

Omar Ashmawy
Chief Counsel
Office of Congressional Conduct
U.S. House of Representatives
425 3rd Street, S.W. Suite 1110
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Mr. Ashmawy,

We respectfully request that the Office of Congressional Conduct (“OCC”) investigate Representative Julie Johnson for soliciting political contributions on behalf of Democratic Party candidates during an official congressional hearing held by the Committee on House Administration.

I. Background

Representative Julie Johnson represents Texas’ 32nd Congressional District. On June 10, 2026, the Committee on House Administration held a hearing entitled “Preventing Fraudulent Donations: Transparency, Verification, and Accountability.”¹ The hearing centered around allegations that Regina Wallace-Jones, the chief executive of ActBlue – a digital fundraising machine utilized by Democrats – may have misled Congress about ActBlue’s ability to properly vet foreign donations. Ms. Wallace Jones’ own lawyers “warned her that she might have misled Congress about how the Democratic fund-raising organization vetted its foreign donations.”² ActBlue’s lawyers previously detailed that “[i]t can be alleged that ActBlue accepted and/or facilitated the acceptance of foreign-national contributions into American elections,” and there was “a substantial risk that some of the funds received were impermissible contributions from foreign nationals.”³

Given the utmost importance of our elections being free from foreign influence, and the growing concerns that ActBlue has allowed foreign money to flow into the U.S. political system, Rep. Johnson had an opportunity to diligently question the witness. Instead, Rep. Johnson used her bully pulpit to make a fundraising pitch on behalf of the Democratic Party and its candidates. Representative Johnson unequivocally solicited contributions for her colleagues by saying, “...**so my comment to the American people is vote, contribute through ActBlue, send money to your Democratic candidates. Make sure that Democrats win in November so we can stop this nonsense once and for all.**”⁴

II. Law

18 U.S.C. § 607(a)(1) prohibits Members of Congress from soliciting or receiving campaign contributions in federal offices in connection with federal, state, or local elections.

¹ Committee on House Administration, U.S. House of Representatives, [Full Committee Hearing: “Preventing Fraudulent Donations: Transparency, Verification, and Accountability”](#) (June 10, 2026).

² Reid J. Epstein, [ActBlue C.E.O. Invokes Fifth Amendment Repeatedly in Testimony to Congress](#), The New York Times (June 10, 2026).

³ Reid J. Epstein and Shane Goldmacher, [ActBlue May Have Misled Congress on Vetting Foreign Donations, Its Lawyers Warned](#), The New York Times (Apr. 2, 2026).

⁴ Committee on House Administration, U.S. House of Representatives, [Full Committee Hearing: “Preventing Fraudulent Donations: Transparency, Verification, and Accountability.”](#) 1:06:08 (June 10, 2026).

The House Ethics Manual provides that “[t]he House buildings, and House rooms and offices - including district offices - are supported with official funds and hence are considered official resources. Accordingly, as a general rule, they may not be used for the conduct of campaign or political activities.” It further provides that “a solicitation for campaign or political contributions may not be linked with an official action taken or to be taken by a House Member or employee, and a Member may not accept any contribution that is linked with an action that the Member has taken or is being asked to take.”⁵

Pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 1301(a), official funds may be used only for the purposes appropriated. The Congressional Handbook provides that a Member’s Representational Allowance (“MRA”) may not be used for political expenses.⁶ Similarly, the Committee on House Administration’s handbook for House Committees restricts members from using Committee resources to fund political activity.⁷ Additionally, official staff resources cannot be used for a political purpose.⁸

III. Analysis

Federal law – and House ethics provisions generally – prohibit soliciting political contributions in House offices and buildings.⁹ During congressional hearings, Members of Congress are only allotted five minutes to either make a statement for the congressional record or to question the witness. Ms. Johnson chose to do neither, and instead, used her recognized time to solicit political contributions for “Democratic candidates...[to] [m]ake sure that Democrats win in November...”¹⁰ It is also the height of irony that while Ms. Johnson had the opportunity to question ActBlue’s CEO about alleged illegal contributions, she herself instead ran afoul of the law. Her unequivocal solicitation of viewers and attendees of the hearing to make political contributions to a particular political party’s candidates place her squarely within the scope the prohibition on soliciting political contributions within U.S. House buildings.

Federal law and ethics provisions governing the House further require that members use their taxpayer funded MRA and/or Committee funds only for official expenses. Representative Johnson appeared to read her solicitation from prepared text during the hearing. Therefore, to the extent any official staff, paid for by either Representative Johnson’s personal office or the Committee, participated in scripting the political solicitation made during the hearing, that activity also deserves scrutiny as a misuse of taxpayer dollars.

IV. Request for Action

An investigation is essential to making a determination as to whether Representative Julie Johnson has made a solicitation of campaign contributions using federal offices and other federal resources in violation of Federal law and relevant ethics provisions. Misusing official resources, including the exploitation of the forum of a Committee on House Administration hearing, necessitates heightened examination, so as to prevent future violations by Representative Johnson and other enterprising members interested in so blatantly politicizing the business of the House. We therefore respectfully request that the OCE undertake an investigation into any and all violative conduct and pursue any warranted disciplinary action.

Sincerely,



Caitlin Sutherland
Executive Director

⁵ Committee on Ethics, U.S. House of Representatives, [House Ethics Manual](#) at 137, 160 (2022).

⁶ Committee on House Administration, U.S. House of Representatives, [Members’ Congressional Handbook](#), 5 (2025).

⁷ Committee on House Administration, U.S. House of Representatives, [Committee’s Congressional Handbook](#), 4 (2025).

⁸ Committee on Ethics, *supra* note 5, at 133 (2022).

⁹ 18 U.S.C. § 607(a)(1); Committee on Ethics, *supra* note 5, at 137, 160 (2022).

¹⁰ *Supra* note 4.