IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS SAN ANTONIO DIVISION

Jarrod Stringer, et al.,	S	
Plaintiffs,	\$	
	S	
V.	S	No. SA-20-CV-46-OG
	S	
RUTH R. HUGHS, et al.,	S	
Defendants.	S	

DEFENDANTS' RESPONSE IN OPPOSITION TO INTERVENORS' MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT AND COUNTER-MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT DISMISSING INTERVENORS

Exhibit B

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS SAN ANTONIO DIVISION

JARROD STRINGER, et al., *

Plaintiffs,

*

v. * No. SA-20-CV-46-OG

*

RUTH HUGHS, et al., *

Defendant.

VIDEOTAPED VIDEOCONFERENCED

ORAL DEPOSITION

OF

THE DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSIONAL

CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE,

JACQUELINE NEWMAN

Tuesday, April 28, 2020

VIDEOTAPED VIDEOCONFERENCED DEPOSITION OF

JACQUELINE NEWMAN, produced as a witness at the instance
of the Defendant, and duly sworn, was taken in the
above-styled and numbered cause on Tuesday, April 28,
2020, from 10:09 a.m. to 2:05 p.m. Central Time, before
Debbie D. Cunningham, CSR, in and for the State of
Texas, remotely reported via Machine Shorthand, pursuant
to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

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INDEX		
APPEARANCES	2	
EXAMINATION OF JACQUELINE NEWMAN:		
BY MR. HILTON	6	
CHANGES AND SIGNATURE	131	
REPORTER'S CERTIFICATION	133	
	APPEARANCES EXAMINATION OF JACQUELINE NEWMAN: BY MR. HILTON CHANGES AND SIGNATURE	APPEARANCES 2 EXAMINATION OF JACQUELINE NEWMAN: BY MR. HILTON 6 CHANGES AND SIGNATURE 131

				4
1		EXHIBIT INDEX		
2	Exhibit Number	r Description	Page	
3				
4 5	Exhibit 1	Defendants' Notice of Oral Deposition Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 30	24	
6	Exhibit 2	Intervenor-Plaintiffs Texas	25	
7		Democratic Party, DSCC, and DCCC's Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief	7	
8	Exhibit 3	Alexander Edelman Declaration	26	
10	Exhibit 4	DCCC's Production in Response Subpoena Duces Tecum	29	
11	Exhibit 5	Jacqueline Newman LinkedIn page	14	
12	Exhibit 6	FEC Form 1, Statement of Organization for DCCC	43	
13 14	Exhibit 7	DCCC Amended Year-End Report Summary	56	
15	Exhibit 8	Excel spreadsheet	45	
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				
21				
22				
23				
24				
25				

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 1
              (Tuesday, April 28, 2020, 10:10 a.m.)
                     PROCEEDINGS
 2
                  THE REPORTER: Today is April 28th, 2020.
 3
 4
   This is the deposition of the Corporate Representative
   of DCCC, Jacqueline Newman, in the matter of Jarrod
 5
    Stringer, et al. versus Ruth R. Hughs, et al. We are
 6
 7
    situated remotely and are on the record at 10:09 a.m.,
 8
   Central Standard Time.
 9
                  My name is Debbie Cunningham, and my
10
   business address is P.O. Box, Manchaca, Texas 78652.
11
                  Would all persons present please
12
    introduce themselves for the record?
13
                  MR. HILTON: Chris Hilton for the
   Defendants.
14
15
                  MS. BRANCH: Aria Branch for the
   Plaintiff Intervenor DCCC. That's "D" and then three
16
    "Cs."
17
18
                  MS. BRAILEY: Emily Brailey, also for the
19
   Plaintiff Intervenor, DCCC.
20
                  THE WITNESS: Jacqueline Newman with the
21
   DCCC.
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24
25
                       JACQUELINE NEWMAN,
```

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   having taken an oath to tell the truth, the whole truth,
 1
 2
   and nothing but the truth, was examined and testified as
 3
   follows:
                          EXAMINATION
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   BY MR. HILTON:
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              Good morning, Ms. Newman.
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         0.
 7
         Α.
              Hi.
 8
         Q.
              Could you please state and spell your name one
 9
   more time for the record?
10
              Sure. It's Jacqueline Newman,
         Α.
11
    J-A-C-Q-U-E-L-I-N-E N-E-W-M-A-N.
12
         Q.
              And you're here on behalf of DCCC to testify
13
   as their representative today, right?
14
         Α.
              I am.
15
              Before starting to prepare for this, I
16
    truthfully didn't know a whole lot about the DCCC and
17
   what it does. I think I'm still pretty murky on the
18
   details, and I'm hoping you can explain for me so I can
19
   kind of understand more today. Can you just start me
20
   off with kind of an overview about what the DCCC is,
21
   what its purpose is, what it does?
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        A.
              Sure. The DCCC is the national party tasked
23
   with electing Democrats to the U.S. House of
24
   Representatives.
25
         Q.
              You said it's a party?
```

Q. So what do you set out to do? I mean, is it primarily fundraising; or just what is, you know?

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A. We -- again, we're trying to elect Democrats to the U.S. House of Representatives; and so we support campaigns in a variety of ways and functions.

- Q. Okay. Well, we'll go through some of the details of some of that later. I guess I would like to start, also, with understanding a little bit more about you and your background. So you're currently employed by the DCCC; is that right?
- A. I am.

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- Q. And what's your role?
- A. I'm the Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer.
- Q. Okay. And what are the responsibilities for those roles?
- A. I oversee all the administrative and operations functions for the building -- or for the committee, that includes the building itself, our Human Resources functions, our budgets, our legal activity, just making sure everything is functioning as it should.
 - Q. How many employees does DCCC have?
- A. Right now we are roughly at about 265 employees.
- Q. So these are folks that receive a paycheck from DCCC?
- 22 A. Yes.
- Q. And where are they located, and what kind of work do they engage in? I'm trying to get a sense of, you know, who's out there.

- A. Sure. They -- our employees are located across the country. The majority are based in DC. We have several employees that are on the ground in Texas as it relates to this case.
- Q. Uh-huh. And as far as your job, Deputy

 Executive Director -- did I get that right?
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. How long have you had that role?
- 9 A. I think I've had this title since September.

 10 I've been with the committee in some fashion since 2014,

 11 and I was previously with the committee in 2012.
- Q. And what about the COO title, how long have you had that?
- 14 A. About two and a half years.
 - Q. Okay. Who -- what's the reporting -- what's,
 I guess, the leadership structure? You're the Deputy
 Executive Director, so I assume you report to an
 Executive Director. Is there anyone else you report to,
 other folks that report to you? Can you give me a sense
 of that?
 - A. Yes, you're right. There's an Executive

 Director who oversees all the day-to-day functions of
 the committee; and then we also have a Chair of the
 committee, Congresswoman Cheri Bustos.
 - Q. Anyone else that you report to?

A. No.

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- Q. And then who reports to you?
- A. I have a team below me, a Chief Administrative 4 Officer, IT Director.
 - Q. Is that it, there's two people that report to you?
 - A. Oh, I'm sorry. Then there's some junior-level staffers below them who are kind of the senior team and then HR and Administration Manager.
 - Q. Okay. How many people would you say report to you directly?
 - A. I think it's about eight or nine people.
 - Q. Okay. Are there any other deputy executive directors, or are you the only one? Like, a lot of agencies have, like, multiple deputy commissioners in charge of certain things.
- 17 A. Sure. There are two other deputy executive 18 directors.
 - Q. What are their names, and what are their responsibilities?
 - A. One is Ryan Hedgepeth, and he is our Deputy
 Executive Director for Member Engagement. He works
 directly with members of our caucus, members of
 Congress. And Mike Smith is also a Deputy Executive
 Director, and he oversees our fundraising operations.

- Q. Has there been any change to that structure in the time that you've been with the DCCC?
 - A. The Deputy Executive Director structure?
- 4 Q. Yes, yeah.

2.2

- A. Yes, there has.
- Q. So what were the changes and when did they occur, again, just kind of focusing on this top-level structure?
- A. Sure. So I'm sorry. Could you -- did you say this year or during my entire time at the DCCC?
 - Q. Just since you've been at DCCC.
- A. Sure. So each cycle, which is a two-year election period, the DCCC goes through the process of -- at one point it was appointing and now it's electing a Chair of the committee. And each Chair that comes in is able to kind of re-image the structure as they see necessary in order to carry out their goals for the cycle. And so with that, I would say each cycle there has been a slightly different leadership structure.
- Q. Can you give me some examples, maybe? Maybe if it changes every two years regularly, we don't have to go through every one; but if you could, kind of give me a sense of what type of changes that there are.
- A. Sure. So usually -- I think in the past few cycles there has been a Deputy Executive Director, at

- 1 least one or a few. And last cycle there was one Deputy
- 2 Executive Director, and they reported to the Executive
- 3 Director. In other cycles there have been a few deputy
- 4 executive directors that kind of oversee a few key
- 5 functions of the building and then report back to the
- 6 Executive Director. Again, it just kind of depends on
- 7 the Executive Director and the Chair at the time.
 - Q. How are the Executive Director and the Chair chosen?
- 10 A. Currently -- and this is a somewhat recent
- 11 change -- the Chair of the committee is elected by the
- 12 Democratic Caucus, and the Executive Director is hired
- 13 by the Chair.

- 14 Q. Okay. And so you've been with DCCC since 2014
- 15 and then another stint before then. Is it typical to
- 16 have a long tenure, you know, for employees to be
- 17 tenured that length of time; or is there a lot of
- 18 turnover with these two-year cycles?
- 19 A. Yeah, it's definitely more common that people
- 20 work a cycle and then they move on to another
- 21 opportunity. There's a lot of turnover usually.
- 22 Q. Is some of that top down? I mean, does the
- 23 Executive Director bring in their own people every year
- 24 or...
- 25 A. No. I think it's more just the nature of

- 1 campaigns that every two years people are moving on to
- 2 something else. I think you would see -- and this
- 3 partially explains why I've been here longer than most
- 4 people, but the administrative functions are the people
- 5 who tend to stay cycle to cycle. And the people who
- 6 work kind of in different parts of the committee are
- 7 often moving on to other campaigns or other
- 8 organizations.
- 9 Q. So that would be more typical of the folks who
- 10 do the fundraising or the -- I forget how you put it --
- 11 the direct interfacing with the caucus members?
- 12 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. You've been here, you know, at DCCC
- 14 quite a while. I take it you enjoy your job?
- 15 A. I do.
- 16 Q. What do you enjoy about your job?
- A. I think the work we do is important, and I
- 18 like the values we represent.
- 19 Q. Okay. What values?
- 20 A. I think electing Democrats to the U.S. House
- 21 of Representatives -- you know, the House, I think,
- 22 impacts a lot of change within this country; and it's
- 23 important that we expand and protect our majority.
- Q. You've mentioned that a couple of times
- 25 already and we're going to talk -- you know, one of the

provided to you that were the DCCC's production, do you have any other documents in front of you, with you? Are you referring to any other documents?

