



# FACT

FOUNDATION FOR  
ACCOUNTABILITY  
AND CIVIC TRUST

April 22, 2026

A. Tysen Duva  
Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Assistant Attorney General Duva,

The Foundation for Accountability and Civic Trust (FACT) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting accountability, ethics, and transparency in government and civic arenas. Our organization recently prepared an ethics complaint against Representative Eric Swalwell to be filed with the Office of Congressional Conduct, which is enclosed. While Swalwell is the subject of numerous allegations of sexual misconduct, including rape, ultimately leading to his resignation from Congress, our complaint focused on the abuse of his official position to promote his personal business. With his resignation, however, the House Ethics Committee will not investigate this and the many other allegations.

We write today because we firmly believe that a member of Congress should not escape accountability for unethical and illegal acts simply by resigning his seat. While the Ethics Committee may have lost jurisdiction over Swalwell, the Justice Department has not and it is in a unique position to investigate and hold him accountable. Reported statements indicate Swalwell used his official position and government resources for his own pecuniary benefit, which if true could have also violated federal appropriations and corruption laws. These alleged facts deserve to be criminally investigated. This is just one issue of many during Swalwell's problematic tenure in Congress, which among others includes being accused of using campaign funds to pay for a Brazilian nanny in our country illegally and being removed from the House Intelligence Committee over his association with a Chinese spy.

A large majority of the American public has an unfavorable view of Congress. Some of this dissatisfaction stems from what the public rightly views as unethical or corrupt behavior that goes unpunished. Holding public office is a sacred public trust, one that must be fiercely guarded and maintained. It is imperative that any corruption be fully punished, which not only dissuades others from corruption but also enforces citizen confidence in our government.

Sincerely,

/s/Kendra Arnold

Executive Director, Foundation for Accountability & Civic Trust



# FACT

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April 14, 2026

Omar Ashmawy  
Chief Counsel  
Office of Congressional Conduct  
U.S. House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 895  
Washington, DC 20515-0895

Email: [conduct@mail.house.gov](mailto:conduct@mail.house.gov)

RE: Rep. Eric Swalwell (CA)

Dear Mr. Ashmawy,

The Foundation for Accountability and Civic Trust (FACT) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting accountability, ethics, and transparency in government and civic arenas. We request the Office of Congressional Conduct immediately investigate whether Representative Eric Swalwell violated House ethics rules by using his official position for profit.

**Facts.** In 2024, then Rep. Swalwell and his then chief of staff, Yardena Wolf, created a for-profit company, Findraiser, to provide AI fundraising services to political campaigns.<sup>1</sup> Swalwell has reportedly promoted the services of his company to his fellow House Members and their staff by sending texts and emails to their colleagues about the company and pitching it during in-person interactions.<sup>2</sup> Swalwell's promotion of Findraiser has been described as "aggressive" and "relentless," and that he "used the company as a legislative negotiating tactic": "The only way you get Swalwell to sign on to your bills is if you take this weird call from his chief of staff."<sup>3</sup>

Before Wolf left Swalwell's congressional office in 2025 to work for his then gubernatorial campaign, Wolf also reportedly "promoted Findraiser to senior congressional staff and campaigns while still serving as Swalwell's chief of staff," specifically "she emailed

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<sup>1</sup> Samuel Larreal, *Democrats Say Rep. Eric Swalwell Personally Pitched His Political AI Startup to Lawmakers*, Notus, Mar. 27, 2026 at 5:33 a.m., available at: <https://www.notus.org/democrats/democrats-eric-swallow-political-ai-startup-findraiser-pitch-lawmakers>.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

congressional campaigns, offered demos for Findraiser and texted congressional staffers to schedule business meetings with her and Swalwell to discuss their startup’s services.”<sup>4</sup> “Wolf performed one of these demos through a Zoom meeting in what appeared to be her congressional office.”<sup>5</sup>

