EXHIBIT 20



Date: January 26, 2017

Case: Benisek, et al. -v- Lamone, et al.

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Case 1:13-cv-03233-JKB Document 186-20 Filed 06/30/17 Page 3 of 50 Transcript of Sharon Strine 1 (1 to 4)

Conducted on January 26, 2017

Conducted on J	anuary 20, 2017		
1 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT	1 APPEARANCES		
2 FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND	2		
3:	3 ON BEHALF OF PLAINTIFFS BENISEK, ET AL.:		
O. JOHN BENISEK, et al., : 4 E. BRANTLEY WEBB, ESQUIRE			
5 Plaintiffs :	5 MICAH D. STEIN, ESQUIRE		
6 v. : Case No.	6 MAYER BROWN, LLP		
7 LINDA H. LAMONE, et al., : 13-cv-3233	7 1999 K Street, N.W.		
8 Defendants :	8 Washington, DC 20006-1101		
9:	9 202-263-3188		
10	10		
11	 11		
12 Deposition of SHARON STRINE	12		
13 Baltimore, Maryland	13 ON BEHALF OF DEFENDANTS LAMONE, ET AL.:		
14 Thursday, January 26, 2017	14 SARAH W. RICE, ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL		
15 9:05 a.m.	15 JENNIFER L. KATZ, ASSISTANT ATTORNEY		
16	16 GENERAL		
17	17 OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL		
18	18 200 St. Paul Place		
19	19 Baltimore, Maryland 21202		
20 Job No.: 133651	20 410-576-7847		
21 Pages 1 - 66	21		
22 Reported by: Carla M. Sinclair, RPR, CRR	22		
22 10000 000 000 000 100 100 000 000 000			
2	4		
1 Deposition of SHARON STRINE, held at the:	1 CONTENTS		
2	2 EXAMINATION OF SHARON STRINE PAGE		
3 OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL	3 By Ms. Rice 5		
4 200 St. Paul Place	4 By Ms. Webb 59		
5 Baltimore, Maryland 21202	5 By Ms. Rice 65		
6	6		
7	7		
8	8 EXHIBITS		
9 Pursuant to agreement, before Carla M.	9 (Attached to the transcript)		
10 Sinclair, Registered Professional Reporter,	10 STRINE DEPOSITION EXHIBIT PAGE		
11 Certified Realtime Reporter, and Notary Public of	11 2 e-mails 6		
12 the State of Maryland.	12 3 campaign information e-mail 21		
13	13 4 e-mails 23		
14	14 5 e-mail 28		
15	15 6 e-mails 29		
16	16 7 e-mails 31		
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PROCEEDINGS 1 verbal for the benefit of the court reporter. 2 And, also, for the benefit of the court reporter, SHARON STRINE, 3 having first been duly sworn, testified as 3 let's both do our best not to talk over each 4 follows: 4 other. And we will all try to do that as well. Have you taken any medication today? 5 **EXAMINATION BY MS. RICE:** 5 Q Okay. Good morning. I am Sarah Rice. 6 7 I'm an Assistant Attorney General, and I Q Is there any other reason why you might represent the defendants in this matter. 8 not be able to testify this morning? MS. KATZ: Jennifer Katz, also 9 10 representing the defendants. 10 Q Ms. Strine, what do you do for work? MS. RICE: And if we could do A Mostly I take care of our family farm, 12 introductions. 12 and then I also do campaign management, and I MS. WEBB: Okay. Brantley Webb from 13 have a small consulting business, political 14 Mayer Brown on behalf of the plaintiffs. 14 consulting business. MR. STEIN: Micah Stein on behalf of the Q What kind of farm do you have? 15 A It's poultry, and vegetables, and hay, 16 plaintiffs. 16 17 THE WITNESS: Sharon Strine. That's 17 yes. 18 S-T-R-I-N-E. 18 Q And does your consulting business have a 19 name? MS. RICE: And yesterday Mr. Medlock 20 asked that we number exhibits sequentially. We 20 A Amethyst Strategies. Q And do --21 will mark this 2. 21 A LLC. Sorry. (Whereupon, Strine Deposition Exhibit No. 22 8 1 2, e-mails, marked.) 1 Q Are you doing any current work? 2 BY MS. RICE: 2 A No. This is in between season, so, no. Q Ms. Strine, I noticed, and I apologized 3 Q And what was the last campaign that you 4 this morning, there was an error in the 4 worked on? 5 deposition notice that we sent to you. So I've 5 A I helped with Frank Howard's campaign. 6 given you the original there and the correction 6 He ran for Congressional CD 6 in the primary, but 7 with your name spelled correctly on it. he did not make it through the primary. Have you seen this document before? Q And what was the campaign previous to A Yes, I did. Not the corrected one. This 9 that one that you worked on? 10 is the first time. A I worked on Dan Bongino's congressional Q Okay. Great. 11 campaign for CD 6, Maryland Congressional 12 And you are Sharon Strine? 12 District CD 6. Q And what was the prior campaign? 13 A Yes. Q So today we are not anticipating that we A I worked on Dan Bongino's U.S. Senate 15 will be here that long, so we are going to try to 15 campaign in 2012, for Maryland U.S. Senate. 16 make it through without a break, but if you need 16 Q And was that the first campaign that you 17 worked on? 17 one, just let me know, and we will find an 18 appropriate place to stop. A No, the first campaign was Kathy Afzali If you don't understand a question that I 19 for State Delegate, District 4A. 20 ask you, please tell me, and I will rephrase it 20 Q And what year was that? 21 so that it's something that you do understand. 21 A That was 2010. 22 Please make sure that your answers are 22 Q And did you work on Mr. Bongino's

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1		:	E1	
1	campaign	m	r iorida?	

- 2 A No. I have to stay local. My family's
- 3 too important.
- 4 Q And what was the highest level of
- 5 education that you achieved?
- 6 A I finished high school and then I've
- 7 taken tons of classes since then.
- 8 Q What kinds of classes?
- 9 A I'm not going to be able to name them 10 all. Anything that interests me. I've done
- 11 accounting, anatomy, physiology, statistics,
- 12 taxes, web design, photography. And, as I said,
- 13 I'm not going to be able to name them all.
- 14 Probably 20 or 30. Right now I'm taking Thai 15 poorly.
- 16 Q And is there some place that you take 17 these classes?
- 18 A Sometimes I do them on site. FCC, HCT, 19 Hood. They are all very good locations, but now 20 with on line, possibilities are endless. You can 21 take anything.
- Q When did you first register to vote?

- 1 Congressional District 6?
- 2 A They were.
 - Q And so you said that Beverly Byron left
- 4 office shortly after you moved. Who was your
- 5 congressional representative after?
- 6 A It was Roscoe Bartlett.
- Q And who is your congressional
- 8 representative now?
- 9 A Jamie Raskin.
- 10 Q And who was your congressional
- 11 representative in 2012?
- 12 A Van Hollen.
- 13 Q In 1982, how often did you vote?
- 14 A In 1982?
- 15 Q Yeah.
- 16 A I voted in every election. There are no 17 municipality elections where I live, but any 18 primary, presidential, or gubernatorial election.
- 19 Q So just so I understand, you voted in 20 every election, every primary in a gubernatorial 21 year and every primary in a presidential year?
- 22 A Uh-huh.

- 1 A On my 18th birthday, April 29th, 1982.
- 2 Q Where did you live then?
- 3 A I lived on Harp Hill Road. It's 11611
- 4 Harp Hill Road, Myersville, Maryland.
- 5 Q And what congressional district is that?
- 6 A District 6. It was. It's not now.
- 7 Q And who was your congressional
- 8 representative?
- 9 A At that time it was Beverly Byron, but I 10 moved out of there in '83. She left office a 11 couple years after that.
- 12 Q So that gets to my next question. Where 13 did you move next?
- 14 A To Middletown for one year in an 15 apartment, 312 Broad Street, and I was there 16 until '84.
- 17 And then I bought my first house on Loy 18 Wolfe Road, which was 12610 Loy Wolfe Road, 19 Myersville, 21773, until '96. And then we moved 20 to the house we are in now, which is 12709 Martin 21 Road, Smithsburg, Maryland, 21783.
- 22 Q And are all those addresses in

- 1 Q And every general election in a
- 2 gubernatorial year and every general election in
- 3 a presidential election?
- 4 A Yes. Civics was very important in our 5 family.
- 6 Q And that's continued to the present day?
- 7 A Uh-huh.
- 8 Q Have you ever missed an opportunity to
- 9 vote?
- 10 A Not with early election. There's no 11 excuse now.
- 12 Q Are you registered as a member of a 13 political party?
- 14 A Yes. I'm a Republican.
- 15 Q And when did you first register as a 16 republican?
- 17 A April 29, 1982.
- 18 Q And have you ever registered with another 19 party?
- 20 A No.
- 21 Q Have you ever affiliated with another
- 22 party in any way?