A. No, I don't.

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Q. Okay. I'll ask for you to continue not to do that; and if you do refer to another document, please let me know. And I think the same thing goes with talking to other people, including by e-mail, text, you know, anything like that. Please refrain from doing that, you know, until the deposition is over. And if you do do that, I'd ask that you please, you know, let me know.

All right. So turning to Exhibit 5, which is at least a portion of your LinkedIn page, it has employment history for you going back to May 2008. I was kind of hoping you could walk me through each of these positions, starting with May 2008, and explain to me -- obviously, we don't have to go into a huge amount of detail for all of these; but if you could, explain to me just kind of generally what the company was or what the organization was, what your role was, and kind of give me a sense of the evolution of your career. That's my goal here.

So if you could just kind of start from GIS Specialist at the Timmons Group and work your way

- through, I think that's the most efficient way to go about it.
- A. Okay. Sure. So in 2008 I worked with the Timmons Group, which is an engineering firm. I was a GIS Specialist at the time, Geographic Information Systems.
 - Q. What is a Geographic Information System?
- A. It's like a lot of building kind of digital maps. That's what I did, usually, for local governments that were hoping to convert to a modern era, if you will.
 - O. In what sense?

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- A. Like, the work I did was taking, like, paper documents, land parcels, and I was digitizing them.
 - Q. Oh, I see. So any kind of, you know, records or whatever, just trying to make it into a modern electronically-accessible system?
 - A. Yeah, yeah, basically.
 - Q. Got it. Any particular projects that stand out from that time? I don't mean to make you go all the way back through your career.
 - A. Oh, sure. No, no. So most of the work I specialized in, we worked with a lot of rural, I guess, counties and locations; and they were in the process of trying to basically get up and running a system that --

- 1 where people in their location can call 9-1-1 and it
- 2 | would be linked to their home, which I think is
- 3 something that, especially in urban and suburban areas,
- 4 people take for granted that you call 9-1-1 and they
- 5 know where you're calling from. So that required
- 6 digitizing all of the maps and then linking each, like,
- 7 | land parcel to the phone information we had for people
- 8 living there. That was the majority of the work I did
- 9 at Timmons.

20

- Q. Okay. And I'm sorry to dwell on this, but it looks like your career kind of takes a more political -or politically-oriented turn from here. Did you do any political type work or redistricting or anything like
- A. I didn't do any political work with Timmons.

 I was involved through my school; and while I was

 working at Timmons, I took on a side project, which is a
- 18 strong majority the role I did above it. And so I was
- 19 kind of doing that in my spare time.

that when you were with Timmons Group?

21 kind of walk me through this and let you explain it; and

All right. Well, I know I asked you to just

- then I immediately interrupted you. So sorry about
- 23 that, but maybe you can pick it up from there and
- 24 continue to walk me through the rest of your career.
- 25 A. Sure. So for a strong majority, I was their

- 1 | Compliance Director. I basically oversaw their
- 2 bookkeeping and was responsible for accounting and
- 3 reporting through the Virginia State Board of Elections,
- 4 just maintaining their compliance.
- 5 And then I found myself in Indiana, where
- 6 I was hired as the Deputy Director of Compliance and
- 7 Operations; and in that role -- you will sense a theme
- 8 here -- but I oversaw the HR, the operations and the
- 9 bookkeeping budgets and compliance for the Indiana
- 10 Democratic Party.
- 11 Q. And I'm sorry to interrupt you one more time,
- 12 at least. I should have started with this, but I
- 13 forgot. What was your -- what education did you have
- 14 that led you into all these roles? Like, I think you
- 15 mentioned you were still in school when you started with
- 16 Timmons. Now, what were you in school for? What
- 17 degree, if any, did you attain?
- 18 A. Sure. I went to school, and I received a
- 19 bachelor's degree in geography.
- Q. And I know as a component of that, there's a
- 21 lot of, you know, technical and software and all sorts
- 22 of stuff like that that kind of led you to be able to do
- 23 the more technical side of things that you're doing?
- 24 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. All right. I interrupted you again.

I'm sorry. Let's try it again.

- 2 Α. No problem. So I was in Indiana briefly.
- stayed through the end of the election cycle and moved 3
- 4 back to Virginia. In April of 2011 I started with
- Protect Your Care and Know Your Care as their Director 5
- 6 of Operations. Again, I kind of oversaw the budget
- 7 aspects, the compliance, HR. After --
 - Q. I'm sorry. What is that group?
- 9 It was a 501(c)(3) and (c)(4) organized around Α. 10 educating people on Obamacare --
- 11 Q.

Okay.

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- -- and the Affordable Care Act. 12
- 13 Q. Okay.
- 14 In 2012 I took a job with the DCCC as their Α.
- 15 Director of Operations on their 2012 Independent
- 16 Expenditure Program; and in that role, I managed the
- 17 administrative functions for the IE, which is a large
- paid media campaign. 18
- 19 And when you say a paid media campaign, can Q.
- 20 you elaborate a little bit on that?
- 21 Sure. It's mostly a bunch of TV ads that the Α.
- 2.2 DCCC puts out.
- 23 And what was the nature of the ads? What was Q.
- 24 the purpose?
- 25 To elect Democrats to the U.S. House. Α.

- Q. Anywhere in particular? Any particular type of ad; or was it just, you know, all House members?
- A. It was certainly focused in our targeted races. I don't know how much that was off the top of my head; but I would say, ballpark, it probably covered about 30 races across the country.
- Q. And -- okay. I think that's enough for now.

 8 I'll let you continue.
- 9 A. Following 2012 I took a job with Terry
 10 McAuliffe's campaign for governor in Virginia; and I
 11 operated largely in the same capacity for that roll,
 12 overseeing all the operations functions, HR, budgets,
 13 legal.
- Q. Was that a successful campaign?
- 15 A. It was a successful campaign.
- Q. He's still governor, right? Did he get re-
 - A. He is not still governor --
- 19 Q. Oh, okay.
- 20 A. -- but he is always around.
- 21 Q. Okay.

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- 22 A. So you feel like he's still governor.
- And then, following his successful
- 24 campaign, after his inauguration I returned to the DCCC
- 25 as Deputy Chief Operating Officer and over the years

have slowly progressed.

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Q. You've stayed around and stayed in a couple different roles, and I know how it goes when you stay at a place for a long time.

I guess the only other one I wanted to ask you about specifically was Interim Executive

Director from July of 2019 to September 2019. How did you come to have that role, and the way you're describing -- I guess my other question is, as your primary viewpoint, you know, if it goes in two-year election cycles, is that a down period since the 2018 election had just been over?

What was -- I guess I was saying all of that to say -- I'll give you an actual question that you can answer. How did you come to get that role, what did you do during that period, and how did that relate to the cyclical nature of DCCC's work?

A. Sure. So we had a leadership transition in the middle of our cycle this year, which actually isn't common. Usually an Executive Director would be hired in December or January and stay for two years or longer in some cases. So there was a leadership transition. In that moment I stepped up to be the Interim Executive Director, and largely I ran the entire process to find a permanent Executive Director.

Q. And you say there was a leadership transition.

I'm assuming that someone had signed up to do the role

and then moved on to take another opportunity

unexpectedly?

A. Yes.

2.2

- Q. Okay. And you may have mentioned this. I just don't recall. Where did you say you went to, got your bachelor's?
- 9 A. I went to the University of Mary Washington in 10 Fredericksburg, Virginia.
 - Q. Well, I appreciate all that. It's always helpful to know. Even though you're a representative on DCCC's behalf, it's extremely helpful to know your perspective, your background, and your expertise. So I appreciate you walking me through that. I know talking about the full length of one's career is not necessarily the most exciting, but I appreciate it.

I would like to turn now to talk a little bit about how you -- you know, about the depo itself and how you prepared for this deposition today. So I guess start there. What did you do to prepare for the deposition today?

A. Sure. Well, I discussed with my counsel. I reviewed the Complaint that we had filed and reviewed the Deposition Notice topics. I also reviewed a

- declaration that a member of my team had submitted in response to this.
 - Q. Any other documents?

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- A. I gathered information related to the deposition topics, but that was it.
 - Q. How did you gather information?
 - A. I guess searching through DCCC documents.
- Q. Okay. Did you search through e-mails or some other source of documents?
- 10 A. I think mostly just documents that are on our 11 drive, like on --
 - Q. Did you use search terms, or did you just browse through them?
- MS. BRANCH: I want to just object to the extent that it calls for attorney-client privileged information.
 - But you can answer as long as you're not revealing any of the content of our conversations.
 - Q. (BY MR. HILTON) Yeah. And particularly in this prep area it gets kind of close to that. I am not asking you for content of any conversations with your attorneys. So please do not provide that information. I don't want it. It is privileged, so.
- All right. So you said that you were just browsing through files, I guess, based on your

- knowledge and familiarity with the files of the
- 2 organization?

attorneys?

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- A. Yes, that's correct.
- Q. Did you speak to anyone other than your
- 6 A. Just our -- yes, with our attorneys.
 - Q. But no other employees of DCCC or anyone else other than your attorneys?
- 9 A. Right.
- 10 (Exhibit 1 discussed.)
- Q. (BY MR. HILTON) Okay. I'd like to turn to
- 12 Exhibit 1, which I had sent out previously via the Zoom
- 13 chat. And do you recognize Exhibit 1?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. And what is it?
- A. These are the deposition topics you sent in a
- 17 Notice for this role.
- 18 Q. Right. And so let's turn to page 5 of
- 19 Exhibit 1. The heading is 30(b)(6) Corporate
- 20 Representative Deposition Topics?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. Are you prepared to testify as to all these
- 23 topics today?
- 24 A. I am.
- Q. And then I'd like to go to page 6. The

- heading is Attachment B. These are the document 1
- requests that we sent in connection with this Notice; is 2
- 3 that right?

- 4 Α. Yes.
- 5 And it sounds like you searched for documents Q.
- that were responsive to these requests? 7 I worked with my counsel on this.
- 8 Q. Okay. Did DCCC produce documents responsive
- 9 to these requests?
- 10 Α. Yes.
- 11 Q. So did DCCC comply with these requests?
- 12 Α. Yes.
- 13 (Exhibit 2 discussed.)
- 14 (BY MR. HILTON) Okay. The next one is going Q.
- 15 to be Exhibit 2, which, hopefully, is the Complaint in
- this matter. 16
- 17 Α. Yes.
- 18 Q. So you have Exhibit 2 in front of you?
- 19 I do. Α.
- 20 And have you seen this document before? Q.
- 21 Α. I have.
- 22 Q. Did you review it before it was filed?
- 23 Α. Yes.
- 24 How much time did you spend reviewing it,
- 25 before it was filed, I mean?

