

EVIDENCE OF ILLEGAL COORDINATION

Mahan Campaign & CA Back to Basics IE

Major donors and leaders of the CA Back to Basics IE — Michael Moritz, Rick Caruso — participated in fundraising calls with Matt Mahan while simultaneously directing or funding the supposedly independent expenditure committee.

Sources: Zoom screenshots (April 6 & 10, 2026) • CA Back to Basics SOTR Memo (April 6, 2026) • CA Secretary of State F497 filing (March 18, 2026) • Politico CA Playbook (Feb. 26, 2026) • San Jose Inside, NBC Bay Area, The Real Deal

BACKGROUND

What Is Illegal Coordination?

The IE Committee

[CA Back to Basics](#) Supporting Matt Mahan for Governor 2026 and [Deliver for California](#) Matt Mahan for Governor 2026 are a legally independent expenditure committee. Under California law (Gov. Code § 85500) and federal law, it may spend unlimited funds — but ONLY if it operates without coordination with the campaign.

What Counts as Coordination

Any communication made “in cooperation, consultation, or concert” with the candidate or campaign on strategy, messaging, or media becomes an illegal in-kind contribution.

Why It Matters Here

Michael Moritz is the largest named IE donor. Rick Caruso donated \$250,000 to the IE and is on record in POLITICO for leading the IE for Matt Mahan. Both appeared on Zoom calls with Matt Mahan where his campaign strategy was presented.

EXHIBIT A — RICK CARUSO

IE Donor/Leader & Hard-Side Call Participant

Rick Caruso's Dual Role

Campaign donation:

\$78,400 (max) to Mahan for Governor — Jan. 2026

IE donation (F497, Mar 18):

\$250,000 to Pro-Mahan IE

Active IE role:

Caruso fundraising for the new pro-Mahan IE per committee strategist ([Politico, Feb. 26](#)) and “is involved with the effort” ([LA Times, Feb. 26](#))

Hard-side Zoom (Apr. 6):

"RC Rick Caruso" in participant list on same call Matt Mahan is on while campaign strategy is presented



April 6 hard-side call participant list — "RC Rick Caruso" visible — Matt Mahan present

⚠️ Caruso donated \$250K to the IE and is 'involved in the effort' per the committee's own strategist — then joined the candidate's Zoom call where campaign messaging and media strategy were being directed.

POLITICO

Jaye's departure — just over two months after Mahan entered the contest and with the June primary fast approaching —

comes amid concerns among some Mahan supporters about the slow pace of fundraising and the campaign's overall direction.

Those frustrations surfaced during a call with supporters last week, according to three people with knowledge of the conversation and granted anonymity to describe it.

[POLITICO, 4/1/26](#)

FIRST IN PLAYBOOK: NEW HEAD COACH — Mahan's team told Playbook that the campaign will now be guided by a team of general consultants led by Raghu Devaguptapu, a veteran Democratic ad maker and strategist. Devaguptapu's new firm, TKO Political, includes principals Rachel Ostendorf, Justin Barasky, Amy Gooden and Micaela Chavez.

In damage control ... the campaign shared a statement from Rick Caruso, a billionaire developer from Los Angeles and one of Mahan's most prolific donors, who cheered the staffing reshuffle, adding, "By assembling a team that can think creatively and execute boldly, he's positioning himself not just to compete but to win."

San Jose Rep. Sam Liccardo, whom Jaye previously advised during his congressional primary campaign, said Mahan is "building exactly the right team at exactly the moment people are starting to pay attention."

[POLITICO, 4/2/26](#)

EXHIBIT B — MICHAEL MORITZ

IE's Largest Donor & Active Leader — Also on Campaign Call

Michael Moritz's Dual Role

IE role:

Largest named donor at \$2M, Michael Moritz, who is also listed first in ad disclosures and IE SOTR memo donor list

SOTR Memo (Apr. 6):

