



FACT

FOUNDATION FOR
ACCOUNTABILITY
AND CIVIC TRUST

January 31, 2020

Hon. James Lankford, Chairman
Hon. Christopher A. Coons, Vice Chairman Senate Select Committee on Ethics
220 Hart Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Senator Doug Jones

Dear Ethics Committee Members,

The Foundation for Accountability and Civic Trust (FACT) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting accountability, ethics, and transparency in government and civic arenas. We achieve this mission by hanging a lantern over public officials who put their own interest over the interests of the public good.

We request the Senate Select Committee on Ethics immediately investigate Senator Doug Jones for using official resources for campaign and political purposes. Senator Jones consistently uses his campaign Twitter account to link to his official Twitter account.¹ For instance, on January 23, 2020, Jones' campaign account states, "Retweeting in a trial break here . . ." and links to Jones' official Senate tweet that displays a video that appears to be Jones in his Senate office.² There are numerous examples dating back to January 2019, all using official resources for political purposes, 28 of which are attached.

Federal law and Senate Ethics Rules prohibit Senators from using official resources for campaign or political activity.³ Official resources include government buildings, staff, and websites and social media accounts. The Senate Rules explicitly prohibit "[l]inking or posting from a campaign

¹ Exhibit A.

² The @DougJones Twitter account is clearly functioning as a campaign account. The bio section links to his campaign website dougjones.com. From this public account, he posts campaign ads (i.e., <https://twitter.com/DougJones/status/927560986772541440>), campaign materials, and fundraising solicitations (i.e., <https://twitter.com/DougJones/status/1170870945470455808>). This account has roughly 225,000 more followers than the @DougJonesHQ (Doug Jones for Senate) account. Moreover, the content of the posts over the past few months are political. *Compare* U.S. Office of Special Counsel, OSC File No. HA-17-4341, Letter Dated Sep. 28, 2017 (finding a Twitter account was not a "personal" account based upon content of posts were about official matters, even though "there were personal posts and photographs as well").

³ 31 U.S.C. § 1301(a) (official resources may only be used for official purposes); U.S. Senate, Select Committee on Ethics, Senate Ethics Manual, at 139 (2003 ed.); U.S. Senate, Select Committee on Ethics, Campaign Activity, at 1 (November 2018), available at https://www.ethics.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/files/serve?File_id=4C858006-4560-4A1B-9ED5-8A8D4434221F.

website controlled by or under the direction of a Member or group of Members to an Official Website.”⁴ A “website” is defined to include social media, *e.g.* Twitter.⁵

Jones has committed multiple clear violations by using his official publicly funded social media account for political purposes. It is the Ethics Committee’s purpose to ensure Senators follow straightforward laws, but this type of violation is especially concerning because it enforces the belief that incumbent Senators abuse taxpayer funded resources simply for their reelection efforts and for political purposes. Therefore, we request the Committee immediately investigate and act on Senator Jones’ apparent violations.

Sincerely,



Kendra Arnold
Executive Director, Foundation for Accountability & Civic Trust

⁴ U.S. Senate, Internet Services and Technology Resources Usage rule 5.2.4 (adopted Nov. 9, 2015) available at <https://www.senate.gov/usage/internetpolicy.htm>.

⁵ *Id.* rule 1.6 (“Official Third-Party Website. A Third-Party Website means any website or online application, profile, or channel residing outside of the Senate.gov domain and available to the general public, including but not limited to social media (*e.g.*, Facebook, Twitter, etc.). An Official Third-Party Website is a Third-Party Website that a Senate Office uses for official business *pursuant to these rules.*”).



Doug Jones
@DougJones

I can't make this anymore simple. This moment is too important for the country.

We need witnesses.
We need documents.
We need #ImpartialJustice.

In this capacity, I'm not a Democratic Senator, I am a U.S. Senator & my oath is the Constitution.

Doug Jones · @SenDougJones · 3h

After a week of this impeachment trial, I've still got a lot of questions for both the House managers and the President's lawyers. But one thing I know for sure is that this should be about the facts and the future of the presidency, not about partisan politics.