- A. Before it was filed?
- 2 **Q. Yes.**

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- A. Probably -- to be clear, you mean the Complaint itself or in preparation for the Complaint?
- Q. I'm breaking it into two parts. So the first part is: How much time did you spend reviewing the Complaint before it was filed? And then the next part will be: Did you review it again for this deposition, and how much time did you spend reviewing it?
- 10 A. I probably spent about 30 minutes reviewing
 11 the Complaint before it was filed.
- Q. Okay. And you said you reviewed it again to prepare for the deposition today. How much time did you spend then?
- 15 A. Probably about an hour.
- Q. Okay. I'm going to send out the next exhibit,

 Exhibit 3, hopefully.
- 18 (Exhibit 3 discussed.)
- 19 A. Okay.
 - Q (BY MR. HILTON) Do you recognize what I'm marking as Exhibit 3 to the deposition? It says

 Exhibit B on the first page of it, but I'm going to refer to it as Exhibit 3.
- 24 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And what is Exhibit 3?

- A. This is a Declaration from Alexander Edelman in support of the Plaintiff's motion.
 - Q. Who is he?
 - A. He's DCCC's National Field Director.
- Q. Do you know Mr. Edelman?
- 6 A. I do.

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- Q. And how do you know him?
- A. He's my colleague at the DCCC.
- Q. And can you describe exactly what a National
- 10 Field Director does?
- 11 A. Sure. The National Field Director oversees 12 the entire field program for the DCCC.
- 13 Q. What is a field program?
- MS. BRANCH: I'm going to object to the extent that this calls for information that would be protected by the First Amendment.
- But you may answer at a high level.
- A. Sure. Our field program is geared at
 mobilizing and persuading voters, usually directly on
 the ground in our targeted districts.
 - Q. (BY MR. HILTON) And how does the field program go about accomplishing that?
 - A. We usually work with coordinated campaigns, which is a collaboration between national parties and state parties to elect Democrats up and down the ballot.

- 1 So in Texas we work with the Texas Democratic Party,
- 2 along with the other national party committees and, you
- 3 know, each state sometimes looks a little bit different;
- 4 but usually we are running Get-Out-the-Vote programs,
- 5 voter registration programs, engaging our voters

well, or what other resources do you provide?

6 directly on the ground through canvasses.

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- Q. And how does the DCCC's support for that kind of program play out in practice? I mean, I guess, is it just providing funding? Do you provide manpower as
- A. Yeah, so it's all of the above. We provide funding. We transfer money to the State Party to be used for the Coordinated Campaign. We also have our own direct investments in people on the ground in some cases. In Texas, for example, we have four offices opened; and we have staff in those offices.
- Q. All right. Well, I'm getting a little ahead of myself. We'll get into more details of that later, but I realize I forgot to ask: You said -- you mentioned you reviewed a declaration in connection with this matter to prepare for the deposition today. Was this the declaration you were referring to?
- A. Yes, it was.
- Q. All right. So we'll leave that to the side for now and come back to it.

(Exhibit 4 discussed.)

- Q. (BY MR. HILTON) The next group of documents that I'm going to designate as Exhibit 4 to the deposition is going to be the DCCC's production in response to our subpoena duces tecum. So that's Bates Numbers DCCC 000001 through 805. Do you have those documents available to you?
- 8 A. Yes, I do.
 - Q. And are you familiar with those documents?
- 10 A. I am.

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- Q. Okay. Did you review all of them before the deposition today?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. How much time did you spend reviewing them?
- 15 A. Probably about an hour.
- 16 Q. Who gathered these documents?
- MS. BRANCH: I'm going to object to the
- 18 extent that this calls for conversations between
- 19 attorney and client or attorney work product.
- 20 MR. HILTON: It does not. I'm asking for
- 21 an identity of the person who collected the documents.
- 22 MS. BRANCH: You can answer that, Jacqui.
- 23 A. This specific group of documents?
- Q (BY MR. HILTON) Yeah, Bates Number 1 through
- 25 805, the entire production.

- A. These came from my counsel.
- Q. But who collected them?

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- A. Initially in this process?
- Q. Yeah, who at DCCC gathered the documents for production?
- A. Staff. And, I mean, I think several people collected documents related to this production based on -- based on the request and the search terms guided by our counsel.
 - Q. What were the search terms?
- MS. BRANCH: Objection, attorney-client privilege.
- Q. (BY MR. HILTON) You can answer.
- MS. BRANCH: I'm instructing you not to answer that.
- It's clearly search terms that we worked
 with them and communicated with them to find the
 documents. If there's specific documents you want to
- 19 ask about, I think we can do that; but...
- MR. HILTON: I would like to know the
- 21 search terms. Will you provide them to me, Aria?
- MS. BRANCH: We can talk off the record
- 23 about that.
- 24 MR. HILTON: I would like an answer now
- 25 because I feel like I'm entitled to what the search

- 1 terms are.
- MS. BRANCH: I don't have them in front
- 3 of me, but we can discuss that. They are search terms
- 4 that were created based on the subpoena.
- 5 MR. HILTON: I just want to know if
- 6 you'll give me the search terms later.
- 7 MS. BRANCH: And I'm happy to discuss
- 8 that.
- 9 Q. (BY MR. HILTON) I'm sorry. I feel like I
- 10 have to ask my question again, Ms. Newman. What were
- 11 the search terms that were used?
- MS. BRANCH: And I'm going to assert the
- 13 same objection and instruct the witness not to answer.
- 14 Q (BY MR. HILTON) Are you going to abide by
- 15 that instruction?
- 16 A. Yes, I am.
- 17 Q. Do you know what the search terms are?
- 18 A. Not off the top of my head.
- 19 Q. Did you at one point know what they were?
- 20 A. Yes.
- Q. Did you refer to something else and refresh
- 22 your memory as to what the search terms are?
- 23 A. I could refer to my conversations with my
- 24 counsel.
- Q. So you could give me the search terms if you

were required to do so?

- 2 MS. BRANCH: They're privileged.
- 3 MR. HILTON: I understand that that's
- 4 your assertion. I disagree with that assertion. And
- 5 I'm trying to question the witness, and you cannot
- 6 answer for the witness.
 - Q. (BY MR. HILTON) So, Ms. Newman, if you were required to tell me what the search terms are by a Court or someone else, would you be able to do so?
- 10 A. I believe I could.
- Q. Okay. Who ran the search terms?
- 12 A. A combination of our staff and our IT
- 13 Director.

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- Q. And you mentioned earlier as well that several
- 15 people assisted in gathering the documents. Did I
- 16 understand your testimony correctly?
- 17 A. Yes.
- Q. What are the names of each person who assisted
- 19 in gathering these documents?
- 20 A. I don't know that information. I would have
- 21 to check.
- 22 MR. HILTON: Aria, will you provide me
- 23 that information?
- 24 MS. BRANCH: Again, I think this calls
- 25 for privileged information and that these are

- 1 discussions that we, the attorneys, had with staff at
- 2 the DCCC to advise them on how to respond to the
- 3 subpoena.
- 4 MR. HILTON: I'm not asking about the
- 5 discussions. I'm asking for the identity of the
- 6 individuals who ran the search terms and collected the
- 7 documents. I believe your document production is
- 8 insufficient. I'm entitled to understand what you did
- 9 to produce these documents, and I'm entitled to this
- 10 which is not privileged. So I'm going to ask --
- 11 MS. BRANCH: I think we can have that
- 12 conversation. I don't think that Jacqui knows; and I
- 13 also think that it infringes on the privilege, so.
- 14 Q (BY MR. HILTON) Well, Ms. Newman, do you know
- 15 the identities of the individuals who ran these search
- 16 terms?
- 17 A. It's a wide group, I think.
- Q. Okay. Do you know the identity of those
- 19 individuals in that wide group?
- 20 A. I have it somewhere. I do not know right now.
- 21 Q. But you could get me that information if you
- 22 were required to do is?
- A. I believe so.
- Q. And you mentioned that several people helped
- 25 gather the documents. Were you referring to just

running the search terms, or was there some other way in which documents were gathered?

- MS. BRANCH: Again, I think this calls for attorney-client privileged information in that it goes to the communications we had on how to formulate the search for documents.
- Q. (BY MR. HILTON) I am not asking about the content of any communication that you or anyone at DCCC had with your counsel, Ms. Newman. I want to be very clear about that. But I would like to know the method by which these documents were gathered, and I want clarity on your earlier testimony. Earlier you said that several people helped gather the documents. Do I have that correct?
- 15 A. Yes.

- Q. And you also mentioned that there was a wide group of people who ran search terms. Do I have that correct?
- 19 A. I believe so. Like I said, I would have to 20 check.
 - Q. Okay. And I want to know: Is that the same group you were referring to, or are there two different groups of individuals that you're referring to in your testimony?
- MS. BRANCH: Same objection. I think

- asked and answered. She's answered the question.
- MR. HILTON: With respect, Aria, it has
- 3 | not been answered. I want to understand who searched
- 4 for what and how, and I'm entitled to that information.
- Q. (BY MR. HILTON) So Ms. Newman, who -- was
 there another method of gathering documents other than
- 7 running search terms?
- MS. BRANCH: Again, it's privileged. I
- 9 mean, these -- what you're asking -- I understand where
- 10 you're coming from, but what you're asking is asking for
- 11 the content of the communications we had with them in
- 12 terms of how to comply with the subpoena.
- MR. HILTON: Can you read back my
- 14 question?

- MS. BRANCH: I'm going to instruct the
- 16 witness not to answer, and I'm hopeful that we can maybe
- 17 move on to another topic.
- 18 MR. HILTON: Can you read back the
- 19 question, Debbie, that I asked? I'd like you to read
- 20 the question.
- 21 THE REPORTER: Yes.
- 22 (The requested material was read as
- 23 follows:
- 24 "QUESTION: Okay. And I want to know:
- 25 | Is that the same group you were referring to, or are

there two different groups of individuals that you are referring to in your testimony?")

MS. BRANCH: Objection, vague.

You may answer if you are able to.

- A. I don't really understand the question.
- Q (BY MR. HILTON) Well, I don't really understand your testimony. You said earlier that there was a group of -- that there were several people who gathered documents, correct? That's what you first said?
- A. Well -- and I would like to clarify. We might have asked several people. That does not mean several people had documents to gather, and I do not know that information right now.
- Q. All right. I'm going to ask you one more time: Who collected the documents for DCCC?
- MS. BRANCH: Objection, asked and
- You can repeat the same answer.
- MR. HILTON: I would appreciate it, Aria,
- 21 if you didn't instruct your witness how to answer my
- 22 questions. Okay? That's a speaking objection. It's
- 23 not permitted. You can state the basis of your
- 24 objection, and you can either instruct her to answer or
- 25 not.

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answered.

