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MUR # 7030

OFFICE OF GENERAL
COUNSEL

CELA

March 3, 2016

Mr. Matthew Peterson
Chairman
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20463

Dear Mr. Peterson:


By this letter, I would like to file a formal complaint against Joe Garcia. On February 3, 2016, Mr. Garcia formally announced his candidacy for Democratic nomination for United States House of Representatives for the 26th District of Florida for the 2016 Democratic nominee. Attached, as Exhibit A, are emails, Facebook posts and several newspaper articles demonstrating that Mr. Garcia formally announced his candidacy on February 3rd.

Based upon information and belief, it is my belief that Mr. Garcia had, as of February 3rd, raised and spent in excess of \$5,000 in connection with his election. In support of this assertion, please find evidence that Mr. Garcia had adequate resources to engage in significant activity on or prior to the date of his announcement, including a poll that was commissioned in January, a sophisticated campaign website that could accept online contributions and sufficient technology to engage in blast emails. In addition, a blast fundraising email that was sent upon his announcement indicated an immediate goal of raising \$50,000 for his campaign. Finally, he hosted a fundraiser on February 25th in Washington, D.C.

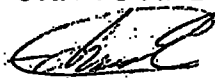
As of today, there is no indication on the Commission's website that Mr. Garcia has filed the necessary Form 1 to show that he is, in fact, a candidate for federal office. Federal law requires that a candidate for federal office file Form 1 with the Commission within 15 days of qualifying as a candidate. 52 U.S.C. § 30102(e). An individual qualifies as a candidate once they raise in excess of \$5,000 for that office. 52 U.S.C. § 30101(2). Therefore, Mr. Garcia has blatantly disregarded the requirement that he file a Statement of Candidacy with the Commission. The Federal Election Commission should take all necessary measures to require Mr. Garcia properly and timely file this Form and

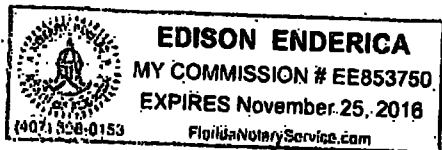
all future filings with the Commission, including the issuance of any injunctive and financial penalties that it deems necessary to force Mr. Garcia to comply with the law.

Sincerely,


July Currais

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me this 4th day of March, 2016


Notary
Edison Enderica



170444050006

From: Joe Garcia <campaign@joegarciaforflorida.emailnb.com>

Subject: Why I'm running

Date: February 5, 2016 at 12:55:15 PM EST

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] -
I wanted you to be among the first to know that I've announced my candidacy for US Congress in Florida's 26th District. And since I'm going to need your help, I want to tell you why I'm running.

[Haga clic aquí para leer en español](#)

When I served as your Congressman, people told me Congress was too broken to get anything done. But, I rejected those comments and I got to work.

I sponsored the Democratic bill to secure immigration reform and when radical Republicans rejected it, I didn't give up. I went to President Obama and stood beside him when he made Executive Actions to protect thousands of South Florida immigrant families, implementing the policies from my reform bill.

When flood insurance rates spiked I fought to bring them back down and when our communities said they needed more opportunities, I secured Federal funding for job corps programs right here at home.

I didn't do it alone. If I can claim any of the credit, it is that I was successful bringing together people who believed that better things were possible.

Sign up to join my campaign and let's work together to make South Florida work for all of us >>>

We can't turn this country around if Republicans in Congress continue to give millions of dollars in government handouts to big corporations and developers while ignoring those of us who work to make South Florida run. South Florida's economy is experiencing record growth, but too many of us aren't seeing enough good-paying jobs in our communities. We feel like some folks are getting ahead, but it's not anyone we know. We need a change.

