

**CONGRESSIONAL
INTEGRITY** 
PROJECT 

To: Interested Parties
From: Kyle Herrig, Congressional Integrity Project Executive Director
Date: September 19, 2023
Re: Questions to Ask the Biden 18 About McCarthy's Fact-Free Impeachment Attempt

*Last week, Speaker McCarthy announced he would direct three congressional committees to launch an impeachment inquiry into President Biden **without** holding a vote of the House and **without** a single shred of evidence of wrongdoing by President Biden. McCarthy and his MAGA House Republican allies are [following Donald Trump's direction](#) to help him return to the White House in 2024, while completely casting aside the important priorities of the American people. Even though McCarthy went forward without a vote, the American people deserve to know where their representative stands on this evidence-free impeachment.*

This week, it's time to get the Biden-18 on the record about this baseless impeachment inquiry.

1) Do you agree that Comer, Jordan, and Smith have not uncovered evidence of wrongdoing by President Biden?

After eight months of Congressional investigations and over 12,000 documents reviewed, MAGA House Republicans have found no evidence of wrongdoing by President Biden. McCarthy and Comer's bases for impeachment are all [false](#). They've been [fact checked](#) by numerous news outlets, and there has been no obstruction – Comer himself [says](#) he's received everything he's requested.

CNN: “House Republicans Have Not Presented Any Proof That Joe Biden Ever Profited Off His Son’s Business Deals Or Was Influenced While In Office By His Son’s Business Dealings.” “House Speaker Kevin McCarthy made several unproven claims Tuesday while announcing the opening of a formal impeachment inquiry into President Joe Biden [...] House Republicans have not presented any proof that Joe Biden ever profited off his son’s business deals or was influenced while in office by his son’s business dealings.” [CNN, [9/13/23](#)]

New York Times: “There’s Little To Back Up Their Allegations.” “Republicans claim they have unearthed evidence of wrongdoing by the president and his family that could rise to the level of high crimes and misdemeanors. In fact, there’s little to back up their allegations.” [New York Times, [9/12/23](#)]

FactCheck.org: “There Is Currently No Proof” To Back Up Republicans’ Allegations Against President Biden. “But as we have written, there is currently no proof that Joe Biden was involved in the business deals of his son, Hunter, or that the president ever benefited from those deals or ever used his position as vice president to assist the companies on his son’s behalf [...] Even a handful of Republican House members have stated publicly that there isn’t enough evidence to move forward with an impeachment inquiry.” [FactCheck.org, [9/13/23](#)]

2) Do you agree with Comer, Jordan, and Trump that the goal of impeachment is to hurt President Biden politically?

Marjorie Taylor Greene met with Donald Trump last week, and Trump talked to Chair of the House Republican Conference [Elise Stefanik](#) the morning the impeachment inquiry was announced. Far-right MAGA Republicans are pushing impeachment to hurt President Biden and help Trump ahead of 2024. Comer, Jordan, and other Republicans have even [admitted](#) that these investigations are about hurting President Biden politically.

Forbes: Trump Suggests Biden Impeachment Is Revenge For His Own Impeachments. “Former President Donald Trump, during an interview with NBC host Megyn Kelly on SiriusXM radio, said he thinks if Democrats had never impeached him while he was in office, Republicans wouldn’t have opened an impeachment inquiry on President Joe Biden—implying that he believes this impeachment inquiry is simply an act of revenge. Trump said: ‘They did it to me ... and nobody officially said this, but I think had they not done it to me ... perhaps you wouldn’t have it being done to them.’ He continued to say he believes the same thing will happen with indictments, explaining that if he were back in office or had the authority, he would ‘think about (the prospect of indicting Democrats) differently,’ but that if he had never been indicted, he ‘never would’ve even thought about doing it.’” [Forbes, [9/14/23](#)]