16

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				13		
1	\mathbf{A}	No.	Well, what do you mean? Lik	кe	1	\mathbf{A}

- 2 helping a candidate that's a Democrat? Because
- 3 otherwise, no.
- 4 Q So by affiliated with a party, I'll
- 5 get -- we will talk about different candidates
- 6 you may have helped later, but when I'm talking
- 7 about affiliating with a party, I would mean
- 8 going to a meeting of that party, identifying
- 9 yourself as a member of the party.
- 10 A No.
- 11 May I take my jacket off, just because 12 it's 900 degrees in here?
- 13 O Of course.
- 14 A Thank you. Sorry about that.
- MS. WEBB: Could you say for me again, 16 you said, by affiliating, you mean going to a 17 meeting or --
- MS. RICE: If we can read that back. Is 19 that okay?
- 20 (The record was read by the Reporter.)
- 21 BY MS. RICE:
- 22 Q Have you ever voted for a candidate who

- 1 A Whoever the Republican was that was
- 2 running.
- But you don't remember who that was?
- 4 A Dan. Well, Dan ran against Cardin, and
- 5 there's always somebody who jumps in and runs as
- 6 the Republican party, but they don't have a
- 7 chance to win, so.
- 8 Q Did you vote for Jamie Raskin?
- 9 A No.
- 10 Q Who did you vote for instead?
- 11 A I can't remember his last name. His
- 12 first name is Dan. I'm sorry.
- 13 Q That's okay.
- When did you first meet Dan Bongino?
- 15 A It would be the summer of like 2010.
- 16 Somewhere around there.
- 17 Q And how did you start working for him?
- 18 A I started as his volunteer coordinator,
- 19 and then from that through the organization moved
- 20 up and became his political director, and during
- 21 the last part of the campaign, I was his
- 22 assistant deputy campaign manager.

- 1 is not a Republican?
- 2 A Yes.
- 3 Q When?
- 4 A I voted for Beverly Byron. And then I
- 5 voted for Brad Young, who is the president of
- 6 Frederick County's Board of Education. They ran
- 7 two times, two sessions.
- 8 Q Okay. And are those the only times?
- 9 A Yes.
- 10 Q What party was Beverly Byron?
- 11 A She was Democrat. She was a conservative 12 Democrat.
- 13 Q And what party is Mr. Young?
- 14 A You're not supposed to know because it's 15 supposed to be bipartisan, but he's a Democrat.
- 16 Q When Roscoe Bartlett was on the ballot, 17 did you ever vote for someone other than Roscoe 18 Bartlett?
- 19 A No.
- 20 Q Did you vote for Chris Van Hollen?
- 21 A No.
- 22 Q Who did you vote for?

- Q And why did you decide to act as
- 2 Mr. Bongino's volunteer coordinator?
- 3 A After I won with Kathy and her election,
- 4 I met Dan, and he just was a very charismatic
- 5 candidate. He had all the principles and values
- 6 that I was looking for in a candidate, and so I got involved.
 - Q When you were working for Mr. Bongino,
- 9 did you send and receive e-mails as part of your 10 job?
- 11 A Yes.

14

- 12 Q And why would you send and receive
- 13 e-mails as part of your job?
- 14 A If it was when I doing volunteer 15 coordinating, it was talking to volunteers about 16 events that were coming up. When I moved up to 17 political, I'd — it was talking to, again, the 18 volunteers, making sure events were taken care
- 20 And then when I was the deputy campaign 21 manager, it was talking to the accountant. It
- 22 could have been with anything, anything involving

19 of.

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3

1 the management of the campaign.

- 2 Q Would you keep e-mails to keep track of
- 3 Mr. Bongino's appearances?
- 4 A I keep everything.
- 5 Q And would you keep e-mail to keep track
- 6 of donor information?
- 7 A Very minimally because you want to really 8 protect your donors.
- 9 Q But if you did have e-mail about donors, 10 would that e-mail, the reason you had that e-mail 11 be because of your job?
- 12 A Yes.
- 13 Q Did you believe Mr. Bongino could win the 14 Maryland Senate seat in 2012?
- 15 A That was naive, I did. That's before I 16 truly understood Maryland politics.
- 17 Q Why did you think he could win?
- 18 A Because I thought if you got a good
- 19 candidate out there, this is at the time, I'm
- 20 much more knowledgeable now, if you got a good
- 21 candidate out there and people got to meet him,
- 22 they would vote for him, but it's just impossible
- 1 in this political environment.
- 2 Q What do you mean by "this political
- 3 environment?"
- 4 A There are too many Democrats in Maryland 5 for a Republican to win in a statewide race.
- 6 Q Did Mr. Bongino consider running for
- 7 Congressional District 6 in 2012?
- 8 A No.
- 9 Q And why not?
- 10 A He left the Secret Service in hopes of 11 winning State Senate or Senate. I mean, it was,
- 12 again, he didn't understand the environment
- 13 either. That's just the naiveté of somebody new 14 to the political scene.
- 15 Q Where did Mr. Bongino live in 2012?
- 16 A He lived in Severna Park.
- 17 Q And through his run in 2012 and 2014, did 18 he ever move?
- 19 A No. You don't have to live in your 20 district to be in federal office.
- 21 Q Did you follow Roscoe Bartlett's race in 22 Congressional District 6 in 2012?

- A I did because I was friends with his
- 2 campaign manager. I followed it rather closely.
 - Q Why didn't Mr. Bartlett win?
- 4 MS. WEBB: Objection. Speculation.
- 5 THE WITNESS: Sorry.
- 6 MS. KATZ: You can still answer.
- 7 Q You can still answer.
- 8 A Okay. I speculate that it was because of
- 9 the redistricting. There's just too many, as I
- 10 know so much about the district now, there's just
- 11 too many Ds for a Republican to win.12 Q Is that speculation or is that your
- 14 MS. WEBB: Objection. I'm not sure what
- 15 you mean.16 Q You can go ahead and answer.
- 17 A Yes. I believe that, yes.
- 18 Q And what's --

13 belief?

- 19 A There are four Democrats for every
- 20 Republican in the district, in District 6.
- 21 Q So you your belief is based on --
- 22 A The numbers.
 - Q -- the numbers. Okay. And that's your
- 2 understanding of the numbers. Okay.
- 3 Do you know why Mr. Bartlett didn't run
- 4 for Congressional District 6 in 2014?
- MS. WEBB: Objection.
- 6 A No, I don't know personally why he didn't
- 7 run. Sorry.
- 8 Q Do you have a belief about why he didn't
- 9 run?

18

1

- 10 A No.
- 11 Q Why did Mr. Bongino decide to run for
- 12 Congressional District 6?
- MS. WEBB: Same objection.
- 14 Q You may answer.
- 15 A He knew the people in the district and, 16 you know, he desperately wanted to run for 17 office. So that's why he did it.
- 18 Q What do you mean by "desperately wanted 19 to run for office?"
- 20 A He doesn't want to do it now, but he is 21 one of those people that believes that he can do 22 better if he helps and runs for office. He can