I'll stand up for you. I'll fight for you. But, I need you to join me >>>

[REDACTED], I'm running because I believe that people who care can find solutions to even the most difficult challenges. I'm running, because when we work together, there's no problem we can't solve.

www.joegarciaforfl.com >>>

Thank you for joining me,

Joe

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<http://www.joegarciaforfl.com/>

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Joe Garcia, Gov. - subject: 2011 Affidavit of Interest - Florida Statutes FL 218.30 (1) (a) b) c) d) e) f) g) h) i) j) k) l) m) n) o) p) q) r) s) t) u) v) w) x) y) z) aa) ab) ac) ad) ae) af) ag) ah) ai) aj) ak) al) am) an) ao) ap) aq) ar) as) at) au) av) aw) ax) ay) az) ba) bb) bc) bd) be) bf) bg) bh) bi) bj) bk) bl) bm) bn) bo) bp) bq) br) bs) bt) bu) bv) bw) bx) by) bz) ca) cb) cc) cd) ce) cf) cg) ch) ci) cj) ck) cl) cm) cn) co) cp) cq) cr) cs) ct) cu) cv) cw) cx) cy) cz) da) db) dc) dd) de) df) dg) dh) di) dj) dk) dl) dm) dn) do) dp) dq) dr) ds) dt) du) dv) dw) dx) dy) dz) ea) eb) ec) ed) ee) ef) eg) eh) ei) ej) ek) el) em) en) eo) ep) eq) er) es) et) eu) ev) ew) ex) ey) ez) fa) fb) fc) fd) fe) ff) fg) fh) fi) fj) fk) fl) fm) fn) fo) fp) fq) fr) fs) ft) fu) fv) fw) fx) fy) fz) ga) gb) gc) gd) ge) gf) gg) gh) gi) gj) gk) gl) gm) gn) go) gp) gq) gr) gs) gt) gu) gv) gw) gx) gy) gz) ha) hb) hc) hd) he) hf) hg) hh) hi) hj) hk) hl) hm) hn) ho) hp) hq) hr) hs) ht) hu) hv) hw) hx) hy) hz) ia) ib) ic) id) ie) if) ig) ih) ii) ij) ik) il) im) in) io) ip) iq) ir) is) it) iu) iv) iw) ix) iy) iz) ja) jb) jc) jd) je) jf) jg) jh) ji) jj) jk) jl) jm) jn) jo) jp) jq) jr) js) jt) ju) jv) jw) jx) jy) jz) ka) kb) kc) kd) ke) kf) kg) kh) ki) kj) kl) km) kn) ko) kp) kq) kr) ks) kt) ku) kv) kw) kx) ky) kz) la) lb) lc) ld) le) lf) lg) lh) li) lj) lk) ll) lm) ln) lo) lp) lq) lr) ls) lt) lu) lv) lw) lx) ly) lz) ma) mb) mc) md) me) mf) mg) mh) mi) mj) mk) ml) mn) mo) mp) mq) mr) ms) mt) mu) mv) mw) mx) my) mz) na) nb) nc) nd) ne) nf) ng) nh) ni) nj) nk) nl) nm) nn) no) np) nq) nr) ns) nt) nu) nv) nw) nx) ny) nz) oa) ob) oc) od) oe) of) og) oh) oi) oj) ok) ol) om) on) oo) op) oq) or) os) ot) ou) ov) ow) ox) oy) oz) pa) pb) pc) pd) pe) pf) pg) ph) pi) pj) pk) pl) pm) pn) po) pp) pq) pr) ps) pt) pu) pv) pw) px) py) pz) qa) qb) qc) qd) qe) qf) qg) qh) qi) qj) qk) ql) qm) qn) qo) qp) qq) qr) qs) qt) qu) qv) qw) qx) qy) qz) ra) rb) rc) rd) re) rf) rg) rh) ri) rj) rk) rl) rm) rn) ro) rp) rq) rr) rs) rt) ru) rv) rw) rx) ry) rz) sa) sb) sc) sd) se) sf) sg) sh) si) sj) sk) sl) sm) sn) so) sp) sq) sr) ss) st) su) sv) sw) sx) sy) sz) ta) tb) tc) td) te) tf) tg) th) ti) tj) tk) tl) tm) tn) to) tp) tq) tr) ts) tt) tu) tv) tw) tx) ty) tz) ua) ub) uc) ud) ue) uf) ug) uh) ui) uj) uk) ul) um) un) uo) up) uq) ur) us) ut) uu) uv) uw) ux) uy) uz) va) vb) vc) vd) ve) vf) vg) vh) vi) vj) vk) vl) vm) vn) vo) vp) vq) vr) vs) vt) vu) vv) vw) vx) vy) vz) wa) wb) wc) wd) we) wf) wg) wh) wi) wj) wk) wl) wm) wn) wo) wp) wq) wr) ws) wt) wu) wv) ww) wx) wy) wz) xa) xb) xc) xd) xe) xf) xg) xh) xi) xj) xk) xl) xm) xn) xo) xp) xq) xr) xs) xt) xu) xv) xw) xx) xy) xz) ya) yb) yc) yd) ye) yf) yg) yh) yi) yj) yk) yl) ym) yn) yo) yp) yq) yr) ys) yt) yu) yv) yw) yx) yy) yz) za) zb) zc) zd) ze) zf) zg) zh) zi) zj) zk) zl) zm) zn) zo) zp) zq) zr) zs) zt) zu) zv) zw) zx) zy) zz)