More than a dozen Congressional campaigns have paid Findraiser more than \$60,000, some of which have obvious links to Swalwell that on its face pose a conflict of interest, including: Swalwell’s own congressional and gubernatorial campaigns, Rep. Ilhan Omar (with whom Swalwell co-sponsored a bill), Rep. Dan Goldman (who introduced a bill with Swalwell earlier this year), Rep. Jimmy Gomez (who also serves as Swalwell’s gubernatorial chair), Rep. Jasmine Crockett (who Swalwell supported during her failed U.S. Senate candidacy), Rep. Joe Morelle, Rep. Tom Suozzi, Rep. Angie Craig, Rep. Haley Stevens, Rep. Steven Horsford, Sen. Adam Schiff, and Sen. Ruben Gallego.<sup>6</sup> In his latest financial disclosure report, Swalwell valued his company at \$200,000 to \$500,000, though he reported that he did not receive a salary from it.<sup>7</sup>

**Law.** House Rules prohibit Members and staff from using their official position to generate private financial gain. “A key provision of the House Code of Official Conduct (House Rule 23, cl. 3) provides that a House Member, officer, or employee may not receive compensation and may not permit compensation to accrue to his beneficial interest from any source, the receipt of which would occur by virtue of influence improperly exerted from his position in Congress.”<sup>8</sup> The House Ethics Committee specifies that Members and staff are to avoid even the appearance of improper conduct related to outside business activities:

“An individual violates this provision if he uses his political influence, the influence of his position . . . to make pecuniary gains. Members and staff, when considering the applicability of this provision to any activity they are considering undertaking, must also bear in mind that under a separate provision of the Code of Official Conduct (House Rule 23, cl. 2), they are required to adhere to the spirit as well as the letter of the Rules of the House. In any event, the Standards

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<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*; Samuel Larreal, Eric Swalwell’s AI-Powered Political Startup Is Making Big Money From Democratic Allies, Notus, Mar. 19, 2026 at 5:37 a.m., available at: <https://www.notus.org/money/eric-swallow-california-company-ai-campaigns>

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*; Rep. Eric Swalwell, [Financial Disclosure Report](#), Aug. 13, 2025.

<sup>8</sup> House Ethics Manual, [Committee On Ethics](#) (2022 Ed.), available at: <https://ethics.house.gov/manual/laws-rules-and-standards-of-conduct-governing-the-outside-employment-of-members-and-all-staff/#1>.

Committee routinely advises Members and staff to avoid situations in which even an inference might be drawn suggesting improper conduct.”<sup>9</sup>

Specifically applicable to this situation, the law also prohibits Members from engaging in any outside employment that involves personally selling goods or services and also severely restricts staff from doing so. As explained in the House Ethics Manual:

“At times a Member or staff person wishes to engage in outside employment that involves the selling of goods or services. On the basis of the rules and standards of conduct set out above, a Member should not undertake any outside employment that would involve the Member personally in the selling or endorsement of any goods or services. On the same basis, at a minimum, any staff person who engages in sales may not solicit purchases from either (1) any non-congressional person with whom the employee came into contact through the congressional office or who has interests before the congressional office, or (2) any subordinate staff in his or her congressional office. In addition, in soliciting sales, House employees may not, directly or indirectly, identify themselves as congressional staff, refer to their congressional duties, or otherwise make use of their status as a congressional employee.”<sup>10</sup>

Additionally, Members and staff may only use official government resources for official business, not any outside business or political purposes. The House Ethics Manual states:

“Pursuant to federal statute (13 U.S.C. § 1301(a)), official funds may be used only for the purposes appropriated. Thus, House resources acquired with such funds – including the office telephones, computers fax machines and other equipment, office supplies, office space, and staff while on official time – are to be used for the conduct of official House business. Those resources may not be used to perform or in furtherance of any outside employment of any Member, officer, or employee. A provision of the rules issued by the House Administration Committee allows minor, incidental personal use of House equipment and supplies. However, the Standards Committee understands that this provision allows such use of those resources for personal purposes only and does not allow their use for outside employment or business purposes.”<sup>11</sup>

**Analysis.** The facts reported above clearly violate the ethics rules prohibiting Members and staff from using the power and influence of their official position for pecuniary gain, selling goods and services, and using official resources for outside business purposes.