37 1 MS. BRANCH: I think I've done that now. MR. HILTON: Debbie, can you please read 2 3 back my question? 4 (The requested material was read as follows: 5 "QUESTION: I'm going to ask you one more 6 7 time: Who collected the documents for DCCC?") 8 Α. We would have requested documents from a group 9 of staff and our IT Director. 10 (BY MR. HILTON) What's the name of your IT Q 11 Director? 12 MS. BRANCH: Objection. 13 MR. HILTON: What is the basis of your objection? 14 15 MS. BRANCH: I think this is -- we're 16 getting into attorney-client privileged discussions in 17 terms of preparing for the -- for this. 18 Q (BY MR. HILTON) Ms. Newman, my question is: 19 What is the name of DCCC's IT Director? 20 David Winston. Α. I just want to, again, make 21 MR. HILTON: 2.2 clear on the record that I think this document 23 production is insufficient. We're going to reserve all 24 rights to pursue whatever remedies we think we need to. 25 I'm asking questions that clearly are not

- 1 calling for any privileged information, and you're
- 2 instructing the witness not to answer. That's improper.
- 3 I believe I'm entitled to the answers to these questions
- 4 to understand whether this document collection effort
- 5 was sufficient. Clearly it was not.
- 6 Q (BY MR. HILTON) Ms. Newman, I apologize.
- 7 I've gotten a little heated during this part of the
- 8 questioning. I want you to understand I have no quarrel
- 9 with you whatsoever. I'm just trying to get the
- 10 information that I need to represent my clients. And so
- 11 I'm trying --
- 12 MS. BRANCH: And I'm happy -- sorry. I
- 13 didn't mean to cut you off.
- MR. HILTON: Go ahead.
- MS. BRANCH: Well, I'm happy to have, you
- 16 know, a further conversation about the document
- 17 production. I do think that several of the requests
- 18 infringe upon the First Amendment privilege. We've
- 19 produced documents responsive to the requests to the
- 20 extent they're not privileged. And the client has
- 21 stated that they undertook efforts to respond to the
- 22 subpoena.
- If you want to meet and confer, have a
- 24 separate conversation about that, we can off the record.
- 25 It's probably not as fruitful to do with Ms. Newman,

- 1 given that she doesn't have vision over the entire
- 2 process. And I do think that some of the questions,
- 3 when you're talking about search terms, do infringe upon
- 4 communications that we've had with our client.
- 5 MR. HILTON: Sorry. Well, if you can
- 6 find a case that says the search terms are going to be
- 7 privileged in this context, I'd love to see it.
- 8 And I think Ms. Newman testified that she
- 9 could answer all these questions if you had properly
- 10 prepared her; and clearly, you didn't. So, anyway...
- 11 Q. (BY MR. HILTON) And, again, Ms. Newman,
- 12 that's no point against you. I just think your
- 13 counsel's not done what they should have done with
- 14 respect to the document production, but we'll move on.
- MS. BRANCH: I think that she's prepared
- 16 for this deposition. She's prepared on the topics; and,
- 17 you know, we've produced her here to answer the
- 18 questions on the topics. And we produced documents
- 19 responsive to the extent that they were not privileged.
- Q (BY MR. HILTON) Did you review any other
- 21 documents other than the ones that we've already
- 22 discussed today in preparation for your deposition,
- 23 Ms. Newman?

- 24 A. I don't believe so.
 - Q. Okay. You mentioned that you met with counsel

I think roughly about an hour each.

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Α.

MS. BRANCH: I'm good. Thank you.

Q. (BY MR. HILTON) Ms. Newman, I, again, just wanted to, you know, apologize that you had to get dragged into that discussion between counsel and I. I hate to do that kind of stuff in depositions; sometimes it happens. But just, you know, I'm going to try and move on and get through the substance of what I have to ask you about kind of as painlessly as possible as I can.

You know, I just want to, again, make clear that I'm not asking for you to reveal any privileged information with any of my questions. Of course, your counsel will instruct you or object, you know, as necessary. But I just want to make that clear. I'm not intending to ask for privileged information.

just talking about the organization's background and activities and that kind of thing. And I can't remember if I asked you this or not before: When was the DCCC first established?

So I want to turn back to the DCCC and

A. It was established over 150 years ago. I think it's 1866.

- Q. Wow. And has its mission changed over time?
- A. I don't believe so.

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Q. But electing Democrats is the name of the game

since 1866?

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FEC?

- A. I think that's about right.
- Q. We talked a little bit earlier about the
 relationship between DCCC and the DNC, and I kind of
 want to explore similar issues in relation to an exhibit
 that I just sent out in the Zoom chat. This is
 something I found on the FEC's website. That's the
 Federal Election Commission. Are you familiar with the
- 10 A. Yes, I am.
- 11 Q. I would imagine that you would be.
- 12 (Exhibit 6 discussed.)
- Q. (BY MR. HILTON) Do you have Exhibit 6 in front of you?
- 15 A. Yes, I do.
- 16 Q. And do you recognize Exhibit 6?
- 17 A. Yes, I do.
- 18 Q. And what is it?
- 19 A. This is a Statement of Organization filed with
- 20 the FEC.
- Q. And I guess before we dig into it, I'm
- 22 curious: Are you responsible for, you know, making sure
- 23 that the FEC filings get done?
- 24 A. I am not responsible for those.
- Q. Who has that responsibility?

Democratic Party.

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- Q. Well, let's skip ahead so I don't lose the thread of this. I'm going to send out what I'm marking as Exhibit 8 to the deposition. This is an Excel spreadsheet.
 - (Exhibit 8 discussed.)
- Q (BY MR. HILTON) And this was, you know, my attempt to export the data from the FEC link that your counsel provided. So let me know once you have the spreadsheet open.
- 11 A. Okay. I have this open.
- Q. I hesitate to ask: Do you recognize what you are looking at here in Exhibit 8?
- 14 A. Yes, I do.
- Q. Okay. And what is this?
- A. This appears to be a document showing transfers from the Democratic -- or from the DCCC to the Texas Democratic Party, dating back to 2014.
 - Q. Is this the FEC filings that you were referring to when you said you reviewed some FEC information prior to the deposition?
- 22 A. Yes, this looks like it.
 - Q. There's another version on the web page that looks a little better. I prefer to use this version if you can manage to work with it because this is the

46 version that you get when you export the data from the 1 2 FEC; but if it just becomes unworkable, we have that as an option. And I can try to do a little screen share. 3 4 But, again, this is the data from the link that your 5 counsel provided to me last night; and is that what it appears to be to you as well? 6 7 Α. Yes. 8 Q. Okay. I think you already said that, but I 9 just wanted to make that clear. 10 Since we're here, I might as well ask you the questions I have on this document. What information 11 12 can I glean about what the purpose of these funds was 13 from Exhibit 8? 14 MS. BRANCH: Objection, vague. 15 You may answer the question. You can learn how much money we transferred to 16 Α. 17 the Texas Democratic Party and on what dates. 18 Q. (BY MR. HILTON) Can I learn what the funds 19 were for? 20 Α. No. 21 Q. I can't learn which activities they supported? 2.2 MS. BRANCH: Objection. 23

(BY MR. HILTON) Is there another document that I could refer to that would allow me to determine

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No.

what these fund transfers were used for?

A. No.

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- Q. So no document exists that would allow me to determine what any of these fund transfers were used for in the possession of DCCC?
- A. I mean, our internal budgets and plans may share information -- or have information related to these transfers.
 - Q. And were those documents produced?
- MS. BRANCH: Objection. This is attorney-client privilege, and you're asking questions that call for information protected by the First Amendment privilege.
- Q. (BY MR. HILTON) I'm not intending to call for privileged information. I just want to understand if the documents that you were just referring to,

 Ms. Newman, were included in the production which I've marked as Exhibit 4 to this deposition, Bates Number DCCC 1 through 805.
- MS. BRANCH: And I think those documents were privileged. So whatever she's referring to, that would be the reason why they were not produced.
- MR. HILTON: Ms. Branch, I'm sorry. I'd like to hear the answer from the witness.
 - Q. (BY MR. HILTON) Ms. Newman, were those

- documents that you were just referring to included in Bates Number DCCC 1 through 805?
 - A. I'm not sure.

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- Q. Well, you have those documents in front of you. If you want to look through that and see if they're in there, you can do that.
 - A. Oh, sorry. They are not in Exhibit 4.
 - Q. Okay. So those documents that would show me what activities these funds were spent on, those have not been produced?
- 11 A. That's my understanding.
- Q. Okay. And, again, I want you to be sure. You have all the documents that were produced in front of you. So I would kind of like a definitive answer to that.
- MS. BRANCH: Objection, asked and answered.
- A. I don't believe that they are included in that document. They are strategic information and documents related to our work.
- Q (BY MR. HILTON) Okay. So they were not produced?
- 23 A. Right.
- Q. All right. I think we are done with Exhibit 8.

Can we turn back to Exhibit 6, which is where I think this digression started? Do you still have that in front of you, Ms. Newman?

A. Yes, I do.

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- Q. Had you seen Exhibit -- when was the last time you've seen Exhibit 6, or have you seen Exhibit 6 before?
- A. Yes. It's probably been several months since I've seen this.
 - Q. Okay. So you didn't review it to prepare for the deposition?
- 12 A. I did not.
- Q. And it has a list of what I'll refer to as
 affiliated committees/organizations. And each of those
 appear to have an affiliated relationship code that
 describes them as a joint fundraising representative.

 Do I have that about right?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. And so can you explain to me what an affiliated relationship code is and what a joint fundraising representative is?
 - A. Again, I don't file these reports. So I'm not deeply familiar, but I believe an affiliated relationship code is an FEC term to qualify the relationship here. And a joint -- and these are all

- committees that we have joint fundraising committees with.
- Q. Is that what joint fundraising representative means? It means you do joint fundraising activities?
- 5 A. Yes.

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- Q. Which of these listed groups relates to activities in Texas?
- A. The Blue Texas Fund is related to Texas. It is possible the New Wave Women's Fund -- I believe that also has a Texas connection.
- Q. Any others?
- A. I believe that's it. There's also a chance the Red to Blue Victory Fund may have a connection to Texas, but I'm not aware of that at this time.
 - Q. Okay. So sitting here today, you don't know for sure whether Red to Blue Victory Fund has a Texas connection?
- 18 A. Correct.
- Q. But Blue Texas Fund, I assume, does. And New
 Wave Women, you also think has a Texas connection. Do I
 have that about right?
- 22 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. Let's start with Blue Texas Fund. What is it?
 - A. This is a joint fundraising agreement with

campaigns in Texas.

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- Q. Any campaigns in particular?
- A. I believe the Fletcher campaign in Texas 7 and the Allred campaign in Texas 32.
 - Q. Any others?
 - A. I would need to confirm.
 - Q. Do you know if that information is reflected in any of the documents that were produced to us?
- 9 A. Yes, I believe it is.
- Q. All right. I think -- I think that we will get there later. So I think we can leave that for now.
- But what activities does the Blue Texas
- 13 Fund engage in specifically?
- 14 A. Fundraising.
- 15 Q. And how is that conducted?
- 16 A. I'm sorry. Could you repeat the question?
- Q. You said Blue Texas Fund, the only activity
- 18 you said was fundraising; is that right?
- 19 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. No other purpose for Blue Texas Fund?
- 21 Nothing else that it does?
- 22 A. Correct.
- Q. And so how does Blue Texas Fund go about its
- 24 fundraising activities?
- MS. BRANCH: And I'm just going to object

- 1 to the extent that this calls for a legal conclusion
- 2 based on how joint fundraising works.
- But you may answer to the extent that you
- 4 know.
- 5 A. It's mostly a direct mail fundraising
- 6 campaign.
- 7 Q (BY MR. HILTON) So sending mail solicitations
- 8 to people for donations?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. And you said "mostly." Are you aware of any
- 11 other fundraising activities that the Blue Texas Fund
- 12 engages in?
- 13 A. No. I believe it's direct mail.
- 14 Q. And what's DCCC's involvement in those
- 15 activities?
- A. We help facilitate the direct mail, the copy,
- 17 getting it out.
- 18 Q. I don't think I understand what you mean by
- 19 facilitate and help getting it out. Can you describe
- 20 that a little more specifically?
- 21 A. Sure.
- 22 MS. BRANCH: I'm going to object to the
- 23 extent that is calls for information privileged by the
- 24 First Amendment.
- 25 You may answer at a high level.

