

1
2
3
4
5 COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
6 JOINT WITH
7 COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION
8 AND COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND
9 GOVERNMENT REFORM,
10 U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
11 WASHINGTON, D.C.
12
13
14

15 DEPOSITION OF: BENJAMIN RAHN
16
17

18 Wednesday, September 2, 2026
19

20 Washington, D.C.
21
22

23 The deposition in the above matter was held in room 2237, Rayburn House Office Building,
24 commencing at 10:00 a.m.

25 Present: Representatives Jordan and Burchett.

1 Appearances:

2

3

4

5 For the COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY:

6

7 [REDACTED] DEPUTY DIGITAL DIRECTOR

8 [REDACTED] GENERAL COUNSEL

9 [REDACTED] DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL

10 [REDACTED] COUNSEL

11 [REDACTED] PROFESSIONAL STAFF MEMBER

12 [REDACTED] CHIEF COUNSEL FOR OVERSIGHT

13 [REDACTED] COUNSEL

14 [REDACTED] MINORITY COUNSEL

15 [REDACTED] MINORITY CHIEF COUNSEL AND SENIOR ADVISOR

16 [REDACTED] MINORITY FELLOW

17 [REDACTED] MINORITY SENIOR COUNSEL

18 [REDACTED] MINORITY LEGAL FELLOW

19

20

21 For the COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM:

22

23 [REDACTED] DEPUTY STAFF DIRECTOR

24 [REDACTED] SENIOR ADVISOR

25 [REDACTED] MINORITY COUNSEL

1 For the COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION:

2

3 [REDACTED] DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL

4 [REDACTED] GENERAL COUNSEL

5 [REDACTED] MINORITY STAFF

6 [REDACTED] MINORITY ELECTIONS COUNSEL

7

8

9 For BENJAMIN RAHN:

10

11 CARLOS URIARTE

12 KIMBERLY HAMM

13 Morrison Foerster

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 [REDACTED] We'll go on the record.

2 Good morning. This is the deposition of Mr. Benjamin Rahn.

3 The Committee on House Administration, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee
4 on Oversight and Government Reform are charged with upholding fundamental American civil
5 liberties and protecting the integrity of American elections. In light of allegations that online
6 fundraising platforms that serve as conduits for political donations have accepted fraudulent
7 donations from domestic and foreign sources, the committees are conducting oversight to inform
8 potential legislative reforms. To further the committees' oversight and legislative reforms, the
9 chairmen requested the deposition with Mr. Rahn.

10 On August 26th, 2026, the committees issued subpoenas for Mr. Rahn to appear at a
11 deposition today, September 2nd. I'll mark -- I've marked the August 26th subpoena as exhibit
12 No. 1.

13 [Rahn Exhibit No. 1
14 was marked for identification.]

15 [REDACTED] On August 26th, the committees noticed today's deposition, and I've marked
16 that notice as exhibit No. 2.

17 [Rahn Exhibit No. 2
18 was marked for identification.]

19 [REDACTED] Would the witness please state your name for the record?

20 The Witness. Benjamin Rahn.

21 [REDACTED] Could counsel please state your names for the record?

22 Mr. Uriarte. Carlos Uriarte.

23 Ms. Hamm. Kimberly Hamm.

24 [REDACTED] Thank you.

25 My name's [REDACTED] and I'm with Chairman Jordan's staff.

1 I'll now have everyone else from the committees who's here in the room introduce
2 themselves as well.

3 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] with Chairman Jordan's staff.

4 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] with Mr. Jordan.

5 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] with Chairman Steil.

6 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] with Chairman Comer.

7 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] with Ranking Member Raskin's staff.

8 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] with Ranking Member Morelle.

9 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] with Ranking Member Garcia.

10 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Ranking Member Raskin's staff.

11 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Chairman Steil's staff.

12 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Chairman Jordan's staff.

13 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Chairman Jordan's staff.

14 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Chairman Jordan's staff.

15 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Chairman Jordan's staff.

16 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Ranking Member Morelle's staff.

17 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] with Oversight majority.

18 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] with Ranking Member Raskin's staff.

19 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Ranking Member Raskin's staff.

20 [REDACTED] I'll now review the ground rules and guidelines that we'll follow during today's
21 deposition.

22 The committees will conduct today's deposition in accordance with the House's regulation for
23 the use of deposition authority which has been provided in advance to your counsel.

24 Our questioning will proceed in rounds. The majority will ask questions first for 1 hour, and
25 then the minority will have an opportunity to ask questions for an equal period of time if they

1 choose.

2 There will be two staff counsel per side asking the questions. To the extent Members have
3 questions for the witness, they will be propounded during their side's respective rounds. The clock
4 will stop if the witness needs to confer with counsel, when counsel for the witness is speaking, and
5 when Members are speaking during the opposite side's round. We'll alternate back and forth until
6 there are no more questions and the deposition is over.

