

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MAINE

AMANDA McGONIGLE,

*Plaintiff,*

v.

Civil Case Number: 1:26-cv-00349-JCN

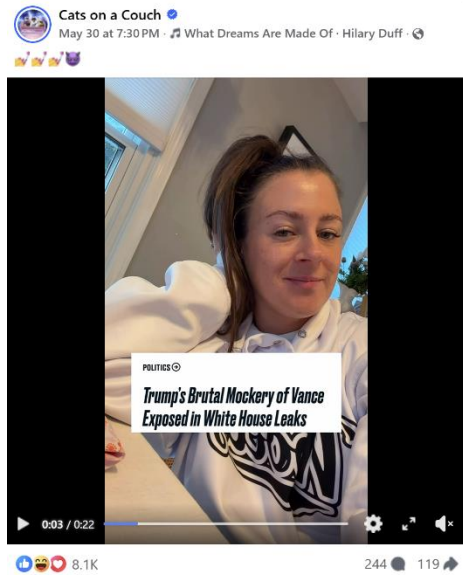
SEAN M. CURRAN, in his official capacity  
as Director of the U.S. Secret Service, JOHN  
HILLER, in his official capacity as Director of  
Presidential Advance, EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
OF THE PRESIDENT, and UNITED  
STATES SECRET SERVICE,

*Defendants.*

**DECLARATION OF AMANDA McGONIGLE**

I, Amanda McGonigle, hereby declare as follows:

1. I am the plaintiff in the above-captioned action.
2. I operate social media accounts on Instagram and Facebook with the username CatsOnACouch. These are cat-themed accounts that I created after JD Vance said that the country was being run by “childless cat ladies.”
3. I created the CatsOnACouch accounts to make fun of the current administration and amass more followers than JD Vance.
4. I started these accounts in 2024, when JD Vance was a candidate for Vice President.
5. The CatsOnACouch Instagram account now has 2.1 million followers.
6. The CatsOnACouch Facebook account now has more than 1 million followers.
7. My CatsOnACouch accounts feature a combination of political commentary, mockery and criticism of Vice President Vance, silly cat images, and calls for community action.



## Support some GOOD good trouble in Minnesota

Amanda McGonigle

Donation protected

We're taking the good trouble on the road. 🚗  
Next stop, Minnesota.

Because of you and this community, we have the capacity to reach millions and millions of people.

What is happening in Minnesota should frighten everyone; but the stories of what is ACTUALLY happening on the ground there aren't making national news or mainstream media.

So I'll be heading to Minnesota, with several others, to deliver on the ground aid to those in  
[Read more](#)

Donate

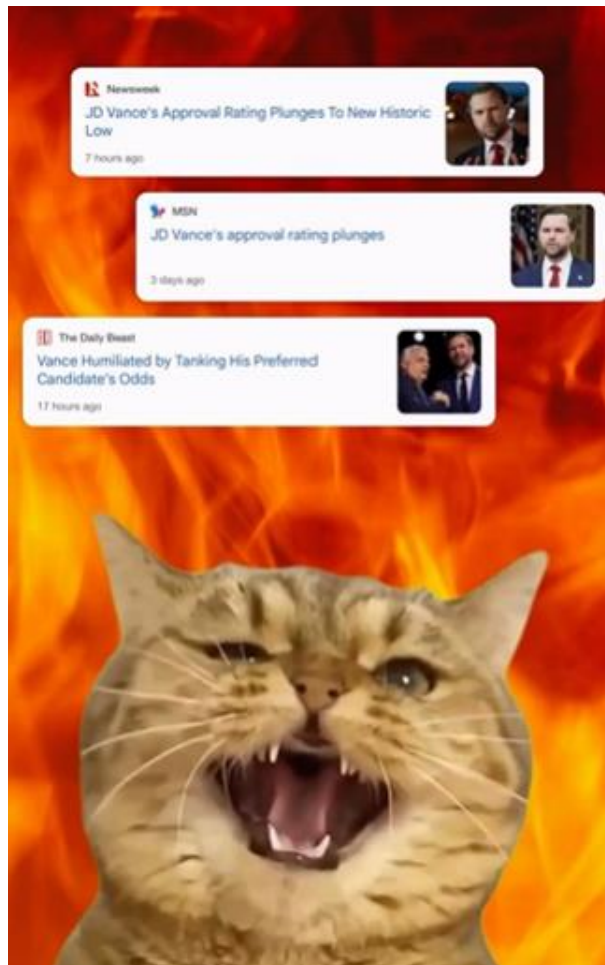
Share

8. I regularly post messages that are critical of Vice President Vance, share political messages with my followers, who I refer to as my “petty besties,” and help raise money for mutual aid efforts.

9. In May 2026, I attempted to attend two official events held by Vice President Vance (one in Bangor, Maine, on May 14, 2026, and one in Des Moines, Iowa, on May 5, 2026), but was singled out and prevented from attending both events.

