

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 18, 2026

Jessica Bowron  
Comptroller, Exercising the Delegated  
Authority of the Director  
National Park Service  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

John Stanwich  
National Park Service Liaison to the White  
House  
National Park Service  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Tammy Stidham  
Associate Regional Director for Lands and  
Planning at the National Park Service  
National Park Service  
1100 Ohio Drive SW  
Washington, DC 20242

Dear Comptroller Bowron, Liaison Stanwich, and Associate Director Stidham:

We write with questions about whether the National Park Service (NPS), in conjunction with the Trust for the National Mall, has facilitated corruption in connection with President Trump's White House ballroom project.<sup>1</sup> We have sought information regarding this project from NPS, the Trust for the National Mall, President Trump's lead ballroom fundraiser, and President Trump himself, all of whom have failed to provide adequate responses, if any.<sup>2</sup> Given the seriousness of these corruption concerns and new information that has been revealed as the project moves forward, we reiterate our request for information necessary to fulfill Congress's oversight responsibilities.

NPS appears to have a key role in the White House ballroom project. In November 2025, the Trust for the National Mall informed both Senator Elizabeth Warren and Ranking Member Robert Garcia that, in its capacity as "the official philanthropic partner of NPS," it is "managing the private donations gifted to support the [ballroom] project" and that "[a]ny additional questions regarding the project should be directed to the National Park Service and/or the White

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<sup>1</sup> Letter from U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren to the Trust for the National Mall and National Park Service, October 23, 2025, [https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/ballroom\\_letter\\_to\\_the\\_trust\\_on\\_the\\_national\\_mall\\_and\\_the\\_national\\_parks\\_service.pdf](https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/ballroom_letter_to_the_trust_on_the_national_mall_and_the_national_parks_service.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*, Letter from House Committee on Natural Resources to White House, October 23, 2025, [https://democrats-naturalresources.house.gov/imo/media/doc/ballroom\\_construction\\_letter\\_to\\_white\\_house.pdf](https://democrats-naturalresources.house.gov/imo/media/doc/ballroom_construction_letter_to_white_house.pdf); Letter from Ranking Member Robert Garcia, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to the Trust for the National Mall, October 31, 2025, on file with the Office of Ranking Member Robert Garcia; Letter from Ranking Member Robert Garcia, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to the National Park Service, October 31, 2025, on file with the Office of Ranking Member Robert Garcia; Letter from the Trust for the National Mall to Ranking Member Robert Garcia, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, November 7, 2025, on file with the Office of Ranking Member Robert Garcia.

House.”<sup>3</sup> Furthermore, NPS Liaison to the White House John Stanwich stated in a court declaration that the ballroom project entails “extensive coordination” with NPS and that NPS has devoted staff resources to the ballroom since early spring 2025.<sup>4</sup> Additionally, multiple corporate donors to the ballroom referenced NPS when asserting their view that their donations aligned with their past support for the National Mall and other public works projects.<sup>5</sup>

NPS has also received at least one donation to the ballroom and transferred it to the White House. NPS Comptroller Jessica Bowron stated in a court declaration that, on November 13, 2025, NPS “accepted a private donation for the Project” and transferred those funds to the Office of the Executive Residence at the White House.<sup>6</sup> Similarly, Director for White House Management and Administration Joshua Fischer declared that “[d]onated funds received by NPS pursuant to NPS’s gift authority are being transferred to the White House Repair and Restoration Account.”<sup>7</sup> Neither declaration discloses the amount, source, or terms of the donation. During a federal court hearing last month, the National Trust for Historic Preservation raised new questions about whether “the funding scheme set up to bankroll the project,” which includes this transfer from NPS to the White House’s Executive Residence office, “was made by the administration in a bid to evade judicial review of the project since courts are unable to issue orders enjoining actions by offices like that one.”<sup>8</sup> The judge hearing the case repeatedly described the funding mechanism used to funnel money to pay for the ballroom as a “Rube Goldberg Contraption.”<sup>9</sup>

Furthermore, NPS’s role in managing President Trump’s gold-encrusted ballroom is particularly troubling in light of NPS’s donation rules. NPS Director’s Order #21 establishes rules to ensure the integrity of donations received by NPS and its partners.<sup>10</sup> The Order prohibits any “implied commitment to take an action favorable to the donor in exchange for the donation,” preferential treatment, or donor influence over agency decision-making.<sup>11</sup> The circumstances surrounding this

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<sup>3</sup> Letter to Senator Elizabeth Warren from the Trust for the National Mall, November 7, 2025, [https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/response\\_from\\_the\\_trust\\_for\\_the\\_national\\_mall\\_to\\_senator\\_warren\\_11725.pdf](https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/response_from_the_trust_for_the_national_mall_to_senator_warren_11725.pdf); Letter from the Trust for the National Mall to Ranking Member Robert Garcia, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, November 7, 2025, on file with the Office of Ranking Member Robert Garcia.

