IsLessActive=false|ShowOfficeHolder=false|View=Detail|Name=1-201800057|TablePage=1|TableLength=10>.

⁴ Minnesotans For Klobuchar is the Minnesota gubernatorial campaign committee of Rep. Amy Klobuchar.

Factual Background

On May 18, 2025, Giffords PAC sent an email from “John Hickenlooper” with the subject line “My story” (attached as Exhibit A). In the email, Senator Hickenlooper asks “will you split a donation between my campaign and GIFFORDS PAC to help build this campaign from the ground up?” The email links to a split-it page on ActBlue,⁵ which asks the audience to “Stand with John Hickenlooper and Gabby Giffords” and “Split a donation to GIFFORDS PAC and John Hickenlooper” (attached as Exhibit B).

On May 30, 2025, Giffords PAC sent an email from “Jon Ossoff” with the subject line “The one race MAGA is banking on” (attached as Exhibit C). After noting that he is “the only Democratic Senator up for re-election in a state Trump won,” Senator Ossoff pleads: “You know the stakes. And you know your support is crucial. If you are ready to make a donation today, please use this link to split a donation between my campaign and GIFFORDS PAC today.” Senator Ossoff later urges “I can’t do it alone, which is why I’m asking: Please, consider splitting a contribution between my re-election and GIFFORDS PAC. Every donation counts in a race as close as this one will be.” The email links to a split-it page on ActBlue, which asks the audience to “Stand with Jon Ossoff and Gabby Giffords” and “Split a donation to GIFFORDS PAC and Jon Ossoff today” (attached as Exhibit D).

On June 29, 2025, Giffords PAC sent another email from “Jon Ossoff” with the subject line “A last-ditch request from me” (attached as Exhibit E). Senator Ossoff asks the recipient to “[p]lease split a contribution between my re-election campaign and GIFFORDS PAC today before our end-of-quarter fundraising drive comes to a close.” The email links to a split-it page on ActBlue, which asks the audience to “Stand with Jon Ossoff and Gabby Giffords” and “Split a donation to GIFFORDS PAC and Jon Ossoff today” (attached as Exhibit F).

On July 7, 2025, Giffords PAC sent an email from “Abigail Spanberger” with the subject line “Introducing myself” (attached as Exhibit G). After introducing herself, then-Virginia gubernatorial candidate Spanberger implores: “Will you become a founding member of my campaign for Governor by splitting a \$5 contribution with GIFFORDS? There’s no bigger election this year than here in Virginia, and I feel the responsibility to set the tone by winning big — but I can only deliver if we raise the resources to air ads, hire organizers, and turn out voters.” The email links to a split-it page on ActBlue, which asks the audience to “Stand with Abigail Spanberger and Gabby Giffords” and “Split a donation to GIFFORDS PAC and Abigail Spanberger” (attached as Exhibit H).

On July 28, 2025, Giffords PAC sent another email from “Jon Ossoff” with the subject line “A right-wing Super PAC just launched a massive \$5 million ad buy attacking me” (attached as Exhibit I). In this email, Senator Ossoff asks the recipient, “so please, split a donation of \$10 – or whatever you are in a place to give – between my re-election campaign and GIFFORDS PAC to help me fight back against these attacks and defend this seat.” The email links to a split-it page

⁵ A split-it page enables a donor to contribute to more than one committee through a single credit card transaction. See AO 2014-13 (ActBlue) at 2 (“Once an individual authorizes contributions to be made to multiple recipients through a contribution form, the contributor’s credit card is charged for the total amount of the contributions. ActBlue receives the funds from the credit card processor and transmits them to each recipient committee as designated by the contributor on the contribution form, less ActBlue’s standard processing fees.”).

on ActBlue, which asks the audience to “Stand with Jon Ossoff and Gabby Giffords” and “Split a donation to GIFFORDS PAC and Jon Ossoff today” (attached as Exhibit J).

On September 18, 2025, Giffords PAC sent an email from “Adam Schiff” with the subject line “Kash Patel loses it after pressed on Epstein files” (attached as Exhibit K). In this email, Representative Schiff asks the recipient to “please split a contribution between my campaign and GIFFORDS PAC today.” The email links to a split-it page on ActBlue, which asks the audience to “Stand with Adam Schiff and Gabby Giffords” and “Split a donation to Giffords PAC and Adam Schiff today” (attached as Exhibit L).

