



FACT

FOUNDATION FOR
ACCOUNTABILITY
AND CIVIC TRUST

October 7, 2024

House Committee on Ethics
U.S. House of Representatives
1015 Longworth House Office Building (LHOB)
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Mondaire Jones

Dear Committee Members,

The Foundation for Accountability and Civic Trust (FACT) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting accountability, ethics, and transparency in government and civic arenas. We request the House Ethics Committee immediately investigate whether Congressional candidate Mondaire Jones violated federal law and House ethics rules by failing to disclose financial information as he was legally required to do.

Federal law and House ethics rules require House candidates and Members to publicly disclose their financial information to the public.¹ The disclosure requirements are an integral part of an ethical and transparent government because accurate and timely filing is the only method for citizens to determine whether candidates and Members have conflicts of interest or are wrongfully profiting from their position.² Each candidate and Member has an affirmative

¹ 5 U.S.C. app 4 sec. 101-111; House Rule 26.

² It is a foundational principal and embodied in numerous laws and ethics rules that Members “should not in any way use their office for private gain.” U.S. House of Reps. Comm. on Standards of Official Conduct, *House Ethics Manual*, at 1 (2008 ed.); *see also* House Ethics Manual, at 123-24 (Members cannot use official resources for any campaign or political purpose).

duty to ensure compliance with the law.³ There is no excuse for inaccurate, incomplete, or late filings, and every violation has consequences.⁴

Under the public disclosure requirements, a candidate must file a financial disclosure report that provides a “full and complete” statement of the Member’s assets, debts, and income.⁵ In this case, Jones established his candidacy and filed a statement of organization with the Federal Election Commission on July 5, 2023.⁶ Thus, he was required to file a financial disclosure report within 30 days of becoming a candidate and then again by May 15, 2024.⁷ Each report was to cover the time period of January 1 of the prior calendar year through the current calendar year to within 30 days of filing the report.⁸

Jones has filed two financial disclosure reports with the Clerk of the House as required in 2023 and in 2024. However it appears that, based upon information Jones provided in his 2023 filing, he failed to accurately disclose information in his 2024 report. First, on August 4, 2023,

³ See, e.g., U.S. House of Reps. Comm. on Ethics, *2024 Instruction Guide: Financial Disclosure Reports for Calendar Year 2023 and Periodic Transaction Reports*, at 17, 25, available at https://ethics.house.gov/sites/ethics.house.gov/files/documents/FDInstructionGuide_current.pdf (“Each individual is responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the information contained in the individual’s FD Report or PTR, even if someone else prepared, or assisted in preparing, all or part of it. . . . Your signature on the paper form or electronic filing certifies that the FD Report or PTR Report (including any accompanying schedules or information) is accurate and complete. The completed Report must be signed by you personally, not by someone acting on your behalf, even if someone else prepared or assisted you in completing the FD Report.”).

⁴ The Ethics in Government Act does not allow Members to break the law without consequence. See, e.g., 5 U.S.C. app 4 sec. 104(a)(1) (providing for a civil penalty not to exceed \$73,627); sec. 104(a)(2) (making it unlawful for any person to knowingly and willfully fail to file or report any information required under section 102, with penalties of up to \$73,627 and imprisonment of not more than one year); sec. 104(d) (providing for a late filing fee of \$200); see also Committee on Ethics, U.S. House of Rep., available at <https://ethics.house.gov/financial-disclosure/general-information-about-financial-disclosure> (“A \$200 late filing fee shall be assessed against any individual who files more than 30 days after the due date of a report or amendment (or the due date of any extension).”); U.S. House of Reps. Comm. on Ethics, *2024 Instruction Guide: Financial Disclosure Reports for Calendar Year 2023 and Periodic Transaction Reports*, at 17 (The EIGA provides that the Attorney General may pursue either civil or criminal penalties against an individual who knowingly and willfully falsifies an FD Report or fails to file an FD Report required by the EIGA.”).

⁵ 5 U.S.C. app 4 sec. 101-111 (disclosure requirements); House Rule 26.