THE WITNESS: Sure.

- A. We -- we work with, you know, whoever else is in the fund and work on the creative printing and direct mailing of the mail solicitations.
- Q. (BY MR. HILTON) And when you say "work on,"
 do you mean -- does that just mean you're providing
 funds; or do you also provide actual, you know,
 manpower, labor?
- 9 A. Actual manpower.
- 10 Q. I'm sorry. Go ahead.
- 11 A. Oh, no.

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- Q. And you said you worked with whoever else is in the fund. Is that the two campaigns you referred to earlier?
- 15 A. Yes.
- Q. And then whoever else you can't recall, but it's in the documents?
- 18 A. Yes.
- Q. And the direct mail Blue Texas Fund engages in, is that purely a solicitation for donations; or is there anything else that these, you know, mailers are trying to accomplish?
- A. It's just for fundraising.
- Q. Okay. Does Blue Texas Fund engage in any voter registration efforts?

A. No.

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- Q. And how about New Wave Women, what is -- you know, what is that?
- A. It's very similar to the Blue Texas Fund except it is a joint fundraising agreement highlighting our frontline women candidates.
- Q. And who is that fundraising agreement with?

 Is it also with campaigns in Texas?
- A. Again, I would need to check on who that agreement is with. I believe it's broader than Texas.
- Q. Understood. You did say that earlier. You're right.
 - Do you know who the participants from Texas in the New Wave Women group are?
 - A. Again, I would need to check.
- 16 Q. Is that in the document that was produced?
- A. If it is related to Texas, I think it would be in the production.
 - Q. I'm going to pull up a document that I had prepared to talk about with you, and I want to see if this is going to show me the information that we're kind of circling around here. So I'm going to send it out again through the group chat. This is a portion of Exhibit 4, which is the document production that was given to us. This is a file labeled DCCC 661. That's

- 1 the beginning Bates number. It's a two-page document.
- 2 Let me know when you have that in front of you.
 - A. Okay. I have it open.
 - O. What is this document?
 - A. This is a release of our House Majority

 Battlefield and the first twelve candidates named to the

 DCCC's Red to Blue program.
 - Q. Does this document show the participants in the Blue Texas Fund or New Wave Women?
- 10 A. No, it does not.

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- Q. Okay. Well, maybe let's do this, because I would like to know who in Texas is involved with those funds. I'd like to understand the relationships that DCCC has with affiliates who work in Texas. And so maybe the next time that we take a break would be an appropriate time for you to look through Exhibit 4 and find those documents that you're referring to.
 - A. Okay.
- MS. BRANCH: Yes, I think we did produce information on the Blue Texas Fund. So we can pull up those documents after the break for sure.
- MR. HILTON: Yeah. Let's -- if that's

 all right with y'all, let's just do that on the next

 break. I'm going to make a note real quick to come back
- 25 to that.

- Q. (BY MR. HILTON) And, Ms. Newman, if you happen to, you know, as we're going through other stuff -- if you happen to come across these documents as we're going through stuff, you know, holler at me; and we can take care of it right then so we don't have to come back to it.
- A. Will do.

- Q. I think that's all I have for Exhibit 6.

 I'm going to move now to Exhibit 7.

 (Exhibit 7 discussed.)
- Q (BY MR. HILTON) I've just sent it out via
 Zoom chat. I gave this a file name that I thought it
 was, but I actually really don't know what I'm looking
 at here. So please let me know once you have this in
 front of you. And once you do, if you know, if you
 could, tell me what is that we're looking at here.
- A. Sure. This appears to be the summary page for an amended year-end report from the DCCC.
- Q. And are you familiar with these year-end reports?
- 21 A. Yes.
- Q. Did you review any year-end reports in preparation for your deposition?
- 24 A. I did not.
 - Q. What is your familiarity with these reports?

- Is it similar to the first one we looked at where it just comes up in the course of your work?
 - A. Yes, it is.

- Q. And I don't mean to speak for you, but any other differences compared to what we looked at before? Anything else I should know about your familiarity with this report?
- A. No. I mean, we talked about it from a high level; but I do not review the reports.
- Q. Got it. And you said this is just a summary page. Do you know what other information is included with these forms, these reports?
- A. Yes. So this is the summary, the overview of mostly cash on hand, total money in, and total money out. And then on the FEC website itself, you would be able to click through these filings and see all of the receipts and disbursements itemized. And at least with the disbursements, that also shows, like, the vendor and a purpose.
- Q. So on page 1 of Exhibit 7, there are some links there. It says, "Summary Page, Detailed Summary Page." And then describes Schedule A, B, and D filings. Are those the attachments to the schedules that you're referring to?
- A. Yes.

Q. And I did not include those in Exhibit 7.

That's not my normal practice; but when I tried to download them all, it was something like almost 50,000 pages. So I don't intend to go through 50,000 pages with you today; but, you know, what I'm -- I'm hoping maybe you can tell me if I were to look at the itemized disbursements in Schedule B, you mentioned that it included the description of the purpose for the disbursement. Did I hear you correctly?

A. Yes.

- Q. And what -- can you give me an example of what that might look like?
- A. Yes. So for all the disbursements, it usually shows who the expense is disbursed to, what the vendor name is, the date of the disbursement; and then there is an amount related to that expense, as well as a description for the expense itself.
- Q. Well, what kind of information will be contained in the description field or maybe --
- MS. BRANCH: I'm going to object on the basis that this is all public, and the documents speak for themselves.
- You may answer to the extent that you can describe this.
- A. Sure. I mean, it depends on the expense; but

- 1 it's usually a general descriptor. So if it's office
- 2 space, it might say "rent." If it's, you know,
- 3 staples.com, it would say "office supplies."
- 4 Q. (BY MR. HILTON) But -- okay. That's helpful.
- 5 That's what I assumed that it was going to be, kind of a
- 6 | high level of detail; and that's what it sounds like
- 7 you're describing. It sounds like if I look at those
- 8 | Schedule B filings, it will not tell me, you know,
- 9 "Funds spent in Bexar County related to voter
- 10 registration efforts in Precinct 3"? It won't be that
- 11 level of detail; is that right?
- MS. BRANCH: Objection, public
- 13 information. The document speaks for itself.
- 14 You may answer.
- 15 A. Yes, I would agree with that.
- 16 Q (BY MR. HILTON) Okay. I'd like to focus
- 17 on -- turn back to Exhibit 7. I'd like to focus on
- 18 page 2 in the disbursements section.
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. What I was hoping you could do for me is
- 21 explain to me what each of these types of disbursements
- 22 are. It sounds like, you know, dealing with these
- 23 filings and putting them together is not your primary
- 24 job duty. So, you know, to the extent that you can, if
- 25 you have an understanding of any of these categories,

I'd like to know what your understanding is.

MS. BRANCH: And I'm just going to object to the extent that this calls for a legal conclusion since some of these are legal terms.

Jacqui, you may answer.

MR. HILTON: And, again, I think it's going to go smoother if you could just limit the speaking objections. I'd appreciate it.

- A. Yeah, I'm happy to share my non-expert opinion on these. So each line item the FEC calls for relates to a slightly different kind of expenditure. Line 21 is our operating expenditures; 22 are transfers to affiliated or other party committees. So, actually, what you see in Column A, the 45,360 number, that is money that we transferred to Texas at the end of the year, to the Texas Democratic Party. And any money we transfer to party committees would show up on that line item. Twenty-three is contributions to federal candidates or other party -- or other political --
- Q. (BY MR. HILTON) I'm sorry. I had a question for you on 22 there.
- A. Sure.

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Q. I'm looking at Column A. It's 45,360. You said that represented funds transferred to the Texas

Democratic Party?

A. Yes.

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- Q. And how do you know that?
- A. Well, it's -- usually, we don't transfer a lot of money in the off year. And so I'm aware that we had transferred money to Texas in December, and I also came across that again in preparation for that -- for this deposition.
- Q. Okay. And so there are two columns here. One of them says, "Column A, This Period." And that's where the 45,360 appears. There's also Column B that says, "Calendar Year." And that number's quite a bit higher, 885,821.16. Do you see that?
- 13 A. Yes.
 - Q. What's the difference between those two numbers?
 - A. Column B refers to amounts that were filed in previous reports. So it's the total amount that we transferred that calendar -- in 2019. And we had transferred the 45,360, I believe, in December, which was the report filing in question for this time.
 - Q. Oh, okay. So this is -- what I've given you,
 I think, is the second amended year-end report. I
 guess -- tell me if I have this correctly -- Column B
 would be the total of transfers to affiliated or other
 party committees that appear on all of the year-end

reports then?

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- A. Yes. It's the total we transferred to other party committees in the year 2019.
 - Q. Okay. Okay. And you just happen to know that this 45,360 was the Texas Democratic Party because of the timing, and you just happen to know?
- 7 MS. BRANCH: Objection. This is all 8 public.
- 9 A. Yes. And in Exhibit 8 that you shared 10 earlier, you can see that transfer as well.
- Q. (BY MR. HILTON) Okay. Great. That's helpful.
- But I wouldn't be able to tell that from the face of Exhibit 7?
- 15 A. No.
- MS. BRANCH: Objection. Vague.
- Q (BY MR. HILTON) Let's go down to -- all right. Well, let's -- sorry to interrupt you again there; but that was helpful to help me understand the difference between Column A and Column B here.
- Can you -- I guess we were on Line 23
 then; and maybe you could pick back up with, you know,
 explaining to me what these -- your categories of
 disbursement are.
- 25 A. So Line 23 is contributions to federal

candidates or other political committees.

Twenty-four would show any disbursements we made that are considered to be independent expenditures.

O. And what does that mean?

- A. An independent expenditure is an expenditure that's made kind of without any coordination. So those are expenses that would not be working directly with a campaign or another party.
- Q. Could it be an expenditure related to a campaign?
- 12 A. Yes.

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- MS. BRANCH: Objection to the extent these questions call for legal conclusions.
- But, Jacqui, you may answer based on your knowledge.
- Q (BY MR. HILTON) So if you -- this is a
 hypothetical example; I don't know whether it's
 happened -- but if DCCC wanted to run ads in support of,
 you know, Wendy Davis in her campaign and didn't
- 21 coordinate with that campaign prior to running the ads,
- 22 just kind of did it on its own, would that be an
- 23 independent expenditure?
- MS. BRANCH: Objection to the extent that
- 25 this calls for a legal conclusion.

