House Republicans Ignored Financial Disclosure Deadline Despite Receiving 90-Day Extensions

To Identify And Regulate Possible Corrupt Conflicts Of Interest, House Members Are Required To File Annual Financial Disclosure Reports, Which "Disclose Outside Compensation, Holdings, And Business Transactions," With Those Who File Late Required To Pay A \$200 Late Fee And Those Who "Knowingly And Willfully Falsif[y] Or Fail To File Or To Report Any Required Information" Subject To Civil Penalty, Fines, And Imprisonment.

House Members File Public Disclosures Of Assets, Financial Interests, And Investments To Regulate Possible Conflicts Of Interest, Or Outright Corruption, That Can Otherwise Be A "Problem" To Identify.

A Conflict Of Interest Arises When "An Official's Private Financial Interests Conflict Or Appear To Conflict With The Public Interest," Some Of Which Are "Inherent In A Representative System Of Government, And Are Not In Themselves Necessarily Improper Or Unethical." "As noted by the Bipartisan Task Force on Ethics: The problem of conflicts of interest involves complex and difficult issues, especially with respect to the legislative branch. A conflict of interest is generally defined as a situation in which an official's private financial interests conflict or appear to conflict with the public interest. Some conflicts of interest are inherent in a representative system of government, and are not in themselves necessarily improper or unethical. Members of Congress frequently maintain economic interests that merge or correspond with the interests of their constituents. This community of interests is in the nature of representative government, and is therefore inevitable and unavoidable." [U.S. House Committee on Ethics, accessed 06/15/23]

A Conflict Of Interest "Becomes Corruption When An Official Uses His Position Of Influence To Enhance His Personal Financial Interests," Which Can Often Be A "Problem" To Identify. "At the other extreme, a conflict of interest becomes corruption when an official uses his position of influence to enhance his personal financial interests. Between these extremes are those ambiguous circumstances which may create a real or potential conflict of interest. The problem is identifying those instances in which an official allows his personal economic interests to impair his independence of judgment in the conduct of his public duties." [U.S. House Committee on Ethics, accessed 06/15/23]

The Public Disclosure Of Assets, Financial Interests, And Investments Has Become "The Preferred Method Of Regulating Possible Conflicts Of Interest" For Members Of The House Of Representatives, Allowing "Members' Constituencies To Judge Their Official Conduct In Light Of Possible Financial Conflicts With Private Holdings." "Thus, public disclosure of assets, financial interests, and investments has been required as the preferred method of regulating possible conflicts of interest of Members of the House and certain congressional staff. Public disclosure is intended to provide the information necessary to allow Members' constituencies to judge their official conduct in light of possible financial conflicts with private holdings. Review of a Member's financial conduct occurs in the context of the political process." [U.S. House Committee on Ethics, accessed 06/15/23]

"The Ethics In Government Act Requires Members, Officers, And Certain Employees Of The U.S. House Of Representatives" To File Annual Financial Disclosure Reports, Which "Disclose Outside Compensation, Holdings, And Business Transactions" To Determine Compliance With House Rules And Statutes.

"The Ethics In Government Act Requires Members, Officers, And Certain Employees Of The U.S. House Of Representatives And Related Offices To File Annual Financial Disclosure Statements," The Most Recent Of Which Were Due On Or Before May 15, 2023. "The Ethics in Government Act requires Members, officers, and certain employees of the U.S. House of Representatives and related offices to file annual Financial Disclosure Statements with the Clerk of the House. The next annual Financial Disclosure Statement will cover 2022 and must be filed on or before May 15, 2023." [U.S. House Committee on Ethics, accessed 06/15/23]

October 1978: The Ethics In Government Act Became Law. [Congress, accessed <u>06/15/23</u>]

Financial Disclosure Statements Must "Disclose Outside Compensation, Holdings, And Business Transactions" Within A Calendar Year. "As such, Financial Disclosure Statements must disclose outside compensation, holdings, and business transactions, generally for the calendar year preceding the filing date. In all instances, filers may disclose additional information or explanation at their discretion." [U.S. House Committee on Ethics, accessed <u>06/15/23</u>]

House Rules And Statutes State That Members And Employees Of Congress "May Not Use Their Official Positions For Personal Gain," "Accept Benefits" That Might Influence Their Actions In Government, Nor "Use Any Information Received Confidentially" As A "Means For Making Private Profit":