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21	23
1 make a change if he's in office.	1 let me know when you're done.
2 Q Who is Allyson McMahon?	2 A Okay.
3 A She's a friend of mine.	3 Q Do you agree with the description of John
4 Q And what was her role in the Bongino	4 Delaney in this document?
5 campaign?	5 A Yes.
6 A She was deputy, well, I guess you call	6 Q When he decided to run, did you believe
7 her deputy director of operations. That would be	7 that Mr. Bongino could win Congressional District
8 the best description. She kind of ran the field,	8 6?
9 but she was not an employee. She volunteered her	9 A I believed it was going to be an uphill
10 time.	10 battle.
11 Q But she was the director of operations?	11 Q And why was that?
12 A Uh-huh.	12 A Because of the demographics of his
13 (Whereupon, Strine Deposition Exhibit No.	13 district.
14 3, campaign information e-mail, marked.)	14 Q And had you looked at the demographics at
15 BY MS. RICE:	15 that time?
16 Q Do you recognize this document?	16 A I started to really study it once he
17 A Uh-huh.	17 decided to run.
18 Q What is it?	18 Q And what was it about the demographics?
19 A Yes. I'm sorry.	19 A It's too many Democrats.
20 It looks like it's one of our campaign	20 (Whereupon, Strine Deposition Exhibit No.
21 information documents that we put together.	21 4, e-mails, marked.)
22 Q And who wrote it?	22 BY MS. RICE:
22	24
1 A It would have either been Ally or it	Q Who is Maria Pycha?
2 would have been Jim Petit. One of the two. It's	A Uh-huh. She was our finance director.
3 2014, so I'm not a hundred percent sure. 4 Q Who is Jim Petit?	Q Do you recognize this document?
	4 A Yes, but just vaguely. It's been so many
	5 years, but, yes.6 Q Would this document have been received as
6 director. 7 Q And why did you have it in your e-mail?	
	7 part of your duties as campaign manager?
8 A Anything regarding the campaign I would 9 have had.	8 A No. She obviously copied me on a
	9 conversation with Maria, Ally did, so, yeah.
10 Q Great. 11 If you look at the sheet that says 2014	10 Everybody liked to copy me because I'm the 11 organizer. I keep everything.
12 campaign information, and under the district, I'm	12 Q Right. Excellent. Okay.
13 just going to give you a second to read that and	13 If we look just in the portion of this
14 I will ask you a question about it.	14 communication that is from Ally on March 12,
15 A Okay.	15 2014, so kind of the bottom of the first page,
16 Q Do you agree with the description of	16 the first paragraph.
17 District 6 in this document?	17 A The very first paragraph?
18 A It's not like that now, but, yes.	18 MS. WEBB: The one that begins, "Hey,
19 Q But at the time in 2014 you agree?	19 Maria?"
13 Q Dut at the time in 2014 you agree:	ואומוומ:

21

A Uh-huh.

Q And moving down to the next section, the

22 document, the opponent, take a look at that and

20

MS. RICE: Yeah.

22 when you're done.

Q If you could look at that and tell me

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			25		
1	A	Okay.		1	second?
2	Q	Are you familiar with the poll that Ally		2	(Discussion off the record.)

- A A poll?
- Q Yeah.
- A Where is there anything about a poll?
- Q The second to the last sentence.

3 is talking about at that point?

- A Oh, yes. Sorry. Yes, I know the poll.
- Q And what were the results of the poll?
- A It's about a hundred pages, and it was 11 not -- it was specifically about different 12 issues. I would have to refamiliarize myself 13 with it.
- 14 Q Do you know what Ally is talking about 15 when she says, "We have a visible path to 16 victory?"
- 17 MS. WEBB: Objection. Calls for 18 speculation.
- 19 Q You can answer and you must.
- 20 A Yeah. If we had, you know, hit on the 21 ground and raise money, we may have a visible 22 path of victory. I understand what she is

- 3 MS. WEBB: Go ahead. You can answer.
- 4 THE WITNESS: Would you ask the question
- 5 again, please?
- MS. RICE: Yes. 6
- Q Did you personally share Ally's belief
- 8 that there was a visible path, in March of 2014,
- 9 that there was a visible path of victory?
- 10 MS. WEBB: Objection.
- A I was always a skeptic because I wanted 12 him in office so badly, but it was going to be 13 such a tough road.
- 14 Q Did you share your skepticism with 15 anyone?
- 16 A My husband. You can't be like that and 17 run a campaign.
- Q And what were the obstacles that you 19 believed were in place at the time? At the time.
- 20 Not now.

26

A Trying to get Democrats, enough Democrats 21 22 to vote for Dan.

1 talking about, but the poll didn't say that 2 specifically.

- Q Okay. So can you just elaborate a little
- 4 bit because I'm not sure that I understand? What
- 5 did you think Ally meant when she said a visible
- 6 path of victory?
- MS. WEBB: I will restate my objection.
- A I really don't know because, as I said, 9 the poll itself, it was about issues, economics 10 and where do people feel about fracking. We 11 didn't actually go into the numbers as to whether 12 he could a hundred percent win or not in the 13 poll.
- 14 Q Okay.
- 15 A Name recognition. So, as I said, it's 16 like 200 pages.
- Q Did you at the time, so in March, 2014, 18 share Ally's belief that there was a visible path 19 to victory?
- MS. WEBB: Objection. Lacks foundation 21 and calls for speculation.
- 22 MS. KATZ: Can we go off the record for a

- Q And why did you think that would be a problem?
- A Because of the type of Democrats that are 3
- 4 in our district now, they vote straight,
- 5 especially in an off-year election. The people
- 6 who people are people who really want to vote.
- 7 So they are consistent Democrats that vote
- 8 democratic consistently. So it just seemed like
- 9 an uphill battle. I wanted it to happen, but I 10 was afraid we would lose by a point or two, which 11 is exactly what happened.
- Q So we just talked about in March. What 13 about after the primary in June? Did you believe 14 that Mr. Bongino could win Congressional District 15 6?
- 16 A I was always the skeptic.
- MS. RICE: This will be marked as 17
- 18 Exhibit 5.
- 19 (Whereupon, Strine Deposition Exhibit No.
- 20 5, e-mail, marked.)
- 21 BY MS. RICE:
- Q Do you recognize this document?

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29 1 A Uh-huh.	J. Impart how whose are we going to get the tent up
	1 know, how, where are we going to set the tent up
	2 at a festival. It could be how many people are 3 going to show up at a parade, how many doors were
4 Q And who wrote it? 5 A I did.	
6 Q And in what capacity did you write it? 7 A At the time I was the deputy campaign	
8 manager.9 MS. RICE: Mark this as Exhibit 6.	8 Q Would your field operators tell you if 9 they heard about a complaint about the campaign?
10 (Whereupon, Strine Deposition Exhibit No.	
11 6, e-mails, marked.)	10 A Yes, because, actually, I handled all of 11 the complaints where the campaign was concerned.
12 BY MS. RICE:	
13 Q Do you recognize this document?	
14 A No, but I'll read it. I'm sure I've seen 15 it. Okay.	Do you think at 10 we could break to use 15 the bathroom?
	16 Q No problem. It might be a natural time
	17 for a break anyway.
18 Mary Jane raised \$2,600 for Dan.	18 MS. RICE: I'll have marked this as
19 Q Who is Mary Jane?	19 Exhibit 7.
20 A Mary Jane was a volunteer part of the	20 (Whereupon, Strine Deposition Exhibit No.
21 Finance Committee.	21 7, e-mails, marked.)
22 Q And do you know who Bob Luddy is?	22 BY MS. RICE:
1 A No, I don't know Bob.	1 Q Do you recognize this document?
2 Q And why did you have this e-mail?	2 A No, but I'll read it. Okay.
3 A Because I am the organizer and they send	3 Q And what is this document?
4 everything to me so I can keep it on file.	4 A It's somebody complaining that Dan
5 Q Great. Thank you.	5 doesn't live in the district.
6 How many volunteers did the 2014 Bongino	6 MS. RICE: Mark this one as Exhibit 8.
7 campaign have?	7 (Whereupon, Strine Deposition Exhibit No.
8 A I'm not going to give you an exact number	8 8, e-mail, marked.)
9 because I don't know what it was now, but we were	9 BY MS. RICE:
10 over 2,000 volunteers.	10 Q Do you recognize this document?
11 Q Did you think that it was an obstacle to	11 A Yes.
12 the campaign that Mr. Bongino did not live in	12 Q What is it?
13 Congressional District 6?	13 A It looks like Ally is trying to figure
14 A To be honest with you, that was a	14 out where we are going to put signs up. We were
15 question that was in the poll and no one cared.	15 discussing the district. It was a learning curve
16 Q As the campaign manager, did you receive	16 to learn the district.
17 reports from your team that were out in the field	17 Q Do you see the second sentence on the
18 over e-mail?	18 first paragraph?
	19 A Yes.
19 A Yes.	
20 Q What kinds of things would they e-mail	20 Q Did you commonly encounter Republicans
21 you about?	21 who were supporting Delaney on the campaign?