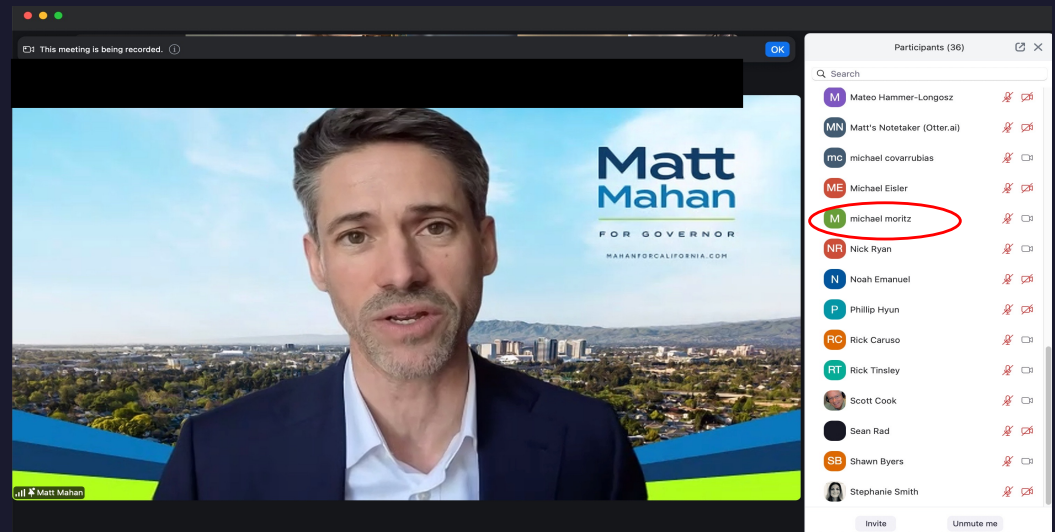
Top funder in memo by Murphy, Grisolano & Rodriguez on messaging, media placements, and fundraising

Hard-side Zoom (Apr. 6):

"michael moritz" in participant list on call where Matt Mahan is present and TKO strategy slides are presented

IE Zoom (Mar. 27):

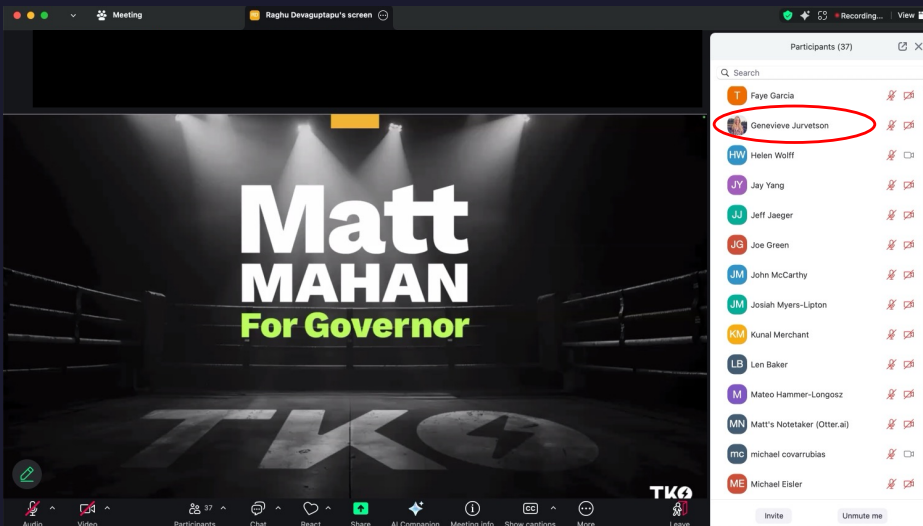
On 'Zoom Update from Mahan IE Team' call discussing strategy and virality with strategists Mike Murphy, Larry Grisolano, and Matt Rodriguez



⚠️ The IE's largest donor and most active leader participated in the candidate's fundraising call while IE messaging and media strategy were simultaneously being directed on the same Zoom.

EXHIBIT C — GENEVIEVE JURVETSON

On BOTH the Campaign Call AND the IE Call



April 6 Hard-Side Call — "Genevieve Jurvetson" in participant list (Matt Mahan present)



April 10 IE Donor Call — Moritz speaking, Genevieve Jurvetson labeled bottom-left

Campaign donation:

\$78,400 to Mahan
(Jurvetson Foundation)

Steve Jurvetson (spouse):

Also donated \$78,400
to Mahan campaign

April 6 hard-side call:

In participant list with
Matt Mahan present

April 10 IE donor call:

Visible while Moritz
leads IE strategy session

The Spouse Coordination Question

⚠ LEGAL QUESTION: Do Spouses of IE Donors/Leaders Count as Coordination Conduits?

Under California law, attribution rules can treat a spouse's activities as the donor's own when there is evidence of shared financial interest or coordination. If spouses of IE leaders attended the candidate's hard-money call, that connection warrants legal investigation.

Also worth exploring: Spouses Brian Singerman (campaign fundraiser and IE donor to both "Back to Basics" and "Deliver for CA" committees) and Noelle Moseley (IE fundraiser and leader) are active in both IE and hard-side fundraising.

Shawn Byers — on hard-side call

On April 6 hard-side call
(participant list, confirmed)

Spouse: Brook Byers — on IE call

Visible on April 10 IE donor Zoom (top-right, labeled "Brook By..."); Byers Capital managing partner

Carla Crane — on hard-side call

On April 6 hard-side call
(participant list, confirmed)

Spouse: David Crane — on IE call

Front row on April 10 IE Zoom (labeled "David Crane"). Listed in emails and NY Times article as leading escrow account strategy to raise \$35M for Mahan IE.

