A bipartisan investigation found that he committed 11 ethics violations, fined him $50,000 dollars and his colleagues unanimously reprimanded him after he used his Congressional staff to pay for his personal expenses like first class flight upgrades, dry cleaning and expensive dinners meals and to babysit his daughter. His campaign failed to disclose loans or repayments of loans and failed to report contributions and expenditures, which was described as “flouting of campaign finance laws and regulations” and “egregious errors.”

The House Ethics Committee Found Schweikert Committed 11 Ethics Violations And Recommended That The House Reprimand Schweikert And Fine Him $50,000 By Adopting Its Report. “On June 30, 2020, following negotiations with Representative Schweikert’s counsel, the ISC unanimously voted to adopt a Statement of Alleged Violations (SAV) detailing 11 violations and the facts giving rise to those violations. As part of the settlement, Representative Schweikert agreed to admit to all 11 violations in the SAV and waive all further procedural rights he was afforded under House and Committee rules. […] Therefore, the Committee recommends Representative Schweikert be reprimanded for the violations discussed above. In addition to public reprimand, the Committee recommends that the House, by adoption of this Report, impose a $50,000 fine on Representative Schweikert for his misconduct and that the fine be payable to the U.S. Treasury no later than October 30, 2020. The Committee further recommends that the House of Representative adopt a resolution in the following form and that the adoption of this Report will serve as a reprimand of Representative Schweikert and the imposition of a $50,000 fine under the conditions outlined herein: HOUSE RESOLUTION --- Resolved, (1) That the House adopt the Report of the Committee on Ethics dated July 30, 2020, In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative David Schweikert.” [House Ethics Committee, Report, 7/30/20]


The House Ethics Committee’s Investigation Of Schweikert Was Bipartisan. House Ethics Committee Chair Congressman Ted Deutch said, “During the 115th Congress, the committee impaneled an investigative subcommittee to lead a bipartisan review of these allegations [against Schweikert]. At the start of the 116th Congress, the committee reestablished that evenly divided bipartisan panel and appointed Representative Dean Phillips of Minnesota as its chair, along with Representative Bill Flores of Texas, Representative Jamie Raskin of Maryland, and Representative John Katko of New York.” [Congressional Record, 7/31/20]

Schweikert’s Legislative Staff Advanced Funds For Schweikert’s Travel, Dry Cleaning, And Meals And Were Reimbursed With Campaign Funds. “The ISC also found that Representative Schweikert’s campaign funds were used to reimburse staff for expenditures made for his personal use, including babysitting services, meals, dry-cleaning, and travel. […] Mr. Schwab and another staffer also paid for Representative Schweikert’s dry-cleaning on occasion and were reimbursed. […] There were numerous instances in which members of Representative Schweikert’s staff advanced their personal funds for his personal benefit in the form of paying for meals, travel, drycleaning, and babysitting services. For each such instance reviewed by the ISC, staff were reimbursed the full value of the advance, either directly by Representative Schweikert, or by his campaign or Mr. Schwab.” [House Ethics Committee, Investigative Subcommittee Report, 7/30/20]

