

## Prepared Statement of Dara Lindenbaum

Chairwoman Klobuchar, Ranking Member Blunt, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today as President Biden's nominee for the position of Commissioner on the Federal Election Commission (FEC). It is an honor to be here today.

I would like to take a moment to introduce my family here with me today. My husband, Jonathan, my parents Leslie and Sandy; Aunt Marcy and Uncle Randy; my Uncle Jon; my brother David, my rock Freeman; and last, but certainly not least, my best friend, Amy.

Here with me in spirit are my grandmother Joan Sircus who is watching with her entire temple in Florida; Sam Mars who would have loved to be here to support me today; and my three-year-old daughters Isabel and Zoey who are more interested in Peppa Pig than Mommy's hearing.

I am eternally grateful to them, my family and friends watching from home, my mentors and colleagues at Sandler Reiff Lamb Rosenstein & Birkenstock, my mentor and professor Spencer Overton, and everyone who has helped me get to this moment. I am also honored to have support from bipartisan colleagues with whom I have worked throughout my career. I would not be here today without all of their encouragement.

I grew up with parents on both sides of the aisle. While that meant we had some spirited debates around the dinner table, the one thing they have always agreed on is the importance of voting. As a child, I got to take two trips to the polls on Election Days: one with mom and one with dad. My parents instilled in me and my brother this core value of active participation in our democracy, and I have dedicated my career to the furtherance of this country's promise of civic engagement. If I am so fortunate as to be confirmed to the FEC, I will stand on this foundational belief, bringing with me my experience as a practitioner for over a decade, working with candidates, campaigns, political action committees, vendors, donors, and voters.

Through my work in local, state, and federal elections, I bring a unique understanding of the complex systems and policies candidates and campaigns put in place to be in compliance with the law, the obstacles that are faced by all in the regulated community, and the importance of clear, transparent rules.

I take the core mission of the FEC to heart: to protect the integrity of the federal campaign finance process by providing transparency and fairly enforcing and administering federal campaign finance laws. As Senator Blunt has said, we need the FEC to work so that candidates can run in a way that allows the discourse of the campaign to occur while protecting the system from those operating outside of the law.

If confirmed, I intend to be a consensus builder, and I am honored to have support from practitioners on both sides of the aisle. Both as a lawyer as well as a mother to three-year-old twins (for whom I consistently adjudicate disputes), I know that consensus will not come easily, but we must make every effort we can. The consideration of the facts and the law in front of me will be my guideposts as I seek to provide clarity to the regulated community, increase transparency, and collaborate with my fellow Commissioners to further the important mission of

the FEC. It will be my duty to instill public confidence in the integrity of our system in a bipartisan manner as directed by Congress.

You have my commitment that if confirmed I will treat every party with business before the Commission fairly, objectively, and without prejudice or bias.

It would be an honor to serve as a Commissioner on the Federal Election Commission, and I look forward to taking your questions.