

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION 1 12 PM 1: 23

In the matter of:

Indivisible Kentucky

MUR # 7286

COMPLAINT

1. The Republican Party of Kentucky ("RPK"), 105 W. 3rd Street, Frankfort, KY 40601, brings this complaint before the Federal Election Commission ("FEC or "Commission") seeking an immediate investigation and enforcement action against Indivisible Kentucky for direct and serious violations of the Federal Election Campaign Act ("FECA").

Parties and Jurisdiction

- 2. Complainant RPK is registered with the FEC as the state political party committee for the Republican Party in Kentucky. It maintains both federal and state accounts, and supports and advocates for federal candidates of the Republican Party in Kentucky.
- 3. RPK is harmed when an individual, candidate, political committee or other regulated entity fails to report campaign finance activity as required by FECA. <u>See FEC v. Akins</u>, 524 U.S. 11, 19 (1998), <u>quoting Buckley v. Valeo</u>, 424 U.S. 1, 66-67 (1976) (political committees must disclose contributors and disbursements to help voters understand who provides which candidates with financial support). RPK is further harmed when the FEC fails to properly administer FECA's reporting requirements, limiting its ability to review campaign finance information.
- 4. Indivisible Kentucky ("IKY") is a purported tax-exempt organization established on April 12, 2017, organized under section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code, and based in Louisville, Kentucky.

5. As of October 10, 2017, IKY was not registered with the Federal Election Commission as a political committee, nor was it registered with the IRS as a 527 political organization.

Allegations

- 6. Beginning in July 2017, IKY spent an excess of \$10,000 on independent expenditures in the form of billboard advertisements opposing United States Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. IKY reported none of these expenditures to the FEC.
- 7. The two billboard advertisements each contain a photograph image of Senator McConnell, the statement that "Kentucky Deserves Better," and the hashtag "#DitchMitch2020." They also include the "We Are Indivisible Kentucky" logo for the group, and the web address for the organization.
- 8. The two billhoard advertisements contain the disclaimer "Paid for by Indivisible Kentucky (indivisible KY.org) and not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee."
- 9. The advertisements clearly identify Senator McConnell, a federal candidate, by the use of his photograph and his name. 11 CFR 100.17; 52 U.S.C. 30101(18).
- 10. The two billboards differ only in the top-line caption. Billboard advertisement #1 (attached as Exhibit 1) states "WE'VE HAD ENOUGH!". Billboard advertisement #2 (attached as Exhibit 2) states "YOU MAKE US SICK!"
- 11. "Ditch Mitch" was the campaign slogan of Senator McConnell's previous election challenger, and has been used in multiple election cycles to expressly advocate for the electoral defeat of Senator McConnell. The hashtag on the billboard advertisements pairs this phrase

See attached as Exhibit 3 advertisements and independent expenditure reports from the 2008 and 2014 election cycles, including express advocacy communications by the Kentucky Democratic Party, the Fayette County Democratic Party, People for the American Way, and Bluegrass Rural. The radio ads can be heard at https://www.iagrectosce.com/portfolio/bluegrass-rural-mitch-mcconnell-2014-radio-ads/.

with the year of the election in which Senator McConnell will next be on the ballot. The billboard advertisements clearly represent an exhortation to vote against Senator McConnell in the 2020 election. Thus, the advertisements are express advocacy communications.

- 12. The advertisements are explicit express advocacy in that they contain the campaign slogan or word advertisements that in context can have no other reasonable meaning than to support or oppose a clearly identified candidate. 11 CFR 100.22(a).
- 13. Alternatively, the advertisements are the functional equivalent of express advocacy, in that they are susceptible of no reasonable interpretation other than a call to vote against Senator McConnell.
- 14. The disclaimer on the billboard advertisements identifies the payor and contains the language of non-authorization as required by 11 CFR 110.11(b)(3).
- 15. The inclusion of the disclaimer required by 110.11(b)(3) demonstrates both that IKY is aware of the requirements of FECA and FEC regulations and that its communication is a type included in 110.11(a)(1)-(4). The billboard advertisements do not contain a solicitation and are clearly not broadcast ads close to an election such that might qualify as electioneering communications. They are likewise not email or internet websites. The inclusion of the disclaimer therefore suggests that IKY either considers itself a political committee, 11 CFR 110.11(a)(1), or that they acknowledge that the billboard advertisements expressly advocate the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate. 11 CFR 110.11(a)(2).
- 16. Notably, IKY's website does not include a disclaimer pursuant to 11 CFR 110.11 as would be required of a political committee (see screenshots attached as Exhibit 4). IKY therefore is either confused as to its status as a political committee versus a nonprofit, or acknowledges that its billboard advertisements expressly advocate the election or defeat of a

clearly identified candidate. Because the website does not contain the disclaimer, it appears that IKY acknowledges that the billboard advertisements contain express advocacy.

