

THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO

The

BENGHAZI
SELECT
COMMITTEE

CREATED BY: **BRC** Benghazi
Research
Center



“

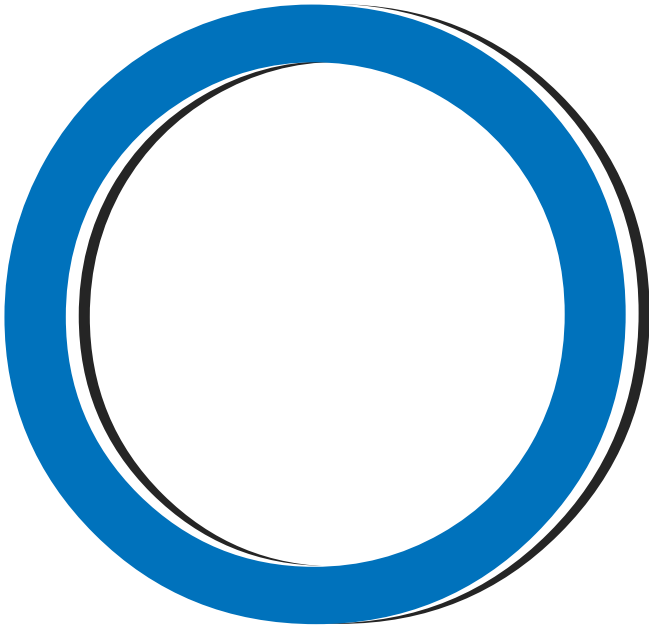
*Let me give you one example:
Everybody thought Hillary Clinton was
unbeatable, right?*

*But we put together a
Benghazi Special Committee.
A select committee.*

”

Kevin McCarthy

House Majority Leader



n Face The Nation last Sunday, Trey Gowdy argued that observers are lambasting his hyper-partisan Benghazi Committee because “they don’t have any idea what the facts are.” Unfortunately for Gowdy, the facts are right here, and they are damning. The following pages indict his political fishing expedition for the shameful abuse of power that it is.

Ahead of Hillary Clinton’s testimony later this week, Correct The Record’s Benghazi Research Center has prepared this authoritative report on Gowdy’s total manipulation of the public trust and misuse of taxpayer funds. From leaking selective information from private interviews, to fundraising off of the four brave Americans who died in the Benghazi tragedy, to leading one of the longest-running and least-active select committees in history, Gowdy brazenly ensnared Congress and the media in a political quagmire, all in the obsessive pursuit of damaging Hillary Clinton’s presidential campaign.

It’s no wonder that House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy spilled the beans. The Benghazi Committee is so contemptuous of the truth that the GOP thought they could get away with just about anything.

Gowdy may want his GOP colleagues to “shut up” now that the spotlight is getting hot, but the truth has only been exposed through his own recklessness and raw political ambition. Now, it’s up to the media and the American people to expose the Benghazi Committee for what it is:

AN UTTERLY SHAMELESS PARTISAN EXERCISE.

Getting to know one of the

THE LONGEST & MOST EXPENSIVE CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATIONS EVER.

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BENGHAZI NUMBERS BY THE



SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE

ONGOING INVESTIGATIONS

7

PRIOR CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATIONS

\$ **20** MILLION

MINIMUM TOTAL COST

[WITH OPERATING COSTS OF THE FIRST SEVEN CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATIONS UNKNOWN]

32



CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS

2,780

QUESTIONS ASKED

IN PUBLIC HEARINGS



11 PUBLISHED REPORTS ON THE BENGHAZI ATTACKS

70,000

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF PAGES OF DOCUMENTS PROVIDED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT

Only **3**

PUBLIC HEARINGS HELD BY THE BENGHAZI SELECT COMMITTEE

11

MONTHS SECRETARY CLINTON WILL HAVE WAITED TO TESTIFY IN AN OPEN, PUBLIC HEARING

0

INVESTIGATIONS THAT HAVE FOUND ANY ADMINISTRATION WRONGDOING

0

INVESTIGATIONS TO FIND EVIDENCE OF AN INTELLIGENCE FAILURE

0

INVESTIGATIONS TO FIND EVIDENCE OF A STAND DOWN ORDER

THE COSTS

UNLIMITED

BUDGET GRANTED
to the
 SELECT COMMITTEE

In 2015, the Republican House has spent more on the Benghazi Select Committee than...

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE	\$1,997,094.61
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS	\$1,685,141.18
COMMITTEE ON ETHICS	\$1,531,886.28
COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS	\$1,469,724.57
COMMITTEE ON RULES	\$1,309,884.75
SELECT COMMITTEE ON BENGHAZI	\$2,185,996.45

2015 Yearly expenditures,
 (Through July 2015)

\$14 MILLION

spent by

The State Department

RESPONDING TO
 CONGRESSIONAL
 INVESTIGATIONS
 INTO BENGHAZI

+

\$2+ MILLION

spent by

The Department
 of Defense

\$ 4.7 MILLION (current investigation)

- + \$? House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on Benghazi
- + \$? Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs on Benghazi
- + \$? Senate Select Committee on Intelligence on Benghazi
- + \$? House Committee on Foreign Affairs on Benghazi
- + \$? House Committee on the Judiciary on Benghazi
- + \$? House Committee on Armed Services on Benghazi
- + \$? House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence on Benghazi

\$20+ MILLION

IN TAXPAYER FUNDED INVESTIGATIONS

The WIDESPREAD CRITICISM *of the* BENGHAZI COMMITTEE

“
*The Benghazi committee,
was always designed
to go after Clinton
but Republicans only started
owning up to it recently.*

Jon Allen *Vox*

“
*The Benghazi Committee
isn't investigating a scandal,
THE BENGHAZI COMMITTEE
IS THE SCANDAL.*

Steve Benen *msnbc*

“IT'S GETTING HARDER AND HARDER TO PLAY ALONG WITH THE CHARADE.”

Kevin Drum *Mother Jones*

“
The reality is that the Republican staff
and majority of the committee have
made it function as an oppo-research
arm of the Republican National
Committee.

James Fallows *The Atlantic*

“
*Republicans are
destroying the House
Benghazi probe's
credibility.*”

Greg Sargent *The Washington Post*

“
*The House Benghazi investigation is now thoroughly
discredited as a partisan sham.*” *Jamelle Bouie Slate*

“
ANYONE WHO'S PAID EVEN CURSORY ATTENTION TO THE GOP'S TREATMENT OF THE BENGHAZI
ATTACKS WILL LIKELY HAVE ALREADY CONCLUDED THAT THE PARTY'S INTEREST IN THE MATTER
IS LINKED TO HILLARY CLINTON'S PRESIDENTIAL AMBITIONS.”

Simon Maloy *SALON*

BENGHAZI COMMITTEE

LEAKS

Leak #1: Trey Gowdy committee leaked news of Hillary Clinton subpoena.

“In a letter sent to Chairman Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.) on Friday, the five Democrats on the panel criticized Gowdy for issuing the formal request for documents from Clinton’s term as secretary of state without consulting with Democrats and accused the committee of operating as a campaign arm of the Republican National Committee.”

Politico, 3/6/15

“It seems obvious that someone on the Republican side of the Committee provided this information.”

Rep. Elijah Cummings, 3/6/15

Leak #2: Trey Gowdy committee leaked news of Sidney Blumenthal subpoena.

Republicans on the Benghazi Committee leaked “news of the subpoena before it was served.”

Rep. Elijah Cummings, 5/18/15

“Mr. Gowdy’s chief interest, according to people briefed on the inquiry, is a series of memos that Mr. Blumenthal — who was not an employee of the State Department — wrote to Mrs. Clinton about events unfolding in Libya before and after the death of Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi.”

New York Times, 5/18/15

Leak #3: Trey Gowdy committee leaked Sidney Blumenthal email correspondence with Clinton.

“According to emails obtained by The New York Times, Mrs. Clinton, who was secretary of state at the time, took Mr. Blumenthal’s advice seriously, forwarding his memos to senior diplomatic officials in Libya and Washington and at times asking them to respond. Mrs. Clinton continued to pass around his memos even after other senior diplomats concluded that Mr. Blumenthal’s assessments were often unreliable.”

New York Times, 5/18/15

Trey Gowdy “selectively leaked pages of Secretary Clinton’s emails” to the press.

Rep. Elijah Cummings, 5/18/15

Plus eight more leaks.

THE DIFFERENT FORCES DRIVING

The BENGHAZI SCANDAL



1) TREY GOWDY LEAKING MISLEADING INFORMATION TO THE PRESS

- Leaked information to press about a subpoena of Hillary Clinton's emails. *Politico, 3/6/15*
- Committee doctored email exchanges and leaked them to Politico in order to drive the GOP narrative. *Rep. Cummings letter to Chairman Gowdy, 7/6/15*

2

3

CITIZENS UNITED COORDINATING WITH THE BENGHAZI COMMITTEE TO SPREAD MISINFORMATION

- Citizens United's David Bossie: "My staff communicated with the committee" about emails withheld by State. *Breitbart, 9/23/15*
- Citizen's United David Bossie told Politico Benghazi Committee staff informed him that they did not have the emails. *Politico, 9/22/15*

JUDICIAL WATCH FEEDING FALSE INFORMATION TO POLITICO

- Judicial Watch released documents purported to show that Hillary Clinton signed off on Huma Abedin's special government employee status. *Politico, 9/24/15*
- A second Politico story revealed that Cheryl Mills signed the approval, not Hillary Clinton. *Politico, 9/27/15*

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

- Chairman Chuck Grassley released a letter to the State Department claiming Hillary Clinton's lawyers "deliberately changed classification determinations." *Sen. Grassley letter to Secretary Kerry, 8/19/15*

4

5

SENATE HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

- Chairman Ron Johnson called on the FBI to turn over recovered emails for a review for federal records. *New York Times, 9/24/15*
- Chairman Johnson fed information to the conservative Daily Caller about security clearance of IT company. *Daily Caller, 8/14/15*

SENATOR CORNYN CALLING FOR SPECIAL PROSECUTOR

- Sen. John Cornyn claimed Hillary Clinton "intentionally evaded" FOIA laws, government classification and national security protections. *The Hill, 9/16/15*

6

GOP FUNDRAISING OFF OF **BENGHAZI**



REP. TREY GOWDY

Trey Gowdy was a special guest at a fundraiser for Congressman and Benghazi Committee member Peter Roskam.

Cook County Republican Party, 9/15/15

Trey Gowdy was scheduled to be the Special Guest at a \$2,000-per-couple fundraiser for Marco Rubio.

SaintPetersBlog, 9/12/15

At the National Pachyderm Convention alongside Trey Gowdy, Rep. Chuck Fleischmann warned "Hillary Clinton or any other lefty out there" that Gowdy "is going to get you."

Chattanooga Times Free Press, 6/7/15

Committee Chairman Trey Gowdy was scheduled to appear at a Virginia GOP fundraiser titled "Beyond Benghazi."

National Review, 3/9/15

Trey Gowdy used Benghazi to raise money at a barbecue fundraiser for Rep. Mick Mulvaney.

Lancaster News, 9/1/13

Trey Gowdy was listed as "Chairman of the House Select Committee on Benghazi" announcing his appearance as the Keynote Speaker for the Volusia County Republican Party Lincoln Day Dinner.

[First Coast Tea Party invitation, via correctrecord.org, accessed 10/20/15]

COMMITTEE COSTS

HARASSING HILLARY CLINTON: YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK

The American people expect their tax dollars to be used efficiently and not for campaign purposes. That's an essential aspect of the public trust we invest in our elected officials. Unfortunately, but not surprisingly, House Republicans have squandered that public trust through a highly partisan, explicitly political, taxpayer-funded effort to damage Hillary Clinton.

Nowhere is this more evident than in the astronomical cost of the relentless and continuous investigation and re-investigation of the tragedy in Benghazi. Gowdy's committee has already spent more in 2015 than the House Committees on Intelligence, Veterans' Affairs, Ethics, Small Business and Rules. The full cost of the GOP's Benghazi investigations is at least \$20 million, with the operating costs of the first seven congressional investigations unknown.

The Benghazi Investigation Has Cost Taxpayers at Least \$20 Million.

\$14 Million: The State Department has spent more than \$14 million responding to congressional investigations into Benghazi. “During yesterday’s meeting, the State Department reported that it has now spent more than \$14 million responding to the eight congressional investigations of the Benghazi attacks, turning over tens of thousands of pages of documents, and making dozens of witnesses available for scores of hearings, interviews, and briefings.” [Benghazi Committee Democrats press release, [10/10/15](#)]

\$4.7 Million: The Benghazi Committee’s investigation has cost more than \$4.7 million. [Benghazi Investigation: The Cost to Taxpayers, [accessed 10/13/15](#)]

+\$2 Million: The Pentagon said multiple investigations into Benghazi had cost the Department of Defense “millions of dollars.” “The Pentagon said Tuesday that its work to comply with the six congressional investigations into the September 2012 attack in Benghazi, Libya, has cost the military millions of dollars and thousands of man hours. The Pentagon said in a letter to Rep. Adam Smith (Wash.), the top Democrat on the House Armed services Committee, that Defense Department officials have participated in 50 congressional hearings, briefings and interviews about the attack.” [The Hill, [3/22/14](#)]

\$? Million: Amount spent by previous seven Congressional investigations:

- 1** \$?: Amount spent by House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on Benghazi attack related investigations. [“Interim Report on the Accountability Review Board,” Committee on Oversight and Government Reform [9/16/13](#)]
- 2** \$?: Amount by spent Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs on Benghazi attack related investigations. [“Flashing Red: A Special Report on the Terrorist Attack at Benghazi,” the Senate Committee On Homeland Security And Governmental Affairs [12/30/12](#)]
- 3** \$?: Amount spent by Senate Select Committee on Intelligence on Benghazi attack related investigations. [“Review of the Terrorist Attacks on U.S. Facilities in Benghazi, Libya, September 11-12, 2012,” Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, [1/15/14](#)]
- 4** \$?: Amount spent by House Committee on Foreign Affairs on Benghazi attack related investigations. [“Benghazi: Where is the State Department Accountability?,” Majority Staff Report – House Foreign Affairs Committee, [2/7/14](#)]

- 5 \$?: Amount spent by House Committee on the Judiciary on Benghazi attack related investigations. [Interim Progress Report on Benghazi Investigation, [4/23/13](#)]
- 6 \$?: Amount spent by House Committee on Armed Services on Benghazi attack related investigations. [“Armed Services Committee slams White House on Benghazi,” USA Today, [2/11/14](#)]
- 7 \$?: Amount spent by House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence on Benghazi attack related investigations. [“Investigative Report on the Terrorist Attacks on U.S. Facilities in Benghazi, Libya, September 11-12, 2012,” House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, [11/21/14](#)]

In 2015, the Republican House has spent more on the Benghazi Select Committee than...

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE	—————	\$1,997,094.61
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS	—————	\$1,685,141.18
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COMMITTEE ON RULES	—————	\$1,309,884.75
SELECT COMMITTEE ON BENGHAZI	—————	\$2,185,996.45

2015 Yearly expenditures,
(Through July 2015)

[Committee Reports from 114th Congress, Committee on House Administration, accessed, [10/15/15](#)]

THE COSTS ARE ASTRONOMICAL

Unlimited: Budget granted to the Benghazi Select Committee by the Republican controlled House of Representatives. [Letter to Committee on House Administration Chairman and Ranking Member, [2/5/15](#)]

\$1.8 Million: Approximate cost of the Benghazi Select Committee in 2014. [Letter to Committee on House Administration Chairman and Ranking Member, [2/5/15](#)]

\$2.5 Million: Approximate cost of the Benghazi Select Committee in its first 10 months. [“Benghazi Investigation Now Longer than Iran-Contra and other Investigations,” Benghazi Select Committee Democrats press release, [3/23/15](#)]

\$4.7 Million: Approximate cost of the Benghazi Select Committee to date. [democrats.benghazi.house.gov, accessed [10/14/15](#)]

\$6 Million: Estimated minimum cost of the Benghazi Select Committee investigation at its current rate. [“Cummings Statement On Gowdy Plan to Release Benghazi Report Months Before 2016 Presidential Election,” Benghazi Select Committee Democrats press release, [4/22/15](#)]

\$8,000

**ESTIMATED DAILY COST
OF THE BENGHAZI
SELECT COMMITTEE
INVESTIGATION AT ITS
CURRENT RATE.**

[Letter to Committee on House
Administration Chairman and Ranking
Member, [2/5/15](#)]

\$1.35 Million: Approximate total salary expenditures in 2014 for Benghazi Select Committee staff. [Legistorm, [accessed 4/24/15](#)]

\$3.1 Million: Approximate total salary expenditures for Benghazi Select Committee staff. [Legistorm, [accessed 10/14/15](#)]

\$128,750: Average salary of House GOP staff on the Benghazi Select Committee. [New York Observer, [6/18/15](#)]

BY THE NUMBERS

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE COMMITTEE TO DESTROY HILLARY CLINTON

This week, Hillary Clinton will testify before Trey Gowdy and his Select Committee on Benghazi, which has received increased scrutiny after the not-so-shocking admissions by Republican Reps. McCarthy and Hanna of its blatantly political motivations.

It's often forgotten that Gowdy's committee is the 8th congressional investigation into the tragedy that took the lives of 4 brave Americans. In the course of those previous investigations, all of the questions have been asked and answered, and recommendations were made as to how to prevent another tragedy from happening again. However, preventing another tragedy has never been the focus of Gowdy's committee. Take a look at the sheer number and size of the investigations thus far, as well as Gowdy's committee's deranged obsession with Secretary Clinton and her emails, and it's clear that this committee was formed with no other purpose other than to destroy Hillary Clinton.

BENGHAZI INVESTIGATIONS

1,128 Number of days since the beginning of the ongoing investigations into the tragedy in Benghazi, and there is no end yet in sight. [As of 10/16/15]

COST

\$20 Million Minimum total cost of congressional investigations into Benghazi, with operating costs of the first seven Congressional investigations unknown. [Harassing Hillary Clinton: Your Tax Dollars at Work, [accessed 10/16/15](#)]

COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION

10 Number of congressional committees that have participated in Benghazi investigations.

House Committee on the Judiciary. [Interim Progress Report on Benghazi Investigation, [4/23/13](#)]

House Committee on Armed Services. [Interim Progress Report on Benghazi Investigation, [4/23/13](#)]

House Committee on Foreign Affairs. [Interim Progress Report on Benghazi Investigation, [4/23/13](#)]

House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.
[Interim Progress Report on Benghazi Investigation, [4/23/13](#)]

House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.
[Interim Progress Report on Benghazi Investigation, [4/23/13](#)]

Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs.
[Flashing Red: A Special Report on the Terrorist Attack at Benghazi, [12/30/12](#)]

Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. [Senate Intelligence Committee press release, [10/25/12](#)]

Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. [Benghazi: The Attacks and the Lessons Learned, [1/23/13](#)]

Senate Committee on Armed Services. [Attack on U.S. Facilities in Benghazi, Libya, [2/7/13](#)]

The Select Committee on Benghazi. [Select Committee on Benghazi, [accessed 3/24/15](#)]

PRIOR CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATIONS

7 Number of prior congressional investigations into the Benghazi tragedy.

House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. [“Interim Report on the Accountability Review Board,” Committee on Oversight and Government Reform [9/16/13](#)]

Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs. [“Flashing Red: A Special Report on the Terrorist Attack at Benghazi,” the Senate Committee On Homeland Security And Governmental Affairs [12/30/12](#)]

Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. [“Review of the Terrorist Attacks on U.S. Facilities in Benghazi, Libya, September 11-12, 2012,” Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, [1/15/14](#)]

House Committee on Foreign Affairs. [“Benghazi: Where is the State Department Accountability?,” Majority Staff Report – House Foreign Affairs Committee, [2/7/14](#)]

House Committee on the Judiciary. [Interim Progress Report on Benghazi Investigation, [4/23/13](#)]

House Committee on Armed Services. [“Armed Services Committee slams White House on Benghazi,” USA Today, [2/11/14](#)]

House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. [“Investigative Report on the Terrorist Attacks on U.S. Facilities in Benghazi, Libya, September 11-12, 2012,” House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, [11/21/14](#)]

HEARINGS

32 Number of congressional hearings, public or private, held on the Benghazi tragedy according to publicly available hearing transcripts, congressional reports, and committee websites and fact sheets.

- **Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs hearing, Homeland Threats and Agency Responses held 9/19/12.** [Homeland Threats and Agency Responses, [9/19/12](#)]
- **House Committee on Armed Services hearing, Full Committee Hearing on the Attack in Benghazi held 9/19/12.** [Fact Sheet: HASC Oversight Activities on Libya, [armedservices.house.gov](#), accessed [4/13/15](#)]
- **House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform hearing, The Security Failures of Benghazi held 10/10/12.** [The Security Failures of Benghazi, [10/10/12](#)]

- **House Committee on Foreign Affairs hearing, Benghazi and Beyond: What Went Wrong on September 11, 2012 and How to Prevent it from Happening at other Frontline Posts, Part I held 11/15/12.** [Benghazi and Beyond: What Went Wrong on September 11, 2012 and How to Prevent it from Happening at other Frontline Posts, Part I, [11/15/12](#)]
- **House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence hearing, Full Committee Hearing with DNI Clapper, ADCIA Morell, D/NCTC Olsen, and Under Secretary Kennedy held 11/15/12.** [Investigative Report on the Terrorist Attacks on U.S. Facilities in Benghazi, Libya, September 11-12, 2012, pg. 7, footnote 11, [11/21/14](#)]
- **Senate Select Committee on Intelligence hearing, Hearing on the Attacks in Benghazi held 11/15/12.** [Senate Intelligence Committee press release, [10/25/12](#), SSCI Review of the Terrorist Attacks on U.S. Facilities in Benghazi, Libya, September 11-12, 2012, pg. 3, footnote 4, [1/15/14](#)]
- **House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence hearing, Full Committee Hearing on Benghazi held 11/16/12.** [Investigative Report on the Terrorist Attacks on U.S. Facilities in Benghazi, Libya, September 11-12, 2012, pg. 25, footnote 131, [11/21/14](#)]
- **Senate Select Committee on Intelligence hearing, Hearing With General David Petraeus Re: His Knowledge of the Attacks on U.S. Facilities in Benghazi, Libya held 11/16/12.** [SSCI Review of the Terrorist Attacks on U.S. Facilities in Benghazi, Libya, September 11-12, 2012, Additional Majority Views, pg. 3, footnote 143, [1/15/14](#)]
- **Senate Select Committee on Intelligence hearing, Hearing on Security Issues at Benghazi and Threats to U.S. Intelligence and Diplomatic Personnel and Facilities Worldwide Since the Attack held 12/4/12.** [SSCI Review of the Terrorist Attacks on U.S. Facilities in Benghazi, Libya, September 11-12, 2012, pg. 6, footnote 18, [1/15/14](#)]
- **House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence hearing, Full Committee classified hearing on efforts to find the Benghazi attackers held 12/13/12.** [House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI) Investigation into the Benghazi Terrorist Attacks Timeline of Investigation to date, no. 34, [12/04/14](#)]
- **House Committee on Foreign Affairs hearing, Benghazi Attack, Part II: The Report of the Accountability Review Board held 12/20/12.** [Benghazi Attack, Part II: The Report of the Accountability Review Board, [12/20/12](#)]
- **Senate Committee on Foreign Relations hearing, Benghazi: The Attack and the Lessons Learned held 12/20/12.** [Benghazi: The Attack and the Lessons Learned, [12/20/12](#)]
- **House Committee on Foreign Affairs hearing, Terrorist Attack in Benghazi: The Secretary of State's View held 1/23/13.** [Terrorist Attack in Benghazi: The Secretary of State's View, [1/23/13](#)]
- **Senate Committee on Foreign Relations hearing with Secretary Clinton, Benghazi: The Attacks and the Lessons Learned held 1/23/13.** [Benghazi: The Attacks and the Lessons Learned, [1/23/13](#)]

- **Senate Committee on Armed Services hearing, Department Of Defense’s Response To The Attack On U.S. Facilities In Benghazi, Libya, And The Findings Of Its Internal Review Following The Attack held 2/7/13.** [Department Of Defense’s Response To The Attack On U.S. Facilities In Benghazi, Libya, And The Findings Of Its Internal Review Following The Attack, [2/7/13](#)]
- **House Committee on Armed Services hearing, The Posture of the U.S. European Command and U.S. Africa Command held 3/15/13.** [“HASC Committee Oversight of Benghazi Attack,” HASC website, [accessed 4/21/15](#)]
- **House Committee on Foreign Affairs hearing, Securing U.S. Interests Abroad: The FY 2014 Foreign Affairs Budget held 4/17/13.** [“Investigation of Benghazi,” gop.gov, [accessed 4/13/15](#)]
- **House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform hearing, Benghazi: Exposing Failure and Recognizing Courage held 5/8/13.** [Benghazi: Exposing Failure and Recognizing Courage, [5/8/13](#)]
- **House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence hearing, Full Committee Hearing with CIA’s former Chief of Benghazi Base held 5/22/13.** [Investigative Report on the Terrorist Attacks on U.S. Facilities in Benghazi, Libya, September 11-12, 2012, pg. 14, footnote 70, [11/21/14](#)]
- **House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence hearing, Full Committee Hearing with Deputy CIA Director Michael Morell held 5/22/13.** [Investigative Report on the Terrorist Attacks on U.S. Facilities in Benghazi, Libya, September 11-12, 2012, pg. 16, footnote 83, [11/21/14](#)]
- **House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence hearing, Full Committee Hearing on Benghazi Investigation held 6/14/13.** [House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI) Investigation into the Benghazi Terrorist Attacks Timeline of Investigation to date, no. 63, [12/04/14](#)]
- **House Committee on Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade, and Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa joint hearing, The Terrorist Threat in North Africa: Before and After Benghazi held 7/10/13.** [The Terrorist Threat in North Africa: Before and After Benghazi, [7/10/13](#)]
- **House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence hearing, Full Committee Hearing with DCIA Brennan held 7/25/13.** [House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI) Investigation into the Benghazi Terrorist Attacks Timeline of Investigation to date, no. 70, [12/04/14](#)]
- **House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence hearing, Full Committee Hearing on Benghazi Investigation held 9/12/13.** [House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI) Investigation into the Benghazi Terrorist Attacks Timeline of Investigation to date, no. 74, [12/04/14](#)]
- **House Committee on Foreign Affairs hearing, Benghazi: Where is the State Department Accountability? held 9/18/13.** [Benghazi: Where is the State Department Accountability?, [9/18/13](#)]

- **House Armed Services Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations hearing, Defense Department’s Posture for September 11, 2013: What are the Lessons of Benghazi?** held 9/19/13. [Defense Department’s Posture for September 11, 2013: What are the Lessons of Benghazi?, [9/19/13](#)]
- **House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform hearing, Reviews of the Benghazi Attack and Unanswered Questions** held 9/19/13. [Reviews of the Benghazi Attack and Unanswered Questions, [9/19/13](#)]
- **House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence hearing, The Benghazi Talking Points and Michael J. Morell’s Role in Shaping the Administration’s Narrative** held 4/2/14. [The Benghazi Talking Points and Michael J. Morell’s Role in Shaping the Administration’s Narrative, [4/2/14](#)]
- **House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform hearing, Benghazi, Instability, and a New Government: Successes and Failures of U.S. Intervention in Libya** held 5/1/14. [Benghazi, Instability, and a New Government: Successes and Failures of U.S. Intervention in Libya, [5/1/14](#)]
- **House Select Committee on Benghazi hearing, Implementation of the Accountability Review Board Recommendations** held 9/17/14. [Implementation of the Accountability Review Board Recommendations, [9/17/14](#)]
- **House Select Committee on Benghazi hearing, Reviewing Efforts to Secure U.S. Diplomatic Facilities and Personnel** held 12/10/14. [Reviewing Efforts to Secure U.S. Diplomatic Facilities and Personnel, [12/10/14](#)]
- **House Select Committee on Benghazi hearing, Status Review of Outstanding Requests** held 1/27/15. [Status Review of Outstanding Requests, [1/27/15](#)]

54

Approximate number of hours spent to date in publicly available hearings about the tragedy in Benghazi.

- **Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs hearing, Homeland Threats and Agency Responses** lasted approximately 1:51:00. According to the hearing transcript, “the committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:04 a.m.,” and adjourned “at 11:55 p.m. [sic].” [Homeland Threats and Agency Responses, [9/19/12](#)]
- **House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform hearing, The Security Failures of Benghazi** lasted approximately 4:08:00. According to the hearing transcript, “the committee met, pursuant to call, at 12:05 p.m.,” and adjourned “at 4:14 p.m.” [The Security Failures of Benghazi, [10/10/12](#)]

- **House Committee on Foreign Affairs hearing, Benghazi and Beyond: What Went Wrong on September 11, 2012 and How to Prevent it from Happening at other Frontline Posts, Part I** lasted approximately 3:03:00. According to the hearing minutes, the committee met from 10:05 a.m. to 1:08 p.m. [Benghazi and Beyond: What Went Wrong on September 11, 2012 and How to Prevent it from Happening at other Frontline Posts, Part I, pg. 91, [11/15/12](#)]
- **House Committee on Foreign Affairs hearing, Benghazi Attack, Part II: The Report of the Accountability Review Board** lasted approximately 2:55:00. According to the hearing minutes, the committee met from 1:00 p.m. to 4:45 pm, including a 50 minute recess from 2:40 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. [Benghazi Attack, Part II: The Report of the Accountability Review Board, pg. 63, [12/20/12](#)]
- **Senate Committee on Foreign Relations hearing, Benghazi: The Attack and the Lessons Learned** lasted approximately 1:43:00. According to the hearing transcript, “the committee met, pursuant to notice, at 8:03 a.m.,” and adjourned “at 9:46 a.m.” [Benghazi: The Attack and the Lessons Learned, [12/20/12](#)]
- **House Committee on Foreign Affairs hearing, Terrorist Attack in Benghazi: The Secretary of State’s View** lasted approximately 3:01:00. According to the hearing minutes, the committee met from 2:02 p.m. to 5:03 p.m. [Terrorist Attack in Benghazi: The Secretary of State’s View, [1/23/13](#)]
- **Senate Committee on Foreign Relations hearing with Secretary Clinton, Benghazi: The Attacks and the Lessons Learned** lasted approximately 2:32:00. According to the hearing transcript, “the committee met, pursuant to notice, at 9:03 a.m.,” and adjourned “at 11:35 a.m.” [Benghazi: The Attacks and the Lessons Learned, [1/23/13](#)]
- **Senate Committee on Armed Services hearing, Department Of Defense’s Response To The Attack On U.S. Facilities In Benghazi, Libya, And The Findings Of Its Internal Review Following The Attack** lasted approximately 4:10:00. According to the hearing transcript, “the committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:05 a.m.,” and adjourned “at 2:26 p.m.” and included a “recess from 1:25 p.m. to 1:36 p.m.” [Department Of Defense’s Response To The Attack On U.S. Facilities In Benghazi, Libya, And The Findings Of Its Internal Review Following The Attack, [2/7/13](#)]
- **House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform hearing, Benghazi: Exposing Failure and Recognizing Courage** lasted approximately 5:35:00. According to the hearing transcript, “the committee met, pursuant to call, at 11:30 a.m.,” and adjourned “at 5:15 p.m.” and included a recess of “about 10 minutes.” [Benghazi: Exposing Failure and Recognizing Courage, [5/8/13](#)]
- **House Committee on Foreign Affairs, subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade, and Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa joint hearing, The Terrorist Threat in North Africa: Before and After Benghazi** lasted approximately 1:45:00. According to the hearing minutes, the committee met from 10:05 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. [The Terrorist Threat in North Africa: Before and After Benghazi, pg. 67, [7/10/13](#)]

- **House Committee on Foreign Affairs hearing, Benghazi: Where is the State Department Accountability?** Lasted approximately 2:37:00. According to the hearing minutes, the committee met from 10:12 a.m. to 12:49 p.m. [Benghazi: Where is the State Department Accountability?, pg. 81, [9/18/13](#)]
- **House Armed Services Committee, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations hearing, Defense Department’s Posture for September 11, 2013: What are the Lessons of Benghazi?** Lasted approximately 1:04:00. According to the hearing transcript, “the subcommittee met pursuant to call, at 4:00 p.m.,” and adjourned “at 5:40 p.m.” to proceed in a closed session. [Defense Department’s Posture for September 11, 2013: What are the Lessons of Benghazi?, [9/19/13](#)]
- **House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform hearing, Reviews of the Benghazi Attack and Unanswered Questions** lasted approximately 5:37:39. According to the three part video recording of the hearing, part 1 runs from 00:00:16 to completion at 2:37:17, part 2 runs from 00:00:00 to 2:09:42, and part 3 runs from 00:1:46 to 00:52:42. [Reviews of the Benghazi Attack and Unanswered Questions, [9/19/13](#)]
- **House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence hearing, The Benghazi Talking Points and Michael J. Morell’s Role in Shaping the Administration’s Narrative** lasted approximately 3:04:27. According to the CSPAN recording of the hearing, the video runs from 00:00:30 to 3:04:57. [The Benghazi Talking Points and Michael J. Morell’s Role in Shaping the Administration’s Narrative, [4/2/14](#)]
- **House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform hearing, Benghazi, Instability, and a New Government: Successes and Failures of U.S. Intervention in Libya** lasted approximately 2:57:13. According to the CSPAN recording of the hearing, the video runs from 00:00:35 to 1:48:45, and from 1:49:21 to 2:58:24. [Benghazi, Instability, and a New Government: Successes and Failures of U.S. Intervention in Libya, [5/1/14](#)]
- **House Select Committee on Benghazi hearing, Implementation of the Accountability Review Board Recommendations** lasted approximately 2:48:00. According to the hearing transcript, “the committee met pursuant to call, at 10:02 a.m.,” and adjourned “at 12:50 p.m.” [Implementation of the Accountability Review Board Recommendations, [9/17/14](#)]
- **House Select Committee on Benghazi hearing, Reviewing Efforts to Secure U.S. Diplomatic Facilities and Personnel** lasted approximately 2:36:20. According to the CSPAN recording of the hearing, the video runs from 00:00:13 to 2:36:33. [Reviewing Efforts to Secure U.S. Diplomatic Facilities and Personnel, [12/10/14](#)]
- **House Select Committee on Benghazi hearing, Status Review of Outstanding Requests** lasted approximately 2:20:00. According to the hearing transcript, “the committee met, pursuant to call, at 10:31 a.m.,” and adjourned “at 12:51 p.m.” [Status Review of Outstanding Requests, [1/27/15](#)]

9 Number of months since the Benghazi Committee has held a public hearing. [Benghazi Committee Democrats press release, [9/28/15](#)]

2,780 Number of questions asked in public hearings held on the Benghazi tragedy. [CTR Analysis, [4/28/15](#)]

204 Approximate number of witness appearances before House and Senate committees and staff for hearings, briefings, and interviews according to available congressional reports, hearing transcripts, declassified briefing transcripts, committee websites, and fact sheets. [CTR Analysis, updated [10/16/15](#)]

REPORTS

11 Number of published reports on the Benghazi attacks and subsequent investigations.

- **State Department Accountability Review Board's report.** [Accountability Review Board, 39 pages, [12/20/12](#)]
- **Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs report, Flashing Red: A Special Report on the Terrorist Attack at Benghazi.** [Flashing Red: A Special Report on the Terrorist Attack at Benghazi, 31 pages, [12/30/12](#)]
- **House Republicans' Interim Progress Report for the Members of the House Republican Conference on the Events Surrounding the September 11, 2012 Terrorist Attacks in Benghazi Libya.** [House GOP Interim Progress Report, 46 pages, [4/23/13](#)]
- **Report of the Independent Panel on Best Practices.** [Report of the Independent Panel on Best Practices, 53 pages [8/29/13](#)]
- **House Oversight's Interim Report on the Accountability Review Board.** ["Interim Report on the Accountability Review Board," 99 pages, [9/16/13](#)]
- **House Oversight Democrat's Status Update on Investigation of Attacks on U.S. Personnel and Facilities in Benghazi.** ["Status Update on Investigation of Attacks on U.S. Personnel and Facilities in Benghazi," 80 pages, [September 2013](#)]
- **Senate Select Committee on Intelligence report, Review of the Terrorist Attacks on U.S. Facilities in Benghazi, Libya, September 11-12, 2012.** ["Review of the Terrorist Attacks on U.S. Facilities in Benghazi, Libya, September 11-12, 2012," 85 pages, [1/15/14](#)]

- **House Foreign Affairs Majority Staff report, Benghazi: Where is the State Department Accountability?** [“Benghazi: Where is the State Department Accountability?,” 28 pages, [2/7/14](#)]
- **House Armed Services Committee Majority Interim Report, Benghazi Investigation Update.** [“Benghazi Investigation Update,” 31 pages, [February 2014](#)]
- **House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Investigative Report on the Terrorist Attacks on U.S. Facilities in Benghazi, Libya, September 11-12, 2012.** [“Investigative Report on the Terrorist Attacks on U.S. Facilities in Benghazi, Libya, September 11-12, 2012,” 277 pages, [11/21/14](#)]
- **House Select Committee on Benghazi, Interim Progress Update.** [“Interim Progress Update,” 15 pages, [5/8/15](#)]

784 Number of pages in published reports on the Benghazi attacks and investigations.

STATE DEPARTMENT

\$700 million

State Department operational funding threatened by Republicans if officials do not give in to the ongoing “sham investigation.” [The Hill, [6/11/15](#)]

\$14 million

Cost to the State Department of responding to eight congressional investigations into the Benghazi attacks, document production, and witness availability. [Benghazi Committee Democrats press release, “On Three-Year Anniversary of First Republican Benghazi Hearing, State Dept. Reports Spending \$14 Million--and Counting,” [10/10/15](#)]

