

July 1, 2024

VIA Electronic Mail

Honorable Al Schmidt
Secretary of the Commonwealth
Office of the Secretary
Pennsylvania Department of State
302 North Office Building, 401 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: PA Values (FEC Committee ID #: [C00631903](#)), (EIN ID #: [81-5121962](#))

Dear Secretary Schmidt,

In February of 2024, when Governor Shapiro [announced the launch](#) of his "Election Threats Task Force" he vowed, among other things, that the Task Force would serve as "stewards of democracy." He said it would "combat misinformation," "safeguard the rights of every citizen," and ensure November's election is "safe, secure, free, and fair." In that spirit, and because the Governor assigned you the leader of this Task Force, I write to you about an obvious and egregious violation of Pennsylvania law -- one that will surely provide the Governor an opportunity to leverage his Task Force for all the good that was promised.

We recently became aware of an ad, crafted and run over numerous days in June of 2024, by "Pennsylvania Values" (PA Values), an openly Democrat political action committee registered in Lancaster, PA. [The ad opens](#) with a red banner that commands "Maga Patriots" to "listen to 'our' President." The ad closes with "Stand with Trump against Mail-in Voting." There is no question PA Value's June 2024 ad targets and speaks directly to low-information, Trump-leaning voters. There is no question the PA Value's June 2024 ad deceptively seeks to represent old sentiments by President Trump as current. There is no question PA Value's word choices "our president" and "stand with Trump" were calculated tactics to trick voters into believing the ad, and its calls to action, emanated from Trump, his supporters, or his authorized representatives.

It is widely known that Trump is supportive of voting by mail, and the RNC and PAGOP have worked together to promote mail-in ballots and the convenience of voting by mail, since at least 2022. PA Values executed this June 2024 ad intending to suppress mail-in voting on the part of Trump supporters, knowing fully that the targets of the ad may not vote at all in November, if not for the convenience of mail-in ballots.

Since 2018, PA Values PAC has maintained an unwavering history of running harsh General Election ads against Pennsylvania GOP candidates, including Donald Trump, Memet Oz, and Lou Barletta. [One such ad by PA Value PAC](#), in 2020, not only attacks Donald Trump, but encourages Trump detractors to recognize the convenience of voting by mail. PA Value's ad history is consistently marked by Party loyalty to Democrats and by enthusiastic promotion of mail-in voting. Only the PAC's June 2024 ad purportedly represents a GOP candidate (Trump) and stands in opposition to mail-in voting (when it comes to potential Trump supporters).

The tactics employed by PA Values in their June 2024 ad are not dissimilar to those for which Douglas Mackey was convicted in March 2023. In 2016, Mackey generated memes, which targeted Hillary Clinton supporters, attempting to trick them into believing the "calls to action" (vote by text) were coming from Clinton or her authorized representatives. Mackey was convicted and sentenced to seven months in jail, for interfering "with potential voters' right to vote." PA Values is likewise interfering with potential voters' right to vote in Pennsylvania's November election.

PA Value's June 2024 ad weaponizes disinformation, with clear intent to trick, disenfranchise, unduly influence, and suppress voting, which is election interference, and a blatant violation of Pennsylvania law. [Section 3527, title 25](#), of the Pennsylvania Code makes clear that any practice or conspiracy "with design to influence unduly or overawe any elector, or to prevent him from voting or restrain his freedom of choice" is an impediment to free and fair elections, which is a felony punishable by as much as seven years of imprisonment.

This is a serious crime, with very serious implications for our democracy. It's a crime so erosive, in fact, that even Google, which is widely regarded as Democrat supportive, eventually removed PA Value's 2024 ad [citing that the ad violated their policy](#).

The crime committed by PA Values PAC is such a threat to free and fair elections, that Congressman Dan Meuser recently [sent a letter](#) bringing this egregious matter to the attention of Governor Shapiro, urging him to act.

For the same reason, I am bringing this matter before you and imploring you to investigate and handle the matter in the thorough and determined manner pledged by the Governor, when he launched the Task Force in February of 2024.

In his letter to the governor, Congressman Meuser reminded the Governor of his own words, with which we all agree: "Pennsylvania is the birthplace of American democracy." Secretary Schmidt, with great respect, I'm calling on you to be the steward that saves Pennsylvania from becoming the place where American democracy dies.

Sincerely,



Lawrence J. Tabas, Chairman
Republican Party of Pennsylvania