

August 6, 2024

Mr. Omar Ashmawy
Staff Director and Chief Counsel
Office of Congressional Ethics
U.S. House of Representatives
P.O. Box 895
Washington, D.C. 20515-0895

Re: Request for Investigation into Representative Ken Calvert

Dear Mr. Amundson:

I am writing to request that the Office of Congressional Ethics (“*OCE*”) immediately investigate Representative Ken Calvert, a candidate for Congress in California’s 41st congressional district, for apparent violations of federal law through his failure to make the disclosures required by the amended Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (the “*Act*”) on his 2023 personal financial disclosure report (“*PF*”).

The Act was designed to “preserve and promote the integrity of public officials and institutions.”¹ Rep. Calvert’s failure to follow the requirements of the Act undermines that important objective and is particularly alarming for someone who is running to remain a Member of Congress. California voters are entitled to review complete and accurate reports in order to make an informed assessment of Rep. Calvert’s fitness for elected office. As such, I respectfully request that you investigate this matter and take appropriate action promptly.

I. Factual Background

Rep. Calvert is currently running for Congress in California’s 41st congressional district in the United States House of Representatives.² Rep. Calvert is a longtime Member of Congress and has run for office more than a dozen times, launching his first campaign in 1982.³ As required by the Act, he has filed PFDs with the Clerk of the House during his various campaigns.⁴ The Clerk

¹ Ethics in Government Act, Pub. L. No. 95-521, 92 Stat. 1824, 1824 (1978).

² Ken Calvert, Statement of Candidacy, FEC Form 2 (filed Nov. 28, 2022), *available at* <https://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/559/202211299547070559/202211299547070559.pdf>.

³ Ken Calvert, Statement of Candidacy, FEC Form 2 (filed Feb.2, 1982), *available at* <https://www.fec.gov/data/candidate/H2CA37023/?cycle=1982&tab=filings#statements-of-candidacy>.

⁴ Hon. Ken Calvert, Financial Disclosure Report (filed May 14, 2009), *available at* https://disclosures-clerk.house.gov/public_disc/financial-pdfs/2009/8140117.pdf; Hon. Ken Calvert, Financial Disclosure Report (filed May 14, 2010), *available at* https://disclosures-clerk.house.gov/public_disc/financial-pdfs/2010/8147122.pdf; Hon. Ken Calvert, Financial Disclosure Report (filed May 12, 2011), *available at* https://disclosures-clerk.house.gov/public_disc/financial-pdfs/2011/8202480.pdf; Hon. Ken Calvert, Financial Disclosure Report (filed May 11, 2012), *available at* https://disclosures-clerk.house.gov/public_disc/financial-pdfs/2012/8205383.pdf; Hon. Ken Calvert, Financial Disclosure Report (filed May 10, 2013), *available at* https://disclosures-clerk.house.gov/public_disc/financial-pdfs/2013/8211990.pdf; Hon. Ken Calvert, Financial Disclosure Report (filed May 8, 2014), *available at* https://disclosures-clerk.house.gov/public_disc/financial-pdfs/2013/10001613.pdf; Hon. Ken Calvert, Financial Disclosure Report (filed May 12, 2015), *available at* https://disclosures-clerk.house.gov/public_disc/financial-pdfs/2014/10006839.pdf; Hon. Ken Calvert, Financial Disclosure Report

of the House has online records of his PFDs spanning from 2008 to the present day.⁵ This record of filing PFDs creates the appearance that Rep. Calvert is in compliance with the Act. However, a closer look at his reports reveals a concerning pattern of omitting pertinent financial information.