22 A Some. Not many.

22 A It could be anything about with, you

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	1	Q	And were there any other common obstacles
--	---	---	---

- 2 that you heard from people you thought might be
- supporters of Mr. Bongino?
- MS. WEBB: Objection. Foundation.
- 5 MS. RICE: That's an improper objection.
- MS. WEBB: No, it's not, and I'm happy to
- discuss it, if you want her to step out of the
- 8 room.
- 9 (The witness left the room.)
- 10 MS. WEBB: You said were there any other
- 11 common obstacles that you encountered in your
- 12 work, and we haven't established any obstacles
- 13 that were common. I'm not sure what you're 14 referring to.
- MS. RICE: Foundation, per se, is an 16 improper objection.
- MS. WEBB: Not in my practice. I don't 18 know if Maryland has a special rule on that, 19 but --
- 20 MS. RICE: It goes to relevance and 21 admissibility of the evidence, which is not the 22 issue.

- 1 that I may make objections from time to time, but
- 2 you should go ahead and answer the question
- asked.
- 4 THE WITNESS: I'm just pausing to make
- sure that everything is finished before I answer,
- but I will be glad to answer.
- MS. RICE: Great. Thank you all.
- BY MS. RICE:
- Q So I'm going to get back where we were.
- 10 And I think when we paused I had a question
- 11 pending, so I'm going to repeat it for that 12 purpose.
- 13 Did you know of any other obstacles to
- 14 Mr. Bongino's campaign, the 2014 campaign, from
- 15 people who you thought would have been 16 supporters?
- 17 MS. WEBB: Objection. Foundation.
- 18 Speculation.

- A I don't understand what you are asking. 20 I'm sorry. I genuinely don't understand.
- Q Let me try again. 21
- A Okay. I'm sorry. 22
- MS. WEBB: I mean, I guess we have to
- disagree on that. I'm happy to try to tailor my objections, you know.
- MS. RICE: Yes. Please tailor your
- objections to curable objections because those
- are the objections that are allowable in
- Maryland.
- So the only times that you can object in
- 9 Maryland are when it's something that I can cure 10 or it's something that would be about to invade a 11 privilege.
- 12 MS. WEBB: Okay.
- MS. RICE: So let's to limit those 13
- 14 objections to this.
- MR. STEIN: Do you have a rule you can 16 show us on this?
- 17 MS. RICE: Yes. You want to take a 18 break?
- MR. STEIN: Yes. 19
- 20 (Break taken.)
- 21 (The witness returned to the room.)
- 22 MS. WEBB: I'm just going to remind you

- 1 Q No. That's great.
- 2 In your capacity as campaign manager,
- were you aware of complaints from people that
- maybe you would have expected to support
- Mr. Bongino about his campaign?
- 6 MS. WEBB: Objection. Speculation.
- A I'm sorry. I'm just trying to think in
- 8 what direction. You know, going back to the
- 9 poll, I know that I said nobody cares about it,
- 10 but what it was, it's 70 percent of the people
- 11 did not care that he did not live in the
- 12 district, and we polled Democrats, Independents,
- 13 and Republicans. So there were 30 percent, but 14 we didn't see the breakdown who it was that
- 15 cared.
- But, other than that, you know, I just am 16 17 not sure who you are talking about, whether you 18 are talking about business leaders, politicians.
- 19 Are you talking about voters in particular?
- Q Let me try it another way. 20
- 21 Putting aside what you already talked
- 22 about, the number of Democrats in the district,

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1	were there	any other	maior	iccues	that you
1	were mere	any outci	major	133 UC3	mai you

- 2 thought that Mr. Bongino needed to overcome?
- 3 A Raising money.
- 4 MS. WEBB: Objection.
- 5 A Seriously, that's the biggy.
- 6 Q And why did you think Mr. Bongino would
- 7 have difficulty raising money?
- 8 A Because John Delaney had so much money.
- 9 You don't have to match your opponent one to one, 10 but you've got to be able to make a dent.
- 11 Q And was Mr. Bongino successful in raising 12 money?
- 13 A Yes. He raised about \$2 million through 14 the process of the primary and the general.
- 15 (Whereupon, Strine Deposition Exhibit No.
- 169, e-mails, marked.)
- 17 BY MS. RICE:
- 18 Q Do you recognize this document?
- 19 A I'm reading it. I mean, I know that I 20 sent it, but I don't remember it.
- 21 Do you want me to read the whole thing?
- 22 Q I think if you -- read as much as you
- 1 need to familiarize yourself with the document.
- 2 Let me know if you recognize it.
- 3 A Okay. I got the gist of what the
- 4 question is. It's typical of the things that I
- 5 handled.
- 6 Q So this e-mail would be typical of
- 7 something that you handled in your capacity as
- 8 campaign manager?
- 9 A Yes.
- 10 O And who is it from or who is Jeff Miller?
- 11 A I don't recall who he is, but it looks
 12 like he is somebody who wanted to attend an
 13 event.
- 14 Q Great.
- MS. RICE: Mark this one as Exhibit 10.
- 16 (Whereupon, Strine Deposition Exhibit No.
- 17 10, e-mail, marked.)
- 18 BY MS. RICE:
- 19 Q Do you recognize this e-mail?
- 20 A No, but I'm reading it. Okay.
- 21 Q What is this document?
- 22 A It looks like it was someone complaining

- 1 about getting phone calls from the phone bankers.
- 2 Q And why did you receive this document?
- 3 A Because I handled the complaints of the
- 4 campaign and then would find who would handle it
- 5 from there, and I kept it in my files to make
- 6 sure it was taken care of.
 - Q Great. Thank you.
- 8 Why do you believe that Mr. Bongino was
- 9 not successful in his 2014 race?
- 10 A It wasn't for lack of trying. We knocked 11 on so many doors, made so many phone calls, 12 talked to so many voters. There just aren't
- 13 enough people to vote Republican in the district.
- 14 Q Did Mr. Bongino get fewer votes than 15 Governor Hogan in Congressional District 6?
- 16 A To be honest with you, I wouldn't be able 17 to answer that because I just didn't look at 18 Governor Hogan's numbers in District 6. I'm 19 sorry.
- 20 Q Why didn't you look at Governor Hogan's 21 numbers?
- 22 A Because I wasn't concerned about that. I

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- 1 was looking at District 6.
 - Q Do you know if Mr. Bongino got as many
 - 3 votes -- oh, never mind. Strike that.
 - 4 MS. RICE: 11.
 - 5 (Whereupon, Strine Deposition Exhibit No.
 - 6 11, e-mail, marked.)
 - 7 BY MS. RICE:
 - 8 Q Do you recognize this document?
 - 9 A Yes.

- 10 Q What is it?
- 11 A It was communication back and forth with 12 me, Kathy Afzali.
- 13 Q And why do you have, why did you retain 14 this e-mail?
- 15 A Because I keep all my e-mails, unless 16 they are junk.
- 17 Q Did you receive this e-mail in your
- 18 capacity as Mr. Bongino's campaign manager?
- 19 A Yes, after the election.
- 20 Q I think we mentioned Kathy Afzali a few
- 21 times. Who is she?
- 22 A She's a delegate in District 4-A. It's

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1 just 4 now. It's not 4-A. I ran her campaign.

- 2 Q Oh. Who is Michael --
- 3 A He's a State Senator. Michael Hough.
- 4 Q Hough.
- Go to the second page, the third
- 6 paragraph, full paragraph on the top. Did you
- 7 write this part of the conversation?
- 8 A Uh-huh.
- 9 Q And what did you mean in that paragraph?
- 10 A Basically what I have been telling you.
 11 It was a David and Goliath race. Too many
 12 Democrats to win the race.
- 13 Q Who is "you" in that paragraph? I'm well 14 aware of the games you were playing.
- 15 A Who am I?
- 16 Q No. I'm reading from that paragraph.
- 17 A I'm sorry. Please repeat. I'm sorry.
- 18 Q If you look at that paragraph in the 19 first sentence, the word you, who does that refer 20 to?
- 21 A I guess you as in the you, everybody.
- 22 Q Did you write this e-mail in response to

- 1 Q No. That's fine. We all want to
- 2 understand each other.
- 3 That's the first full paragraph. I'm
- 4 looking at the third full paragraph.
- 5 A Okay.
 - Q I just don't understand it.
- 7 A It's saying that she had said that we
- 8 recreated the politics in Frederick County, and I
- 9 said that we didn't. We actually were using
- 10 common sense. We knocked on doors. We didn't 11 have money. That's why we worked every festival.
- 12 Q What are the games that you are referring 13 to in this sentence?
- 14 A The games that she was playing? Kathy 15 has turned into your typical politician, and she 16 was behind the scenes because she was jealous 17 that I was working his campaign. She had run 18 against Bartlett and lost in the primary, and so 19 she was telling people not to vote for Dan.
- 20 Q So --
- 21 A And we are friends again. It was just a 22 heated, emotional discussion, and we talk now all

- 1 Kathy Afzali?
- 2 A Yes.
- 3 Q So you are saying that when you said,
- 4 "I'm well aware of the games you were playing
- 5 behind the scenes during the election cycle, and
- 6 to be honest, I'm ashamed," the "you" in that
- 7 sentence refers to the general public?
- 8 A Quite honestly okay. I don't know
- 9 where you are going with this, so I'm trying to 10 understand.
- 11 Even if related, then this amateur hour 12 analysis would lead you to believe, that would be 13 like leave anyone who is looking at it, lead you 14 to believe that Bartlett and Young were the two 15 worst candidates in Frederick County.
- 16 That's referring to her analysis. And 17 then I asked her to take a few minutes to do a 18 little research.
- 19 So what is your question? I'm so sorry.
- 20 Q Yes. That's the first --
- 21 A I'm not trying to be combative. I just 22 don't understand.

