

**New Report**

# **SIX MONTHS OF STUNTS, WRONG PRIORITIES, AND FAILURE**

*MAGA Republicans Have Nothing to  
Show for Their Partisan Games*

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**CONGRESSIONAL  
INTEGRITY**   
PROJECT 

# **SIX MONTHS OF STUNTS, WRONG PRIORITIES, AND FAILURE**

## *MAGA Republicans Have Nothing to Show for Their Partisan Games*

### *Introduction*

When Republicans took over the House in January 2023, they promised the American people real investigations and real oversight. Instead, beginning on day one Jim Jordan, James Comer, Kevin McCarthy, and their MAGA colleagues unleashed a series of partisan political stunts designed to hurt President Biden and increase their own power. Six months later, these investigations have failed to produce any evidence – not a single shred – of wrongdoing by the President. They have made false charges which they have repeatedly been forced to admit were untrue, relied on conspiracy theories, and condoned violence and white supremacists. They have shown they don't have the credibility to do real investigations and have been roundly criticized for their failures. Even Fox News hosts and commentators have criticized Comer and Jordan for continuing their sham investigations.

They would rather push their extreme MAGA agenda than focus on the issues keeping Americans up at night, like addressing the economy, gun violence, and health care. They're spending their time chasing conspiracy theories instead of legislating. MAGA Republicans have the wrong priorities, pursuing political stunts at the expense of the American people.

We're six months into these partisan political stunts posing as investigations, and what do MAGA Republicans have to show for it? Absolutely nothing. The President's reputation is untouched and Comer's and Jordan's reputations are in tatters.

*No Evidence Six Months In*

Republicans have yet to reveal a single shred of evidence linking President Biden to any of their lurid claims. In fact, Republicans were recently forced to walk back claims about their so-called bombshell tapes, with Comer [admitting](#) he did not know if the tapes were “legit or not.” Now, Comer’s latest claims have been [refuted](#) by an interview transcript of Ukrainian Oligarch Zlochevsky denying any contact with then-Vice President Biden dating back to 2019.

Comer and Jordan have also [pushed a false MAGA narrative](#) about the so-called weaponization of the federal government, particularly the FBI and Department of Justice. In hearing after hearing, their claims of bias and conspiracy have fallen flat. Comer [claimed](#) to have overwhelming evidence of government malfeasance from whistleblowers, then withheld the testimony from his Democratic colleagues and was [exposed](#) for misrepresenting disgruntled ex-employees.

Their own investigators and former staffers have expressed concerns about [flimsy documentation](#). Some have claimed investigations are “[doomed to fail](#)” and others believe Jordan simply “[isn’t delivering](#).” Their incompetence and lack of evidence have left even Fox News hosts and far-right commentators scratching their heads:

- **Fox News Host Steve Doocy: “What Was The Crime?”** During an interview with Fox News host Steve Doocy, Comer was asked, “What was the crime?” Comer responded, “Well the crime is that – trading policy for money.” When asked, “Which policy,” Comer was unable to supply a concrete answer, responding, “We’re gonna get into that.” [Fox News, 6/29/23, [VIDEO](#)]
- **Fox News Host Steve Doocy: “You Don’t Actually Have Any Facts.”** “I know the Republicans said that the smoking gun were these financial records that you were able to subpoena and got your hands on and your party, the Republican investigators, say that that’s proof of influence peddling by Hunter and James [Biden]. But that’s just your suggestion. You don’t actually have any facts to that point. You’ve got some circumstantial evidence. And the other thing is, of all those names, the one person who didn’t profit is that – there’s no evidence that Joe Biden did anything illegally.” [Fox News, 5/11/23, [VIDEO](#)]
- **Fox News Host Jesse Watters: “I’m Sick Of These Hearings.”** “I’m sick of these hearings. Make me feel better, guys. Tell me this is going somewhere. Can I throw



someone in prison? Can someone go to jail? Can someone get fined?" [Fox News, 2/10/23, [VIDEO](#)]

READ MORE:

- [ROUNDUP](#): Congressional Republicans Are Giving Away The Game
- [FACT SHEET](#): James Comer: All Hat, No Cattle
- [FACT SHEET](#): James Comer's Lies
- [James Comer's Unhinged Conspiracy Theories](#)
- [ROUNDUP](#): GOP Clown Car: James Comer and Jim Jordan Admit They Have No Proof Whatsoever of So-Called Bribery Tapes