But you may answer.

- A. In a very simple view, yes. It's a little bit more complicated than that because it requires us to meet certain standards to prove that we haven't coordinated with the campaign. We're not using any campaign information.
- Q (BY MR. HILTON) Yeah, understood. When lawyers are involved, it's never going to be that simple. So I get that. But that's helpful to help me kind of understand what we're looking at.
- All right. So that was 24, independent expenditures. How about 25?
- A. This is coordinated expenditures made by a party committee, so that's almost the opposite of an independent expenditure.
- 16 O. Sure.

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- 17 A. Twenty-six is loan repayments made.
- 18 | Twenty-seven is --
- 19 Q. Is that 16 million on loan repayments made?
- 20 A. Yes.
 - Q. And what was that payment?
- MS. BRANCH: Objection to the extent that
- 23 this calls for information privileged by the First
- 24 Amendment.
- But if you can answer that without

- revealing strategic information, you may do so.
- A. As you can see in the publicly available
- 3 findings -- or filings, the DCCC took a line of credit
- 4 for \$16 million.

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- Q. From who?
- 6 A. Bank of America.
 - Q. And what were those funds used for?
- MS. BRANCH: Objection, same one.
- 9 You can answer at a high level.
- 10 A. Our expenditures.
- 11 Q (BY MR. HILTON) Which expenditures?
- 12 A. Just generally.
- Q. Can you give me an example?
- 14 A. Well, this loan was taken in the 2018 cycle,
- 15 so it was for expenditures that occurred in 2018.
- 16 Q. So, like what?
- 17 MS. BRANCH: Objection to the extent that
- 18 | this calls for strategic information. I don't know the
- 19 relevance. Is there a specific relation to this case on
- 20 this question?
- 21 MR. HILTON: I would like to know an
- 22 example of what this money was spent on in the 2018
- 23 campaign.
- 24 MS. BRANCH: Okay. I think the fact that
- 25 they took out a loan is public, but I instruct the

- witness not to answer specific information about what the loan was used for.
- 3 MR. HILTON: On what basis?
- 4 MS. BRANCH: The First Amendment.
- 5 MR. HILTON: I'm not asking for any
- 6 strategic information.
- 7 MS. BRANCH: I think you can answer at a
- 8 high level, Jacqui.

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- 9 I think she's already done that, but...
- Q (BY MR. HILTON) I just want to know an example of an expenditure that came from the \$16 million during the 2018 campaign.
- 13 A. Yeah, we -- I definitely can't point to, like,
 14 "This expense was paid for by this loan." It's kind of
 15 all of our activities and expenditures grouped together.
- 16 O. I don't understand.
- 17 MS. BRANCH: Is there a question?
 - Q. (BY MR. HILTON) Can you please elaborate on your answer because I don't understand?
- A. I would just say the loan generally applied to our activities in the 2018 cycle.
- 22 Q. So --
- A. There's not a specific expense.
- Q. So it was a 16-million-dollar line of credit,
- 25 you said?

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A. Yes.

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- Q. And my understanding of how lines of credit work -- maybe this one is different -- is that you have to make the decision to draw down on that line of credit, correct?
- 6 A. Yes.
 - Q. It's not like Bank of America just handed you a check for \$16 million; and it got thrown into a common account, correct?
- 10 A. Correct.
 - Q. Okay. So can you give me an example of when the DCCC -- let's do it this way: How about an example from an expenditure that was made in Texas from this line of credit?
- MS. BRANCH: Again, same objection on the first Amendment.
- But, Jacqui, you can talk about the 2018 spending in Texas at a high level.
 - A. Sure. Well, we, the DCCC, invested over \$6.7 million in Texas in the 2018 cycle. Again, I can't point to any expense that this loan went directly to fund other than to say it allowed us to complete all of our activities in 2018.
- Q. (BY MR. HILTON) Who would know how this line of credit was used?

MS. BRANCH: Objection, First Amendment.

Do not answer is my instruction.

- Q. (BY MR. HILTON) Are you going to abide by that instruction?
 - A. Yes, I am.
 - O. You mentioned DCCC has a CFO?
- A. Yes.

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- Q. What's that person's name?
- 9 MS. BRANCH: Objection, First Amendment.
- 10 This is -- some of this is public information, but I'm
- 11 just not sure what the purpose of this line of
- 12 questioning is.
- MR. HILTON: Ms. Branch, please limit
- 14 your speaking objections.
- Q. (BY MR. HILTON) I would like to know the name
- 16 of the CFO of the DCCC.
- 17 A. Jackie Forte-Mackay.
- Q. Would she know how this expenditure was used,
- 19 how this line of credit was used?
- MS. BRANCH: Objection, First Amendment.
- 21 Vague. I'm going to instruct the witness not to answer.
- 22 Again, the strategic decisionmaking of the DCCC and use
- 23 of that loan is protected by the First Amendment; and
- 24 the witness is not going to answer further questions on
- 25 that.

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So we can keep objecting and you can take offense to my speaking objections, but I'm going to put that on the record and I want that to be clear. want to make clear on the record that your tone earlier with respect to my objection and then cutting me off has been hostile. So I want that to be reflected. But, again, I'm going to continue to make that objection; and we can kind of do that all day. don't think it's directly relevant to the DCCC's standing, but we can proceed. MR. HILTON: Well, I disagree with your characterization of my tone; and I disagree that this information is privileged. (BY MR. HILTON) Ms. Newman, are you going to Q. follow your counsel's instructions not to answer? Α. I am. Q. Okay. MR. HILTON: And, Ms. Branch, again, I'm not offended by your speaking objections; but they're not permissible under the rules. And so I'd just ask you to limit them. MS. BRANCH: I'm trying to limit them as much as possible, and I understand. I don't want to testify. Jacqui's here to testify.

Thank you.

MR. HILTON:

- Q (BY MR. HILTON) How much money did you say was spent in Texas in the 2018 election cycle?
- Over 6.7 million. Α.

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- 0. Is that reflected on Exhibit 7?
- No, because Exhibit 7 is showing our 2019 5 Α. No. 6 year-end report.
 - Q. If we were to look at the same form for 2018, the year-end, you know, report, would that show the expenditures in Texas?
- 10 MS. BRANCH: Objection. Public.
- 11 But you can answer to the extent that you 12 know. It's all published information.
- 13 It would show all of the money that we 14 transferred to State Party committees and other 15

expenditures made at a general level.

- (BY MR. HILTON) Would I have to look at the 16 0. 17 Schedule B to that 2018 year-end report to find the 18 disbursements related to Texas?
- 19 Yes, and you would have to look at all of the Α. 20 reports, probably.
- 21 Q. Okay. Did you look at any of those reports in 2.2 preparation for your deposition?
- 23 Α. I did not.
- 24 And I'm so sorry. This is like the fourth 25 time I've asked you: What was that number, again, that

71 1 was spent in the 2018 election cycle in Texas? 2 MS. BRANCH: Objection, asked and 3 answered. 4 You may answer. It was over 6.7 million. 5 Α. (BY MR. HILTON) And what was that money used 6 Q. 7 for? 8 Α. It was used for persuasion and mobilization of 9 voters in support of our campaigns in Texas. 10 Voter persuasion and mobilization of 11 campaigns? 12 MS. BRANCH: Objection, mischaracterizes 13 the testimony. 14 You may answer. 15 (BY MR. HILTON) Voter persuasion and Q. mobilization of voters? 16 17 Α. Yes. 18 Q. Is that what you said? 19 Α. Yes. Is that what you said? I just didn't hear it. 20 Q. 21 Α. Yes. 22 Q. Anything else that it was used for? 23 I think that encompasses a lot of activities, Α. 24 but... 25 Are there any other types of activities that Q.

that doesn't encompass?

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2 MS. BRANCH: Objection, vague.

3 You may answer.

- A. You know, again, I think everything is -- everything we do is to an end of mobilizing and persuading voters.
- Q (BY MR. HILTON) I'm going to ask you to pull up Exhibit 1, which was sent out earlier. It's the Deposition Notice, and I'd like to turn to page 5 of the Notice.
- A. Okay.
- Q. And I'm looking at Topic 4, section -subsection (b). And starting with the year 2014, what
 were the total funds spent on voter persuasion efforts
 in Texas during the year 2014?
 - A. So I looked into our spending in the past cycles and I can share with you what we've spent in Texas, but this doesn't necessarily align with how we track or know our spending.
 - Q. How do you track your spending?
- A. It's more general than this because, again, we're kind of thinking of everything in terms of everything is a voter persuasion effort or GOTV effort.
- Q. So the entirety of the 6.8 million, or whatever the number was that you spent in Texas in 2018,

- for example, that was all spent on voter persuasion and Get Out the Vote?
- 3 A. Yes.

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- Q. What about voter registration efforts, can you break that out?
 - A. For past cycles I cannot.
 - Q. That relates to 2014 through 2019, I suppose?
- A. Through 2018. I can speak to our voter registration efforts this cycle.
- Q. Well, let's leave this cycle aside for a second; and let's stick on the past ones then. So what were the total funds spent on all activities in Texas in the year 2014?
- 14 A. It was just over \$3.1 million.
- Q. And that was all spent on voter persuasion and Get-Out-the-Vote efforts?
- 17 A. Yes.
 - Q. And you can't tell me what portion was spent on voter registration efforts?
- 20 A. Correct.
- MS. BRANCH: Objection. She's asked and answered. To the extent that these questions call for strategic information, I'm going to object on the basis of the First Amendment.
- But you may answer at a high level.

1 Q. (BY MR. HILTON) Are there any activities 2 other than voter persuasion, Get Out the Vote, or voter 3 registration activities on which DCCC spent money in 4 2014? In Texas? 5 Α. 0. In Texas. 6 7 Α. Not to my knowledge. 8 How about the year 2015, what was the total Q. 9 amount of funds spent on all activities in Texas? 10 MS. BRANCH: Same objection. 11 But you may answer at a high level. 12 First Amendment. 13 MR. HILTON: I'm sorry. What's the objection? 14 15 MS. BRANCH: First Amendment. You may answer at a high level. 16 I think the witness --17 18 Q. (BY MR. HILTON) The question is the total 19 funds spent on all activities in Texas in the year 2015. 20 So we -- and I apologize if I didn't mention 21 this earlier. We look at all of our spending on a 2.2 cyclical basis. So the years 2015 and 2016 would be 23 grouped together. So I don't know exactly how much we 24 spent in 2015. I would actually guess it's little to

nothing, just because it's the off year; and most of our

spending is in the on year. But I can tell you in 2016 the DCCC spent just over \$6 million in Texas.

Q. And you did mention the two-year cyclical nature earlier, and now it's starting to make a little more sense. What kind of activities and expenditures do occur in the off year?

MS. BRANCH: Objection to the extent it calls for First Amendment privileged information.

You may answer at a high level.