- advertisements and donors contributed money to IKY for the explicit purpose of paying for the billboard advertisements. "The signs, placed near Cardinal Boulevard and St. Catherine on I-65 N, cost the group more than \$10,000. A spokeswoman for Indivisible Kentucky said the funds were raised by the group as well as an anonymous benefactor. One is scheduled to debut this week and the other sometime next week." The news report specifically described these activities, and was based on interviews with IKY's spokesperson, not anonymous sources. <u>Compare MUR</u> 6002 Statement of Reasons, at 6 (disregarding news report that did not contain specific facts alleging the costs of an advertisement were paid by a specific donor, and based in part on anonymous sources).
- advertisements: "Also, if you're able, could you donate \$5 or more to Indivisible Kentucky to help with our advertising campaign? Indivisible Kentucky has set a goal of raising \$20,000 for a media purchasing blitz, starting with the billboard advertising campaign." This solicitation is on a page dedicated solely to the billboard campaign, and was not part of a broader solicitation. See Exhibit 6.
- Graphics identical to the billboards are also published on the organization's website and Twitter account.
- 20. IKY's Twitter account solicits contributions specifically for the purpose of funding the billboard advertisements, with a photo of the billboard from the highway

accompanied by the text "Here it is! Want to see more of these around the state? Donate now, even \$5 helps." <u>See</u> Exhibit 7.

21. Another Twitter solicitation contains graphics of the billboards, and states that "We plan to do more of our awesome billboards, but need to do some fundraising first. Can you help?" <u>See</u> Exhibit 8.

Indivisible Kentucky Failed To Include Disclaimers On Its Website And Twitter Communications As Required By Law

- 22. The website does not include a disclaimer required by 11 CFR 110.11 for a solicitation of a contribution for the purpose of funding a public communication expressly advocating the defeat of a clearly identified federal candidate.
- 23. The Twitter messages do not contain a disclaimer. The twitter messages link to the organization's website; however, as previously stated the website does not contain an appropriate disclaimer for such a solicitation or a public communication expressly advocating the defeat of a clearly identified federal candidate.

Indivisible Kentucky Failed To Report Independent Expenditures And The Donors Who <u>Contributed For Those Independent Expenditures As Required By Law</u>

- 24. An "independent expenditure" is an expenditure by a person for a communication "expressly advocating the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate" that is not coordinated with a candidate or a political party. 52 U.S.C. § 30101(17); 11 C.F.R. § 100.16(a).
- 25. FECA requires every person (other than a political committee) who expends more than \$250 in independent expenditures with respect to a given election during a calendar year to

file reports with the FEC on the quarterly reporting schedule regarding the expenditures. 52 U.S.C. § 30104(c)(1) (referencing 52 U.S.C. § 30104(b)(3)(A)); 11 CFR 109.10(b).

- 26. In addition to the quarterly reports, FECA and FEC regulations require a person who makes independent expenditures totaling \$10,000 or more on a given election in a calendar year up to the 20th day before the date of the election to file a report regarding the expenditures with the FEC within 48 hours. 52 U.S.C. § 30104(g)(2)(A); 11 C.F.R. § 109.10(c).
- 27. FECA and FEC regulations require that these reports identify each person (other than a political committee) who makes contributions totaling more than \$200 in a calendar year to the person making the independent expenditure. 52 U.S.C. § 30104(c)(1) (referencing 52 U.S.C. § 30104(b)(3)(A)); 11 CFR 109.10(e)(1)(vi).
- 28. FECA further requires that reports filed under these provisions identify each person who made a contribution, in excess of \$200 to the person filing the report "which was made for the purpose of furthering an independent expenditure." 52 U.S.C. § 30104(c)(2)(C).
- 29. FEC regulations interpret these provisions to require the reports identify each person who made a contribution in excess of \$200 to the person filing the report that "was made for the purpose of furthering the reported independent expenditure." 11 C.F.R. § 109.10(e)(1)(vi).
- 30. IKY made expenditures aggregating in excess of \$10,000 during 2017 for communications that expressly advocated the election or defeat of United States Senator Mitch McConnell.
- 31. IKY solicited and received funds from donors and an anonymous benefactor for the purpose of funding the independent expenditures for the billboard advertisements.

- 32. IKY filed no reports disclosing independent expenditures. IKY knowingly and willfully failed to identify donors and an anonymous benefactor who made contributions for the purpose of furthering the specific independent expenditures IKY made in opposition to Senator McConnell's 2020 election.
- 33. By failing to identify donors and an anonymous benefactor or any other person in required reports, IKY violated 52 U.S.C. §. 30104 and 11 C.F.R. § 109.10(b)-(e).
- 34. IKY's violations were knowing and willful, and thus subject-to criminal penalties and referral to the Department of Justice. 52 U.S.C. §§ 30109(a)(5)(C), 30109(d)(1).

Conclusion

WHEREFORE, Republican Party of Kentucky and Sarah Pickerel request that the FEC conduct an investigation into these allegations, declare the respondent to have violated the FECA and applicable FEC regulations, impose sanctions appropriate to these violations and take such further action as may be appropriate.

N BEHALF OF COMPLAINANTS

Sarah Pickerel Executive Director Republican Party of Kentucky

Verification

Republican Party of Kentucky and Sarah Pickerel hereby verify that the statements made in the attached Complaint are, upon information and belief, true. Sworn pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

Sarah Pickerel

Acknowledgement

STATE OF KENTUCKY

COUNTY OF FRANKLIN

This instrument was acknowledged before me on this the 11th day of October.

2017 by Sarah Pickerel on behalf of Republican Party of Kentucky.

Given under my hand and seal of office this 11th day of October, 2017.

Notary Public

my commission expires: 5/8/19

EXHIBIT 1





EXHIBIT 2





KENTUCKY DESERVES BETTER.

