

COOPERATION WITH OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS INVESTIGATIONS

Campaign Legal Center conducted a study of members of the U.S. House of Representatives' cooperation with ethics investigations initiated by the U.S. Office of Congressional Ethics (OCE). The findings show that members of Congress from both major political parties refuse to fully cooperate with ethics investigations, and the rate of cooperation has declined in recent Congresses.

Top Findings:

- Over a third of members investigated have not cooperated with OCE investigations. Since the 111th Congress, 23 members of Congress have failed to cooperate¹ with OCE investigations (see Figure 1). This represents one third of the total number of members of Congress who have been the subject of public OCE investigations in that time frame.²
- The rate of cooperation has declined. Since the 111th Congress, the rate of cooperation has been lower than it was the year before in every year except one. This is true for both Democrats and Republicans (see Figure 2).
- The number of OCE investigations has remained relatively constant. This number has ranged from a high of 14 to a low of 11 for every Congress from the 111th to the 115th. The 116th Congress had only eight OCE investigations (see Figure 3).
- Investigation and cooperation rates are similar across party. Of the six Congresses included in the findings, the rate of cooperation among Democrats who were investigated was higher in two, while the rate of cooperation among Republicans who were investigated was higher in three. The rate of cooperation was equal across parties in one Congress (see Figure 2). The percent of representatives by party subject to OCE investigations was fairly evenly split across the six Congresses covered: three Congresses had more Democrats subject to investigation, while two Congresses had more Republicans subject to investigation. The 116th Congress had equal numbers of Republicans and Democrats subject to OCE investigations (see Figure 4).

¹ This report includes instances where the individual failed to fully cooperate, not only those instances where the individual refused any cooperation whatsoever.

² This study focuses on those investigations for which a report is publicly available.

Members of Congress Not Cooperating with OCE Investigations (111th Congress - 116th Congress)			
Representative	Party/District (at time of investigation)	Year of Investigation	Currently in Office
Steven Palazzo	R-MS-04	2020	Yes
Lori Trahan	D-MA-03	2019	Yes
Rashida Tlaib	D-MI-13	2019	Yes
David Schweikert ³	R-AZ-06	2018	Yes
Rod Blum	R-IA-01	2018	No
Thomas Garrett	R-VA-05	2018	No
Madeleine Z. Bordallo	D-GU-01	2017	No
John Conyers	D-MI-13	2017	No
Michael Collins	R-GA-08	2017	No
Duncan D. Hunter	R-CA-50	2016	No
Mark Meadows	R-NC-11	2016	No
Roger Williams	R-TX-25	2016	Yes
Sheila Jackson Lee	D-TX-18	2015	Yes
Leonard Lance	R-NJ-07	2015	No
Steve Stockman	R-TX-36	2014	No
Michele Bachmann	R-MN-06	2013	No
Shelley Berkley	D-NV-01	2012	No
Silvestre Reyes	D-TX-16	2012	No
Robert E. Andrews	D-NJ-01	2012	No
Vern Buchanan	R-FL-13	2012	Yes
Gregory Meeks	D-NY-06	2011	Yes
Laura Richardson	D-CA-37	2009	No
Peter Visclosky	D-IN-01	2009	Yes

Figure 1

³ Rep. Schweikert was subject to two separate OCE investigations and is therefore counted twice in the data.

