From:	Rebecca Jane Stanton
To:	mdove@fec.gov
Subject:	Act Blue is not a "committee"
Date:	12/12/2007 10:24 AM

Dear Ms. Dove,

I write, as I know many have, to clarify the role of the online fundraising site ActBlue in the political fundraising process. ActBlue is not a "committee"; it does not raise funds for a general pot that it then distributes to candidates and issues of its choice; rather, it is an online fundraising TOOL that allows individuals to donate small amounts of money directly to the candidates of their choice. (This is especially helpful for grassroots campaigns that do not have the resources to set up their own secure online credit card processor.) In all cases, the money donated goes directly to the candidate specified by the donor, and all the FEC regulations governing campaign contributions by individuals are observed: the money is at all times linked directly to the name of the donor, the name of the donor's employers, and the name of the candidate for whom the donation is earmarked. At no time is there any possible question about who the money came from or who it is going to.

Most importantly, contributions made to any candidate through ActBlue are subject to the same maximum limits as those made directly to that candidate through his/her own website (or other fundraising mechanism).

Therefore, contributions processed through ActBlue's fundraising service should also be eligible for matching funds under the same rules as other contributions made by individuals to the individual political candidates of their choice.

Yours sincerely,
Rebecca Stanton

--
Rebecca Stanton
Assistant Professor of Russian
Dept. of Slavic Languages
Barnard College, Columbia University
3009 Broadway
New York, NY 10027

(212) 854-3133

http://www.columbia.edu/~rjs19