1 the time.

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- Q Who did she tell not to vote for Dan?
- 3 A We would knock on a door and someone
- 4 would say, hey, I talked to Kathy Afzali and she
- 5 said we are not supposed to vote for Dan.
- 6 Q Who was she suggesting that they vote 7 for?
- 8 A Delaney.
- 9 Q So sticking with this argument for just a 10 second, if you look to the original e-mail from
- 11 Michael Hough, it's one, two, it begins on the
- 12 bottom of page 3 and goes over to page 4, and,
- 13 actually, before we get to that, how often did
- 14 you encounter that reaction that somebody had
- 15 spoken to Ms. Afzali before you got there?
- 16 A It was only in District 4. So it's a 17 very small district and maybe we encountered it
- 18 four times. And I can't be a hundred percent
- 19 accurate on that, but it wasn't that often.
- 20 Q Okay. So on that, I think it's the
- 21 fourth page here, Mr. Hough was giving some
- 22 comparisons with Governor Hogan's performance in

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1 the Frederick City, not district-wide. Is that

correct?

- A I mean, it looks like it, yes. Frederick 4 City is a high Democrat area.
- Q And were you aware that in Frederick
- 6 City, Governor Hogan had more votes than
- Mr. Bongino?
- 8 MS. WEBB: Objection. Foundation.
- A Obviously, when I see this, but there's a 10 reason for it.
- Q What's the reason?
- 12 A Brad Young was running for County Exec in
- 13 Frederick County, and he is hated by the
- 14 Democrats in Frederick City. And not Brad
- 15 Young, excuse me, Blaine Young, and Blaine was a 15 with you within the State laws. 16 supporter of Dan's.
- So people who wanted to vote against 17 18 Blaine voted against Dan in Frederick City.
- And, yes, we did hear that when we talked 20 to Democrats at festivals, especially on 21 July 4th, when we were at the July 4th festival.
- 22 Politics is an ugly game. I'm sorry.
- Q I'm sorry for skipping around. I
- apologize.
- 3 Back to the second page of this document,
- 4 the end of the first page, on the top of the
- 5 second, you talk about, I'm just going to read
- 6 here, "Anyone with a modicum of experience in
- 7 politics understands a state race and a federal
- 8 race are decided by completely different
- 9 criteria."
- 10 Can you explain what those criteria are?
- A If you are referring to a delegate, a 12 delegate is only in a small district. I would 13 assume, but I don't remember, I was probably 14 talking about the Hogan race. And people are 15 looking for somebody who is going to work for 16 them at the State House when they are doing a 17 state election. When they are voting for a 18 federal race, they are looking for somebody who 19 is going to go to Capitol hill and fight for you, 20 and they just look at things differently as to 21 who they vote for.
- Q What kinds of things are looked at

1 differently?

- A Well, you are not going to as far as a
- 3 state road, you are going to hope that, you are
- going to reach out to, as a state, to get
- 5 improvement in a state road. If you are talking
- 6 about I-70, you are going to go to -- well,
- actually, they don't do that either.
- How about anything that is a federal
- 9 issue. If it has something to do with the
- 10 constitution, what laws are being passed on
- 11 Capitol Hill, that kind of stuff, you vote for
- 12 your congressman and your senator with that in
- 13 mind. If you are voting for your governor, you
- 14 are voting for a governor that is going to work
- Q And do you think that difference in what 17 you, what a voter might be looking for creates a
- 18 change in their voting behavior?
- MS. WEBB: Objection. Calls for 20 speculation.
- 21 A Yeah. I can only speculate.
- Q What is your belief about it? You can

1 answer about your belief.

- A Maryland politics is a rough world. As I
- 3 said, I had to learn on the fly ten years ago.
- 4 The Governor has to be able to placate both sides
- 5 to get in. We don't have Republican governors
- 6 that get reelected, and I doubt that Hogan will
- 7 as well just because that's just the way it
- 8 works. He had a bad candidate that he was up
- 9 again, I mean, a very bad candidate, and that
- 10 worked for him as well. Maryland was tired of
- 11 politics with O'Malley and it was time for a 12 change.
- Q Going back for a second to an answer you 14 gave previously, why did you vote for Beverly 15 Byron?
- A Because she was a conservative 17 Democratic.
- Q What do you mean by conservative 19 Democratic?
- 20 A She was fiscally conservative. That's 21 what I'm looking for.
- Q And you also mentioned the --

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1 A Brad Young.

- 2 Q Brad Young. Why did you vote for
- 3 Mr. Young?
- 4 A Because he is fiscally conservative, and
- 5 everybody likes him.
- 6 Q Do you consider yourself to be
- 7 politically active?
- 8 A Now, yes.
- 9 Q You said now. When do you think you 10 became politically active?
- 11 A 2010, yes.
- 12 Q And why?
- 13 A Because of the political environment.
- 14 The census was coming up. I was scared to death 15 what was going to happen, and I just knew I had 16 to step up.
- 17 Some people go back into their own lives 18 and just ignore what's going on in the world.
 19 I'm the type of person that I'm a fixer. If I 20 see there's a problem, I got to get involved, and 21 that's how I got involved.
- 22 Q What were you scared of?
- A The political environment, the debt, the
- 2 national debt that was happening, the raising of
- 3 minimum wage. I mean, we could talk for the next 3 were attempting to get a travel visa for my now
- 4 three hours with my concerns about politics.
- 5 Q Putting your work for Mr. Bongino aside,
- 6 have you ever attended an event that was held by
- 7 your congressional representative?
- 8 A By my congressional representative? No.
- 9 He has only been in office for a very brief10 period of time.
- 11 Q Sorry. Throughout your whole voting
- 12 life, have you ever attended an event held by
- 13 your then current congressional representative?
- 14 A I did for Roscoe. He always did little 15 town meetings and stuff.
- 16 Q Okay. So you attended town meetings that 17 you just said --
- 18 A I probably went to two in the time that 19 he was in his 2010, how many terms he had.
- 20 Q Do you remember what topic they were on?
- 21 A No.
- 22 Q Do you remember, were you just a

- 1 participant at the meeting?
- 2 A Actually, the first time I took my son
- 3 solely so that he could learn about, because he
- 4 was getting ready to vote, or not vote, excuse
- 5 me, getting ready to register to vote, my oldest
- 6 son. I don't remember the topic and I don't
- 7 remember why I went the second time.
- 8 Q And did you ever attend an event with him
- 9 with Beverly Byron?
- 10 A I actually did a parade with her when I
- 11 was like 15 years old, so, yes. I did hold a
- 12 sign. They were good people, Beverly and 13 Goodloe.
- 14 Q And what about Chris Van Hollen?
- 15 A No.
- 16 Q Have you ever volunteered on a campaign
- 17 for a congressional representative other than
- 18 Dan's campaign?
- 19 A Beverly Byron I did a parade. That's it.
- 20 Q And have you ever contacted your, and by
- 21 your congressional representative, I mean from
- 22 your whole voting life, your representative at
- 50
 - 1 the time?
 - A One time I contacted Roscoe Bartlett. We
 - 3 were attempting to get a travel visa for my now
 - 4 daughter-in-law, then engaged to my son. She's
 - 5 Thai. We were unsuccessful. Then I also reached
 - 6 out to Mikulski and Cardin, but they didn't
 - 7 respond.
 - 8 Q But that was the only time you attempted
 - 9 to contact a congressional representative?
 - 10 A Correct.
 - 11 Q And so that was related to constituent 12 services?
 - 12 SCI VICCS:
 - 13 A Uh-huh.
 - 14 Q Is the answer the same about an issue?
 - 15 Have you ever contacted your congressional
 - 16 representative about an issue?
 - 17 A I wrote a letter to Mikulski when they 18 were getting ready to raise the budget in like 19 2011, maybe, something like that, and I hand 20 delivered it to her office.
 - 21 Q And is that the only time that you --
 - 22 A That I can remember. I'm sorry. I don't