2:44 PM · Jan 28, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

934 Retweets 3.8K Likes

<https://twitter.com/dougjones/status/1222244059739230208?s=21>



Doug Jones
@DougJones

The President's counsel made some good points today, but the strongest was for witnesses & documents & cross examination. I was a little surprised by that, but they damn sure did it. Please Mr President, let your people testify. All Americans deserve it. #ImpartialJustice

Doug Jones · @SenDougJones · Jan 25

The President's lawyers made some important points today that should be considered, esp. regarding obstruction.

However—they also confirmed we need to hear from firsthand witnesses that we can cross-examine to get the full truth.

My thoughts on the defense's 1st day 🙏



3:06 PM · Jan 25, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

1K Retweets 3.8K Likes

<https://twitter.com/dougjones/status/1221162452009869314?s=21>



Doug Jones @DougJones

Col. Vindman: In the United States of America "right matters." I think that just about says it all folks.

#impartialJustice
#rightmatters

Doug Jones @SenDougJones · Jan 24

The Constitution is only as strong as the people who swear an oath to protect it.

We need to hear the truth, the full truth, and nothing but the truth. That is the only way to ensure a fair and complete trial.



12:46 PM · Jan 24, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

325 Retweets 1.1K Likes

<https://twitter.com/dougjones/status/1220764876878106624?s=21>



Doug Jones @DougJones

Retweeting in a trial break here. We need the witnesses and documents folks. If there is "nothing new" as some have said then aren't they saying they want that which we haven't been able to get? #impartialJustice

Doug Jones @SenDougJones · Jan 23

I know I'm starting to sound like a broken record, but I practiced law for over 40 years and I just can't understand why we shouldn't be able to access witnesses and documents that we know contain relevant information.



3:07 PM · Jan 23, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

1.6K Retweets 4.4K Likes

<https://twitter.com/DougJones/status/1220437972979458048>



Doug Jones
@DougJones

I am sorry to keep tweeting about this but this is a really big deal. It has been an emotional day for me & my staff & my co-sponsor @SenatorCollins. Please take a moment to watch this video to fully grasp what I mean.



8:29 PM · Dec 17, 2019 · Twitter for iPhone

290 Retweets 1.7K Likes

<https://twitter.com/DougJones/status/1207110658514456577>



Doug Jones
@DougJones

This is a really big deal folks. The one big step is the announcement tonight of the deal reached on the Nat'l Defense Authorization Act that WILL include a repeal of the Military Widow's Tax. What an honor it has been to work with these amazing families.

#AxeWidowsTax
#NDAA



9:38 PM · Dec 9, 2019 · Twitter for iPhone

254 Retweets 1.1K Likes

<https://twitter.com/DougJones/status/1204228856296685568>

Doug Jones Retweeted



Doug Jones @SenDougJones · Nov 7, 2019

It has been 36 days since the Senate let funding for HBCUs and minority-serving institutions expire—this is 36 days too many. We need a vote on the #FUTUREAct so we can restore funding! #FUTUREActNow



9

77

153



<https://twitter.com/SenDougJones/status/1192517935539130368>



Doug Jones @DougJones

Folks, we are getting down to the lick log here. Please contact your Senators and members of Congress and urge them to make sure that the elimination of the Widow's Tax for our surviving veteran spouses is included in the final Nat'l Defense Authorization Act! Thanks @jaketapper

Doug Jones @SenDougJones · Oct 30, 2019

It's time for Congress to put its money where its mouth is when it comes to supporting our troops.

My bill to eliminate the Military Widow's Tax has the support of over 3/4 of the Senate AND the House, so there's no excuse. Let's make this the year we finally #AxWidowTax.



10:04 PM · Oct 30, 2019 · Twitter for iPad

452 Retweets 1.6K Likes

<https://twitter.com/DougJones/status/1189724828108021760>



Doug Jones
@DougJones

Our duty as Senators is to preserve and defend The Constitution, not the President, not the Republican Party, not the Democratic Party.

