

Statement By The Presidential Coalition On Axios-CLC Collaboration

It's sad and pathetic that Axios would choose to collaborate once again with the Campaign Legal Center (CLC), a George Soros-funded organization affiliated with ultra-left-wing organizations like ActBlue and the disgraced Southern Poverty Law Center in an attempt to manufacture a controversy that doesn't exist. Furthermore, Axios should be transparent in their reporting and reference the fact that the CLC lists ActBlue, Soros's Open Society Foundation and the Southern Poverty Law Center on its website's [donor page](#).

CLC and its leadership have a long history of anti-Citizens United bias and are all political adversaries of Citizens United, its affiliate TPC, David Bossie, and President Trump. In *Citizens United v. FEC*, CLC's President Trevor Potter was lead counsel on an amicus brief at the U.S. Supreme Court opposing Citizens United's efforts. Another CLC director, Seth Waxman, who was U.S. Solicitor General under Bill Clinton, argued the case on behalf of Senators John McCain and Russ Feingold before the Supreme Court against Citizens United.

For decades, CLC has opposed Citizens United on virtually every matter in which the two groups have addressed proposed FEC actions, including matters ranging from the definitions of key campaign finance terms to the issuance of new regulations in light of the *CU v. FEC* decision.

Here are the facts. In the first six months of 2019 - an off election year, TPC has spent 20 percent of its net proceeds on political activities, not 8 percent as the left-wing collaborators would have you believe.

The Presidential Coalition, like so many other groups, has spent the first six months of 2019 building a \$4.3 million war chest to support President Trump's agenda and to support conservative candidates at the state and local level.

Those activities have already begun with a \$325,000 digital ad buy in seven crucial battleground states highlighting how President Trump's accomplishments have returned America to greatness. This media campaign will expand throughout 2019 as TPC will spend upwards of \$3 million in September, October and November - roughly \$1 million per month - that will include a mix of television, digital and radio ads as well as polling and direct contributions to state and local candidates.

TPC has also made direct contributions to 30 candidates and political committees at the state and local level totaling over \$148,000 - mostly in the handful of states that will hold elections in 2019.

The Axios-CLC partnership criticizes TPC for spending too much to find donors, but we are engaging new people in the political process. We introduce them to candidates they may not know and educate them about the President's winning agenda. That is very valuable both to the donors and to the President.

TPC is a conservative grassroots organization. Seeking out small-dollar donors is extremely expensive. Our annual membership dues are only \$15, but the postage stamp to find a donor costs the same whether the donor gives \$100 or \$15.

Obviously our percentage of fundraising costs would be lower if we sought only large donors. But finding grassroots support is quite valuable because we are engaging people who are often overlooked by politicians and enlist them as active supporters of the President's agenda.

For the past 15 years the Presidential Coalition, an affiliate of Citizens United, has existed to educate the American public on the value of having principled conservative Republican leadership at all levels of government. We look forward to continuing our important mission.

Statement from the Campaign Legal Center in response to David Bossie:

CLC's founder and president is a Republican former chairman of the Federal Election Commission, and CLC holds candidates and public officials accountable without regard for political affiliation.

In the past two weeks alone, CLC [sued the FEC](#) over its dismissal of our 2016 complaint alleging illegal coordination between the Clinton campaign and a Democratic super PAC, and [filed a complaint with the FEC](#) against Democratic presidential candidate Bill de Blasio's campaign.