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

50

Approximate number of hearings, briefings, and interviews the Department of Defense has led or participated in during previous Benghazi investigations. [Department of Defense letter to Rep. Adam Smith, [3/11/14](#)]

Thousands

Number of hours spent by Department of Defense in hearings, briefings, and interviews, and other repetitive congressional requests. [Department of Defense letter to Rep. Adam Smith, [3/11/14](#)]

Millions

Cost to the Department of Defense and other agencies responding to previous congressional investigations into the Benghazi attacks. [Department of Defense letter to Rep. Adam Smith, [3/11/14](#)]

RECOMMENDATIONS & ACCUSATIONS

- 29** Number of recommendations issued by the Accountability Review Board and accepted by the State Department to ensure the security of American diplomats serving abroad. [“Benghazi Accountability Review Board Implementation,” state.gov, [1/15/14](#)]
- 0** Number of investigations that have found any administration wrongdoing related to the Benghazi tragedy. [NPR, [11/24/14](#)]
- 0** Number of investigations to find evidence of an intelligence failure leading to the Benghazi tragedy. [LA Times, [11/22/14](#)]
- 0** Number of investigations to find evidence of a stand down order. [LA Times, [11/22/14](#)]

BENGHAZI SELECT COMMITTEE

- 526** Number of days the Select Committee on Benghazi has existed. This is longer than the investigations of Pearl Harbor, the Kennedy assassination, Iran-Contra and Hurricane Katrina. [democrats.benghazi.house.gov, accessed 10/16/15]
- 2016** Year the Select Committee suggested it would release a final report, making it the longest congressional investigation in U.S. history, and ensuring the investigation continues well into the presidential campaign cycle. [MSNBC, [4/23/15](#)]

BUDGET & COST

Unlimited

Budget granted to the Benghazi Select Committee by the Republican controlled House of Representatives. [Letter to Committee on House Administration Chairman and Ranking Member, [2/5/15](#)]

\$1.8 million

Approximate cost of the Benghazi Select Committee in 2014. [Letter to Committee on House Administration Chairman and Ranking Member, [2/5/15](#)]

\$2.5 million

Approximate cost of the Benghazi Select Committee in its first 10 months. [“Benghazi Investigation Now Longer than Iran-Contra and other Investigations,” Benghazi Select Committee Democrats press release, [3/23/15](#)]

\$4.7 million

Approximate cost of the Benghazi Select Committee to date. [democrats.benghazi.house.gov, [accessed 10/14/15](#)]

\$6 million

Estimated minimum cost of the Benghazi Select Committee investigation at its current rate. [“Cummings Statement On Gowdy Plan to Release Benghazi Report Months Before 2016 Presidential Election,” Benghazi Select Committee Democrats press release, [4/22/15](#)]

\$1.35 million

Approximate total salary expenditures in 2014 for Benghazi Select Committee staff. [Legistorm, [accessed 4/24/15](#)]

\$3.1 Million

Approximate total salary expenditures for Benghazi Select Committee staff. [Legistorm, [accessed 10/14/15](#)]

\$128,750

Average salary of House GOP staff on the Benghazi Select Committee. [New York Observer, [6/18/15](#)]

40

Number of professional staff members who have worked on the Benghazi Select Committee according to Legistorm. [Legistorm, [accessed 10/14/15](#)]

5

Number of permanent House committees that have spent less in 2015 than the Select Committee on Benghazi. [Harassing Hillary Clinton: Your Tax Dollars at Work, [accessed 10/16/15](#)]

- **Select Committee on Benghazi expenditures through July 2015: \$2,185,996.45.** [Harassing Hillary Clinton: Your Tax Dollars at Work, [accessed 10/16/15](#)]
- **Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence expenditures through July 2015: \$1,997,094.61.** [Harassing Hillary Clinton: Your Tax Dollars at Work, [accessed 10/16/15](#)]
- **Committee on Veterans’ Affairs expenditures through July 2015: \$1,685,141.18** [Harassing Hillary Clinton: Your Tax Dollars at Work, [accessed 10/16/15](#)]
- **Committee on Ethics expenditures through July 2015: \$1,531,886.28.** [Harassing Hillary Clinton: Your Tax Dollars at Work, [accessed 10/16/15](#)]
- **Committee on Small Business expenditures through July 2015: \$1,469,724.57.** [Harassing Hillary Clinton: Your Tax Dollars at Work, [accessed 10/16/15](#)]
- **Committee on Rules expenditures through July 2015: \$1,309,884.75.** [Harassing Hillary Clinton: Your Tax Dollars at Work, [accessed 10/16/15](#)]

HEARINGS

3 Number of public hearings held by the Benghazi Select Committee since its formation in May 2014. [Select Committee on Benghazi, [accessed 4/23/15](#)]

11 Number of months Secretary Clinton will have waited to testify in an open, public hearing before the Select Committee on the tragedy in Benghazi and her email use. [Clinton Attorney Letter to Chairman Gowdy, [4/22/15](#); Select Committee Confirms Date for Appearance by Former Secretary of State Clinton, [6/29/15](#)]

DOCUMENTS

70,000 Approximate number of pages of documents provided by the State Department for Select Committee review. [Politico, [9/25/15](#)]

300 Approximate number of Secretary Clinton's emails related to Benghazi and provided to the Select Committee in February. [New York Times, [3/3/15](#)]

900 Approximate number of pages of Secretary Clinton's emails provided to the Select Committee in February. [New York Times, [3/3/15](#)]

925 Approximate number of Hillary Clinton's emails provided to the Select Committee in October 2015. A "small number" of these related to Benghazi, while the rest were about Libya more generally or were previously assessed to be personal in nature. [Daily Beast, [9/25/15](#)]

0 Number of prior State Department Accountability Review Boards whose investigative files have been produced to Congress. [State Department letter to Chairman Gowdy, [4/15/15](#)]

WITNESSES

54 Approximate number witnesses brought in for interviews with the Select Committee to date. [USA Today, [10/1/15](#)]

8 Number of current or former Clinton campaign staffers interviewed or deposed by the Benghazi Committee, compared to only 4 interviews with witnesses from the entire Department of Defense. [Benghazi Committee Democrats press release, [10/1/15](#)]

50 Number of witnesses Trey Gowdy said are still to come before the committee prior to the end of the investigation. [USA Today, [10/1/15](#)]

COMMITTEE'S FOCUS ON HILLARY CLINTON'S EMAIL

11 Number of planned hearings abandoned by Trey Gowdy and the Republicans on the Select Committee in order to focus on Hillary Clinton and Hillary Clinton's email. [Republicans Abandon Plan for Benghazi Hearings to Focus on Clinton, [7/15/15](#)]

- **January:** Hearing with State Department eyewitnesses to the attacks to address the question of what happened in Benghazi.
- **February:** Hearing with non-State Department eyewitnesses to the attacks to address the question of what happened in Benghazi.
- **February:** Hearing on the Status of Document productions (if needed).
- **March:** Hearing with State Department witnesses to address the question of "Why were we in Libya?"
- **April:** Hearing with former Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Secretary Leon Panetta as witnesses to address the question of "Why were we in Libya?"
- **May:** Hearing with Secretary Clinton as the witness to address the question of "How did we respond?"
- **May:** Potential Hearing with Raymond Maxwell.
- **June:** Hearing with former Deputy Director of the CIA Michael Morrell as the witness to address intelligence matters related to Libya, specifically about what was said after the attacks.
- **July:** Hearing with former U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice as the witness to address the motivation of the attackers, as well as what was said after the attacks.
- **September:** Hearing to address the State Department's implementation of the ARB recommendations, which would be a final hearing to address what has been fixed since the attacks.
- **October:** Hearing to address oversight recommendations, specifically to examine what should be fixed in the future.

Number of Republican Select Committee press releases, out of 29 total since March 4, that specifically mention Hillary Clinton or her email. [As of 10/8/15]

- **Press Release: Statement from the Communications Director on Clinton Email Addresses, March 4, 2015.** [Statement from the Communications Director on Clinton Email Addresses, [3/4/15](#)]
- **Press Release: Statement from the Communications Director on Subpoena Issuance, March 4, 2015.** [Statement from the Communications Director on Subpoena Issuance, [3/4/15](#)]
- **Press Release: Statement from the Communications Director on Clinton's Emails, March 5, 2015.** [Statement from the Communications Director on Clinton's Emails, [3/5/15](#)]
- **Press Release: Gowdy Statement on Clinton Press Conference, March 10, 2015.** [Gowdy Statement on Clinton Press Conference, [3/10/15](#)]
- **Press Release: Select Committee on Benghazi Formally Requests Clinton Turn Over Server to Neutral Third Party, March 20, 2015.** [Select Committee on Benghazi Formally Requests Clinton Turn Over Server to Neutral Third Party, [3/20/15](#)]
- **Press Release: Statement Regarding Subpoena Compliance and Server Determination by Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, March 27, 2015.** [Statement Regarding Subpoena Compliance and Server Determination by Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, [3/27/15](#)]
- **Press Release: Select Committee Formally Requests Secretary Clinton Interview on Email Arrangement, March 31, 2015.** [Select Committee Formally Requests Secretary Clinton Interview on Email Arrangement, [3/31/15](#)]
- **Press Release: Statement on Response from Clinton Lawyer, April 22, 2015.** [Statement on Response from Clinton Lawyer, [4/22/15](#)]
- **Press Release: Select Committee on Benghazi Calls Clinton to Testify, April 23, 2015.** [Select Committee on Benghazi Calls Clinton to Testify, [4/23/15](#)]
- **Press Release: Select Committee Releases Interim progress Update, May 8, 2015.** [Select Committee Releases Interim Progress Update, [5/8/15](#)]
- **Press Release: Benghazi Committee Releases Letter on State Department Compliance Failure, Clinton, May 14, 2015.** [Benghazi Committee Releases Letter on State Department Compliance Failure, Clinton, [5/14/15](#)]
- **Press Release: Statement on the Release of Secretary Clinton's Benghazi Emails, May 22, 2015.** [Statement on the Release of Secretary Clinton's Benghazi Emails, [5/22/15](#)]
- **Press Release: Select Committee Obtains New Blumenthal Emails Before Deposition, June 15, 2015.** [Select Committee Obtains New Blumenthal Emails Before Deposition, [6/16/15](#)]

- **Press Release: Select Committee Adds to Secretary Clinton’s Public Email Record, June 22, 2015.** [Select Committee Adds to Secretary Clinton’s Public Email Record, [6/22/15](#)]
- **Press Release: State Department Fails to Answer on New Clinton Emails, June 23, 2015.** [State Department Fails to Answer on New Clinton Emails, [6/23/15](#)]
- **Press Release: State Confirms Clinton Failed to Turn Over ALL Benghazi and Libya Documents, June 25, 2015.** [State Confirms Clinton Failed to Turn Over ALL Benghazi and Libya Documents, [6/25/15](#)]
- **Press Release: Gowdy Statement in Response to Clinton Comments on the Benghazi Committee, July 7, 2015.** [Gowdy Statement in Response to Clinton Comments on the Benghazi Committee, [7/7/15](#)]
- **Press Release: Select Committee on Benghazi Releases Clinton Subpoena, July 8, 2015.** [Select Committee on Benghazi Releases Clinton Subpoena, [7/8/15](#)]
- **Press Release: Statement by Chairman Gowdy on Reports of Classified Information in Secretary Clinton’s Emails, July 24, 2015.** [Statement by Chairman Gowdy on Reports of Classified Information in Secretary Clinton’s Emails, [7/24/15](#)]
- **Press Release: Statement from Select Committee Communications Director Regarding Clinton’s Testimony, July 25, 2015.** [Statement from Select Committee Communications Director Regarding Clinton’s Testimony, [7/25/15](#)]
- **Press Release: Select Committee Confirms Date for Appearance by Former Secretary of State Clinton, July 29, 2015.** [Select Committee Confirms Date for Appearance by Former Secretary of State Clinton, [7/29/15](#)]
- **Press Release: Gowdy Statement on Secretary Clinton’s Decision to Turn over Server to the Department of Justice, August 11, 2015.** [Gowdy Statement on Secretary Clinton’s Decision to Turn over Server to the Department of Justice, [8/11/15](#)]
- **Press Release: Gowdy Statement on Anniversaries of 9/11 and Benghazi Attacks.** [Benghazi GOP press release, “Gowdy Statement on Anniversaries of 9/11 and Benghazi Attacks,” [9/11/15](#)]
- **Press Release: Statement from the Communications Director on State Department Turning Over New, Previously Withheld Clinton Benghazi Emails.** [Benghazi GOP press release, “Statement from the Communications Director on State Department Turning Over New, Previously Withheld Clinton Benghazi Emails,” [9/25/15](#)]
- **Press Release: Statement from the Communications Director on Democrats’ Announced Transcript Plan.** [Benghazi GOP press release, “Statement from the Communications Director on Democrats’ Announced Transcript Plan,” [10/5/15](#)]
- **Press Release: Benghazi Committee Informs State Department of Intent to Add to Public Record with Release of New Clinton Emails.** [Benghazi GOP press release, “Benghazi Committee Informs State Department of Intent to Add to Public Record with Release of New Clinton Emails,” [10/8/15](#)]

HILLARY CLINTON'S EMAIL

55,000 Number of pages of Hillary Clinton's work-related emails preserved and delivered to the State Department. [Hillary Clinton Declaration, [8/8/15](#)]

25% Approximate percentage of Hillary Clinton's emails that have been produced by the State Department. [Justice Department Filing, Case 1:15-mc-01188, [9/2/15](#)]

1 Number of sworn legal declarations made by Hillary Clinton confirming that any and all potential federal records on her server were given to the State Department. [Hillary Clinton Declaration, [8/8/15](#)]

1,246 The number of emails handed over by HRC that the State Department has said were not Federal Records. [Hillary Clinton Attorney Letter to Undersecretary for Management Patrick Kennedy, [8/12/15](#)]

0 Number of emails preserved and turned over to the State Department from the private email account of former Secretary of State Colin Powell. Powell said recently, "They were all unclassified and most of them, I think, are pretty benign, so I'm not terribly concerned even if they were able to recover them." [Politico, [3/8/15](#)]

0 Number of emails turned over to the State Department by the three Secretaries of State to serve prior to Hillary Clinton. [State Department Daily Press Briefing, [3/3/15](#)]

EMAIL SECURITY

0 Pieces of evidence that show Hillary Clinton's email was hacked. [State Department press briefing, [3/3/15](#)]

250,000 Number of classified State Department cables stolen by Chelsea Manning and uploaded to WikiLeaks. [The Guardian, [11/28/10](#)]

0 Number of clintonemail.com messages included in the WikiLeaks dump. [ZDNet, [3/5/15](#)]

70,000 Number of "cybersecurity incidents" on federal government networks in FY 2014. [The Hill, [3/4/15](#)]

HILLARY CLINTON'S SUPPOSEDLY CLASSIFIED EMAILS

- 13,526** Executive Order that defines “Classified Information.” It reads, “Classified national security information’ or ‘classified information’ means information that has been determined pursuant to this order or any predecessor order to require protection against unauthorized disclosure and is marked to indicate its classified status when in documentary form.” [Executive Order 13526- Classified National Security Information, Sec. 6.1. (i), [12/29/09](#)]
- 0** Number of emails sent or received by Hillary Clinton that were marked classified at the time. [Politifact, [7/29/15](#)]
- 0** Number of emails the State Department said should have been marked as classified when they were sent or received. [CBS News, [8/5/15](#)]
- 48** Approximate number of State Department officials who sent email that were later redacted prior to the August 31st public email release. [The Washington Post, [9/1/15](#)]

HILLARY CLINTON VIOLATED ZERO LAWS

- 0** Number of criminal statutes violated by Hillary Clinton’s email. [Former Federal Prosecutor Anne M. Tomkins opinion, USA Today, [8/31/15](#)]
- 0** Number of FBI investigations targeting Hillary Clinton. [Washington Post, [8/11/15](#)]
- 0** Number of criminal inquiries into Hillary Clinton’s email requested by the Inspector General for the Intelligence Community. [State and Intelligence IGs: We Made No Criminal Referral of Clinton, [7/24/15](#)]

EXCESSIVE LAWSUITS OVER HILLARY CLINTON’S EMAILS

- 30+** Number of FOIA cases involving searches of Hillary Clinton’s emails. [Justice Department Filing, Case 1:15-mc-01188, [9/2/15](#)]
- 17** Number of different judges presiding over FOIA lawsuits involving Hillary Clinton’s emails. [Justice Department Filing, Case 1:15-mc-01188, [9/2/15](#)]

NO CREDIBILITY

THE WIDESPREAD, MOUNTING CRITICISM OF THE BENGHAZI COMMITTEE

In recent weeks, many in the media have gone public with long-running suspicions that the Benghazi Committee is a shameful partisan exercise, and the reviews aren't pretty. Ever since Kevin McCarthy spilled the beans and admitted that the committee was designed to bring down Hillary Clinton's poll numbers, analysts have called it a "scandal," a "charade," a "committee run amok," driven by a "political obsession," a "farcical exercise," and a "partisan sham."

No matter how many different ways you put it, the truth is clear: Trey Gowdy's Benghazi Committee is an abuse of power, a misuse of taxpayer funds, and a disgraceful blot on American democracy.

INDEPENDENT SPECTATORS HAVE CRITICIZED THE PARTISAN BENGHAZI COMMITTEE

Vox's Jon Allen: “The Benghazi committee was always designed to go after Clinton, but Republicans only started owning up to it recently.” “The Benghazi committee was always designed to go after Clinton, but Republicans only started owning up to it recently. Back in June, when the Benghazi committee deposed Clinton confidant and correspondent Sid Blumenthal, I wrote that the panel finally had stripped away any pretense that it was actually interested in investigating the terrorist attacks and preventing future assaults on American diplomatic facilities. Blumenthal, who sent Clinton emails about the situation in Libya, had never even been to the country. It was a particularly telling moment, but the truth is that the committee, which has focused a lot of its time on obtaining documents and testimony that later appear in print, was always a way for House Republicans to show their constituents that they were going to try to turn the tragedy into political gain at Clinton’s expense.” [Vox, [10/15/15](#)]

MSNBC's Steve Benen: “The Benghazi Committee isn’t investigating a scandal. The Benghazi Committee is the scandal.” “The Benghazi Committee isn’t investigating a scandal. The Benghazi Committee is the scandal. There’s been some debate in recent weeks about whether congressional Democrats should continue to participate in such an obvious farce. It’s a worthwhile question that deserves an answer. But it’s arguably just the start of a larger conversation. Given the circumstances, it’s not unreasonable to think there should be an independent investigation into the Republican’s Benghazi Committee itself in order to uncover why it was formed, why its redundant work was deemed necessary, how it spent millions of taxpayer dollars, why the probe has been dragged out for so long, and whether the panel violated ethics laws by using official resources for partisan political purposes.” [MSNBC, [10/15/15](#)]

Mother Jones' Kevin Drum: “It’s getting harder and harder to play along with the charade.” “Republicans have screwed the pooch on Benghazi. The press can only play along with their faux investigation as long as they maintain plausible deniability about its partisan goals. But now we have (a) Kevin McCarthy spilling the beans, (b) news reports that John Boehner wanted to use the committee to attack Hillary, (c) Richard Hanna agreeing that it was mostly a partisan witch hunt, and (d) no less than the New York Times reporting that the committee has all but given up on Benghazi in favor of holding hearings on Hillary’s email server. We knew all along there was a man behind the curtain, but now he’s actually been exposed. It’s getting harder and harder to play along with the charade.” [Mother Jones, [10/15/15](#)]

The Washington Post's Greg Sargent: “Republicans are destroying the House Benghazi probe’s credibility.” [Headline: “Morning Plum: Republicans are destroying the House Benghazi probe’s credibility. But will it matter?”] [The Washington Post, [10/15/15](#)]

Los Angeles Times: Kevin McCarthy’s “gaffe laid bare the political obsession driving the committee’s work.” “House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy did Clinton a big favor by going on Fox News and suggesting the Benghazi committee’s biggest accomplishment has been to bring down Hillary’s poll numbers. That gaffe laid bare the political obsession driving the committee’s work. On Sunday, a former committee staffer said he was fired for failing to focus his research on Hillary. Then, on Wednesday another GOP congressman, New York Rep. Richard Hanna, added further confirmation of the political chicanery when -- on a radio station in his district -- he said, “This may not be politically correct, but I think that there was a big part of this investigation that was designed to go after people and an individual, Hillary Clinton.” [Los Angeles Times, [10/15/15](#)]

The Atlantic’s James Fallows: “The reality is that the Republican staff and majority of the committee have made it function as an oppo-research arm of the Republican National Committee.” “It has taken mainstream journalism a very long time to catch up with the reality of the ‘Benghazi Committee,’ run by Representative Trey Gowdy of South Carolina. (He is from our beloved Greenville, in fact.) The reality is that the Republican staff and majority of the committee have made it function as an oppo-research arm of the Republican National Committee, far more interested in whatever it might dig up about or against Hillary Clinton than any remaining mysteries on the four Americans killed in Benghazi.” [The Atlantic, [10/13/15](#)]

The Atlantic: Republicans insistence that the Benghazi Committee is not political face “a difficult argument given its focus as drifted away from the attacks themselves and toward Clinton’s email.” “Many Republicans rushed to insist the Benghazi committee had the purest of motives—a difficult argument given its focus has drifted away from the attacks themselves and toward Clinton’s email fracas, and because the inquiry has now dragged on for 17 months.” [The Atlantic, [10/13/15](#)]

MSNBC’s Steve Benen: “Why should American taxpayers continue to fund such a farcical exercise?” “Taken together, we now have House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) characterizing the committee’s work as an election scheme to undermine Hillary Clinton; we have a former Republican staffer for the committee complaining that the committee’s sole interest was in tearing down Hillary Clinton; and now we have senior Republican officials acknowledging that GOP leaders directed the Benghazi committee to focus on email server management – instead of, you know, Benghazi – in order to “cause political problems” for Hillary Clinton. At this point, even the most rabid Republican partisans are going to have a hard time justifying the committee’s continued existence. Why should American taxpayers continue to fund such a farcical exercise? (Remember, ‘because there’s an election coming up’ is not an acceptable answer.)” [MSNBC, [10/13/15](#)]

Slate’s Jamelle Bouie: “The House Benghazi investigation is now thoroughly discredited as a partisan sham.” [Subtitle:] “The House Benghazi investigation is now thoroughly discredited as a partisan sham.” [Slate, [10/12/15](#)]

The Daily Beast: “The GOP-created House Select Committee on Benghazi is nothing more than a partisan effort to hurt Hillary Clinton and help the Republicans in the 2016 presidential race.” “What many thought was true has been confirmed this week: The GOP-created House Select Committee on Benghazi is nothing more than a partisan effort to hurt Hillary Clinton and help the Republicans in the 2016 presidential race. At this point the House leadership should do the right thing and offer a public apology to the families of the four Americans killed in that terrorist attack for using their loved ones as props to bolster their political ambitions. Plus, the GOP House leadership should reimburse U.S. taxpayers for the nearly \$5 million spent on this “investigation,” which in essence is nothing more than a negative campaign commercial against Hillary Clinton.” [The Daily Beast, [10/12/15](#)]

New York Times’ Paul Krugman: “We all knew that” the House Benghazi hearings were all about inflicting political damage on Hillary Clinton. “Still, he finished off his chances by admitting — boasting, actually — that the endless House hearings on Benghazi had nothing to do with national security, that they were all about inflicting political damage on Hillary Clinton. But we all knew that, didn’t we?” [The New York Times, [10/9/15](#)]

New York Times Editorial Board: The Benghazi Committee has “become an insult to the memory of four slain Americans.” “Lawmakers have long abused their investigative authority for political purposes. But the effort to find Mrs. Clinton, who was secretary of state at the time of the Libya attacks, was personally responsible for the deaths has lost any semblance of credibility. It’s become an insult to the memory of four slain Americans.” [New York Times Editorial, [10/7/15](#)]

New York Times’ Foreign Affairs Editor Carol Giacomo: McCarthy admitted to the “duplicity and political chicanery behind the creation of the Select Committee on Benghazi. “It has long appeared that the Republican obsession with investigating the 2012 terrorist attack in Benghazi, Libya was not a genuine attempt to get the facts behind a tragic incident in which four Americans, including the United States ambassador, lost their lives but a partisan witch hunt targeting Hillary Rodham Clinton, the frontrunner for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination. Now there is proof of the duplicity and political chicanery behind the creation of the Select Committee on Benghazi. It was ham-handedly exposed by Representative Kevin McCarthy, who, in his quest to become the next speaker of the House, couldn’t resist boasting about what he considers his party’s major political accomplishment.” [New York Times Editor’s Blog, [10/2/15](#)]

New York Times’ Foreign Affairs Editor Carol Giacomo: Despite wasting \$4.5 million and conducting one of the longest congressional probes in history, the committee has shed no significant new light on the Benghazi attack.” “Despite wasting \$4.5 million and conducting one of the longest congressional probes in history, the committee has shed no significant new light on the Benghazi attack. It would be surprising if it did. Several other congressional committees and a panel of outside experts commissioned by the State Department have investigated the attack and the government’s response. They concluded that the tragedy was preventable and condemned ‘systemic failures’ at senior levels of the State Department. But none found evidence that Mrs. Clinton, then secretary of state, was specifically to blame or produced any other bombshell to support some wild Republican conspiracy theories.” [New York Times Editor’s Blog, [10/2/15](#)]

Washington Post’s E.J. Dionne Jr.: “So now we know: One of the principal reasons Republicans spent so much public money investigating the tragic Benghazi episode was to bring down Hillary Clinton’s poll numbers.” “So now we know: One of the principal reasons Republicans spent so much public money investigating the tragic Benghazi episode was to bring down Hillary Clinton’s poll numbers. Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.), the likely successor to House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio), told Fox News’s Sean Hannity explicitly on Tuesday night that the Clinton investigation was part of a ‘strategy to fight and win.’ He explained: ‘Everybody thought Hillary Clinton was unbeatable, right? But we put together a Benghazi special committee, a select committee. What are her numbers today? Her numbers are dropping. Why? Because she’s untrustable. But no one would have known any of that had happened, had we not fought.’” [E.J. Dionne Jr. opinion, Washington Post, [9/30/15](#)]

The Hill: McCarthy’s comment “confirmed long-held accusations that the panel had been little more than a political hit job for Hillary Clinton’s presidential campaign.” “The Tuesday evening comments from McCarthy — the No. 2 House Republican and front-runner to be the next Speaker — confirmed long-held accusations that the panel has been little more than a political hit-job for Hillary Clinton’s presidential campaign, they say.” [The Hill, [9/30/15](#)]

Salon’s Simon Maloy: McCarthy “ended up saying out loud and on television the one thing Republicans aren’t supposed to say about the House Select Committee on Benghazi.” “House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy is, at this moment, the Democrats’ best pal. He went on Fox News last night to talk up his campaign to replace outgoing House Speaker John Boehner, and he ended up saying out loud and on television the one thing Republicans aren’t supposed to say about the House Select Committee on Benghazi: it’s all about taking down Hillary Clinton.” [Salon, [9/30/15](#)]

Salon’s Simon Maloy: “Anyone who’s paid even cursory attention to the GOP’s treatment of the Benghazi attacks will likely have already concluded that the party’s interest in the matter is linked to Hillary Clinton’s presidential ambitions.” “This is an archetypal example of the Kinsley Gaffe: a politician accidentally uttering a truthful statement. Anyone who’s paid even cursory attention to the GOP’s treatment of the Benghazi attacks will likely have already concluded that the party’s interest in the matter is linked to Hillary Clinton’s presidential ambitions. But it’s still bracing to see one of the most powerful Republicans in Washington come right out and brag about how he and his colleagues set up a taxpayer-funded investigation to damage the political prospects of the opposition party’s leading presidential candidate. It’s downright scandalous, and precisely the sort of political corruption that Republicans argue is at the heart of the Obama administration’s response to Benghazi.” [Salon, [9/30/15](#)]

Vox’s Andrew Prokop: “The Select Committee on Benghazi’s investigation has long appeared partisan’ and ‘unusually focused on Hillary Clinton.” “The Select Committee on Benghazi’s investigation has long appeared partisan. Several investigations into the Benghazi events have already wrapped up without findings of serious wrongdoing. Yet the House Select Committee on Benghazi has kept at it — and has long appeared unusually focused on Hillary Clinton, and even on a member of her circle who wasn’t even in the administration.” [Vox, [9/30/15](#)]

MSNBC’s Alex Seitz-Wald: The GOP only “sought to portray the investigation as even-handed and non-partisan.” “Kevin McCarthy, a top Republican lawmaker on track to become the next speaker of the House, credited the Select Committee on Benghazi for damaging Hillary Clinton’s poll numbers Tuesday night — a surprising admission from a party that has sought to portray the investigation as even-handed and non-partisan.” [MSNBC, [9/30/15](#)]

Washington Post’s Dave Weigel: Trey Gowdy would never have been considered for majority leader “without the goodwill engendered by the Benghazi investigation.” “The aftermath of Boehner’s decision to retire has done damage to that argument. Yesterday, Capitol Hill rumbled with talk that Gowdy would run to replace McCarthy as majority leader, a position the third-term congressman would not have been in without the goodwill engendered by the Benghazi investigation. After hours of confusion -- even after Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah) insisted that there’d be a way for Gowdy to lead both the investigation and the House GOP -- the South Carolinian insisted at a closed-door meeting that he wasn’t in the leadership hunt, and had to focus on Benghazi.” [Washington Post, [9/30/15](#)]

MSNBC’s Steve Benen: McCarthy’s candor “served as a timely reminder that the Benghazi investigation that no longer focuses on Benghazi is now little more than a taxpayer-financed farce.” “There were no real reason to create this committee, and the panel itself no longer serves any legitimate purpose. McCarthy’s unexpected candor was welcome – it was, to be sure, surprising to see him make such a concession on national television – but it served as a timely reminder that the Benghazi investigation that no longer focuses on Benghazi is now little more than a taxpayer-financed farce.” [MSNBC, [9/30/15](#)]

MSNBC’s Steve Benen: Republicans see the Benghazi Committee as a legitimate accomplishment “because Hillary Clinton’s ‘numbers are dropping.’” “Second, the ostensible point of the Select Committee on Benghazi was to examine a terrorist attack that left four Americans dead in Libya, not to create an election tool that can affect a presidential candidate’s poll numbers. Note, McCarthy sees the committee as a legitimate accomplishment of the Republican Congress, not because it’s uncovered relevant details about an act of terrorism, but because Hillary Clinton’s ‘numbers are dropping.’ This, in his mind, is evidence of the GOP majority using its power effectively – by using a supposedly non-partisan investigatory vehicle to embarrass a Democrat with dubious allegations.” [MSNBC, [9/30/15](#)]

Mother Jones’ Kevin Drum: “I think everyone knows perfectly well that there’s nothing there and never has been.” “Benghazi is the modern version of Whitewater. I think everyone knows perfectly well that there’s nothing there and never has been, but it gives Republicans an institutional base to issue subpoenas and basically poke into anything that might hurt Hillary. Just as Whitewater led to Filegate led to the blue dress, Benghazi has led to emailgate, and from there, who knows? But obviously Republicans are hoping that if they just keep the investigation going, eventually they’ll get their blue dress.” [Mother Jones, [9/30/15](#)]

Los Angeles Times Headline: “McCarthy makes plain what Democrats have long suspected about the Benghazi committee.” [LA Times, [9/30/15](#)]

Washington Post: McCarthy showed “that the probes are less about genuine accountability than about driving up her negatives.” “The problem comes in the linking of this directly to Clinton’s ‘dropping numbers.’ It suggests that the probes are less about genuine accountability than about driving up her negatives, to use the cliché so beloved by political pros. It is reasonable to surmise that the probes at this point are more about pumping out as much fog as possible to create a general impression of wrongdoing that, hopefully, will sow inchoate public doubts about Clinton. McCarthy’s quote may not prove this to be true, but it provides more support for that theory of the case.” [Washington Post, [9/30/15](#)]

Washington Post’s Richard Cohen: “A terrorist attack in Libya is no laughing matter. Neither is a congressional committee run amok.” “My hobby is not entirely whimsical. When a congressional committee has been in existence for more than a year, when it has subpoenaed witnesses and put them under oath, when it has compelled them to account for their e-mails and, in one case, invoke the Fifth Amendment, then maybe we ought to know what it is up to. A terrorist attack in Libya is no laughing matter. Neither is a congressional committee run amok.” [Richard Cohen opinion, Washington Post, [9/28/15](#)]

Washington Post’s Richard Cohen: “Benghazi has become a Republican fixation” and the scandal has become “the use of a congressional committee for political purposes.” “Benghazi has become a Republican fixation. It is mentioned with utmost solemnity, virtual code for treason or something close to it. It is no longer an event, a debacle and a tragedy, but a totem: Something went wrong. Someone’s at fault. Why not Clinton? In the latest Republican debate, Carly Fiorina, she of the hallucinatory abortion procedure, accused Clinton of having a ‘track record of lying about Benghazi.’ Yeah, sure. But give us an example, please. The true Benghazi scandal is not what happened on the Libyan coast, but the use of a congressional committee for political purposes — to damage the likely Democratic presidential nominee, Hillary Clinton, by rummaging through her e-mails.” [Richard Cohen opinion, Washington Post, [9/28/15](#)]

Former Federal Prosecutor Michel Zeldin: “No lessons relevant to what should be the work of the House Benghazi Committee will be learned by studying the structure by which Secretary Clinton transmitted and received e-mails.” “For certain, no lessons relevant to what should be the work of the House Benghazi Committee will be learned by studying the structure by which Secretary Clinton transmitted and received e-mails. It is worth remembering that in the hundreds of years before electronic communication became the norm, federal records were reviewed by the office holder, who sorted his/her papers before handing them over to archivists - and the Union survived.” [Michael Zeldin opinion, The Hill, [9/9/15](#)]

Blue Nation Review’s Jimmy Williams: The Benghazi Committee is participating in “a purely unadulterated political lynching focused on one person and one person only: Hillary Clinton.” “Let me be clear: I absolutely support the Congress’ role of oversight. I worked in the Senate on two different committees: the Senate Banking Committee and the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs. Both committees play essential oversight roles and much of the work I did there was focused on keeping a check on the banking industry as well as the Executive Branch of the Federal Government. But what Gowdy and his cohorts are doing with their ‘select’ committee isn’t oversight. It’s a purely unadulterated political lynching focused on one person and one person only: Hillary Clinton.” [Blue Nation Review, [8/21/15](#)]

AP: The Select Committee on Benghazi “has devolved from an investigation into the deaths of four Americans in Libya into a political fight over Hillary Rodham Clinton’s emails and private computer server.” “A special House committee on the 2012 Benghazi attacks has devolved from an investigation into the deaths of four Americans in Libya into a political fight over Hillary Rodham Clinton’s emails and private computer server — a battle that is likely to stretch into the 2016 presidential election year.” [AP, [7/14/15](#)]

The Daily Beast’s Michael Tomasky: The Benghazi Committee’s “real job is to get Clinton” and the “‘investigation’ now constitutes openly and defiantly urinating on the grave of Amb. Stevens.” “But the fact is he [Sidney Blumenthal] went before that committee for one reason and one reason only: because its real job is not to investigate those four deaths, which in any case have been investigated eight times by seven congressional committees and once by a State Department review board, none of which found any wrongdoing on Hillary Clinton’s part. No, this committee’s real job is to get Clinton. Let’s mention high up what is the main point here. This ‘investigation’ now constitutes openly and defiantly urinating on the grave of Amb. Stevens. Many diplomats and friends of Stevens’s are aghast at this.” [The Daily Beast, [6/17/15](#)]

Former Acting U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Joseph Wilson: The House Select Committee on Benghazi is “the latest inquiry into the faux scandal the Republicans keep trying to exploit for partisan advantage.” “Since when has it become appropriate to profit from the violent deaths of four Americans in the service of our nation to raise money for political coffers? Since when has it become appropriate to use emails obtained illegally by a central European criminal hacker, operating from a Russian server and the subject of a federal indictment in a cyber attack against former U.S. officials, to impugn the integrity of a U.S. Secretary of State and her sources? Apparently when you are a Republican on the House Select Committee on Benghazi -- the latest inquiry into the faux scandal the Republicans keep trying to exploit for partisan advantage.” [Joseph Wilson opinion, Huffington Post, [6/16/15](#)]

MSNBC: The GOP-led Select Committee “is drifting, taking a keen interest in all kinds of other issues far from its mandate.” “Nearly three years after the deadly terrorism, however, the GOP-led panel is drifting, taking a keen interest in all kinds of other issues far from its mandate. The Associated Press reported last week that the GOP-led panel ‘has devolved from an investigation into the deaths of four Americans in Libya into a political fight over Hillary Rodham Clinton’s emails and private computer server – a battle that is likely to stretch into the 2016 presidential election year.’” [MSNBC, [7/23/15](#)]

Former Deputy CIA Director Michael Morell: criticized Republicans for politicizing the Benghazi tragedy. “The CIA’s former deputy director is charging that Republicans have politicized the deadly 2012 assault on the U.S diplomatic outpost in Benghazi, Libya. Michael Morell, in a forthcoming book, rejects the claim that U.S. military and CIA officers ‘were ordered to stand down and not come to the rescue of their comrades,’ according to The New York Times. Morell, who retired in 2013, also states that there is ‘no evidence’ to back the allegation that ‘there was a conspiracy between the CIA and the White House to spin the Benghazi story in a way that would protect the political interests’ of President Obama and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.” [The Hill, [5/4/15](#)]

Daily Beast’s Michael Tomasky: “Why is the committee that was impaneled to investigate the deaths of four Americans in a consular attack of Benghazi subpoenaing an IT guy in the first place?” “TOMASKY: She’s not blameless here by any means. As I wrote yesterday, she made an error in setting up this system in the first place. And this is going to be a bad headline, no doubt about that. But here’s a question that I bet a lot of people watching this segment haven’t even pondered. Why is the committee that was impaneled to investigate the deaths of four Americans in a consular attack of Benghazi subpoenaing an IT guy in the first place? You could drum up -- Gowdy, if he were here, he could drum up some phony answers to that question, Tamron. But the answer to the question is, because this committee is not investigating those death in Benghazi anymore. It’s investigating Hillary Clinton politically and trying to find something on her to keep her out of the white house. That’s obviously what this is about.” [MSNBC’s NewsNation with Tamron Hall, [9/3/15](#)]

MSNBC Headline: “The ‘political charade’ on Benghazi comes into focus.” [MSNBC, [4/23/15](#)]

Bloomberg: The GOP’s Benghazi Committee seized “on the revelations regarding Clinton’s private e-mail domain to expand their committee’s mandate, delay Clinton’s testimony and extend their investigation indefinitely.” “The panel’s Republican House members are seizing on the revelations regarding Clinton’s private e-mail domain to expand their committee’s mandate, delay Clinton’s testimony and extend their investigation indefinitely. The committee chairman, Representative Trey Gowdy of South Carolina, the chairman of the Benghazi committee, sent subpoenas to Clinton on Wednesday asking for access to her full e-mail records, his office said.” [Bloomberg, [3/5/15](#)]

SOME HAVE CALLED FOR THE FARCE TO END

New York Times Editorial Board: “Shut Down the Benghazi Committee.” [New York Times Editorial, [10/7/15](#)]

New York Times Editorial Board: “If the Republicans insist on keeping the process alive, the Democrats should stop participating in this charade.” “Mrs. Clinton is scheduled to testify before the committee on Oct. 22. The hearing will give Republicans another chance to attack the credibility and trustworthiness of the leading Democratic presidential candidate. It will do nothing to make American embassies abroad safer or help the relatives of the four killed in Libya. The hearing should be the last salvo for a committee that has accomplished nothing. If the Republicans insist on keeping the process alive, the Democrats should stop participating in this charade.” [New York Times Editorial, [10/7/15](#)]

New York Times' Foreign Affairs Editor Carol Giacomo: “The committee should be disbanded and if the Republican leadership refuses to do that, then the panel’s Democratic members should resign.” “The committee should be disbanded and if the Republican leadership refuses to do that, then the panel’s Democratic members should resign. Manipulating government funds for political purposes in this way may well violate congressional ethics rules, as Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi has suggested. There is little reason to expect that Republicans, united in defeating Mrs. Clinton at all costs, care enough to do anything about it.” [New York Times Editor’s Blog, [10/2/15](#)]

Vox Headline: “Republicans should shut down the Benghazi committee for their own good.” [Vox, [10/1/15](#)]

Vox’s Jonathan Allen predicted the Committee would shut down imminently. “Shutting down the panel is a no-brainer, and I’d be surprised if the Benghazi committee, now tarnished by McCarthy’s ill-advised and ill-timed remarks, is still in place a month from now. Perhaps the Clinton appearance before the panel will be postponed indefinitely, or perhaps it will be the committee’s last act. Either way, it doesn’t make sense for the GOP to keep it operating. It would be an act of compassion for House Speaker John Boehner to disband it before McCarthy becomes speaker and is faced with the unenviable choice of either enraging conservatives by shutting it down in response to his epic own goal or letting it live as a symbol of House Republicans’ willingness to use the levers of power for partisan political gain.” [Vox, [10/1/15](#)]

PARTISAN COMMITTEE MEMBERS

LIKE GOWDY, OTHER GOP MEMBERS ENGAGE IN SCANDALMONGERING

Trey Gowdy isn't the only GOP member of the Benghazi Committee with a penchant for innuendo. It's tragic but unsurprising that every GOP member of the Benghazi Committee has used their power to peddle in partisan smear campaigns and conspiracy theories—hiding facts and using partisan tactics to politicize the tragedy in Benghazi, as well as the Iran Nuclear Agreement, Planned Parenthood, Obamacare and a host of other issues.