Schweikert’s Legislative Staffed Paid Out Of Pocket For Schweikert To Fly First Class. “The ISC found that Mr. Schwab occasionally purchased flight upgrades for Representative Schweikert when he was traveling with his daughter.321 Representative Schweikert testified that he was unaware that Mr. Schwab had paid for his upgrade in these instances and said that he was concerned that staff did not ask to use his miles or his credit
Schweikert Used Campaign Funds To Reimburse His Chief Of Staff, Oliver Schwab, For Paying For A Staff Dinner That Schweikert Left Without Paying The Tab. "In some instances where Mr. Schwab was reimbursed for his outlays through his company, Chartwell Associates, the reimbursement was reported as income to Mr. Schwab for consulting services. Mr. Schwab testified that he was instructed by Representative Schweikert to do this in some instances because Representative Schweikert was ‘very adamant that he did not want a whole bunch of dinners in D.C. showing up on his FECs. So the way those would get repaid to the person who had provided the outlay, that being me, is that it would show up in the form of me charging a consulting invoice.’2 [...] For example, Mr. Schwab frequently bought food for Representative Schweikert when the congressman was in Washington, D.C., usually on his own initiative.310 On at least one occasion, Mr. Schwab paid for a meal Representative Schweikert attended with official staff in which Representative Schweikert left before the bill came.311 Mr. Schwab testified that he was not reimbursed by Representative Schweikert directly on these occasions, instead, he received reimbursements from the campaign for the purchases or by billing the campaign for services to obscure the underlying reason for the reimbursement.312 [...] Representative Schweikert also denied that members of his congressional staff ever babysat his child in the office, paid for babysitters on his behalf, took his clothes to be dry cleaned, or were stuck with a bill for a staff dinner after Representative Schweikert left the restaurant without paying.610 As explained previously, the ISC’s record demonstrates that, contrary to his testimony, this conduct did occur.” [House Ethics Committee, Investigative Subcommittee Report, 7/30/20]

Former Schweikert Chief Of Staff Oliver Schwab Claimed Schweikert Instructed Him To Charge The Campaign For Consulting To Hide That He Had Paid For “A Whole Bunch Of Dinners In D.C.” “In some instances where Mr. Schwab was reimbursed for his outlays through his company, Chartwell Associates, the reimbursement was reported as income to Mr. Schwab for consulting services. Mr. Schwab testified that he was instructed by Representative Schweikert to do this in some instances because Representative Schweikert was ‘very adamant that he did not want a whole bunch of dinners in D.C. showing up on his FECs. So the way those would get repaid to the person who had provided the outlay, that being me, is that it would show up in the form of me charging a consulting invoice.’2” [House Ethics Committee, Investigative Subcommittee Report, 7/30/20]

A Schweikert Official Staffer Was Reimbursed By The Campaign For Payments Of $447.62 At Hawk & Dove And $381.01 At The Hamilton, Both Washington, D.C. Restaurants A list of the payments made by a Schweikert official staffer and reimbursed by the campaign included $447.62 at Hawk & Dove and $381.01 at the Hamilton – both Washington, D.C. restaurants. [House Ethics Committee, Appendix D Part 1, 7/30/20]

Congressional Staff Babysat Schweikert’s Daughter In His Office, And Schweikert Sought To Hire A Staffer To Help Watch His Daughter. “Two staff members testified that congressional staffers watched Representative Schweikert’s daughter within the congressional office.338 In addition, the ISC reviewed evidence indicating that Representative Schweikert sought to hire a staff member to help watch his daughter. [...] Representative Schweikert also denied that members of his congressional staff ever babysat his child in the office, paid for babysitters on his behalf, took his clothes to be dry cleaned, or were stuck with a bill for a staff dinner after Representative Schweikert left the restaurant without paying.610 As explained previously, the ISC’s record demonstrates that, contrary to his testimony, this conduct did occur.” [House Ethics Committee, Investigative Subcommittee Report, 7/30/20]

Schweikert Failed To Disclose $305,000 In Loans Loan Repayments, $25,000 In Disbursements, And $140,000 In Contributions And Falsely Reported $100,000 In Disbursements On Campaign Finance Reports. “First, Representative Schweikert failed to take reasonable steps to ensure his campaign committees operated in compliance with applicable laws and standards of conduct, including Federal Election Commission Act (FECA) reporting requirements. Specifically, between July 2010 and December 2017, Representative Schweikert’s...
campaign committees erroneously disclosed or failed to disclose at least $305,000 in loans or repayment of loans made or obtained for the benefit of his congressional campaigns; failed to report at least $25,000 in disbursements made by his campaigns; failed to report more than $140,000 in contributions received by his campaigns; and falsely reported making disbursements totaling $100,000.” [House Ethics Committee, Report, 7/30/20]