In addition, statutes and House rules restrict income from outside financial interests or govern aspects of the business dealings or investments of House Members and employees, as follows:

- Members and employees of Congress may not use their official positions for personal gain;5
- Members may not enter into or enjoy benefits under contracts or agreements with the United States;6
- Members and employees should not engage in any business with the federal government, either directly or indirectly, that is inconsistent with the conscientious performance of their congressional duties;7
- Members and employees may not receive any compensation or allow any compensation to accrue to their beneficial interests from any source if its receipt would occur by virtue of influence improperly exerted from a position in the Congress;8
- Members and employees of the House may not accept benefits under circumstances that might be construed by reasonable persons as influencing the performance of their governmental duties; 9 and
- Members and employees should never use any information received confidentially in the performance of governmental duties as a means for making private profit.10

[U.S. House Committee on Ethics, accessed <u>06/15/23</u>]

After Financial Disclosure Reports Are Filed—With Those Who File Late
Required To Pay A \$200 Late Fee—The Committee On Ethics Reviews The
Reports To Determine Whether Reports "Appear Substantially Accurate And
Complete, And Comply With Applicable Conflict Of Interest Laws," And Those
That Do Not Possibly Resulting In A Civil Penalty, Fine, Or Imprisonment.

Financial Disclosure Reports Must Be Filed By 11:59 On The Due Date Or, At Maximum, 90 Days With An Extension, With Those Who File Late Required To Pay A \$200 Late Fee. "A report must be electronically filed by 11:59 p.m. eastern time on the due date using the electronic filing system or postmarked by the due date if you are filing on paper, unless an extension has been granted by the Committee pursuant to a written request. Total extensions for any report may not exceed 90 days. An individual who files a report more than 30 days after it is due must pay a late filing fee of \$200, unless the Committee waives the fee in exceptional circumstances." [U.S. House Committee on Ethics, accessed 06/15/23]

After Receipt Of The Reports, The Committee On Ethics Reviews Financial Disclosure Statements And Periodic Transaction Reports "To Determine Whether The Reports Have Been Filed In A Timely Manner, Appear Substantially Accurate And Complete, And Comply With Applicable Conflict Of Interest Laws." "Within 60 days of receipt, the Committee on Ethics reviews Financial Disclosure Statements and Periodic Transaction Reports of filers under its jurisdiction to determine whether the reports have been filed in a timely manner, appear substantially accurate and complete, and comply with applicable conflict of interest laws and rules. If the review indicates a possible problem, the reporting individual is notified and given an opportunity to amend within a specified period." [U.S. House Committee on Ethics, accessed 06/15/23]

The Ethics In Government Act Authorized The United States Attorney General To "Seek A Civil Penalty Of Up To \$50,000 Against An Individual Who Knowingly And Willfully Falsifies Or Fails To File Or To Report Any Required Information" And Under "Criminal Law, Anyone Who Knowingly And Willfully Falsifies Or Conceals Any Material" May Be Fined Up To \$50,000, Imprisoned For Up To Five Years, Or Both." "The financial disclosure provisions of the Ethics in Government Act have been incorporated by reference as a rule of the House of Representatives, over which the Standards Committee has jurisdiction. In addition to any Committee action, EIGA authorizes the Attorney General of the United States to seek a civil penalty of up to \$50,000 against an individual who knowingly and willfully falsifies or fails to file or to report any required information. Moreover, under federal criminal law, anyone who knowingly and willfully falsifies or conceals any material fact in a statement to the government may be fined up to \$50,000, imprisoned for up to five years, or both." [U.S. House Committee on Ethics, accessed 06/15/23]

Seven House Republicans Have Yet To File Financial Disclosures Despite Receiving 90-Day Extensions To Do So.

Rep. George Devolder-Santos (R-NY03) Has Yet To File His 2022 Financial Disclosure Despite A 90-Day Extension.

On May 15, 2023, Rep. George Devolder-Santos (R-NY03) Filed A 90-Day Extension Request For His 2022 Financial Disclosure For A New Due Date Of August 13, 2023. [Clerk of the House of Representatives, 05/13/23]

• Rep. Devolder-Santos Has Yet To File His 2022 Financial Disclosure As Of August 16, 2023. [Search of the House Financial Disclosure Database, <u>08/16/23</u>]

Rep. Kat Cammack (R-FL03) Has Yet To File Her 2022 Financial Disclosure Despite a 90-day Extension.