INDIVISIBLE KENTUCKY

IndivisibleKY.org

EXHIBIT 3

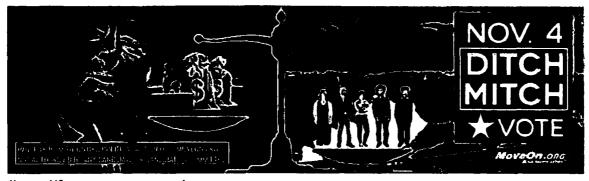




Winning "Ditch Mitch" billboard goes up in Lexington, KY

By Victoria Kaplan (/author/vkaplan). Friday, October 17 2014

Today, a new billboard—inspired by Kentucky MoveOn member Beth R.—is rising in Lexington. Kentucky MoveOn members submitted more than 50 ideas and designs for a billboard to hold Sen. McConnell accountable for siding with billionaires and mega-corporations, instead of with the people of Kentucky. Beth's idea—"scale of justice, Kentucky people on one side, bags of money on the other side"—hit the nail on the head, and here's what our designers created with her idea:



(http://front.moveon.org/wp-

content/uploads/2014/10/DitchMitchBillboardContestWinnter.png)

And here's how it looks up in Lexington today:



(http://front.moveon.org/wp-

content/uploads/2014/10/DitchMitchBillboardLive_600x333.jpg)

While billboards help communicate our message, we know that the very best way to impact the election is to talk to voters. Already, MoveOn members around the country have made more than 250,000 calls to Kentucky voters to remind them to get out and vote—to Ditch Mitch.

With just two weeks until Election Day, there's no better time to get in the game. And to make it simple, we've built an easy-to-use system that lets you and a few' friends gather at home to call voters. MoveOn's call parties have been a favorite activity of MoveOn members for the last three elections.

Can you sign up to host a call party this coming weekend, Saturday or Sunday, October 25 or 26?

Yes, I'll sign up to host a party to help call voters this weekend.

(http://pol.moveon.org/event/events/create.html?

action id=352&id=-23808683
k8GM5R&tester=victoria.kaplan@moveon.orgx&t=1)

Toggl navig



	AZEAN
—;	MENL

Are you in to Ditch Mitch?

It's a long time until November, and we've got a lot of work to do if we want to Ditch Mitch.

Add your name and let us know you're in to Ditch Mitch.

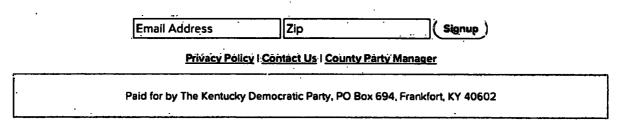
Like 136 people like this. Be the first of your friends.

Tweet

First Name *	
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Last Name *	
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Email Address *	•
-	
Zip Code *	

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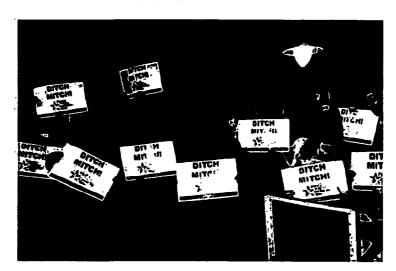


People For the American Way

PFAW Activists Host "Ditch Mitch" Debate Watching Party

Derek http://www.pfaw.org/spokespeople/derek/ | October 15, 2014

On Monday night, Sen. Mitch McConnell and Democratic challenger Alison Lundergan Grimes went face-to-face in debate for the first and only time in their race, and PFAW activists were paying attention.



More than 50 people turned out to a debate watch party that People For the American Way co-hosted in Louisville – one of the largest in Kentucky.

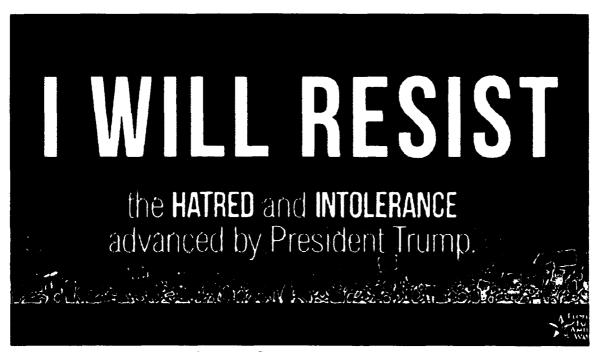
Candidates sparred over raising the minimum wage and on whether to repeal the Affordable Care Act. McConnell tried repeatedly to tie Grimes to Obama and to portray her as anti-coal. Grimes fired back by blaming the gridlock and dysfunction in DC on McConnell. She also highlighted who McConnell really

works for: "I'm not bought and paid for by the Koch brothers
http://www.msnbc.com/msnbc/mcconnell-and-grimes-talk-obamacare-climate-coal-only-debate Of any special interest."

Sen. McConnell reminded Kentuckians that if he is re-elected and becomes Senate majority leader, he will help set the nation's political agenda next year. That's a pretty scary thought. And that's why PFAW is working hard on the ground in Kentucky to save the Senate and keep millionaires and billionaires from deciding the future of our nation.