Schweikert’s Campaign Disclosed A Fictional $100,000 Loan And Made False Payments To Balance Its Books, And Schweikert Made The “Untruthful” Claim He Had Forgiven The Loan That Did Not Exist. “Schweikert for Congress, which served as Representative Schweikert’s principal campaign committee during the 2012 campaign, failed to file accurate and complete disclosures with the FEC as required by federal campaign finance laws and regulations. Specifically, the campaign committee falsely reported receiving a December 25, 2011, $100,000 personal loan from Representative Schweikert, and falsely reported making five disbursements totaling $100,000. The weight of evidence does not support Representative Schweikert’s contention that these fabrications were the result of “inadvertent” errors. Mrs. Schweikert, who was responsible for the errors, has a background in accounting and bookkeeping and had access to the campaign’s bank statements. A cursory review of those records easily shows that the transactions did not occur as they were reported. In addition, the fake disbursements, spread out over five odd-numbered payments to a frequent campaign vendor, were for the exact sum of money missing from the campaign’s receipts due to the fake loan; those disbursements gave the illusion that the $100,000 loan was used by the Schweikert for Congress campaign committee, effectively balancing out the campaign’s reported cash on hand and preventing a shortfall in campaign funds that might have signaled to others that the loan had never been made in the first place. Representative Schweikert was specifically advised of irregularities regarding Mrs. Schweikert’s handling of campaign finances, including the misreported disbursements to Blue Point LLC (which accounted for the $100,000 in funds that were not received). He was also aware that the $100,000 loan had been improperly reported. […] Representative Schweikert furthered the misreporting when he executed a signed memorandum addressed to his treasurer in September 2013, which was then filed with the FEC: ‘I have forgiven the outstanding $100,000 loan, incurred on December 25, 2011, from my Schweikert for Congress Committee 2012 Primary Election.’149 Representative Schweikert justified this statement by noting that he is not a lawyer and that it seemed to be “the most rationale way” to make sure the Schweikerts did not benefit from the falsely reported loan.150 A legal degree, however, is not required to know this statement was untruthful.” [House Ethics Committee, Investigative Subcommittee Report, 7/30/20]

The Investigative Subcommittee Called Schweikert’s Failure To Disclose Campaign Transactions As “Flouting Of Campaign Finance Laws And Regulations.” “The flouting of campaign finance laws and regulations was not limited to disclosure violations. Among other issues, Representative Schweikert’s campaign committees accepted substantial campaign contributions from his Chief of Staff, Oliver Schwab, largely in the form of outlays on behalf of his campaign totaling hundreds of thousands of dollars.” [House Ethics Committee, Investigative Subcommittee Report, 7/30/20]

The Investigative Subcommittee Called Schweikert’s Failure To Disclose Campaign Transactions As “Egregious Errors.” “With respect to reporting violations, whether they are related to FEC reports or Financial Disclosure Statements, the Committee strongly encourages Members to take prompt corrective action, including voluntarily filing appropriate amendments.23 As detailed below, Representative Schweikert did not take reasonable steps to ensure that his campaign committees operated in compliance with applicable laws. Despite Representative Schweikert’s efforts to dismiss the issues as minor mistakes or the conduct of wayward staff acting without his knowledge or support, the ISC found substantial reason to believe that Representative Schweikert facilitated many of the most egregious errors. Furthermore, while he took some positive steps towards his compliance obligations, including hiring one compliance firm in 2013 after initial issues emerged with his campaign, and hiring another compliance firm in December 2017 after another set of issues came to light, Representative Schweikert nonetheless demonstrated insufficient regard for FECA’s reporting requirements by not empowering those firms to take complete and prompt corrective actions with respect to several significant reporting errors and omissions.” [House Ethics Committee, Investigative Subcommittee Report, 7/30/20]