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## FIRST QUARTER 2026 REPORT

January 2026 – March 2026

The Office of Congressional Conduct (“OCC”), formerly known as the Office of Congressional Ethics, is an independent, non-partisan entity charged with reviewing allegations of misconduct involving Members, officers and staff of the United States House of Representatives and, when appropriate, referring matters to the House Committee on Ethics. Additional information about the OCC is available on our website: <http://conduct.house.gov>.

The following is a report of the OCC’s work in the first quarter of 2026 for the 119th Congress.

### Key Takeaways

- On March 4, 2026, the OCC Board voted to refer one matter concerning former Representative Tony Gonzales to the House Committee on Ethics, with a recommendation for further review.
- This quarter, the House Committee on Ethics released three OCC referrals for further review concerning Representative Mike Collins, Mr. Brandon Phillips and Representative Nancy Mace.
- On January 29, 2026, the House Committee on Ethics announced that an investigative subcommittee had transmitted a Statement of Alleged Violations regarding Representative Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick. This statement included allegations originally referred by the OCC and led to the appointment of an adjudicatory subcommittee. Following a public hearing on March 27, 2026, that subcommittee determined that counts 1–15 and 17–26 were established by clear and convincing evidence. On April 21, 2026, the congresswoman resigned, causing the House Committee on Ethics to lose jurisdiction of this matter.
- The OCC processed approximately 3,357 citizen communications regarding misconduct allegations or procedural inquiries.

## **Scheduled Releases**

This quarter, the OCC transmitted one referral to the Committee on Ethics for further review regarding former Representative Tony Gonzales. On March 12, 2026, the Committee on Ethics announced that it had voted to establish an investigative subcommittee whose scope includes the allegations in the OCC referral. On April 14, 2026, the congressman resigned, causing the House Committee on Ethics to lose jurisdiction of this matter.

## **Rule 12 Requests (Cease and Refer)**

On November 19, 2025, the Committee requested that the OCC Board cease and refer a matter pursuant to House Rule XI, clause 3(r), and Committee Rule 17 A(k)(1). On December 16, 2025, pursuant to OCC Rule 12 of the OCC Rules for the Conduct of Investigation, the Board voted to grant the request and to make monthly inquiries regarding the status of the Committee's investigation. Pursuant to its rules, the OCC Board will continue to monitor this investigation.

## Board Actions

The following is a statistical summary of the Board’s actions in the 119th Congress, including the first quarter of 2026 (highlighted in blue).

Date	Reviews				Transmittals		
	Commence Preliminary Review	Termination	Phase II Review	Phase II Review Extension	Further Review	Dismissal	Unresolved
<i>January 28</i>	3	0	0	0	1	0	0
<i>February 25</i>	2	1	2	0	0	0	0
<i>March 25</i>	0	0	2 <sup>1</sup>	2	0	0	0
<b>Total for First Quarter</b>	5	1	4	2	1	0	0
<b>Total from 2025</b>	13	5	8	6	3	3	1 <sup>2</sup>
<b>119th Congress</b>	18	6	12	8	4	3	1

## 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 OCC. The OCC received 3,357 communications from private citizens during the first quarter of 2026. These communications included requests for information about the OCC and its procedures and submissions of information regarding allegations of misconduct.

<sup>1</sup> On April 14, 2026, the subject of one of these reviews resigned. Accordingly, the OCC no longer has jurisdiction over that subject.

<sup>2</sup> On November 19, 2025, the Committee requested that the OCC Board cease and refer a matter pursuant to House Rule XI, clause 3(r), and Committee Rule 17 A(k)(1). On December 16, 2025, pursuant to OCC Rule 12 of the OCC Rules for the Conduct of Investigation, the Board voted to grant the request and to make monthly inquiries regarding the status of the Committee’s investigation.