10. In the weeks leading up to these events, I posted messages that were critical of Vice President Vance, including satirical commentary and mockery of the vice president.

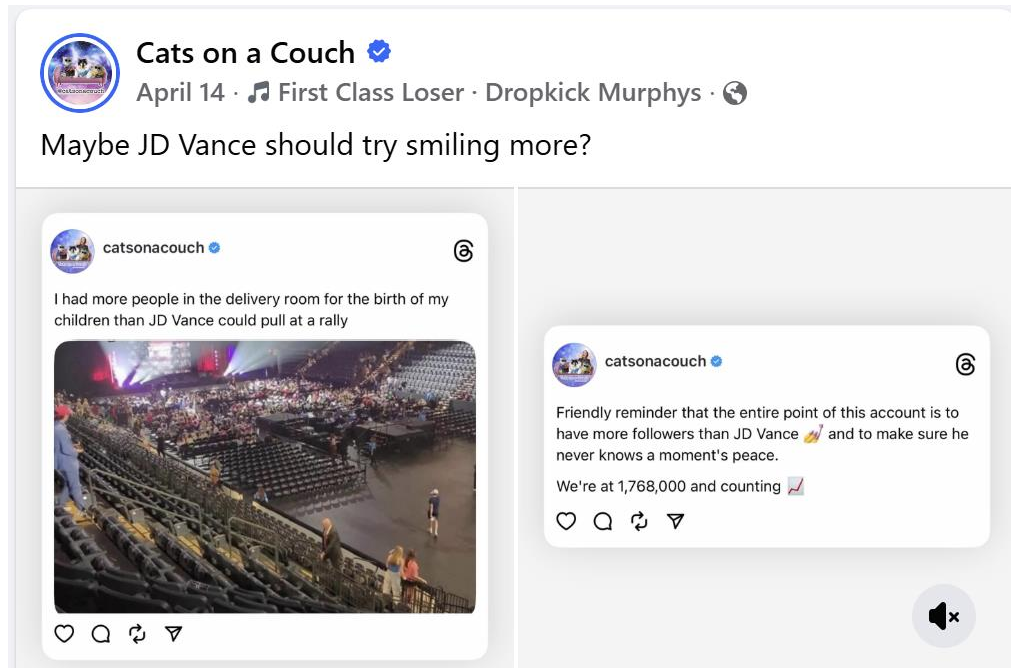
11. For example, on April 10, I posted images of cats reacting to headlines from various news sources that Vice President Vance's approval ratings were dropping.



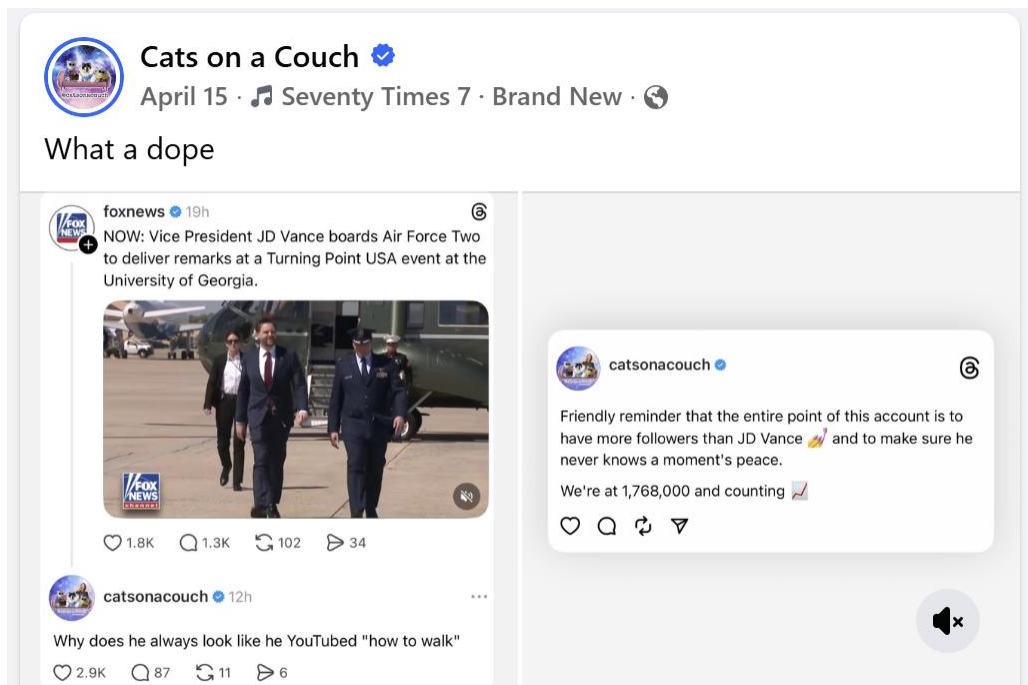
12. On April 13, I posted about the election in Hungary in which the country ousted its former leader Viktor Orbán, despite (or maybe because of) Vice President Vance traveling to Hungary to campaign for Orbán.