The Benghazi Committee Republicans' abuse of power and misuse of taxpayer funds runs deep. With so much at stake in 2016, the American people deserve better than partisan hackery with no basis in the facts.

GOWDY SAID ADMINISTRATION WAS HIDING FACTS ON BENGHAZI

Trey Gowdy accused the administration of “trying to keep you from finding out what happened.” “So Benghazi kinda undercuts that,” Gowdy said, “And then you throw in the fact that your government, in an orchestrated fashion, is trying to keep you from finding out what happened, it makes for a great, you would think, media story. ... I mean it’s been what over eight months, and finally you mentioned ABC, The New York Times figured out how to spell Benghazi. That’s great.” [Daily Caller, [5/22/13](#)]

Trey Gowdy: There is no question “that there was a concerted effort shortly after Benghazi to protect the President’s re-election bid, and right now there’s a concerted effort to insulate and protect Secretary Clinton.” “GOWDY: Oh, there is no question. Anyone sitting in that committee room today would draw that same conclusion, that there was a concerted effort shortly after Benghazi to protect the President’s re-election bid, and right now there’s a concerted effort to insulate and protect Secretary Clinton. For once, Congress did its job today. It’s our job to provide oversight. There’s no statute of limitations when it comes to the truth, and the least we can do for our four murdered fellow Americans who were serving on our steed under our flag is to find out exactly what happened. And we took a big step today. But, Sean, today is just one step. We need to have more hearings with more firsthand eyewitness accounts.” [Fox News’ Hannity, [5/8/13](#)]

GOWDY ACCUSED ADMINISTRATION OF MANIPULATING TALKING POINTS TO PROTECT ADMINISTRATION

Trey Gowdy: “Every change that Mike Morell made to the talking points sanitized or immunized the administration from criticism.” “Well, the memo [by Ben Rhodes], I think, is evidence of a cover-up. But Joe, you also have to keep in mind, every change that Mike Morell made to the talking points sanitized or immunized the administration from criticism. I mean, initially the first talking points were critical of the State Department for missing every sign and signal in Libya of escalating violence. He took all of that out of the talking points. He’s the one who inserted ‘spontaneous reaction’ or a protest, despite the fact that the station chief and Greg Hooks (sic) -- Greg Hicks -- says that’s not true.” [MSNBC’s Morning Joe, [5/7/14](#)]

GOWDY REFERRED TO THE SELECT COMMITTEE AS “A TRIAL”

Trey Gowdy said if the “administration is slow-walking document production, I can’t end a trial simply because the defense won’t cooperate.” MR. SCARBOROUGH: “Hey, Trey, one final question. Yesterday some people were bringing up around the set concerns that you could have a committee that could have one subpoena after another subpoena going out all the way through 2016, going after Hillary Clinton, going into the election campaign. Do you think there should be a limit on how long the subpoena power should be for the committee, a limit to the scope, so people don’t say, hey, you Republicans, you’re just doing this to go after Hillary?” REP. GOWDY: “Well, part of the answer to that depends upon how compliant the administration is with our subpoena. It would be shame on us if we

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intentionally drug this out for political expediency. On the other hand, if an administration is slow-walking document production, I can't end a trial simply because the defense won't cooperate." [MSNBC's Morning Joe, [5/7/14](#)]

GOWDY SAID HE COULD HOLD BENGHAZI HEARINGS “UNTIL THE LORD COMES BACK”

Trey Gowdy said he was willing to hold committee hearings on Benghazi “until the Lord comes back.” The following exchange took place on Fox Business: DOBBS: “The idea that the -- that these gentlemen sitting there as the leaders of our intelligence community would not be willing to put forward a transparent, direct and candid statement to those committees -- that's deeply troubling, isn't it?” GOWDY: “It is when you -- when you live in an open, free society and an administration claims to be the most transparent since the earth cooled. We're going to find out, Lou, what happened in Benghazi with or without the voluntary help of the people who have knowledge. We're going to find out, and we'll have committee hearings until the Lord comes back, if that's what it takes!” [Fox Business, [11/15/12](#)]

Trey Gowdy: “I'm ready to send depositions to Hillary Clinton, Susan Rice, Cheryl Mills and Patrick Kennedy.” VAN SUSTEREN: “It's extraordinary. Are we going to get some hearings on this or anything coming up? We only have 20 seconds left but what's next.” GOWDY: “Yes, ma'am. We are doing depositions which regrettably your viewers don't have the benefit of it. I'm ready to send depositions to Hillary Clinton, Susan Rice, Cheryl Mills and Patrick Kennedy. I'm ready to take their depositions and ready to send interrogatories to the president. Some of my colleagues are about their wit's end when it comes to this Benghazi investigation.” [Fox News, 1/10/14; [Video](#)]

GOWDY SUPPORTED BLOCKING NOMINEES OVER BENGHAZI WITNESS AVAILABILITY

Trey Gowdy stood with Lindsey Graham in calling for future nominees to be blocked until more witnesses are interviewed in Benghazi investigations. “Graham, R-S.C., first issued his plan Monday but the White House appeared unmoved, so he restated it at a Wednesday news conference on Capitol Hill. ‘I will block all future nominees, not because I want to shut anything down, but because I want to open things up,’ Graham said. He was joined by Sens. John McCain of Arizona and Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire, and Reps. Jim Jordan of Ohio, Jason Chaffetz of Utah and Gowdy, R-Spartanburg.” [The State, [10/30/15](#)]

GOWDY HAS ALREADY PUSHED FAR-FLUNG CONSPIRACY THEORIES

Trey Gowdy argued the administration changed the names of people involved in the Benghazi attacks as part of a cover-up attempt. “Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.) is accusing the Obama administration of a massive cover-up in the deadly Benghazi, Libya, terrorist attack, saying it was ‘dispersing’ witnesses around the country and changing their names in an effort to hide the truth about what happened. In an interview Thursday with Fox News host Greta Van Susteren, Gowdy said the administration is ‘changing names, creating aliases’ of U.S. agents who were

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in Benghazi on the night of the Sept. 11, 2012, attacks. ‘Stop and think what things are most calculated to get at the truth? Talk to people with first-hand knowledge. What creates the appearance or perhaps the reality of a cover-up? Not letting us talk with people who have the most amount of information, dispersing them around the country and changing their names,’ Gowdy said.” [The Hill, [8/2/13](#)]

Trey Gowdy suggested the Obama 2012 campaign could have been directly manipulating the Internal Revenue Service. The following exchange occurred on Fox News: O’REILLY: “What -- what is your opinion on what’s really going on with the IRS? I mean we now know that it’s into the Washington bureaucracy, it’s not a Cincinnati deal. Do you think this was orchestrated by the Democratic Party or the White House?” GOWDY: “Well, I don’t have any evidence to support that, but I can tell you this. One place we ought to be looking is the -- is the Obama/Biden re- elect. Not just the White House but their re-election team. I like to deal in evidence. I can’t prove to you that it goes to the White House. I can tell you this -- I don’t think two rogue agents in Cincinnati concocted this scheme on their own.” [Fox News, [6/18/13](#)]

Trey Gowdy openly questioned whether President Obama would circumvent election laws. “A dismayed U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., wondered what the limits to executive power are given many of the actions that President Barack Obama has taken with respect to immigration and the Affordable Care Act. At a House Judiciary Committee hearing Tuesday, Gowdy questioned a panel of legal experts on ‘The President’s Constitutional Duty to Faithfully Execute the Laws,’ according to HotAir. ‘If the president can fail to enforce immigration laws, can the president likewise fail to enforce election laws?’ Gowdy asked Simon Lazarus, senior counsel to the Constitutional Accountability Center.” [BizPac Review, [12/5/13](#)]

Trey Gowdy suggested President Obama tricked women into supporting him with the contraceptive mandate. “The question of whether corporations are people with religious beliefs, capable of theological objections to contraception access, won’t appear before the Supreme Court until the spring, with a ruling likely in the summer. But in the meantime, the rhetoric surrounding the issue is going to be amazing. Speaking out against the contraceptive mandate, South Carolina Rep. Trey Gowdy accused the president of winning the election by misleading women voters. ‘The president knows he is not going to win this case. But what he did win was an election. He won election in part by deceiving women and the so-called war on women,’ Gowdy said Wednesday on Fox News’s ‘On the Record.’ ‘He knows he is not going to win this in Supreme Court, but he won in 2012. That was his real objective.’ Even for House Republicans, this is a doozy. According to Gowdy, President Obama included contraception access as part of preventive care under federal law, but it was really just an elaborate ruse.” [MSNBC, [12/2/13](#)]

GOWDY ATTACKED PLANNED PARENTHOOD

Trey Gowdy signed onto a pledge to shutdown the government if Congress failed to defund Planned Parenthood. “A group of 28 House Republican lawmakers, all men, are pledging to do everything in their power to defund Planned Parenthood this fall, even it means shutting down the federal government in protest. In a letter circulated this summer by Rep. Mick Mulvaney (R-S.C.), the congressmen pledged to vote against any bill that funds the federal government if it includes money for Planned Parenthood. Congress must fund the government by Sept. 30 to avoid a shutdown... The 28 Republicans threatening a shutdown are Reps. Mulvaney, Jim Jordan (Ohio), John Fleming (La.), Raúl Labrador (Idaho), Matt Salmon (Ariz.), Tim Huelskamp (Kan.),

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Jeff Duncan (S.C.), Thomas Massie (Ky.), Trey Gowdy (S.C.), Walter Jones (N.C.), Curt Clawson (Fla.), Jim Bridenstine (Okla.), Keith Rothfus (Pa.), Randy Weber (Texas), Scott Perry (Pa.), Steven Pearce (N.M.), Trent Franks (Ariz.), Louie Gohmert (Texas), Ted Yoho (Fla.), Jody Hice (Ga.), David Rouzer (N.C.), Dave Brat (Va.), Mark Meadows (N.C.), Scott DesJarlais (Tenn.), Mark Walker (N.C.), Brian Babin (Texas), David Schweikert (Ariz.), and Trent Kelly (Miss.).” [Huffington Post, [9/8/15](#)]

GOWDY ACCUSED PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF SELLING FETAL BODY PARTS

Trey Gowdy: “I’m not going to give taxpayer money to an entity that discusses the best way to sell body parts.” “The people I work for do not want to fund that,” he said. “People can disagree about a woman’s right to choose and Roe vs. Wade, but this is barbaric, depraved.” Gowdy was referring to four videos recently released by the Center for Medical Progress that showed Planned Parenthood officials callously discussing the sale of fetal body parts. “I’m not going to give taxpayer money to an entity that discusses the best way to sell body parts and whether or not you can perform procedures after a delivery and sell those parts in interstate commerce,” Gowdy added. “I’m not going to fund it.” [Conservative Tribune, [8/3/15](#)]

GOWDY HURLED ACCUSATIONS AT PLANNED PARENTHOOD PRESIDENT

Trey Gowdy harshly interrogated Planned Parenthood President Cecile Richards, accusing her of “eating dinner salads and drinking wine” while “discussing infanticide.” “At one point, Richards told Gowdy that Planned Parenthood would like to make campaign contributions to Republicans, but: ‘We don’t think women’s rights should be a partisan issue.’ Gowdy was ready: ‘And we don’t think eating dinner salads and drinking wine while you’re discussing infanticide – we have a problem with that, too. So I’m sure you can understand why we would be as viscerally opposed to what we saw on some of the tapes.’” [IJ Review, [10/4/15](#)]

Trey Gowdy accused Planned Parenthood President Cecile Richards of saying anti-abortion advocates “are not reasonable.” “I appreciate that people have a lot of different views on the issue of abortion,” Richards said. “We take the position that we trust women to make decisions about their pregnancies.” Gowdy responded, “I appreciate the way you like to frame the issue, that you are the reasonable one and those of us who have a contrary position are not reasonable.” “I didn’t say that,” Richards claimed. “No, that’s exactly the last answer you gave,” Gowdy shot back. When the Planned Parenthood boss again denied using those “words,” Gowdy continued to push back — and he seemingly delivered a wink to make his point. “It’s not always what you say, sometimes it’s just what you mean,” the Republican added.” [The Blaze, [9/30/15](#)]

GOWDY EQUATED AFFORDABLE CARE ACT WITH SEGREGATION

Trey Gowdy said the Affordable Care Act was a bad law, similar to laws in the past that made it unlawful for “Tim Scott and I to sit-down at a restaurant and eat together.” “In the latest instance, Gowdy said House Republicans don’t believe the ACA is a good law and have stood strong on those principles. ‘Some people might say that we should go along with what the President wants, and the Supreme Court ruling, but I would submit

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that just because it's law doesn't make it a good law,' Gowdy said. 'There was a time when it would have been unlawful for (Sen.) Tim Scott and I to sit-down at a restaurant and eat together. There are bad laws and those worth staying and fighting for and I happen to think this is one of them.'" [GoUpstate.com, [10/1/13](#)]

REP. JIM JORDAN

JORDAN SAID HILLARY CLINTON DENIED SECURITY

Jim Jordan: "They said they needed more help. Hillary Clinton denied that." "In an interview Thursday with The Lima News, Jordan said Clinton is personally responsible for the attack, that she denied requests for more security. 'Yeah, she's the boss,' Jordan said. 'This is not France, this is not Great Britain, where you can rely on a handful of your security and rely on a host country to provide additional security. It's Libya for goodness sake, and they're treating it like an embassy in Canada. They knew if there was an attack on the compound, the hired help were going to drop their weapons and run or worst case fire on the good guys. So they said they needed more help. Hillary Clinton denied that.'" [LimaOhio.com, [1/24/14](#)]

JORDAN SAID AN ACCUSATION WAS IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT "FITS THE NARRATIVE"

Jim Jordan said an accusation by Ray Maxwell was important because "it fits the story, it fits the narrative." "MEGYN KELLY: Raymond Maxwell, former head of the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs is claiming, and this is a man who said he was, he voted for Barack Obama, he was a Hillary Clinton supporter, but he claims that he walked into the State Department one night and they were scrubbing documents. And he told Cheryl, he walked in and they told me Ray, we are to go through these stacks, pull out anything that might put anybody in the Near Eastern affairs front office or the 7th floor, that was Hillary's floor, in a bad light. He claims he responded 'isn't that unethical?' And he was told, 'Ray, those are our orders.' He said two Hillary Clinton confidants were allegedly there including Hillary's chief of staff. Do you believe it? JIM JORDAN: Well, it certainly has to be looked into. First, when you have a State Department employee who's an eye witness to what he calism to be a crime that needs to be investigated. Second, Cheryl Atkinson is a respected journalist, she thinks this source, Ray Maxwell is a good enough source that she can break this story. And third, and probably most importantly, it fits the story, it fits the narrative. Remember, this accountability review board was handpicked by Hillary Clinton and Cheryl Mills. They selected Admiral Mullen and Ambassador Pickering to the board. They got to see a draft copy before it went public, so in essence they got to make edits to the report." [Fox News, [9/17/15](#)]

JORDAN SAID ARB WAS NOT INDEPENDENT

Jim Jordan on ARB: "I'm not trying to discredit it, it's already discredited. The idea that it's the end-all be all blue ribbon commission, everything's fine, is just not accurate." "MEGYN KELLY: You're basically trying to discredit the ARB, which Hillary and the State Department continuously point to as exoneration in their

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view for conscious wrongdoing on their part. JIM JORDAN: Megyn, I'm not trying to discredit it, it's already discredited. The idea that it's the end-all be all blue ribbon commission, everything's fine, is just not accurate. They picked the guys who were on the panel." [Fox News, [9/17/15](#)]

JORDAN SAID THERE WAS A STAND DOWN ORDER

Jim Jordan: "We still do not know who gave the order for them to stand down." "We were shocked to hear Mr. Hicks's account that special operations teams stationed in Tripoli were prevented from flying to the consulate to respond to the initial attack. Their presence in Benghazi could have saved lives. We still do not know who gave the order for them to stand down." [Letter on Benghazi Hearing from Congressman Jim Jordan, [5/13/15](#)]

Jim Jordan has claimed that "we didn't send help" to Benghazi during the attack. "Jordan has previously played an outspoken role in the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee's probe on the issue. Earlier this week, he told FoxNews the committee would do important work that would help Congress 'most effectively and efficiently get to the truth.' 'People want to know what happened, why we didn't send help,' Jordan continued. 'There are lots of important questions, like why was the security -- additional security not provided when there were repeated requests for it before the attacks?'" [Cleveland.com, [5/9/14](#)]

JORDAN PUSHED THE SAME DEBUNKED 60 MINUTES BENGHAZI REPORT

Three days after the "60 Minutes" report, Jordan said, "'60 Minutes' has talked to more people on the ground in Benghazi than I have." "A House member appearing with Graham, Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio), expressed outrage over the lack of access to those that were on the ground in Benghazi. '60 Minutes' has talked to more people on the ground in Benghazi than I have,' he said. 'There's something wrong when the administration says one thing, 'We want to get to the truth,' and then we don't get access to the very people.'" [Politico, [10/30/13](#)]

JORDAN SUPPORTED BLOCKING NOMINEES OVER BENGHAZI WITNESS AVAILABILITY

Jim Jordan stood with Lindsey Graham in calling for future nominees to be blocked until more witnesses are interviewed in Benghazi investigations. "Graham, R-S.C., first issued his plan Monday but the White House appeared unmoved, so he restated it at a Wednesday news conference on Capitol Hill. 'I will block all future nominees, not because I want to shut anything down, but because I want to open things up,' Graham said. He was joined by Sens. John McCain of Arizona and Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire, and Reps. Jim Jordan of Ohio, Jason Chaffetz of Utah and Gowdy, R-Spartanburg." [The State, [10/30/15](#)]

JORDAN WAS AN OVERSIGHT HAWK

Jim Jordan wanted to take over the House Oversight committee and continue his investigations into Benghazi, the IRS scandal, and the launch of the administration's healthcare website. "In December, Jordan Chief of

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Staff Ray Yonkura said his boss wants to chair the House Oversight Committee after this year. Current Chairman Rep. Darrell Issa, a Republican from California, is term-limited as the committee chair. After the November election, new party leadership will be selected for 2015. Jordan has been active and assertive with investigations into Benghazi, the IRS scandal involving tea party and conservative groups and the launch of the administration's health care marketplace website. On Thursday, Jordan brushed the notion aside, saying he was focused on helping communicate the party's vision for the country during this election year and continuing his oversight work." [LimaOhio.com, [1/24/14](#)]

JORDAN ATTACKED PLANNED PARENTHOOD

Jim Jordan signed onto a pledge to shutdown the government if Congress failed to defund Planned Parenthood. "A group of 28 House Republican lawmakers, all men, are pledging to do everything in their power to defund Planned Parenthood this fall, even it means shutting down the federal government in protest. In a letter circulated this summer by Rep. Mick Mulvaney (R-S.C.), the congressmen pledged to vote against any bill that funds the federal government if it includes money for Planned Parenthood. Congress must fund the government by Sept. 30 to avoid a shutdown... The 28 Republicans threatening a shutdown are Reps. Mulvaney, Jim Jordan (Ohio), John Fleming (La.), Raúl Labrador (Idaho), Matt Salmon (Ariz.), Tim Huelskamp (Kan.), Jeff Duncan (S.C.), Thomas Massie (Ky.), Trey Gowdy (S.C.), Walter Jones (N.C.), Curt Clawson (Fla.), Jim Bridenstine (Okla.), Keith Rothfus (Pa.), Randy Weber (Texas), Scott Perry (Pa.), Steven Pearce (N.M.), Trent Franks (Ariz.), Louie Gohmert (Texas), Ted Yoho (Fla.), Jody Hice (Ga.), David Rouzer (N.C.), Dave Brat (Va.), Mark Meadows (N.C.), Scott DesJarlais (Tenn.), Mark Walker (N.C.), Brian Babin (Texas), David Schweikert (Ariz.), and Trent Kelly (Miss.)." [Huffington Post, [9/8/15](#)]

JORDAN SAID THE PLANNED PARENTHOOD VIDEOS MIGHT SHOW CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

Jim Jordan: The Planned Parenthood "videos point out some of the most disgusting, immoral what looks like criminal activity. There is no way, no way they should be getting a penny of taxpayer money." "ALISYN CAMEROTA: You've gone down this road before of defunding, attempting to defund Planned Parenthood and shutting down the government. And it hasn't worked well for Republicans. Why go down it again? JIM JORDAN: Well, Alisyn, look. First of all, understand this. Planned Parenthood has been engaged. These videos point out some of the most disgusting, immoral what looks like criminal activity. There is no way, no way they should be getting a penny of taxpayer money." [CNN's New Day, [8/26/15](#)]

JORDAN SAID PLANNED PARENTHOOD SHOULD BE DEFUNDED IMMEDIATELY, DESPITE ONGOING INVESTIGATIONS

Jim Jordan: "Of course we should continue the investigation. Of course we should get all the information out there. But we know enough already to say this organization shouldn't be getting your tax money." "CAMEROTA: Why not let the investigations happen first? I mean, you're saying that there's criminal activity. You don't know that there's criminal activity. JORDAN: I said what appears to be criminal activity but certainly disturbing activity. Why should they be getting taxpayer money while these investigations are going on? I'm

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on the Judiciary Committee. I'm on the Oversight Committee, two of the three committees looking into this issue. Of course we should continue the investigation. Of course we should get all the information out there. But we know enough already to say this organization shouldn't be getting your tax money. And oh, by the way, a few years ago, they were on videotape advocating all kinds of disgusting things, as well, then. We should have defunded them then." [CNN's New Day, [8/26/15](#)]

JORDAN SAID SENATORS SHOULD "FIND JESUS" AND DEFUND OBAMACARE

Jim Jordan hoped senators would "find Jesus and do the right thing" by defunding Obamacare. "When the American people get engaged, they have a way of making elected officials see the light, find the Lord, and do the right thing. This bill does the right thing,' Jordan said in an interview with CNN's 'The Lead with Jake Tapper.' But the bill ties defunding Obamacare, to funding the government. There are not enough votes to pass the bill in the Senate, the president said he would veto it, and that would lead to a government shutdown... 'The people have a way of weighing in on these debates, and changing the minds of politicians,' said Jordan. 'I think there are senators who are going to find Jesus and do the right thing.'" [CNN's The Lead with Jake Tapper, [9/20/13](#)]

JORDAN REFUSED TO ATTEND CPAC BECAUSE A GAY REPUBLICAN GROUP WOULD BE THERE

Jim Jordan has refused to attend CPAC because a gay Republican group was participating. The Cleveland Plain Dealer reported in 2011 that Congressman Jim Jordan "wouldn't attend the Conservative Political Action Conference in Washington because a gay GOP group was participating." [Cleveland Plain Dealer, [6/5/11](#)]

JORDAN HAS BEEN A POLITICAL ENEMY OF BOEHNER

Jim Jordan coordinated attacks on fellow Republicans supporting Boehner's effort to raise the debt ceiling in 2011. "The GOP rank and file tore into Republican Study Committee Chairman Jim Jordan (Ohio) on Wednesday for his role in coordinated attacks on Republicans who have backed Speaker John Boehner's (Ohio) debt limit proposal. According to participants, during a closed-door Republican Conference meeting Wednesday, Jordan and a top RSC staffer came under fire from their colleagues for their role in the attacks. The RSC, Heritage Action for America and others have closely coordinated their opposition to Boehner's debt plan — including circulating a public pressure hit list of Republicans prepared by the RSC." [Roll Call, [7/27/11](#)]

POMPEO SAID THE MILITARY DID NOT RESPOND TO ATTACK

Mike Pompeo: “You know, we’ve got a military that had the opportunity that night to take action.” “MP: I haven’t given a whole lot of thought to when that point is. But you know, it’s a complicated set of facts. It’s a lot of data, and it’s a lot of material to review. So the window is pretty narrow. And so I hope literally today, tomorrow, this week, they’ll make their choices, and I hope they’ll do the right thing. These facts, Hugh, they’re not partisan. I’m a veteran. You know, we’ve got a military that had the opportunity that night to take action. I want to get to the bottom of if they handled that appropriately. So you have lots of agencies, whether that’s the State Department, the Department of Defense, the Central Intelligence Agency, all of these various agencies, the White House national security staff, had roles in this, and it’s complicated.” [Hugh Hewitt show, [5/14/14](#)]

POMPEO ARGUED ADMINISTRATION INTENTIONALLY MISREPRESENTED FACTS

Mike Pompeo argued the State Department and White House “put out a document that didn’t reflect the reality on the ground as they knew it at the time.” “Rep. Mike Pompeo of the House Intelligence Committee disagreed with the administration’s position on Weekends with Alex Witt, saying that, ‘the changes made to those e-mails weren’t aesthetic, they weren’t cursory... State Department and [The] White House put out a document that didn’t reflect the reality on the ground as they knew it at the time.’ The Kansas Republican raised concerns that ‘political’ actors were the ones responsible for withholding hard-earned intelligence data from citizens who are in turn responsible for choosing their elected leaders, but disagreed with claims that Republicans are on a witch-hunt. “This isn’t about politics; this is about uncovering the facts surrounding a major national security failure.” [MSNBC, [5/11/13](#)]

POMPEO ACCUSED CUMMINGS OF PURPOSELY THWARTING INVESTIGATION

Mike Pompeo accused Rep. Cummings of acting as “an agent for preventing this committee from performing its tasks. “Rep. Mike Pompeo, a Kansas Republican and an attorney, said the committee’s work could have been finished a year ago had the Democrats not continued to stonewall. As a result, he said, the committee only has 10 percent of requested documents. ‘Chairman Gowdy worked his tail off and continues to work his tail off to get to the facts,’ Pompeo told RCP. [He] has had more patience than I would have had – you can write that – with the behavior of [ranking member] Mr. [Elijah] Cummings, who has behaved with enormous, enormous recalcitrance, and has acted as an agent for preventing this committee from performing its tasks.’ Pompeo characterized the committee Democrats’ actions as ‘100 percent defense, zero percent inquiry.’ [Pompeo Votes to Defund Selling of Baby Parts, Protect Abortion Survivors, [9/18/15](#)]

ACCUSED PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF SELLING FETAL PARTS AND CALLED FOR DEFUNDING

Mike Pompeo: Stories about “the harvesting and sale of fetal parts, reinforce my belief that federal funding for organizations and clinics that perform abortions must be stopped immediately.” “Every human life is a sacred gift from God and should never be subject to the abhorrent and inhumane practices of Planned Parenthood,” said Pompeo. “The stories that have surfaced about such horrific practices and techniques, including the harvesting and sale of fetal parts, reinforce my belief that federal funding for organizations and clinics that perform abortions must be stopped immediately. I am proud to support these two bills that are vitally important to our effort to stop these despicable practices at Planned Parenthood and other organizations and bring every person involved in these illegal activities to justice.”

POMPEO CRITICIZED THE IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL

Mike Pompeo said the inspections in the Iran nuclear deal was “like allowing a drug addict to submit his own specimen without any supervision.” “Pompeo has gone beyond stating his opposition to publicly campaign against the deal, urging members of Congress on Twitter to vote against it next month and criticizing the Obama administration for withholding information from Congress. ‘Even more unbelievable is that the administration would trust serial nuclear cheaters to conduct their own inspections and submit their own soil samples from their nuclear sites,’ Pompeo said Wednesday. ‘That is like allowing a drug addict to submit his own specimen without any supervision.’” [CJ Online, [8/20/15](#)]

Mike Pompeo demanded to see the signatures of the representatives from seven nations on the Iran nuclear deal. “A Republican critic of the nuclear deal with Iran wants the State Department to give Congress a copy of the agreement that includes the formal signatures of the seven nations involved in the talks. Without those signatures, Rep. Mike Pompeo (R-Kan.) told Secretary of State John Kerry, Congress cannot be assured that every country has agreed to the terms of the deal. ‘This is not a mere formality,’ Pompeo wrote. ‘Those signatures represent the commitment of the signatory and the country on whose behalf he or she is signing.’ ‘In short, just as with any legal instrument, signing matters.’” [The Hill, [9/18/15](#)]

POMPEO SAID AMERICAN MUSLIMS ARE COMPLICIT IN ATTACKS

Mike Pompeo: “Silence has made these Islamic leaders across America potentially complicit in these acts, and more importantly still, in those that may well follow.” “Noting that it has been two months since the Boston Marathon bombing, Rep. Mike Pompeo (R-KS) said the supposed silence from Muslim leaders on terrorism is ‘deafening,’ adding that it’s ‘sad, but perhaps most importantly it’s dangerous.’ Listing off a number terrorist acts committed by Islamic extremists, including the 1993 World Trade Center bombing and several more recent failed plots, Pompeo blamed the leaders of the Islamic community for not doing more to prevent these actions, hinting that they could be complicit in the deaths they’ve caused. ‘Instead of responding, silence has made these Islamic leaders across America potentially complicit in these acts, and more importantly still, in those that may well follow,’ Pompeo accused.” [Think Progress, [6/11/13](#)]

POMPEO'S 2010 CAMPAIGN PROMOTED ARTICLE CALLING HIS OPPONENT A "TURBAN TOPPER"

Mike Pompeo was forced to apologize for his campaign's promotion of an article calling his opponent a "turban topper." "A Republican congressional candidate and RNC committee member has personally apologized for a tweet his campaign sent out promoting an article that called his opponent a 'turban topper' who 'could be a Muslim, a Hindu, a Buddhist etc who knows.' Republican Mike Pompeo, who is running for a congressional seat in Kansas's Fourth District, called State Rep. Raj Goyle on Thursday to offer his regrets for the offending post, Goyle told the Huffington Post... On Wednesday, Pompeo found himself in hot water after his Twitter account promoted, as a 'good read' a local news article that included the inflammatory attack on Goyle." [Huffington Post, [8/12/10](#)]

POMPEO SUGGESTED OBAMA HAD AFFINITY FOR TERRORISTS

Mike Pompeo agreed with a conservative commentator's suggestion that Obama had "kind of an affinity for" terrorists. "Gaffney had a different interpretation, wondering whether the president was conveying 'kind of an affinity for, if not the violent beheading and crucifixions and slaying of Christians and all that, but at least for the cause for which these guys are engaged in such activities.' Pompeo agreed, saying, 'Frank, every place you stare at the president's policies and statements, you see what you just described.' 'Every policy of this administration has treated America as if we are the problem, and not the solution to keeping not only America safe, but a stable world,' he added." [Right Wing Watch, [2/27/15](#)]

POMPEO MADE EXTREME COMMENTS ABOUT DADT

Mike Pompeo: "We cannot use our military to promote social ideas that do not reflect the values of the country. "Public figures were on hand to add their voices to the anti-gay and anti-Muslim sentiments expressed in the literature being handed out in the exhibition hall. Freshman Rep. Vicky Hartzler (R-Mo.) warned the crowd ominously that 'they,' whoever they are, 'are trying to use the military to advance their social agenda.' Her comments came in a discussion about the recently revoked DADT policy. Hartzler has long warned against expansions of gay rights. ... Joining Hartzler on her panel was another freshman, Rep. Mike Pompeo (R-Kan.). He echoed her concerns. 'We cannot use our military to promote social ideas that do not reflect the values of the country,' he said." [Southern Poverty Law Center, [10/7/11](#)]

ROBY ACCUSED ADMINISTRATION OF OBSTRUCTING INVESTIGATIONS

Martha Roby said the Select Committee was necessary due to lingering questions and continued White House obstruction. “Lingering questions about the Benghazi attack combined with continued White House obstruction and the narrow scope of existing House committees compel us to form this Select Committee and continue the search for truth.” [Why I’m Serving on the Select Committee to Investigate Benghazi, [5/16/14](#)]

ROBY IMPLIED AMERICAN PEOPLE WERE BEING LIED TO ABOUT BENGHAZI

Martha Roby: “The American people won’t tolerate being lied to.” “So far, we haven’t gotten a straight answer about what happened. First, the White House told us to wait for the investigation to finish. Now that more of the truth is emerging, the White House tries to brush off the issue telling us, ‘Benghazi happened a long time ago.’ It’s clear to me that questions still remain about what happened in Benghazi, including why a request for military assistance was reportedly turned down. It is Congress’s responsibility to ask questions and look into situations like this that don’t add up. ... We live in a dangerous world, and the threat of an attack like this is always present. When an attack of this magnitude occurs, the government must be upfront about what happened and why. The American people won’t tolerate being lied to, and it’s Congress’s responsibility to ensure the truth is told.” [Roby statement, [5/9/13](#)]

ROBY CAMPAIGN LISTS BENGHAZI INVESTIGATION AS ACCOMPLISHMENT

Martha Roby’s campaign lists “fighting to find the truth” about the Benghazi attacks as a major accomplishment. “Her campaign lists her accomplishments as: ‘fighting to prevent harmful military cuts that hurt service families and threaten national security; fighting to expose corruption at the Central Alabama VA and improve how local veterans receive care; fighting on behalf of the unborn to advance major legal protections for life and defund Planned Parenthood; fighting to find the truth about the September 11, 2012 Benghazi terrorist attacks as a Member of the Select Committee on Benghazi. fighting to give Alabama farmers a fair shake by passing a responsible farm bill and by reining in unnecessary environmental restrictions;’ and ‘fighting on behalf of homegrown Alabama businesses to expose and push back overly-aggressive federal agencies and policies.’” [Alabama Political Reporter, [10/5/15](#)]

ROBY FOUGHT TO DEFUND PLANNED PARENTHOOD

Martha Roby introduced “a ‘correction’ bill to re-insert language immediately halting all taxpayer funding from going to Planned Parenthood” into the temporary funding bill that prevented a shutdown. “Congresswoman Roby continued, “That’s why I am introducing a ‘correction’ bill to re-insert language immediately halting all taxpayer funding from going to Planned Parenthood for the next year as investigations proceed. The language is actually identical to the House-passed ‘defund’ bill sponsored earlier this month by my friend and fellow pro-life advocate Rep. Diane Black (R-TN).’ H. Con. Res. 79 would amend the temporary government funding bill to immediately halt all federal funding to Planned Parenthood for one year as investigations into the organization

