Hi Jo Ellen,

I'd like to apply for funding to go to the DNC and gather interviews and information on four important MPREP topics:

Surveillance and Law Enforcement
I will take what I learned at this week's briefing and investigate what it looks like in action during a high security event. Has the city of Charlotte employed cameras? Drones? Have Occupy and other activist groups been monitored on- and off-line? What government actions are legal and which are outside the law? I can talk to local law professors, the local ACLU, activists and others.

Smartphone Apps and the 2012 Election
How have both parties used smartphones and social media to access more data on voters? Here are some links about this underreported privacy threat.

**[Obama’s app: Creepy, or innovative?](http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/obama-campaign-app-concerns-some-privacy-advocates/2012/08/07/548ed7f2-e0b6-11e1-8fc5-a7dcf1fc161d_story.html%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)**

The campaign’s app, which maps the location of nearby Democrats, has privacy advocates worried.

 **[Pandora](http://www.propublica.org/article/pandora-asks-listeners-to-share-their-emails-with-romney%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)**[Asks Listeners to Share Their Emails With](http://www.propublica.org/article/pandora-asks-listeners-to-share-their-emails-with-romney%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)**[Romney](http://www.propublica.org/article/pandora-asks-listeners-to-share-their-emails-with-romney%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)** ProPublica

**[EPIC: Voters Should Be Wary of 2012 Election Apps](http://epic.org/2012/08/epic-voters-should-be-wary-of-.html%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)**

Political TV Ads
North Carolina is one of the states where Free Press' "political ad sleuths" have already gotten to work, investigating the data on political ad buys newly accessible after the FCC's recent ruling. I'd like to ask about the massive influx of money being poured into the election by Super PACs and non-profit groups, in  an important swing state and convention state. What information still isn't available after this big transparency step? This story could involve trips to local TV stations.

Internet Freedom and Party Platforms

Open Internet groups recently launched an action website and campaign to demand the Republican and Democratic Parties put a commitment to internet freedom in their respective party platforms at the upcoming conventions. The campaign will work in conjunction with supportive platform committee members of both parties and will include petitions to both parties. The action website and petition language can be seen here: [http://voteforthenet.com/](http://voteforthenet.com/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

I'd like to apply for 500 dollars, as you suggested, which would go towards my plane fare, public transportation and food. If there's more funding available, that would be even better! I can submit receipts when I return. Let me know if you have any additional questions.

Thank you so much for helping me cover this important event!