On May 13, 2023, Rep. Kat Cammack (R-FL03) Filed A 90-Day Extension Request For Her 2022 Financial Disclosure For A New Due Date Of August 13, 2023. [Clerk of the House of Representatives, 05/13/23]

• Rep. Cammack Has Yet To File Her 2022 Financial Disclosure As Of August 16, 2023. [Search of the House Financial Disclosure Database, 08/16/23]

Rep. Bill Huizenga (R-MI04) Has Yet To File His 2022 Financial Disclosure Despite A 90-Day Extension.

On May 4, 2023, Rep. Bill Huizenga (R-MI04) Filed A 90-Day Extension Request For His 2022 Financial Disclosure For A New Due Date Of August 13, 2023. [Clerk of the House of Representatives, 05/04/23]

 Rep. Huizenga Has Yet To File His 2022 Financial Disclosure As Of August 16, 2023. [Search of the House Financial Disclosure Database, 08/16/23]

Rep. Brad Finstad Has (R-MN01) Yet To File His 2022 Financial Disclosure Despite A 90-Day Extension.

On May 15, 2023, Rep. Brad Finstad (R-MN01) Filed A 90-Day Extension Request For His 2022 Financial Disclosure For A New Due Date Of August 13, 2023. [Clerk of the House of Representatives, 05/15/23]

• Rep. Finstad Has Yet To File His 2022 Financial Disclosure As Of August 16, 2023. [Search of the House Financial Disclosure Database, 08/16/23]

Rep. Kelly Armstrong (R-ND At-Large) Has Yet To File His 2022 Financial Disclosure Despite A 90-Day Extension.

On April 12, 2023, Rep. Kelly Armstrong (R-ND At-Large) Filed A 90-Day Extension Request For His 2022 Financial Disclosure For A New Due Date Of August 13, 2023. [Clerk of the House of Representatives, 05/13/23]

• Rep. Armstrong Has Yet To File His 2022 Financial Disclosure As Of August 16, 2023. [Search of the House Financial Disclosure Database, 08/16/23]

Rep. John Rose (R-TN06) Has Yet To File His 2022 Financial Disclosure Despite A 90-Day Extension.

On May 10, 2023, Rep. John Rose (R-TN06) Filed A 90-Day Extension Request For His 2022 Financial Disclosure For A New Due Date Of August 13, 2023. [Clerk of the House of Representatives, 05/10/23]

• Rep. Rose Has Yet To File His 2022 Financial Disclosure As Of August 16, 2023. [Search of the House Financial Disclosure Database, <u>08/16/23</u>]

Rep. Michael McCaul (R-TX10) Has Yet To File His 2022 Financial Disclosure Despite A 90-Day Extension.

On April 19, 2023, Michael McCaul (R-TX10) Filed A 90-Day Extension Request For His 2022 Financial Disclosure For A New Due Date Of August 13, 2023. [Clerk of the House of Representatives, 04/19/23]

• Rep. McCaul Has Yet To File His 2022 Financial Disclosure As Of August 16, 2023. [Search of the House Financial Disclosure Database, 08/16/23]

House Republicans Andrew Clyde (R-GA09) And Marjorie Taylor Green (R-GA14) Filed Late Financial Disclosures Even After Receiving 90-Day Extensions.

Rep. Andrew Clyde (R-GA09) Filed His 2022 Financial Disclosure A Day Late Despite Receiving A 90-Day Extension.

On May 11, 2023, Rep. Andrew Clyde (R-GA09) Filed A 90-Day Extension Request For His 2022 Financial Disclosure For A New Due Date Of August 13, 2023. [Clerk of the House of Representatives, 05/13/23]

• On August 14, 2023, Rep. Clyde Filed His 2022 Financial Disclosure A Day Late. [Clerk of the House of Representatives, 08/14/23]

Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA14) Filed Her 2022 Financial Disclosure A Day Late Despite Receiving A 90-Day Extension.

On May 2, 2023, Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA14) Filed A 90-Day Extension Request For Her 2022 Financial Disclosure For A New Due Date Of August 13, 2023. [Clerk of the House of Representatives, 05/02/23]

• On August 14, 2023, Rep. Taylor Greene Filed Her 2022 Financial Disclosure A Day Late. [Clerk of the House of Representatives, 08/14/23]