13. On April 14, I joked that “I had more people in the delivery room for the birth of my children than JD Vance could pull at a rally.”

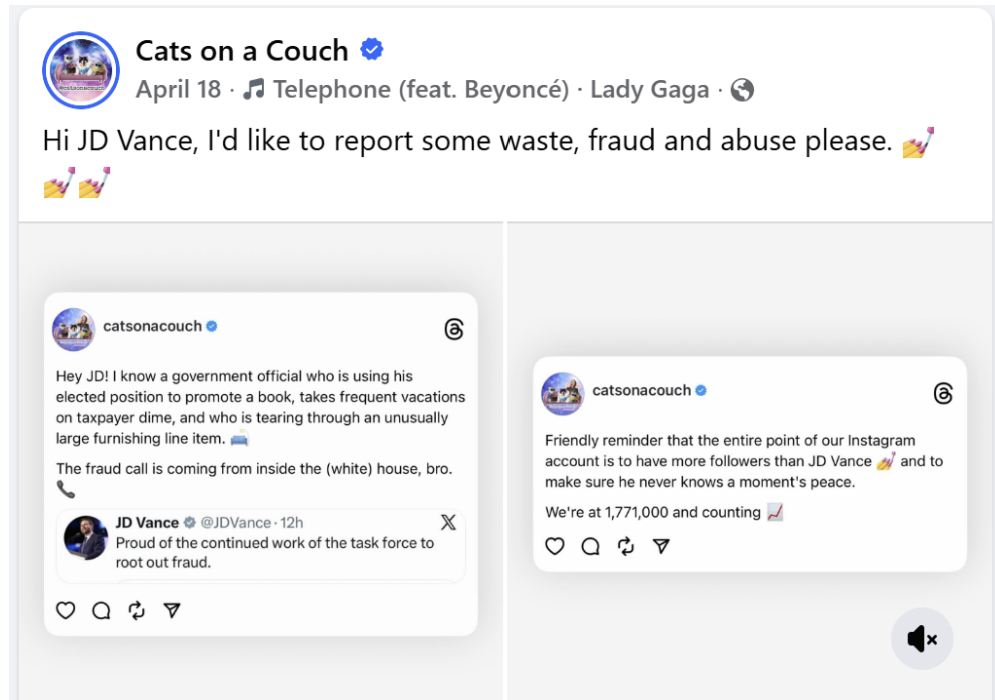


14. On April 15, I posted a video of Vice President Vance and asked “Why does he always look like he Youtubed ‘how to walk.’”



15. On April 18, I responded to a social media post from Vice President Vance stating that he was “[p]roud of the continued work of the task force to root out fraud.” I posted: “I know

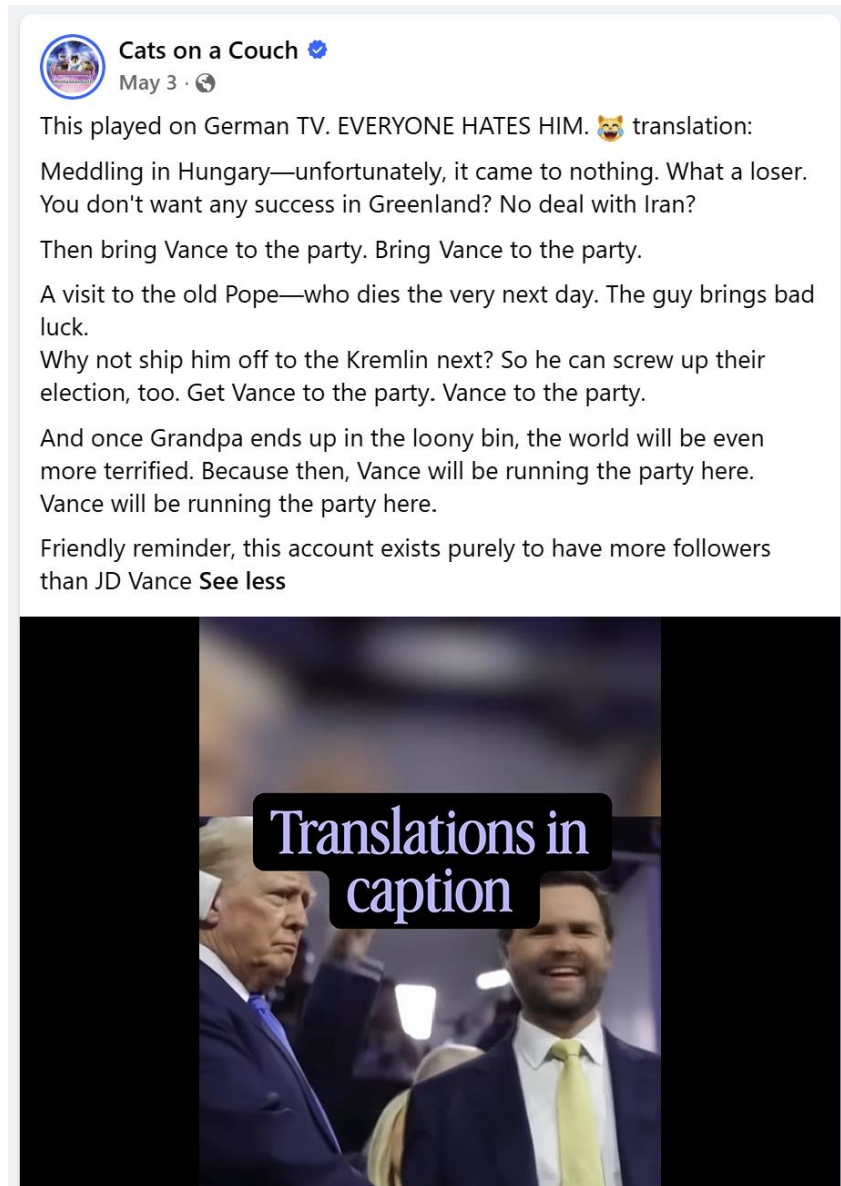
a government official who is using his elected position to promote a book, takes frequent vacations on taxpayer dime, and who is tearing through an unusually large furnishing line item” (with an image of a couch).