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are carried out. Those funds would instead be directed to the more than 13,000 federally-qualified and rural health centers nationwide that provide primary care to low-income and underserved populations but do not perform abortions.” [Alabama Political Reporter, [10/2/15](#)]

ROBY ACCUSED PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF SELLING FETAL BODY PARTS

Martha Roby accused Planned Parenthood of selling fetal parts for profit. “Roby, R-Montgomery, called the comments ‘horrifying.’ ‘The casual, callous way (Nucato) details how babies can be killed in such a way that their tiny hearts, lungs and livers can be taken and sold for profit is simply horrifying,’ Roby said during a Tuesday speech on the House floor. ‘It is honestly hard to believe a human being could bring themselves to believe this is OK,’ she added.” [AL.com, [7/15/15](#)]

ROBY CALLED FOR CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

Martha Roby called for a criminal investigation into Planned Parenthood. “I appreciate the House Leadership and the Committees of jurisdiction for quickly laying the groundwork for investigations and hearings. Congress is right to use its oversight capacity to get to the bottom of this and hold this organization to account. ‘But I think this warrants a criminal investigation - a serious one. I don’t care how much political weight Planned Parenthood throws around this town, no one is above the law. ‘If we’re going to be perp walking soccer officials, how about let’s bear down on harvesting and trafficking of babies’ body parts.’” [Roby Calls for Criminal Investigation of Planned Parenthood, [7/15/15](#)]

Martha Roby said “admissions in the video warrant an investigation into Planned Parenthood.” “Roby said the admissions in the video warrant an investigation into Planned Parenthood. She said it also warrants greater discussion into the issue of abortion. ‘This is a moment that – as a nation– we have to ask ourselves, ‘who are we? Are we really going to tolerate this inhumanity? Are we going to look the other way while babies are brutally killed and organs harvested for profit,’ she said. ‘These aren’t specimens! These are babies for goodness’ sake!’” [AL.com, [7/15/15](#)]

ROBY OPPOSED LEGISLATION TO END THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

Martha Roby voted against legislation to end the government shutdown. “The Senate and The House of Representatives passed legislation on Wednesday night to end the government shutdown and avert a possible default, however, Senators Jeff Sessions and Richard Shelby, along with Congressmen Mo Brooks, Mike Rogers, Robert Aderholt, and Congresswoman Martha Roby all voted against that measure.” [WHNT.com, [10/16/13](#)]

ROBY WOULD NOT REFUTE OBAMA “BIRTHEER CLAIMS” FROM CONSTITUENT

Martha Roby garnered national criticism when she allowed a man’s “birther” claims to go un rebutted. “U.S. Rep. Martha Roby, R-Montgomery, fielded a doozy of a question during a town hall meeting co-hosted by the Wetumpka Tea Party on Monday in Elmore County. Roby was asked by a constituent what she and her “non-communist colleagues” in the House might do to stop President Barack Obama. ... A video of the exchange

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(watch it below) has gained national attention, getting mentions from the conservative FreeRepublic.com, to the liberal Mother Jones and even MSNBC, where a panel of commentators on the Andrea Mitchell Reports show chided Roby for not confronting the man. ‘When somebody says something that outrageous, it’s not enough to simply go on to the merits of their assertion,’ said Ruth Marcus of the Washington Post. ‘You need to call them out. Just like you call out racism or sexism or anti-Semitism or anything else. I think it’s very disappointing she didn’t do that.’ [Greg Talbot, Huntsville Times, [8/3/13](#)]

REP. PETER ROSKAM

ACCUSED THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION OF DISTORTING FACTS

Peter Roskam: “The Obama Administration continues to obstruct congressional inquiries by withholding key information and distorting the facts.” “For nearly two years, Congress and the American people have sought the truth regarding the terror attack on our Special Mission in Benghazi that resulted in the tragic deaths of four brave Americans. We have learned a great deal through the extensive work of standing committees that have aggressively investigated the attack, but the Obama administration continues to obstruct congressional inquiries by withholding key information and distorting the facts. Too many questions remain unanswered regarding the situation on the ground before, during, and after the event, as well as the extent of the Administration’s efforts to conceal the truth from public eye.” [Peter Roskam Press Release, [5/8/14](#)]

HOSTED FUNDRAISER FEATURING BENGHAZI COMMITTEE-MATE TREY GOWDY

Trey Gowdy was a special guest at a fundraiser for Congressman and Benghazi Committee member Peter Roskam. “Please join Congressman Peter Roskam with Special Guest Congressman Trey Gowdy Congressman Trey Gowdy of South Carolina serves on the House Committees on Government Reform & Oversight, Ethics and Judiciary. Prior to serving in Congress he was an experienced federal prosecutor. He brings those courtroom skills to his investigative and oversight work in the House of Representatives. Friday, September 25th.” [Cook County Republican Party, [9/15/15](#)]

ROSKAM SUPPORTED A LAWSUIT AGAINST OBAMA OVER IRAN DEAL

Peter Roskam supported a potential lawsuit accusing the Obama administration from violating the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act. “Rep. Peter Roskam (R., Ill.) told the Washington Free Beacon in an interview that the Obama administration still needs to address a ‘serious legal question’ about the nuclear deal and the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act, which allowed Congress to evaluate the agreement before it was fully implemented. According to the review act, lawmakers were supposed to be granted access to the text of the agreement as well as ‘any additional materials related thereto, including annexes, appendices, codicils, side agreements, implementing materials, documents, and guidance, technical or other understandings, and any related agreements.’” [Free Beacon, [9/29/15](#)]

Peter Roskam introduced a resolution to prevent the House from voting on the Iran bill. “GOP Rep. Peter Roskam is trying to halt the House’s upcoming vote on a measure disapproving of the Iran nuclear deal. Roskam (R-Ill.) is planning to try to force a vote this week on a resolution that says President Barack Obama has not submitted the entirety of the agreement to Congress, and therefore the House should not hold a vote to reject the deal. Roskam is trying to draw attention to the so-called ‘side deals’ that were hashed out between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency.” [Politico, [9/8/15](#)]

ROSKAM SAID GOP SHOULD BE RHETORICALLY AGGRESSIVE AGAINST ADMINISTRATION

Peter Roskam: “We need to be more rhetorically aggressive against the administration.” “Even with that, ‘we need to be more rhetorically aggressive against the administration,’ Roskam said. ‘There are many times I hear from folks at home — and other Republicans — ‘You’re not fighting.’ ‘Boehner has little use for GOP House members who would rather shut down government than compromise, given the political reality. On CBS’ ‘Face the Nation’ on Sunday, Boehner said, ‘there are people out there spreading noise about how much can get done.’ Roskam said being more aggressive might be helpful — in moving along, not stopping the business of lawmaking.” [Chicago Sun-Times, [9/28/15](#)]

ROSKAM EQUATED ABORTION WITH EXECUTION OF RAPISTS

Peter Roskam equated “abortion with the execution of rapists.” “Republican Congressman Peter Roskam appeared to equate abortion with the execution of rapists during an interview with the suburban Pioneer Press editorial board, a statement that Springfield chronicler Rich Miller believes ‘might do some damage’ to the Wheaton incumbent in the final days of his close race against Democratic opponent Jill Morgenthaler.” [Huffington Post, [11/27/08](#)]

FACED CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS PROBE

Peter Roskam was investigated by the House Committee on Ethics in 2013 after being accused of taking a trip with his wife that “was improperly financed by the Taiwanese government.” “The House Ethics Committee announced Friday that it was pushing ahead with an investigation into Representative Peter Roskam of Illinois, a member of the House Republican leadership, and that it was pursuing inquiries into three other lawmakers, including Michele Bachmann... The accusation against Mr. Roskam involves a trip to Taiwan with his wife in 2011 that the Office of Congressional Ethics — which asked for the full Ethics Committee investigation — said was improperly financed by the Taiwanese government, according to Politico, which first reported the details.” [New York Times, [7/26/13](#)]

The House Ethics Committee closed its investigation into Rep Roskam reporting “it was ‘inconclusive’ whether the university” that supplied \$25,000 to Roskam and his wife for the trip “was a ‘proper sponsor.’” “The U.S. House Ethics Committee Friday closed the investigation into Rep. Peter Roskam’s 2011 trip to Taiwan after

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months of review without recommending disciplinary actions... Roskam and his wife took the \$25,000 trip paid for by the Chinese Culture University in Taipei. The Wheaton Republican argued during the probe that the committee had signed off on the trip in advance and his office followed the rules. The Ethics Committee report Friday said it was ‘inconclusive’ whether the university was a ‘proper sponsor,’ and it couldn’t compel testimony to get the information it needed to make that call.” [Daily Herald, [11/15/13](#)]

REP. LYNN WESTMORELAND

HILLARY CLINTON DENIED SECURITY

Lynn Westmoreland’s two conclusions about Benghazi accused Hillary Clinton of denying additional security and the Obama administration perpetuating a lie about the motive behind the attack. “This all leads to two conclusions. First, it was then-Secretary of State Hilary Clinton who denied the requested and much-needed additional security to our representatives in Libya. Second, the White House did not perpetuate this lie about the anti-Muslim film being the cause of the attack to protect classified information. They did it to protect their own backsides.” [Capitol Corner: Westmoreland Disappointed in Obama Administration’s Handling of Benghazi, Vows to Continue Investigation, [4/29/13](#)]

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION COVER-UP

Lynn Westmoreland: Americans “deserve to know the truth, and who was behind covering up the events leading up to and after the attacks.” “All Americans, especially the families of the four we lost that night, deserve to know the truth, and who was behind covering up the events leading up to and after the attacks. I will work tirelessly with the other Select Committee members to present fair and honest conclusions, and to ensure that what happened on the night of September 11, 2012, doesn’t happen again.” [Westmoreland Appointed to Benghazi Select Committee, [5/9/14](#)]

DISCUSSED SELECTIVE PORTIONS OF “CLASSIFIED” BENGHAZI INTERVIEW

Lynn Westmoreland openly discussed certain details of Cheryl Mills’ testimony, despite GOP claims that it was classified. “Finally, just hours after the interview concluded, Select Committee Member Lynn Westmoreland appeared on Fox News and freely discussed numerous details from the interview. Despite your direction to treat the interview as classified, he emphasized that he was providing first-hand information ‘[a]ccording to what we heard today.’ As he explained, ‘I’m just telling you what they said.’” [Democrats to Release Mills Interview Transcript to Correct Public Record, [10/5/15](#)]

WESTMORELAND ADMITTED HE IS LOOKING TO PROVE HIS OWN CLAIMS ON BENGHAZI

Lynn Westmoreland: “I think that we know exactly what happened. It’s getting the proof to prove what happened that has been the biggest undertaking.” In an interview with JD Hayworth on Newsmax TV, Westmoreland said, “I think that we know exactly what happened. It’s getting the proof to prove what happened that has been the biggest undertaking. I think you can see that Speaker Boehner came out, condemned the Administration about the subpoenas. We are just getting information, JD, that was subpoenaed from the State Department in October of 2012.” [Newsmax TV obtained via Right Wing Watch, [5/1/14](#)]

WESTMORELAND HAS CALLED FOR “SOME PROSECUTORS” ON THE BENGHAZI TRAGEDY

Lynn Westmoreland: “I would like to get some prosecutors, someone that knows how to build a case, and let us go and review all the testimony.” According to the transcript of an interview with United Liberty, Westmoreland was asked, “So we’ve had a number of congressional hearings, we’ve had House Oversight and Government Reform, House Intel, and others. We’re coming up on two years of the unfortunate anniversary of this attack. Where are members of Congress going at this point?” Westmoreland responded, “I went to the Speaker probably six weeks ago now, and I said, Speaker, I want you to think about something. I said I would like to put together a group, I’d like to get two people on both sides of Government Reform, I’d like to get two people on Armed Services, and two people from Foreign Affairs, and two people from Intel Committee. And in that group, I would like to get some prosecutors, someone that knows how to build a case, and let us go and review all the testimony.” [United Liberty transcript, 4/19/14]

WESTMORELAND FUNDRAISED OFF OF BENGHAZI

Lynn Westmoreland discussed the Benghazi investigation at a fundraiser. “Westmoreland, whose office was not immediately available to comment, also addressed the 2012 attack on the U.S. diplomatic mission in Benghazi, Libya, which he is investigating as a member on a new House select committee tasked with re-examining the incident. I’m not going to stand here and confirm or deny anything,” Westmoreland told the crowd. ‘Our job is to figure out the truth.’” [Huffington Post, [9/9/15](#)]

A Cobb County GOP fundraiser featuring Lynn Westmoreland advertised “an update on the Benghazi investigation” and touted Westmoreland’s role on the Benghazi Committee. “Admission for the Marietta, Georgia, event was \$10. The Cobb County GOP touted the event as a ‘very unusual breakfast’ where its supporters would receive an ‘update on the Benghazi investigation.’ ‘Congressman Westmoreland was selected by Speaker Boehner to serve on the House Select Committee on Benghazi,’ read the invite, which was obtained by The Huffington Post.” [Huffington Post, [9/9/15](#); Cobb County GOP: Breakfast with Rep. Lynn Westmoreland, [9/6/14](#)]

WESTMORELAND CALLED OBAMA “OUR ENEMY”

Lynn Westmoreland: “I think our enemy stands on 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.” “Rep. Lynn Westmoreland (R-Ga.) attended a breakfast for the Cobb County Republican Party on Saturday where he denounced ‘our enemy,’ President Barack Obama. ‘I think our enemy stands on 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue,’ he said before a crowd of 75, according to the Marietta Daily Journal. He later drew laughter for calling Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.), a frequent target for Republicans this cycle, ‘ruthless and senile.’” [Huffington Post, [9/9/15](#)]

PUSHED HUMA ABEDIN-MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD CONSPIRACY

Lynn Westmoreland accused Huma Abedin of ties to the Muslim Brotherhood. “The flap began after Bachmann and Republican colleagues Arizona Rep. Trent Franks, Texas Rep. Louie Gohmert, Florida Rep. Tom Rooney and Georgia Rep. Lynn Westmoreland sent letters to several inspector generals in the State Department, Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Defense, the Department of Justice and the Office of National Intelligence as to whether the Muslim Brotherhood could be infiltrating the U.S. government. The letters quickly attracted attention with one specifically mentioning the State Department’s Deputy Chief of Staff, Huma Abedin, a long-time Hillary Clinton aide, by name.” [US News, [6/19/12](#); Bachmann letter to State Department Inspector General, [6/13/12](#)]

REP. SUSAN BROOKS

BROOKS SOUGHT ACCESS TO SERVER AS KEY TO BENGHAZI INVESTIGATION

Susan Brooks argued that access to Hillary Clinton’s server was critical to the Benghazi Committee’s investigation. “A member of the House committee investigating the deadly attacks in Benghazi, Libya, against Americans in 2012 says Hillary Rodham Clinton’s email server may help lawmakers answer vital questions. One question is why security at the U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi was inadequate. Republican Susan Brooks of Indiana says in the weekly GOP radio address that gaining access to Clinton’s server is ‘the only way to truly know’ that investigators have obtained all the State Department communications that belong to the public.” [WTHR.com, [3/14/15](#)]

BROOKS VOTED TO DEFUND PLANNED PARENTHOOD

Susan Brooks voted to defund Planned Parenthood and touted the vote on her website. “A divided House voted Friday to block Planned Parenthood’s federal funds for a year, as Republican leaders labored to keep GOP outrage over abortion from spiraling into an impasse with President Barack Obama that could shut down the government. The House used a nearly party-line 241-187 vote to clear the legislation, which stands little chance of enactment. Senate Democrats have enough votes to block it, and for good measure the White House has

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promised a veto. Seven of Indiana's nine U.S. congressional representatives – Jackie Walorski, Marlin Stutzman, Todd Rokita, Susan Brooks, Luke Messer, Larry Bucshon and Todd Young, all Republicans – voted in favor of the bill.” [AP via susanbrooks.house.gov, [9/21/15](#)]

BROOKS CRITICIZED THE IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL

Susan Brooks invoked the victims of Benghazi and September 11th in a speech opposing the Iran nuclear deal. “I stand today in strong opposition to the Iranian nuclear deal. A deal with Iran, a leading state sponsor of terror. Every day that goes by another story comes out about why we shouldn't support the deal. The head of Iran's military says they will never accept the deal's restrictions on their arms capabilities. The AP recently recovered key verification provisions, buried in a pair of confidential side agreements that congress doesn't even have, that will allow Iran to inspect its own nuclear capabilities. And just last week, the Supreme Leader of Iran changed the rules of the game, saying Iran will not comply with their side of the deal unless sanctions are lifted and not merely suspended. This is a deeply flawed deal and I know we can do better. America is still the most prosperous and powerful country on Earth and the protector of freedom and stability in the world. We must do better for the victims of 9/11 and the victims in Benghazi.” [Rep. Brooks Floor Speech: Iran Nuclear Deal, [9/11/15](#)]

BROOKS LED FIGHT FOR STATE SANCTIONS AGAINST IRAN TO CONTINUE

Susan Brooks authored a letter to Secretary Kerry to allow states to keep sanctions on Iran, while the federal government suspends sanctions as a part of the nuclear deal. “As the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), generally called the Iran nuclear agreement, goes into effect, 61 bipartisan Representatives from 25 states, led by Congresswoman Susan Brooks (R-IN), sent a letter to Secretary of State John Kerry to ensure that states are able to uphold their rights to impose and enforce restrictions against Iran. ‘It is critical that we keep remaining sanctions on Iran at the state level, especially as federal sanctions begin to be waived,’ Brooks said. ‘I'm concerned that this agreement may infringe upon the ability of states, like Indiana, to enforce state sanctions already in place. These sanctions ensure that state pension funds or taxpayer dollars won't go towards funding Iranian terrorism or human rights' abuses.’” [Brooks Leads Letter to Administration in Support of States' Rights to Enforce Sanctions Against Iran, [9/21/15](#)]

RIGHT-WING FORCES

THE CONSERVATIVE NETWORK DRIVING THE BENGHAZI OBSESSION

Trey Gowdy isn't acting alone. He's just one actor in the GOP's aggressive attack operation targeting Hillary Clinton. The Benghazi Committee's partisan leak and smear campaign is supported by right-wing organizations like Citizens United and Judicial Watch—as well as leading members of the Senate's GOP caucus and committee structure.

Take a look at how these actors are working together to feed Gowdy's partisan machine.

TREY GOWDY LEAKING MISLEADING INFORMATION TO THE PRESS

Trey Gowdy leaked information to press about a subpoena of Hillary Clinton's emails made without consulting Democratic Committee members. “In a letter sent to Chairman Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.) on Friday, the five Democrats on the panel criticized Gowdy for issuing the formal request for documents from Clinton's term as secretary of state without consulting with Democrats and accused the committee of operating as a campaign arm of the Republican National Committee.... ‘Issuing this subpoena unilaterally with no deliberation by committee members, leaking information about the subpoena before informing Democratic Members, and providing inaccurate information at a press conference all contribute to a perception that this Committee is now targeting Secretary Clinton for political reasons rather than to clarify any remaining facts relating to the attacks in Benghazi,’ the Democrats, led by Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-Md.), wrote.” [Politico, [3/6/15](#)]

Trey Gowdy's committee doctored email exchanges and leaked them to Politico in order to drive the GOP narrative. “Documents released recently by the Benghazi Select Committee demonstrate that a Member of the Committee, a staffer on the Committee, or someone who has been given access to the Committee's documents inaccurately described to the press email exchanges obtained by the Committee in a way that appeared to further a political attack against former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. On June 18, 2015, Politico ran a front-page story entitled ‘Benghazi Panel Probes Sidney Blumenthal's Work for David Brock.’ The anonymous source for this story appears to have been attempting to support a line of political attack... The source apparently took an email that was produced to the Select Committee in February, isolated Secretary Clinton's statement about the White House, removed it from the original email exchange about the presidential debates, and then added it to a different email exchange about Media Matters. The source then apparently misrepresented that the State Department had withheld this new hybrid document from the Select Committee. [Rep. Cummings letter to Chairman Gowdy, [7/6/15](#)]

Trey Gowdy's committee leaked one third of Hillary Clinton's Benghazi emails prior to official release. “The emails set for release, drawn from some 55,000 pages and focused on Libya, have already been turned over to the special House committee investigating the 2012 attacks on the United States outposts in Benghazi. The New York Times has obtained about a third of the 850 pages of emails. They capture the correspondence and concerns expressed among Mrs. Clinton, who was secretary of state at the time, and her advisers following the attacks, which claimed the lives of the American ambassador, J. Christopher Stevens, and three other Americans.” [New York Times, [5/21/15](#)]

Trey Gowdy's committee may have leaked false information intimating a criminal investigation into Hillary Clinton's use of personal email. “An article and a headline in some editions on Friday about a request to the Justice Department for an investigation regarding Hillary Clinton's personal email account while she was secretary of state misstated the nature of the request, using information from senior government officials. It addressed the potential compromise of classified information in connection with that email account. It did not specifically request an investigation into Mrs. Clinton... An article in some editions on Friday about a request to the Justice Department for an investigation regarding Hillary Clinton's personal email account while she was secretary of state referred incorrectly, using information from senior government officials, to the request. It was a ‘security referral,’ pertaining to possible mishandling of classified information, officials said, not a ‘criminal referral.’” [New York Times correction, [7/23/15](#)]

CITIZENS UNITED

CITIZENS UNITED COORDINATING WITH THE BENGHAZI COMMITTEE TO SPREAD MISINFORMATION

Citizens United’s David Bossie: “My staff communicated with the committee” about emails withheld by State. “One of my staff communicated with the committee and provided them with the Vaughn index and their response was that we don’t think we have these,’ Bossie said. The emails appear to be responsive to the Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-SC)-led Benghazi Committee’s subpoena, the committee thought.” [Breitbart, [9/23/15](#)]

Citizen’s United David Bossie told Politico Benghazi Committee staff informed him that they did not have the emails. “A panel spokesman said he could not immediately confirm which of the documents had been turned over to the committee, but Citizens United President David Bossie told reporters that staffers at the House panel told the group State never produced the records to Congress. ‘To the best of their knowledge, they do not have these documents either, even though they are under subpoena for an extended period of time,’ Bossie told reporters outside U.S. District Court in Washington on Tuesday after a hearing on the suit.” [Politico, [9/22/15](#)]

JUDICIAL WATCH

JUDICIAL WATCH FEEDING FALSE INFORMATION TO POLITICO

Judicial Watch released documents purported to show that Hillary Clinton signed off on Huma Abedin’s special government employee status. “According to new documents obtained by conservative group Judicial Watch through a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit, the 2016 Democratic frontrunner was the immediate supervisor who approved the position on March 23, 2012, allowing her then-deputy chief of staff to work several jobs at once. That dual role, which wouldn’t go into effect until June of that year, is currently under investigation by Senate Judiciary Committee Republican staff. Republicans and outside groups have openly wondered if the post presented a conflict of interest for the woman who is now vice chair of Hillary for America, or if her other jobs influenced what happened at State... ‘Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State,’ reads the name under the ‘supervisory certification’ box on the approval sheet. The signature, however, has been blanked out by the State Department.” [Politico, [9/24/15](#)]

A second Politico story revealed that Cheryl Mills signed the approval, not Hillary Clinton. “Hillary Clinton’s chief of staff—and not Clinton herself— signed a State Department form that helped another Clinton aide change to a job status that allowed broader private-sector employment, a Clinton campaign official said late Saturday. Although the campaign will not say whether it has the actual document in hand, a Clinton camp assertion that Clinton Chief of Staff Cheryl Mills signed paperwork key to Clinton aide Huma Abedin’s 2012 change from a full-time role to a ‘special government employee’ could clarify why the Democratic presidential candidate and former secretary of state told an interviewer earlier this month that she was ‘not directly involved’ in converting Abedin’s role to a senior adviser and expert.” [Politico, [9/27/15](#)]

GRASSLEY RELEASING LETTER CLAIMING CLASSIFICATIONS WERE CHANGED BY CLINTON LAWYERS

Chairman Chuck Grassley released a letter to the State Department claiming Hillary Clinton’s lawyers “deliberately changed classification determinations.” “Some State Department lawyers seeking to avoid citing FOIA exemptions based on classified information in Secretary Clinton’s email reportedly worked with her attorney, David Kendall, at Williams & Connolly prior to their current positions at the State Department. 2 Whistleblowers within the State Department reportedly notified the intelligence community that former colleagues of Mr. Kendall deliberately changed classification determinations to protect Secretary Clinton.” [Sen. Grassley letter to Secretary Kerry, [8/19/15](#)]

State Department: State Department “policy experts make redaction and upgrade decisions” not lawyers. “Gerlach said State lawyers don’t change classifications. ‘State Department policymakers sometimes seek guidance from attorneys regarding the Freedom of Information Act, and the attorneys advise on the legal standards,’ he said. ‘Policy experts make redaction and upgrade decisions.’” [Politico, [8/19/15](#)]

PUBLICLY QUESTIONING CLEARANCE OF CLINTON LAWYERS

Grassley demanded the names and clearances of anyone who reviewed Hillary Clinton’s emails. “The Iowa Republican in late August complained to Secretary of State John Kerry that Clinton’s top lawyer David Kendall did not have an adequate clearance. In a Monday letter to Kendall, obtained by POLITICO, Grassley doubled down — demanding the names and clearances of any individual who reviewed the Clinton emails. Grassley specifically named Katherine Turner, Kendall’s law partner who, like Kendall, had top secret clearance. But the chairman said the clearance level wasn’t good enough because of top secret and ‘sensitive compartmented information’ found on the server by the Intelligence Community Inspector General (ICIG).” [Politico, [9/22/15](#)]

DISCLOSING INFORMATION FROM “CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE”

Chairman Chuck Grassley’s office said he was tipped by a confidential source to the existence of approximately 7,300 emails from Huma Abedin’s account involving Doug Band. “Grassley filed a statement in the Congressional record Tuesday evening indicating that he would block the nomination of career foreign service officer David Malcolm Robinson, who has been tapped by Secretary of State John Kerry to be Assistant Secretary for Conflict and Stabilization Operations. Grassley said Robinson was ‘an innocent victim’ of the State Department’s ‘contemptuous failures to respond to Congressional inquiries.’ Grassley said the department ‘has engaged in unreasonable delay in responding to Judiciary Committee investigations and inquiries’ including the Abedin issue. Grassley’s office says the Senator was tipped by a confidential source to the existence of approximately 7,300 e-mails sent or received by Abedin involving Douglas Band, the head of a global consulting firm, Teneo Holdings, who served as President Bill Clinton’s personal aide for much of his presidency.... Grassley requested documents relating to Abedin’s unusual employment arrangement in June 2013 and has yet to receive the e-mails, his office says.” [Time, [8/5/15](#)]

JOHNSON CALLING ON FBI TO TURN OVER RECOVERED EMAILS

Chairman Ron Johnson called on the FBI to turn over recovered emails for a review for federal records. “Senator Ron Johnson, Republican of Wisconsin and the chairman of the Homeland Security and Governmental Operations Committee, has called on the F.B.I. to turn over any of these recovered emails to the State Department or some other third party so they can be reviewed to determine if any should have been retained as government records. ‘If the FBI has recovered all of her emails, they must be reviewed promptly by the appropriate authorities to determine what is official and what is not, and whether they contain classified material, so that any national security concerns can be mitigated,’ Mr. Johnson said in a statement Wednesday.” [New York Times, [9/24/15](#)]

Chairman Ron Johnson was “hopeful” that the results of the FBI inquiry would become public and vaguely promised his own “inquiry.” “Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee Chairman Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) said he was ‘hopeful’ that the results of the FBI inquiry will be made public. He promised to press his own inquiry but offered no specifics. Regardless of what Congress decides to do, Hillary Clinton’s decision to have a tech firm she hired turn the server over to the FBI last month at its request greatly raises the potential that messages she has claimed to be private will eventually make it into the public domain, lawyers tracking the case said.” [Politico, [9/23/15](#)]

PUSHING TIMELINE DISCREPANCY NARRATIVE

Chairman Ron Johnson publicized his “terse letter” about a supposed discrepancy between State and Hillary Clinton. “The discrepancy between Clinton’s timetable and the new information from the State Department prompted a terse letter Tuesday from Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.), chairman of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, who has been investigating whether Clinton’s e-mail practices compromised national security. In the letter, he pointed to documents suggesting that Clinton’s staff moved quickly that summer after she was first contacted about her private account. He cited a July 23, 2014, e-mail in which employees at Platte River Networks, the private company that was then maintaining her server, discussed sending copies of Clinton’s e-mails overnight to Cheryl Mills, a longtime Clinton adviser. A spokesman for the company confirmed Tuesday that its workers started pulling Clinton’s e-mails to submit to Mills in July 2014.” [Washington Post, [9/22/15](#)]

FEEDING INFORMATION ABOUT I.T. COMPANY SECURITY CLEARANCE

Chairman Johnson fed information to the conservative Daily Caller about security clearance of IT company. “‘Platte River is not cleared’ to have access to classified material, stated Cindy McGovern, chief public affairs officer for DSS in a telephone interview with The Daily Caller News Foundation. Sen. Ron Johnson, chairman of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, told the DCNF that the Platte River involvement ‘raises serious questions’ about the security surrounding Secretary Clinton’s server over the last two years. ‘The revelation that Secretary Clinton used a private company, Platte River Networks, to maintain her personal server raises questions about what steps the company took to preserve and secure sensitive information in Secretary Clinton’s email,’ Johnson said.” [Daily Caller, [8/14/15](#)]

SEEKING IMMUNITY IN ORDER TO INTERVIEW CLINTON I.T. STAFFER

Judiciary and Homeland Security Chairmen, Ron Johnson and Chuck Grassley, sought an immunity deal allowing IT staffer Bryan Pagliano to testify about the email server. “Grassley and Johnson are currently considering an immunity deal with Pagliano and have preliminarily reached out to his attorney Mark MacDougall, for a proffer, or preliminary overview of what he’d say if immunized. MacDougall has refused, saying that would endanger his client.” [Politico, [9/14/15](#)]

SENATOR CORNYN

CORNYN CALLING FOR SPECIAL PROSECUTOR

Sen. John Cornyn called on Attorney General Loretta Lynch to appoint an independent counsel to run the DOJ investigation into Hillary Clinton’s email server citing concerns of a conflict of interest. “Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas) sent a letter to Attorney General Loretta Lynch on Tuesday claiming that the ‘extraordinary circumstances’ surrounding Clinton’s email practices warrant the appointment of an independent official to coordinate the investigation. ‘The attorney general has a special duty to pursue justice even when political considerations run counter to doing so,’ he wrote. ‘Secretary Clinton’s misconduct is evident and her intent — since the beginning of her tenure as secretary of State — to keep information from the public is clear.’” [The Hill, [9/15/15](#)]

STATING HILLARY CLINTON VIOLATED LAW

Sen. John Cornyn claimed Hillary Clinton “intentionally evaded” FOIA laws, government classification and national security protections. “But they view Clinton’s use of a private email server to store documents containing highly classified information as a potent issue that could roil next year’s presidential race, and the moves by Cornyn, Grassley and Johnson show they are staking their claim to the issue. ‘It’s important because there are a lot of laws that are already on the books that were violated by Secretary Clinton setting up this private email server, circumventing freedom of information laws, government classification and national security protections. All of these were intentionally evaded by design by the secretary,’ Cornyn told reporters on Tuesday.” [The Hill, [9/16/15](#)]

MONETIZING A TRAGEDY

HOW GOWDY & OTHERS FUNDRAISE OFF THE DEATHS OF FOUR BRAVE AMERICANS

Despite his own claims that he is running a nonpartisan investigation and would not fundraise off of his role, Trey Gowdy has regularly used his leadership of the Benghazi Committee to raise funds for Republican candidates and to appeal to the party's radical base.

See below how Gowdy has exploited the deaths of four brave Americans to raise piles of partisan money—and raise his own stock in the Republican Party in the process.

Trey Gowdy was a special guest at a fundraiser for Congressman and Benghazi Committee member Peter Roskam. “Please join Congressman Peter Roskam with Special Guest Congressman Trey Gowdy. Congressman Trey Gowdy of South Carolina serves on the House Committees on Government Reform & Oversight, Ethics and Judiciary. Prior to serving in Congress he was an experienced federal prosecutor. He brings those courtroom skills to his investigative and oversight work in the House of Representatives. Friday, September 25th.” [Cook County Republican Party, [9/15/15](#)]

Trey Gowdy was listed as “Chairman of the House Select Committee on Benghazi” announcing his appearance as the Keynote Speaker for the Volusia County Republican Party Lincoln Day Dinner. “You are Invited! Volusia County Republican Party 2015 Lincoln Day Dinner. Sunday November 8, 2015. Ocean Center. We are honored to announce Keynote Speaker ‘The Bulldog’ Congressman Trey Gowdy (S.C) Chairman, House Select Committee on Benghazi.” [First Coast Tea Party invitation, via correctrecord.org, [accessed 10/20/15](#)]

Trey Gowdy was scheduled to be the Special Guest at a \$2,000-per-couple fundraiser for Marco Rubio. “Marco Rubio brings his vision of a ‘New American Century’ to Texas next week with a high-profile fundraiser reception in the exclusive Dallas suburb of Highland Park. Real-estate investor Harlan Crow and his wife Kathy will present the \$2,000-per-couple event, scheduled for Tuesday, September 22. Host reception begins at 6:30 p.m.; general reception is at 7 p.m...South Carolina Congressman Trey Gowdy, the outspoken conservative who serves on the House Select Committee on Benghazi, is the special guest.” [SaintPetersBlog, [9/12/15](#); Event Invitation, [accessed 9/21/15](#)]

- **Trey Gowdy was listed as “Chairman Trey Gowdy” on the invitation to a fundraiser for Marco Rubio.** [Florida Politics, [9/21/15](#)]
- **Trey Gowdy “backed out of the gig at the last minute.”** “Unfortunately for Rubio and the Harlans, the ‘special guest,’ chair of the House Select Committee on Benghazi, South Carolina Rep. Trey Gowdy, seems to have backed out of the gig at the last minute.” [Salon, [9/22/15](#)]

As the Featured Speaker at the 2015 National Pachyderm Convention, Trey Gowdy praised Rep. Chuck Fleischmann’s support of his Benghazi investigation by threatening to withhold State Department funding. “In this latest incident, however, Gowdy was billed as the ‘Featured Speaker’ at the 2015 National Pachyderm Convention. The National Federation of Pachyderm Clubs describes itself as ‘one of the most influential and most recognized political clubs in the nation’ and as ‘an official Allied Organization of the RNC.’” According to the Chattanooga Times Free Press, “In turn, Gowdy praised Fleischmann, who serves on the Appropriations Committee that he said helped the Benghazi probe by threatening to withhold State Department funding if the agency didn’t comply with the committee’s subpoenas. ‘If you want to provide oversight and get the attention of the executive branch, step on the air hose called appropriations,’ Gowdy said. ‘We tried public shame, threats, subpoenas and letters, but they didn’t work. What worked is when we partnered with our friends on Appropriations and let the State Department and other agencies know that your money will be cut if you do not provide us with documents.” [Cummings Responds to Continued Republican Benghazi Fundraising, [7/8/15](#); Chattanooga Times Free Press, 6/7/15]

At the National Pachyderm Convention alongside Trey Gowdy, Rep. Chuck Fleischmann warned “Hillary Clinton or any other lefty out there” that Gowdy “is going to get you.” “U.S. Rep. Chuck Fleischmann, R-Chattanooga, who was elected to the U.S. House in 2010 along with Gowdy and recruited him to come to the two-day Pachyderm convention, called the South Carolina Republican ‘a standout’ who is ‘modest, honest and principled.’ ‘Whether you are Hillary Clinton or any other lefty out there, you better beware because Trey Gowdy is out there and he is going to get you,’ Fleischmann told the GOP gathering.” [Chattanooga Times Free Press, 6/7/15]

Committee Chairman Trey Gowdy was scheduled to appear at a Virginia GOP fundraiser titled “Beyond Benghazi.” “Gowdy is scheduled to be the featured guest at a fundraising event March 19 for the Republican Party of Virginia, entitled, ‘Beyond Benghazi,’ featuring a screening and an interview of Gowdy, moderated by Rep. Morgan Griffith. The RPV is charging \$75 but for \$5,000, a donor can be a co-chair.” [National Review, [3/9/15](#)]

- **Fundraiser was cancelled after Trey Gowdy pulled out.** “In May, just after he was picked to lead the House’s select committee to investigate the 2012 Benghazi attacks, Rep. Trey Gowdy said he would not raise money off of the assault on a U.S. diplomatic mission and CIA annex in Benghazi, Libya, that killed four Americans. But it was revealed Monday that he was scheduled to help another group raise funds at an event called ‘Beyond Benghazi.’ By the day’s end, Gowdy had pulled out and the event was canceled.” [Washington Post, [3/9/15](#)]

A Cobb County GOP fundraiser featuring Lynn Westmoreland advertised ‘an update on the Benghazi investigation’ and touted Westmoreland’s role on the Benghazi Committee. “Admission for the Marietta, Georgia, event was \$10. The Cobb County GOP touted the event as a ‘very unusual breakfast’ where its supporters would receive an ‘update on the Benghazi investigation.’ ‘Congressman Westmoreland was selected by Speaker Boehner to serve on the House Select Committee on Benghazi,’ read the invite, which was obtained by The Huffington Post.” [Huffington Post, 9/9/14; Cobb County GOP: Breakfast with Rep. Lynn Westmoreland, [9/6/14](#)]

The day after Trey Gowdy was chosen to head the Select Committee, the NRCC began a fundraising campaign urging Republicans to “stand with Congressman Trey Gowdy.” “The American people deserve to know why the security situation in Benghazi was so inadequate, what actually happened during the government’s response to the attack on our embassy, and the White House’s attempt to spin the issue to, and hide the facts from, the public. By making sure the American people know all the facts, we can hold the White House accountable and determine what really happened in Benghazi. Stand with Congressman Trey Gowdy, the Benghazi Select Committee, and House Republicans as we fight for the truth about what happened with the Benghazi terrorist attack: [Box to contribute].” [NRCC, [5/6/14](#)]

An NRCC fundraising email sent the day after Trey Gowdy was chosen to head the Select Committee encouraged Republicans to donate and become “Benghazi Watchdogs.” “An NRCC email sent Wednesday morning included a link to ‘become a Benghazi watchdog’ – which led to a page where supporters can donate cash. A separate website called ‘BenghaziWatchdogs.com’ still contains a link encouraging visitors to ‘help fight liberals by donating today.’” [NBC News, [5/8/14](#)]

Trey Gowdy used Benghazi to raise money at a barbecue fundraiser for Rep. Mick Mulvaney. “Gowdy addressed the issue of ‘phony scandals,’ in which the government is describing the scandals surrounding the IRS and NSA as fake, or phony. Referring to the scandal surrounding the murders of four American citizens in the Benghazi attacks, Gowdy said this is not the case. ‘It is a scandal,’ he said. ‘But it is not a phony scandal.’ Gowdy said these scandals begin to chip away at the public’s trust in their government. ‘There is nothing phony about (citizens) not trusting the people they put in positions of leadership,’ he said. Gowdy urged readers to hold their representatives accountable.” [“Campaign barbecue fundraiser held at city of light; Mulvaney, Gowdy discuss issues,” Lancaster News, [9/1/13](#)]

An advertisement from Stop Hillary PAC used Chairman Gowdy’s picture and name to encourage backers sign a pledge supporting the Select Committee and donate to the group. A Stop Hillary Pac advertisement asks Republicans to sign a pledge to “Support Trey Gowdy & Continue the Select Committee on Benghazi. I support and uphold the Benghazi Select Committee Chairman, Congressman Trey Gowdy, in his pursuit of the truth and justice for all those involved.” After signing the pledge, supporters are led to a contribution page to “Support Trey Gowdy” and “stand up to these smokescreens and continue to expose Hillary for what she did and quite frankly, did NOT do” by donating in increments up to \$5,000, or any other preferred dollar amount. [Stop Hillary PAC advertisement, stophillarypac.org, accessed [4/30/15](#); Stop Hillary Pac Fundraising page, accessed [9/15/15](#)]

GOWDY LOVES LEAKS

DESPITE GOWDY'S PROMISE OF AN AIRTIGHT INVESTIGATION, "PRIVATE" INFO IS CONSTANTLY LEAKED

Early on in the committee's history, Trey Gowdy promised to run a leak-free investigation. That claim was not only false—it's become one of the biggest jokes in Washington.