7 We ordinarily take a short break at the end of each hour, but if you'd like to take a break
8 apart from that, please just let us know.

9 As you can see, there is an official court reporter taking down everything we say to make a
10 written record, so we ask that you give verbal responses to all questions. Do you understand?

11 The Witness. Yes.

12 [REDACTED] In addition, the committee's videographer is making a video record of today's
13 proceeding.

14 So the court reporter can take down a clear record, please try and speak clearly so they can
15 understand and so the people at the end of the table can hear you as well. It's important that we
16 do not talk over one another or interrupt each other if we can help it. That goes for everybody
17 present at today's deposition.

18 We want you to answer our questions in a complete and truthful manner. If you do not
19 understand one of our questions or need clarification, please let us know. If you do not know the
20 answer to a question or do not remember, please tell us what you do know and remember. It is
21 okay to tell us if you learned information from someone else, just indicate how you came to know
22 that information. If there are things you do not know or cannot remember, just say so and please
23 inform us who, to the best of your knowledge, might be able to provide a more complete answer to
24 that question.

25 By law you are required to answer questions from Congress truthfully. Do you understand

1 that?

2 The Witness. Yes.

3 [REDACTED] This also applies to questions posed by congressional staff in a deposition. Do
4 you understand this?

5 The Witness. Yes.

6 [REDACTED] Witnesses that knowingly provide false testimony could be subject to criminal
7 prosecution for perjury. This includes, for example, stating that you do not recall or remember
8 something when, in fact, you do. Do you understand this?

9 The Witness. Yes.

10 [REDACTED] Furthermore, you cannot tell half-truths or exclude information necessary to
11 make statements accurate. You are required to provide all information that would make your
12 response truthful. A deliberate failure to disclose information can constitute a false statement.
13 Do you understand this?

14 The Witness. Yes.

15 [REDACTED] Is there any reason you are unable to provide truthful answers to today's
16 questions?

17 The Witness. No.

18 [REDACTED] The Federal Rules of Evidence, Criminal, and Civil Procedure are not applicable
19 for today's deposition. Under the House deposition regulation, a witness's attorney may not
20 instruct a witness to refuse to answer a question except to preserve a privilege. The House
21 recognizes constitutionally based privileges and not necessarily those privileges derived from
22 common law.

23 Finally, I'll make note for the Members and staff that are here today that the content of what
24 we discuss is confidential under the House deposition regulations. Under the rules, the chairmen
25 and ranking minority members shall consult before any release of testimony, transcripts, including

1 portions thereof. This means it is a violation of House and committee rules to disclose content of
2 the deposition prior to its official release.

3 For this reason, the marked exhibits that we will use today will remain with the court reporter
4 so that they can go in the official transcript, and any copies of those exhibits will be returned to us
5 when we wrap up.

6 Before we begin with the first round of questions, we will afford the minority, the witness,
7 and counsel for the witness the opportunity to offer any preliminary remarks. First, we'll start with
8 the minority.

9 [REDACTED] Nothing from us. Thank you.

10 [REDACTED] Counsel?

11 Mr. Uriarte. Before we begin, I'd like to make a brief statement for the record.

12 My name is Carlos Uriarte, and I am counsel for Mr. Rahn, a former ActBlue board member.

13 In June 2026, the committees reached out to my client for the first time concerning this
14 investigation, possibly unaware that Mr. Rahn has not served on the ActBlue board for over a year.
15 Out of respect for this institution and these committees, Mr. Rahn has cooperated with the
16 committees' investigation, produced documents, and traveled here today at his own expense. He is
17 proud of his role as cofounder of ActBlue in democratizing fundraising by allowing small-dollar
18 donors to support the candidates and causes they believe in.

19 Based on our understanding of the scope of the committees' investigation and likely
20 questions, however, he intends to follow our advice and invoke his rights under the Fifth
21 Amendment. His invocation of the Fifth Amendment is in no way an admission of his own liability
22 or that of ActBlue. Honest and innocent people are in some circumstances forced to invoke their
23 Fifth Amendment rights. This is one of those circumstances.

24 As a result of the committees' successful advocacy, there is now Federal- and State-level
25 scrutiny involving the exact same set of facts at issue in the committees' investigation. Specifically,

1 Chairman Steil asked several State attorneys general to investigate, quote/unquote, "potential
2 criminal activity relating to ActBlue."

3 The committee chairmen have suggested that ActBlue's board participated in misconduct.
4 Citing the committees' investigation, the President directed the Attorney General to investigate
5 ActBlue, and earlier this year, the then-acting Attorney General stated that investigating ActBlue
6 remained a priority for the Department of Justice.