Tags: Alison Lundergan Grimes, Politics, Sen. Mitch McConnell

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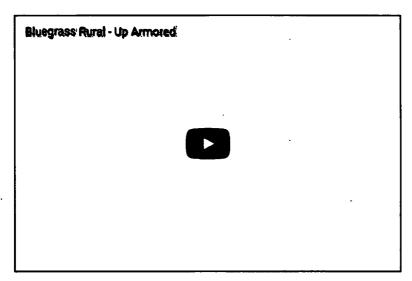
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Kentucky Super PAC Targeted Mitch McConnell's Voting Record in 2014 Radio Ads



Posted on March 15, 2016 by Kaitlyn Goodman



Bluegrass Rural, a Kentucky super PAC, launched a radio attack ad blitz during the 2014 election to educate rural Kentucky voters about Senator Mitch McConnell's past voting record. McConnell is the longest-serving U.S. Senator in Kentucky's history, holding office in the U.S. Senate since 1985. And according to Bluegrass Rural, he has been "deceiving" the voters ever since then. Check out these radio spots the group released in 2014, attacking McConnell on gas prices, trade deals and the military.





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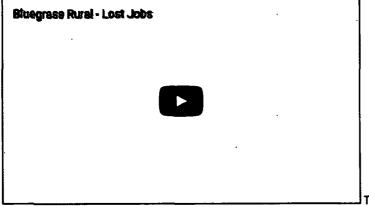
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"Gas Pains"



"Gas Pains," the radio ad pins high gas prices directly on McConnell and his connections to Big Oil. In a press release, the group pointed out, rural residents "are proportionately more negatively affected by high gas and diesel cost," because of their limited access to public transportation. The ad reminds voters, "So the next time you fill up, remind yourself to ditch witch"

"Lost Jobs"



60-second spot goes after McConnell for supporting trade policies that resulted in the loss of thousands of jobs in Kentucky and across the United States. According to the group, from 2001 to 2011 Kentucky had 35,000 jobs displaced thanks to trade agreements with China – and McConnell keeps "rubbing salt in workers wounds" by supporting these deals.

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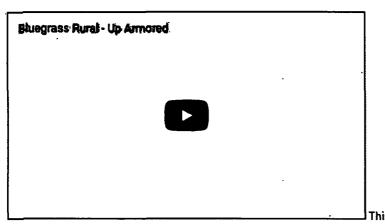




How Will Trumpcare Aftert Veterans? VoteV ,

O

"Up-Armored"



ad quickly gets your attention, opening with a man screaming, "Allahu Akbar," or "God is great," in Arabic, coupled with the sound of an explosion. Bluegrass Rural attacked McConnell for opposing funding that would increase protection our troops. "Senator McConnell turned his back on our men and women in uniform," the narrator claims. Have a political ad that you think should be on our site? Send it to us at info@iagreetosee.com with a short description, and we'll feature it.



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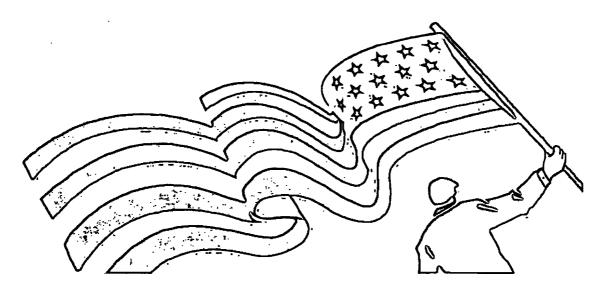
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Daily Kos

Community



KY-Sen: Gov. Steve Beshear (D), "Alison Lundergan Grimes (D) Can & Will Boat Mitch McConnell (R)" Mar 18, 2014 10:56am EDT by poopdogcomedy

Please log in or sign up to continue.



Received this e-mail today from Governor Steve Beshear (D. KY) in support of Alison Lundergan Grimes' (D. KY) bid against Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R. KY):



Everywhere I go, people ask me the same question: "Governor, can Alison beat Mitch McConnell?" I am here to tell you that not only can Alison beat Mitch McConnell, she is gaing to beat him with your help.



Alison can beat Mitch because Kentuckians know what's at stake in this election. The unity and grassroots enthusiasm behind her campaign is something I haven't seen in quite some time.

It's not hard to see why.

Alison is a true public servant. I've worked with her over the past few years and have seen firsthand her tremendous commitment to Kentucky's working families.

By electing Alison, we can send a clear message to Washington that we're tired of the dysfunction and petry politics. By electing Alison, we'll finally have a Senator who stands for everything that's right about Kentucky, not everything that's wrong with Washington, D.C.

Donate today and join me in standing with Alison. Let's make sure she has the resources she needs to fight back against Mitch McConnell.

https://secure actblue com/. .

As the Commonwealth's first female Senator, Alison will always fight for working families. She has led - and will continue to lead - the country with calls to increase the minimum wage, close the gender pay gap, and bring American jobs back from overseas.

Imagine what we could accomplish if we had a Senator who worked for these ideas rather than one who only works for himself. Imagine what it would be like to have someone in Washington fighting for us, rather than someone who only fights for gridlock and obstruction.



It's time to stop imagining. It's time to ditch Mitch and elect Alison Lundergan Grimes as our next U.S. Senator.

Contribute now and help Alison meet her goal before the end of quarter deadline. With your help we can finally ditch Mitch and build a better future.

htms://secure actblue.com/

Let's get to work,

Governor Steve Beshear

Icon Confesses It



Gazebo Creations

Design the Backyard of your Dreams! Many Styles & Sizes, Ship in 7 Days fitthroom com/gazehos





https://secure.actblue.com/...