Time and time again, Gowdy's fingerprints have been all over selective and utterly false leaks from the committee's "closed door" hearings. One of the most shameful errors in New York Times' history—the front page story claiming that Hillary Clinton was the subject of a "criminal investigation"—resulted directly from leaks originating from Benghazi Committee investigations.

The evidence below proves that Gowdy lied about leaks—and his credibility on every other issue is in tatters as a result.

LEAK #1: TREY GOWDY COMMITTEE LEAKED NEWS OF HILLARY CLINTON SUBPOENA.

“In a letter sent to Chairman Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.) on Friday, the five Democrats on the panel criticized Gowdy for issuing the formal request for documents from Clinton’s term as secretary of state without consulting with Democrats and accused the committee of operating as a campaign arm of the Republican National Committee.... ‘Issuing this subpoena unilaterally with no deliberation by committee members, leaking information about the subpoena before informing Democratic Members, and providing inaccurate information at a press conference all contribute to a perception that this Committee is now targeting Secretary Clinton for political reasons rather than to clarify any remaining facts relating to the attacks in Benghazi,’ the Democrats, led by Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-Md.), wrote.” [Politico, [3/6/15](#)]

Rep. Cummings: “It seems obvious that someone on the Republican side of the Committee provided this information.” “Contrary to your statements warning against the disclosure of internal Committee information, the Washington Post ran a story about your subpoena before you informed a single Democratic member that it was under consideration. It seems obvious that someone on the Republican side of the Committee provided this information to an individual outside the Committee before you told any Democratic Members.” [Cummings letter to Gowdy, [3/6/15](#)]

LEAK #2: TREY GOWDY COMMITTEE LEAKED NEWS OF SIDNEY BLUMENTHAL SUBPOENA.

“Now, as Hillary Rodham Clinton embarks on her second presidential bid, Mr. Blumenthal’s service to the Clintons is again under the spotlight. Representative Trey Gowdy of South Carolina, a Republican who is leading the congressional committee investigating the 2012 attacks in Benghazi, Libya, plans to subpoena Mr. Blumenthal, 66, for a private transcribed interview. Mr. Gowdy’s chief interest, according to people briefed on the inquiry, is a series of memos that Mr. Blumenthal — who was not an employee of the State Department — wrote to Mrs. Clinton about events unfolding in Libya before and after the death of Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi.” [New York Times, [5/18/15](#)]

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Rep. Cummings: Republicans on the Benghazi Committee leaked “news of the subpoena before it was served.” “These latest moves by the Benghazi Committee—issuing a subpoena without first contacting the witness, leaking news of the subpoena before it was served, and not holding any Committee debate or vote—are straight out the partisan playbook of discredited Republican investigations.” [“Cummings Statement on Leaked Plan to Issue Unilateral Subpoena,” [5/18/15](#)]

LEAK #3: TREY GOWDY COMMITTEE LEAKED SIDNEY BLUMENTHAL EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE WITH CLINTON.

“Mr. Gowdy’s chief interest, according to people briefed on the inquiry, is a series of memos that Mr. Blumenthal — who was not an employee of the State Department — wrote to Mrs. Clinton about events unfolding in Libya before and after the death of Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi. According to emails obtained by The New York Times, Mrs. Clinton, who was secretary of state at the time, took Mr. Blumenthal’s advice seriously, forwarding his memos to senior diplomatic officials in Libya and Washington and at times asking them to respond. Mrs. Clinton continued to pass around his memos even after other senior diplomats concluded that Mr. Blumenthal’s assessments were often unreliable.” [New York Times, [5/18/15](#)]

Rep. Cummings: Trey Gowdy “selectively leaked pages of Secretary Clinton’s emails” to the press. “Today, Rep. Elijah E. Cummings, Ranking Member of the House Select Committee on Benghazi, issued the following statement in response to a press report that Chairman Gowdy intends to subpoena Sidney Blumenthal, which included selectively leaked pages of Secretary Clinton’s emails.” [Cummings Statement on Leaked Plan to Issue Unilateral Subpoena, [5/18/15](#)]

LEAK #4: TREY GOWDY COMMITTEE LEAKED ONE THIRD OF HILLARY CLINTON'S BENGHAZI EMAILS.

“The emails set for release, drawn from some 55,000 pages and focused on Libya, have already been turned over to the special House committee investigating the 2012 attacks on the United States outposts in Benghazi. The New York Times has obtained about a third of the 850 pages of emails. They capture the correspondence and concerns expressed among Mrs. Clinton, who was secretary of state at the time, and her advisers following the attacks, which claimed the lives of the American ambassador, J. Christopher Stevens, and three other Americans.” [New York Times, [5/21/15](#)]

Washington Examiner: “Benghazi Committee ... appeared to have leaked several hundred pages of records to the New York Times just hours before the State Department published its first batch of redacted emails.”
“In November of last year, Clinton gave the State Department 55,000 printed pages of emails she deemed relevant to her work as secretary of state and reportedly deleted the rest. Many of those emails have been subjected to review by the Benghazi Committee, which appeared to have leaked several hundred pages of records to the New York Times just hours before the State Department published its first batch of redacted emails.” [Washington Examiner, [6/2/15](#)]

LEAK #5: TREY GOWDY COMMITTEE LEAKED DOCTORED EMAILS TO POLITICO.

“While still secretary of state, Clinton emailed back and forth with Blumenthal about efforts by one of the groups, Media Matters, to neutralize criticism of her handling of the deadly assault on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya, sources tell POLITICO. ‘Got all this done. ... Complete refutation on Libya smear,’ Blumenthal wrote to Clinton in an Oct. 10, 2012, email into which he had pasted links to four Media Matters posts criticizing Fox News and Republicans for politicizing the Benghazi attacks and challenging claims of lax security around the U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi, according to a source who has reviewed the email exchange. Blumenthal signed off the email to Clinton by suggesting that one of her top aides, Philippe Reines, ‘can circulate these links,’ according to the source. Clinton responded: ‘Thanks, I’m pushing to WH,’ according to the source.” [Politico, 6/17/15 (via Cummings Letter to Trey Gowdy, [7/6/15](#))]

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- Rep. Cummings: “Someone who was given access to the Select Committee’s documents leaked doctored information to the press in order to make unsubstantiated allegations against Secretary Clinton.” “Documents released recently by the Benghazi Select Committee demonstrate that a Member of the Committee, a staffer on the Committee, or someone who has been given access to the Committee’s documents inaccurately described to the press email exchanges obtained by the Committee in a way that appeared to further a political attack against former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.” [Rep. Cummings letter to Chairman Gowdy, [7/6/15](#)]
- MSNBC: Politico report was based in part on information leaked to the news outlet that turned out to be untrue. “Three weeks ago, Politico published a fairly long, front-page piece with a provocative headline: ‘Benghazi panel probes Sidney Blumenthal’s work for David Brock.’ At issue, of course, is the House Select Committee on Benghazi, already responsible for one of the longest congressional investigations in congressional history, and its meandering focus.... There was, however, a problem: the Politico report wasn’t entirely accurate – or more to the point, the Politico report was based in part on information leaked to the news outlet that turned out to be untrue. This morning, Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-Md.), the ranking member on the committee, [sent a letter](#) to the panel’s chairman, Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.), making the case that it ‘it now appears that someone who was given access to the Select Committee’s documents leaked doctored information to the press in order to make unsubstantiated allegations against Secretary Clinton.’ By all appearances, Cummings has a very good point.” [MSNBC, [7/6/15](#)]

LEAK #6: TREY GOWDY COMMITTEE LEAKED DETAILS ABOUT CLOSED-DOOR INTERVIEW OF SIDNEY BLUMENTHAL.

“The Clinton confidant under scrutiny on Capitol Hill over detailed Libya memos he sent to then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton told lawmakers earlier this week he has been pulling in \$200,000 a year from Clinton ally David Brock’s media operation, congressional sources tell FoxNews.com. The figure is far higher than initially reported. While the payments to Sidney Blumenthal may not reflect any apparent conflict of interest, his work with Brock’s liberal advocacy and media groups was a focus of his high-profile deposition on Tuesday before the House Benghazi committee. Republicans’ rationale for the questioning was that his financial and political interests are important context, at a time when he was sending high-level guidance to Clinton. Politico.com first reported that Republicans grilled Blumenthal on his work for Brock’s groups. But while the report said Blumenthal was making more than \$10,000 a month, congressional sources say he acknowledged during the deposition he actually had a \$200,000-a-year contract.” [Fox News, [6/19/15](#)]

Rep. Cummings: There have been “selective—and sometimes inaccurate—descriptions of his [Blumenthal’s] testimony and his emails that have appeared in the press.” “We believe the public record has been distorted by the selective release of Mr. Blumenthal’s emails without the full context of his deposition transcript, which provides Mr. Blumenthal’s answers to hundreds of questions posed to him about those emails. We also believe the full release of Mr. Blumenthal’s transcript will resolve public disagreements that have arisen from the selective—and sometimes inaccurate—descriptions of his testimony and his emails that have appeared in the press.” [Ranking Member Cummings Letter to Trey Gowdy, [6/24/15](#)]

LEAK #7: TREY GOWDY COMMITTEE MAY HAVE LEAKED FALSE INFORMATION THAT A CRIMINAL REFERRAL WAS MADE TO THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT FOR AN INVESTIGATION INTO HILLARY CLINTON'S USE OF PERSONAL EMAIL.

“An article and a headline in some editions on Friday about a request to the Justice Department for an investigation regarding Hillary Clinton’s personal email account while she was secretary of state misstated the nature of the request, using information from senior government officials. It addressed the potential compromise of classified information in connection with that email account. It did not specifically request an investigation into Mrs. Clinton...An article in some editions on Friday about a request to the Justice Department for an investigation regarding Hillary Clinton’s personal email account while she was secretary of state referred incorrectly, using information from senior government officials, to the request. It was a ‘security referral,’ pertaining to possible mishandling of classified information, officials said, not a ‘criminal referral.’” [New York Times correction, [7/23/15](#)]

New York Times admitted to relying on tips from Capitol Hill to develop now-discredited story. “The story developed quickly on Thursday afternoon and evening, after tips from various sources, including on Capitol Hill. The reporters had what Mr. Purdy described as ‘multiple, reliable, highly placed sources,’ including some ‘in law enforcement.’ I think we can safely read that as the Justice Department. The sources said not only was there indeed a referral but also that it was directed at Mrs. Clinton herself, and that it was a criminal referral. And that’s how The Times wrote it initially. ‘We got it wrong because our very good sources had it wrong,’ Mr. Purdy told me. ‘That’s an explanation, not an excuse. We have an obligation to get facts right and we work very hard to do that.’” [NY Times Public Editor’s Journal, [7/27/15](#)]

LEAK #8: TREY GOWDY COMMITTEE LEAKED DETAILS OF CHERYL MILLS' INTERVIEW TO RESUSCITATE A PREVIOUSLY-DEBUNKED CLAIM.

“Raising alarms on the right, Mills, Clinton’s former chief of staff at the State Department, also told the House Select Committee on Benghazi that she reviewed and made suggestions for changes to the government’s official, final report on what happened in Benghazi, according to a separate, GOP source familiar with what she said. The source said it ‘call[s] into question the ‘independence’ of the report’s conclusions; Democrats dismissed it as an old GOP theory that’s already been debunked.” [Politico, [9/3/15](#)]

MSNBC’s Steve Benen: “Immediately after Mills spoke to the committee, the panel that claims not to leak started leaking.” “When former State Department Chief of Staff Cheryl Mills agreed to testify, she pleaded with the committee to hold a transparent, public hearing, open for all the world to see, so there’d be no concerns about misleading leaks. Gowdy and his team refused, insisting that Mills answer questions behind closed doors. Committee Democrats asked for a full transcript to be released to the public and the media, but Gowdy and his team refused this request, too. And right on cue, immediately after Mills spoke to committee, the panel that claims not to leak started leaking.” [MSNBC, [9/8/15](#)]

LEAK #9: TREY GOWDY COMMITTEE LEAKED DETAILS ABOUT STATE DEPARTMENT RECORD PRODUCTION.

“A panel spokesman said he could not immediately confirm which of the documents had been turned over to the committee, but Citizens United President David Bossie told reporters that staffers at the House panel told the group State never produced the records to Congress. ‘To the best of their knowledge, they do not have these documents either, even though they are under subpoena for an extended period of time,’ Bossie told reporters outside U.S. District Court in Washington on Tuesday after a hearing on the suit.” [Politico, [9/22/15](#)]

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Citizens United's David Bossie: "My staff communicated with the committee" and "their response was that we don't think we have these." "One of my staff communicated with the committee and provided them with the Vaughn index and their response was that we don't think we have these," Bossie said. The emails appear to be responsive to the Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-SC)-led Benghazi Committee's subpoena, the committee thought." [Breitbart, [9/23/15](#)]

LEAK #10: TREY GOWDY COMMITTEE SELECTIVELY LEAKED INFORMATION ABOUT EMAILS SENT TO HILLARY CLINTON BY SIDNEY BLUMENTHAL.

"Two weeks ago, the Committee received a new batch of over 1,500 emails from Secretary Clinton, including over 500 pages of emails, or roughly one-third of the production, to and from Sidney Blumenthal. [...] In a six day span in February 2011, Blumenthal sent Clinton detailed reports titled 'Latest Libya intel,' 'Libya intel,' 'No fly zone over Libya,' 'Intel on Gaddafi's reinforcements,' 'Libya WMD,' 'Qaddafi's Scuds and strategy for holding on,' 'Option on WMD,' 'Phone #s that may work,' and 'Q location, new defections, beginnings of interim govt.' These daily emails, filled with unvetted intelligence, continued for nearly six weeks. [...] Dozens of emails between Clinton and Blumenthal show an individual who tried to heavily influence the Secretary of State to intervene in Libya." [Trey Gowdy letter to Elijah Cummings, [10/7/15](#)]

Trey Gowdy released "selective and misleading information about emails sent to Hillary Clinton" from Sidney Blumenthal. "Asked for comment, Clinton campaign spokesman Brian Fallon emailed: 'Trey Gowdy continues to release selective and misleading information about emails sent to Hillary Clinton, even as he refuses to make public any of the transcripts from the closed-door witness interviews that actually relate to Benghazi. This letter is one more example of the partisan approach taken throughout his thoroughly discredited investigation.'" [Yahoo, [10/8/15](#)]

LEAK #11: TREY GOWDY COMMITTEE SELECTIVELY LEAKED INFORMATION ABOUT THE TERMINATION OF BRADLEY PODLIKA.

“The committee released the information about the termination of Bradley Podliska in an effort to deflect fallout from an interview he gave to CNN in which he joined a chorus of critics who say the Benghazi investigation has become a partisan witch-hunt against Clinton. Podliska said he was fired for taking military leave and because he disagreed with repurposing the investigation to narrowly focus on the State Department — an accusation the committee denies.” [Politico, [10/13/15](#)]

Podliska’s attorneys issued a cease-and-desist letter to Trey Gowdy demanding he stop releasing information about confidential settlement discussions. “They say they are issuing a formal cease-and-desist letter to Gowdy, demanding he stop making statements or releasing information that may violate confidentiality rules for disputes with former congressional staff. They cite a federal law stating that counseling for employee disputes must remain ‘strictly confidential.’ The letter, first obtained by MSNBC, charges that Gowdy has been ‘describing private settlement discussions between the parties that must be treated as confidential under the Congressional Accountability Act, and surely Chairman Gowdy, as a lawyer, knows that he is not permitted to publicly disclose private settlement discussions.’” [MSNBC, [10/12/15](#)]

PRESIDENT GOWDY?

CHAIR HAS USED BENGHAZI TRAGEDY TO
REAP HUGE POLITICAL DIVIDENDS

Trey Gowdy began his job as Benghazi Committee chairman as a mere two-term Congressman from South Carolina. Today, thanks to his relentless attacks against Hillary Clinton, he's been touted in GOP circles as a potential Speaker of the House, Supreme Court justice, even President of the United States.

It's amazing what \$4.7 million in taxpayer dollars can buy.

TREY GOWDY IS A KEY MEMBER OF THE 2016 GOP TEAM TO DEFEAT HILLARY CLINTON

Kevin McCarthy: “We put together a Benghazi Special Committee, a select committee, what are her numbers today? Her numbers are dropping.” “MCCARTHY: We put together a Benghazi Special Committee, a select committee, what are her numbers today? Her numbers are dropping...HANNITY: I give you credit for that.” [Fox News’ Hannity, [9/30/15](#)]

Bill Kristol: “Most Valuable Republican of the 2016 election cycle so far: Trey Gowdy.” “Bill Kristol @BillKristol: ‘Most Valuable Republican of the 2016 election cycle so far: @TGowdySC.’ [8/13/15, [12:49 p.m. EDT](#)]

NYT’s Jonathan Weisman: Trey “Gowdy has most important job in GOP. Stopping President Hillary Clinton.” “NYT’s Jonathan Weisman @jonathanweisman: The ‘Draft Trey Gowdy’ movement for maj leader has a problem: Gowdy has most important job in GOP. Stopping President Hillary Clinton.” [9/29/15, [9:40 a.m. EDT](#)]

Boehner Press Release: Speaker Boehner, “together, with the work of Chairman Gowdy and the Select Committee, [have] kept the heat on Hillary. And it’s working.” “For months, Speaker Boehner and Chairman Gowdy have had one message for former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton: Surrender your email server to a neutral third party. And for months, she chose to withhold evidence, prolong the Benghazi Committee’s investigation, and offer flat-out false claims. But the Speaker has remained resolute, and together, with the work of Chairman Gowdy and the Select Committee, they’ve kept the heat on Hillary. And it’s working.” [A Message for Secretary Hillary Clinton, [8/13/15](#)]

Rep. Chuck Fleischmann: “Whether you are Hillary Clinton or any other lefty out there, you better beware because Trey Gowdy is out there and he is going to get you.” “U.S. Rep. Chuck Fleischmann, R-Chattanooga, who was elected to the U.S. House in 2010 along with Gowdy and recruited him to come to the two-day Pachyderm convention, called the South Carolina Republican ‘a standout’ who is ‘modest, honest and principled.’ ‘Whether you are Hillary Clinton or any other lefty out there, you better beware because Trey Gowdy is out there and he is going to get you,’ Fleischmann told the GOP gathering.” [Chattanooga Times Free Press, 6/7/15]

Western Journalism: “If by some electoral miracle Nancy Pelosi and her fellow Democrats had regained control of the House of Representatives...Hillary Clinton would have been off Trey Gowdy’s hook.” “If by some electoral miracle Nancy Pelosi and her fellow Democrats had regained control of the House of Representatives, it’s a virtual certainty the Select Committee on Benghazi would have been disbanded, and Hillary Clinton would have been off Trey Gowdy’s hook.” [Western Journalism, [1/8/15](#)]

The Blaze Headline: “Trey Gowdy Is Coming After Hillary Clinton.” [“Trey Gowdy Is Coming After Hillary Clinton,” The Blaze, [2/6/15](#)]

Stop Hillary PAC used Trey Gowdy's picture and name to encourage support for the Benghazi Select Committee. "Support Trey Gowdy & Continue the Select Committee on Benghazi. I support and uphold the Benghazi Select Committee Chairman, Congressman Trey Gowdy, in his pursuit of the truth and justice for all those involved." [Stop Hillary PAC advertisement, stophillarypac.org, [accessed 4/30/15](#)]

Red State Member Diary: Trey Gowdy's slow pace "has guaranteed that it coincides with the start of the primary season and Hillary's campaign kick-off." "When Gowdy does finally call her to testify, the protective curtain of sympathy Hillary likes to cloak herself in, will have already been torn down and shredded by the MSM. One last point. Everything that happens on the Hill is political. By moving the investigation at what some have complained is a snail's pace, Gowdy has guaranteed that it coincides with the start of the primary season and Hillary's campaign kick-off. She no longer controls the narrative. She is now on the defensive... forced to respond." [Red State Member Diary, [3/10/15](#)]

MAJORITY LEADER

Fox News' Chad Pergram: Fox has learned that Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-SC) would be willing to serve as ACTING Majority Leader should GOPers deadlock & McCarthy advance." [9/28/15, [10:01 PM](#)]

Rep. Chaffetz: "I think Trey Gowdy as the majority leader would be heaven sent." "House Oversight Chairman Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah) is urging Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.) to run for majority leader -- a move that would complicate an already tough contest between two red-state conservatives. 'Trey Gowdy is the best person to unite our conference and articulate the Republican message,' Chaffetz wrote in an email to The Hill Tuesday morning. 'He is widely trusted and beloved in our conference.'... Gowdy, a former federal prosecutor who was swept into Congress in the 2010 Tea Party wave election, would be a polarizing leader in a presidential election year. He is chairman of the special House committee that is investigating the 2012 terror attacks in Benghazi, Libya, and has expanded the probe to include former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's emails.... Chaffetz said he has recently spoken to Gowdy, who is open to running for the No. 2 job in leadership. 'I actually think he'll do it if we get behind it and support it,' Chaffetz said on Fox News Tuesday morning. 'But I think Trey Gowdy as the majority leader would be heaven sent.'" [The Hill, [9/29/15](#)]

Anonymous House colleague said he believed Gowdy is making moves to mount a campaign for leader. "One conservative lawmaker said he believes Gowdy is making moves to mount a campaign for leader. But the lawmaker warned that a Gowdy bid sounds like a strategy hatched by McCarthy. 'I think it is a McCarthy ploy to surround himself with somebody who the base likes but who is no threat to McCarthy,' the conservative lawmaker wrote in a text message. 'I could back [Gowdy] for Speaker. As majority leader, he would be a pawn of leadership.'" [The Hill, [9/29/15](#)]

PRESIDENT OR VP

Conservative Post: When Trey Gowdy uncovers the Obama Administration’s role in Benghazi and derails Hillary’s 2016 candidacy, “Gowdy will rise to the top of everyone’s list of presidential candidates.” “Conservatives are well aware of Gowdy’s talents and abilities. And when the committee gets up and running, Gowdy is going to be a national presence almost EVERY night; and yes, the MSM will be forced to carry it. I trust he will be able to uncover, and prove, the complicity of the Obama administration in the Benghazi tragedy, and in the process derail Hillary’s 2016 candidacy. When this happens, Gowdy will rise to the top of everyone’s list of presidential candidates. And Gowdy would be superb on the campaign trail.” [Conservative Post, [2015](#)]

Daily Caller opinion: “Among South Carolinians likely to appear on the national ticket, Graham ranks no higher than fourth — after Governor Nikki Haley, Senator Tim Scott, and the indispensable Congressman Trey Gowdy.” “Perpetually imagining himself one speech away from political superstardom, Graham has apparently extrapolated his ability to cling to the GOP Senate nomination in the most Republican state to the belief that he has a national constituency. Even among South Carolinians likely to appear on the national ticket, Graham ranks no higher than fourth — after Governor Nikki Haley, Senator Tim Scott, and the indispensable Congressman Trey Gowdy.” (Emphasis mine) [Theo Caldwell opinion, Daily Caller, [3/18/15](#)]

Red State Member Diary: Trey Gowdy’s Select Committee will “derail Hillary’s 2016 candidacy,” and “Gowdy will rise to the top of everyone’s list of VP candidates.” “When the committee gets up and running, Gowdy is going to be a national presence almost EVERY night; and yes, the MSM will be forced to carry it. I trust the committee will be able to uncover, and prove, the complicity of the Obama administration in the Benghazi tragedy, and in the process derail Hillary’s 2016 candidacy. When this happens, Gowdy will rise to the top of everyone’s list of VP candidates; indeed, there is not one potential GOP contender that he would not make better. And Gowdy would be superb on the campaign trail.” [Red State Member Diary, [5/2/14](#)]

SUPREME COURT

LINDSEY GRAHAM SAID HE WOULD NOMINATE TREY GOWDY FOR THE SUPREME COURT MULTIPLE TIMES

In February, Lindsey Graham said he would nominate Trey Gowdy for the Supreme Court. “When it comes to Supreme Court justices, if I get to be president, I would nominate Trey Gowdy. And I would expect Democrats to vote for him because he’s a qualified person. I thought Sotomayor and Kagan, while I would not have chosen them, were very qualified candidates to be picked by a Democratic president. So, I’m very comfortable that I’m in the mainstream of conservatism.” [CBS Face the Nation, [2/1/15](#)]

Lindsey Graham told the Des Moines Register editorial board that he would nominate Trey Gowdy for the Supreme Court. “South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham is lagging far towards the back of the pack in this year’s crowded field for the Republican presidential nomination, but he’s already got his first Supreme

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Court nominee picked out: fellow Palmetto State lawmaker Trey Gowdy. In a meeting Wednesday with the Des Moines Register's editorial board, Graham said, he'd like to make his first justice a qualified lawyer 'with real world experience' rather than a career jurist. He suggested 'a guy like [Representative] Trey Gowdy.'"
[Bloomberg, [7/1/15](#)]

The Conservative Tribune endorsed Lindsey Graham's suggestion that Trey Gowdy should be on the Supreme Court. "In a meeting Wednesday with the Des Moines Register's editorial board, Graham made the comment that he'd like to make his first justice a qualified lawyer 'with real world experience' rather than a career jurist. Gowdy certainly fit that description. A three-term member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Gowdy, 50, has been in the spotlight on Capitol Hill several times lately... While Graham may be a little premature in picking his first Supreme Court justice — and we're not sure that serving as a politician constitutes 'real world' experience — whoever the next U.S. president is would do well to consider his suggestion. One can only imagine how the latest Supreme Court decisions might have turned out differently had Gowdy been on the bench."
[Conservative Tribune, [7/2/15](#)]

At a September meet and greet in Iowa, Lindsey Graham again stated Trey Gowdy should be put on the Supreme Court. "LINDSEY GRAHAM: So I'm going to tell you exactly what I think. I think John Roberts is a great judge of which I disagree with one case. I think he's the most qualified man I've ever met to be on the Supreme Court. I led [crosstalk]. Yeah I disagree with that one case. I'm telling you now that I think he's qualified, I'm glad I voted for him, and I thought it was the best pick the president could have possibly made. Number two, Hillary Clinton if she's president is going to pick people we never agree with. If I'm president I'm going to pick a conservative judge and I'll accept their good decisions and understand they may not always agree with me. You know Trey Gowdy? Put him on the Supreme Court. It is about the future. It is about who picks the next judges and God knows their important." [Lindsey Graham Meet and Greet in Indianola, IA, 9/18/15]

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Donald Trump said he would select Trey Gowdy to be Attorney General in his administration. "In a surprise move presidential contender Donald Trump announced his pick for Attorney General naming Congressman Trey Gowdy to replace the lackey Loretta Lynch who replaced Obama lap dog Eric Holder. No word on whether Rep Gowdy has been consulted or approached but Trump continues to show his political and media savvy. This is his tweet from 27 July. @realDonaldTrump '@USARestoring: @HillaryClinton's toast. Dems had better get the 'B Team' off the bench. @TGowdySC for Attorney General under President Trump.'" [Tea Party Tribune, 7/30/15]

The Conservative Tribune endorsed Donald Trump's proposed selection of Trey Gowdy for Attorney General if elected. "In a Tuesday tweet, Trump said that he would pick South Carolina representative and chairman of the House Select Committee on Benghazi Trey Gowdy as his attorney general, were he to be elected president... Rep. Gowdy, whose tenacious manner with liberals and Obama administration officials has earned him the nickname "The Bulldog," has been a conservative favorite for quite some time now. In fact, before the 2014 Republican sweep of Congress, political action group the Tea Party Leadership Fund endorsed

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Gowdy to take over John Boehner’s position as speaker of the House. While Gowdy didn’t get that job, it might be even more satisfying seeing the South Carolina bulldog at Eric Holder’s old desk, prosecuting all of those Democrats let slide during the Obama administration.” [Conservative Tribune, 7/30/15]

Red State Member Diary: “I do look forward to him becoming Attorney General in 2017 under a conservative President.” “Hopefully everyone can now agree that Trey Gowdy is not the best choice for President or Speaker in the future. Unless you think the establishment needs to remain in charge. But I do look forward to him becoming Attorney General in 2017 under a conservative President.” [Red State Member Diary, 1/6/15]

FEDERAL JUDGE

South Carolina Senator Tim Scott said Trey Gowdy should be a federal judge and then Supreme Court justice. “And now, Scott is one of Gowdy’s biggest boosters. ‘I think he would tell you that the best job he’s ever had is being a prosecutor,’ Scott says. ‘I think I could change that if we were able to make him a federal judge. That would be the best job he’s ever had. And after he becomes a federal judge, I assume he’ll be a Supreme Court justice before he’s 65 or so.’” [National Review, [3/6/14](#)]

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

Rep. Walter Jones endorsed Trey Gowdy for Speaker of the House. “Rep. Walter Jones (R-N.C.), an outspoken Boehner critic, said in a local radio interview he didn’t think Gowdy would be willing to take on Boehner, but added: ‘If he offered himself, I would be willing to support him.’... In the radio interview, which was flagged by BuzzFeed, Jones said a group of 16 to 18 House Republicans were plotting to oust Boehner during the public floor vote. But with Boehner’s historic 247-seat majority next year, his detractors would need at least 30 votes to force a second ballot.” [The Hill, [12/18/14](#)]

Fox News’ Sean Hannity said Trey Gowdy was his top choice for Speaker of the House. “Fox News host Sean Hannity, also a nationally-syndicated radio host, tells Breitbart News exclusively that he thinks Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-SC) should challenge Rep. John Boehner (R-OH) for the Speakership of the House. ‘The American people need bold inspiring solutions to reverse the damaging policies of the President and his party,’ Hannity said in an email. ‘This is not a time for half measures. It’s time for new dynamic leadership in the House of Representatives. Trey Gowdy is my choice for speaker. He has the ability to articulate and implement the changes needed to get the country on the right path.’” [Breitbart, [12/30/14](#)]

The Tea Party Leadership Fund PAC created [draftgowdy.com](#) to build support for Trey Gowdy to be Speaker of the House. “More than 100,000 patriotic Americans have already called for a conservative to lead the House of Representatives -- our last line of defense against Barack Obama, Nancy Pelosi, and Harry Reid. Will you join the call to draft Trey Gowdy to be the next Speaker of the House – replacing John Boehner who has too

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often compromised and capitulated to with Barack Obama?” [draftgowdy.com, [accessed 9/22/15](#)]

The Conservative Tribune supported the movement for Trey Gowdy to become Speaker of the House.

“Chances are slim that Gowdy will become the next Speaker, unless there is a large grassroots push for it. Boehner has angered much of the conservative grassroots, as he is viewed as being too willing to compromise with Obama and the Democrats. Trey Gowdy is well known for standing strong on principle, despite the direction the mainstream media or public opinion are going. Trey Gowdy would make an excellent Speaker of the House, and would return the House GOP to a strong position standing firm on ideological principles. However, his in-state colleague, Senator Tim Scott, thinks Gowdy would better serve the nation as a Supreme Court Justice someday.” [Conservative Tribune, [9/18/14](#)]

A petition on petition2congress.com called for Trey Gowdy to replace Speaker Boehner. “We the people would like to respectfully request that you remove John Boehner R-OH 8th District from the office of Speaker of the House due to His inability perform the Duties required of him by his constituents. We understand that Mr. Boehner is a very nice person and that is exactly why we make this request. We need a Leader, not a Friend. We would like to request that the Honorable Trey Gowdy R-SC 4th District be sworn in as speaker of the House of representatives [sic].” [Remove John Boehner as speaker and replace him with Trey Gowdy, petition2congress.com, [accessed 9/22/15](#)]

A change.org petition called for Trey Gowdy to be selected Speaker of the House. “We The People Want Trey Gowdy As Speaker Of The House We the People deserve a competent leader in the position that is currently held by a very inept person and this needs to be changed now so we can Restore America & stand up to the President & his Socialist Agenda. Now is the time for real change. Now is the time for Trey Gowdy!” [We The People Want Trey Gowdy As Speaker Of The House, change.org, [accessed 9/22/15](#)]

HILLARY CLINTON'S EMAIL AND THE BENGHAZI COMMITTEE

JUST THE FACTS—FACTS TREY GOWDY HAS
NEVER BOTHERED TO SHARE

Thanks to Trey Gowdy's relentless smear campaign of leaks and falsehoods, a lot of misconceptions about Hillary Clinton's emails have seeped into the public consciousness. However, some of the most widely-repeated claims about Clinton's emails don't hold up to scrutiny.

Now that it's clear that the Benghazi Committee has always been a partisan exercise, it's high time that the real facts about Hillary Clinton's emails get on the record.