New York Times: Trump Has Been Privately Encouraging G.O.P. Lawmakers to Impeach Biden. “Mr. Trump’s dinner with Ms. Greene came just two nights before Speaker Kevin McCarthy announced his decision on Tuesday to order the opening of an impeachment inquiry into President Biden, under intense pressure from his right flank. Over the past several months, Mr. Trump has kept a close watch on House Republicans’ momentum toward impeaching Mr. Biden. Mr. Trump has talked regularly by phone with members of the ultraconservative House Freedom Caucus and other congressional Republicans who pushed for impeachment, according to a person close to Mr. Trump who was not authorized to publicly discuss the conversations. Mr. Trump has encouraged the effort both privately and publicly.” [New York Times, [9/13/23](#)]

The Hill: Trump Speaks With Stefanik As GOP moves forward with Biden impeachment Inquiry. “Former President Trump spoke Tuesday with Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-N.Y.) shortly after Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) directed committees to open a formal impeachment inquiry into President Biden. Stefanik, the House Republican Conference chairwoman, confirmed they had spoken. A source familiar with the conversation said Trump and Stefanik spoke shortly after

McCarthy made the announcement at the Capitol about the impeachment inquiry. ‘I speak to President Trump a lot. I spoke to him today,’ Stefanik told reporters.” [The Hill, [9/12/23](#)]

3) How does impeachment address the issues most important to your constituents?

This impeachment inquiry will politically backfire on battleground Republicans. When the Biden 18 – the 18 Republican members who won in districts Biden carried in 2020 – ran for Congress, they promised the American people that they would [focus on important issues](#) like healthcare and inflation. While they avoided a vote for now after McCarthy [hypocritically](#) moved forward without a vote to open an impeachment inquiry, Democrats and voters will hold them accountable for ignoring crucial priorities to focus on an evidence-free impeachment.

According to [recent polling](#), a majority of Americans in key swing districts disapprove of Republicans in Congress. These Republicans will be underwater if they continue to focus on partisan stunts and impeachment rather than addressing the important issues facing the American people, like the economy and the cost of living for working families. 56% of voters in those districts believe an impeachment inquiry would be a “partisan political stunt,” while 55% said the effort would be designed to benefit Trump, compared to just 41% who said it would be aimed at fact-finding.

Forbes: How The Biden Impeachment Inquiry Could Backfire On Republicans In 18 Purple Districts. “Among the 18 Republicans who represent districts Biden won in 2020, several have been openly hesitant about impeaching Biden, including Reps. Don Bacon (Neb.), Brian Fitzpatrick (Pa.) and Mike Lawler (N.Y.). Their reasons vary: Bacon and Lawler have flat-out said the evidence against Biden doesn’t exist right now to merit an impeachment, while Fitzpatrick has expressed extreme skepticism about impeachment generally, equating it to “essentially a vote of no confidence in the British Parliament.” [Forbes, [9/13/23](#)]

Los Angeles Times: McCarthy’s vow to open Biden impeachment probe puts vulnerable California Republicans in a tough spot. “But the GOP’s narrow majority in the House is at risk in the 2024 election, and the move toward impeaching Biden — especially without compelling evidence of high crimes or misdemeanors — will put the chamber’s most vulnerable Republicans in a tough spot. Impeachment is unpopular in the 18 districts that Biden won in 2020 that are held by House Republicans, according to an August poll commissioned by the Congressional Integrity Project, a Democratic-aligned nonprofit. Five of those districts are in California, represented by John Duarte of Modesto, Young Kim of La Habra, David Valadao of Hanford, Michelle Steel of Seal Beach and Mike Garcia of Santa Clarita.” [Los Angeles Times, [9/12/23](#)]

The Biden 18 are Don Bacon (NE-2), Lori Chavez-DeRemer (OR-5), Juan Ciscomani (AZ-6), Anthony D’Esposito (NY-4), John Duarte (CA-13), Brian Fitzpatrick (PA-1), Mike Garcia (CA-27), Tom Kean, Jr. (NJ-7), Jen Kiggans (VA-2), Young Kim (CA-40), Nick LaLota (NY-1), Mike Lawler (NY-17), Marc Molinaro (NY-19), George Santos (NY-3), David Schweikert (AZ-1), Michelle Steel (CA-45), David Valadao (CA-22), and Brandon Williams (NY-22).