<sup>4</sup> Declaration of John Stanwich, National Park Service Liaison to the White House, December 15, 2025, P. 3, [https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.dcd.287645/gov.uscourts.dcd.287645.14.6\\_1.pdf](https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.dcd.287645/gov.uscourts.dcd.287645.14.6_1.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> Letter from U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren to Apple, December 3, 2025, [https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/warren\\_min\\_ballroom\\_letters.pdf](https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/warren_min_ballroom_letters.pdf); Letter from U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren to Nvidia, December 3, 2025, [https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/warren\\_min\\_ballroom\\_letters.pdf](https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/warren_min_ballroom_letters.pdf).

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*; Supplemental Declaration of Jessica Bowron, Comptroller of the National Park Service Exercising the Delegated Authority of the Director of the National Park Service, January 15, 2026, <https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.dcd.287645/gov.uscourts.dcd.287645.30.3.pdf>.

<sup>7</sup> Declaration of Joshua Fisher, Director for White House Management and Administration, January 15, 2025, p. 5, <https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.dcd.287645/gov.uscourts.dcd.287645.30.1.pdf>.

<sup>8</sup> CNN, “Federal judge appears skeptical that Trump has legal authority to proceed with White House ballroom,” Devan Cole and Betsy Klein, January 22, 2026, <https://www.cnn.com/2026/01/22/politics/judge-skeptical-white-house-ballroom-trump>.

<sup>9</sup> NBC, “Federal judge appears skeptical of DOJ’s argument for White House ballroom construction,” Gary Grumbach, January 22, 2026, <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/white-house/federal-judge-appears-skeptical-doj-argument-white-house-ballroom-con-rcna255496>.

<sup>10</sup> National Park Service, Director’s Orders 21 and Reference Manual 21, <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/partnerships/do21-rm21.htm>.

project raise serious questions about whether ballroom donations received by NPS and its partner organization the Trust for the National Mall have complied with these requirements.

Congress and the American public deserve clear answers regarding NPS's role in this project. Given NPS's lack of responsiveness to our previous inquiries—sent October 23, 2025, and October 31, 2025<sup>12</sup>—and the additional details that have emerged regarding NPS's role with the ballroom, we renew and expand our request for information. Please provide written responses to the following questions no later than March 4, 2026:

1. What specific role has NPS played in the planning, approval, funding, and execution of the White House ballroom project?
2. Under what statutory or regulatory authority did NPS accept private donations for this project?
3. Who within NPS approved the acceptance of donated funds, and what legal or ethics reviews were conducted prior to this acceptance?
4. What is the total amount of private funds accepted by NPS for the ballroom project to date?
5. From which entities or individuals did these funds originate?
6. To what extent did NPS review, approve, or oversee the Trust's fundraising activities for the project?
7. Did NPS evaluate whether donors associated with the Trust had pending business, regulatory matters, or other interests before the Administration that could present actual or apparent conflicts of interest?
8. Who within NPS approved the transfer of donated funds to the White House?
9. Under what authority were these funds transferred?
10. Why were donated funds transferred to the White House Repair and Restoration Account rather than retained or administered by NPS?
11. Were any of the NPS funds transferred to the White House used to pay for the demolition of the East Wing of the White House? If so, under what statutory or regulatory authority did NPS expend funds to demolish this historic structure?
12. Does NPS maintain records identifying donor sources, donation amounts, and any conditions attached to any transferred funds? If so, please provide those records.
13. What agreements, memoranda of understanding, or other arrangements govern coordination between NPS and the Trust regarding the ballroom project?
14. How is NPS ensuring compliance with Director's Order #21, including prohibitions on implied commitments, preferential treatment, or donor influence?
15. Has NPS conducted or requested any internal ethics review related to this project?
16. Has NPS produced any ballroom project-related documents to members of the public who have filed FOIA requests seeking such records?

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<sup>11</sup> U.S. Department of the Interior, Director's Order #21: Donations and Philanthropic Partnerships, August 31, 2020, [https://www.nps.gov/subjects/policy/upload/DO\\_21\\_12-28-2016.pdf](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/policy/upload/DO_21_12-28-2016.pdf).

<sup>12</sup> Letter from U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren to the Trust for the National Mall and National Park Service, October 23, 2025, [https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/ballroom\\_letter\\_to\\_the\\_trust\\_on\\_the\\_national\\_mall\\_and\\_the\\_national\\_parks\\_service.pdf](https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/ballroom_letter_to_the_trust_on_the_national_mall_and_the_national_parks_service.pdf); Letter from Ranking Member Robert Garcia, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to the Trust for the National Mall, October 31, 2025, on file with the Office of Ranking Member Robert Garcia.

17. Does NPS agree with President Trump’s assertion last weekend in a social media post that “IT IS TOO LATE!” to stop the ballroom project even if a judge rules that it violates the law and orders it stopped?

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Committee Democratic staff at (202) 225-5051.

Sincerely,



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Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



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Robert Garcia  
Ranking Member, Committee  
on Oversight and Government Reform