Doug Jones @SenDougJones · Sep 26, 2019

When I became a senator, I swore an oath to the Constitution. Every senator did. And that's what I plan to do and I hope my colleagues do their duty, too.

Watch for my thoughts on the Ukraine investigation



9:46 AM · Sep 27, 2019 · Twitter for iPad

216 Retweets 1.2K Likes

<https://twitter.com/DougJones/status/1177580339486691330>



Doug Jones
@DougJones

This is a really big deal for Alabama. It will provide much needed help to our healthcare system, particularly in rural areas. But there is more to do to solve the rural health crisis we have in my state and across the country

Doug Jones @SenDougJones · Aug 2, 2019

I'm very happy that following our meeting last year with @SeemaCMS, the unfair Medicare Wage Index issue got on her radar and she took action—thank you! This will be a huge help for Alabama's struggling hospitals. @CMSGov

[jones.senate.gov/newsroom/press...](https://www.jones.senate.gov/newsroom/press...)

7:20 PM · Aug 3, 2019 · Twitter for iPhone

33 Retweets 204 Likes

<https://twitter.com/DougJones/status/1157793298553233408>



Doug Jones
@DougJones

Folks, please spread the word. We need to get The Equality Act passed now. How about It Sen. McConnell, @senatemajdr?

Doug Jones @SenDougJones · Jun 12, 2019

This #PrideMonth, I ask my colleagues to take this step forward and to do the right thing by joining me in calling for Leader McConnell to bring the #EqualityAct to a vote in the Senate. twitter.com/broadcasts/1...



10:17 PM · Jun 12, 2019 · Twitter for iPhone

473 Retweets 1.8K Likes

<https://twitter.com/DougJones/status/1138993716562137088>



Doug Jones
@DougJones

Democracy and the institutions of our great government are worth defending folks. #TheGreatestGeneration knew that. We should let our actions, not just our words, reflect that every day.

Doug Jones @SenDougJones · Jun 6, 2019

On #DDay75thAnniversary, we remember the US and allied troops who landed on the beaches of Normandy to join the fight against Nazism. Their heroism will never be forgotten as we live every day in a more peaceful world that continues to benefit from their service and sacrifice.



9:30 PM · Jun 6, 2019 · Twitter for iPad

31 Retweets 150 Likes

<https://twitter.com/DougJones/status/1136807493894582272>



Doug Jones
@DougJones

Was gonna try to do something original here, but frankly this says it all!

Doug Jones @SenDougJones · Jun 1, 2019

Today begins #PrideMonth, a time when we shine a light on the ways LGBT people enrich and contribute to make our world a better place. I'm proud to stand with my son Carson and the entire LGBT community as a steady ally.

Just know, I've got your back.



7:11 PM · Jun 1, 2019 · Twitter for iPhone

188 Retweets 1.5K Likes

<https://twitter.com/DougJones/status/1134960776861691904>



Doug Jones
@DougJones

Another Memorial Day is in the books but we should honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom every day. We can do that by letting our actions speak louder than words. I am not going to give up on my efforts to [#AxeWidowsTax](#). Thanks Cathy!

Doug Jones @SenDougJones · May 27, 2019

Thank you Cathy Milford, of Mobile, AL, and all the other military widows for speaking out about the unfairness of the [#Widowstax](#).

We should be honoring our military service members & their families – not ripping them off. Let's right this egregious wrong & [#AxeWidowsTax](#).



9:12 AM · May 28, 2019 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)

41 Retweets 146 Likes

<https://twitter.com/DougJones/status/1133360343663697922>



Doug Jones
@DougJones

This Memorial Day we owe our Gold Star Families more than words – we owe them action. Let's [#axewidowstax](#)

Doug Jones @SenDougJones · May 23, 2019

Gold Star families have given more to our country than most of us could ever imagine. Join us in supporting this bipartisan legislation and let's [#AxeWidowsTax](#).