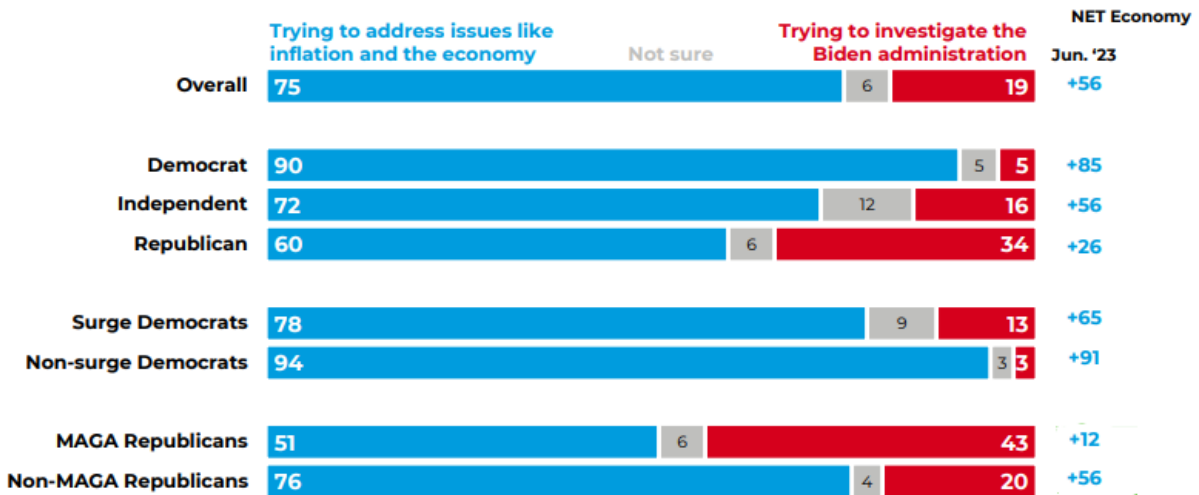
*Six Months of Wrong Priorities*

Not only have House Republicans failed to turn up any evidence in their conspiratorial investigations, but they have also failed to do any actual legislating. The MAGA House has completely lacked substance, instead favoring meaningless posturing. Over six months, the House GOP has passed over 150 bills and resolutions, many with absolutely no chance of passing, just to push the MAGA agenda.

Recent polling shows voters overwhelmingly want Republicans to focus on the economy rather than on investigations.

## Voters continue to want Republicans in Congress to focus more on the economy than investigations, including a large majority of non-MAGA Republicans

What do you think Republicans in Congress should focus more on?



## Investigating Biden ranks as a low priority, including among non-MAGA Republicans and independents

Rank the three that are most important for Congress to focus on

	Overall	Surge Dem	Non-surge Dem	Ind.	Non-MAGA GOP	MAGA GOP
	<i>% item was chosen once as most, second most, or third most important</i>					
Inflation and the cost of living	64	53	54	70	73	74
Economic issues besides inflation, like jobs and supply chains	30	23	23	38	28	40
Health care	27	36	36	33	21	12
Social Security and Medicare	26	28	31	27	23	19
Guns	25	43	44	21	16	4
Immigration	25	8	9	15	32	52
Climate change and the environment	21	32	38	16	14	4
Crime	21	20	20	22	27	20
Abortion	16	24	25	9	12	8
National security and foreign policy	16	7	7	15	19	29
Oversight and investigations into the Biden administration	13	3	1	11	16	29
Education	11	18	8	20	14	5
Energy policy	4	4	4	3	5	5

A whopping 76% of Republicans who do not identify with the MAGA label would rather have Congress focus on solving the real issues facing our country. Instead, Republicans in Congress are focused on pursuing their political stunts – and getting airtime on right



wing television.

Comer and Jordan have spent hours on right wing television and radio networks like Fox News, Newsmax, and OANN, spreading their conspiracy theories and lies, instead of legislating. Between May 1 and June 30 alone, James Comer made 91 appearances on right wing television and radio or podcast programs, totaling nearly 13 hours of air time for his conspiracy theories and disinformation. In just 60 days Comer made 35 appearances on Fox News, another 13 on Fox Business, and 17 on Newsmax. During the same time period, Jim Jordan spent a staggering 14 and a half hours on the air spread out over 85 separate appearances with right-wing broadcasters.

- **[MSNBC \(Opinion\): GOP's James Comer Spends An Inordinate Amount Of Time On Fox.](#)** [MSNBC (Opinion), [3/20/23](#)]

### *Six Months of Hypocrisy and Zero Credibility*

On every issue ranging from crime to gun violence, education, COVID-19, and even federal law enforcement, Republicans have demonstrated that their investigations are based on blatant hypocrisy.