7 Finally, some questions today may independently call for attorney-client privileged
8 communications or other information subject to privileges belonging to ActBlue. Nothing Mr. Rahn
9 says should be deemed to waive that privilege.

10 Thank you for the opportunity to fully explain our client's decision to exercise his
11 constitutional rights.

12 [REDACTED] Thank you.

13 The court reporter will now swear the witness in.

14 The Reporter. Please raise your right hand.

15 Do you solemnly declare and affirm under penalty of perjury that the testimony you're about
16 to give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

17 The Witness. I do.

18 The Reporter. Thank you.

19 [REDACTED] The clock now reads 10:06 a.m. We'll start the first hour of questioning.

20 EXAMINATION

21 [REDACTED]
22 Q Mr. Rahn, how long did you serve on the board of ActBlue?

23 A On the advice of counsel, I respectfully decline to answer pursuant to my right under the
24 Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

25 Q Why is ActBlue so bad at stopping fraudulent donations?

1 A On the advice of counsel, I respectfully decline to answer pursuant to my right under the
2 Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

3 Q Why does ActBlue review so many fewer transactions for fraud than an ordinary
4 website selling physical goods?

5 A On the advice of counsel, I respectfully decline to answer pursuant to my right under the
6 Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

7 Q Does ActBlue willingly turn a blind eye to fraud so that Democrat campaigns can
8 increase fundraising on ActBlue?

9 A On the advice of counsel, I respectfully decline to answer pursuant to my right under the
10 Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

11 Q Why did the 2024 goals of ActBlue's top fraud specialists include allowing more fraud on
12 ActBlue?

13 A On the advice of counsel, I respectfully decline to answer pursuant to my right under the
14 Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

15 Q Why did ActBlue take a, quote, "more lenient approach," end quote, to fraud in 2024?

16 A On the advice of counsel, I respectfully decline to answer pursuant to my right under the
17 Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

18 Q Did ActBlue make a concerted effort to allow more fraud on the platform in 2024?

19 A On the advice of counsel, I respectfully decline to answer pursuant to my right under the
20 Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

21 Q Have ActBlue executives or board members ever instructed ActBlue employees to allow
22 more fraud on the platform or weaken ActBlue's fraud prevention defenses?

23 A On the advice of counsel, I respectfully decline to answer pursuant to my right under the
24 Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

25 Q How many fraud campaigns have been conducted on ActBlue that used gift cards or

1 prepaid cards?

2 A On the advice of counsel, I respectfully decline to answer pursuant to my right under the
3 Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

4 Q Why did ActBlue exempt recurring donations from the CVV requirement?

5 A On the advice of counsel, I respectfully decline to answer pursuant to my right under the
6 Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

7 Q Why does ActBlue test potential fraud prevention policy changes for their effect on
8 Democrat donations before implementing them?

9 A On the advice of counsel, I respectfully decline to answer pursuant to my right under the
10 Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

11 Q How often does ActBlue weaken its fraud prevention standards?

12 A On the advice of counsel, I respectfully decline to answer pursuant to my right under the
13 Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

14 Q Did ActBlue CEO Ms. Regina Wallace-Jones lie to Congress?

15 A On the advice of counsel, I respectfully decline to answer pursuant to my right under the
16 Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

17 Q Why does ActBlue refuse to verify the U.S. passport information for foreign
18 contributions to ensure they are legitimate?

19 A On the advice of counsel, I respectfully decline to answer pursuant to my right under the
20 Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

21 Q Why did ActBlue accept up to \$38 million in donations with foreign indicators during the
22 2024 election cycle?

23 A On the advice of counsel, I respectfully decline to answer pursuant to my right under the
24 Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

25 Q Was Zain Ahmad placed on leave because he chose to blow the whistle on pervasive

1 fraud and misconduct at ActBlue?

2 A On the advice of counsel, I respectfully decline to answer pursuant to my right under the
3 Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

4 Q Was the board ever told why the whole legal and compliance team left ActBlue
5 following the 2024 election?

6 A On the advice of counsel, I respectfully decline to answer pursuant to my right under the
7 Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

8 Q Were you concerned by statements in interim general counsel Aaron Ting's resignation
9 letter where he stated the reason for his departure included, quote, "ActBlue's past practices for
10 screening political donations from abroad and its past representations to Congress regarding foreign
11 donations and related matters," end quote?

12 A On the advice of counsel, I respectfully decline to answer pursuant to my right under the
13 Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

14 Q Did it concern you that Mr. Ting in the letter that was forwarded to the board said that
15 ActBlue leadership was, quote, not fully committed to transparently addressing with the board the
16 seriousness of ActBlue's misconduct?

17 A On the advice of counsel, I respectfully decline to answer pursuant to my right under the
18 Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

19 Q Did you ever learn why Ms. Wallace-Jones told ActBlue's outside counsel and executives
20 on a video call that she, quote, refused to let them -- the board -- know that there was information
21 that ActBlue was legally vulnerable?