On his 2021 PFD, Rep. Calvert reported owning and receiving rental income from properties located at 1210 and 1212 East 6th Street in Corona, California.⁶ However, while he checked the box on Schedule A of his 2021 PFD indicating that there had been a transaction involving this asset in 2021, Rep. Calvert did not report any transactions or purchases related to those properties on Schedule B. Since these properties were not listed at all on previous years' reports, it is entirely unclear when or how Rep. Calvert came into possession of the 1210 and 1212 East 6th Street properties.⁷

Similarly, in 2020, Rep. Calvert reported owning and receiving rental income from an Annex Dollar 9, 1075 E. 3rd Street in Corona, California for the first time.⁸ However, on his 2019 and 2020 PFDs, he did not report any transactions or purchases related to this property.⁹ Again, the information provided on his PFDs does not shed light on when or how Rep. Calvert came into possession of this property.¹⁰

And finally, in 2016, Rep. Calvert reported owning a property located at 6141 St. Andrews Plaza in Palm Springs, California for the first time.¹¹ However, his 2015 and 2016 PFDs do not contain a record of him purchasing this property.¹² Then, in 2021, Rep. Calvert did not report owning the property, which creates the assumption that he sold 6141 St. Andrews Plaza.¹³ But just as he

(filed May 10, 2016), available at https://disclosures-clerk.house.gov/public_disc/financial-pdfs/2015/10011069.pdf; Hon. Ken Calvert, Financial Disclosure Report (filed May 4, 2017), available at https://disclosures-clerk.house.gov/public_disc/financial-pdfs/2016/10016040.pdf; Hon. Ken Calvert, Financial Disclosure Report (filed May 15, 2018), available at https://disclosures-clerk.house.gov/public_disc/financial-pdfs/2017/10022086.pdf; Hon. Ken Calvert, Financial Disclosure Report (filed May 10, 2019), available at https://disclosures-clerk.house.gov/public_disc/financial-pdfs/2018/10026847.pdf; Hon. Ken Calvert, Financial Disclosure Report (filed July 24, 2020), available at https://disclosures-clerk.house.gov/public_disc/financial-pdfs/2019/10037029.pdf; Hon. Ken Calvert, Financial Disclosure Report (filed July 29, 2021), available at https://disclosures-clerk.house.gov/public_disc/financial-pdfs/2020/10041608.pdf; Hon. Ken Calvert, Financial Disclosure Report (filed May 16, 2022), available at https://disclosures-clerk.house.gov/public_disc/financial-pdfs/2021/10046139.pdf [hereinafter, "Calvert PFDs"].

⁵ Calvert PFDs.

⁶ Hon. Ken Calvert, Financial Disclosure Report (filed May 16, 2022), available at https://disclosures-clerk.house.gov/public_disc/financial-pdfs/2021/10046139.pdf.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ Hon. Ken Calvert, Financial Disclosure Report (filed July 29, 2021), available at https://disclosures-clerk.house.gov/public_disc/financial-pdfs/2020/10041608.pdf

⁹ Calvert PFDs.

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ Hon. Ken Calvert, Financial Disclosure Report (filed May 4, 2017), available at https://disclosures-clerk.house.gov/public_disc/financial-pdfs/2016/10016040.pdf.

¹² Calvert PFDs.

¹³ Hon. Ken Calvert, Financial Disclosure Report (filed May 16, 2022), available at https://disclosures-clerk.house.gov/public_disc/financial-pdfs/2021/10046139.pdf.

failed to disclose how he acquired the property, his PFDs shed no light on how he disposed of the property.¹⁴

Additionally, a recent report from the L.A. Times highlighted Rep. Calvert's involvement in securing funding for projects near his properties.¹⁵ Since the legislative process known as Community Project Funding (commonly referred to as “earmarking”) was restarted in 2021, Rep. Calvert has secured more than \$100 million for projects in his Riverside County district.¹⁶ Some of these projects, such as the \$2 million to widen a bridge along Magnolia Avenue and \$9 million for improvements along Interstate 15, fall within several miles of rental properties that Rep. Calvert owns – including less than three miles from his 1210 and 1212 East 6th Street properties, which he failed to disclose the purchase of on his financial disclosures.¹⁷ The lack of information on the properties hinders the ability to determine the potential impact of nearby earmarks on the properties' value appreciation.