- A. It's generally limited; but if coordinated campaigns are beginning to get set up, there might be Coordinated Campaign expenses we're transferring to the Party. Voter registration may begin in an off year. That is usually it. The bulk of our spending takes place in the on year, usually, as we get closer in to the election.
- Q. (BY MR. HILTON) Are you withholding information in your answer based on your instruction from counsel?
- MS. BRANCH: Objection.
- 21 You may answer.
- 22 MR. HILTON: What's the basis?
- 23 MS. BRANCH: Attorney-client privilege.
- 24 I mean, she answered on the record. You asked her
- 25 | earlier.

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- Q. (BY MR. HILTON) Let me explain my question a little more. Your counsel instructed you -- objected on the basis of a First Amendment privilege and stated that you could answer to the extent it doesn't reveal privileged information and that you could answer at a high level.
- 7 MR. HILTON: Is that a fair 8 characterization of your objection, Ms. Branch? 9 MS. BRANCH: It is.
 - Q. (BY MR. HILTON) Okay. You heard that objection, Ms. Newman?
- 12 A. I did.

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- Q. And did your answer change on the basis of that objection?
- 15 A. It did not.
- Q. So you would have given me the same answer regardless of whether your counsel objected?
- 18 A. Yes.
 - Q. Okay. That's all I'm asking. I just want to know if there actually is something being withheld when your counsel makes these objections, or not. So that's all I was trying to ask. Thank you for clarifying that.
 - All right. So let's go back to the questions from the topics, and we're dealing with this is in the two-year cycles; that's how y'all account for

- it. And so in the 2016 election cycle, you spent just over 6 million on all activities in Texas. Do I remember that correctly?
 - A. Yes, that's correct.
- Q. What was the total amount spent on voter persuasion efforts in that election cycle?
- A. Similar to what I said before. It is all kind of part of the same bucket of voter persuasion/GOTV efforts.
- And how much was spent on voter registration
- 11 efforts?

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- 12 A. I can't speak to that.
- 13 Q. Is that because you don't know?
- 14 A. Yes.
- And that's because DCCC doesn't track that
- 16 information?
- 17 Yes, it has not been tracked like this in the
- 18 past.
- Q. Are there any other, you know, broad
- 20 categories or buckets of activities other than voter
- 21 persuasion, Get Out the Vote, and voter registration
- 22 efforts on which DCCC spent money in the 2016 election
- 23 cycle?
- 24 A. Spent money in general or spent money in
- 25 Texas?

- Q. I'm sorry. In Texas.
- 2 A. No, it's just this.

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- Q. Okay. How about the 2018 election cycle? So

 I understand that to mean from the -- you know, the

 presidential election in 2016 to the presidential

 election in or -- I'm sorry -- for the federal election,

 the congressional election in 2016, to the congressional

 election in 2018. That's how I'm thinking of the

 two-year cycle. Is that how y'all measure it as well?
- 10 A. Yeah, more or less. I mean, we kind of 11 started at January 1st.
- Q. Okay. So it would be -- it's really the calendar years 2017 and 2018?
- 14 A. Yeah.

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- Q. Okay. So for that period, 2017 to 2018, or the 2018 election cycle, what was the total amount spent on all activities in Texas?
- 18 A. It was over \$6.7 million.
- Q. And how much of that was spent on voter persuasion efforts?
- A. Again, it's -- that 6.7 covers all of our voter persuasion and GOTV efforts in the 2018 cycle.
- Q. And how much of that just over 6.7 million, I
 think you said, was spent on voter registration efforts?
 - A. I don't know.

- 1 can see this in -- I think, it's Exhibit 8, our
- 2 transfers to the Texas Democratic Party. We've
- 3 transferred over \$145,000 to the Texas Democratic Party.
- 4 The DCCC has spent directly in Texas over \$1.1 million,
- 5 and I believe over \$550,000 of that is directly related
- 6 to voter registration in Texas.
 - Q. \$550,000 of what has been spent so far is related to voter registration?
- 9 A. Yes.

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- Q. And how do you know that?
- A. Because we have been working with the Texas

 Democratic Party on voter registration, and we have -
 directly, the DCCC has engaged in voter registration on

 the ground. And I believe there -- I believe we have

 produced documents showing that commitment, but...
 - Q. So I guess my question is: In previous election cycles, DCCC can't separate out exactly what was spent on voter registration; but for the current election cycle, you can. And I'm trying to understand why that's the case.
 - A. Sure. Well, I mean, one, I think there is a large voter registration effort in Texas right now in particular; and so it's easy for us to identify that. You know, as I mentioned earlier, we have a lot of turnover each cycle; and so a lot of the people behind

- spending decisions from past cycles aren't here to speak to how we spent money in the past. And, you know, I've directly been involved with some of these transactions and expenses, so I can speak to them.
- Q. And how are you able to get such a precise number for this year's expenditures on voter registration efforts?
 - A. On the voter registration efforts?
- Q. Yes.

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- 10 (A.) Well, the 145K that we have transferred to the
 11 Texas Democratic Party to date, that has all been to the
 12 Coordinated Campaign to support voter registration and
 13 then what we -- what I know we have spent on voter
- 14 registration.
 - Q. Do you make any other transfers to any other -- does DCCC make any other transfers to any other groups for voter registration activities?
 - A. To other state parties?
- Q. Any other groups in Texas. I'm sorry. And
 I'm doing a poor job of clarifying that, so I appreciate
 you noting that. I'm trying to ask about activities in
 Texas.
 - A. To my knowledge, we have transferred the money to the Texas Democratic Party's Coordinated Campaign for voter registration and, again, we have engaged a vendor

I am not very familiar on the details, but I

know that all -- anyone who is registering voters in Texas needs to be trained and deputized in order to do so.

- Q. And who are the staff that you are training, like staff of whom?
- A. So it depends, I think. You know, we hired a consultant who ran some of these efforts that's laid out in Exhibit 3. In that case the consultant has employees who are helping this effort in Texas.

We have -- with the money that we have sent to the Texas Democratic Party, I believe at least two people have been hired with the express purpose of assisting voter registration efforts.

And then we also have staff on the ground who work directly for the DCCC whose roles involve a lot of community engagement and help with voter registration.

- Q. Do you know what -- so community engagement and voter registration, are those two different things?
- A. I think so. I think maybe community
 engagement is an overarching bucket that could involve
 voter registration.
 - Q. What are the other types of buckets of activities that your direct staff in Texas are engaging in this cycle?

- A. They're organizing events. They are meeting with our constituents in the districts. They are following events of our challengers, as well, and reporting back to the team on what's happening on the ground in Texas.
 - Q. Anything else?
 - A. I think that's the bulk of it.
 - Q. Do you know what percentage of their time is
- devoted to voter registration efforts?
- A. I don't.

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- Q. Does anyone at DCCC?
- A. I think our field team would. I also think it probably shifts throughout the cycle. You know, early on, when there is time to register voters, that is a bigger focus. I also think that we would be doing a lot of voter registration right now if we were not in the current situation we are in, speaking from our homes.
 - Q. Yeah. Yeah, I can only imagine how much that has kind of thrown a wrench in everything. And so, yeah.
 - Well, let me ask you this: Turning back to Exhibit 3, Paragraph 6, the last sentence of that, the second sentence of that paragraph, it says, "DCCC uses voter registration not only to expand the pool of individuals who are eligible to vote for Democratic

candidates but also to have important conversations with people about the importance of voting and important causes to the Democratic Party." Did I read that correctly?

A. Yes.

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- Q. Can you explain what is meant by this?
- A. Sure. I think in the process of registering people to vote, people who are not currently registered or participating in the voting process, it allows you to start a dialogue about why it's important for people to register and to show up and make a plan about voting on Election Day, which is what getting out the vote is all about.
- Q. And how about important causes to the Democratic Party? How does that piece of it play into these voter registration efforts?
- A. I think that usually the important causes tie back to what somebody's motivation might be to vote.
- Q. How do all of these purposes get accomplished when you're engaging in efforts to register voters?
 - A. I'm sorry. Could you clarify the question?
- Q. Well, it seems to me there's a few different
- purposes to DCCC's voter registration efforts, as
- 24 explained in Paragraph 6 of Exhibit 3. And as you're
- 25 explaining to me now, it's to expand the pool of

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1
   individuals, to have important conversations with people
 2
   about the importance of voting, and conversations about
   important causes to the Democratic Party. I'm trying to
 3
 4
   understand how all of those purposes are accomplished.
   So how do the voter registration activities address all
 5
   of those purposes? What do you do to achieve those
 6
 7
   purposes in the context of your voter registration
 8
   efforts?
 9
             I think that this is all part of one
        A.
   conversation that naturally flows together where, you
10
   know, it might look something like, "Hey, are you
11
12
   registered to vote? Would you like to register to vote?
13
   And do you know there's an election coming in November?
14
   If you register to vote now, you can participate in that
15
   or if there's a primary coming up, you can participate
16
   in that and why it might be important to a voter to
17
   participate in that election and register at this time.
18
   I really think of it as all one conversation, not
19
   necessarily three different or a few different goals.
20
             Okay. So this is -- all of these things are
        Q.
21
   part of every conversation with someone who you're
2.2
   trying to engage with; is that what you're saying?
23
        A.
             Yes.
24
             Okay. That is helpful. Thank you for
        Q.
25
   clarifying that.
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87 Is there -- sorry. I have a few follow-up questions on this, so I was trying to organize my thoughts. How does DCCC track the success of these kinds of voter registration efforts? MS. BRANCH: Object to the extent this calls for strategic information. But you may answer at a high level. Α. We certainly want to know how many voters we've registered. (BY MR. HILTON) So number of voters who get Q registered, how is that tracked? Α. I am not familiar with the specifics, but usually the people who are tasked with registering voters report back the top-line numbers. The top-line number being the total number of Q. people who are registered? Α. Yes. Q. Is that tracked for the whole cycle or by activity or by location? What are some of the ways in which that's broken down? Yeah --Α. MS. BRANCH: Again, I'm going to assert the same objection on First Amendment grounds. You can answer at a high level. I think it depends based on who's in charge of Α.

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88
 1
   the program, but it could be any of those things.
                                                        Ιt
 2
   could be just number of people or by the specific
   activity, like, "This is how many people got registered
 3
 4
    today at this event" or in a place.
 5
        Q
              (BY MR. HILTON) Are there any other ways in
   which it's tracked?
 6
 7
              Not that I can think of.
         Α.
 8
        Q.
             Can DCCC apportion a cost to register each new
 9
   voter?
10
             I guess it's possible.
        Α.
11
        Q.
             Is that something that DCCC has already done?
12
        A.
             No.
13
             That's not data that DCCC has?
        Q.
14
        A.
             Correct.
             And when you said it was possible, what did
15
        Q.
   you mean by that?
16
17
             I mean, I think you could come up with some
18
   metric of how much money we are spending as it relates
19
   to how many people we are able to register to vote.
20
             But DCCC does not have any such metric
        Q.
21
   currently?
22
                  MS. BRANCH: Objection, asked and
23
   answered.
             No, not to my knowledge.
24
        A.
25
              (BY MR. HILTON) Has DCCC had a metric like
        Q
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89
 1
   that at any time from the beginning of 2014 to the
 2
   present?
 3
              Not to my knowledge.
             How does the DCCC decide which voters to
 4
        0.
   target?
 5
                  MS. BRANCH: Objection, First Amendment
 6
 7
   privilege.
 8
                  You can answer at a high level to the
 9
   extent you can. We can't disclose targeting and
10
   strategic information.
             There are ways that we're able to identify
11
        A.
12
   voters who are likely to support Democratic candidates
13
   or vote for Democrats.
             (BY MR. HILTON) So that's the target group,
14
        Q.
15
   is folks you expect to vote Democratic?
        A.
16
             Yes.
17
         0.
              How does DCCC decide which types of voter
18
   registration efforts to pursue?
19
                  MS. BRANCH: Again, same objection.
20
                  You can answer at a high level.
21
                  And that's to First Amendment, to
22
    clarify.
23
              I think it's probably a variety of factors
24
   based on where our targeted races are as far as priority
25
   districts for the DCCC and where we are able to make an
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effort and a successful activity out of registering voters.