55

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1	recall	reaching	out to	them.
_				

- 2 Q When was the first time you became
- 3 interested in redistricting?
- 4 A As I said, it was 2010 when the census
- 5 was coming up, and it was just reading an article
- 6 on the web about the possibility that we could
- 7 lose District 6, and I was like, I've got to look
- 8 into it more, and that's when it started.
- 9 Q And was that interest solely confined to 10 congressional redistricting?
- 11 A Yeah, actually, because I wasn't going to 12 lose my state delegate because that was going 13 change. They were going to put two districts 14 together, which they did, and, you know, our 15 state senator wasn't going to change because that 16 district stayed the same. It was just tweaked a 17 little bit by a road or two.
- 18 Q Have you ever -- when did you first find 19 out about the 2010 congressional redistricting 20 cycle? Do you remember what month it was?
- 21 A No.
- 22 Q After you found out about it, did you

- 1 redistricting?
- 2 A No.
 - Q Did you call any of your elected
- 4 representatives about the redistricting?
- 5 A Of course I talked to Kathy all the time
- 6 about it. She actually was fighting it tooth and
- 7 nail at the State House. And I attempted, they
- 8 had redistricting meetings all over the place,
- 9 and I attempted to attend them, but I could never 10 find out where they were.
- 11 Q And did you -- were you aware of the
- 12 referendum on redistricting?
- 13 A Is that like the one that was Question 5 14 about the boundaries according to the census and 15 the constitution? That one?
- 16 Q Yeah.
- 17 A Yeah.
- 18 Q Did you gather any signatures related to 19 that?
- 20 A No.
- 21 Q Did you -- how did you vote on the
- 22 referendum?

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1 take any action regarding the redistricting?

- 2 A I always do. Argued with my husband, You
- 3 know, this is what's going to happen. Seriously.
- 4 He and I talk things through that way, and he
- 5 actually said, do your thing and get involved,
- 6 and that's how it happened.
- 7 Q How did you get involved?
- 8 A I first meet Kathy Afzali and decided to
- 9 help her with her campaign because while we were
- 10 knocking on doors during that time, we told
- 11 people to vote for Ehrlich because the census was
- 12 coming up, and it was going to be a redistricting
- 13 time, and that's because I was so new at
- 14 politics, I thought that was the best way I could 15 help.
- 16 Q And did you testify before the Governor's 17 Redistricting Advisory Committee?
- 18 A No.
- 19 Q Did you submit any public comment on the 20 plan?
- 21 A No.
- 22 Q Did you write a letter about the

- 1 A If that's the correct one, I voted no.
 - Q And have you taken any actions about
- 3 redistricting after the passage of the 2011 plan?
- 4 A I got involved in this.
- 5 Q So without telling me about any
- 6 conversations that you had with your lawyers
- 7 after you asked to be represented by them, so
- 8 after that, how did you first hear about this
- 9 lawsuit?
- 10 A Maria Pycha has become a very good friend 11 of mine, and she heard me do nothing but complain 12 about the redistricting, and she said, hey, you
- 13 need to get involved in this. That's how it
- 13 need to get involved in this. I hat's 14 happened.
- 15 Q Okay. And why did you decide to join the 16 lawsuit?
- 17 A Solely to see if we could fix the mess.
- 18 Q What mess?
- 19 A The redistricting, the gerrymandering of 20 the district.
- 21 Q And what particularly did you want to
- 22 fix?

1	26.2015
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57	1 O Regardless of what party they
1 A I would love it to go back to the way it	1 Q Regardless of what party they 2 were affiliated with?
2 was before it was changed.	
Q And what problem would that solve?	
4 A It would allow us as a representative	
5 republic to have a representative that matches	
6 our principles and values in our district.	
7 Q Who are you talking about when you say	7 A Okay.
8 us?	8 Q So could you describe again just quickly
9 A I'm talking about the Republicans in the	9 what jobs you held on the Bongino campaign?
10 district.	10 A The Senate campaign or the Congressional?
11 Q Do you think you were harmed by the 2010/	11 Q The Congressional.
12 2011 Congressional redistricting?	12 A I started out as the deputy campaign
13 A In the most simplest form, yes, because	13 manager, and then she left to take care of her
14 we do not have somebody that represents us	14 mom, and I stepped up as campaign manager.
15 anymore.	15 Q Okay. And what sort of general duties
16 Q And how is that harmful to you?	16 did you have?
17 A Because we don't have somebody who speaks	17 A Everything. Yeah, I can go into details,
18 for us. Our government was formed as a	18 but anything that encompasses the campaign, I
19 representative government. We were supposed to	19 oversaw.
20 vote on somebody that represented us and would go	20 Q As part of your job, would you try to get
21 down and speak for us at Capitol Hill. But what	21 your colleagues motivated?
22 has happened is, we no longer have that. Then we	22 A That's one of your biggest roles.
58	1 Q Would you try to set the tone?
1 can go back to our lives and work; trust they 2 will do the work for us.	
	A Absolutely. If you have the worst tone,
Q Who do you mean by us?	3 nobody will do anything. You have to be positive
4 A The Republicans in the district.	4 and a motivator all the time. And that's with
5 Q In what district?	5 the candidate down to the person who is holding a
6 A District 6, but I'm no longer in that	6 sign on the corner.
7 district. I got taken out and put into District	7 Q And in your role, did you communicate
8 8, and I'm exactly 3.1 miles from the district.	8 with potential voters?
9 Q Do you have a congressional	9 A Yes.
10 representative?	10 Q And what sort of tone would you try to
11 A Yes, Jamie Raskin. He just was sworn	11 project to those voters?
12 into office.	12 A Always positive. I mean, you have to
MS. RICE: Let's take a quick break.	13 make sure that they want to vote. So you have to
14 (Break taken.)	14 be positive with them all the time.
15 BY MS. RICE:	15 Q You testified that you were harmed from
16 Q Two more questions.	16 the redistricting of Congressional District 6.
17 If there was somebody on the ballot who	17 Correct?
18 was fiscally conservative, would you vote for	18 A Yes.
19 them?	19 Q And you felt disenfranchised. Correct?
20 A Uh-huh.	20 A Yes.

MS. RICE: Objection.

22 Mischaracterization.

Q Regardless of --

22 A Yes. I'm sorry. Yes. Sorry.

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1	N 40	WEDD	г.	1
1	MS.	WEBB:	r air	enough.

- 2 Q Just to clear that up, you testified that
- 3 you felt you didn't have someone who speaks for
- 4 you.
- 5 A Correct.
- 6 Q And did you talk with others in the
- 7 former congressional district whether they felt
- 8 harmed?
- 9 A Yes. Uniquely, I can state that I spoke 10 to 60,000 people in the district, and that's
- 11 between festivals, knocking on doors, parades,
- 12 anything you can imagine, and I'm serious.
- 13 60,000 people is not exaggerating. And every
- 14 time we were out, we met somebody who said, it's
- 15 not worth voting anymore, every single time.
- 16 Q Over what period of time were you 17 speaking to all these people?
- 18 A When I got involved in the campaign until 19 the election night in November.
- 20 Q And when did you first get involved?
- 21 A I think it was in October, I think.
- 22 Honest to God, I don't know the exact date.