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For more information [NationBuilder](#) - online for leaders

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Joe Garcia for Congress

February 3 at 7:41pm · Miami · *

Excited to officially launch my campaign to once again represent the people of Florida's 26th District in the US Congress. Like and share to say you're with me!



1704440038889

Democrat Joe Garcia says he's running for Congress in Miami again

Garcia says he will seek his old seat

District has more Democrats in it after redistricting

Democrat Annette Taddeo is already running

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Former U.S. Congressman Joe Garcia **PEDRO PORTAL EL Nuevo Herald**

BY PATRICIA MAZZEI

PMAZZEI@MIAMIHERALD.COM

He's made up his mind: Former U.S. Rep. Joe Garcia will run for Congress again this year, the Miami Democrat announced Wednesday. He will seek his old seat, which has been redrawn to now include more Democrats.

"We did great things when we were in Congress and I want to continue work on the issues that matter to South Florida, because we deserve better," Garcia said in a statement to the Miami Herald. "We deserve quality jobs that pay a living wage, lower college tuition, action on climate change, and comprehensive immigration reform."

Garcia lost his swing Westchester-to-Key West seat in an off-year election when fewer Democrats go to the polls. Running in a presidential year — and in a redrawn district that comfortably favored President Barack Obama in 2012 — Garcia hopes to have better luck, assuming he wins the primary.

Another Democrat, Annette Taddeo, who was Charlie Crist's running mate in the 2014 Florida governor's race, is already in the race. To stem off Garcia's impending challenge, her campaign spent the last month bringing in big Democratic names to host fundraisers and rolling out notable endorsements, including from former Hialeah Mayor Raul Martinez, whose son used to work for Garcia's congressional district office, and the Service Employees International Union, a major past Garcia supporter.

"As a member of Congress I will fight to raise the minimum wage, bring jobs back to our communities, ensure equal pay for women and to strengthen our schools," Taddeo said in a statement. "This is what our communities deserve, but sadly the 26th District has instead endured a series of politicians who've put self-interest first, acted unethically, and at times even acted illegally."

"It's time to turn a new page in South Florida."

Garcia defeated the Democratic establishment when he won in 2012. That year, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee had recruited a businesswoman to carry the party banner, and he defeated her handily.

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Garcia had made recent moves to launch a candidacy, despite declaring less than a year ago, "I am not running for any public office." He quit his job in a Miami Beach investment bank in December and had confidants over the last few weeks call past supporters to gauge their interest in backing him again.

A third possible candidate, Andrew Korge, son of local Hillary Clinton donor Chris Korge, said Wednesday that he would run for the Florida Senate this year instead, clearing the way for a Garcia-Taddeo Democratic primary -- a potentially bruising and expensive race national Democrats had hoped to avoid.

Garcia served one term in the U.S. House of Representatives, from 2012-14, before losing to Republican Carlos Curbelo, who campaigned on his integrity after Garcia's former chief of staff had gone to jail for orchestrating an unlawful absentee-ballot request scheme.

The former chief of staff, Jeffrey Garcia, no relation, has since also pleaded guilty in a separate, federal case involving the secret financing of a ringer 2010 tea-party candidate. The statute of limitations in that case has now expired; Joe Garcia was never charged or accused of wrongdoing.

While out of office, Miami-Dade County Democrats tried to recruit Garcia to run for county mayor, and Florida Democrats tried to persuade him to run for the state Senate. He dismissed both ideas.