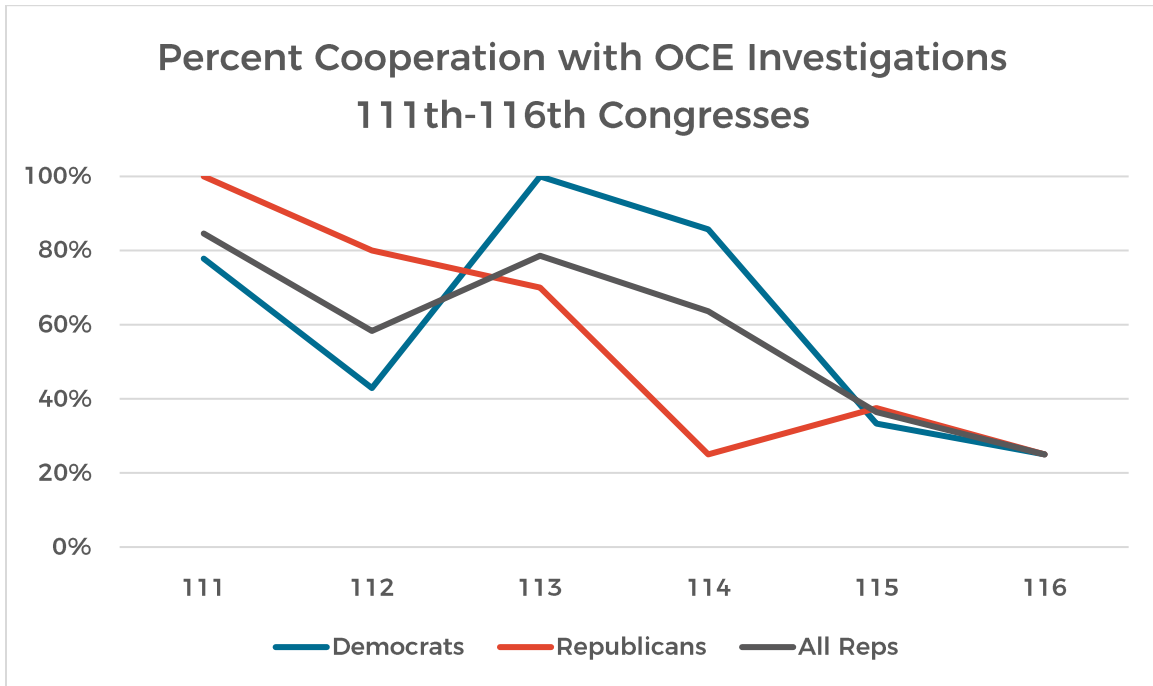


Figure 2

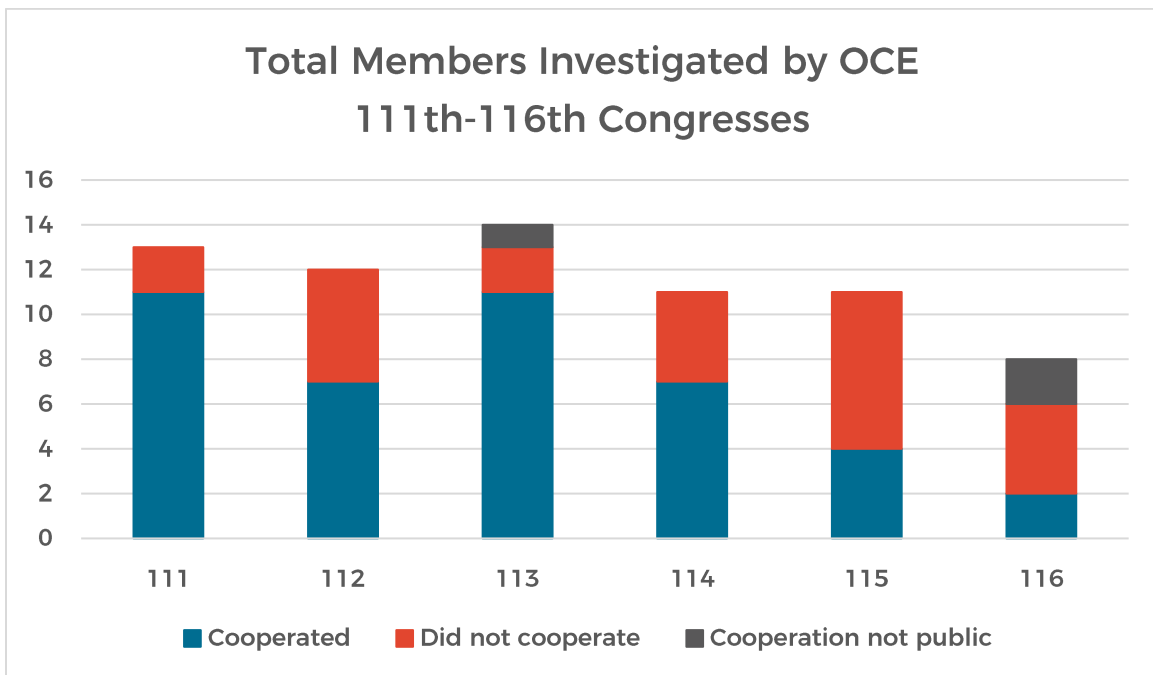


Figure 3

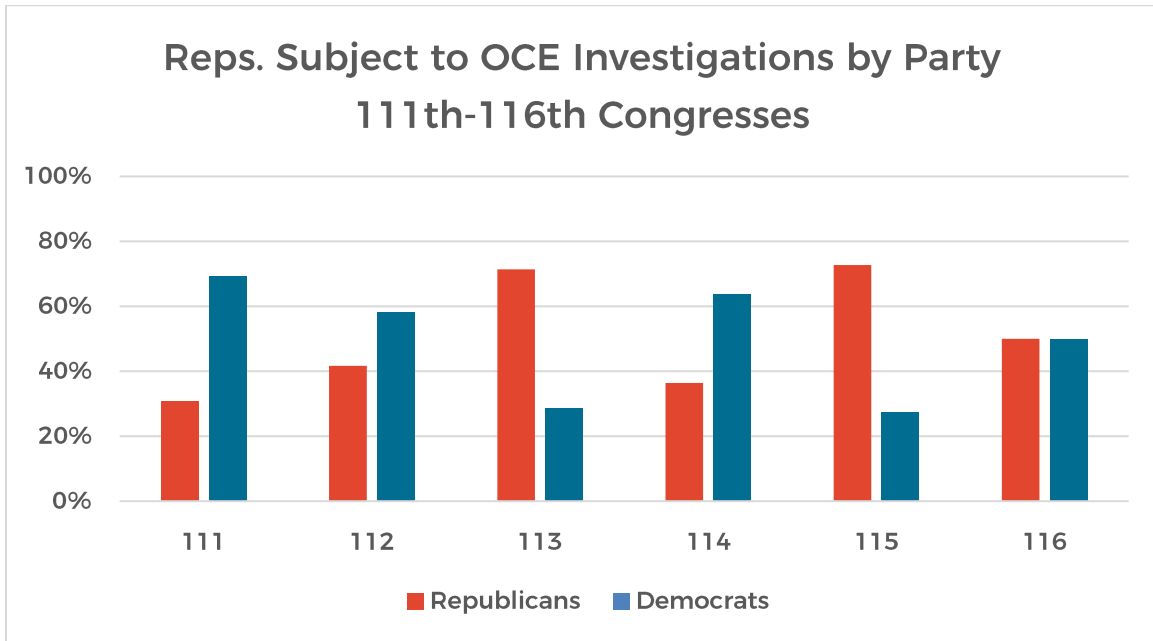


Figure 4