- 1 Q October of --
- 2 A It would have been 2011.
- 3 Q Okay. 2011?
- 4 A Yes.
- 5 O So over --
- 6 A Not 2011. Excuse me. It was 2014. So
- 7 it would have been 2013. Sorry.
- 8 Q 2013?
- 9 A Yeah.
- 10 Q Until the present?
- 11 A Correct.
- 12 Q And would you -- you mentioned some ways
- 13 you were talking to people, parades, festivals.
- 14 Could you elaborate?
- 15 A Myself, I probably made a thousand phone
- 16 calls. The volunteers made way more than that.
- 17 And so I didn't have that much time to make phone
- 18 calls. But every time I got on the phone, I'd
- 19 call like 50 people, and at least one person
- 20 would say, I'm not, I don't know why I should
- 21 vote, and, of course, it was my job to try
- 22 encourage her to vote because, I'm saying she, as

- 1 in she or he, okay, they just feel
- 2 disenfranchised that they can't, they don't have
- 3 somebody that represents them anymore.
- 4 There was an old guy at a festival in
- 5 Cumberland that came over, and it was so
- 6 disappointing because you could tell he was the
- 7 salt of the earth, that he worked hard every day,
- 8 dirt under his fingernails, in his coveralls, and
- 9 he just stopped there to get a ham sandwich, and
- 10 we talked to him, and he said that there's just
- 11 no point in voting anymore because nobody
- 12 represents us in Cumberland anymore. So, I mean,
- 13 it's a valid point that I heard continuously.
- 14 Q Anymore being when?
- 15 A After the redistricting. I'm sorry.
- 16 Q And do you agree with them? Do you feel 17 that as well?
- 18 A Absolutely. I had a rough time this last
- 19 go-around with Amie Hoeber even getting excited
- 20 or even wanting to give my time because I just
- 21 knew it was a losing race. There was no chance
- 22 that Amie was going to win, even though she had

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- 1 money and he had money. She lost by 14 percent
- 2 or a little over 14 percent.
- 3 Q Just one more quick question about
- 4 Exhibit 11, which you have there in front of you.
- 5 If you turn to the third page of Exhibit 11, you
- 6 were asked some questions about an e-mail here
- 7 from a Michael Hough.
- 8 A Hough. That's all right. I called him
- 9 that until he corrected me.
- 10 Q Sent November 8th, 2014. And does the
- 11 e-mail that you see here include some statistics?
- 12 A Yeah.
- 13 Q Do you know for a fact that these are
- 14 accurate?
- 15 A No.
- 16 Q Okay. Thank you.
- 17 A As I said, I didn't look at stuff after 18 the race. I was in recovery.
- MS. WEBB: Thank you.
- MS. KATZ: We are going to ask a couple.
- 21 Take a quick break for a second.
- (Break taken.)

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Transcript of Sharon Strine

17 (65 to 68) Conducted on January 26, 2017

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1 EXAMINATION BY MS. RICE:
2 Q One question remaining.
3 So as I understand what you just said,
4 that you had encountered many people that told
5 you that they weren't excited about voting
6 anymore. Is that correct?
7 A Uh-huh.
8 Q Do you know anyone who actually did not
9 vote?
10 A No, because I would have no way of
11 knowing that information.
12 MS. RICE: Thank you. That's it.
13 THE REPORTER: Do you want a copy,
14 Ms. Webb?
16 THE REPORTER: Is an E-Tran okay?
17 MS. WEBB: Yes.
18 MS. KATZ: They need it in five days. We
19 don't.
20 (Off the record at 10:46 a.m.)
21
22
66
1 CERTIFICATE OF SHORTHAND REPORTER-NOTARY PUBLIC
2
3 I, Carla M. Sinclair, the officer before whom
4 the foregoing deposition was taken, do hereby5 certify that the foregoing transcript is a true
6 and correct record of the testimony given; that 7 said testimony was taken by me stenographically
8 and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my
9 direction; that reading and signing was
10 not discussed; and that I am neither counsel for,
11 related to, nor employed by any of the parties to
12 this case and have no interest, financial or
13 otherwise, in its outcome.
14
15 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
16 hand and affixed my notarial seal this 30th day
17 of January, 2017.
18 Parla M. Sinclair
19
20 My commission expires:
21 November 13, 2018
22

18

Conducted on January 26, 2017

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Transcript of Sharon Strine

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Allyson McMahon <allymcmahon@verizon.net>

Sent: Tuesday, April 08, 2014 12:31 PM
To: Maria Pycha; Sharon Strine

Subject: exec letter draft

From:

Attachments: ExecLetter.docx; CampaignInfo.docx



Bongino For Congress 2014 Campaign Information

Campaign Organization:

The Bongino for Congress campaign's top tier staff consist of the following individuals: Campaign Manager – Sharon Strine; Finance Director – Maria Pycha; Media Director – Karla Graham; Communications Director – Jim Petit; and Director of Operations – Ally McMahon.

In addition, Team Bongino includes a Volunteer Coordinator, Campaign Coordinator, Deputy Finance and Operations Managers, Political Directors, Grassroots Coordinator, Precinct Analyst, and County Coordinators for each of the 5 counties represented in the district (in whole or in part), as well as over 200 active volunteers who have committed to staffing Bongino campaign events and grassroots efforts.

Fundraising Profile:

The District:

Maryland's 6th Congressional District comprises all of Garrett, Allegany, and Washington counties, as well as portions of Montgomery and Frederick counties. According to the Charlie Cook Partisan Voting Index in 2012, it is a D+2 district due to redistricting. It is worth noting that it was D+2 when President Obama was at the top of the ticket. From 1982- 2012, Republican Roscoe Bartlett represented the district, winning re-election overwhelmingly each year. Despite the D+2 registration rating, analysis of voter registrations shows a larger than average number of Independents who typically identify as fiscal conservatives.

The Opponent:

John Delaney is a first-term congressman with no prior political experience. He won both the Democrat Primary and General Election by presenting himself as a fiscal and social moderate and political 'outsider'. Since his election, Delaney has maintained a liberal voting record, voting with Nancy Pelosi and Harry Reid over _____ % of the time. His steadfast support of the Affordable Care Act, even in light of its striking unpopularity, is seen as a primary weakness during his 2014 re-election bid.

It is important to note that while he has touted himself as one who would like to reach across the aisle on fiscal policy as it relates to Wall Street, Delaney has been

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unable to move his proposed legislation forward due to his minority party status. This is seen as an area of weakness, as the House or Representatives is expected to remain firmly in Republican hands through the next several election cycles.

While he maintains a relatively small individual donor profile, Delaney has the ability to self-finance. We will need significant resources to compete in the expensive media market of Montgomery County.

Earned media:

Dan has garnered national attention through book sales, guest hosting talk radio programs such as WMAL's Mornings On The Mall and The Chris Plante Show, as well as nationally syndicated shows such as the Sean Hannity and Mark Levin Radio Shows. Dan has also maintained his role as a pundit and security expert for several Cable News channels. Dan was named a Top Conservative Under 30 by the American Conservative Union, and was asked to speak at the 2014 CPAC Convention. His was touted one of the best Thursday speeches, and has been widely viewed online and shared throughout social media outlets.

Dan's public statements can be seen here:

Links to Dan's speeches



From: Sent: Bob Farmer

bofar@comcast.net>

Wednesday, June 26, 2013 5:15 PM

To:

Sharon Strine

Subject:

Re: Dan's residence?

Sharon, Congressman Bartlett did live in the old D6 & that's what I'm referencing in my email.

Bob

On 6/26/2013 3:33 PM, Sharon Strine wrote:

Hi Bob.

To be honest, no one who ran including Congressman Bartlett lived in the newly redistricted D6 in 2012. The redistricting is a major issue for all of us. Thank you for getting back with me.

Sharon Strine
Deputy Campaign Manager
www.bongino.com
sharon@bongino..com
301-293-1281

From: Bob Farmer [mailto:bofar@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, June 26, 2013 3:30 PM

To: Sharon Strine

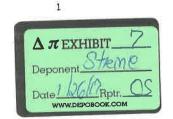
Subject: Re: Dan's residence?

Sharon, I did get a response & I am disappointed that my cong. rep. does not have to live in my district. I must have assumed that all of the previous rep.s did live here in the 6th district & that it was a requirement. I'll have to think about my support for Dan now. I'm sorry that he is not my senator now.

Bob

On 6/26/2013 12:22 PM, Sharon Strine wrote:

Hi Mr. Farmer,



I just wanted to check if you had received a response. If not, I would be happy to answer your question. It is not a requirement that you live in the district to run. As a matter of fact, your current Congressman does not live in District 6. Dan loves Western Maryland and his supporters are over the top excited for him to become their next congressman.

Please let me know if I can help you with anything else.

Thanks so much for asking!