16. On April 22, I posted a list of Google alerts that were critical of Vice President Vance, including one stating: ““On a HUMILIATION tour’: JD Vance falls flat with MAGA after EMPTY TPUSA [Turning Point USA] event, unpopular Pope feud.”



17. On May 3, I posted a clip from German TV about Vice President Vance “[m]eddling” in the election in Hungary and otherwise mocking JD Vance.



18. In video post, I criticized the Vice President for using a picture of a Methodist church on the cover of his memoir about his conversion to Catholicism, explaining that it was like “putting a stock photo of a cat on the cover of a book about dog training.” I also called the Vice President a “walking talking cautionary tale of what happens when mediocrity gets a promotion.”

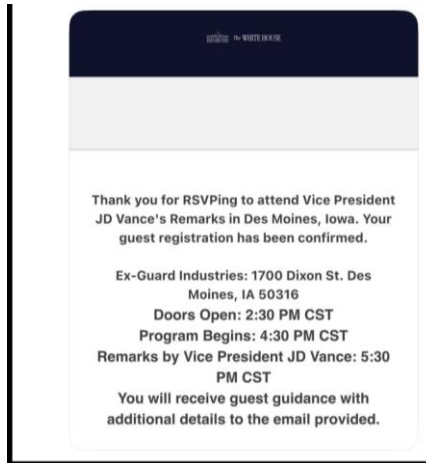
19. Other posts include comments such as: “If I had a nickel for every one of JD Vance’s redeeming qualities I’d have none nickels,” and “JD Vance is a knob.”

20. In addition to these posts critical of JD Vance, I also post about causes that are important to me, including mutual aid for people impacted by crackdowns by immigration officials. The CatsOnACouch community has raised more than \$200,000 in donations used to purchase items for people in need, including baby formula, non-perishable items, cold weather gear, gas cards, grocery cards, and other essentials for people impacted by these immigration crackdowns.

21. Given the size of the CatsOnACouch online community, Trump Administration officials know about CatsOnACouch and about me specifically. For example, at a protest in Nantucket, Massachusetts in July 2025, a Secret Service officer told me that “of course” they knew about CatsOnACouch.

