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FOURTH QUARTER 2024 REPORT

October 2024 – December 2024

The following is a report of the work of the Office of Congressional Ethics (“OCE”) in the fourth quarter of 2024 for the 118th Congress.

The OCE is an independent, non-partisan entity charged with reviewing allegations of misconduct involving Members, officers and staff of the House and, when appropriate, referring matters to the House Committee on Ethics. Additional information about the OCE’s process is available on its website: <http://oce.house.gov>.

Key Takeaways

- In the 118th Congress, nine of the twenty-three reviews authorized by the OCE Board were transmitted to the House Committee on Ethics for further review. Of the 14 remaining authorized reviews, 8 were terminated in the preliminary review phase and 6 were dismissed by the Board after the conclusion of a second-phase review.
- In the fourth quarter of 2024, the OCE added an interactive investigations table to its website. The table lists all public OCE reports.
- In the fourth quarter of 2024, the House Committee on Ethics announced 45-day extensions for two matters referred to them by the OCE. The matter involving Rep. Andy Ogles is scheduled for release in the 118th Congress. The matter involving Rep. Cory Mills is scheduled for release in the 119th Congress.
- In the matter regarding Rep. Cherfilus-McCormick, transmitted to the Committee on Ethics by the OCE on September 25, 2023, the Investigative Subcommittee has not yet concluded its review. Accordingly, the OCE’s referral containing findings of fact shall be made public before the end of the 118th Congress. The release of the report in a second OCE referral related to Rep. Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick will occur by May 29, 2025 if the Investigative Subcommittee has not yet concluded its review, with the release of the full referral required by the end of the 119th Congress.

Board Actions

A. OCE ACTIVITY IN THE 118th CONGRESS

The following is a statistical summary of the Board's actions during the 118th Congress.¹

Type of Action Date		Commence Preliminary Review	Matter Terminated	Commence Phase II Review	Commence Phase II Review Extension	Transmit Referral for Review	Transmit Referral for Dismissal	Transmittal Referral as Unresolved ²
2023	1 st Quarter	2	0	2	0	0	0	0
	2 nd Quarter	6	2	4	4	1	1	0
	3 rd Quarter	2	1	1	2	1	3	0
	4 th Quarter	5	2	1	1	2	0	0
2024	1 st Quarter	4	2	4	3	2	0	0
	2 nd Quarter	4	1	3	2	1	0	0
	3 rd Quarter	0	0	0	2	2	2	0
	4 th Quarter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total for 118th Congress		23	8	15	14	9	6	0

¹ In the 118th Congress, the OCE opened reviews involving fourteen Democratic subjects and nine Republican subjects.

² Pursuant to H. Res. 895, in a case where the Board cannot resolve the matter due to a tie vote, the Board will transmit the referral to the Committee with a statement that the matter is unresolved.

B. OCE ACTIVITY SINCE INCEPTION

The following is a statistical summary of the Board's actions since the OCE began conducting investigations in February 2009. Of the 258 investigations the office began, approximately 43.0 percent have been referred to the Committee on Ethics for further review, approximately 53.9 percent have been terminated or dismissed, and approximately 0.4 percent have been referred as unresolved. For 2.7 percent of investigations, the OCE lost jurisdiction during preliminary review.

Type of Action Date	Commence Preliminary Review	Matter Terminated	Commence Phase II Review	Commence Phase II Review Extension	Transmit Referral for Review	Transmit Referral for Dismissal	Transmit Referral as Unresolved
111th Congress	69	28	41	36	22	18	0
112th Congress	32	5	25 ³	19	13	10	0
113th Congress	36	14	22	17	16	6	0
114th Congress	35	11	24	14	18	6	0
115th Congress	22	7	15	7	11	2	0
116th Congress	18	5	13	10	7	6	0
117th Congress	23	5	18	14	15	2	1
118th Congress	23	8	15	14	9	6	0
Total	258⁴	83	173	131	111	56	1

³ Subjects of two additional preliminary reviews resigned in the 112th Congress and were no longer subject to Board or Committee jurisdiction. Therefore, the Board took no further action.

⁴ The total number of cases terminated, unresolved, referred for further review, or referred for dismissal by the OCE adds up to 251. The OCE lost jurisdiction in seven cases that were in preliminary review.

