

CONGRESSIONAL  
INTEGRITY   
PROJECT 

To: Interested Parties  
From: Kyle Herrig, Congressional Integrity Project Executive Director  
Date: August 22, 2023  
Re: Setting the Record Straight Before the First Republican Presidential Debate

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Despite Donald Trump's absence at Wednesday's debate in Milwaukee, the MAGA Republican presidential candidates will carry his water defending him and making false attacks against President Biden and his family. Their cries of *impeachment* or *crime family* are as laughable as their accusations are untethered to the facts. **Everyone watching and covering the debates should see through these political stunts for what they are: a way to defend Donald Trump and curry favor with his MAGA base.**

MAGA Republicans have [admitted themselves](#) that their impeachment talk is [all a political stunt](#) to help Donald Trump and hurt Joe Biden. The MAGA Republican investigations are [not producing any evidence](#) to back up their outrageous claims, so they are re-hashing the same lies and debunked conspiracy theories that have been investigated and proven false again and again. Rather than focusing on issues that actually matter to the American people, these MAGA Republican candidates will simply [focus on the same wrong priorities](#) as their Republican friends in Congress and continue pushing these political stunts as if they have any basis in reality.

The fact is: President Biden has not interfered in any investigation, including the cases resulting in Trump's indictments, and then-Vice President Biden [never interfered](#) with official Obama administration policy to protect his son. While the facts don't matter to them – they just want to attack President Biden – they should matter to the rest of us.

*Lie #1: President Biden Received Over \$20 Million from Foreign Adversaries*

The first claim you might hear tomorrow night is that President Biden made \$5 million or \$20 million (they can't decide!) from his son's business dealings. The *Washington Post Fact Checker* said, "[No evidence has emerged that any of these funds can be traced to Joe Biden himself.](#)" Separate analysis in the *Washington Post* found the Republican investigations did not show "a whiff" of payments to Joe Biden, calling it "[less than a phantom.](#)" *Politico* reported the House investigations "[\[don't\] show a direct payment to Joe Biden.](#)"

*Lie #2: The FBI Is Supposedly Withholding Evidence Tying President Biden to Wrongdoing*

One of the lies the MAGA Republicans love the most is that there are somehow tapes being withheld from Congress by the FBI which tie President Biden to bribes. In reality, there is no

evidence these tapes actually exist, and Congressional Republicans themselves have admitted that they don't know whether or not the tapes (even if they exist) are "[legit](#). In fact, the supposed source for the major claim that President Biden was bribed has previously [said](#) he never spoke to Joe Biden. The Republicans conducting the investigations into President Biden are the ones who are [withholding evidence](#) in order to suit their own narrative.

*Lie #3: Devon Archer Confirmed Wrongdoing by President Biden in His Transcribed Interview*

After Devon Archer, Hunter Biden's former business partner, sat down with the House Oversight Committee for a transcribed interview, James Comer and others on the committee tied themselves into knots trying to spin the interview as validating their claims. In reality, Archer said President Biden was present on twenty phone calls over a [ten year period](#) and never spoke once about business dealings. Additionally, Republicans claimed Hunter Biden laundered money through 21 illegitimate shell companies, but all the companies they listed were found to have [legitimate business or lacked ties to Hunter Biden](#) – confirmed by Archer himself in his transcribed interview.

*Lie #4: David Weiss Is Working to Protect Hunter Biden*

Trump himself [appointed](#) Weiss, saying the Delaware prosecutor "[shared his vision](#)," and Congressional Republicans, [including](#) James Comer, [supported](#) Weiss' nomination in 2017. Weiss [has also stated](#) he was "granted ultimate authority over this matter, including responsibility for deciding where, when, and whether to file charges and for making decisions necessary to preserve the integrity of the prosecution." As for claims of slow-walking, the investigation began in November 2018 [during the Trump Administration](#) and numerous delays and decisions to slow-walk the investigation ahead of the 2020 election were ultimately made by Trump-era prosecutors, IRS officials, and investigators who were [aligned](#) with the [widely reported](#) priorities of Trump's [Attorney General](#) at the time.

After Republicans clamored for Weiss to be appointed Special Counsel, Biden administration Attorney General Merrick Garland did just that the same week Weiss requested special counsel status. Then, with a reversal so jarring it could give you whiplash, the very Republicans who were calling for Weiss to be given special counsel status [criticized the move](#) once it was made.

*Lie #5: Four IRS Whistleblowers Provided Bombshell Evidence of Tampering with the Hunter Biden Investigation*

Earlier this year, Oversight Chair James Comer (R-KY) blatantly misrepresented witnesses in his investigation, [claiming](#) he connected with "four whistleblowers" as part of his investigation. After Comer hyped the so-called whistleblowers on Fox News and Breitbart, his Democratic House Oversight Committee members called him out for misrepresenting:

- the number of individuals (two were identified, not four)
- their status (not official whistleblowers)
- the impact of their testimony (no new witness information provided).

**BONUS: If You're Interested in Corruption, Check Out the Trump Family**

If Republican presidential candidates are interested in attacking corruption on the debate stage on Wednesday, they should look no further than Donald Trump's family. As a White House official, Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner worked on foreign relations, including the Middle East. Less than six months after he left government, Kushner started a new firm that received [\\$2 billion](#) from a fund tied to the Saudi royal family. Presidential candidate Chris Christie said, "[the gift from this family is breathtaking](#)." All told, we know Jared and Ivanka Trump earned [\\$640 million](#) during the Trump administration, while working for the U.S. government.