Display 6 Comments

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We need you NOW!

by Andrea Ewen | Oct 15, 2014 | archive | 0 comments

This election <u>can</u> be won. We <u>can</u> ditch Mitch and elect Alison Lundergan Grimes who promises to put Kentuckians first. There is a plan in place for this — it is a grassroots strategy that requires a ton of volunteer hours — boots on the ground and phone to the ear. So we're asking you to donate 3 hours of your time between now and the election.

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January 2017

SCHEDULE	E	(FEC	Form	3X)	
ITEMIZED INDI					

EMIZED INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES	PAGE OF 2 FOR LINE 24 OF FORM 9X
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Under penalty of perjury I certify that the independent expenditures reported herein were not ma with, or at the request or suggestion of, any condidate or authorized committee or agent of either, party committee) any political party committee or its agent.	de in cooperation, consultation, or concert or (if the reporting entity is not a political
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FEC Schedule E (Form 3X) Rev. 09/2013

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CHEDULE E (FEC Form 3X)	
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Under penalty of perjury I certify that the independent expenditures reported herein were not me with, or at the request or suggestion of, any candidate or authorized committee or agent of either party committee) any political party committee or its agent.	
<u> </u>	
Date (0 28 2014

Federal Election Commission ENVELOPE REPLACEMENT PAGE FOR INCOMING DOCUMENTS

FOR INCOMING DOCUMENTS	
The FEC added this page to the end of this filing to indicate he	ow it was received.
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(8/2013)

SCHEDULE E (FEC Form 3X)

TEMIZED INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES	FAGE OF 2
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Bluggass Rural	C.D.0.5.67.1.7.2
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TEMIZED INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES	PAGE / OF 8 FOR UNE 24 OF FORM 3X
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Manchester Ky 40962	SOO OO
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SCHEDULE	E	(FEC	Form	3X)	
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SCHEDULE E (FEC Form 3X)
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SCHEDULE E	(FEC Form 3X)
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SCHEDULE E (FEC Form 3X)		
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BLUEGRASS RURAL	C00567172	
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FEC Schedule E (Form SX) Rev. 09/2013

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FEC Schedule E (Form 3X) Rev. 09/2013

# Federal Election Commission ENVELOPE REPLACEMENT PAGE FOR INCOMING DOCUMENTS

FOR INCOMING DOCUMENTS  The FEC added this page to the end of this filing to indicate	how it was received.
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USPS Priority Mail	Postmarked
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(8/2013)



MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

# DO SOMETHING!

Show up for these actions and events



-----

Aug. 27 | Membership Meeting

join us on Sunday, August 27 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. for the next Membership Meeting at the Glassworks Building at 815 W. Market Street, Louisville, NEWCOMERS WELCOME! Hear an ...



ACTION / NEWS

Billboard Campaign: It's Time To #DltchMitch2020

After repeatedly attempting to engage Senate Majority Leader Milton McConnell to no avail, indivisible Kentucky is taking steps this week to get his attention: we've put up billiboards & ask you to join us in the effort to 60ttchMitch2020



ACTION / EVENTS

July 29 | Raily for Healthcare for All: "Our Lives Are on the Line!

join us an Saturday, july 29 at Metro Hail in Louisville, 527 W. Jefferson St. Americans are coming together all across the country to say: OUR LIVES ARE ON THE ...



ACTION / FUNDRAISING

Will you chip in \$5 or more?

Senator Mitch McConnell represents corporations and lobbylists, not the Commonwealth of Kentucky, as he daims. Since 1984, he has shown us time and again that he has no interest in ...



ACTION / EVENTS

July 7 | United We Can! Bridging the Gap For Healthcare

join SolNdWisible and Indivisible Kentucky on Friday, July 7 at 6 p.m. as we rally together to demand that Kentucky Senators Miltch McConnell and Rand Paul, and Indiana Senators Todd Young ...

HOW TO VOLUNTEER

FOILOW US









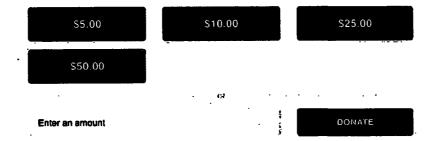
# THE TIME IS NOW! Donate to Indivisible Kentucky today!

Your one-time donation* to Indivisible XY directly funds the grassroots movement that holds our elected officials accountable for their actions, takes a stand against fear and misinformation, and prepares to educate, inform, and drive the vote as we gear up for the 2018 election season. With your financial contribution, Trump's dishonest administration, and those in Congress who promote their disastrous agenda, will face us - and YOU - at every turn. Make a stand with us today!

"Your donation is appreciated, however not tax deductible.

## Donate to Indivisible Kentucky today!

Click on a button below or fill in a custom donation amount.



# **About IndivisibleKY**

Indivisible Kentucky holds our members of Congress accountable to the principles of democracy and the values of respect, equality, and solidarity.

Contact

contact@indivisibleky.org





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# **CATEGORY: ACTION**



### ACTION / WINE

# Billboard Campaign: It's Time To #DitchMitch2020

After repeatably attempting to organie Securia Majority Leader Adich MicConnell to no exall, insikhilitie Kentucky is Laking siaps tidis week to get nis attentions we've put up belloomis & ask you to join us in the effort is distribution\$5220



## July 29 | Rally for Healthcare for All: "Our Lives Are on the Line!

John un on Salunday, July 29 at Matro Hall in Louisylle, 527 Wt Jefferson St. Americans are conting together all across the country to say: Quit LMTS ARE QN TNE  $\underline{\phantom{A}}$ 



### Will you chip in \$5 or more?

Senator Milco McConnell represents corporations and loobyfuls, not the Commonwealth of Kensucky, as he daters. Since 1984, he has shown us dire and again that he has no interest in ...