EXHIBIT E — WHAT WAS DISCUSSED

Strategy Slides Presented With Mahan and IE Donors

Our Focus

SHARPEN THE MESSAGE

- “Common-sense” and “Back to basics” doesn’t tap into extreme voter frustration on costs, failures
- Matt has a record of doing more with less; not about *doing* less, it’s about performing better and delivering.
- Singular candidate with a through line of results and the ability to define the problem without being beholden to political interests.
- **Areas for data exploration:**
 - Sharper problem identification
 - Matt as the solution

“California doesn’t have a money problem. It has a results problem.”

“Too hard to build. Too expensive to live.”

Matt MAHAN

For Governor

Slide 11 TKO

Slide 11: 'SHARPEN THE MESSAGE' — candidate messaging strategy

Our Focus

RESTRUCTURE THE MEDIA PLAN

- Spend now. Spend what it takes.
- Don't explain; brand.
- The ecosystem is a war for attention.

→ **Sharper, disruptive creative**

→ **Clear, consistent messaging**

→ **High-impact, lower-cost placements**

Your continued support is needed. *It will help make the difference.*

Matt MAHAN

For Governor

Slide 12 TKO

Slide 12: 'RESTRUCTURE THE MEDIA PLAN' — media spend direction

These TKO-branded slides were screen-shared on the April 6 call where Matt Mahan, Michael Moritz, Rick Caruso, Genevieve Jurvetson, Carla Crane, and Shawn Byers were all participants. The slides directed campaign messaging ('California has a results problem') and media strategy ('Spend now. Spend what it takes. Don't explain; brand.'). Slide 12 then solicited more donations: ***'Your continued support is needed. It will help make the difference.'***

From: noelle moseley <[REDACTED]>

Date: Monday, April 6, 2026 at 12:26 PM

To: David Crane <[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>, Michael Moritz <[REDACTED]>, Michael Siebel <[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Turbo-Charge phase for Matt Mahan -- update

Hi Everyone,

Wanted to share with you how excited we are about the **"Turbo-Charge" phase that has just launched for Matt Mahan's campaign and invite you to be an important part of it.** Two prongs:

1) A few days ago, the campaign announced that it's hired **Raghu Devaguptapu as campaign strategist**. His [track record](#) is impressive and by reputation, his approach is a great fit for Matt -- pragmatic, hands-on, aggressive, and media-savvy. As an example, he was behind Mark Kelly's successful AZ senate race in 2020 ("[Countdown](#)" video). He's innovative and creative, results-focused yet not afraid to take smart risks for high rewards.

2) **All-or-Nothing fundraiser** -- many of us on this list have maxed out our direct-to-campaign donations (\$78,400 per individual). But the IE is poised to amplify the campaign message and can accept much higher donations. We along with others have decided to **raise \$35M together as a group -- contributions will go into an escrow account until the full \$35M is in the bag** (if the target isn't reached, the donations will be returned, hedging the risk to each individual). We believe this is the amount that can secure the win for Matt and we believe this fundraiser is mission-critical. We launched just a few days ago and **are already over halfway there!** Self-imposed **deadline is April 17.**

This is the exact right timing for this turbo-charge because most CA voters will only start paying attention to the election in a few weeks. (Might be hard for this group to believe, but most CA voters have not tuned in yet and when they do, we will be ready for them.)

Please, join us in this mission-critical All-or-Nothing fundraiser (and thank you to those of you who have already committed to this! Please make sure you've sent your completed form to David). [David Crane](#) is collecting completed escrow contribution forms (see attachment). Feel free to contact any one of us if you've got questions or to discuss.

Please invite others who you think this might resonate with.

Because California needs Matt,
Ashley, Blake, Crane, Moritz, Noelle, Seibel (& others)

Additional context: [NY Times on Apr. 7](#)

**GOVERN FOR CALIFORNIA NETWORK COMMITTEE
CONTRIBUTION DIRECTION FORM**

Govern For California Network Committee (FPPC ID# 1383984) is an FPPC-registered intermediary committee formed to accept and hold donor funds on a temporary basis before delivering or returning the funds as directed in writing by the donor.

The Matt Mahan independent expenditure committee, **California Back to Basics - supporting Matt Mahan for Governor 2026** (FPPC ID #1487425), has embarked on a fundraising campaign with the **Govern For California Network Committee** to raise \$35 million in additional funds between now and April 17. Funds collected under this fundraising program will be released by the GFC Network Committee only if the fundraising threshold of \$35 million is reached. In the event that this fundraising threshold is not reached by April 17, all funds raised under this fundraising program will be returned by the GFC Network Committee to the original donors.

Contribution amount: \$ _____

By marking this box, I direct **GFC Network Committee** to release my contribution and deliver my contribution as an intermediary to **California Back to Basics - supporting Matt Mahan for Governor 2026** upon GFC confirming that \$35 million or more has been raised into the Network Committee for the support of this committee.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS REQUIRED:

Contributor Name: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Required information:

Occupation (if contributor is an individual): _____ Retired

Employer (if contributor is an individual): _____

Mark Box if Contributor is a Limited Liability Company.