FACT: HILLARY CLINTON APPROPRIATELY SORTED FEDERAL RECORDS

Justice Department: Under NARA and State Department policies, “individual officers and employees are permitted and expected to exercise judgment to determine what constitutes a federal record.” “Under policies issue both by the National Archives and Records Administration (‘NARA’) and the State Department, individual officers and employees are permitted and expected to exercise judgment to determine what constitutes a federal record. See NARA Bulletin 2014-06 ¶4 (Sept. 15, 2014) (‘Currently, in many agencies, employees manage their own email accounts and apply their own understanding of Federal records management. This means that all employees are required to review each message, identify its value, and either delete it or move it to a recordkeeping system.’); 3 Department of State Foreign Affairs Manual, 5 FAM 443.2(b) (‘[t]he intention of this guidance is not to require the preservation of every E-mail message.’)” [Justice Department Filing, Case 1:12-cv-02034-RBW, [9/9/15](#)]

NARA and State Department policies under the Federal Records Act rely on individuals to “make decisions as to what e-mails must be preserved as federal records.” “The March 19 letter takes issue with Secretary Clinton’s role, through her legal representatives, as the ‘sole arbiter of what she considers private’ and what she considers work-related. See March 19 Letter at 3. That procedure, however, whereby individual officials are responsible for separating what is work-related (and potentially a federal record) from what is personal—is the very procedure that NARA and individual agencies rely upon to meet their obligations under the Federal Records Act every day. Indeed, guidance and the State Department’s policies make clear that the reliance on individual officials to make decisions as to what e-mails must be preserved as federal records is not an ‘arrangement’ that is ‘unprecedented’ or ‘unique,’ but instead the normal procedure carried out by tens of thousands of agency officials and employees in the ordinary course.” [Attorney David Kendall Letter to Chairman Gowdy, [3/27/15](#)]

White House spokesman: Hillary Clinton’s emails were “properly preserved and maintained” when her team identified and sent to the State Department messages “related to her official government responsibilities.” “When I’m talking about ensuring that those records are properly preserved and maintained, I’m talking about them being preserved and maintained at the agency. So they’re properly preserved and maintained when Secretary Clinton’s team does the work of going through the email, pulling the ones that are related to her official government responsibilities, and sending them to the State Department so that they can be properly preserved and maintained there.” [Josh Earnest, White House press briefing, [3/4/15](#)]

HILLARY CLINTON WAS PERMITTED TO DELETE PERSONAL EMAIL AT HER DISCRETION

Justice Department: “State Department employees may delete messages they deem in their own discretion to be personal.” “Second, because personal records are not subject to FOIA, and State Department employees may delete messages they deem in their own discretion to be personal, Plaintiff’s preservation argument reduces to an unsupported allegation that former Secretary Clinton might have mistakenly or intentionally deleted responsive agency records rather than personal records. But Plaintiff offers no support for such a theory, and government agencies are not required to take steps to recover deleted material based on unfounded speculation that responsive information had been deleted.” [Justice Department Filing, Case 1:12-cv-02034-RBW, [9/9/15](#)]

Department of Justice lawyers ruled Hillary Clinton “had authority to delete personal emails without agency supervision.” “In the most complete legal defense of Mrs. Clinton, Justice Department lawyers insisted they not only have no obligation, but no power, to go back and demand the former top diplomat turn over any documents she hasn’t already given — and neither, they said, can the court order that. The defense came as part of a legal filing telling a judge why the administration shouldn’t be required to order Mrs. Clinton and her top aides to preserve all of their emails. ‘There is no question that Secretary Clinton had authority to delete personal emails without agency supervision — she appropriately could have done so even if she were working on a government server,’ the administration lawyers argued. ‘Under policies issued by both the National Archives and Records Administration (‘NARA’) and the State Department, individual officers and employees are permitted and expected to exercise judgment to determine what constitutes a federal record.’” [Washington Times, [9/10/15](#)]

FACT: THE VAST MAJORITY OF HILLARY CLINTON’S EMAIL TRAFFIC WAS WITH .GOV ADDRESSES

More than 90% of Hillary Clinton’s work-related emails were sent to or received by state.gov accounts to be captured on the department system. “This totaled roughly 55,000 pages. More than 90% of her work or potentially work-related emails provided to the Department were already in the State Department’s record-keeping system because those e-mails were sent to or received by ‘state.gov’ accounts” [The Facts About Hillary Clinton’s Emails, The Briefing, [accessed 7/14/15](#)]

FACT: STATE DEPARTMENT RECORD KEEPING FAILURE PREVENTED CAPTURE OF STATE.GOV EMAILS

A glitch in the State Department record keeping system prevented capturing of emails sent from Hillary Clinton to state.gov accounts. “Moreover, aides say that there was an actual technical glitch that prevented the State Department from capturing all of the e-mails that Clinton sent to people with state.gov addresses, so that problem needed to be addressed. (This appears to refer to an Inspector General report on how State Department officials at lower levels were not properly saving e-mails for archives, but the report said the assessment did not apply to the system used by senior State Department officials, including the secretary of state and top aides.)” [Washington Post, [9/28/15](#)]

Mother Jones: In 2014, State realized it had not captured email records for Secretaries going back to Madeleine Albright. “In 2014, the State Department suddenly realized that it had very few email records from secretaries going back to Madeleine Albright. Two years after Hillary had left office, they were trying to figure out where her emails were stored. This very much does not suggest to me that they were ‘caught off guard’ by Hillary’s use of a private server. Rather, it suggests only that the State staffers responding to the congressional inquiries didn’t happen to know that Hillary used a private server. More importantly, it also suggests that for well over a decade, (a) the department had no oversight of emails sent and received by Secretaries of State, (b) didn’t really care about these emails, (c) didn’t archive them, and (d) had no idea where they might be.” [Mother Jones, [9/23/15](#)]

FACT: STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUED OFFICIAL RECORDS REQUEST TO FORMER SECRETARIES IN OCTOBER 2014

On October 28, 2014, the State Department sent letters to four former Secretaries requesting federal records sent or received on personal email accounts. “We recognize that some period of time has passed since your principal served as Secretary of State and that the NARA guidance post-dates that service. Nevertheless, we bring the NARA guidance to your attention in order to ensure that the Department’s records are as complete as possible. Accordingly, we ask that should your principal or his or her authorized representative be aware or become aware in the future of a federal record, such as an email sent or received on a personal email account while serving as Secretary of State, that a copy of this record be made available to the Department. In this regard, please note that diverse Department records are subject to various disposition schedules, with most Secretary of State records retained permanently. We ask that a record be provided to the Department if there is reason to believe that it may not otherwise be preserved in the Department’s recordkeeping system.” [State Dept. letter to Cheryl Mills, [11/12/14](#); originally sent [10/28/14](#)]

FACT: HILLARY CLINTON WAS ONLY FORMER SECRETARY TO RESPOND TO STATE'S REQUEST

State Department: Hillary Clinton was the only former Secretary to respond, handing over 55,000 pages of emails to State. “When in the process of updating our records management – this is something that’s sort of ongoing given technology and the changes – we reached out to all of the former secretaries of state to ask them to provide any records they had. Secretary Clinton sent back 55,000 pages of documents to the State Department very shortly after we sent the letter to her. She was the only former Secretary of State who sent documents back in to this request. These 55,000 pages covered her time, the breadth of her time at the State Department.” [State Department Press Briefing, [3/3/15](#)]

FACT: HILLARY CLINTON TURNED OVER NEARLY 55,000 PAGES OF EMAILS

Hillary Clinton turned over roughly 55,000 pages of emails. “On December 5, 2014, 30,490 copies of work or potentially work-related emails sent and received by Clinton from March 18, 2009, to February 1, 2013, were provided to the State Department. This totaled roughly 55,000 pages.” [The Facts About Hillary Clinton’s Emails, The Briefing, [accessed 7/14/15](#)]

FACT: HILLARY CLINTON’S PRODUCTION WAS OVER-INCLUSIVE

Justice Department: Evidence “demonstrates that the former Secretary’s production was over-inclusive.” “The evidence, if anything, demonstrates that the former Secretary’s production was over-inclusive, not under-inclusive. The Department’s review, of the approximately 55,000 pages of documents provided to the Department determined that at least 1246 of the emails provided were not federal records.” [Justice Department Filing, Case 1:12-cv-02034-RBW, [9/9/15](#)]

Hillary Clinton turned over all emails work-related or potentially work-related. “The Secretary’s personal attorneys had reviewed every sent and received (whether as ‘to,’ ‘cc,’ or ‘bcc’) e-mail from the hdr22@clintonemail.com account during her tenure as Secretary (62,320 e-mails in total) and identified all work-related and potentially work-related e-mails (30,490 e-mails, approximately 55,000 pages)—which were provided to the State Department on December 5, 2014. The Department of State is therefore in possession of all of Secretary Clinton’s work-related e-mails from the hdr22@clintonemail.com account.” [Attorney David Kendall Letter to Chairman Gowdy, [3/27/15](#)]

FACT: HILLARY CLINTON NEVER SENT OR RECEIVED ANY EMAILS MARKED AS CLASSIFIED

The State Department and Senate Intelligence Committee have confirmed that no emails on Hillary Clinton’s server were marked as classified when they were sent or received. “In fact, the communications that travelled across Secretary Clinton’s private server were not even marked as classified at the time they were sent or received. Classified information (which as a matter of federal statute is defined as ‘information or material designated and clearly marked or clearly represented, pursuant to the provisions of a statute or executive order as requiring a specific degree of protection against unauthorized disclosure for reasons of national security’) was reviewed by Secretary Clinton either while in her State Department office or using government secure transmission systems if she was on travel. These facts are uncontroverted and have been verified by the State Department and Senate Intelligence Committee.” [Michael Zeldin Opinion, The Hill, [9/9/15](#)]

AP: “There is no evidence of emails stored in Hillary Clinton’s private server bearing classified markings.” “By contrast, there is no evidence of emails stored in Hillary Clinton’s private server bearing classified markings. State Department officials say they don’t believe that emails she sent or received included material classified at the time. And even if other government officials dispute that assertion, it is extremely difficult to prove anyone knowingly mishandled secrets.” [AP, [8/31/15](#)]

FACT: HILLARY CLINTON IS FIRST SECRETARY OF STATE TO ASK FOR ALL EMAILS TO BE MADE PUBLIC

Hillary Clinton: “I took the unprecedented step of asking that the State Department make all my work-related emails public for everyone to see.” “I took the unprecedented step of asking that the State Department make all my work-related emails public for everyone to see. I am very proud of the work that I and my colleagues and our public servants at the department did during my four years as secretary of state, and I look forward to people being able to see that for themselves.” [Secretary Clinton press conference, [3/10/15](#)]

Hillary Clinton repeated called for public release of her emails. “I have said repeatedly I want those emails out,’ Clinton told reporters. ‘Nobody has a bigger interest in getting them released than I do.’ Clinton said she was unable to demand their release, because it is the State Department who controls the emails, not her, but she asked the department she once ran do do ‘anything that they might to do expedite that process.” [WQAD8, [5/19/15](#)]

Rep. Cummings: “As far as I am aware, no other Cabinet secretary in history has ever called for the release of his or her emails.” “The top Democrat on the House Select Committee on Benghazi is praising former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton for announcing that she wants messages from her personal email accounts to be made public. ‘As far as I am aware, no other Cabinet secretary in history has ever called for the release of his or her emails — in their entirety and throughout his or her tenure,’ Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-Md.) said in a statement on Thursday. ‘I commend Secretary Clinton’s decision.’” [The Hill, [3/5/15](#)]

FACT: STATE DEPARTMENT AND COMMITTEE DEMOCRATS WANTED BENGHAZI EMAILS TO BE PUBLIC

Rep. Cummings called on Trey Gowdy to make Hillary Clinton's Benghazi emails public. "It has been public for several years that Secretary Clinton used her personal email account, apparently following the pattern of previous Secretaries of State. Although Secretary Clinton has produced her emails to the State Department, it is unclear from press reports whether previous Secretaries have done the same. Last month, the Committee received Secretary Clinton's emails relating to Benghazi, and now that we have them, I believe Chairman Gowdy should join with me to make them available to the American public so they can read their contents for themselves." [Cummings Issues Statement on Clinton Emails, [3/3/15](#)]

Benghazi Select Committee members called on the State Department to publicly release Benghazi-related emails. "Democrats on the House Select Committee on Benghazi want the State Department to prioritize the release of Hillary Clinton's Benghazi-related emails as controversy swirls over her use of private email while secretary. Democratic Reps. Elijah Cummings (Md.), Adam Smith (Wash.), Adam Schiff (Calif.), Linda Sanchez (Calif.) and Tammy Duckworth (Ill.) are asking the State Department in a letter to release any emails related to the attacks on the Benghazi diplomatic mission that killed four Americans in a hope to quell concerns. 'Since the Department has already produced approximately 850 pages of these documents to the Select Committee on Benghazi, we request that the Department begin its review for public release with this subset of 850 pages of Benghazi-related documents in order to make them available to the public first without waiting for the full review,' the letter says." [The Hill, [3/10/15](#)]

The State Department intended to speed release of about 900 pages of Benghazi-related emails sent by Sec. Clinton. "Under pressure to move quickly on the release of Hillary Clinton's emails, the State Department intends to speed release about 900 pages of Benghazi-related e-mails sent by the former Secretary of State on her private e-mail account, officials said Tuesday." [Politico, [3/10/15](#)]

FACT: THE EXISTENCE OF HILLARY CLINTON'S PERSONAL EMAIL ACCOUNT WAS MADE PUBLIC IN 2013

The existence of Hillary Clinton's personal account was made public after a Romanian hacker accessed Sidney Blumenthal's address. "In March 2013, a Romanian hacker named Marcel Lazăr Lehel, aka Guccifer, disclosed the existence of a private email address belonging to former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. The Smoking Gun, Gawker and others reported that Clinton had been receiving emails at the address from Sidney Blumenthal, a close ally, concerning the storming of the American diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya, by Islamic militants in 2012." [Newsweek, [8/13/15](#)]

FACT: TREY GOWDY KNEW ABOUT HILLARY CLINTON'S PERSONAL ACCOUNT FOR 6 MONTHS PRIOR TO ACTING

Trey Gowdy admitted he knew about Hillary Clinton's personal email in the summer of 2014, six months before holding a press conference to make hay of the issue. "Speaking of which, Gowdy let something else slip while unburdening himself to Politico: he and his committee have known since last summer that Mrs. Clinton conducted business by private e-mail. So what you're just finding out now, Gowdy has known for at least six months. So what did he do about it? According to Politico, 'He said the committee has worked with Clinton advisers and the department to gain access to documents relating to the Benghazi attacks.'" [Andrew McCarthy column, National Review, [3/7/15](#)]

FACT: OFFICIALS HAVE LEAKED AND ANONYMOUSLY DISCUSSED PURPORTEDLY CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS

Trey Gowdy leaked one third of Hillary Clinton's Benghazi emails to the New York Times. "The emails set for release, drawn from some 55,000 pages and focused on Libya, have already been turned over to the special House committee investigating the 2012 attacks on the United States outposts in Benghazi. The New York Times has obtained about a third of the 850 pages of emails. They capture the correspondence and concerns expressed among Mrs. Clinton, who was secretary of state at the time, and her advisers following the attacks, which claimed the lives of the American ambassador, J. Christopher Stevens, and three other Americans." [New York Times, [5/21/15](#)]

Washington Examiner: "Benghazi Committee...appeared to have leaked several hundred pages of records to the New York Times just hours before the State Department published its first batch of redacted emails." "In November of last year, Clinton gave the State Department 55,000 printed pages of emails she deemed relevant to her work as secretary of state and reportedly deleted the rest. Many of those emails have been subjected to review by the Benghazi Committee, which appeared to have leaked several hundred pages of records to the New York Times just hours before the State Department published its first batch of redacted emails." [Washington Examiner, [6/2/15](#)]

In a New York Times article, "senior intelligence officials" discussed the inspector general's findings "on the condition of anonymity because they did not want to jeopardize their access to sensitive information." "I. Charles McCullough III, the inspector general for the intelligence community, found the two emails containing what he determined was 'Top Secret' information in the course of reviewing a sampling of 40 of Mrs. Clinton's work-related emails for potential security breaches. The senior intelligence officials briefed on the findings of the review spoke on the condition of anonymity because they did not want to jeopardize their access to sensitive information." [New York Times, [9/7/15](#)]

Officials from intelligence and other agencies “spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity” about the content of potentially “Top Secret” emails sent to Hillary Clinton. “The officials who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity work in intelligence and other agencies. They wouldn’t detail the full contents of the emails because of ongoing questions about classification level. Clinton didn’t transmit the sensitive information herself, they said, and nothing in the emails she received makes direct reference to communications intercepts, confidential intelligence methods or any other form of sensitive sourcing. The drone exchange, the officials said, begins with a copy of a news article about the CIA drone program that targets terrorists in Pakistan and elsewhere. While that program is technically top secret, it is well-known and often reported on.” [Associated Press, [8/14/15](#)]

Unnamed sources discussed the content of the four classified emails with CBS News. “In fact, sources tell CBS News that none of the four emails mentioned the names or locations of intelligence assets. What did they mention? According to The Associated Press, one involved a discussion about a news article detailing a U.S. drone operation. It is technically considered a ‘secret program’ but is actually ‘well-known and often reported on.’” [CBS News, [8/15/15](#)]

FACT: THE BENGHAZI COMMITTEE HAS ONLY HELD 3 HEARINGS IN 17 MONTHS

The Benghazi Committee has only held three hearings since it was formed in May 2014. “The committee has been operating for longer than the Senate Watergate Committee did, but it has held just three hearings in its 16 months of existence, according to panel Democrats. Still, by October 22, they say, the panel will have deposed or interviewed eight current Clinton campaign aides and spent much of its time in hearings asking about topics such as the Clinton Foundation and the political operations of Clinton’s allies.” [Vox, [10/1/15](#)]

FACT: HILLARY CLINTON PUSHED FOR HER BENGHAZI TESTIMONY TO BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Clinton spokesman in March: “To be clear, she remains ready to appear at a hearing open to the American public.” “But Mrs. Clinton indicated on Tuesday that she wanted to give her testimony in a public setting. In a written statement, a spokesman for her said she had told the committee months ago that she was prepared to testify at a public hearing. ‘It is by their choice that hasn’t happened,’ said the spokesman, Nick Merrill. ‘To be clear, she remains ready to appear at a hearing open to the American public.’” [New York Times, [3/31/15](#)]

Hillary Clinton: I asked for more than a year “to testify before the Congressional committee that is investigating the situation in Benghazi, they would not let me appear.” “I’ve also, for more than a year now, been asking to testify before the Congressional committee that is investigating the situation in Benghazi, they would not let me appear. Finally - and I’m very happy about this - I will be appearing, toward the end of October, and I will look forward to answer all their questions.” [CNN Interview with Wolf Blitzer, [9/17/15](#)]

Rep. Cummings in April: Hillary Clinton “has been ready to testify in public for more than six months.” “Rep. Elijah Cummings, the top Democrat on the panel, accused Gowdy of refusing ‘to schedule her hearing and continue to squander millions of taxpayer dollars drawing out these proceedings as long as possible.’ ‘Unfortunately, it appears that the Select Committee on Benghazi has now become a taxpayer-funded effort to damage Hillary Clinton’s campaign for president,’ Cummings said. ‘The Committee has had Secretary Clinton’s Benghazi-related emails for weeks, and she has been ready to testify in public for more than six months.’” [Politico, [4/16/15](#)]

FACT: TREY GOWDY ATTEMPTED TO KEEP INTERVIEW WITH HILLARY CLINTON BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Trey Gowdy demanded Hillary Clinton appear in a private interview about her emails. “Toward that end and because of the Secretary’s unique arrangement with herself as it relates to public records during and after her tenure as Secretary of State, this Committee is left with no alternative but to request Secretary Clinton appear before this Committee for a transcribed interview to better understand decisions the Secretary made relevant to the creation, maintenance, retention, and ultimately deletion of public records.” [Select Committee Formally Requests Secretary Clinton Interview on Email Arrangement, [3/31/15](#)]

FACT: HILLARY CLINTON ASKED AIDES TO COOPERATE FULLY WITH BENGHAZI COMMITTEE

Hillary Clinton encouraged all of her current and former aides to cooperate with the Benghazi Select Committee and answer questions about her emails. “She has made every effort to answer questions and be as helpful as possible, and has encouraged her aides, current and former, to do the same, including Bryan Pagliano,” Merrill added. ‘In fact, two of those aides are due to testify this week, and she is eager to testify in a public hearing in October.’ Pagliano, who helped Clinton manage a private e-mail server at her home while she was secretary of state, this week rebuffed a subpoena to testify before a House committee investigating fatal terrorist attacks on two U.S. compounds in Benghazi, Libya, in September 2012 and now Clinton’s unusual private e-mail system.” [Washington Post, [9/3/15](#)]

FACT: BENGHAZI COMMITTEE WILL INTERVIEW OR DEPOSE AT LEAST EIGHT CLINTON STAFFERS

The Benghazi committee “will have interviewed or deposed eight current and former Clinton campaign staffers by October 22.” “The Select Committee will have interviewed or deposed eight current and former Clinton campaign staffers by October 22.” [Benghazi Committee Chairman Says Look at Actions, Not Words— And Democrats Agree, [10/1/15](#)]

FACT: HILLARY CLINTON AIDE ASKED TO TESTIFY IN PUBLIC

Politico: Cheryl Mills requested public testimony out of fear that Trey Gowdy would “leak selected information that casts her in a negative light.” “Mills’ desire for open testimony — a request made because she fears Republicans will leak selected information that casts her in a negative light — is just the first disagreement in what’s likely to be a tense session Thursday, when she appears before the panel a day before Jake Sullivan, Clinton’s top policy guru, is also hauled in for questions.” [Politico, [9/1/15](#)]

Rep. Cummings: Cheryl Mills “wanted the public to hear everything she had to say.” “Mills testified under oath and responded to questions from both Democrats and Republicans. Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-Md.) the top Democrat on the committee, told reporters on Thursday that Mills requested that she be allowed to give her testimony in a public session to avoid having any of her comments taken out of context. But that request was denied by the committee. ‘She wanted the public to hear everything she had to say,’ Cummings said. ‘I think one of her concerns was that there would be leaks.’ [Washington Post, [9/3/15](#)]

FACT: TREY GOWDY REFUSED TO PERFORM PUBLIC INTERVIEWS

Trey Gowdy demanded interviews took place behind closed doors. “A source close to Mills said she requested that the testimony be public because of fear that Republicans will leak parts of her interview. Republicans, who have done all their interviews so far behind closed doors, declined the request — just as they did for Sid Blumenthal, a top Clinton confidant who also answered questions for the committee earlier this year about unconfirmed intelligence memos he forwarded the secretary of state. Republicans did not wish to comment specifically on the Mills request but have said they’ll release the information after they’re [sic] completed their entire investigation and issued their final report.” [Politico, [9/1/15](#)]

FACT: TREY GOWDY REFUSED TO MAKE DEPOSITION OR INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPTS PUBLIC

Rep. Cummings called on Trey Gowdy to release a full transcript of Cheryl Mills’ testimony. “Instead the closed session, which is expected to last as long as nine hours, was held in a secure room in a basement of the Capitol. Cummings called on Chairman Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.) to release a full transcript of the testimony to avoid leaks and allow Mills’s testimony to be judged as a whole.” [Washington Post, [9/3/15](#)]

Sidney Blumenthal urged Chairman Gowdy to release his deposition transcript to the public. “Given the unprecedented nature of the document release, it is even more imperative that the Committee release the full transcript of Mr. Blumenthal’s deposition along with his emails. As I stated in my letter to you on June 19, there have already been a number of leaks from staff and members of the Committee that mischaracterized Mr. Blumenthal’s testimony. Even in your June 22 letter you state that Mr. Blumenthal was ‘tasked with placing articles about Benghazi’ when he testified he was not tasked to do so. By releasing the emails without the transcript, I am concerned that the unfair mischaracterizations will only continue and perhaps get worse.” [Blumenthal Lawyer letter to Chairman Gowdy, [6/22/15](#)]

Rep. Cummings called for public release of the full transcript of Blumenthal’s deposition. “He called on chairman Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.) to release the emails on Wednesday, but ‘only if he releases the transcript of the deposition that’s taking place today.’ Cummings predicted that most of Tuesday’s proceedings would concern the latest cache of documents, therefore Blumenthal’s comments about them ought to be made public ‘so that we can put them in context.’ ‘We cannot allow this investigation to go on based upon leaks,’ he said. In a statement Monday night, Gowdy he would make the 60 messages public if Cummings consented. If not, the panel would wait five days before doing so.” [The Hill, [6/16/15](#)]

FACT: TREY GOWDY FAILED TO HOLD VOTE ON RELEASING BLUMENTHAL TRANSCRIPT

Trey Gowdy did not hold a vote of the Select Committee on release of the Blumenthal transcript despite GOP staff statements that a vote would be held on July 8. “On June 24, 2015, all five Democratic Members of the Select Committee sent Chairman Gowdy a letter invoking the Select Committee’s Deposition Procedures, as adopted by the House, to insist that the Chairman promptly schedule a public business meeting to consider, debate and vote on the proposal to release Mr. Blumenthal’s transcript. On June 26, Republican staff informed Democratic staff that Chairman Gowdy would hold a business meeting of the Select Committee to publicly debate and vote on the Democrats’ proposal on July 8, 2015. Despite providing this information, the Chairman has yet to officially schedule the business meeting and has not publicly acknowledged that he plans to do so.” [Democrats Respond to Chairman’s Inaction on Required Vote to Release Blumenthal Deposition Transcript, [7/8/15](#)]

FACT: BENGHAZI COMMITTEE ADJUSTED FOCUS TO CARRY OUT HITS AGAINST HILLARY CLINTON

Washington Post: The Benghazi Committee has “expanded into a broader probe” concerning Hillary Clinton’s emails. “The Republican-led committee was originally established to investigate the State Department response to the 2012 embassy attack but expanded into a broader probe after it was revealed that Clinton used a private e-mail server to conduct official business. Democrats, including Cummings, have accused Republicans using the investigation to derail Clinton’s presidential campaign rather than investigate the terror attack. ‘One of the things that certainly concerns me is that this investigation has turned into a quest to derail Clinton nomination by any means necessary,’ Cummings said during a break from the hearing on Thursday.” [Washington Post, [9/3/15](#)]

FACT: SELECT COMMITTEE REPUBLICANS ABANDONED PLANS FOR 11 HEARINGS IN ORDER TO FOCUS ON HILLARY CLINTON

Republicans on the Select Committee abandoned plans to hold 11 hearings in order to focus on Hillary Clinton. “At the beginning of this year, Select Committee Republicans provided Democrats with detailed information about their plans to hold 11 hearings between January and October on a wide range of topics relating to the Benghazi attacks. Since then, however, Republicans have completely abandoned this plan—holding no hearings at all since January and instead focusing on former Secretary Hillary Clinton. Amazingly, the last eight press releases on the Select Committee’s webpage deal entirely with Secretary Clinton.” [Republicans Abandon Plan for Benghazi Hearings to Focus on Clinton, [7/15/15](#)]

FACT: REP. KEVIN MCCARTHY ADMITTED BENGHAZI PROBE WAS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED

Kevin McCarthy: “Everybody thought Hillary Clinton was unbeatable, right? But we put together a Benghazi Special Committee, a select committee. What are her numbers today? Her numbers are dropping.” “What you’re going to see is a conservative speaker, that takes a conservative Congress, that puts a strategy to fight and win. And let me give you one example: everybody thought Hillary Clinton was unbeatable, right? But we put together a Benghazi Special Committee, a select committee. What are her numbers today? Her numbers are dropping. Why? Because she’s untrustable, but nobody would have known any of that had happened had we not fought and made that happen.” [Fox News’ Hannity, [9/30/15](#)]

FACT: THE SELECT COMMITTEE IS THE 8TH CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION INTO BENGHAZI

The Select Committee is the 8th Congressional investigation into Benghazi. “The House Intelligence Committee report was released with little fanfare on the Friday before Thanksgiving week. Many of its findings echo those of six previous investigations by various congressional committees and a State Department panel. The eighth Benghazi investigation is being carried out by a House select committee appointed in May.” [LA Times, [11/22/14](#)]

FACT: THE BENGHAZI COMMITTEE HAS AN UNLIMITED BUDGET AND NO TIMEFRAME

The Benghazi Committee’s budget is unlimited. “Standing House committees are funded through a single, biennial ‘primary expense resolution,’ which authorizes specific budgets for each committee. Unlike those standing committees, the Select Committee’s budget is unlimited and is set by its establishing resolution, which states: “There shall be paid out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives such sums as may be necessary for the expenses of the Select Committee.” [Benghazi Democratic Members letter to Committee on House Administration, [2/5/15](#); H Res 567, [passed 5/8/14](#)]

The Benghazi Committee was reauthorized without any “limitations on the timeframe of its work.” “On January 6, 2015, the House reauthorized the Select committee on Benghazi as part of the House’s must-pass Rules package, without providing any information about a proposed budget for the Select Committee and without setting any limitations on the timeframe of its work.” [Benghazi Democratic Members letter to Committee on House Administration, [2/5/15](#)]

DEBUNKING GOWDY'S MOST COMMON CLAIMS

HIS FAVORITE ARGUMENTS DON'T HOLD UP TO
EVEN MODEST SCRUTINY

Trey Gowdy is either living on a different planet or willfully ignoring the facts if he believes that the Benghazi Committee's investigation is not focused on Hillary Clinton and her emails. Since March, the Committee has been obsessively and relentlessly talking about Hillary Clinton. They've put out dozens of press releases about her emails, and Gowdy has mentioned Hillary Clinton in dozens of interviews. What's more, he pretends that Hillary Clinton has delayed appearing before the Committee, when in fact it is Gowdy who has delayed her appearance time and time again.

Trey Gowdy's claims don't match up with the facts, period.

GOWDY SAYS HE HAS NOT FOCUSED ON HILLARY'S EMAIL

Trey Gowdy: “Our committee is the committee on Benghazi, not the committee on emails.” “Gowdy said Mills was not asked any questions about private email use until the end of the nine-and-a-half hour interview. ‘Our committee is the committee on Benghazi, not the committee on emails,’ he said.” [ABC News, [9/4/15](#)]

Trey Gowdy: “The email is a very small part of what we’re doing.” “‘Before the email story happened, nobody really paid a lot of attention to our committee,’ Gowdy said. ‘It wasn’t in the news. I get why people are interested in that. But the email is a very small part of what we’re doing. In fact, if it doesn’t relate to Libya or Benghazi emails, it’s no part of our committee.’” [The State, [10/1/15](#)]

REALITY: 26 of the most recent 29 public statements by Trey Gowdy and his Benghazi Committee have specifically mentioned Hillary Clinton or her email:

- [3/4/2015](#): Statement from the Communications Director on Clinton Email Addresses
- [3/4/2015](#): Statement from the Communications Director on Subpoena Issuance
- [3/5/2015](#): Statement from the Communications Director on Clinton’s Emails
- [3/10/2015](#): Gowdy Statement on Clinton Press Conference
- [3/20/2015](#): Select Committee on Benghazi Formally Requests Clinton Turn Over Server to Neutral Third Party
- [3/27/2015](#): Statement Regarding Subpoena Compliance and Server Determination by Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton
- [3/31/2015](#): Select Committee Formally Requests Secretary Clinton Interview on Email Arrangement
- [4/22/2015](#): Statement on Response from Clinton Lawyer
- [4/23/2015](#): Select Committee on Benghazi Calls Clinton to Testify
- [5/8/2015](#): Select Committee Releases Interim Progress Update
- [5/14/2015](#): Benghazi Committee Releases Letter on State Department Compliance Failure, Clinton
- [5/22/2015](#): Statement on the Release of Secretary Clinton’s Benghazi Emails

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- 6/16/2015: Select Committee Obtains New Blumenthal Emails Before Deposition
- [6/22/2015](#): Select Committee Adds to Secretary Clinton's Public Email Record
- [6/23/2015](#): State Department Fails to Answer on New Clinton Emails
- [6/25/2015](#): State Confirms Clinton Failed to Turn Over ALL Benghazi and Libya Documents
- [7/7/2015](#): Gowdy Statement in Response to Clinton Comments on the Benghazi Committee
- [7/8/2015](#): Select Committee on Benghazi Releases Clinton Subpoena
- [7/24/2015](#): Statement by Chairman Gowdy on Reports of Classified Information in Secretary Clinton's Emails
- [7/25/2015](#): Statement from Select Committee Communications Director Regarding Clinton's Testimony
- [7/29/2015](#): Select Committee Confirms Date for Appearance by Former Secretary of State Clinton
- [8/11/2015](#): Gowdy Statement on Secretary Clinton's Decision to Turn over Server to the Department of Justice
- [9/11/2015](#): Gowdy Statement on Anniversaries of 9/11 and Benghazi Attacks
- [9/25/2015](#): Statement from the Communications Director on State Department Turning Over New, Previously Withheld Clinton Benghazi Emails
- [10/5/2015](#): Statement from the Communications Director on Democrats' Announced Transcript Plan
- [10/8/2015](#): Benghazi Committee Informs State Department of Intent to Add to Public Record with Release of New Clinton Emails

(As of 10/8/15)

Trey Gowdy demanded Hillary Clinton turn over her email server. “Though Secretary Clinton alone is responsible for causing this issue, she alone does not get to determine its outcome,” said Gowdy, R-S.C. “That is why in the interest of transparency for the American people, I am formally requesting she turn the server over to the State Department’s inspector general or a mutually agreeable third party. ‘An independent analysis of the private server Secretary Clinton used for the official conduct of U.S. government business is the best way to remove politics and personal consideration from the equation. Having a neutral, third-party arbiter such as the State Department IG do a forensic analysis and document review is an eminently fair and reasonable means to determine what should be made public.’ [Select Committee on Benghazi Formally Requests Clinton Turn Over Server to Neutral Third Party, [3/20/15](#)]

Trey Gowdy insisted on multiple appearances from Hillary Clinton as a result of her email setup. “Because Secretary Clinton has created more questions than answers, the Select Committee is left with no choice but to call her to appear at least twice. The first appearance will be to clear up her role and resolve issues surrounding her exclusive use of personal email to conduct official business. This is necessary to establish our Committee has a complete record with respect to Secretary Clinton’s time in office. Our committee will then call her to appear before the Committee in a public hearing to answer questions specifically regarding Libya and the Benghazi terrorist attacks that took the lives of our four brave fellow citizens.” [Gowdy Statement on Clinton Press Conference, [3/10/15](#)]

Trey Gowdy demanded Hillary Clinton appear in a private interview about her emails. “Toward that end and because of the Secretary’s unique arrangement with herself as it relates to public records during and after her tenure as Secretary of State, this Committee is left with no alternative but to request Secretary Clinton appear before this Committee for a transcribed interview to better understand decisions the Secretary made relevant to the creation, maintenance, retention, and ultimately deletion of public records.” [Select Committee Formally Requests Secretary Clinton Interview on Email Arrangement, [3/31/15](#)]

Trey Gowdy called for the FBI to turn the email server over to the inspector general to review the public record. “The completeness or the wholeness of the record, I frankly don’t think that’s what the bureau is looking into. That’s what the inspector general wanted to look into. And when the bureau was through with the server, I hope they will turn that server over to the inspector general, so they can determine whether or not the record is full and complete.” [Fox News Sunday with Chris Wallace, [8/16/15](#)]

Trey Gowdy responded directly to an interview Hillary Clinton gave about her emails. “Select Committee on Benghazi Chairman Trey Gowdy issued the following statement in response to former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton’s comments regarding the Select Committee on Benghazi as part of an interview: ‘Secretary Clinton had a statutory duty to preserve records from her time in office, she had a legal duty to cooperate and tell the truth with congressional investigators requesting her records, and she was personally subpoenaed the moment the Benghazi Committee became aware of her exclusive use of personal email and a server, and that the State department was not the custodian of her official record. ‘For more than two years, Clinton never availed herself of the opportunity, even in response to a direct congressional inquiry, to inform the public of her unusual email arrangement designed to evade public transparency. The State Department, which should have informed congressional investigators years ago, failed to do so either.’” [Gowdy Statement in Response to Clinton Comments on the Benghazi Committee, [7/7/15](#)]

Trey Gowdy made a public show of his subpoena for Hillary Clinton’s emails in response to a campaign interview. “‘The committee has issued several subpoenas, but I have not sought to make them public,’ said committee Chairman Trey Gowdy. ‘I would not make this one public now, but after Secretary Clinton falsely claimed the committee did not subpoena her, I have no choice in order to correct the inaccuracy. The committee immediately subpoenaed Clinton personally after learning the full extent of her unusual email arrangement with herself, and would have done so earlier if the State Department or Clinton had been forthcoming that State did not maintain custody of her records and only Secretary Clinton herself had her records when Congress first requested them.’” [Select Committee on Benghazi Releases Clinton Subpoena, [7/8/15](#)]

Trey Gowdy abandoned plans to hold 11 hearings in order to focus on Hillary Clinton's emails. “At the beginning of this year, Select Committee Republicans provided Democrats with detailed information about their plans to hold 11 hearings between January and October on a wide range of topics relating to the Benghazi attacks. Since then, however, Republicans have completely abandoned this plan—holding no hearings at all since January and instead focusing on former Secretary Hillary Clinton. Amazingly, the last eight press releases on the Select Committee’s webpage deal entirely with Secretary Clinton.” [Republicans Abandon Plan for Benghazi Hearings to Focus on Clinton, [7/15/15](#)]

Trey Gowdy unilaterally issued a subpoena ordering the IT staffer who maintained Hillary Clinton's email server to appear before the Committee. “The letter from Mr. Pagliano’s attorneys expresses concern about ‘the current political environment.’ In fact, Chairman Gowdy ordered Mr. Pagliano’s deposition through a subpoena that he issued unilaterally on August 11, 2015, with no debate or vote by the Select Committee. In addition, when asked during a nationally televised interview five days after issuing this subpoena what the email matter has to do ‘with investigating what happened around Benghazi,’ Chairman Gowdy responded, ‘Well, probably not much of anything.’” [Cummings Releases Memo on IT Staffer’s Fifth Amendment Assertion, [9/2/15](#)]

Trey Gowdy “insisted that [his committee] be allowed to ask questions about the email record” as terms of Hillary Clinton's testimony. “The Benghazi committee will also be the venue for Mrs. Clinton’s highly anticipated testimony on Capitol Hill next month, where she’s expected to face tough questions about the attack and her decision to use a personal server. In a letter negotiating the terms of Mrs. Clinton’s appearance, her attorney initially asked for questions to be confined to Benghazi, but the committee insisted that it be allowed to ask questions about the email record. Mrs. Clinton eventually agreed to the appearance.” [Wall Street Journal, [9/9/15](#)]

Trey Gowdy touted his Committee's discovery of the email setup to justify its continuing investigation. “But lo and behold, we find something that all seven of those other committees that she claims looked into Benghazi never found. So, we’re going to follow the facts wherever they go and if that impacts people’s perception of her fitness to be commander-in-chief, so be it. I can just tell you this, for the first three public hearings, I never mentioned her name.” [Fox News Sunday with Chris Wallace, [8/16/15](#)]

Trey Gowdy held a 9-hour deposition with Sidney Blumenthal to ask hundreds of questions about his relationship with Hillary Clinton and their email exchanges. “The transcript of Blumenthal’s deposition includes hundreds of questions posed by Republicans during the day-long session, including the following: Blumenthal’s relationship/communications with the Clintons—more than 160 Benghazi attacks – less than 20 The Clinton Foundation—more than 50 Security in Benghazi—4 Blumenthal’s alleged business activities in Libya—more than 270 The U.S. presence in Benghazi—0 David Brock, Media Matters, and affiliated entities—more than 45 Ambassador Stevens and other U.S. personnel in Benghazi—0.” [Blumenthal Deposition Transcript Ready for Release, [6/19/15](#)]