On October 11, 2025, Giffords PAC sent an email from “Mikie Sherrill” with the subject line “The Trump administration is weaponizing the government to defeat me” (attached as Exhibit M). In this email, then-New Jersey gubernatorial candidate Mikie Sherrill asks recipients to “please rush a split donation to my campaign and GIFFORDS PAC and help me fight back against the attempts to smear my name.” The email links to a split-it page on ActBlue which implores “Stand with Mikie Sherrill and Gabby Giffords” and “Split a donation to GIFFORDS PAC and Mikie Sherrill today” (attached as Exhibit N).

On October 16, 2025, Giffords PAC sent another email from “Abigail Spanberger” with the subject line “I’m respectfully asking” (attached as Exhibit O). In this email, then-Virginia gubernatorial candidate Spanberger tells the audience “I’m asking for your donation of \$5 or more today, split with GIFFORDS PAC, so that we can set an example for the nation and stand up to chaos coming out of Trump’s White House.” The email further states “With the polls tightening, your \$5 to our campaign and GIFFORDS PAC before midnight is urgently needed to turn out the voters who’ll flip Virginia blue.” The email links to a split-it page on ActBlue that asks visitors to “Stand with Abigail Spanberger and Gabby Giffords” and to “split a donation to GIFFORDS PAC and Abigail Spanberger” (attached as Exhibit P).

On January 30, 2026, Giffords PAC sent an email from “Katie Hobbs” with the subject line “It wasn’t an easy decision to make” (attached as Exhibit Q). In this email, then-Arizona gubernatorial candidate Hobbs implores readers “so please, split \$10, \$25, or whatever amount you’re able to my campaign and GIFFORDS PAC to help me win this 50/50 race, defend our hard-won progress, and serve another four years as governor of Arizona.” This email links to a split-it page on ActBlue that asks readers to “Stand with Katie Hobbs and Gabby Giffords” and to “split a donation to GIFFORDS PAC and Katie Hobbs today” (attached as Exhibit R).

On February 4, 2026, Giffords PAC sent an email from “Sherrod Brown” with the subject line “What can I say to convince you?” (attached as Exhibit S). In this email Sen. Brown asks “is there anything I can say to convince you to chip in \$10 split between GIFFORDS PAC and my Senate campaign today?” and “So please, will you chip in \$10 – or even \$25 – split with GIFFORDS PAC to fuel our campaign, protect our lead in the polls, and win in Ohio?” This email links to a split-it page on ActBlue which asks visitors to “Stand with Sherrod Brown and Gabby Giffords” and to “split a donation to GIFFORDS PAC and Sherrod Brown today” (attached as Exhibit T).

On February 22, 2026, Giffords PAC sent an email from “Amy Klobuchar” with the subject line “I’m running for governor of the state of Minnesota” (attached as Exhibit U). In this

email Sen. Klobuchar asks readers “will you help us get off to a strong start by splitting a donation between GIFFORDS and my campaign?” and “will you support my campaign for governor with a donation today? Your contribution will be split with GIFFORDS.” This email links to a split-it page on ActBlue that asks visitors to “stand with Amy Klobuchar and Gabby Giffords” and to “split a donation to GIFFORDS PAC and Amy Klobuchar today” (attached as Exhibit V).

On February 26, 2026, Giffords PAC sent another email from “Jon Ossoff” with the subject line “Why I ran for Senate – and why this moment is just as urgent” (attached as Exhibit W). In this email, Sen. Ossoff asks readers “please split \$10 between my reelection campaign and GIFFORDS today” and “please split a contribution between my reelection campaign and GIFFORDS today, of \$10 or any amount that works for you.” This email links to a split-it page on ActBlue that states “Stand with Jon Ossoff and Gabby Giffords” and “split a donation to GIFFORDS PAC and Jon Ossoff today” (attached as Exhibit X).

On March 6, 2026, Giffords PAC sent another email from “Sherrod Brown (via GIFFORDS.org)” with the subject line “Can I count on you?” (attached as Exhibit Y). In this email, Sen. Brown states “\$10. That’s how much I’m asking you to chip in today – split between my campaign and GIFFORDS – to help us reach our \$25,000 goal and win in Ohio” and further asks “so please, will you chip in \$10 or more to GIFFORDS and me today to help reach our \$25,000 goal, power this campaign forward, and win in Ohio?” The email links to a split-it page on ActBlue that tells visitors “stand with Sherrod Brown and Gabby Giffords” and to “split a donation to GIFFORDS PAC and Sherrod Brown today” (attached as Exhibit Z).