8:47 PM · May 23, 2019 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)

46 Retweets 188 Likes

<https://twitter.com/DougJones/status/1131677935381798912>

Doug Jones @DougJones
We're at 68 cosponsors now! Let's get this done for our surviving military spouses. This momentum is historic and we owe this fix to the families of our fallen servicemembers. Righting this wrong is LONG overdue. #AxeWidowsTax

Doug Jones @SenDougJones · May 21, 2019
It is time to repeal the Widows Tax once and for all. With 67 cosponsors in the Senate, it is a true bipartisan effort to honor our fallen soldiers & the sacrifices their families have made for our country. #AxeWidowsTax
twitter.com/vbroadcasts/1...



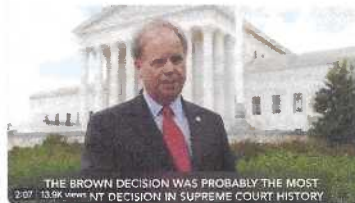
10:21 PM · May 21, 2019 · Twitter for iPad

192 Retweets 746 Likes

<https://twitter.com/DougJones/status/1131022338835791873>

Doug Jones @DougJones
65 years after a unanimous Supreme Court (yes, there was a day when that really happened) decided the Brown decision, placing them squarely on the #rightsideofhistory, our quest for equal rights for all people is still a work in progress. Do you part to stand up to injustice

Doug Jones @SenDougJones · May 17, 2019
Today marks 65 years since the Brown v. Board of Education decision, and though we have certainly come a long way, we must continue to work to fulfill our values of equality and dignity for all.



9:32 PM · May 17, 2019 · Twitter for iPhone

158 Retweets 786 Likes

<https://twitter.com/DougJones/status/1129560366407659521>

Doug Jones @DougJones
Meeting @morethanmySLE (Peter Morley) was so inspiring. He brought me your stories & shared his. I will never forget meeting him & we will never stop fighting.

I need your help. Send ME your healthcare story & I will work to advocate from the Senate floor.

Peter, thank you!

Doug Jones @SenDougJones · May 14, 2019
Peter Morley & I recently discussed the importance of protecting health reforms & the health care of families across the nation.

I hope you'll join us to #ProtectOurCare
[Show this thread](#)



9:11 PM · May 14, 2019 · Twitter for iPad

872 Retweets 1.5K Likes

<https://twitter.com/DougJones/status/1128467945875701760>



Who runs the world?



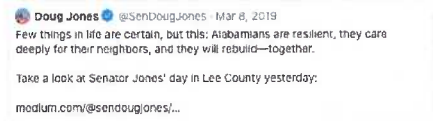
12:35 PM - Mar 29, 2019 - Twitter for iPhone

74 Retweets 466 Likes

<https://twitter.com/DougJones/status/1111668212406648832>



Been an emotional couple of days in Lee County. Heartbreaking stories from victims who lost family and/or their homes & all possessions. First responders & EMA have done an amazing job but this is going to take some time. Thanks to all who have stepped up and helped.



4:48 PM - Mar 8, 2019 - Twitter for iPhone

51 Retweets 271 Likes

<https://twitter.com/DougJones/status/1104136888942817280>



The devastation in Beauregard and Lee County, Alabama is beyond description. Lives lost, families and communities shattered. But we are strong and resilient and will rebound and rebuild. #BeauregardStrong



11:17 AM - Mar 7, 2019 - Twitter for iPhone

144 Retweets 611 Likes

<https://twitter.com/DougJones/status/1103691191357448192>



While an unrestricted internet is crucial to our future, it is only as good as the broadband that allows access. Too many rural areas lack that access now but we're working on it. We can and should have both!

Doug Jones @SenDougJones · Mar 6, 2019
 Today, unrestricted internet access is crucial to succeed, and premiums that only benefit large corporations threaten that opportunity for so many people.
 It's time to set things right. Let's pass the #SaveTheNet Act & make the internet open again. #NetNeutrality

**WHO WANTS TO
 #SAVE THE INTERNET**
82% OF REPUBLICANS
90% OF DEMOCRATS
85% OF INDEPENDENTS
86% OF ALL AMERICANS

Source: Program A - Public Consultation at the University of Maryland

5:26 PM · Mar 6, 2019 · Twitter for iPhone

146 Retweets 678 Likes

<https://twitter.com/DougJones/status/1103469416031969281>



As Black History Month comes to a close I wanted to share the link below and how proud I am of Alabama's contributions. This month and at all times let's continue to do all we can to be on the right side of history.