Trey Gowdy planned to call Heather Samuelson to testify about sorting Hillary Clinton's emails. “The House Benghazi Committee plans to ask Heather Samuelson to testify about the process by which she sifted through Clinton’s 60,000 emails and sorted them as work-related or ‘personal,’ POLITICO has learned. And across the Hill campus, a source said Senate Judiciary Committee Republicans also want to know more about Samuelson’s work after she joined Clinton at the State Department following her 2008 campaign.” [Politico, [9/28/15](#)]

Trey Gowdy’s former staffer revealed that “the committee trained its sights almost exclusively on Clinton after the revelation last March that she used a private email server.” “Maj. Bradley Podliska, an intelligence officer in the Air Force Reserve who describes himself as a conservative Republican, told CNN that the committee trained its sights almost exclusively on Clinton after the revelation last March that she used a private email server during her tenure as secretary of state. That new focus flipped a broad-based probe of the attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi on September 11, 2012, into what Podliska described as ‘a partisan investigation.’ Podliska, who was fired after nearly 10 months as an investigator for the Republican majority, is now preparing to file a lawsuit against the select committee next month, alleging that he lost his job in part because he resisted pressure to focus his investigative efforts solely on the State Department and Clinton’s role surrounding the Benghazi attack.” [CNN, [10/11/15](#)]

Trey Gowdy “pulled resources away from probes of other individuals and agencies to focus almost exclusively on Clinton and the State Department” after news outlets reported on her emails. “Maj. Bradley Podliska, an intelligence officer in the Air Force Reserve who describes himself as a conservative Republican, told CNN that the committee trained its sights almost exclusively on Clinton after the revelation last March that she used a private email server during her tenure as secretary of state. [...] Podliska told CNN that the committee, which has spent \$4.6 million so far and is chaired by Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-South Carolina, pulled resources away from probes of other individuals and agencies to focus almost exclusively on Clinton and the State Department she helmed for four years. Clinton will testify before the committee for the first time Oct. 22, and the committee is set to release the findings of its investigation next year, in the heat of the presidential race.” [Politico, [10/11/15](#)]

GOWDY SAYS HE HAS BARELY EVEN SAID “HILLARY CLINTON”

Trey Gowdy: Hillary Clinton “is one witness. Her emails make up 5% of what the committee has.” “Secretary Clinton was in charge at all times relevant to our inquiry, so of course we need her public record and testimony. But she is one witness. Her emails make up 5% of what the committee has.” [Trey Gowdy opinion, USA Today, [10/8/15](#)]

Trey Gowdy: “Our words tell a strong story—in this Committee’s three public hearings to date, I have not once uttered former Secretary Clinton’s name.” “As a former prosecutor, I believe that one of the best measures of character and intentions is to judge people by their actions and not their words. While our words tell a strong story—in this Committee’s three public hearings to date, I have not once uttered former Secretary Clinton’s name—our actions are even stronger.” [Trey Gowdy letter to Rep. Cummings, [10/7/15](#)]

Trey Gowdy: “In fact, we’ve had three public hearings, Joe. I’ve never mentioned her name. If you look at what we’ve done, the 50-some-odd witnesses we’ve already interviewed, not a single one has been named Clinton.” “When Speaker Boehner called me, he never mentioned Secretary Clinton’s name. In fact, we’ve had three public hearings, Joe. I’ve never mentioned her name. If you look at what we’ve done, the 50-some-odd witnesses we’ve already interviewed, not a single one has been named Clinton. The 50,000 documents that we have accessed that no other committee has accessed, less than 5 percent have anything to do with her.” [Politico, [10/7/15](#)]

Trey Gowdy: We have interviewed 54 witnesses, “not a single one of them has been named Clinton...And if you look at the public hearings we have had so far, her name has not crossed my list.” “TREY GOWDY: Well, Kevin’s wrong. And I would ask your viewers and everyone else, frankly those that are suspicious and those that have been supportive, to don’t focus on the words that people that are not on the committee use, focus on the actions of those of us who have been on that committee for the last year and a half. And Megyn, out of the 54 witnesses that we have interviewed, 41 of whom by the way no other committee interviewed, not a single one of them has been named Clinton. Of the 50,000 documents, new documents that we have accessed, less than 5% have anything to do with her. And if you look at the public hearings we have had so far, her name has not crossed my list.” [Fox News’ Kelly File, [10/6/15](#)]

Trey Gowdy: “We’ve interviewed 54 people, and not a single one named Clinton.” “Gowdy, who said he watched McCarthy’s interview, again denied the Benghazi panel has a political motive. ‘I would just encourage people to look at what is done as opposed necessarily to what is said,’ he said Wednesday. ‘If you look at what we’ve done, I never mentioned (Clinton’s) name during a committee hearing. We’ve interviewed 54 people, and not a single one named Clinton. Of the next 50, one will be named Clinton.’” [USA Today, [10/1/15](#)]

Trey Gowdy: “Mike, I never mentioned her name the first three public hearings we had.” “Mike, I never mentioned her name the first three public hearings we had. We’ve not interviewed a person named Clinton yet. We’ve interviewed forty some odd people only two of which have any connection to her at all.” [Mike Gallagher Show, [9/8/15](#)]

Trey Gowdy: “We have interviewed three dozen witnesses, not a single one of them is named Clinton.” GOWDY: Well probably not much of anything, it was just us that determined this unique email arrangement she had with herself. We have interviewed three dozen witnesses, not a single one of them is named Clinton. In fact, while I’m happy to be on your show, had she not had this email arrangement with herself, you wouldn’t be talking to me this morning.” [Fox News Sunday with Chris Wallace, [8/16/15](#)]

Trey Gowdy: “If you look back at the three hearings we have had so far, I have mentioned Hillary Clinton’s name a whopping zero times.” “Well, first of all, Chris, I like Adam very much and he’s a very good attorney. If you look back at the three hearings we have had so far, I have mentioned Hillary Clinton’s name a whopping zero times.” [Fox News Sunday With Chris Wallace, [3/15/15](#)]

REALITY: He sure spends a lot of time talking about Hillary Clinton, though...

- Trey Gowdy: “If he is frustrated with the last two weeks, he needs to talk to Secretary Clinton.” [Fox News Sunday With Chris Wallace, [3/15/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy: “We were interviewing witnesses that have nothing to do with Secretary Clinton when this story broke.” [Fox News Sunday With Chris Wallace, [3/15/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy: “To the extent Democrats are frustrated, they should talk to Secretary Clinton, not me.” [Fox News Sunday With Chris Wallace, [3/15/15](#)]

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- Trey Gowdy: “I am sure that Carville and Lanny Davis and Podesta, and Democrats like Adam Schiff and others who have already signed on with Secretary Clinton, I’m sure that they are very, very frustrated.” [Mike Gallagher Show, [9/8/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy: “The significance, John, is it undercuts the three main points that Secretary Clinton has made.” [CBS Face the Nation, [6/29/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy: “We very much need to talk with Secretary Clinton.” [CBS Face the Nation, [6/29/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy: “So you have Hillary Clinton’s top lawyer, top counselor, chief of staff, who spent nine hours in a committee room and she didn’t complain about a single question she was asked.” [Mike Gallagher Show, [9/8/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy: “One of those facts publicly revealed today was the use of personal emails by former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.” [House Benghazi Committee Press Conference on Secretary Clinton Email Revelations, [3/4/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy: “We discovered former Secretary Clinton relied exclusively on private email accounts to send and receive emails.” [House Benghazi Committee Press Conference on Secretary Clinton Email Revelations, [3/4/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy: “The State Department cannot certify they have produced all of former Secretary Clinton’s emails because they do not have all of former Secretary Clinton’s emails.” [House Benghazi Committee Press Conference on Secretary Clinton Email Revelations, [3/4/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy: “The State Department is relying on Secretary Clinton herself and her attorneys and advisors to tell us and to tell you what emails they think are to be preserved.” [House Benghazi Committee Press Conference on Secretary Clinton Email Revelations, [3/4/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy: “The committee immediately subpoenaed Clinton personally after learning the full extent of her unusual email arrangement with herself.” [Select Committee on Benghazi Releases Clinton Subpoena, [7/8/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy: “Secretary Clinton had a statutory duty to preserve records from her entire time in office.” [Select Committee on Benghazi Releases Clinton Subpoena, [7/8/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy: “Those who feverishly called for the public release of Secretary Clinton’s partial emails previously, the production of far more emails - thus contributing to the wholeness of the public record - should be embraced.” [Chairman Gowdy letter to Rep. Cummings, [6/22/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy: “Secretary Clinton unilaterally decided to wipe her server clean and permanently delete all emails.” [Statement Regarding Subpoena Compliance and Server Determination by Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, [3/27/15](#)]

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- Trey Gowdy: “Though Secretary Clinton alone is responsible for causing this issue, she alone does not get to determine its outcome.” [Select Committee on Benghazi Formally Requests Clinton Turn Over Server to Neutral Third Party, [3/20/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy: “We have no interest in Secretary Clinton’s personal emails.” [Select Committee on Benghazi Formally Requests Clinton Turn Over Server to Neutral Third Party, [3/20/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy: “Many of the Democrats have already endorsed Secretary Clinton, their job as they view it is to protect her.” [Mike Gallagher Show, [9/8/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy: “Committee Members on both sides have been aware of concerns about classified emails within the self-selected records turned over by Secretary Clinton.” [Statement by Chairman Gowdy on Reports of Classified Information in Secretary Clinton’s Emails, [7/24/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy: “The number of questions surrounding Secretary Clinton’s unusual email arrangement continues to grow.” [Statement by Chairman Gowdy on Reports of Classified Information in Secretary Clinton’s Emails, [7/24/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy: “Without access to Secretary Clinton’s personal server, there is no way for the State Department to know it has acquired all documents that should be made public.” [Gowdy Statement on Clinton Press Conference, [3/10/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy: “As a credit to Speaker Boehner, I don’t think he’s ever mentioned Hillary Clinton’s name to me in a single conversation I’ve had with him.” [Mike Gallagher Show, [9/8/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy: “Secretary Clinton alone created this predicament.” [Gowdy Statement on Clinton Press Conference, [3/10/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy: “These new messages in many instances were Clinton’s responses, which clearly show she was soliciting and regularly corresponding with Sidney Blumenthal.” [State Confirms Clinton Failed to Turn Over ALL Benghazi and Libya Documents, [6/25/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy: “Discussing Secretary Clinton’s exclusive use of private email with which to conduct public business is a necessary predicate to discussing the facts surrounding the terrorist attacks in Benghazi.” [Chairman Gowdy letter to Clinton attorney, [4/23/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy: “The only reason that anyone is talking about Secretary Clinton is because of this unusual email arrangement that she had.” [Mike Gallagher Show, [9/8/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy: “The Committee will schedule a public hearing with Secretary Clinton.” [Chairman Gowdy letter to Secretary Kerry, [5/14/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy: “Secretary Clinton rejected our request that she provide her server.” [Chairman Gowdy letter to Secretary Kerry, [5/14/15](#)]

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- Trey Gowdy: “Secretary Clinton has insisted she will appear before our Committee a single time.” [Chairman Gowdy letter to Secretary Kerry, [5/14/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy: I “respectfully disagree with his assertion former Secretary Clinton has answered all questions surrounding the unusual email arrangement she had with herself.” [Statement on Response from Clinton Lawyer, [4/22/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy: “On March 19, 2015, the Committee asked former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to provide her personal email server to the Inspector General for the State Department.” [Chairman Gowdy letter to Clinton Lawyer, [3/31/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy: “With no alternative but to request Secretary Clinton appear before this Committee for a transcribed interview to better understand decisions the Secretary made.” [Chairman Gowdy letter to Clinton Lawyer, [3/31/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy: “The Committee is willing to schedule the interview at a time convenient for Secretary Clinton.” [Chairman Gowdy letter to Clinton Lawyer, [3/31/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy: “Secretary Clinton’s refusal to allow the Inspector General to ensure the public record is complete is not only disappointing but portends to delay the ability of our Committee to complete its work.” [Chairman Gowdy letter to Clinton Lawyer, [3/31/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy: “The Committee believes a transcribed interview would best protect Secretary Clinton’s privacy, the security of the information queried, and the public’s interest in ensuring this Committee has all information needed.” [Chairman Gowdy letter to Clinton Lawyer, [3/31/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy: “We continue to believe Secretary Clinton’s email arrangement with herself is highly unusual, if not unprecedented.” [Chairman Gowdy letter to Clinton Lawyer, [3/31/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy: “This confirms doubts about the completeness of Clinton’s self-selected public record and raises serious questions about her decision to erase her personal server.” [AP, [6/26/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy: “There are a million other things to pursue with respect to Benghazi other than Secretary Clinton.” [Politico Magazine, [3/12/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy: “There is no way to accept State’s or Secretary Clinton’s certification she has turned over all documents.” [New York Times, [3/10/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy: “In fact, your Committee Members have appeared infrequently at witness interviews; sometimes staying only long enough to apologize to the witness, ask questions about Secretary Clinton, and then address the media.” [Trey Gowdy letter to Rep. Cummings, [10/7/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy: “This is unsurprising, given that the majority of Democrat Members on the Committee have already endorsed former Secretary Clinton for President.” [Trey Gowdy letter to Rep. Cummings, [10/7/15](#)]

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- Trey Gowdy: “This is problematic and once again calls into question the independence of the ARB, a report on which Secretary Clinton has often relied in deflecting questions about her role in the attacks.” [Trey Gowdy letter to Rep. Cummings, [10/7/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy: “The ARB, of course, did not have the benefit of reviewing former Secretary Clinton’s emails during its investigation either.” [Trey Gowdy letter to Rep. Cummings, [10/7/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy: “At the time of the ARB investigation, the State Department did not even have access to Secretary Clinton’s emails because they resided on Secretary Clinton’s private server- safe from the review of both the public and the ARB as it performed its critical work.” [Trey Gowdy letter to Rep. Cummings, [10/7/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy: “In fact, this Committee was the only entity to discover Secretary Clinton’s private email usage and take steps to ensure the public record of her time in office is complete.” [Trey Gowdy letter to Rep. Cummings, [10/7/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy: “It was to that end the Committee released a subset of Secretary Clinton’s emails provided to us by Sidney Blumenthal- because former Secretary Clinton decided unilaterally to exclusively use private email to prevent these emails from being captured on State Department systems.” [Trey Gowdy letter to Rep. Cummings, [10/7/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy: “Nearly half of all the emails sent to and from Secretary Clinton regarding Benghazi and Libya prior to the Benghazi terrorist attacks involved Sidney Blumenthal.” [Trey Gowdy letter to Rep. Cummings, [10/7/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy: “The fact that former Secretary Clinton relied so heavily on an individual for the Libyan intervention, her quintessential foreign policy initiative, whom the White House explicitly prohibited from working at the State Department is mind boggling.” [Trey Gowdy letter to Rep. Cummings, [10/7/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy: “A deeper dive into the correspondence between former Secretary Clinton and Blumenthal, however, offers clues as to why she relied so heavily on him.” [Trey Gowdy letter to Rep. Cummings, [10/7/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy: “Blumenthal was not merely acting as a steward of information to Secretary Clinton but was acting as her de facto political advisor.” [Trey Gowdy letter to Rep. Cummings, [10/7/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy: “While Blumenthal, an old friend of Clinton’s, admittedly knew little about Libya and had not ever been to Libya, Clinton seemingly read every one of his emails on the topic that began appearing out of nowhere in February 2011.” [Trey Gowdy letter to Rep. Cummings, [10/7/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy: “Much of the information in Blumenthal’s emails came from Tyler Drumheller, a controversial former CIA operative, and Cody Shearer, another old Clinton friend.” [Trey Gowdy letter to Rep. Cummings, [10/7/15](#)]

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- Trey Gowdy: “Two, Blumenthal notes that the humanitarian rationale for intervening in Libya—something the Administration and Secretary Clinton noted heavily—does not contain much political benefit, and offers alternative ways to sell the American public on why the country is involved.” [Trey Gowdy letter to Rep. Cummings, [10/7/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy: “It is no wonder that he sought to downplay his relationship with Secretary Clinton in his testimony before the Committee.” [Trey Gowdy letter to Rep. Cummings, [10/7/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy: “Secretary Clinton takes this political advice to heart.” [Trey Gowdy letter to Rep. Cummings, [10/7/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy: “In addition to Sidney Blumenthal’s business interests, Secretary Clinton also apparently received classified information from Blumenthal.” [Trey Gowdy letter to Rep. Cummings, [10/7/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy: “Armed with that information, Secretary Clinton forwarded the email to a colleague—debunking her claim that she never sent any classified information from her private email address.” [Trey Gowdy letter to Rep. Cummings, [10/7/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy Press Release: Statement on the Release of Secretary Clinton’s Benghazi Emails, May 22, 2015. [Benghazi Committee Republicans press release, [5/22/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy Press Release: Select Committee Adds to Secretary Clinton’s Public Email Record, June 22, 2015. [Benghazi Committee Republicans press release, [6/22/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy Press Release: State Department Fails to Answer on New Clinton Emails, June 23, 2015. [Benghazi Committee Republicans press release, [6/23/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy Press Release: Gowdy Statement in Response to Clinton Comments on the Benghazi Committee, July 7, 2015. [Benghazi Committee Republicans press release, [7/7/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy Press Release: Select Committee Confirms Date for Appearance by Former Secretary of State Clinton, July 29, 2015. [Benghazi Committee Republicans press release, [7/29/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy Press Release: Gowdy Statement on Secretary Clinton’s Decision to Turn over Server to the Department of Justice, August 11, 2015. [Benghazi Committee Republicans press release, [8/11/15](#)]
- Trey Gowdy Press Release: Benghazi Committee Informs State Department of Intent to Add to Public Record with Release of New Clinton Emails, October 8, 2015. [Benghazi Committee Republicans press release, [10/8/15](#)]

GOWDY WAS “PATIENT” ON HILLARY CLINTON’S APPEARANCE

Trey Gowdy: “I’ve been pretty patient on when she came before the committee.” “In fact, I’ve been pretty patient on when she came before the committee. I still don’t have all her emails,’ he remarked to co-host Joe Scarborough.” [Politico, [10/7/15](#)]

REALITY: **Hillary Clinton, her representatives, and members of the Benghazi Committee repeatedly reminded Trey Gowdy that Clinton was ready and willing to appear before the committee as early as December 2014 and was eager for the hearing.**

- **January 27, Hillary Clinton to Benghazi Select Committee:** “Well, if you can’t have me in December I’ll come in January.” “Rep. Elijah Cummings, the top Democrat on the panel, told reporters Tuesday that Clinton had informed him she was willing to testify as early as December 2014 before the panel. Cummings said he reached out to Clinton during the early days of the panel’s investigation in September at the request for committee Chairman Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.). ‘She immediately said she would do that and she wanted to come in December and then she said, ‘Well, if you can’t have me in December I’ll come in January.’ She said ... ‘I’ll do it, period,’ Cummings said.” [Politico, [1/27/15](#)]
- **January 29, Rep. Cummings:** Hillary Clinton was willing to testify as early as December 2014. “I was very concerned to read several statements over the past 24 hours claiming that you and your officer were not aware that former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton agreed months ago to testify before the Select Committee as early as December, particularly since you personally requested that I obtain her agreement—on your behalf The fact of the matter is that you could have had Secretary Clinton’s public testimony last year, but it was your decision not to obtain it.” [Cummings Letter to Gowdy, [1/29/15](#)]
- **January 29, Rep. Cummings:** Chairman Gowdy has known of her offer to testify since October 2014. “As a courtesy, I contacted Secretary Clinton, and she responded without hesitation that she was willing and able to testify in a public hearing—as early as December 2014—to answer any remaining questions. I personally communicated all this information to you more than three months ago—in October 2014. In addition, on November 12, 2014, in a joint phone call with both Republican and Democratic staff, Secretary Clinton’s attorney again officially confirmed the Secretary’s willingness to testify in a public hearing before the Committee as early as December.” [Cummings Letter to Gowdy, [1/29/15](#)]
- **March 4, CNN’s John King:** Hillary Clinton has “given every indication she will cooperate with the committee and testify.” “JOHN KING: That committee was expected to hear from her at least once and she’s given every indication she will cooperate with the committee and testify. Chairman Gowdy now says maybe they need to talk to her twice.” [CNN’s New Day, [3/4/15](#)]

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- **March 6, Rep. Cummings:** Upon being contacted, Hillary Clinton “agreed without hesitation, and she offered to testify as early as December 2014.” “As a courtesy, the Ranking Member contacted Secretary Clinton, and she responded that she was willing to testify at a public hearing to answer the Select Committee’s questions. She agreed without hesitation, and she offered to testify as early as December 2014. The Ranking Member personally communicated all of this information to you in October 2014.” [Cummings letter, [3/6/15](#)]
- **March 6, Rep. Cummings:** In November 2014, “Secretary Clinton’s attorney again confirmed her cooperation and willingness to testify in a public hearing before the Committee as early as December.” “On November 12, 2014, in a joint phone call with both Republican and Democratic staff, Secretary Clinton’s attorney again confirmed her cooperation and willingness to testify in a public hearing before the Committee as early as December.” [Cummings letter to Gowdy, [3/6/15](#)]
- **March 27, Rep. Cummings:** “It is time for the Committee to stop this political charade and instead make these documents public and schedule Secretary Clinton’s public testimony now.” “This confirms what we all knew—that Secretary Clinton already produced her official records to the State Department, that she did not keep her personal emails, and that the Select Committee has already obtained her emails relating to the attacks in Benghazi. It is time for the Committee to stop this political charade and instead make these documents public and schedule Secretary Clinton’s public testimony now.” [Benghazi Democrats Press Release, [3/27/15](#)]
- **March 31, Rep. Cummings:** “Secretary Clinton agreed to testify months ago—in public and under oath—so the Select Committee’s claim that it has no choice but to subject her to a private staff interview is inaccurate.” “Secretary Clinton agreed to testify months ago—in public and under oath—so the Select Committee’s claim that it has no choice but to subject her to a private staff interview is inaccurate,” Cummings said in a statement. “Rather than drag out this political charade into 2016 and selectively leak portions of a closed-door interview, the Committee should schedule the public hearing, make her records public, and re-focus its efforts on the attacks in Benghazi.” [National Journal, [3/31/15](#)]
- **April 10, Rep. Linda Sanchez:** “You knew from day one that she would appear before the committee.” “You knew from day one that she would appear before the committee [so it’s] interesting that they need to hear from her now that it’s the start of the 2016 election season,” said Rep. Linda Sanchez (D-Calif.). “I knew that the select committee was not going to be about the facts and the evidence. My sneaking suspicions was that it was going to be an excuse to go after Secretary Clinton.” [Politico, [4/10/15](#)]
- **April 16, Rep. Cummings:** “The Committee has had Secretary Clinton’s Benghazi-related emails for weeks, and she has been ready to testify in public for more than six months.” “Rep. Elijah Cummings, the top Democrat on the panel, accused Gowdy of refusing ‘to schedule her hearing and continue to squander millions of taxpayer dollars drawing out these proceedings as long as possible.’ ‘Unfortunately, it appears that the Select Committee on Benghazi has now become a taxpayer-funded effort to damage Hillary Clinton’s campaign for president,’ Cummings said. ‘The Committee has had Secretary Clinton’s Benghazi-related emails for weeks, and she has been ready to testify in public for more than six months.’” [Politico, [4/16/15](#)]

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- **April 22, Hillary Clinton’s attorney reiterated** Secretary Clinton’s willingness to testify in a public hearing before the Select Committee without delay. “In November, I informed your staff of Secretary Clinton’s willingness to testify publicly before the Select Committee on Benghazi. In the succeeding months, she has reiterated her willingness, and I do so again on her behalf. There is no reason to delay her appearance or to have her testify in a private interview.” [Clinton Attorney Letter to Chairman Gowdy, [4/22/15](#)]
- **April 22, Clinton attorney:** Hillary Clinton “has made clear she will voluntarily testify again before the Select Committee.” “While Secretary Clinton has testified before Committees in both the House and the Senate about the tragic events in Benghazi, she has made clear that she will voluntarily testify again before the Select Committee, and at that time, is happy to continue to answer any questions the Select Committee may have about her email use.” [Clinton Attorney Letter to Chairman Gowdy, [4/22/15](#)]
- **April 22, Rep. Cummings:** “In October 2014, Secretary Clinton agreed to testify at a public hearing before the Select Committee as early as December 2014.” “In October 2014, Secretary Clinton agreed to testify at a public hearing before the Select Committee as early as December 2014.” [Benghazi Democrats Press Release, [4/22/15](#)]
- **April 22, Rep. Cummings:** “Secretary Clinton agreed to testify months ago—in public and under oath—so the Select Committee’s claim that it has no choice but to subject her to a private staff interview is inaccurate.” “Ranking Member Elijah Cummings stated: ‘Secretary Clinton agreed to testify months ago—in public and under oath—so the Select Committee’s claim that it has no choice but to subject her to a private staff interview is inaccurate. Rather than drag out this political charade into 2016 and selectively leak portions of a closed-door interview, the Committee should schedule the public hearing, make her records public, and re-focus its efforts on the attacks in Benghazi.’” [Benghazi Democrats Press Release, [4/22/15](#)]
- **April 23, Rep. Cummings:** “In October 2014, Secretary Clinton agreed to testify at a public hearing before the Select Committee as early as December 2014.” “In October 2014, Secretary Clinton agreed to testify at a public hearing before the Select Committee as early as December 2014.” [“Documents Show Benghazi Select Committee’s Role in Glacial Pace,” Benghazi Democrats Press Release, [4/23/15](#)]
- **April 27, The Atlantic:** Hillary Clinton “practically begged the Republican chairman of the House Select Committee on Benghazi, Representative Trey Gowdy of South Carolina, to allow her to testify in public.” “The former secretary of state, having just officially launched her second campaign for the presidency, practically begged the Republican chairman of the House Select Committee on Benghazi, Representative Trey Gowdy of South Carolina, to allow her to testify in public. Gowdy wants to question her about the 2012 terrorist attack and her much-criticized decision to use a personal email server during her tenure at the State Department and then to wipe it clean after leaving office. Yet in an equally puzzling move, Gowdy initially said no: He demanded that Clinton first come in for a private interview about the emails, an arrangement that he said would, among other things, ‘best protect the secretary’s privacy.’” [Atlantic, [4/27/15](#)]

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- May 4, Clinton attorney:** “Secretary Clinton has and remains willing to testify in public before the Select Committee on Benghazi.” “As I have shared with you and your staff on several occasions since November 2014, Secretary Clinton has been and remains willing to testify in public before the Select Committee on Benghazi about the tragic events of September 2012. At that time, she will, of course, address any other questions the Committee believes to be pertinent to its charge, including the questions posed in your April 23 letter about her e-mail. Your April 23 letter contemplates that Secretary Clinton would appear on two separate occasions for testimony, once in May, and once on a yet-to-be determined date ‘within 30 days of receiving assurance [that] all documents needed to have a constructive conversation with the Secretary are in the Committee’s possession.’ Respectfully, there is no basis, logic, or precedent for such an unusual request. The secretary is fully prepared to stay for the duration of the Committee’s questions on the day she appears.” [Clinton attorney letter to Chairman Gowdy, [5/4/15](#)]
- May 4, Rep. Cummings:** “Secretary Clinton is ready and willing to testify before the Select Committee, and Chairman Gowdy should take yes for an answer and finally schedule the hearing.” “Secretary Clinton is ready and willing to testify before the Select Committee, and Chairman Gowdy should take yes for an answer and finally schedule the hearing. Dragging out this process further into the presidential election season sacrifices any chance that the American people will see it as serious or legitimate. After nearly a year, we have still found not a scrap of evidence to support claims Secretary Clinton ordered a stand-down, approved an illicit weapons program, or any of the other wild allegations that Republicans have been making about her for years.” [“Cummings Statement on Clinton Letter,” Benghazi Democrats Press Release, [5/4/15](#)]
- May 4, Rep. Cummings:** “Secretary Clinton has been ready and willing to testify before the Committee since last year.” “Although he attributes this to delays by the Department of Defense, the State Department, and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, documents show the Select Committee’s role in operating at a glacial pace. Secretary Clinton has been ready and willing to testify before the Committee since last year. The Chairman claims to have obtained new information in addition to what was available to previous committees, but this new information is consistent with—and in fact confirms—the conclusions of the Accountability Review Board.” [“Cummings Statement on Clinton Letter,” Benghazi Democrats Press Release, [5/4/15](#)]
- July 25, New York Times:** Hillary Clinton’s attorney confirmed that she was willing to testify the week of May 18, but Gowdy never scheduled the hearing. “Mr. Kendall told the committee on May 4 that Mrs. Clinton was willing to testify the week of May 18. But the committee chairman, Representative Trey Gowdy, Republican of South Carolina, never scheduled the hearing. He said he would not call her to testify until the State Department had turned over all the documents he had requested.” [New York Times, [7/25/15](#)]
- July 31, PolitiFact:** “Committee Democrats said that Clinton had made clear as early as December 2014 that she was willing to testify before Gowdy’s panel.” “Committee Democrats said that Clinton had made clear as early as December 2014 that she was willing to testify before Gowdy’s panel.” [PolitiFact, [7/31/15](#)]

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- **September 4, Hillary Clinton:** “I’ve offered for nearly a year, finally the committee will give me a chance to testify in public toward the end of October.” “I have been as transparent as I could, asking that all 55,000 pages be released to the public, turning over my server, looking for opportunities to testify before congress. I’ve offered for nearly a year finally the committee will give me a chance to testify in public toward the end of October. And I’m going to answer these questions.’ [MSNBC Interview with Andrea Mitchell, [9/4/15](#)]
 - **September 17, Hillary Clinton:** “I’ve also, for more than a year now, been asking to testify.” “I’ve also, for more than a year now, been asking to testify before the Congressional committee that is investigating the situation in Benghazi.” [CNN Interview with Wolf Blitzer, [9/17/15](#)]
 - **September 27, Hillary Clinton:** “[I will] testify on October 22nd, which I’ve been asking to do before the Congress... look, I think I have done all that I can to, you know, take responsibility, to be as transparent as possible in turning over 55,000 pages, in turning over my server, and to, you know, testify on October 22nd, which I’ve been asking to do before the Congress.” [NBC’s Meet the Press, [9/27/15](#)]
 - **October 13, Hillary Clinton:** “I’ve been asking to testify for some time and to do it in public.” “I have been as transparent as I know to be, turning over 55,000 pages of my e-mails, asking that they be made public. And you’re right. I am going to be testifying. I’ve been asking to testify for some time and to do it in public, which was not originally agreed to.” [CNN Democratic Primary Debate, [10/13/15](#)]

THE GOP'S SHAMEFUL EMAIL RECORD

NO TRANSPARENCY, NO ACCOUNTABILITY,
LOTS OF HYPOCRISY

While Hillary Clinton continues to display unprecedented levels of transparency in making her personal emails available to the public, several Republican presidential hopefuls—namely, Jeb Bush, Chris Christie, Marco Rubio, Mike Huckabee and Bobby Jindal—have failed to show a similar interest in transparency with their own record of work-related email. Nearly all of these candidates used private email accounts as public officials and some have failed to release work-related emails, while others took steps to delete communications that should have been part of the public record.

The GOP's repeated attacks against Hillary Clinton are deceitful, dishonest and duplicitous.

JEB BUSH FAILED TO RELEASE E-MAILS RELATED TO OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Jeb Bush's e-mail release did not include correspondence in which he personally weighed in on a trade dispute between Bacardi and Cuba. "But a 2002 trade battle between Bacardi and Cuba over the rights to the 'Havana Club' label shows Bush's transparency has its limits and shows some details are missing from the Bush email repository. A string of emails from Bush personally weighing in on the Bacardi fight when he was governor of Florida were not among any of the releases. Their existence is only known because a Florida investigative reporter obtained them years ago." [CNN, [10/01/15](#)]

CNN: Jeb Bush's e-mail release was "missing some incisive emails" related to the Bacardi dispute. "But even all those gigabytes are still missing some incisive emails -- like an April 2002 directive from Bush to his then-chief of staff with a clear message about the rum lobbying fight: 'this is ridiculous. let us discuss.'" [CNN, [10/01/15](#)]

CNN: "Some of the most relevant" e-mails about the Bacardi dispute were missing from Jeb Bush's "much-trumpeted data dump." "More than a dozen relevant emails about the battle were found in the state of Florida public records response, and a smaller number were found in Bush's own release last December. But some of the most relevant ones -- tying Bush to calls for direct action for Bacardi -- were missing from his much-trumpeted data dump." [CNN, [10/01/15](#)]

Jeb Bush's e-mail dump excluded correspondence with a top George W. Bush appointee at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. "Bush emails obtained from the state in the following months show his top Tallahassee and Washington staff working consistently on the issue, including a renewed push in April 2002 and again, a few months later, when Bush sent a letter to James Rogan, then-director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Rogan, a former California congressman who helped lead the Clinton impeachment proceedings, was appointed to the position by Bush's brother, President George W. Bush. The letter was not included in the emails released by Bush, but Christensen posted a copy he obtained." [CNN, [10/01/15](#)]

Jeb Bush's e-mails around the Bacardi dispute were absent from both his e-mail release and a Florida Department of State response to an open record request. "Among the emails not made public by Bush, but documented by Florida investigative reporter Dan Christensen earlier this year, is the reply from Bush's then-chief of staff Kathleen Shanahan that their early efforts for Bacardi had not worked and 'we may need to move up the food chain.' The Bacardi emails were not in copies of Bush's emails provided to CNN by the Florida Department of State in response to an open records request. They also were not found on Bush's email website -- which includes a smaller set of the batch released by the state." [CNN, [10/01/15](#)]

Jeb Bush's campaign refused to say what happened to the missing e-mails about the Bacardi trade dispute. "The New York Times pointed out that Bush may have broken state public records retention laws earlier this year, after he waited seven years to provide the state with 25,000 emails from his time as governor. And a group run by veteran Democratic operative Brad Woodhouse filed a complaint last month, saying that Bush

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should face the misdemeanor charge of withholding records -- punishable by up to a year in prison or \$1,000. But it's unclear if Bush broke any laws by not releasing every email from his time in office. Kristy Campbell, a Bush campaign spokeswoman, did not say what happened to the missing emails, instead she touted Bush's 'unprecedented commitment to transparency.'" [CNN, [10/01/15](#)]

JEB BUSH OWNED A PRIVATE EMAIL SERVER AND HAND SELECTED EMAILS TO DISCLOSE

Jeb Bush owned and operated a private e-mail server. "Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush owns the server that runs jeb@jeb.org, the personal email account he used as governor to conduct official, political and personal business. [...] The server was housed in a state-owned office building during the years that Bush served as governor, from 1999 until early 2007." [MSNBC, [3/4/15](#)]

Jeb Bush conducted all his communication on his private jeb@jeb.org account and hand selected which emails to turn over to the state archive. "The former governor conducted all his communication on his private Jeb@jeb.org account and turned over the hand-selected batch to the state archives when he left office. Absent from the stash are emails the governor deemed not relevant to the public record: those relating to politics, fundraising and personal matters while he was governor. Compared to Scott, however, who rarely communicates by email, the contrast is stark." [Tampa Bay Times, [1/3/15](#)]

Jeb Bush released his private emails from the state archive, but the files were "not complete." "The files released from the state archive resulted in a stream of positive national press for the former governor — 'Jeb Bush's emails depict a hands-on governor,' the Washington Post proclaimed. 'Jeb answered immigrant pleas,' the Hill wrote. Polls now show that if Bush announces, he will be considered the front-runner. The Bush files, though enormous, are not complete, however." [Tampa Bay Times, [1/3/15](#)]

As governor, Jeb Bush had three email accounts, including jeb@jeb.org. "In three follow-up e-mails (which Bush also answers promptly), the governor reveals: He has three e-mail accounts, receives 200 to 300 a day on Jeb@Jeb.org and reads most of them. He guesses that 25 percent of the e-mails come from colleagues, 50 percent from constituents, 10 percent from family and friends and 15 percent from junk mail and list mail. The risk, he says, is in relying too much on e-mail, at the expense of face-to-face nuance. 'There is always [the] threat of invading family time!' he writes." [The Washington Post, [2/23/03](#)]

Bush continued to use the private jeb@jeb.org email after leaving office. [Email from Jeb Bush To Matt Casner, [7/5/08](#)]

Bush estimated 25 percent of email traffic came from colleagues. "In three follow-up e-mails (which Bush also answers promptly), the governor reveals: He has three e-mail accounts, receives 200 to 300 a day on Jeb@Jeb.org and reads most of them. He guesses that 25 percent of the e-mails come from colleagues, 50 percent from constituents, 10 percent from family and friends and 15 percent from junk mail and list mail. The risk, he says, is in relying too much on e-mail, at the expense of face-to-face nuance. 'There is always [the] threat of invading family time!' he writes." [The Washington Post, [2/23/03](#)]

Jeb Bush used a second and previously unreported jeb@gencom.net account. “As Florida governor, Jeb Bush used another, previously unreported email address, records show - the newest wrinkle in an evolving debate over public officials’ use of private email accounts. When Bush released thousands of emails from his tenure as Florida’s governor as part of his preparations to run for president next year, he did so from the email account he shared openly, jeb@jeb.org. Those emails also include references to another email address, jeb@gencom.net. Bush said through a spokeswoman that he was unaware of the account, although records showed that people wrote to him there more than 400 times between 1999 and 2004.” [Associated Press, [3/24/15](#)]

Jeb Bush only publicly released emails associated with his jeb@jeb.org account. “When Bush released thousands of emails from his tenure as Florida’s governor as part of his preparations to run for president next year, he did so from the email account he shared openly, jeb@jeb.org.” [Associated Press, [3/24/15](#)]

