



OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

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SECOND QUARTER 2009 REPORT

APRIL – JUNE 2009

I. INTRODUCTION

The Office of Congressional Ethics (“OCE”) is an independent, non-partisan entity charged with reviewing allegations of misconduct against Members, Officers and staff of the House and, when appropriate, referring matters to the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct (commonly referred to as the “Standards Committee”).

The mission of the OCE and its Board is to assist the United States House of Representatives in upholding high standards of ethical conduct for its Members, Officers and staff and, in so doing, to serve the American people.

The following is a report of the OCE’s work in the second quarter of 2009.

II. SUBMISSIONS

Any member of the public may bring a matter of suspected misconduct involving a Member, Officers or staff of the House to the attention of the OCE.

Approximately 67 private citizens have contacted the OCE in the April to June 2009 period. These contacts were of two types: (1) requests for information on the OCE and its procedures and (2) allegations of misconduct. Staff or any Board member may also submit information regarding an alleged violation for consideration by the Board.

III. BOARD ACTIONS

The OCE’s investigations have two stages: (1) a preliminary review, which is completed in 30 days and (2) a second-phase review which is completed in 45 days, with the possibility of a 14-day extension. Two Board members (one appointed by the Speaker of the House and one appointed by the Minority Leader) may authorize a preliminary review if all available information provides a *reasonable basis* to believe that a violation may have occurred. Four Board members may vote to terminate a preliminary review

Three Board members may authorize a second-phase review if all available information provides *probable cause* to believe a violation has occurred.

At the end of any second-phase review, the Board must recommend to the Standards Committee either that the matter requires the Committee’s further review or that it should dismiss the matter. When it makes its recommendation, the OCE Board may also transmit to the Standards Committee findings that include, among other things, findings of fact and citations to laws, rules or regulations that may have been violated.

A chart depicting the OCE’s review process is attached to this report as Attachment A. This chart is also available on the OCE website at <http://oce.house.gov>.

Board Actions, Second Quarter 2009

Type of Action Date	Commence Preliminary Review	Vote to Terminate Matter	Commence Phase II Review	Extend Phase II Review	Transmit Referral for Review	Transmit Referral for Dismissal
April 24	0	0	4	6	0	0
May 29	6	0	0	0	5	1
June 12	0	0	0	4	0	0
June 26	8	4	2	0	0	0
Total for Quarter	14	4	6	10	5	1
Year to Date	24	4	12	10	5	1

After the June Board meeting the second-phase review in four matters ended. The Board shall address these reviews at their next regularly-scheduled meeting in July.

IV. A NOTE ON COOPERATION

The Board notes that it has opened 24 reviews since it began considering matters in March 2009. In all but one case, Members of the United States House of Representatives have fully cooperated with the Board’s review. With one exception, Member cooperation has been timely. The Board has also received a high level of cooperation from third-parties who possess information that is relevant to the Board’s reviews.

V. A NOTE ON PUBLIC RELEASE OF OCE REPORTS

House Resolution 895 of the 110th Congress as amended (the “OCE Resolution”) requires the Office to conduct confidential investigations. The OCE does not comment on specific matters

until those matters are subject to public release under the process outlined in the OCE Resolution. In addition, the OCE does not make any public statement when it refers a matter to the Standards Committee for further review.

A chart depicting the schedule for public disclosure of OCE reports is attached to this report as Attachment B. This chart is also available on the OCE website at <http://oce.house.gov>.