The reporting additionally highlights that Calvert supported funding “\$5 million through federal appropriations to help pay for the environmental study for a rail line between downtown L.A. and Palm Springs.” The reporting goes on to note, “[t]he routes and stops haven't been decided yet, but one of the two Metrolink lines running between L.A. and Riverside stops in downtown Corona a few blocks from several of Calvert's properties.”¹⁸

This series of omissions makes clear that although Rep. Calvert may have filed his PFDs, the documents that he submitted lacked pertinent information and fell short of the standards imposed by law. Furthermore, his failure to disclose properties – and their purchase values before Calvert directed earmarked funds in their vicinity – raises significant concerns about potential conflicts of interest with earmarks for projects near those properties. These omissions not only violate the spirit of transparency required by law but also erode public trust by obscuring the potential for personal gain from his legislative actions.

II. Legal Standard and Analysis

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ Los Angeles Times, Rep. Ken Calvert has secured millions for his Riverside County district. Do his own properties benefit?, available at <https://www.latimes.com/politics/story/2024-07-22/ken-calvert-earmarks-riverside-county>.

¹⁶ *Id.*

¹⁷ *Id.*; see Google Maps, available at <https://www.google.com/maps/dir/1210+E+6th+St,+Corona,+CA+92879/33.8654801,-117.5427583/@33.8698338,117.5491362,16z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m9!4m8!1m5!1m1!1s0x80dcb7fde2964555:0x769ca22b25e1e6ef!2m2!1d-117.5488561!2d33.8737097!1m0!3e0?entry=ttu>; Google Maps, available at <https://www.google.com/maps/dir/1212+E+6th+St,+Corona,+CA+92879/33.8691667,-117.5351944/@33.8699015,117.5456753,16z/data=!4m9!4m8!1m5!1m1!1s0x80dcb7fde38a4425:0xd370f31aeddb7c8!2m2!1d-117.5485608!2d33.8739384!1m0!3e0?entry=ttu>

¹⁸ Los Angeles Times, Rep. Ken Calvert has secured millions for his Riverside County district. Do his own properties benefit?, available at <https://www.latimes.com/politics/story/2024-07-22/ken-calvert-earmarks-riverside-county>.

Pursuant to the Act, a filer must disclose interests in real and personal property, including rental property, that is held by the filer, their spouse, or their dependents, on their report.¹⁹ Additionally, filers are required to disclose in Schedule B of their PFD any assets purchased or sold that total more than \$1,000. The \$1,000 threshold is based on the total value of the transaction, not the gain or loss of the filer.²⁰ Purchase transactions that must be disclosed on Schedule B include individual purchases involving a Schedule A asset in which the transaction amount exceeded \$1,000.²¹ Sale transactions that must be disclosed on Schedule B include individual sales involving a Schedule A asset in which the transaction amount exceeded \$1,000.²²

For years, Rep. Calvert has failed to report the purchases and sales of multiple rental properties. Rep. Calvert has owned and received rental income from at least four properties over eight years.²³ Yet both the public and the Clerk of the House lack even basic information regarding how he came to possess these properties. Additionally, Rep. Calvert has sold at least one of these properties at an undisclosed time, for an undisclosed price, to an unknown purchaser.²⁴ These omissions represent a significant gap in the public's knowledge of Rep. Calvert's financial profile and raise questions about why Rep. Calvert did not disclose these transactions despite a clear legal standard and set of instructions requiring him to do so.²⁵

III. Request for Action

To safeguard the integrity of the electoral process, I respectfully request that you immediately investigate this matter and promptly seek all appropriate penalties and corrective action. I understand that 18 U.S.C. § 1001 applies to the information I am providing. To the best of my knowledge and ability, all evidence submitted was not obtained in violation of any law, rule, or regulation.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



End Citizens United
Tiffany Muller
PO Box 66005
Washington, DC 20035

¹⁹ 5 U.S.C. § 13104(a)(3).

²⁰ U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Ethics, "2023 Instruction Guide: Financial Disclosure Statements for Calendar Year 2022 Reporting Period and Periodic Transaction Reports," at 15, *available at* <https://ethics.house.gov/sites/ethics.house.gov/files/documents/Final%20Combined%202023%20Instruction%20Guide.pdf> [hereinafter "Instructions"].

²¹ Instructions at 15, 27.

²² Instructions at 15, 27.

²³ Calvert PFDs.

²⁴ Calvert PFDs.

²⁵ Instructions at 27.