In his statement, Garcia took a shot at Curbelo and House Republicans who "have given us political attacks on Planned Parenthood and endless Benghazi investigations."

"I want to go back to Congress and get to work on making a real difference for the families and workers of South Florida," he said in his statement, citing his work in office on cutting student-loan rates, funding Everglades restoration and requiring federal government investment in job-training programs. "The Democratic voters of the 26th district know me well, and I am confident I will have their support."

Read more here: <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/politics-government/article58271983.html#storylink=cpy>

JOE GARCIA ANNOUNCES HE'S RUNNING AGAIN FOR DISTRICT 26

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KYLE MUNZENRIEDER



Joe Garcia may very well end up spending more of his life campaigning for congress than he does actually serving in it. The former one-term Democratic congressman announced today his fifth straight candidacy for a Southwestern Miami-Dade congressional district after being defeated in 2014 by current the current Rep. Republican Carlos Curbelo.

Garcia first, however, will have to face off in primary against Annette Taddeo, another Democrat whose long and fruitless attempts at running for office mirrors Garcia's.

Garcia-commissioned poll shows him with a big lead over Taddeo



Joe Garcia. (AP Photo/Alan Diaz, File) [Tweet](#) [Share on Facebook](#) [Print](#)



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As conservative groups hound him, Joe Garcia is swaggering into the race for his old congressional seat by announcing a big Washington fundraiser and releasing a new poll that shows him with a double-digit lead over his Democratic rival.

The survey, conducted by the Democratic-leaning Public Policy Polling firm, has Garcia leading Annette Taddeo, 34 percent to 24 percent, in a head-to-head

matchup in Florida's 26th Congressional District, which stretches from the Miami area to Key West. About 42 percent of those surveyed were undecided.

"What you see in the poll is a reflection of the support Joe has received from the community since entering the race. Joe's in a strong position going into the Democratic primary, leading by large margins across the board, including a 15-point lead among women," said campaign adviser Juan Penalosa, who commissioned the outside polling firm to get an independent and neutral take on the race.

The poll also shows the better-known Garcia edges Taddeo among blacks, Hispanics and non-Hispanic whites. The primary is scheduled for Aug. 30.

MORE ON POLITICO

- House passes medical marijuana expansion
- Bill to change how children are tried as adults heads to Senate floor
- Environment, energy bills squeeze through final Senate committee meeting

Garcia's campaign also polled a three-way Democratic race to include Andrew Korge, who decided instead to run for Florida's 38th state Senate district. With Korge in the race, Garcia's numbers dropped to 30 percent, Taddeo fell to 19 percent and Korge earned 12 percent of the Democratic vote.

Garcia released the poll ahead of a Feb. 24 Campaign Kickoff fundraiser in Washingtonheadlined by 17 members of the U.S. House, including Senate candidate Patrick Murphy. Garcia served one term from 2013-15. At the same time, the conservative group America Rising released footage Tuesday of one of its trackers bothering Garcia on the streets of Miami.

Republican survey data of the congressional district, some of which was shared with POLITICO Florida, indicated Garcia was favored in a primary over Taddeo because he's so well known. Only a fifth of voters knew Taddeo — who ran unsuccessfully on Charlie Crist's gubernatorial ticket last year — in the GOP poll. Garcia has near-

universal name identification, but the GOP survey said he was disliked more than liked by about 10 percentage points, a legacy of the bruising 2014 campaign against Republican Carlos Curbelo who made an issue out of the election scandals of a former Garcia aide.

Now that the seat has been redrawn yet again to become even-more Democratic leaning, Democrats say they expect that whoever wins the nomination will carry the seat in November. Running as a moderate, Curbelo is seen as one of the few South Florida Republicans who has a shot at retaining the swing seat in a presidential election year, when Democratic-supporting voters are more liable to show in bigger numbers.

In an interview with Miami's WIOD radio last week, Curbelo didn't announce a preferential candidate to face. But since Garcia announced in February, he has drawn more fire than Taddeo from Republicans and conservative groups like America Rising.

"I love running for office — gets the blood going," Garcia said on video to an America Rising tracker.