Name & title of the LLC's "responsible officer"—i.e., the individual primarily responsible for approving the LLC's political activity/contributions: _____

**GOVERN FOR CALIFORNIA NETWORK COMMITTEE
CONTRIBUTION INSTRUCTIONS**

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Please make **checks** payable to and send to:

Govern For California Network Committee
c/o Steve Lucas
2350 Kerner Boulevard, Suite 250, San Rafael, CA 94901

Wire Instructions: Bank of Marin
504 Tamalpais Drive, Corte Madera, CA 94925

ABA Routing # 121141877
Account # 01777974

Questions? Please contact Steve Lucas of Nielsen, Merksamer:
slucas@nmgovlaw.com

Contributions to **California Back to Basics, supporting Matt Mahan for Governor 2026** made through intermediary Govern For California Network Committee are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. Contributors to California state and local political committees, including independent expenditure committees, of \$10,000 or more in a calendar year will trigger their own campaign disclosure obligations. Please contact Steve Lucas at Nielsen Merksamer



TO: CA Back to Basics Donors
FROM: Matt Rodriguez, Larry Grisolano, and Mike Murphy
DATE: April 6, 2026
RE: State of the Race

STATE OF THE RACE

Ballots drop in less than a month which means voters will now start to pay attention to the Governor's race. At least one Democratic candidate is going to surge over these final 8 weeks and earn a spot in the November runoff. And despite the inertia of the horse race over the past year, two factors indicate that Matt Mahan can be that breakout candidate over the final stretch.

I) Advertising Blitz

Timing is everything in this business, and the Mahan campaign has an opportunity for a massive voter contact effort between their organization and Back to Basics. With less than 2 months to go until Election Day, we would expect the Mahan campaign to roll out its paid media program within the week. On our end, Back to Basics has just placed another 7-figure buy in the Los Angeles media market along with financial commitments that will allow us to communicate with 75% of the state just as voters begin to turn in.

IE AD —LIVE IN LA MONDAY
 "Mailman" — Back to Basics IE Ad →
Seven-figure LA market buy locked in.

II) Swalwell/Steier: a billionaire trying to buy the race vs. the candidate of the special interests

The vitriol between Swalwell and Steier is now the defining story of this primary. It is playing out on television, in court filings, and across social media every single day. And it has nothing to do with how the next Governor will make the lives of everyday Californians better.

Steier has spent over **\$111 million** of his own money over the past year to move just 9 points – barely in a statistical tie with Swalwell and Porter. Now he has changed tactics – he is blanketing the airwaves attacking Swalwell on missed votes, residency, and even his eligibility to run for Governor.

On the other hand, Swalwell is now relying on as much Sacramento special interest money as he can recruit to attack Steier's finances, shifting positions on key issues, and tax returns. From public

sector unions to real estate interests to tech companies, Sacramento's special interests have a message for Swalwell: we'll be here for you if you're here for us as Governor.

The upshot: while Steier and Swalwell grind each other to pieces, the stage is perfectly set for the right alternative to emerge with a practical message to Californians struggling with the affordability crisis and frustrated that state services just aren't good enough. We believe that is this huge opportunity for Matt Mahan.

STEIER ATTACKS SWALWELL — INSTAGRAM

[Steier attack reel → instagram.com/reels/DWj5murif_K →](https://www.instagram.com/reels/DWj5murif_K)

Mocking Swalwell's missed votes.

SWALWELL IE ATTACKS STEIER — ON AIR NOW

[Swalwell IE spot → ca120ads.com/ads/7861 →](https://ca120ads.com/ads/7861)

Paid for by: Californians for a Fighter in Support of Eric Swalwell for Governor 2026. Top funders: Stephen Clooback · California Medical Association · Global Medical Response, Inc.

@TomSteier via X

"Call me old-fashioned, but you typically need to show up to work to get a promotion." — Steier launching digital video of Swalwell at the pool while Congress voted.

@EricSwalwell via X

"Tom Steier has spent \$100 MILLION lying about me."

III) Conclusion

This race is waiting for a Democrat to break through. Mayor Matt Mahan is that candidate. With a focus on issues that California needs – from [government reform](#) to [tying elected officials' pay to performance](#) to [no tax increases without the state proving it can provide better services with the money it currently has](#) – Matt represents both a reform agenda that Sacramento needs and a focus on issues that voters want.

Ad paid for by California Back to Basics, supporting Matt Mahan for Governor 2026

Ad Committee's Top Funders:

Michael Moritz
 Ashley Merrill
 Michael Seibel

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 Funding Details at www.fppc.ca.gov