C. TYPES OF INVESTIGATIONS

The OCE has jurisdiction to investigate any alleged violation of a “law, rule, regulation or other standard of conduct.” The following is a graphical explanation of the categories of preliminary reviews conducted since the OCE’s inception through the end of the 118th Congress. The categories are defined by the House Ethics Manual⁵:

Chapter 2: Gifts

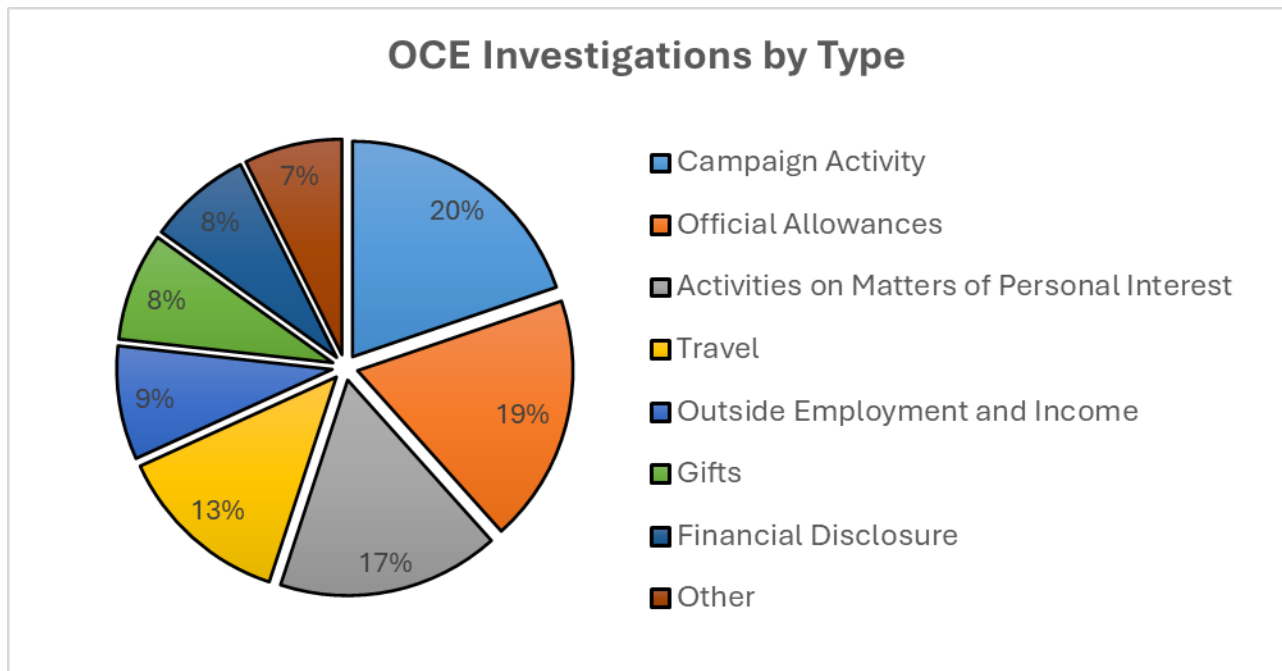
Chapter 3: Travel

Chapter 4: Campaign Activity

Chapter 5: Outside Employment and Income / Activities on Matters of Personal Interest

Chapter 6: Financial Disclosure

Chapter 9: Official Allowances



⁵ The House Ethics Manual can be found at the following link: <https://ethics.house.gov/manual/>

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

Any member of the public may bring a matter of suspected misconduct involving a Member, officer or staff of the House to the attention of the OCE. The OCE received approximately 29,751 communications from private citizens during the 118th Congress. The OCE has received approximately 88,010 communications from private citizens since its inception. These communications include requests for information about the OCE and its procedures, as well as submissions of information regarding allegations of misconduct.

Date	Citizen Communications
111 th Congress	5,121
112 th Congress	5,390
113 th Congress	1,360
114 th Congress	6,285
115 th Congress	13,380
116 th Congress	6,136
117 th Congress	20,587
118 th Congress	29,751
Total	88,010

Public Release Schedule

The OCE's reports and findings in all matters recommended for further review must be made public according to the schedule contained in House Resolution 895 of the 110th Congress, as amended. A chart depicting this schedule for public disclosure of reports is available on the OCE website at <https://oce.house.gov/about/citizen-s-guide>. The following is a summary of the various matters that the OCE has referred to the Committee on Ethics that are pending release.

Review No.	Status	Release Date
23-7239	On September 25, 2023, the OCE referred a matter to the Committee on Ethics for further review. The matter is currently in an Investigative Subcommittee.	Before the end of the 118th Congress on January 3, 2025.
24-3057	On August 2, 2024, the OCE referred a matter to the Committee on Ethics for further review.	The Committee, in its 45-day extension announcement, stated that they would announce its course of action on or before January 2, 2025.
24-2323	On August 29, 2024, the OCE referred a matter to the Committee on Ethics for further review.	The Committee, in its 45-day extension announcement, stated that they would announce its course of action following its organizational meeting and adoption of Committee Rules in the 119th Congress.