MORE:

- FLORIDA
- ANNETTE TADDEO
- CONGRESS
- FLORIDA
- FLORIDA 26TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

• JOE GARCIA

17044101300

Joe Garcia's internal poll shows him leading Annette Taddeo

An internal poll done by Joe Garcia's Congressional campaign shows him leading Democratic rival Annette Taddeo 34-24.

The poll was done by the Democratic-leaning Public Policy Polling firm Jan. 15-18 of 441 Democratic voters in the district which spans parts of Miami-Dade and Monroe counties.

"The poll is a reflection of the support Joe has received since entering the race," said Juan Penalosa, an advisor for the Garcia campaign. "Joe is leading by large margins across the board, including a 15 point lead among women."

Taddeo's campaign manager Shaun Daniels said: "Whether on election day in 2014 or in his own polling, Joe Garcia just can't seem to get to 50%. This poll is great news for the Taddeo Campaign. It is not surprising that a former incumbent holds a slight lead."

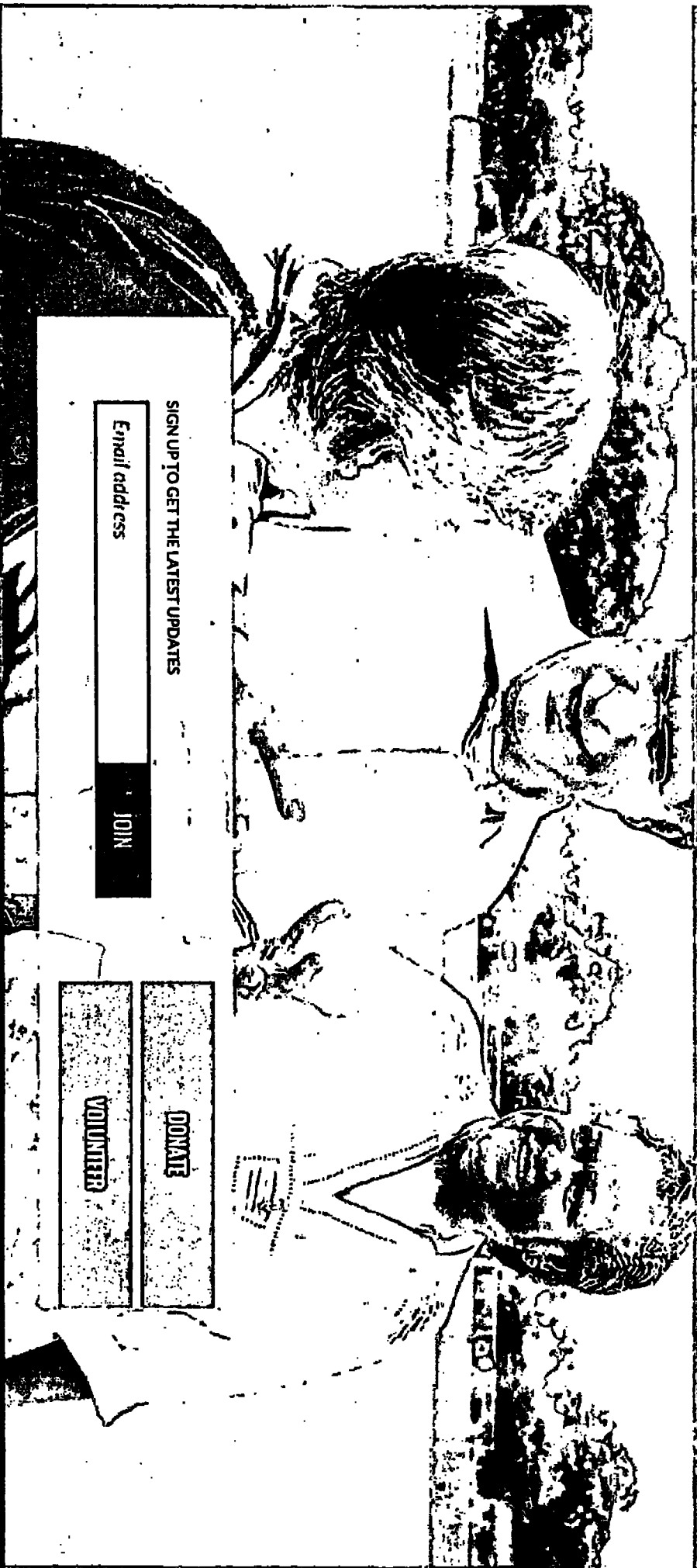
We'll note that internal polls come with a large grain of salt -- particularly when they are done about seven months before the primary. But due to redistricting, District 26 leans more left than in the past and this could be the hottest Congressional primary contest in South Florida.