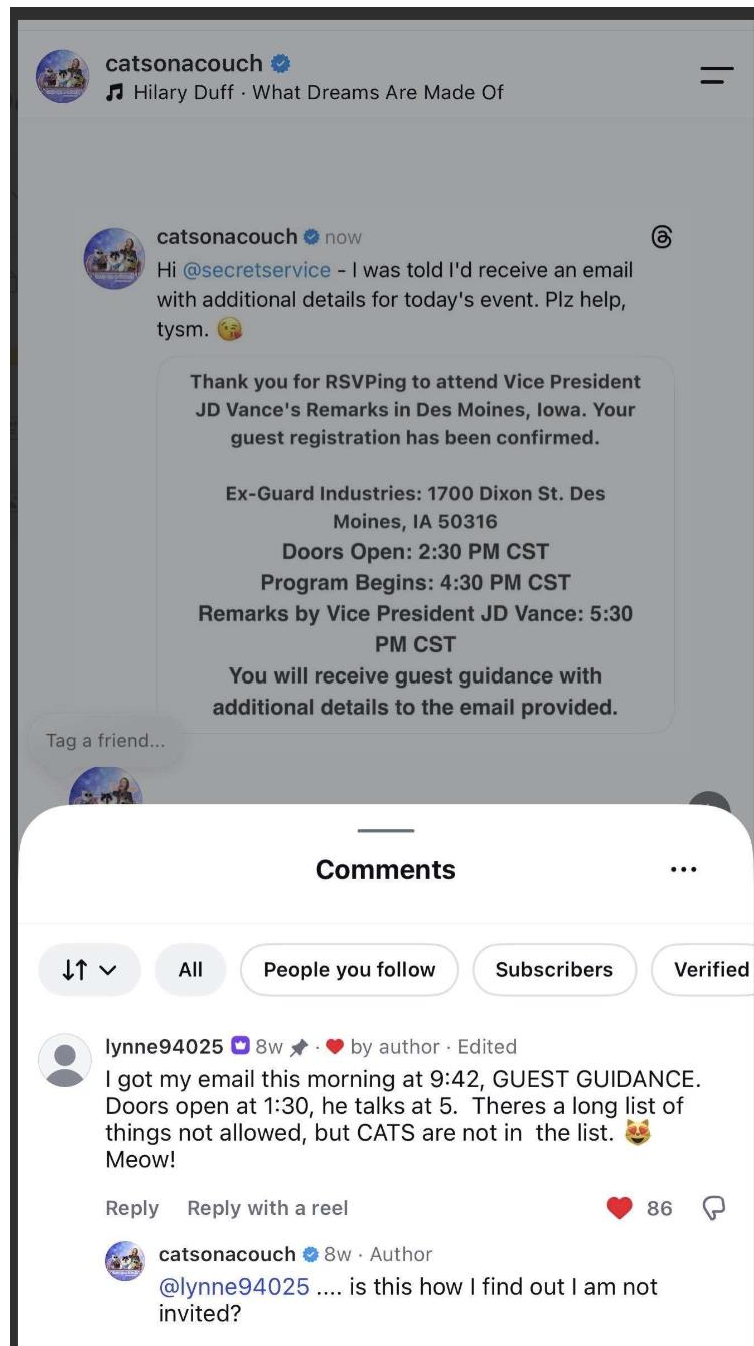
22. As part of my platform, I have an interest in attending events held by Vice President Vance—to express my views as a dissenting audience member, to hear what the Vice President has to say, and to gather information to share with my followers.

23. On May 5, 2026, Vice President Vance held an event in Des Moines, Iowa, where he discussed (among other things), his work on the fraud task force. I registered for the Des Moines Event using my real name and identity. After registering for the Des Moines Event, I received notice from the Office of Presidential Advance that guest guidance and additional details would be provided.



24. However, I never received a confirmation email with guest guidance, even though other people did.

25. For example, one person confirmed that they received guest guidance with details on the timing of the event and other attendance details.