Sharon Strine
Deputy Campaign Manager
www.bongino.com
sharon@bongino..com
301-293-1281

From: Bob Farmer [mailto:bofar@comcast.net]

Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2013 4:30 PM

To: finance@bongino.com Subject: Dan's residence?

It's my understanding that my congressional representative must live in my congressional district, #6. If Dan still lives near Severna Park, that is another district. I'd be happy to contribute to Dan's campaign needs, but only if he can meet the necessary requirements for congressional representative.

Во	h	Fa	rm	er
-	\sim	ıu		

Text inserted by Panda GP 2012:

This message has NOT been classified as spam. If it is unsolicited mail (spam), click on the following link to reclassify it: It is spam!

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Text inserted by Panda GP 2012:

This message has NOT been classified as spam. If it is unsolicited mail (spam), click on the following link to reclassify it: <u>It is spam!</u>

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From:

Jeff MIller <rjefmiller@comcast.net>

Sent:

Monday, August 26, 2013 5:54 PM

To:

Sharon Strine

Subject:

Re: Are you free August 30th?

Sharon,

Please call me at 301-363-7100....

I had a conversation with Dan earlier, and I am not going to hit a "pinata with hornets coming out of it". I'm not at all sure this would be in my best interest, and would like to discuss.

Jeff Miller...

"When we walk to the edge of all the light we have and take the step into the darkness of the unknown, we must believe that one of two things will happen. There will be something solid for us to stand on, or we will be taught to fly."

Patrick Overton

"Gun control is like trying to reduce drunk driving by making it tougher for sober people to own cars."

From: "Sharon Strine" <sharon@bongino.com>
To: "Jeff MIller" <rjefmiller@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2013 5:43:57 PM
Subject: RE: Are you free August 30th?

Hi Jeff,

Would you happen to have Ted Weaver's phone number? I talked to Dan about our conversation today and he told me to schedule a follow-up. He and Ted talked about 2 months ago on 2A and other issues. Dan would like to call him and get his opinion on some policy.

Thanks for the great conversation today!!

Sharon Strine
Deputy Campaign Manager
Bongino for Congress
P.O. Box 1330
Frederick, MD 21702
www.bongino.com
sharon@bongino.com
301-748-6197



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From: Jeff MIller [mailto:rjefmiller@comcast.net]

Sent: Monday, August 26, 2013 12:00 PM

To: Sharon Strine

Subject: Re: Are you free August 30th?

If you wish to speak with me, I can be reached at 301-363-7100 after 1:00 PM.

I will share what I can, but you may have misunderstood what I wrote. This was a Second Amendment group that wanted to support Dan. Before they would, they asked for a Second amendment stance in writing. When they asked if Dan would support their efforts, the response was that after they held a fund raiser he would consider it. To me, this is just "pay to play", a standard political trick.

As I was presenting him as a man of honor who did NOT play this way, and was a man of conviction, this not only went against what I believed was true, but made me look foolish at the same time.

I received this information in confidence, and am unsure how to share this information with you, but I am willing to give you my thoughts. I am also in Delaney's MD 6th district, which was gerrymandered by O'Malley to remove Roscoe Bartlett. At this point my trust in Government and Specifically Maryland representation is so low that I am considering moving from the state.

I am a Second Amendment Voter who is somewhat disappointed in the fact that no strong WRITTEN statement seems to be made by the candidate. I have listened to him speak, but at this point, I feel if it's NOT in writing, It doesn't hold any commitment.

Having been lied to for so long, Cynicism is becoming a way of life when dealing with ANY candidate.

Jeff Miller...

"When we walk to the edge of all the light we have and take the step into the darkness of the unknown, we must believe that one of two things will happen. There will be something solid for us to stand on, or we will be taught to fly."

Patrick Overton

"Gun control is like trying to reduce drunk driving by making it tougher for sober people to own cars."

From: "Sharon Strine" <<u>sharon@bongino.com</u>>
To: "Jeff MIller" <<u>rjefmiller@comcast.net</u>>
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2013 11:02:16 AM
Subject: RE: Are you free August 30th?

Good Morning Mr. Miller,

I would be interested to talk with you regarding the organization you are associated with. We are not working with any other groups. That being said, organizations that support Dan may be supporting him by sending the information about this fundraiser.

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If you would like to meet Dan in a non-fundraising setting he is all over Garrett, Allegany, Washington, Frederick and Montgomery Counties. I would be happy to let you know when he will be near your home for future events.

Please give me a call if you would like to talk.

Thanks!

Sharon Strine
Deputy Campaign Manager
Bongino for Congress
P.O. Box 1330
Frederick, MD 21702
www.bongino.com
sharon@bongino.com
301-748-6197

From: Jeff MIller [mailto:rjefmiller@comcast.net]

Sent: Monday, August 26, 2013 10:53 AM

To: campaign@bongino.com

Subject: Re: Are you free August 30th?

Dan,

While I am free on August 30, I will NOT attend any more of your events. If it cost me \$100 to see you, I cannot afford to support Dan. I was also appalled when another organization I am associated with, asked for your support and received a response that after they held a fund raiser for him, he would consider it.

If we have to BUY support, then this is just Chicago Style "Pay to Play" wearing a different suit.

I cannot express how much this soured me... I don't know if this response came from Dan, or was the advice of staff, but either way, I am VERY disappointed.

Jeff Miller...

"When we walk to the edge of all the light we have and take the step into the darkness of the unknown, we must believe that one of two things will happen. There will be something solid for us to stand on, or we will be taught to fly."

Patrick Overton

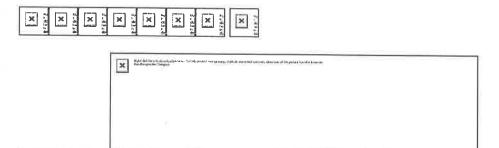
"Gun control is like trying to reduce drunk driving by making it tougher for sober people to own cars."

From: "Dan Bongino" < campaign@bongino.com>

To: rjefmiller@comeast.net

Sent: Monday, August 26, 2013 10:09:23 AM Subject: RE: Are you free August 30th?

Having trouble viewing this email? Click here



Are you free August 30th?

My Invitation

Fulficies dans to death of process for half-law analysis years, death-op-secret a process decembed of the process for the process of a process decembed of the process for the facts fored for the facts for the facts for the facts for the facts for th

Dear friend,

The kids may be heading back to school and the warm days of summer coming to an end, but my campaign for Congress is just getting started. I'd love to have the chance to meet you and tell you about my plans to return common sense to its rightful place in the halls of Congress.

Are you free to join Paula and me this Friday, August 30th, for a night of conservative fellowship and fun? We have a terrific evening planned, and we want you to join us.

When: Friday, August 30, 2013

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Where: Whiskey Creek Golf Club

4804 Whiskey Court ljamsville, MD 21754

Please go <u>here</u> to find out how you can take part in this event. I want you to be a part of my campaign from the very beginning.

Like you, I am just an ordinary citizen who is fed up with the steady stream of nonsense - and worse - that is coming out of Washington every day.

I have spent the last few years talking at length with passionate conservatives like you. As a result, I am taking a radical approach that surely will not sit well with the political class.

Through my recently announced Citizen Contract, I have pledged to:

- Serve in Congress for only three terms
- Donate half my Congressional salary to charity

- Reject spending your tax dollars on Congressional junkets
- Vote down any piece of legislation that exempts the political class

You and I have a choice to make. Are we content to sit back and complain? Or are we going to fix this mess?

Let's gather in Ijamsville this Friday to discuss how we can work together to craft meaningful change for Maryland and our fellow Americans.

It's time that We the People give the DC elites a one-way ticket out of town.

If you can't join us this Friday, would you please consider making a generous donation today of \$25, \$50 or even \$100? These early days are when your donation can have the greatest impact. Of course, if you could dig a little deeper and send \$250, \$500, or \$1000, we'll be that much closer to taking back Washington, D.C.

I can win this race. I will win this race. But I need your help today to do it.

I hope to see you in Ijamsville this Friday!

Sincerely,

| X | Signification in the state of the state

Dan Bongino

P.S. I've gone ahead and attached the invitation to the Ijamsville event -- I'd really appreciate if you'd help spread the word about this event and about my campaign. These early days are so important in setting up the foundation on which we will build a grassroots victory in November of 2014. Thank you for your support!



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Dan Bongino was the 2012 Republican Nominee for the United States Senate in Maryland. He served for over a decade in the United States Secret Service as a special agent and is currently a small businesses owner with his wife Paula.

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