# July 7 | United We Cani Bridging the Gap For Healthcare

join SelNiChristife and Indivisible Kentuchy on Friday, July 7 at 6 pm, as we rafy tagether to demand that Kentuchy Senetors Mittch McCornetl and Roud Paul, and Indiana Senetors Todd Young ...



### June 22 | Tell Senators Mitch McConnell and Rand Paul: Stop #Trumpcare

uraday we broke you and all of your filends to visit the Louisville offices of Senators Mitch McConnell and Rand Paul to demand that they step frumpure before it ...



### june 14 | Tell McConnell You Want To See The Bill

All across Kenbudy this week citizens are showing up to Senetur Mitch McConneSh district offices to eak for a copy of the Scnato Hossin Care Isli. We need your help in . .



# june 14 | Stop #Trumpcare National Senate Call-in Day

The Senate is typing to the what the Mouse of Representatives did in Mays, jam through its TrumpCare bill in setrecy, without public hearings, without a Congressional Budget Office (CRO) ...



# It's time to make some calls

pCare is a looming threat. We've seen the nave reports over the lest faw days showing just how remous U.S. Senators are about guilting your health care. That means your ...



### ACTION / 875217A

# June 3 | March for Truth

Denald Trustee aerousced this week that the United States will withdraw from the Parts Agrosmont. On Saturday, June 3 at 1 p m. In Loutsville, we will be speaking out against this recibes of occiden...



### May 30 Empty Sult Town Hell | Your Questions Matter

ere are Senators McConnell and Rand Paul on the Issues? And who will hold frump accountable? join indivisible Kentucky for an Empty Sult Town Hall on Tuesday evening May 30 ...



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# **AMPLIFY!**

it's easy to amplify our events and actions by following these simple steps.

### SHARE

- From this website: The events and actions pages on our website have "share" buttons at the bottom of the page. When you click, the page is shared to your social
  media accounts Instantly. You can also copy and paste the link, if that's easier for you.
- From social media: All Facebook events or Twitter posts from indivisible Kentucky are designed so you can share it to your news feed so that people in your network can see them.

### DIVITE

Use your personal power to invite your friends to indivisible Kentucky events on Facebook. Click the event to open it, hover over "share" and choose "invite friends."
 From there you can select your friends on Facebook to whom you would like to send a personal invitation.

### FORWARD OUR EMAILS!

 When you receive an email from indivisible Kentucky, you can forward it to people you know who might be interested in getting more involved. If you don't get emails from us, sign up here.

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# WHO WE ARE

Indivisible Kentucky is part of a national grassroots movement based on the Indivisible Guide. We are regular people, just like you, who live in and near Louisville, Kentucky, for whom November 8, 2016 was a rude awakening. Many of us have been more couch-potato than activist, but now we realize that we no longer have the luxury of watching from the sidelines.

We believe that protecting our values, our neighbors, and ourselves will require mounting a strong, united, indivisible resistance to the Trump agenda — a resistance that seeks to protect all our civil rights, built on the values of inclusion, tolerance, and fairness.

Donald Trump is the biggest popular vote loser in history to ever call himself President. He is attempting to use his congressional majority to reshape America in his own racist, authoritarian, and corrupt image. If progressives are going to stop this, we must stand indivisibly opposed to Trump and the members of Congress (MoCs) who would do his bidding. This includes: phone calls, in-person meetings, public appearances, town halls, media events, emails and social media campaigns. Together, we have the power to resist — and we have the power to win.

Here in Kentucky, we have a unique opportunity: Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, the power behind the obstruction of the last eight years, is accountable to us, his constituents. He has become the most powerful politician in Washington, DC during the Trump administration.

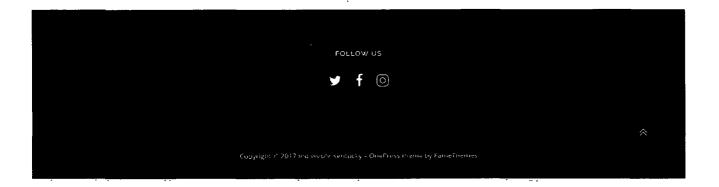
It is our obligation to make sure that Mitch McConnell remembers that he works for us.

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# STATEMENT OF VALUES

Elected officials must be held accountable to the people.

Voices that have been historically silenced are the most important to listen to.

It is unrealistic to try to separate political action from social justice.

Partnering with other organizations increases our effectiveness.

Growth comes through allowing ourselves to be challenged.

There are many ways to be involved in democracy.

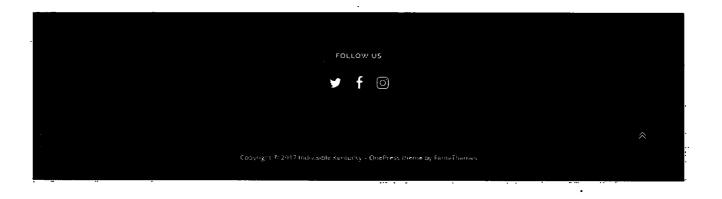
We cannot do everything, but this won't stop us from doing something.

We will resist any and all divide and conquer tactics.

Democracy is more effective when more people are at the table.