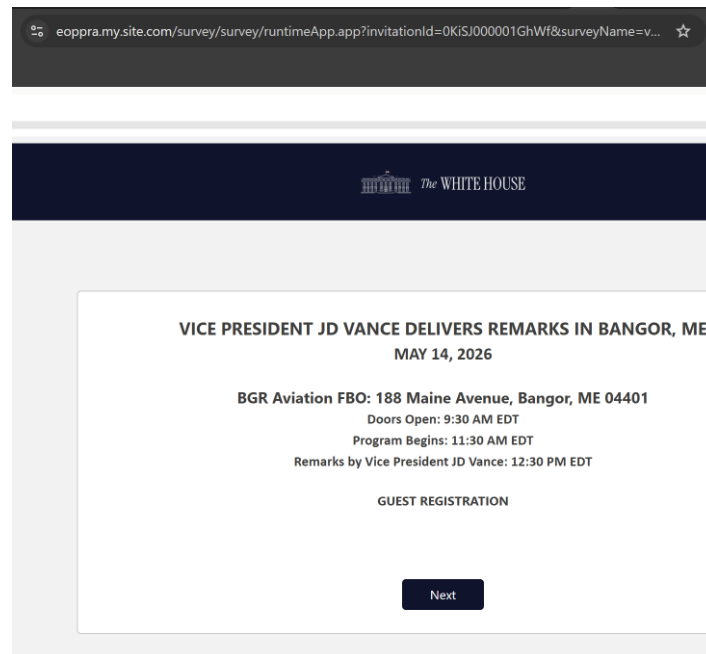


26. I never received guest guidance for the Des Moines event.

27. After the Des Moines event, the official White House website publicized a video of the event.<sup>1</sup>

28. On May 14, 2026, Vice President Vance held another event in Bangor, Maine.

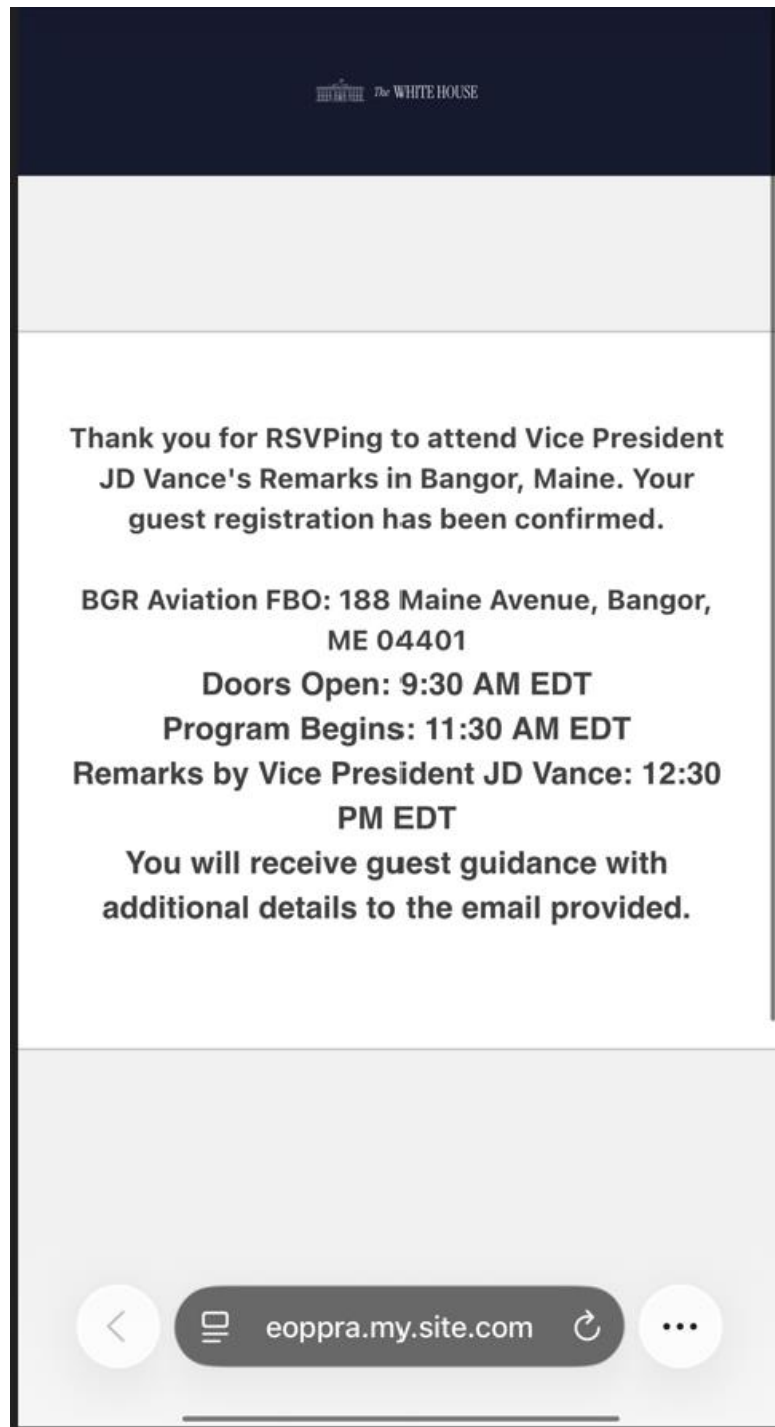
29. The government organized registration for the event, making a link available for the public to register for the event. Below is a screenshot that I took of the registration page for the Bangor Event, showing that the page has official White House branding.



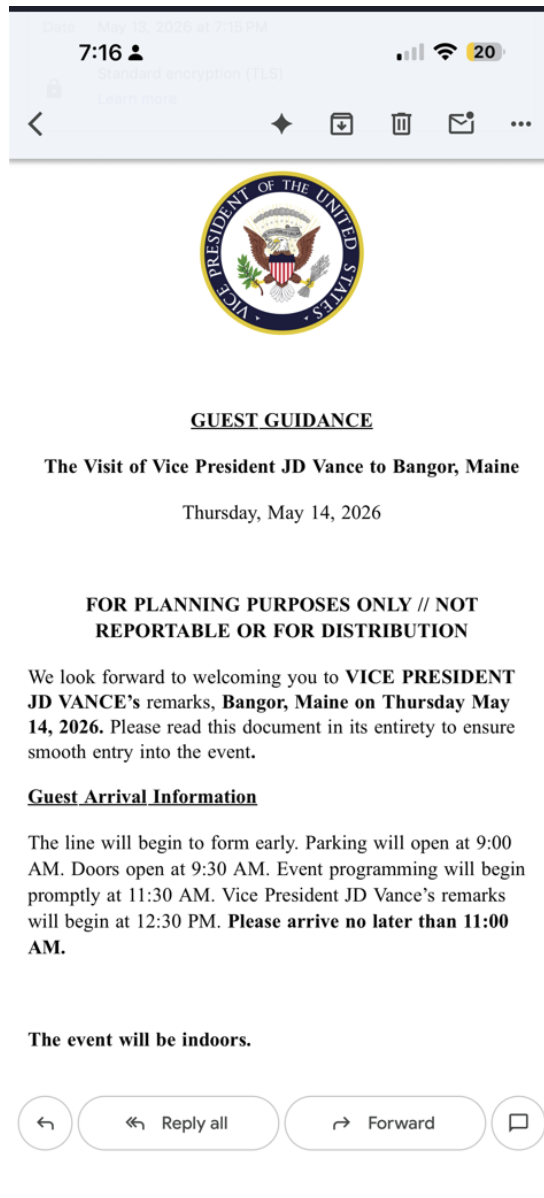
30. I registered for the Bangor Event and received confirmation with White House branding:

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<sup>1</sup> The White House Videos, *Vice President JD Vance Delivers Remarks in Des Moines, Iowa*, THE WHITE HOUSE, at 33:00 (May 5, 2026), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/videos/vice-president-jd-vance-delivers-remarks-in-des-moines-iowa/>.



31. The government also provided guest guidance and details for attending the Bangor Event:



32. The guest guidance included the official seal of the Office of the Vice President of the United States.

33. I complied with all guest guidance, including the prohibition on carrying bags or purses, or bringing signs or placards.

34. I arrived in Bangor as instructed by the guest guidance and stood in line with a friend.

35. While I was standing in line, a group of five officials, including two armed Secret Service officers, approached me and singled me out by name, calling me “Amanda.”

36. Two officials accompanying the Secret Service officers wore “S” pins.

37. Another official wore a suit with a pin including an official seal.

38. Below are images of some of the officials who excluded me from the Bangor Event:





39. These officials excluded me from the event, telling me that “we know where you stand.”

40. I responded that “it is a cat account; this is silly.”

41. Officials told me that the event was “private,” even though (1) the government had invited members of the public to register to attend the event, (2) other members of the public were

permitted to register and to attend, and (3) registration and publicity for the event were provided through official government channels.

42. I asked for confirmation, stating: “To be clear, it’s a private event and even though I received my registration via email, I can’t attend.”

43. An official responded, “that is correct.”

44. The officials also excluded my friend who was standing with me in line because of his association with me.

45. There was no reason for ejecting my friend other than his association with me.

46. The officials did not exclude anyone else standing in line around us. Additionally, other people standing in line wearing political attire supportive of the Trump Administration were permitted to enter the event.

47. The officials did not provide any reason for excluding us other than their statement that “we know where you stand.”

48. The officials did not articulate any safety concern or failure to comply with the rules as a basis for excluding my friend and me.

49. My friend and I posed no safety threat and complied with all guest guidance for the event.

50. After the event, a video of the Bangor Event was posted on the official White House website.<sup>2</sup> The video featured both the speech by Vice President Vance and the audience reactions to the Vice President’s speech, including cheering, booing, and shouting out messages.

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<sup>2</sup> The White House Videos, *Vice President JD Vance Delivers Remarks in Bangor, Maine*, THE WHITE HOUSE (May 14, 2026), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/videos/vice-president-jd-vance-delivers-remarks-in-bangor-maine/>.

51. Because the government excluded me from the Bangor Event, I was unable to express my views at the official event as a dissenting audience member.

52. For example, I wore a t-shirt stating “jd vance cured my imposter syndrome” to the Bangor Event. Although my t-shirt was under an outer layer while I was standing in line, I intended to display the message inside the event.

53. If I had been able to attend the Bangor Event, I would have expressed my dissenting views by, for example, staying silent or booing while others clapped or cheered, smiling, frowning, crossing my arms, and wearing clothing with political messages.

54. Because I was excluded from the Bangor Event, I was also unable to share information about the Vice President’s live remarks with my followers on social media.

55. Based on my experiences in Nantucket in 2025, the Des Moines event, and the Bangor event, it is clear to me that the government (including the Secret Service) knows who I am and the messages I stand for.

56. I understand that many people would be fearful of continuing to criticize the administration after being excluded from official events and being singled out by armed officers at an event.

57. I am aware that protesters and activists have been targeted by the administration for their speech. For example, in 2025, a Boston resident known as Robby Roadsteamer was arrested for singing a parody of a Rod Stewart song outside of a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility, while dressed as a giraffe.<sup>10</sup>

58. I am deeply troubled by news reports and anecdotes about people being arrested or retaliated against because of their speech.

59. However, I am part of a strong community devoted to political advocacy, and we support each other to continue speaking out even when we're afraid of retaliation by the government.

60. Despite being targeted for exclusion from past government events, I intend to continue my advocacy.

61. I registered to attend an upcoming official vice-presidential event in Brewer, Maine, on August 24, 2026.



## 2026

Mon, August 24, 2026 - 11:00 am (US/Eastern)

Doors Open: 09:00 AM

Compotech

55 Baker Blvd

Brewer, ME 04412 

Vice President JD VANCE Delivers Remarks in  
Brewer, Maine - August 24, 2026

Please Arrive by 11:00 AM

You may only register up to (1) ticket per mobile  
number per event. All tickets are subject to first  
come first serve basis.