Doug Jones @SenDougJones · Feb 21, 2019
 African Americans have pioneered cultural, intellectual & social movements that have shaped our nation's history. This #BlackHistoryMonth, we celebrate their continued contributions to Alabama and to our country. -Doug



4:15 PM · Feb 28, 2019 · Twitter for iPhone

100 Retweets 480 Likes

<https://twitter.com/DougJones/status/1101229408378081280>



Doug Jones
@DougJones

A huge thank you to Oakwood University Church for the civil rights achievement honor & to the Huntsville City Council and Mayor Battle for the commendation resolution. Full achievement of Dr. King's dream will always be a work in progress & it is up to each of us to do our part.

Doug Jones @SenDougJones Feb 24, 2019

"We can never stop working for human dignity and respect...the American Dream is for everyone in this country."

A message of unity from yesterday's service, thank you @oakwoodsda for the honor, the enthusiasm, and the opportunity to worship alongside you. -- Doug



11:36 AM · Feb 24, 2019 · Twitter for iPhone

50 Retweets 321 Likes

<https://twitter.com/DougJones/status/1099709674574761985>



Doug Jones
@DougJones

Very happy to have Farrell Turner join me for tonight's #SOTU. Being an advocate for quality, affordable healthcare for folks in rural AL is his passion - as it is mine! Great to have him as a partner!

Doug Jones @SenDougJones Feb 5, 2019

Meet my guest for tonight's #SOTU: Farrell Turner, President of the Alabama Rural Health Assoc. He represents 600+ hospitals, clinics, health centers & providers in Alabama. I hope to hear POTUS talk about how we can work together to strengthen our rural health care system. —Doug



5:47 PM · Feb 5, 2019 · Twitter for iPad

60 Retweets 316 Likes

<https://twitter.com/DougJones/status/1092917771380445184>



Doug Jones
@DougJones

So honored to have received the 2019 Rural Health Champion Award. But we have so much more to do for our rural communities and I promise to be there

Doug Jones @SenDougJones Feb 5, 2019

This morning Senator Jones received the National Rural Health Association's 2019 Rural Health Champion Award at the 30th annual Rural Health Policy Institute. A big thanks to @NRHA_Advocacy for all they do for rural Alabamians and Americans across the country!



3:58 PM · Feb 5, 2019 · Twitter for iPhone

20 Retweets 172 Likes

<https://twitter.com/DougJones/status/1092890183274500096>



Doug Jones
@DougJones

The shutdown should have never happened. What the President signed yesterday was the same thing the Senate passed unanimously in December. 35 days later we are back to square 1. Mr. President you want people to have good faith dialog, but good faith is a two way street.

Doug Jones @SenDougJones · Jan 25, 2019

"We want to make sure we have secure borders, but let me tell you something, folks, I also want to have a heart. I want to make sure the U.S. is the moral leader of the world." -Doug



3:22 PM · Jan 26, 2019 · Twitter for iPhone

2.7K Retweets 10.7K Likes

<https://twitter.com/DougJones/status/1089257334310883328>



Doug Jones
@DougJones

Nowhere was Dr. King's presence felt more than in Alabama. Today, across the state we gather to celebrate and remember, not just his accomplishments, but also his vision for all of us and our nation.

Doug Jones @SenDougJones · Jan 21, 2019

In his 1963 Letter from Birmingham Jail, Martin Luther King Jr. spoke up for peace, equality, and economic opportunity for all in saying, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." On this #MLKDay2019, let's remember these values in all we do. - Doug



6:21 PM · Jan 21, 2019 · Twitter for iPhone

167 Retweets 1K Likes

<https://twitter.com/DougJones/status/1087490456269869061>