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<sup>9</sup> *Id.*

<sup>10</sup> *Id.*

<sup>11</sup> *Id.*

Especially egregious is that there is a direct conflict between Swalwell owning a company that provides services to campaigns and performing his job as a Member of Congress. The overlap between the two roles is evident in his company's customer base—his Congressional colleagues and fellow candidates for office. It would be impossible for Swalwell to not use his official position for financial gain because it gives him access to them and he also is especially influential to his possible customers—whether it was inherent because other candidates or Members wanted to gain his favor or it was intentional because he pitched the company himself as reported. As the ethics rules recognize, being a House Member is inherently influential to the general public and thus they correctly forbid a Member from personally selling goods or services at all.

It is irrelevant whether or not Swalwell has paid himself a salary from the company because the ethics rules prohibit using one's position for pecuniary gains, i.e. any financial advantage, monetary profit, or increase in value. Swalwell owns the business and thus, will benefit from any profit the business makes, whether in the increased value of the business or by cash payments at a later date. His ownership of the company permitted him to choose not to pay himself a salary today while increasing the value of the company. Any argument that this is technical compliance with the ethics rules prohibiting using one's position for pecuniary gains and compliance with the outside earned income limitations fails because his "personal services" have led to an increase in asset value (a pecuniary gain) and, furthermore, the ethics rules require adherence to the spirit of the law beyond a technical interpretation.

Finally, both Swalwell and his chief of staff were reported to have pitched their company in government buildings, using government staff time, and government office resources—an abuse of official government resources. In one incident, Swalwell's chief of staff was reported to give a demo through a Zoom meeting in what appeared to be her congressional office, which would demonstrate she used official staff time, office equipment (i.e. computer, email, paper), and office space.

It is inconceivable that a Member of Congress could be a campaign vendor—the conflict between the Member's official position and personal business are both obvious and inarguable. This can be seen both directly (i.e. Swalwell reportedly using his possible support for pending legislation to pitch his company) and indirectly (candidates and House Members seeking political endorsements or legislation support from Swalwell would take a pitch meeting or hire his company). The reported facts clearly show that Swalwell used his official position for pecuniary gain, pitched services for his own company, and used official government resources for personal profit. Thus, we request the Office of Congressional Conduct immediately investigate Representative Swalwell and impose appropriate sanctions.

To the best of my knowledge and ability, all evidence submitted was not obtained in violation of any law, rule, or regulation. Further, I am aware that the False Statements Act, 18 U.S.C. § 1001, applies to information submitted to the Office of Congressional Conduct.

Sincerely,

/s/Kendra Arnold

Kendra Arnold, Executive Director  
Foundation for Accountability & Civic Trust

# Democrats Say Rep. Eric Swalwell Personally Pitched His Political AI Startup to Lawmakers

Getting a business pitch from Swalwell is “surprisingly universal,” in some Democratic circles, one source told NOTUS.



Rep. Eric Swalwell of California repeatedly peddled the services of his politics-focused startup company to fellow lawmakers and Democratic staff, in possible violation of House Ethics rules, according to six Democratic political operatives who spoke to NOTUS on the condition of anonymity to protect their jobs.

Swalwell and Yardena Wolf, who served as his congressional chief of staff until December, sent Democratic lawmakers and staffers texts and emails about their company, [Findraiser](#), and pitched the company during in-person interactions, as well, the Democratic operatives said. NOTUS reviewed emailed communications and texts Wolf sent to congressional staff.