This poll previously reported by [Politico](#).

Posted by Amy Sherman on Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2016 at 12:32 PM in [2016](#)

[Election](#), [Congress](#), [Joe Garcia](#) | [Permalink](#)

17044405900



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☒ One-time Contribution ☐ Recurring Contribution

Amount *

- ☐ 25 ☐ 50 ☐ 100 ☐ 250
☐ 500 ☐ 1000 ☐ 2700 ☒ Other \$

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- This contribution is made from my own funds, and not those of another.
- This contribution is not made from the funds of a corporation or labor organization.
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- I am at least eighteen years old.

Please join

Reps. Ami Bera (CA-7), Joyce Beatty (OH-3), Tony Cardenas (CA-29), Jim Costa (CA-16), Raúl Grijalva (AZ-3), Michelle Lujan Grisham (NM-1), Hakeem Jeffries (NY-8), Patrick Murphy (FL-18), Scott Peters (CA-52), Jared Polis (CO-2), Raul Ruiz (CA-36), Loretta Sanchez (CA-46), Kyrsten Sinema (AZ-9), Eric Swalwell (CA-15), Norma Torres (CA-35), Juan Vargas (CA-51), and Filemon Vela (TX-34), and Fmr. Rep. Jim Davis

in honor of

JOE GARCIA

Florida - 26th District Candidate

for a

CAMPAIGN KICKOFF RECEPTION

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

38 Ivy Street SE | Washington, DC 20003

Suggested Contribution:

PAC Co-Host: \$2,500 | PAC Sponsor: \$1,000 | PAC Friend: \$500

Individual Co-Host: \$1,000 | Individual Sponsor: \$500 | Individual Friend: \$250

Please RSVP with Shauna L. Jackson at (216) 313-7777

or e-mail SLJacksonGroup@gmail.com

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE NOT TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

FEDERAL LAW REQUIRES US TO USE OUR BEST EFFORTS TO COLLECT AND REPORT THE NAME, MAILING ADDRESS, OCCUPATION AND NAME OF EMPLOYER OF INDIVIDUALS WHOSE CONTRIBUTIONS EXCEED \$200 IN AN ELECTION CYCLE.

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM CORPORATIONS, LABOR UNION TREASURY FUNDS OR FOREIGN NATIONALS ARE NOT ACCEPTED.

***Under federal election law, an individual may contribute a maximum of \$2,700 for the primary election and \$2,700 for the general election to this committee.**

Paid for by Joe Garcia for Congress

17044405904

Paid for by Joe Garcia for Congress

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Joe Garcia for Congress" <campaign@joegarciaforflorida.emailnb.com>

Date: Feb 6, 2016 1:36 PM

Subject: It's a movement

To: [REDACTED]

Cc:

[REDACTED] --

Just since yesterday, when Joe told you that he was launching his campaign for Congress, supporters have stepped up from Kendall to Key West to join this movement to make Washington work for South Florida.

This campaign is going to take an enormous effort. But, we're committed to building it from the ground up, with a true people-powered movement built right here in South Florida.

So we're setting a big, \$50,000 goal for the first 100 hours of this campaign. Will you help us meet our goal?

[REDACTED], chip in \$3, \$30, \$300 or whatever you can to help Joe launch his campaign to get back to work for the people of South Florida!

If you want a representative in Washington who has a record of standing up to radical Republicans in Congress and getting things done, become a founding member of our movement!

www.joegarciafl.com/donate

Let's go!

Team Joe

Joe Garcia for Congress
<http://www.joegarciaforfl.com/>

==

Joe Garcia for Congress 201 Alhambra Cir, #1205 Coral Gables FL 33134 United States
This email was sent to [REDACTED]. To stop receiving emails, [REDACTED]

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