Dozens of Republicans serving on the House Oversight and Judiciary committees have begun pushing to defund the FBI and other federal law enforcement agencies despite claiming to be the party of law enforcement. Comer suggested repeatedly that he intends to defund the FBI and other federal law enforcement agencies, openly calling to “[hold their budget hostage](#)” and to target “[specific employees](#)” and for punitive measures. Ever since former president Trump called on House Republicans to “[defund the DOJ and FBI](#)” in April, his MAGA allies in Congress have lined up to push for spending cuts and even all-out abolition of the Department of Justice. The House GOP has also maintained a facade that they are concerned about crime. Jordan held hearings on urban crime in Washington D.C. and New York City – even as murder rates in his own congressional district were [nearly three times higher](#) – simply to make a political point and intimidate law enforcement officers from doing their jobs and investigating wrongdoing from the former president. Such blatant hypocrisy only further demonstrates that House Republicans are far more concerned with launching political stunts than ensuring public safety and the rule of law.



At the beginning of the year, Comer [said](#) his committee would investigate the Trump family's foreign influence peddling. Yet six months in, Republicans have been [radio silent](#) on announcing hearings or sending letters requesting information.

For years, House Republicans were more than content to sit on the sidelines as the Trump family used their political power to influence the decisions of businesses and allies to enrich themselves and stepped aside when Trump upended the Department of Justice and issued pardons to protect his friends and associates. Where were Comer and other MAGA Republicans during the Trump administration? At every turn, they [looked the other way](#) when corruption took place from inside the White House.

Comer and House Republicans [opposed](#) issuing subpoenas, obtaining documents, and trying to get testimony to conduct [legitimate oversight](#) of the Trump family's corruption. While Republicans have spent five years relitigating one debunked conspiracy theory after another related to President Biden, they have obstructed any scrutiny whatsoever of influence peddling by the Trump family, particularly Jared Kushner and Ivanka Trump, which took place in broad daylight. Jared Kushner, Ivanka, Don Jr., and Eric Trump made millions off of Donald Trump's time in the oval office including from countries like Russia, Saudi Arabia, and China.

#### READ MORE:

- [PRESS RELEASE](#): Congressional Integrity Project Launches New Campaign Demanding Comer and House Republicans Investigate the Trump Family's Influence Peddling
- [ROUNDUP](#): "Tough-On-Crime" House Republicans Want to Defund Law Enforcement—Including Gun Violence Specialists
- [FACT SHEET](#): The Anti-Education House GOP Doesn't Actually Care About Kids, Learning, or Safety
- [ROUNDUP](#): House Republicans Went From "Tough-On-Crime" To "Defund The FBI"

#### *Six Months of Protecting Donald Trump*

The MAGA House has proven itself to be nothing but a staging ground for politically motivated attacks on President Biden. Even as Trump is facing a [combined 71 felony counts](#) between the Florida documents case and the 34 counts from his case in Manhattan, his allies in Congress have made clear they will stand with him no matter the facts.

They went out of their way to [intervene](#) in state and federal proceedings against the former president. Shortly after Trump's first indictment in Manhattan, they began [calling for an investigation](#) into the prosecutors assigned to Trump's cases and threatened to [defund](#) the agencies and offices responsible. They continued following this same playbook in the wake of Trump's second arrest when a group of far-right extremists held a [press conference](#) packed with election deniers who worked to undermine and overturn the 2020 election results in an effort to attack the DOJ.

And they're not even keeping it a secret. In May, Comer [bragged](#) that the House Republicans' investigation into President Joe Biden and his family is boosting former President Donald Trump in the polls, all but admitting that his investigations are [politically motivated](#). Likewise, Marjorie Taylor Greene has openly admitted that her efforts to impeach President Biden are politically motivated, [tweeting](#) "We will not win in 2024" without impeaching President Biden.

READ MORE:

- [FACT SHEET](#): MAGA Republicans Are Defending Trump At All Costs
- [ROUNDUP](#): What Unhinged MAGA Cultists Are Saying About Donald Trump's Indictment
- [MEMO](#): MAGA Republicans Are Playing Politics Again With a Bogus Impeachment In Mind

*Six Months of Uplifting Extremists & Supporting Violence*

Instead of actually attempting to make their case through evidence-based hearings featuring credible witnesses and accurate testimony, the House GOP is using the very same witnesses over and over again and drawing on increasingly fringe conspiracies.