Bush claimed to have no knowledge of the second account although he received more than 400 emails there between 1999 and 2004. “Bush said through a spokeswoman that he was unaware of the account, although records showed that people wrote to him there more than 400 times between 1999 and 2004. The same records show no replies from Bush coming from that address. Instead, when Bush responded, he did so from his more well-known email address. Writers sometimes also reached the governor at jeb@jebbush.org or jeb@myflorida.com. Bush’s spokeswoman, Kristy Campbell, said Bush had no knowledge of the other email account. ‘He doesn’t know what that email address is,’ she told The Associated Press Tuesday.” [Associated Press, [3/24/15](#)]

Writers were also able to reach Jeb Bush at jeb@jebbush.org and jeb@myflorida.com. “Those emails also include references to another email address, jeb@gencom.net. Bush said through a spokeswoman that he was unaware of the account, although records showed that people wrote to him there more than 400 times between 1999 and 2004. The same records show no replies from Bush coming from that address. Instead, when Bush responded, he did so from his more well-known email address. Writers sometimes also reached the governor at jeb@jebbush.org or jeb@myflorida.com.” [Associated Press, [3/24/15](#)]

Reports: Jeb Bush may have broken Florida’s public records retention laws by failing to turn over his e-mails for more than seven years. “The New York Times pointed out that Bush may have broken state public records retention laws earlier this year, after he waited seven years to provide the state with 25,000 emails from his time as governor.” [CNN, [10/01/15](#)]

Jeb Bush only turned over emails seven and a half years after his tenure as governor ended despite a Florida statute requiring officials to turn over records “at the expiration of his or her term of office.” “It took Mr. Bush seven years after leaving office to comply fully with a Florida public records statute requiring him to turn over emails he sent and received as governor, according to records released Friday. Mr. Bush delivered the latest batch of 25,000 emails in May 2014, seven and a half years after leaving the Statehouse and just as he started to contemplate a potential run for the White House, according to a newly disclosed letter written by his lawyer. A Florida statute governing the preservation of public records requires elected officials, including the governor, to turn over records pertaining to official business ‘at the expiration of his or her term of office.’” [New York Times, [3/14/15](#)]

JEB BUSH RECEIVED 550,000 PERSONAL EMAILS

Jeb Bush said, “I received 550,000 personal e-mails when I was governor.” “This BlackBerry was in the portrait done when I left office. It was a symbol of how I worked. I received 550,000 personal e-mails when I was governor.” [Esquire, [12/22/08](#)]

Jeb Bush said he received 550,000 e-mails on his private account during his eight years as governor. “Jeb Bush learned plenty during his eight years as Florida governor, he told a crowd at a United Christian Giving fundraiser in Fort Myers on Thursday. The president’s little brother and former president’s son took few partisan shots, mostly entertaining the crowd with stories from ‘Mount Tallahassee.’ [...] Bush said he got 550,000 e-mails on his private account and another 2.5 million on his public account during his eight years as governor. That helped him stay in touch with the people of the state even though the capital is far removed geographically from most of the population.” [Naples Daily News, [7/12/07](#)]

Jeb Bush said he received 2.5 million e-mails on his public account during his eight years as governor. “Jeb Bush learned plenty during his eight years as Florida governor, he told a crowd at a United Christian Giving fundraiser in Fort Myers on Thursday. The president’s little brother and former president’s son took few partisan shots, mostly entertaining the crowd with stories from ‘Mount Tallahassee.’ [...] Bush said he got 550,000 e-mails on his private account and another 2.5 million on his public account during his eight years as governor. That helped him stay in touch with the people of the state even though the capital is far removed geographically from most of the population.” [Naples Daily News, [7/12/07](#)]

JEB BUSH SAID HE WOULD RELEASE 250,000 EMAILS

Jeb Bush said he would launch a website to make available about 250,000 e-mails from his time as governor. “Jeb Bush said he would launch a website on Tuesday on which he will make available about 250,000 emails from his time as governor of Florida, as well as the first chapter of an e-book about his administration. The emails, which were obtained by a number of news media organizations through a public records request in December, show Mr. Bush’s style in communicating with both his staff and his constituents.” [New York Times, [2/9/15](#)]

Jeb Bush said he would release 250,000 emails from his two terms in office. “Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush said on Sunday he will release 250,000 emails from his two terms in office and write an eBook outlining his governing philosophy. The moves have set the political sphere atwitter with speculation he’s closer than ever to deciding to run for president in 2016. In what appears to be a move of classic political procedure -- getting ahead of the opposition -- Bush told WPLG-TV that his intention is to promote transparency.” [CNN, [12/31/14](#)]

PolitiFact: Jeb Bush self-edited which emails were posted on his website. “Bush in 2007 said that he had received 550,000 emails through the Jeb@jeb.org address -- plus another 2.5 million through his public email address -- so obviously plenty were not included in the batch of about 250,000 that the Bush team posted in February. [...] American Bridge said ‘Bush, not the State of Florida, decided which private emails to disclose.’ Bush did self-edit which emails were posted on a website he established in February, but the PAC doesn’t

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note one important point: State law allows him to do that. The statement is accurate but needs clarification or additional information. We rate it Mostly True.” [PolitiFact, [3/13/15](#)]

JEB BUSH RELEASED EMAILS THAT EXPOSED SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS

Emails released by Jeb Bush included names, emails, and Social Security number of many Florida residents “leaving them vulnerable to identity thieves.” “A trove of 250,000 emails released by prospective 2016 presidential candidate Jeb Bush includes the sensitive personal information of several Florida residents, leaving them vulnerable to identity thieves. A scan of the email dump by technology blogs The Verge and Gizmodo revealed names, emails and in some cases, Social Security numbers of Bush’s correspondents. Many appear to be normal Florida residents unaware their messages to the then-governor would eventually become public.” [The Hill, [2/10/15](#)]

Nearly 13,000 Social Security numbers were compromised in Jeb Bush’s email dump. “Todd Feinman, CEO of data protection firm Identity Finder, ran an analysis of the data and determined that nearly 13,000 unique Social Security numbers were released. His software, which uses natural language processing to identify sensitive information through contextual clues, found that about 12,500 of those were contained in a spreadsheet embedded in a PowerPoint slide attached to an email dated October 2003.” [Fortune, [2/13/15](#)]

Jeb Bush’s email release was an “indiscriminate data dump being made for political reasons” and showed “a serious ignorance of the volume of sensitive information in the records and carelessness about their disclosure.” “Many posts were critical of Bush, who is expected to be a major contender for the Republican presidential nomination in 2016. ‘Even if most of these emails are subject to Sunshine Law disclosure, a public request for specific information is not the same as a huge, indiscriminate data dump being made for political reasons,’ wrote T.C. Sottek with The Verge, which first reported the presence of Social Security numbers in the trove. ‘At minimum, it shows a serious ignorance of the volume of sensitive information in the records and a carelessness about their disclosure — not a good look for someone who may want to sit in the White House,’ Sottek wrote.” [The Hill, [2/10/15](#)]

JEB BUSH’S SERVER HOUSED SENSITIVE SECURITY INFORMATION

Jeb Bush discussed “security and military issues such as troop deployments to the Middle East and the protection of nuclear plants” using email housed on his private server. “Jeb Bush used his private e-mail account as Florida governor to discuss security and military issues such as troop deployments to the Middle East and the protection of nuclear plants, according to a review of publicly released records. The e-mails include two series of exchanges involving details of Florida National Guard troop deployments after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, the review by The Washington Post found. Aides to Bush said Saturday that none of the e-mails contained sensitive or classified information, and that many of the events mentioned in them were documented in press accounts, either contemporaneously or later. But security experts say private e-mail systems such as the one used by Bush are more vulnerable to hackers, and that details such as troop movements could be exploited by enemies.” [Washington Post, [3/14/15](#)]

Jeb Bush housed emails containing “sensitive security issues” on his private server. “An unknown number of the e-mails housed on Bush’s server were redacted or withheld from public release because they contained sensitive security issues, Bush representatives have said. Communications director Tim Miller said general policy was for Bush to discuss sensitive National Guard issues in person with only occasional briefings by e-mail that ‘wouldn’t contain information that should not be in the public domain.” [Washington Post, [3/14/15](#)]

Jeb Bush, within two months of 9/11, “ordered the National Guard to pull its troops from protecting nuclear power plants in Florida, simply because the private corporations that operated the plants didn’t want the protection.” “In November 2001, Bush and an aide to then-Lt. Gov. Frank Brogan exchanged messages about the deployment of National Guard troops to a nuclear power plant in Crystal River, Fla. The aide wrote Bush that a state lawmaker had called to say she thought ‘it is imperative that the Crystal River nuclear facility have National Guard security.’ Bush wrote back: ‘Florida power does not want it. We are reducing or getting rid of guard protection in the other plants.’ That last line, to me, is the real bombshell — that within two months of 9/11, Bush ordered the National Guard to pull its troops from protecting nuclear power plants in Florida, simply because the private corporations that operated the plants didn’t want the protection. I wonder if the people who lived near the plants wanted the protection.” [Salon, [8/14/15](#)]

CHRIS CHRISTIE

CHRIS CHRISTIE USED PRIVATE E-MAIL ACCOUNTS

Chris Christie used two private e-mail accounts as governor and asserted executive privilege to block the release of any messages from either account. “When I’m president of the United States, you’ll have a right to know what your president is doing, and we have the obligation to be held accountable for what we’re doing,’ [Chris Christie] declared. Yet, back in New Jersey, the Republican governor’s administration is asserting executive privilege to block the release of any emails he may have sent to state officials from two private email accounts.” [International Business Times, [10/4/15](#)]

The existence of both of Chris Christie’s private email accounts was confirmed by New Jersey state agencies. “In August and September, International Business Times filed open records requests for emails between state agencies and both a Yahoo address (christopherchristie1@yahoo.com) and an AOL account (hen84@aol.com) -- the latter of which was listed as Christie’s address on a website for alumni of the New Jersey U.S. Attorney’s office. The agencies indicated they knew both email addresses belonged to the governor, and blocked the release of any emails from the addresses by citing executive privilege.” [International Business Times, [10/4/15](#)]

Chris Christie used his private Yahoo e-mail account to conduct government business related to the Bridgegate scandal. “Gov. Chris Christie has criticized Hillary Clinton in recent days over her use of private email to do State Department business. But the only email he provided to the Legislature last year came from his private Yahoo account. Christie turned over just one set of emails to the New Jersey Legislature in response to its subpoenas about Bridgegate. That email conversation contained edits that Christie made to a statement announcing the resignation of Port Authority official David Wildstein, who has since pleaded guilty for his role in the lane closures.” [WNYC, [8/27/15](#)]

An e-mail sent to Chris Christie’s AOL address produced a read receipt, suggesting the account was still active. “An email sent by IBT to the Yahoo address requesting comment from Gov. Christie returned an error message. A similar email sent to the AOL address appeared to go through and produced receipts showing it had been read. No response was received. A spokesperson for Christie’s office did not respond to questions from IBT.” [International Business Times, [10/4/15](#)]

Chris Christie admitted that he maintained a private email account and said that no law required state business be conducted on government email. “Christie has said he maintains a private email account and that no law requires state business be conducted on government email, emphasizing that Clinton handled sensitive information and deleted some of hers. A spokesman for Christie’s office, Kevin Roberts, acknowledged there is no published policy requiring employees exchange official email on state accounts. He noted that confidential guidance to employees on email use is clear and thorough relating to generally using state-issued email accounts.” [The Hill, [8/28/15](#)]

CHRISTIE STAFF USED PERSONAL EMAIL AND CELL PHONES TO COMMUNICATE ABOUT STATE BUSINESS

Chris Christie administration emails and texts released during Bridgegate investigation “revealed...that state officials use personal e-mail accounts and cell phones to communicate.” “The thousands of e-mails and texts released as part of the investigation into the September lane closures on the bridge revealed what many open public records advocates have long suspected: that state officials use personal e-mail accounts and cell phones to communicate.” [Star-Ledger, [1/13/14](#)]

The New Jersey ACLU called on Chris Christie to require all state employees to use state email for business. “The American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey today called on Gov. Chris Christie and the state attorney general to require all public employees to use government e-mail accounts and cell phones to conduct official business, in response to the unfolding George Washington Bridge lane-closure scandal. The group said in a letter that the release of thousands of pages of e-mails and text message Friday related to the scandal showed government employees are attempting to circumvent the state Open Public Records Act by using personal accounts to discuss official matters.” [Star-Ledger, [1/13/14](#)]

The New Jersey ACLU believed that Christie administration officials “could be attempting to circumvent the state Open Public Records Act by using personal accounts to discuss business.” “In a letter to Gov. Chris Christie, the state attorney general and several state lawmakers, the ACLU said the communications showed employees could be attempting to circumvent the state Open Public Records Act by using personal accounts to discuss business.” [Star-Ledger, [1/13/14](#)]

Chris Christie’s administration spent \$441,000 in legal fees fighting open records requests, including requests related to withheld Bridgegate e-mails. “When a judge determines that the state withheld records illegally—which happens frequently—her group wins legal fees. As of September 2014, Christie’s administration had paid \$441,000 to North Jersey Media Group and other media outlets for records. [...] In January 2014, a judge ordered the release of top Christie staffers’ communications about the George Washington Bridge lane closures. Reporters for the Record had previously requested some of those same communications in 2013, and the state released some records in response. But reading the new documents, they realized that Christie’s office had failed to turn over critical documents that were covered by their

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request. The outlet sued and won access to a limited number of additional emails, says Borg, the North Jersey Media Group lawyer. ‘It’s still the most egregious of these cases,’ she says.” [Mother Jones, [2/4/15](#)]

REGINA EGEE DELETED BRIDGEGATE TEXT MESSAGES BETWEEN HER AND CHRISTIE

A legislative report showed that there were 12 text messages exchanged between Chris Christie and Regina Egea on day the Port Authority started to question the Christie administration’s explanation for lane closures.

“Contradicting sworn testimony and New Jersey Governor Chris Christie’s repeated accounts that he barely paid attention last fall to the burgeoning scandal surrounding politically-motivated lane closures on the George Washington Bridge, a new report shows there were 12 text messages exchanged between the Governor and a top aide during an explosive day of testimony a year ago. That was the day that top officials of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey began to dismantle key elements of the Christie administration’s official explanation of events -- that the lane closures were a traffic study gone awry. AT&T did not release the content of the texts, and it’s not unusual that the Governor and the aide would have been exchanging messages that day with the aide, Regina Egea, his incoming chief of staff and head of his authorities unit, who was monitoring the testimony. But their previous denials raises the question of what other communications were deleted as the scandal unfolded.” [WNYC, [12/5/14](#)]

Egea said a deleted text was “not at all substantive” and that she did not know when she deleted the text. “In Egea’s own testimony last summer, the new report notes, she referred to a single text she sent that day as ‘not at all substantive.’ She said she ‘couldn’t recall’ a response from the governor. Egea acknowledged deleting the text, though she couldn’t say when.” [WNYC, [12/5/14](#)]

Christie told friends that he texts instead of emails because text messages are harder to trace. “The governor has told allies that he had learned when he was the United States attorney for New Jersey to communicate by text rather than email, because text messages are harder to trace. (Email can remain on servers even after being deleted; cellphone carriers vary in how long they preserve deleted texts.)” [New York Times, [8/27/14](#)]

Regina Egea testified that she deleted text messages between her and Christie about the lane closings. “Gov. Chris Christie’s designated future chief of staff, Regina Egea, testified that she texted the governor about the lane closings in December, after testimony in a hearing that day disputed his administration’s assertion that the closings were part of a traffic study. But she said she deleted the texts.” [New York Times, [7/17/14](#)]

Star-Ledger editorial board: Chris Christie “knowingly deleted 12 text messages he exchanged with a senior aide who was monitoring the Bridgegate hearings.” “For Christie to lead the charge on this takes remarkable chutzpah. He knowingly deleted 12 text messages he exchanged with a senior aide who was monitoring the Bridgegate hearings in December 2013, as Port Authority witnesses demolished the phony claim that the infamous lane closures were part of a traffic study. What was in those texts, governor? And why did you erase them?” [Star-Ledger editorial, [9/2/15](#)]

Star-Ledger editorial board: Chris Christie “never answered the question” when asked about his deleted Bridgegate text messages. “What was in those texts, governor? And why did you erase them? Wallace, to his credit, asked Christie about that on Sunday. The governor pivoted back to Hillary, and never answered the question.” [Star-Ledger editorial, [9/2/15](#)]

Marco Rubio used his personal e-mail account to conduct official business. “When the Orlando Sentinel filed a public-records request for the emails from the private account about the legislative session, Mr. Rubio’s spokeswoman said they had been deleted. The newspaper reported that emails from Mr. Rubio’s personal account had been included in responses to at least two other records requests, suggesting he used his personal account for government-related business on multiple occasions.” [Wall Street Journal, [3/12/15](#)]

Florida law allowed Marco Rubio and his staff to decide which material was significant enough to preserve from his private and government accounts. “The law appears to have left it to Mr. Rubio and his staff to decide which material was significant enough to preserve from his private and government accounts, said Ms. Petersen of the watchdog group.” [Wall Street Journal, [3/12/15](#)]

Marco Rubio conceded that he did official work on his private account and deleted personal e-mails. “In Rubio’s case, the senator concedes he did official work on his private account, but he insists the deleted private emails had nothing to do with his official duties.” [MSNBC, [3/31/15](#)]

Work-related e-mails from Marco Rubio’s private account e-mails were to be treated as public records. “Barbara Petersen, a public records expert [said] that e mails relating to public business are public records, regardless of whether they were sent from a personal e mail account.” [St. Petersburg Times, [4/24/08](#)]

Marco Rubio used a personal email account to “vent” about Republicans to reporters. “As Marco Rubio’s time as House speaker dwindles, he finds himself double teamed by the Senate and Gov. Charlie Crist. Over the weekend, he decided to vent. After the House devolved into partisan chaos over a decision by Rubio’s team to block Democratic debate on an education bill, Rubio dashed off a series of e mails to St. Petersburg Times reporters on his personal e mail account. He freely offered opinions, laying out each chamber’s top priorities, deriding the governor’s last minute plan to cut gas taxes and criticizing a tax commission’s hesitance to cap government tax revenues.” [St. Petersburg Times, [4/23/08](#)]

Marco Rubio claimed to have deleted the e-mail exchanges after Florida media requested copies. “Public or private? After House Speaker Marco Rubio’s remarks appeared Wednesday on the St. Petersburg Times’ Web site, tampabay.com, the Orlando Sentinel requested copies of Rubio’s e mails. House spokeswoman Jill Chamberlin said Rubio had deleted them from his personal account.” [St. Petersburg Times, [4/24/08](#)]

St. Petersburg Times: “The Times has encountered a similar response several times over the past year.” “The Times has encountered a similar response several times over the past year when asking for e mails from Rubio’s personal account.” [St. Petersburg Times, [4/24/08](#)]

MIKE HUCKABEE

Mike Huckabee “destroyed government-owned hard drives as he left office,” and was accused of violating state law. “A lawsuit was filed Thursday against former Gov. Mike Huckabee that accuses the Republican presidential hopeful of breaking state law when his administration destroyed government-owned hard drives as he left office in January. Jim Parsons of Bella Vista filed the lawsuit in Pulaski County Circuit Court accusing Huckabee of violating the state’s Freedom of Information Act and a state law prohibiting damaging a computer without authorization.” [Associated Press, [7/27/07](#)]

A lawsuit against Mike Huckabee asked the court to “send a message that destroying public records is not the standard operating procedure.” “The state’s Ethics Commission has previously dismissed two complaints that Parsons, a self-described ‘gadfly,’ has filed against Huckabee over the hard drives’ destruction. The lawsuit, described in the filing as a ‘citizen complaint,’ asks the court to ‘send a message that destroying public records is not the standard operating procedure’ of elected officials when they leave office.” [Associated Press, [7/27/07](#)]

BOBBY JINDAL

Bobby Jindal used a private e-mail account to conduct government business. “The Republican governor, who campaigned on a platform of providing more transparency in government, uses a private email account to communicate with immediate staff.” [Associated Press, [3/7/15](#)]

Bobby Jindal used executive exemptions to refuse to disclose any work-related emails from his two terms in office. “Gov. Bobby Jindal will not release any work-related emails that he has sent during his two terms in office. [...] Thomas Enright, Jindal’s chief lawyer, wrote in response to The Advocate’s request that no records exist outside of exemptions outlined in the state public records law. ‘Aside from the obvious reason for excluding security information, these content-based exemptions support the environment of open discussion and full analysis necessary for staff to make recommendations to assist the governor in the usual course of the duties and business of his office,’ Enright wrote in the denial, noting that Jindal only officially emails with internal staff. Jindal’s office did not respond to a request for further comment from the governor.” [The Advocate, [6/22/15](#)]

The Jindal administration’s interpretation of Louisiana’s open records law means that his work-related emails may never become public, even after he leaves office. “It’s not clear whether the documents would have been public, anyway. The Jindal administration has often interpreted the governor’s ‘deliberative process’ exception to extend beyond his inner circle to all documents generated by any agency for Jindal’s office. Louisiana also has no archiving requirement at all for the governor, making it an outlier nationally. That means records now sealed under that executive privilege may never become public, even after Jindal leaves office.” [Associated Press, [3/7/15](#)]

THE ENDLESS BENGHAZI COMMITTEE

GOWDY DRAGGED OUT INVESTIGATION FOR
YEARS TO COINCIDE WITH 2016 RACE

It's clear that the Benghazi Committee has not only engaged in politics, it has needlessly drawn out its investigations to become one of the longest-running select committees in history—longer than government investigations into Pearl Harbor and Hurricane Katrina. The committee has waited months to request documents and witness appearances, featured long periods of inactivity, and delayed Hillary Clinton's testimony, despite her total willingness to appear before the committee.

Why would Trey Gowdy needlessly drag out his committee's taxpayer-funded work? The reason is a partisan one: to harm Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign by attempting to overshadow the 2016 race.

Trey Gowdy’s spokesperson promised that the Benghazi investigation would stretch into the months just before the 2016 election. “The findings of a Republican-led committee investigating Hillary Clinton’s response to the deadly 2012 attack in Benghazi, Libya, likely will not be released until next year, just months before the 2016 presidential election. Representative Trey Gowdy of South Carolina, chairman of the U.S. House Select Committee on Benghazi, has been emphasizing a desire for the panel to finish investigative work by the end of 2015, including its review of Clinton’s e-mail practices as secretary of state. Now that seems less likely. In a statement on Tuesday to Bloomberg News, committee spokesman Jamal Ware confirmed the delay. ‘Factors beyond the committee’s control, including witness availability, compliance with documents requests, the granting of security clearances and accreditations—all of which are controlled by the Executive branch—could continue to impact the timing of the inquiry’s conclusion,’ Ware wrote.” [Bloomberg, [4/22/15](#)]

ABANDONED INVESTIGATIVE PLANS

ABANDONED 11 HEARINGS WITH KEY OFFICIALS IN ORDER TO FOCUS ON HILLARY CLINTON

The Select Committee abandoned plans to hold 11 specific hearings in 2015, instead focusing attacks on Hillary Clinton. “At the beginning of this year, Select Committee Republicans provided Democrats with detailed information about their plans to hold 11 hearings between January and October on a wide range of topics relating to the Benghazi attacks. Since then, however, Republicans have completely abandoned this plan—holding no hearings at all since January and instead focusing on former Secretary Hillary Clinton. Amazingly, the last eight press releases on the Select Committee’s webpage deal entirely with Secretary Clinton.” [Republicans Abandon Plan for Benghazi Hearings to Focus on Clinton, [7/15/15](#)]

New York Times: The Benghazi Committee “put aside all of its proposed public hearings focused on the attack” and abandoned “most of its announced witness interviews.” “But even as these new materials came in, the committee put aside all of its proposed public hearings focused on the attack and never followed up on most of its announced witness interviews with top Defense Department and intelligence officials.” [New York Times, [10/11/15](#)]

Politico called a planned hearing “a rare occurrence” for the committee. “The hearing, a rare occurrence for a panel that has preferred to work behind closed doors, was scheduled for Wednesday.” [Politico, [7/27/15](#)]

DELAYED PLANS TO INTERVIEW INTELLIGENCE AND DEFENSE OFFICIALS

Trey Gowdy abandoned plans to conduct interviews with top intelligence and defense officials, including with former Defense Secretary Panetta and former CIA Director Petraeus. “Gowdy also abandoned plans he had made in February to start conducting interviews of the following top defense and intelligence leaders in April: former Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, former CIA Director David Petraeus, General Martin

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Dempsey, and former Director of the National Counterterrorism Center Matt Olsen. He never invited any of these defense or intelligence leaders for interviews. Gowdy then announced that he planned to start conducting the following interviews in June: former Defense Secretary Panetta, General Martin Dempsey, and General Carter Ham. Those interviews were also abandoned.” [Benghazi Democrats press release, [10/6/15](#)]

The Benghazi Committee held only one of a dozen interviews planned with intelligence, Defense Department, and White House officials. “The committee has conducted only one of a dozen interviews that Mr. Gowdy said in February he planned to hold with prominent intelligence, Defense Department and White House officials, and it has held none of the nine public hearings — with titles such as ‘Why Were We in Libya?’ — that internal documents show have been proposed.” [New York Times, 10/11/15]

The Benghazi Committee has not held an interview with a single White House official. “But an approximate tally produced by the Democratic minority staff shows that the committee has so far followed up with only a third of the potential witnesses from the intelligence community, none of the six from the White House and fewer than half from the Defense Department. Meanwhile, more than 70 percent of the potential witnesses from the State Department have been interviewed.” [New York Times, [10/11/15](#)]

The Benghazi Committee has not held a transcribed interview or deposition with a single Defense Department Official. “In the entire 14 months since the Select Committee has been in existence, the Select Committee has not conducted a transcribed interview or deposition of even a single Defense Department employee.” [Republicans Abandon Plan for Benghazi Hearings to Focus on Clinton, 7/15/15]

ADDED APPEARANCES BY STATE DEPARTMENT AND CLINTON STAFFERS

The Benghazi Committee added interviews with 8 current or former Clinton campaign staffers. “By the end of this month, Republicans will have interviewed or deposed 8 current or former Clinton campaign staffers, compared to only a total of four Defense Department officials.” [Benghazi Democrats press release, [10/6/15](#)]

The Benghazi Committee added at least 18 current and former State Department staffers to interview list. “At the same time, the committee has added at least 18 current and former State Department officials to its roster of witnesses, including three speechwriters and an information technology specialist who maintained Mrs. Clinton’s private email server.” [New York Times, [10/11/15](#)]

The Benghazi Committee has interviewed more than 70% of potential State Department witnesses compared to 1/3 from intelligence community and zero from White House. “But an approximate tally produced by the Democratic minority staff shows that the committee has so far followed up with only a third of the potential witnesses from the intelligence community, none of the six from the White House and fewer than half from the Defense Department. Meanwhile, more than 70 percent of the potential witnesses from the State Department have been interviewed.” [New York Times, [10/11/15](#)]

Interviews and depositions with new witnesses connected to the Clintons and State Department lasted hours and “ranged far afield of Benghazi.” “In the spring and summer, the committee drew up new lists of targets for interviews that to Major Podliska and other committee staff members, particularly Democrats, seemed to have little to do with Benghazi. Among the targets were Bryan Pagliano, a State Department aide who helped set up Mrs. Clinton’s email system, and Sidney Blumenthal, a friend and informal adviser to Mrs. Clinton who had sent emails to her about Libya before and after the attacks. The questioning of Mr. Blumenthal and others, in sessions that took place in a closed-door conference room and frequently lasted seven or eight hours, also ranged far afield of Benghazi.” [New York Times, [10/11/15](#)]

DELAYED SECRETARY CLINTON’S INITIAL TESTIMONY

TREY GOWDY FIRST CLAIMED TWO HEARINGS WERE NECESSARY

Trey Gowdy attempted to drag Hillary Clinton before the committee for two separate hearings. “Clinton agreed to testify before the committee in May. Gowdy, however, rejected that offer and asked the secretary to appear twice — once on her exclusive use of a private email server while at State and another in regard to the Benghazi attack. Kendall, who has spearheaded Clinton’s communication with the committee, said the former first lady would only testify once on both topics and offered to do it during the week of May 18 or later. The date came and went, however, with no testimony.” [CNN, [7/25/15](#)]

THEN HE INDEFINITELY DELAYED HER SCHEDULED APPEARANCE

Trey Gowdy indefinitely delayed Hillary Clinton’s planned May 2015 testimony. “The chairman of the House Select Committee on Benghazi says Hillary Clinton’s testimony will be delayed until the panel gets all relevant documents from the State Department. ‘Simply put, the Committee must have the records of communication requested more than six months ago before the secretary’s appearance can be scheduled,’ Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.) wrote Thursday in a letter to Secretary of State John Kerry... ‘The Committee has had Secretary Clinton’s emails for months,’ he added, referencing 300 messages from Clinton’s server that Gowdy said are relevant to the investigation. ‘This new claim that the Department has not produced a single responsive document is completely baseless and appears to be yet another excuse to drag out Secretary Clinton’s testimony until closer to the election,’ said Cummings.” [The Hill, [5/14/15](#)]

AND ALL THE WHILE HILLARY CLINTON HAS PLEADED TO TESTIFY PUBLICLY

Hillary Clinton: “I’ve also, for more than a year now, been asking to testify before the Congressional committee that is investigating the situation in Benghazi, they would not let me appear.” I’ve also, for more than a year now, been asking to testify before the Congressional committee that is investigating the situation in Benghazi, they would not let me appear. Finally - and I’m very happy about this - I will be appearing, toward the end of October, and I will look forward to answer all their questions.’ [CNN Interview with Wolf Blitzer, [9/17/15](#)]

Rep. Cummings: “The Committee has had Secretary Clinton’s Benghazi-related emails for weeks, and she has been ready to testify in public for more than six months.’ Rep. Elijah Cummings, the top Democrat on the panel, accused Gowdy of refusing ‘to schedule her hearing and continue to squander millions of taxpayer dollars drawing out these proceedings as long as possible.’ ‘Unfortunately, it appears that the Select Committee on Benghazi has now become a taxpayer-funded effort to damage Hillary Clinton’s campaign for president,’ Cummings said. ‘The Committee has had Secretary Clinton’s Benghazi-related emails for weeks, and she has been ready to testify in public for more than six months.’ [Politico, [4/16/15](#)]

Clinton attorney: Hillary Clinton “has made clear she will voluntarily testify again before the Select Committee.” “While Secretary Clinton has testified before Committees in both the House and the Senate about the tragic events in Benghazi, she has made clear that she will voluntarily testify again before the Select Committee, and at that time, is happy to continue to answer any questions the Select Committee may have about her email use.” [Clinton Attorney Letter to Chairman Gowdy, [4/22/15](#)]

WAITED MONTHS TO ISSUE DOCUMENT OR WITNESS REQUESTS

COMMITTEE OPERATED FOR SIX MONTHS BEFORE ANY SUBSTANTIVE DOCUMENT REQUESTS

The Benghazi Committee waited six months to “submit its first substantive document request.” “The detailed chronology provided in the Department’s letter also notes that the Select Committee did not submit its first substantive document request until November 18, 2014 –more than six months after the Select Committee was established. The letter explains how Republican staff prioritized the production of Secretary Clinton’s emails, which was the first request in the Chairman’s letter.” [Select Committee Democrats press release, “Documents Show Benghazi Select Committee’s Role in Glacial Pace,” [4/23/15](#)]

WAITED NEARLY A YEAR BEFORE REQUESTING DOCUMENTS FROM DOD

The Benghazi Committee waited 11 months before requesting documents from the Department of Defense. “In fact, the Select Committee did not issue any document requests to the Secretary of Defense until this month—April 8, 2015—11 months after the Select Committee was established. The Chairman has not explained why it took nearly a year to send a letter to the Pentagon requesting documents that his

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letter claims ‘represent critical components of the Committee’s ability to conduct a complete and thorough investigation.’” [Select Committee Democrats press release, “Documents Show Benghazi Select Committee’s Role in Glacial Pace,” [4/23/15](#)]

WAITED NEARLY A YEAR BEFORE REQUESTING NEW DOCUMENTS FROM CIA

The Select Committee waited until April 2015 before requesting new documents from the CIA. “The Select Committee originally planned to hold a hearing in June with former Deputy CIA Director Michael Morrell and other intelligence officials, but that hearing also never occurred. Instead, the Select Committee waited almost a full year after its inception—until April of 2015—before sending its first request for new documents to the CIA.” [Republicans Abandon Plan for Benghazi Hearings to Focus on Clinton, [7/15/15](#)]

WAITED UNTIL JANUARY 2015 TO SUBPOENA ARB DOCUMENTS

The Select Committee waited until January 28, 2015 to subpoena documents related to the ARB. “January 28, 2015 The Committee subpoenaed the Department for documents related to the Benghazi Accountability Review Board.” [State Department letter to Chairman Gowdy, [4/15/15](#)]

NEVER ISSUED REQUEST FOR APPEARANCES BY TOP DEFENSE OFFICIALS

The Benghazi Committee “never sent a letter to former Defense Secretary Robert Gates or former Defense Secretary Leon Panetta requesting their testimony.” “To date, the Select Committee has never sent a letter to former Defense Secretary Robert Gates or former Defense Secretary Leon Panetta requesting their testimony. The Select Committee has been virtually silent on its plans to hear from either of these individuals or anyone else from the Defense Department. In the entire 14 months since the Select Committee has been in existence, the Select Committee has not conducted a transcribed interview or deposition of even a single Defense Department employee.” [Republicans Abandon Plan for Benghazi Hearings to Focus on Clinton, [7/15/15](#)]

FAILED TO SET UP ELECTRONIC SYSTEM FOR DOCUMENTS

Benghazi Committee has not finished setting up an electronic system to manage 50,000 pages of documents handed over. “The process of setting up an electronic system to manage more than 50,000 pages of documents that the committee has assembled is still not complete, meaning that staff members sometimes have to search through boxes to find critical pieces of paper — an almost comical task, staff members said.” [New York Times, [10/11/15](#)]

Trey Gowdy previously complained about State Department delays due to the need to manually search and sort through paper copies of emails. “However, it was not until late in February – just prior to the public revelation regarding the former Secretary’s exclusive use of a private email account to conduct official business – that the State Department finally discussed the full range of issues related to the production of

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these emails with the Committee. During this discussion, for the first time, the State Department informed the Committee that the former Secretary did not have a government email address. During this discussion, for the first time, the State Department informed the Committee that it never had possession of the former Secretary's emails until her attorney turned them over to the State Department in December 2014. And, during this discussion, for the first time, the State Department informed the Committee that it had to manually search each of the former Secretary's emails because only paper copies of them existed, thus further delaying the State Department's response to the Committee." [Interim Progress Update The Select Committee on the Events Surrounding the 2012 Terrorist Attacks in Benghazi, [5/8/15](#)]

REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE STAFF WASTED TIME

WASTED COMMITTEE TIME DRINKING AND BUYING GUNS

Republican staff members formed a wine-drinking club and a gun-buying club that would meet in the committee conference room to discuss "Glock handguns they intended to buy." "With the slow progress, members have engaged in social activities like a wine club nicknamed 'Wine Wednesdays,' drinking from glasses imprinted with the words 'Glacial Pace,' a dig at Representative Elijah E. Cummings, Democrat of Maryland and the committee's ranking member, Major Podliska said. Mr. Cummings used the term to question the speed of the committee's work. At one point, several Republican staff members formed a gun-buying club and discussed in the committee's conference room the 9-millimeter Glock handguns they intended to buy and what type of monograms they would inscribe on them, Major Podliska said." [New York Times, [10/11/15](#)]

Republican staffers had wine glasses imprinted with "Glacial Pace," mocking Rep. Cummings' complaints that the committee was purposely dragging out its investigation. "With the slow progress, members have engaged in social activities like a wine club nicknamed 'Wine Wednesdays,' drinking from glasses imprinted with the words 'Glacial Pace,' a dig at Representative Elijah E. Cummings, Democrat of Maryland and the committee's ranking member, Major Podliska said. Mr. Cummings used the term to question the speed of the committee's work. At one point, several Republican staff members formed a gun-buying club and discussed in the committee's conference room the 9-millimeter Glock handguns they intended to buy and what type of monograms they would inscribe on them, Major Podliska said." [New York Times, [10/11/15](#)]

Staffers would reportedly drink during the work day. “In an interview with CNN, Podliska charged that ‘there was very little work actually being done’ by the committee, where staffers were ‘surfing the Web all day long’ and even ‘drinking during the work day.’ He claims that staffers set up a ‘gun buying club’ and would spend ‘hours at a time’ designing custom firearms.” [Washington Post, [10/12/15](#)]

COMMITTEE STAFFERS SURFED “THE WEB ALL DAY LONG”

Podliska said committee staffers were “surfing the web all day long.” “In an interview with CNN, Podliska charged that ‘there was very little work actually being done’ by the committee, where staffers were ‘surfing the Web all day long’ and even ‘drinking during the work day.’ He claims that staffers set up a ‘gun buying club’ and would spend ‘hours at a time’ designing custom firearms.” [Washington Post, [10/12/15](#)]

DIRECTED STAFF MEMBERS TO FOCUS EXCLUSIVELY ON HILLARY CLINTON AND STATE DEPARTMENT

Podliska said Trey Gowdy “pulled resources away from probes of other individuals and agencies to focus almost exclusively on Clinton and the State Department.” “Podliska told CNN that the committee, which has spent \$4.6 million so far and is chaired by Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-South Carolina, pulled resources away from probes of other individuals and agencies to focus almost exclusively on Clinton and the State Department she helmed for four years. Clinton will testify before the committee for the first time Oct. 22, and the committee is set to release the findings of its investigation next year, in the heat of the presidential race.” [CNN, [10/11/15](#)]

The evidence that Trey Gowdy and the Benghazi Committee are running a political smear campaign against Hillary Clinton is conclusive and damning. For more information, and for future updates after Hillary Clinton's testimony, follow the Benghazi Research Center at:

www.benghazicommittee.com

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