Q. (BY MR. HILTON) Does DCCC adjust its activities based on a success rate?

2.2

A. Yeah. I want to be clear that I don't know if there's necessarily, like, a success rate or a definition; but, you know, we certainly aren't going to engage in efforts where -- in voter registration efforts where it's not possible because of, like, geographic or logistics.

O. Who makes those kinds of decisions?

MS. BRANCH: Objection, First Amendment privilege. I'm going to instruct the witness not to answer that.

MR. HILTON: And so to be clear, my question is: Who at the DCCC decides whether to adjust voter registration activities and how they do that. And you're instructing the witness not to answer?

MS. BRANCH: I mean, I think that you have that information. If you want to pursue a high-level line of questioning, I'm okay with that; but my --what I think we're doing is going into the strategy of how the D-Trip targets voters for voter registration.

And that is protected by the First Amendment.

So, Jacqui, if you want to answer that

question, that's fine.

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And maybe we can have the court reporter read that back; but beyond that, I'm going to object.

MR. HILTON: I'll restate my question.

- Q. (BY MR. HILTON) Who at DCCC adjusts which voter registration efforts that the group is going to engage in?
- A. I think that a lot of that responsibility falls on the National Field Director.
 - Q. And how are those decisions made?
- MS. BRANCH: Objection. I'm going to
- 12 instruct the witness not to answer.
- 13 Is now maybe a good time to break for
- 14 lunch? I don't mean to interrupt.
- MR. HILTON: Well, I think now is a good
- 16 time to take a break. I need, like, ten minutes; but if
- 17 y'all want to take longer, that's fine, whatever y'all
- 18 want to do.
- MS. BRANCH: Can we do -- well, can I ask
- 20 you how long you may have after lunch, if you have a
- 21 rough estimate?
- 22 MR. HILTON: I don't know. I need the
- 23 ten minutes to figure out what I'm going to do next.
- 24 MS. BRANCH: Okay. Well, I think we
- 25 | need -- Jacqui, is 30, 45 minutes good for a you?

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                  THE WITNESS: Yeah, 30 minutes should be
 2
   fine for me.
                               Okay. That will be 1:50.
 3
                  MS. BRANCH:
 4
                  MR. HILTON: All right. We can go off
 5
   the record.
                  THE REPORTER: Going off the record at
 6
 7
   12:29 p.m.
 8
                  (Off the record from 12:30 to 1:05 p.m.)
 9
                  THE REPORTER: We're back on the record
10
   at 1:05 p.m.
11
              (BY MR. HILTON) All right. Ms. Newman,
         Q
12
   before we broke we were talking about voter registration
13
   activities and expenditures. And we, I think, had
14
    covered most of what I wanted to cover; but I just have
15
   a few -- couple of things to make sure I'm tying up all
    that that I want to discuss with you today.
16
17
                  So for the 2018 cycle, which is the cycle
18
   where DCCC has some more insight into specific
19
    expenditures on voter registration, I just want to make
20
    sure that I have everything that you've told me so far
21
    correct. You've given money to -- DCCC has given money
22
   to the Texas Democratic Party that's earmarked for voter
23
   registration. DCCC has hired a vendor to help with
   voter registration efforts, which we discussed earlier
24
25
    in connection with the Declaration, which I think is
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Exhibit 3. Is there -- has anything else been spent that's been earmarked for voter registration efforts for the 2018 election?

2.2

- A. Sorry. To be clear, I think -- I think the money we are talking about right now is for the current cycle, the 2020 cycle.
- Q. Sorry. Yes, I misspoke. For the current cycle, the 2020 cycle. So the TDP money that is earmarked and then the vendor for the 2020 cycle. Is there anything else at this time?
- A. Specifically on voter registration at this time, I don't believe there is more money I can identify. I mean, I think I mentioned earlier we've spent up to -- or a little bit over 1.1 million in Texas alone; and that includes our offices and our staff on the ground. And, of course, you know, our staff is engaging in this, you know, community engagement; and they are out talking to voters and possibly registering voters as part of their daily activities. And that is, you know, like, wrapped up in their salary. It's not necessarily identified in the other money I identified for voter registration.
- And I -- you know, I would say that we are still several months out from the election; and we will continue to make spending decisions as things

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   develop and get closer and that some of the difficulties
 2
   we face just around, you know, confusion that Texas
   voters might have around changing their address or
 3
 4
   renewing their information online and not being able to
   simultaneously register to vote will inevitably lead us
 5
   to have to spend more money on voter registration and
 6
 7
   more time making sure we are educating voters, that they
 8
   know that they might not have been registered to vote or
 9
   had their address updated if they changed any
10
   information online through the DPS website.
11
        Ο.
              (Inaudible.)
12
                  THE REPORTER:
                                 I'm sorry. Something's
13
   happened to your audio.
14
                  MR. HILTON: (Inaudible.) Better?
15
                  THE REPORTER: Not really.
                  THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Something has gone
16
17
   wrong with your audio.
18
                  MR. HILTON: (Inaudible.)
                  THE VIDEOGRAPHER: It's a bandwidth
19
20
           Yeah, it sounds like you're having bandwidth
21
   issues. The audio seems to be cutting out, Chris.
2.2
                  MR. HILTON: Yeah, I don't know. Nothing
23
   has changed on my end (echoing audio.)
24
                  THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We had the same
25
   problem the other day with Mr. Geise. Are you using a
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1 headset? MR. HILTON: I am not (echoing audio.) 2 3 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: So you're just using 4 your laptop audio? 5 MR. HILTON: Yes, sir. Should I drop off and reconnect (echoing audio)? 6 7 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Let's try that, yeah, 8 just kind of an if you restarted your computer type of 9 situation. Just log out and then log back in and see if 10 that doesn't correct the issue. 11 THE REPORTER: I'm going to take us off 12 the record at 1:10 p.m. 13 (Off the record from 1:10 to 1:12 p.m.) THE REPORTER: We are back on the record 14 15 at 1:12 p.m. 16 (BY MR. HILTON) Ms. Newman, how much more 0 17 time and money will you have to spend? 18 Α. I think it's hard to say at this point as, again, we're several months out from the election. 19 20 also think, you know, the current COVID-19 crisis we're 21 in may have an outside impact on this because fewer 2.2 people will be able to go into DPS in person and change 23 their information and update their voter registration. 24 So I think it's too far out to put a 25 number on it; but given that we've already invested, you

- know, over a half a million dollars to date, you know, I do not think that it is a small -- small investment.
- Q. How much more do you plan to spend on voter registration efforts in Texas?
- MS. BRANCH: Objection to the extent that this calls for strategic information.
 - If you know, you can answer.

2.2

- A. I -- you know, again, I don't know if that has been decided yet. I think it will depend as things shape up with the current environment; and as we get closer to the election, those expenditures are usually decided.
- Q. (BY MR. HILTON) How much money did DCCC spend on voter registration efforts in Texas for this election cycle prior to January 21st, 2020?
- 16 A. At least 40, \$45,000. \$45,630.
 - Q. That was the transfer to TDP that we looked at earlier on one of the exhibits?
 - A. Yes. And, you know, I would ad that we've had our staff on the ground in Texas in 2019. So they were beginning to engage in these activities.
 - Q. And I appreciate you mentioning that when I was trying to get my arms around all the voter registration activities for the staff. And we talked about earlier you couldn't really break down what

percentage of their duties were related to voter registration. Am I remembering that correctly?

A. Yes, that's correct.

2.2

Q. Okay. Are there any other activities for this -- or expenditures of funds for the 2020 election cycle that we haven't touched on yet?

MS. BRANCH: Objection, vague. Is that related to voter registration or just expenditures generally?

MR. HILTON: I'm sorry. I thought I said
voter registration.

- A. No, I think we've basically covered it.
- Q. (BY MR. HILTON) How much of that money has gone to try to register voters who change their address or renew their driver's license online with DPS?
- A. I don't know if there's a specific dollar amount associated with that. I think that's just part of our ongoing voter education effort to make sure when we're talking to voters, "Are you registered to vote?" Making sure they are aware that if they've moved recently, depending on how they conducted that transaction online, that if it was online versus in person, that their information is treated differently than going in person to change that and that they might not, in fact, be registered to vote at their current

address.

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Q. Does DCCC keep track of the number of people

who it talks to who change their address or renew their

driver's license online with DPS?

MS. BRANCH: Objection to the extent that

this calls for strategic information.

But you may answer.

- A. Not that I'm aware of.
- Q (BY MR. HILTON) Do you have any -- does DCCC have any training materials that reflect those kinds of conversations that you were just referring to?
- MS. BRANCH: Objection, vague, First

 Amendment privilege.
 - A. Not that I'm aware of. I think, you know, the information required is part of the reason why we engage a consultant on the ground to run some of this. You know, it's difficult to register voters in Texas; and it requires a high level of expertise. I think a lot of these activities also go through the Texas Democratic Party for these reasons.
 - Q. (BY MR. HILTON) Okay. So leaving aside what the Texas Democratic Party might have, DCCC doesn't have any training materials reflecting how to have these conversations beyond what a vendor might have?

MS. BRANCH: Objection. I think that's

- 1 been asked and answered. I also think that it calls for
- 2 internal materials in the content of what's reflected in
- 3 those. So I'm going to instruct the witness not to
- 4 answer that question.
- 5 Q. (BY MR. HILTON) So my question is: Does DCCC
- 6 have any materials that reflect training with respect to
- 7 how to have these kinds of conversations for voter
- 8 registration efforts?
- 9 A. I don't believe we have any public materials.
- 10 Q. Do you have any non-public materials?
- MS. BRANCH: Again, I maintain the
- 12 objection and instruct the witness not to answer.
- MR. HILTON: Okay. So you won't allow
- 14 the witness to answer as to the existence of such
- 15 materials?
- MS. BRANCH: She's already answered the
- 17 question.
- 18 Q. (BY MR. HILTON) Do such materials exist,
- 19 Ms. Newman?
- 20 A. I'm not going to answer.
- Q. And is that at counsel's instruction?
- 22 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And no such materials were produced to
- 24 us?
- 25 A. Correct.