We are all in this together.





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# WHAT IS THE INDIVISIBLE GUIDE?



From the **indivisible Guide** website:

A few days after the election of Donald Trump, two former congressional staffers talked about what every progressive in America was talking about what do we do now? We saw energy building to resist, but it wasn't directed.

There are now more than 5,800 local indivisible groups across the country, doing grassroots organizing, mobilizing volunteers, and holding our members of congress accountable.

Download the Indivisible Guide.

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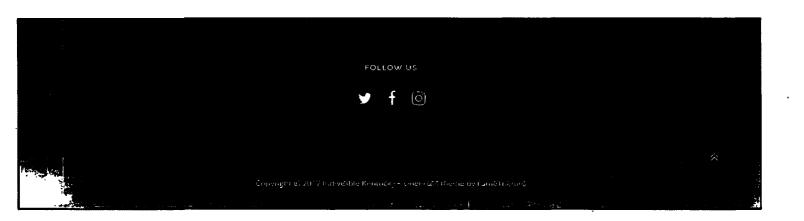




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# Anti-Trump group Indivisible Kentucky blasts Mitch McConnell on billboards

Published 2:45 p.m. ET July 27, 2017 | Updated 11:50 a.m. ET July 31, 2017



(Photo: Courtesy Indivisible Kentucky)

An anti-Trump group that says it's "sick" of Kentucky Sen. Mitch McConnell dodging its emails, phone calls and social media posts now has a plan it says is too big for him to ignore.

Indivisible Kentucky (https://www.facebook.com/indivisibleky/) has purchased two billboards of the Senate majority leader's face on northbound Interstate 65 in Louisville emblazoned with the phrases "You make us sick" and "We've had enough."

The signs, placed near Cardinal Boulevard and St. Catherine on I-65 N, cost the group more than \$10,000. A spokeswoman for Indivisible Kentucky said the funds were raised by the group as well as an anonymous benefactor. One is scheduled to debut this week and the other sometime next week.

Read about this group: Anti-Trump movement may be spawning liberals' answer to the tea party (/story/news/politics/2017/02/22/anti-trumpmovement-may-spawning-liberals-answer-tea-party/97741066/)

Indivisible Kentucky co-founder Dawn Cooley said her group has been urging the Senator to host a public town hall event since January, and the billboards are the tipping point.

"The 'You make us sick' billboard is in reference to how we feel about the direction of his 'leadership' both in general and today specifically. We strongly disagree with his stance on affordable, quality health care, which we believe is a human right," Cooley said in an emall.

McConnell's plan for a clean repeal of the Affordable Care Act was shut down Wednesday evening, as seven Republican senators brought the vote up short 4S-55. In a last ditch effort, McConnell and other Senate leaders were expected to organize a vote Thursday of dozens of amendments in what they call a "skinny repeal" of the Affordable Care Act.

"We are astonished that he would open debate on a bill that most of the senate hasn't even seen — this is not due process but a blatant abuse of power," Cooley said in an email.

On social media: #Fail: Twitterverse lashes out at McConnell over health care t/story/news/politics/2017/07/19/mcconnell-gets-heat-on-twitteroverhealth-care-bill/492417001/).

The latest: What might a "skinny repeal of Obamacare mean for you? (/stort/news/politics/2017/07/27/what-could-skinny-repeal-obamacare-mean-forvou/514190001/)

Robert Steurer, a spokesman for McConnell, issued the following comment via email: "Liberal activists like Indivisible Kentucky know how to create good street theater, and as an avid supporter of the First Amendment, Senator McConnell believes that all citizens have the right to express their opinions peacefully."

Steurer said one of the most discussed issues among McConnell and his constituents in Kentucky is "the failing state of Obamacare."

"These families, individuals and small businesses are suffering, and Senator McConnell will continue to keep their concerns in mind as he votes to provide them relief from the failures of Obamacare."

The billboards, which are set to be positioned on I-65 for the next two months, are also prompting a viral social media campaign by Indivisible KY.

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"We're inviting citizens to join us in this effort by taking pictures of the billboards (not while driving, of coursel) and post them to social media with the hashtag #DitchMitch2020."

Reach Reporter Thomas Novelly at 502-582-4465 or by email at tnovelly@courier-journal.com. Follow him on Twitter @TomNovelly.

Read or Share this story: http://www.courier-journal.com/story/news/local/2017/07/27/local-anti-trump-group-blasts-mcconnell-billboard/516143001/



Ending Hunger Was Never This Easy



Billboard Campaign: It's Time To #DitchMitch2020 - Indivisib... Page 1 of 4

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# Billboard Campaign: It's Time To #DitchMitch2020

POSTED ON JULY 27, 2017 BY TIM PEACOCK





After repeatedly attempting to engage Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to no avail, Indivisible Kentucky is taking steps this week to get his attention: we've put up billboards & ask you to join us in the effort to #DitchMitch2020.

If you see our billboards in your travels (they're located on I-65 Northbound between the Watterson and Muhammed Ali), take a picture and post it to social media and be sure to tag us (@indivisible_KY3) and Senator McConnell (@SenateMajLdr). And include the hashtag #DitchMitch2020!

Also, if you're able, could you **donate \$5 or more to Indivisible Kentucky** to help with our advertising campaign? **Indivisible Kentucky has set a goal of raising \$20,000** for a media purchasing blitz, starting with the billboard advertising campaign.