Each of the investigations from the House GOP this year has hinged on extreme witnesses - [Trump administration loyalists](#) and [repeat witnesses](#) who echoed GOP talking points, MAGA [conspiracy theorists](#) and [election deniers](#), [disgruntled former employees](#) of federal agencies, fringe [industry insiders](#), and even far-right extremists who supported [scientific racism and racial profiling](#).

Make no mistake: McCarthy, Comer, Jordan, and the other MAGA Republicans in the House have spent the last six months caring more about scoring points with their far-right base than actually seeking out the truth. What do we have to look forward to for



the next six months? More testimony from fringe partisans invited by Comer and Jordan at the next act in their political circus.

READ MORE:

- [FACT SHEET](#): House Republicans’ Latest MAGA Immigration Stunt Lays The Groundwork For Impeachment
- [ROUNDUP](#): Jordan’s Latest MAGA Weaponization Hearing “Devolved Into Chaos” To Steamroll House Rules & Uplift Discredited Conspiracy Theorists
- [FACT SHEET](#): House Republicans Invite Three Repeat Witnesses In Latest ‘Rinse and Repeat’ Stunt Border Hearing
- [FACT SHEET](#): 100 Days of Far-Right Extremists, MAGA Conspiracy Theorists, and Election Deniers Serving as Witnesses for House GOP “Investigations”

*Six Months of Bad Press*

The first six months of the MAGA Majority in the House have been nothing but a failure for McCarthy, Comer, Jordan, and the other Trump-Republicans in the press:

- **The Washington Post: The Biden ‘Bribery’ Allegation Slips On More Banana Peels.** [The Washington Post, [6/29/23](#)]
- **The Colorado Springs Gazette Editorial Board: Impeach The President? Enough Grandstanding.** [The Colorado Springs Gazette, [6/18/23](#)]
- **Salon: “Look At The Polling”: James Comer Brags That GOP’s Biden Crusade Is Boosting Trump’s Numbers.** [Salon, [5/22/23](#)]
- **HuffPost: GOP Rep. James Comer Implies Biden Family Probe Is Really About Helping Trump In 2024.** [HuffPost, [5/22/23](#)]
- **Washington Post (Opinion): Facts Matter: Another Disastrous Spate Of Failed GOP Investigations.** [Washington Post (Opinion), [5/19/23](#)]
- **Raw Story: GOP's Biden Family Investigation On Brink Of Collapse As Pressure Mounts To Produce Evidence: Report.** [Raw Story, [5/10/23](#)]

- **HuffPost: Republicans Hype More Unsubstantiated Allegations Against Joe Biden.** [HuffPost, [5/4/23](#)]
- **The Bulwark: Jim Jordan Takes His Clown Show on the Road.** [The Bulwark, [4/12/23](#)]
- **Bloomberg: House GOP Off to Bumpy Start Slowed by Debt Limit, Party Rifts.** [Bloomberg Government, [4/11/23](#)]
- **The Hill: 100 Days In Power: House GOP Honeymoon May Be Over.** [The Hill, [4/13/23](#)]
- **Politico: House GOP's Biden Investigations Sputter Out Of The Gate.** [Politico, [4/4/23](#)]
- **Vox: The House GOP's Investigations Are Flopping.** [Vox, [3/28/23](#)]
- **Vanity Fair: James Comer Is Becoming a Headliner in the GOP's Performance Politics.** [Vanity Fair, [3/21/23](#)]
- **The Hill (Opinion): Jordan's 'Weaponization' Panel Is All Conclusions, No Evidence.** [The Hill (Opinion), [3/14/23](#)]
- **Axios: Jim Jordan Scrambles Amid Claims 'Weaponization' Probe Is A Dud.** [Axios, [3/7/23](#)]
- **Newsweek: Republicans' Big Hopes For Attacking Joe Biden Spectacularly Unraveled.** [Newsweek, [2/10/23](#)]
- **Bloomberg: House Republicans' Hunter Biden Investigation Begins With A Thud.** [Bloomberg, [2/8/23](#)]

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- [ROUNDUP](#): MAGA Republicans’ Hunter Biden Allegations Disproved Once Again
- [ROUNDUP](#): MAGA “Grandstanding” Impeachment Efforts Amount To Bogus “Playground Games”
- [ROUNDUP](#): MAGA Political Motivations Behind Biden Family Investigations Exposed Once Again
- [ROUNDUP](#): James Comer Gets Called Out for Being All Hat, No Cattle
- [ROUNDUP](#): Comer and Grassley Face Backlash Over Unsubstantiated Allegations
- [HEADLINE ROUNDUP](#): 100 Days of Bad Press for the House GOP’s “Investigations”