“He is relentless in pushing [Findraiser]” a Democratic operative currently working with multiple congressional campaigns told NOTUS. “He’s peddling the shit out of that thing.”

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A Democratic consultant told NOTUS Swalwell has promoted Findraiser “aggressively” to Democratic candidates and senior campaign officials, adding that experience of being approached by Swalwell or his staff has been “surprisingly universal” in some Democratic circles.

Swalwell, who is now running for governor of California, [co-founded Findraiser with Wolf in early 2024](#). Findraiser promises to provide political campaigns with insights from the data they have collected about their donors through the use of AI, “to search your donor database so you don’t have to.”

NOTUS reported that the company has [received](#) about \$60,000 total from more than a dozen Democratic campaigns — mostly from those led by Swalwell’s personal friends and political allies, such as Sens. Ruben Gallego of Arizona and Adam Schiff of California.

In his congressional financial disclosures, Swalwell values the company at \$200,000 to \$500,000.

Wolf, who left Swalwell’s congressional office to work as his campaign manager last year, also promoted Findraiser to senior congressional staff and campaigns while still serving as Swalwell’s chief of staff, according to four sources who spoke to NOTUS.

While Wolf still worked as a chief of staff, she emailed congressional campaigns, offered demos for Findraiser and texted congressional staffers to schedule business meetings with her and Swalwell to discuss their startup’s services, these sources said.

One of these sources, a Democratic consultant working with several political campaigns, told NOTUS that Wolf performed one of these demos through a Zoom meeting in what appeared to be her congressional office.

"You're at your desk while you're doing this, like, what is happening right now?" this source told NOTUS. "You can't be using the congressional office to sell whatever this little project is you guys have."

Micah Beasley, a spokesperson for Swalwell's gubernatorial campaign, declined to answer specific questions about how Swalwell and Wolf have promoted Findster to other Democratic candidates.

In a statement to NOTUS, Beasley praised Swalwell's work in Democratic politics.

"Congressman Swalwell is working to help Democrats win up and down the ticket. Whether that's through utilizing 21st Century technology or talking to voters directly about the issues that matter most — he will continue to use every tool he can to fight Donald Trump and his MAGA cronies," Beasley said.

Beasley told NOTUS [last week](#) that Swalwell and Wolf consulted with the House Ethics Committee about Findraiser and that Swalwell receives no income from the company. Swalwell's campaign did not provide any information about Wolf's income.

House rules prohibit lawmakers and their staff from using their "political influence, the influence of [their] position ... to make pecuniary gains," according to the House Ethics Committee rules for [outside employment](#). "In any event, the Standards Committee routinely advises Members and staff to avoid situations in which even an inference might be drawn suggesting improper conduct."

The House Ethics Committee has also advised lawmakers against using their official position to even promote or endorse any products.

"Members of the House of Representatives are widely recognizable public servants. Even when they make no explicit mention of their official position,

when Members actively engage in commercial sales or endorsements, they may create the perception that they are making use of their official position for commercial gain," House Ethics Committee leadership [wrote](#) in an advisory opinion.

Tom Rust, chief counsel of the House Ethics Committee, declined to comment.

"He is a public official who should not be in the business of promoting a private interest of his own or other private interests, regardless of pay," Meredith McGehee, a long-time advocate for congressional ethics, told NOTUS about Swalwell.

"The difference is whether or not it's your company or whether or not you have a financial stake. And if you do, then you shouldn't be in that position of promoting a product with which you have a relationship," she added.

California's gubernatorial primary is June 2. Swalwell is competing in a crowded, [all-party primary](#) field that includes Democrats such as former Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra, billionaire businessman and former 2020 presidential candidate Tom Steyer, former Rep. Katie Porter, former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan, California State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond and California Democratic Party Vice Chair Betty Yee.

Republicans running include former Fox News host Steve Hilton and Riverside County Sheriff Chad Bianco. Green Party candidate Butch Ware, a professor at the University of California Santa Barbara, is also on the ballot.