Kentuckians deserve access to the same fundamental rights as even the wealthlest Americans: the right to affordable, quality healthcare, a good education, clean water, and freedom from discrimination based on our gender, race or sexual orientation. **We've had enough** of Mitch McConnell siding with those in power rather than his constituents.

Throughout his lengthy congressional tenure, McConnell has ignored the Constitution for partisan gain. He's spent decades putting politics and power over policy and people. Not long ago McConnell campaigned on the very issue – health care access – he's now attempting to take away from millions of people.

# Billboard Campaign: It's Time To #DitchMitch2020 - Indivisib... Page 2 of 4

His current actions – particularly the Senate health care bill aimed at repealing the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) – would critically harm hundreds of thousands of Kentuckians on both sides of the aisle.

The lives of everyday Kentucky families mean less to McConnell than the money he receives from corporate interests and his support for the Trump administration.

For example, of all the members of Congress, McConnell has been by far the largest recipient of coal Industry contributions. He's received \$748,899 (compared to \$640,825 for his nearest competitor, former Republican Speaker of the House John Boehner from Ohio).

Taking money from the coal industry has done little to help coal miners. For instance:

- McConnell's version of the miners protection act only covers healthcare, not pensions for retired miners
- McConnell opposed coal mining regulations, including regulations that protect the water supply of miners and their families and communities

Coal miners aren't the only Kentuckians negatively affected by Mitch McConnell; working families continue to suffer thanks to his positions and legislation. Some examples include:

- He voted against laws that would help stop outsourcing and has even voted for tax breaks that reward corporations for exporting America's jobs overseas
- He said that the government should cut Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid—programs the working class depend on
- He's worth more than \$27 million but blocked and voted against legislation to raise the minimum
- He sponsored legislation to permanently reduce the estate tax for the wealthy and extend the Bush-era tax breaks for the richest Americans
- Instead of helping jobless workers get back on their feet, McConnell blocked legislation extending unemployment insurance benefits
- McConnell has consistently voted against laws that would make it easier for Kentucky workers to get good pay, decent benefits and real job security

When not targeting working families, McConnell also targets minority populations and immigrants. For example:

- He voted NO, twice, on reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act
- · He voted YES on building a fence along the Mexican border
- He voted NO on giving Guest Workers a path to citizenship
- · He voted YES on constitutional ban of same-sex marriage

# Billboard Campaign: It's Time To #DitchMitch2020 - Indivisib... Page 3 of 4

- · He voted NO on adding sexual orientation to the definition of hate crimes
- · He voted NO on prohibiting job discrimination by sexual orientation
- He blocked and voted against the Paycheck Fairness Act, a Democratic bill aimed at narrowing the pay gap between men and women.
- · He voted YES on ending special funding for minority & women-owned business

Senator McConnell also set out to harm education in Kentucky. He not only opposed legislation that would give aid to states facing financial trouble to keep teachers in the classroom, but also blocked the "Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act" that would have enabled millions of Americans with expensive student loans to refinance into more manageable payments. This action didn't happen in a vacuum; rather, he took these actions as over 40 million Americans are struggling with crushing student loan debt.

Perhaps one of his most odious 'accomplishments,' McConnell has worked diligently over the years to thwart civil rights advances. He's gone so far as to call himself a "Proud Guardian of Gridlock." Some examples of his attempts to curb rights include:

- Speaking out against net neutrality. Net neutrality is the principle that individuals should be
  free to access all content and applications equally, regardless of the source, without Internet
  Service Providers discriminating against specific online services or websites. In other words, it is
  the principle that the company that connects you to the internet does not get to control what you
  do on the internet. McConnell is against net neutrality regulations.
- Silencing MLK's Wife. McConnell used the awesome powers of his office in a shabby attempt to silence the recollection of Coretta Scott King's warning that entrusting Jeff Sessions to uphold the rule of law would have "a devastating effect...on the progress we have made toward fulfilling my husband's dream."
- McConneil's campaign finance crusade. McConnell stood against the 2002 McCain-Feingold campaign finance reform law. The law sought to achieve two goals: (1) Address the increased role of soft money in campaign financing and (2) Address the proliferation of issue advocacy ads
- Gridlock of Merrick Garland's nomination to the Supreme Court. The day that Supreme
  Court Justice Antonin Scalia died, McConnell declared that the Senate should not confirm a
  replacement for Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia until after the 2016 election, even though
  President Obama still had nearly a year left in his term.
- McConnell invoked the "nuclear option" to get Gorsuch on the Supreme Court. After
  Democrats held together and filibustered President Trump's nominee, Republicans, led by
  McConnell, voted to lower the threshold for advancing Supreme Court nominations from 60 votes
  to a simple majority.

It's time to send a message to Senator Mitch McConnell he won't be able to ignore. Join us in spreading the **#DitchMitch2020** campaign across social media!

# Billboard Campaign: It's Time To #DitchMitch2020 - Indivisib... Page 4 of 4

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Indivisible KY @Indivisible_KY3 - Jul 27

Here it is! Want to see more of these around the state? Donate now, even \$5 helps.



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Indivisible KY @Indivisible KY3 · Jul 27
We plan to do more of our awesome billboards, but need to do some fundralsing first. Can you help?



Billboard Campaign: It's Time To #DitchMitch2020

After repeatedly attempting to engage Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to no avail. Indivisible Kentucky is taking steps this week to get his attention: we've put up

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