On March 17, 2026, Giffords PAC sent an email from “Roy Cooper” with the subject line “This is the race experts say will decide Senate control” (attached as Exhibit AA). In this email, former Gov. Cooper asks recipients: “This is predicted to be the most expensive Senate race in history. Will you split a \$10 gift between our campaign and GIFFORDS PAC to help us reach our goal, win in North Carolina and return power to the people?” The email links to a split-it page on ActBlue, which asks the audience to “Stand with Roy Cooper and Gabby Giffords” and allows for the donation of amounts which will be split between Giffords PAC and the Cooper campaign (attached as Exhibit BB).

On March 22, 2026, Giffords PAC sent yet another email from “Jon Ossoff” with the subject line “Just days away” (attached as Exhibit CC). In this email, Sen. Ossoff asks readers “can you split a \$5 donation between my campaign and GIFFORDS PAC before midnight to help me win in Georgia?” Sen. Ossoff further implores “please, if you can make it work, split what you can between me and GIFFORDS PAC before our end-of-quarter FEC fundraising deadline.” The email links to a split-it page on ActBlue, which asks the audience to “Stand with Jon Ossoff and Gabby Giffords,” and allows for the donation of amounts which will be split between Giffords PAC and the Ossoff campaign (attached as Exhibit DD).

The fifteen emails detailed above are all signed with the name of the applicable candidate and the disclaimers on each state: “Paid For By Giffords PAC; not authorized by any candidate or candidate’s committee. www.Giffords.org.” See Exhibits A, C, E, G, I, K, M, O, Q, S, U, W, Y, AA, and CC.

I. There is reason to believe that Giffords PAC and the Campaigns are violating the FEC's joint fundraising regulations.

The Giffords PAC emails, which jointly solicit contributions for both Giffords PAC and the Campaigns, appear to be a form of joint fundraising. As explained below, however, Giffords PAC and the Campaigns do not appear to be complying with the FEC's joint fundraising regulations. The FEC should find reason to believe that Giffords PAC and the Campaigns violated FEC regulations and immediately investigate this matter.

A. The Giffords PAC emails appear to be joint fundraising.

The Giffords PAC emails are joint fundraising because they jointly solicit and collect contributions for more than one committee and are materially distinguishable from FEC Advisory Opinion 2022-19 (Maggie for NH) ("AO 2022-19"). In AO 2022-19, Maggie for NH asked whether short-code text messages containing links to split-it fundraising pages on ActBlue are joint fundraising. Maggie for NH represented that its proposed text messages would be "create[d] and sen[t] to its supporters *independently* of other political committees" and would "include links to the split-it pages that Maggie for NH create[d] and administer[ed] *independently* of other political committees." AO 2022-19 at 3 (emphasis added). The FEC explained that conducting these activities independently "would not indicate that Maggie for NH and the other political committees listed on the split-it pages have agreed to fundraise jointly." *Id.* "Under these facts, the Commission conclude[d] that the proposed text messages containing links to the split-it pages would not constitute joint fundraising and thus [were] not subject to the joint fundraising regulations." *Id.*

Here, however, there is an indication that Giffords PAC and the Campaigns "have agreed to fundraise jointly." Giffords PAC could not have created and sent these emails independently of the Campaigns. The Giffords PAC solicitation emails featured representatives of the Campaigns who not only signed the emails, but also specifically solicited contributions for both Giffords PAC and the Campaigns (*e.g.*, "please use this link to split a donation between my campaign and GIFFORDS PAC today," "Please split a contribution between my re-election campaign and GIFFORDS PAC today," "become a founding member of my campaign for Governor by splitting a \$5 contribution with GIFFORDS," "will you split a donation between my campaign and GIFFORDS PAC to help build this campaign from the ground up?", "Please split a contribution of \$10 or any amount between our campaign and GIFFORDS PAC to help us reach our general election fundraising goal."). The emails linked to split-it pages that solicit and collect contributions for both Giffords PAC and the Campaigns. This indicates that the Campaigns were involved in the creation of the Giffords PAC joint solicitation emails and potentially the creation of the split-it page. This is a materially distinguishable fact from AO 2022-19. Giffords PAC's emails do not align with AO 2022-19 and appear to be joint fundraising activity.