Required fields are marked with an asterisk (\*).

First Name \*

Last Name \*

Email \*

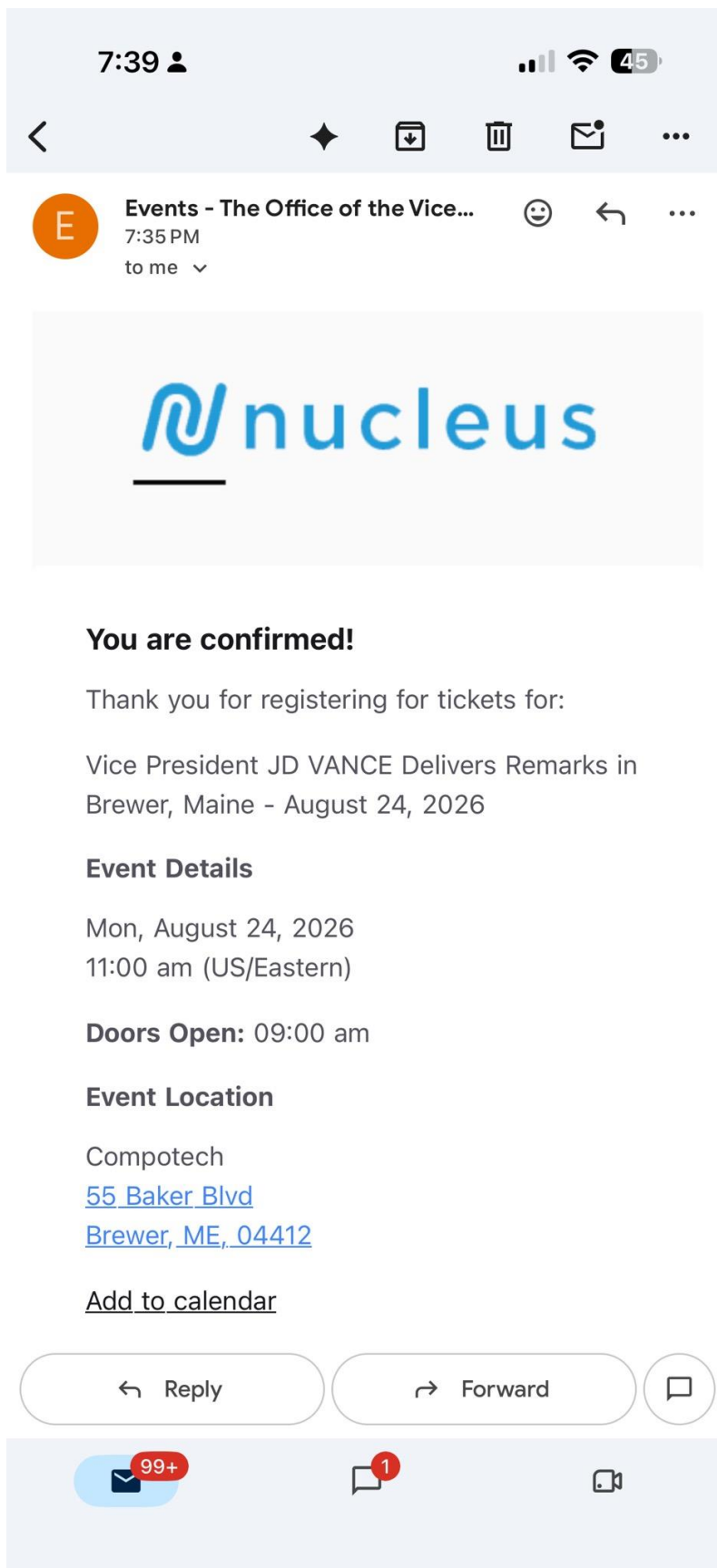
Mobile Number \*

[ovp.nucleuspages.com](http://ovp.nucleuspages.com)

62. I registered to attend the event in the evening on August 20, 2026.



63. I received confirmation of my registration for the event:



You are Confirmed! External Inbox



Events - The Office of the Vice...  
7:35 PM  
to me ^



From Events - The Office of the Vice President  
noreply@events.campaignnucleus.com

Reply To Events - The Office of the Vice President  
noreply@events.campaignnucleus.com

To amanda@catsonacouch.com

64. I plan to attend the event on August 24, 2026.

65. I also intend to register for and attend future vice-presidential events located anywhere in the country. Based on my experience, registration for these events is typically available only approximately two business days before the event.

66. If I can attend these upcoming events, I intend to listen to the vice president's remarks, gather information to share with my followers, and express my views as an audience member by cheering, booing, and wearing attire with political messages.

67. Based on my recent experiences, I believe that absent judicial relief, the government will exclude me from these upcoming events.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Executed this 20th day of August, 2026, in Falmouth, Massachusetts.

/s/ Amanda McGonigle  
Amanda McGonigle