



VIA SENATE ETHICS ELECTRONIC MAIL: mailbox_office@ethics.senate.gov

July 15, 2026

Chairman James Lankford and Vice Chairman Christopher A. Coons
U.S. Senate Select Committee on Ethics
220 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Request for investigation into Senator Ruben Gallego's defamation of President Trump and personal use of campaign funds

Dear Chairman Lankford and Vice Chairman Coons,

This complaint addresses potential violations of the United States Senate Ethics Rules and the United States Senate Code of Conduct by Senator Ruben Gallego (D-AZ). We ask that you initiate an investigation into Senator Gallego due to his defamation of President Trump and recent reports that Gallego is likely abusing campaign funds for personal entertainment and family purposes.

I. Who We Are

The Center to Advance Security in America (CASA) is a nonpartisan organization dedicated to improving the safety and security of the American people. CASA educates and informs the American people about the actions of their government and its officials that impact their safety; peace and security; democracy, civil rights, and civil liberties; and privacy.

II. Factual Overview

On July 6, 2026, Gallego claimed in an unhinged X tirade at Senator Mike Lee that President Trump “was found to have committed rape.”¹ Gallego made this claim despite a jury explicitly finding that President Trump did *not* commit rape.² In other widely publicized contexts, claims that President Trump had been found to have committed rape were treated by courts as defamation and disposed accordingly.³

¹ Ruben Gallego (@RubenGallego), “But you endorsed Trump who was found to have committed rape. Might want to sit this one out,” X, July 6, 2026, 6:54 PM, <https://x.com/RubenGallego/status/2074265814283223318?s=20>.

² Greg Price (@greg_price11), “Not only is this statement a complete lie, but E. Jean Carroll was such an incredible witness that even though President Trump was forced into a kangaroo court in her civil trial, the jury explicitly found him not liable for rape [attached photograph of jury verdict],” July 6, 2026, 6:54 PM, https://x.com/greg_price11/status/2074292840796967280.

³ Michael R. Sisak, “ABC agrees to pay \$15 million to Trump's presidential library to settle defamation lawsuit,” *ABC News*, December 14, 2024, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/abc-agrees-to-pay-15-million-to-trumps-presidential-library-to-settle-defamation-lawsuit>.



Additionally, Gallego's extravagant spending of donated campaign funds for "personal use" and entertainment has been revealed.⁴ Gallego's expenditures include almost \$40,000 for Super Bowl LVII tickets and brunch, almost \$1,500 for Disneyland hotels and food for his family and nanny, over \$9,000 on trips to St. Bart's and Miami for his wife's and *her* boss's birthday, and almost \$20,000 in childcare reimbursements to multiple caretakers including his mother-in-law.⁵

III. Ethics Standards

The Senate Ethics Manual provides guidelines and practices for all Senate members, ensuring principles and ethics above self-interest or party affiliation. These rules ensure appropriate behavior and conduct from the Members of the Senate at all times.

The Senate Ethics Manual states, "The Senate or House may discipline a Member for any misconduct, including conduct or activity which does not directly relate to official duties, when such conduct unfavorably reflects on the institution as a whole."⁶

Additionally, the Manual states, "the Senate of the United States is a responsible political body, important in the maintenance of our free institutions. Its Members are expected to conduct themselves with a proper respect for the principles of ethics and morality, for senatorial customs based on tradition, and with due regard for the importance of maintaining the good reputation of the Senate as the highest legislative body in the Nation."⁷

Lastly, the Manual "prohibits all Members and former Members from converting federal campaign funds to personal use."⁸ This includes scenarios where campaign funds "pay for admission to sporting events, concerts, theater and other forms of entertainment" that are not related to a campaign event.⁹

If a potential violation is identified, a preliminary investigation should be initiated. If enough credible evidence exists of a violation, then a formal investigation should be opened.¹⁰

⁴ Irie Senter, "Gallego tapped campaign cash for family travel, Super Bowl tickets, records show," *Politico*, June 21, 2026, <https://www.politico.com/news/2026/06/21/gallego-campaign-donors-travel-00969326>.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ U.S. Congress, Senate, *Select Committee on Ethics. Senate Ethics Manual*, 108th Congress, 1st sess., 2003 Edition, 2003, 25.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 6.

⁸ *Ibid.*, 166.

⁹ Federal Election Commission, "Personal Use," accessed June 22, 2026, <https://www.fec.gov/help-candidates-and-committees/making-disbursements/personal-use/>.

¹⁰ Senate Ethics Manual, 14.



IV. Analysis

There are few statements that a Senator could make about President Trump that are as offensive to the President, the institution of the Senate, and reality than those made by Gallego. President Trump has weathered a decade of fabricated claims and harassing litigation. In the midst of that turmoil, President Trump has been repeatedly found to have not committed the allegations waged against him—including the incredibly weighty, and irresponsible, allegation of rape. Of course, news of President Trump’s vindication was no secret, yet Gallego seeks to undermine the judicial norms of jury findings in favor of his own aspirational delusions. No Senator—under Senate rules—has free reign to defame another. Gallego cannot be the exception, and the Senate explicitly demands better of its Members in its Ethics Manual.

Further, Gallego’s expenditures derived from public disclosures and reported by Politico are the definition of prohibited “personal use” spending of campaign funds. This is particularly true because there were no scheduled or discoverable campaign events relating to Gallego’s Super Bowl attendance or family stays at Disneyland, St. Bart’s, and Miami. It is also unlikely that Gallego’s “campaigning” repeatedly corresponded to his wife’s and her boss’ birthday parties. Further, the fact that over \$20,000 went to childcare (including to Gallego’s mother-in-law) during periods that are not discernably linked to any campaign events makes clear Gallego’s pattern of spending campaign funds for any personal matter that conveniences him.

Such spending explicitly falls within the FEC’s definition of impermissible “personal use” of campaign funds—particularly the given example of “entertainment.” Because Gallego’s campaign has either spent or reimbursed Gallego for a number of entertainment events (surely a Senator is not at Disneyland or his wife’s boss’s birthday party for the primary purpose of campaigning), the Senate Ethics Rules are directly implicated.

V. Conclusion

Gallego’s blatant distortion of reality in claiming that President Trump committed rape, considering a clear jury finding that he did not, and Gallego’s “campaign” expenditures are likely violations of the Senate Ethics Rules and are completely inappropriate and unacceptable conduct for a United States Senator. For the reasons outlined above, we request that the Senate Select Committee on Ethics conduct a full and impartial investigation into Gallego’s defamation of President Trump and spending of campaign funds for personal entertainment and other purposes to benefit his personal and family life. His actions likely violate FEC guidance and Senate Ethics Rules.



Upholding the Senate's ethics standards is essential to preserving public trust in our democratic institutions. I trust that this matter will receive the Committee's full attention. We appreciate your attention to this critical matter and look forward to the outcome of your investigation.

Sincerely,

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