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## POLITICS

# Clinton Ally Aided Campaign of FBI Official's Wife

Group linked to Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe donated nearly half a million dollars to 2015 state Senate candidate



Campaign finance records show Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe's political-action committee donated \$467,500 to the 2015 state Senate campaign of Dr. Jill McCabe, who is married to Andrew McCabe, now the deputy director of the FBI. *PHOTO: PAUL J. RICHARDS/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES*

By **DEVLIN BARRETT**

Oct. 23, 2016 7:41 p.m. ET

The political organization of Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe, an influential Democrat with longstanding ties to Bill and Hillary Clinton, gave nearly \$500,000 to the election

campaign of the wife of an official at the Federal Bureau of Investigation who later helped oversee the investigation into Mrs. Clinton's email use.

Campaign finance records show Mr. McAuliffe's political-action committee donated \$467,500 to the 2015 state Senate campaign of Dr. Jill McCabe, who is married to Andrew McCabe, now the deputy director of the FBI.

The Virginia Democratic Party, over which Mr. McAuliffe exerts considerable control, donated an additional \$207,788 worth of support to Dr. McCabe's campaign in the form of mailers, according to the records. That adds up to slightly more than \$675,000 to her candidacy from entities either directly under Mr. McAuliffe's control or strongly influenced by him. The figure represents more than a third of all the campaign funds Dr. McCabe raised in the effort.

Mr. McAuliffe and other state party leaders recruited Dr. McCabe to run, according to party officials. She lost the election to incumbent Republican Dick Black.

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A spokesman for the governor said he "supported Jill McCabe because he believed she would be a good state senator. This is a customary practice for Virginia governors...

Any insinuation that

his support was tied to anything other than his desire to elect candidates who would help pass his agenda is ridiculous."

Among political candidates that year, Dr. McCabe was the third-largest recipient of funds from Common Good VA, the governor's PAC, according to campaign finance records. Dan Gecker received \$781,500 from the PAC and \$214,456 from the state party for a campaign that raised \$2.9 million, according to records; and Jeremy McPike received \$803,500 from the PAC and \$535,162 from the state party, raising more \$3.8 million that year for his candidacy.

The governor could recall only one meeting with Mr. McCabe—when he and other state Democrats met with the couple on March 7, 2015, to urge Dr. McCabe to run, according to the spokesman.

The FBI said in a statement that during his wife's campaign Mr. McCabe "played no role, attended no events, and did not participate in fundraising or support of any kind.

Months after the completion of her campaign, then-Associate Deputy Director McCabe was promoted to Deputy, where, in that position, he assumed for the first time, an oversight role in the investigation into Secretary Clinton's emails."

FBI officials said that after that meeting with the governor in Richmond on March 7, Mr. McCabe sought ethics advice from the bureau and followed it, avoiding involvement with public corruption cases in Virginia, and avoiding any campaign activity or events.

Mr. McCabe's supervision of the Clinton email case in 2016 wasn't seen as a conflict or an ethics issue because his wife's campaign was over by then and Mr. McAuliffe wasn't part of the email probe, officials said.

"Once I decided to run," Dr. McCabe said, "my husband had no formal role in my campaign other than to be a supportive husband to me and our children. As a federal official...everyone who participated in our campaign understood and respected that he could not participate."

Mr. McCabe is a longtime FBI official who focused much of his career on terrorism. His wife is a hospital physician who campaigned in northern Virginia, where the couple live with their children.

The 2015 Virginia State senate race was Dr. McCabe's first run for office and her campaign spent \$1.8 million. The race was part of Mr. McAuliffe's failed effort to win a Democratic majority in the Virginia legislature, which would have given him significantly more sway in Richmond, the state capital.

Mr. McAuliffe has been a central figure in the Clintons' political careers for decades.

In the 1990s, he was Bill Clinton's chief fundraiser and he remains one of the couple's closest allies and public boosters. Mrs. Clinton appeared with him in northern Virginia in 2015 as he sought to increase the number of Democrats in the state legislature.

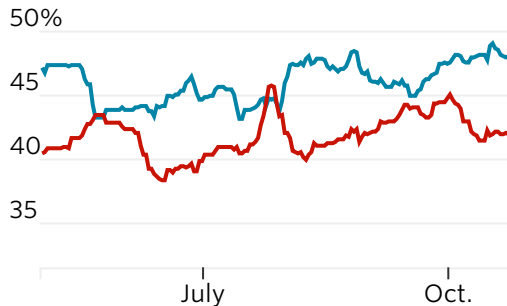
Dr. McCabe announced her candidacy in March 2015, the same month it was revealed that Mrs. Clinton had used a private server as secretary of state to send and receive government emails, a disclosure that prompted the FBI investigation.

At the time the investigation was launched in July 2015, Mr. McCabe was running the FBI's Washington, D.C., field office, which provided personnel and resources to the Clinton email probe.

That investigation examined whether Mrs. Clinton's use of private email may have compromised national security by transmitting classified information in an insecure system. A review of Mrs. Clinton's emails concluded that 110 messages contained classified information. Mrs. Clinton has said she made a mistake but that she never sent or received messages that were marked classified.

**CLINTON** is currently leading **TRUMP** by 6.1 pct. pts.

In the Real Clear Politics average ( ) of several individual polls ( )



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At the end of July 2015, Mr. McCabe was promoted to FBI headquarters and assumed the No. 3 position at the agency. In February 2016, he became FBI Director James Comey's second-in-command.

As deputy director, Mr. McCabe was part of the executive leadership team overseeing the Clinton email investigation, though FBI officials say any final decisions on that probe were made by Mr. Comey, who served as a high-ranking Justice Department official in the administration of George W. Bush.

Mr. McAuliffe has been under investigation for months by the FBI's Washington field office, a probe that includes an examination of donations made on behalf of a Chinese businessman, according to people familiar with the matter. His lawyers have denied any wrongdoing and said the investigation is seeking to determine if Mr. McAuliffe may have violated a law requiring people to register as agents of a foreign entity.

It was unclear the extent to which Mr. McCabe may have recused himself from discussions involving Mr. McAuliffe. When Mr. McCabe's wife began her campaign, he shied away from involvement in Virginia public corruption cases, according to officials.

Once the campaign was over, officials said, Mr. McCabe and FBI officials felt the potential conflict-of-interest issues ended.

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