B. Giffords PAC and the Campaigns do not appear to be observing joint fundraising procedures.

There is no indication that Giffords PACs and the Campaigns are conducting their apparent joint fundraising activity in compliance with the FEC's required procedures. "Political

committees may engage in joint fundraising with other political committees or with unregistered committees or organizations,” but must comply with “[t]he procedures in 11 C.F.R. § 102.17(c) [which] govern all joint fundraising activity.” 11 C.F.R. § 102.17(a)(1)(i), (2). These procedures include: entering into a written agreement that identifies the joint fundraising representative and allocation formula; including a joint fundraising notice “with every solicitation for contributions” that informs potential contributors of the joint fundraising participants, allocation formula, and other important information; establishing a separate depository account to be used solely for the receipt and disbursement of joint fundraising proceeds; and reporting all joint fundraising activity through the designated fundraising representative, which may either a separate political committee or a participating committee. *Id.* § 102.17(c).

Two key facts indicate that Giffords PAC and the Campaigns may not be observing joint fundraising procedures. First, Giffords PAC has not formed a joint fundraising committee with any of the Campaigns. According to Giffords PAC’s most recent FEC Statement of Organization, it does not serve as the joint fundraising representative for any joint fundraising efforts nor is it a participant in any joint fundraising committee. *See* Giffords PAC, FEC Statement of Organization (amended Apr. 9, 2020), <https://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/206/202004099216619206/202004099216619206.pdf>. Second, neither the Giffords PAC emails nor the linked split-it pages include the joint fundraising notice required by FEC regulations. *See* Exhibits A-DD.

II. Moreover, there is reason to believe that Giffords PAC’s emails do not comply with disclaimer requirements.

The disclaimer at the bottom of the Giffords PAC emails states that the emails were “Paid For By Giffords PAC” and “not authorized by any candidate or candidate’s committee.” *See* Exhibits A, C, E, G, I, K, M, O, Q, S, U, W, Y, AA, and CC. However, the emails appear to be authorized by candidates. In fact, the emails are signed by candidates and jointly solicit contributions for the Campaigns. Regardless of whether the emails are joint fundraising, the candidates appear to have “authorized” the communications and there is reason to believe that the Giffords PAC emails do not comply with FEC disclaimer requirements.

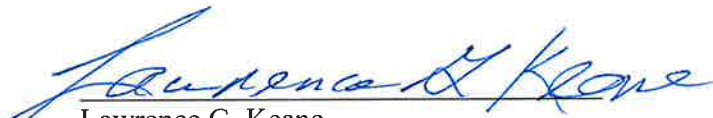
“[E]lectronic mail of more than 500 substantially similar communications when sent by a political committee” must include disclaimers. 11 C.F.R. § 110.11(a)(1). “If the communication, including any solicitation, is not authorized by a candidate, authorized committee of a candidate, or an agent of either of the foregoing, the disclaimer must clearly state the full name and . . . website address of the person who paid for the communication, and that the communication is not authorized by any candidate or candidate’s committee.” *Id.* § 110.11(b)(3) (emphasis added). However, “[i]f the communication, including any solicitation is authorized by a candidate, an authorized committee of a candidate, or an agent of either of the foregoing, but is paid for by any other person, the disclaimer must clearly state that the communication is paid for by such other person and is authorized by such candidate, authorized committee, or agent.” *Id.* § 110.11(b)(2).

Giffords PAC is a political committee, and it is required to display a disclaimer on emails of more than 500 substantially similar communications. It appears the Giffords PAC emails met this threshold because the committee included a disclaimer—albeit an incorrect one. Regardless

of whether the Giffords PAC emails are joint fundraising, the communications would still be authorized by the participating candidate and the disclaimer should have reflected this fact.

Giffords PAC and the Campaigns appear to be flouting the FEC's joint fundraising regulations and obscuring how these fundraising efforts are financed. The joint fundraising regulations ensure that each participant pays its own allocable share of fundraising costs based on funds raised. Disclaimer requirements inform the public of who is paying for a communication and whether a candidate is standing behind the communication. These are important components of campaign finance law and the FEC's implementing regulations. The FEC should find reason to believe that Giffords PAC and the Campaigns violated these requirements and investigate this matter.

Sincerely,


Lawrence G. Keane

Signed and sworn to before me this 13 day of April, 2026.


Notary Public



District of Columbia
Signed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me
on 4/13/26 by Lawrence G. Keane
Date Name(s) of Individual(s) making Statement
Hannah Paepke
Signature of Notarial Officer
Notary Public
Title of Office
My commission expires: December 14, 2030

[EXHIBITS FOLLOW]