22 A On the advice of counsel, I respectfully decline to answer pursuant to my right under the
23 Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

24 Q And did ActBlue ever take steps to address the concerns in the Covington memoranda
25 that were produced by Dana Remus?

1 A On the advice of counsel, I respectfully decline to answer pursuant to my right under the
2 Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

3 [REDACTED] Is there anything -- any questions you will answer about your tenure with
4 ActBlue?

5 Mr. Uriarte. I can go ahead and answer that question for you. The answer is no.

6 [REDACTED] Okay. So there's nothing here today that we can ask you that you'll provide
7 any testimony whatsoever?

8 Mr. Uriarte. I think we've tried to be cooperative and demonstrate he's willing to answer
9 kind of some of the procedural questions, and, you know, there were basic background questions
10 that have nothing to do with ActBlue, but we're not going to be able to answer any questions relating
11 to ActBlue.

12 [REDACTED] Okay. But he's not able to tell us, for example, when he joined ActBlue?

13 Mr. Uriarte. Correct.

14 [REDACTED] Okay.

15 [REDACTED] We can go off the record.

16 [Discussion off the record.]

17 [REDACTED] We can go on the record.

18 Hello, Mr. Rahn. My name is [REDACTED] I am Oversight counsel for Ranking Member
19 Raskin's staff. Thank you for being here today.

20 I would like to introduce several exhibits for the record.

21 First, I would like to introduce as exhibit 3 President Trump's April 24, 2025, executive order
22 entitled,
23 "Investigation into Unlawful Straw Donor and Foreign Contributions in American Elections," directing
24 the Department of Justice to investigate ActBlue.

25 [Rahn exhibit No. 3]

1 was marked for identification.]

2 [REDACTED] Second, I would like to introduce as exhibit 4 an Associated Press article
3 entitled, quote, "Trump wants an investigation of Democrats' fundraising. His own campaign has
4 issues," end quote, detailing how President Trump accepted illegal contributions -- or campaign
5 donations, many through the Republican fundraising platform WinRed. These included, quote,
6 "1,600 contributions from donors who live abroad, have close ties to foreign interests, or failed to
7 disclose basic information," end quote, including a Chinese businessman using a La Quinta Inn as his
8 home address.

9 [Rahn exhibit No. 4

10 was marked for identification.]

11 [REDACTED] Third, I'd like to introduce as exhibit 5 a 2024 CNN article entitled, "How elderly
12 dementia patients are unwittingly fueling political campaigns," which details how the Federal Trade
13 Commission received more than 800 complaints about the Republican donation platform WinRed.
14 During this time period, the Commission received nearly seven times more complaints about WinRed
15 than it did about ActBlue.

16 [Rahn exhibit No. 5

17 was marked for identification.]

18 [REDACTED] Fourth, I would like to introduce as exhibit 6 a letter from the ranking members
19 of the Judiciary, Oversight, and House Administration Committees, Mr. Raskin, Mr. Garcia, and
20 Mr. Morelle, to WinRed detailing concerns about foreign donations and consumer fraud on the
21 platform and seeking WinRed's voluntary cooperation in order to help Congress improve campaign
22 finance laws.

23 [Rahn exhibit No. 6

24 was marked for identification.]

25 [REDACTED] Fifth, I would like to introduce as exhibit 7 an email from WinRed's counsel

1 Nadin Linthorst at Lex Politica declining to cooperate with our inquiry and stating that the ranking
2 members' requests, which are far less broad than the majority's requests to ActBlue and cover far
3 more significant reports of wrongdoing, were, quote, "overbroad, unduly burdensome,
4 disproportionate, and not reasonably tailored to any legitimate legislative or oversight purpose," end
5 quote.

6 [Rahn exhibit No. 7

7 was marked for identification.]

8 [REDACTED] Fifth [sic], I would like to introduce as exhibit 8 a letter from Ranking Members
9 Raskin, Garcia, and Morelle to Attorney General Paxton seeking records of the numerous Republican
10 voters in Texas who were defrauded by WinRed. As with his constituents who complained to his
11 office about fraud on WinRed, Mr. Paxton failed to respond.

12 [Rahn exhibit No. 8

13 was marked for identification.]

14 [REDACTED] Fraud and foreign influence in our elections is worthy of serious investigation,
15 but the majority's selective approach, which ignores a far more problematic platform to investigate
16 President Trump's political enemies, is not serious. This investigation and these depositions appear
17 to be part and parcel of President Trump's relentless attack on his political opponents and his effort
18 to undermine the integrity of our elections and our democracy.

19 We can go off the record.

20 [Whereupon, at 10:15 a.m., the deposition was adjourned.]

Certificate of Deponent/Interviewee

I have read the foregoing ____ pages, which contain the correct transcript of the answers made by me to the questions therein recorded.

Witness Name

Date