⁶ Mondaire for Congress, *Statement of Organization*, July 5, 2023, available at: <https://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/487/202307059582431487/202307059582431487.pdf>; see also, Mondaire For Congress, [Federal Election Commission](#), accessed Sept. 25, 2024.

⁷ A person who qualifies as a candidate in an odd-numbered year is instructed that he or she “must file a FD Report within 30 days of becoming a candidate or by May 15th of that year, whichever is later. You are then required to file a second FD Report on May 15th of the following year if you are still a candidate on that date. For 2024, the second FD Report is due on May 15, 2024.” U.S. House of Reps. Comm. on Ethics, *2024 Instruction Guide: Financial Disclosure Reports for Calendar Year 2023 and Periodic Transaction Reports*, at 9.

⁸ *Id.* at 7.

Jones filed a report that covered the calendar year 2022 though the date filed.⁹ In the earned income portion, Jones reported four sources of income:

- Cable News Network (CNN) (no income in 2022, \$34,022.87 in 2023),
- Future Forward USA Action (no income in 2022, \$123,237.22 in 2023),
- Demand Justice (no income in 2022, \$10,000 in 2023), and
- The Nation (no income in 2022, \$150 in 2023).

He also reported positions with Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW) and the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

On May 15, 2024, Jones filed his second financial disclosure report with the Clerk of the House that covered the calendar year 2023 through April 15, 2024.¹⁰ Jones reported one source of income: his campaign Mondaire Jones for Congress (\$12,000 in 2024). Contrary to his last filing, there was no income reported for 2023. Again, Jones reported his position with the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, but he did not disclose his position with CREW.

The discrepancies between the two reports show that Jones did not accurately report his sources of income or positions in his 2024 filing. Unfortunately, two facts indicate that this was an intentional omission: First, the majority of information he omitted was related to political organizations or organizations that have positions with which voters may disagree.¹¹ Second, in August and September 2024, Jones' campaign was contacted by a reporter on three separate occasions asking about the information missing from his 2024 filing.¹² Jones not only failed to respond, but he has yet to correct his filings.¹³ It is also important to note that Jones is a former House Member who should be well-aware of the ethics rules and financial disclosure requirements. These three things combined make it highly likely this violation was a strategic political calculation and, while any violation is problematic, ethical violations committed for advantage in electoral politics should have an increased sting to the Committee and the American people.

⁹ Mondaire Jones, *Financial Disclosure Report*, Aug. 4, 2023, available at: https://disclosures-clerk.house.gov/public_disc/financial-pdfs/2023/10055401.pdf.

¹⁰ Mondaire Jones, *Financial Disclosure Report*, May 15, 2024, available at: https://disclosures-clerk.house.gov/public_disc/financial-pdfs/2024/10061463.pdf.

¹¹ Future Forward USA Action and Demand Justice are organizations that are wholly or partially involved in politics. Future Forward USA Action is a [political action committee](#) and Demand Justice is a [501\(c\)\(4\)](#) social advocacy organization which promotes candidates that advocate for judicial reform. [CREW](#) is an ethics watchdog.

¹² A Washington Free Beacon reporter, Meghan Blonder, informed FACT that she contacted the Jones campaign on three separate occasions in August and September 2024 asking about the information identified above that was missing from Jones' 2024 report, thus indicating the campaign is aware of the errors in its filings but has not corrected its filing. The reporter's account is confirmed in an email.

¹³ *Id.*

The financial disclosure law is extremely important and it must be strictly enforced because it is the only method to determine whether candidates or Members have conflicts of interest.¹⁴ There is no excuse for violating this law even one time, and when a House candidate fails to comply with the disclosure laws it is instructive of whether they will follow all the ethics rules if and when they are elected. Moreover, the failure of Members to accurately fill out simple forms and follow the most basic ethics rules leads to public distrust in our elected officials as a whole.¹⁵ We request the Ethics Committee immediately investigate House Candidate Mondaire Jones to determine whether he failed to accurately report income and positions and impose any appropriate sanctions.

To the best of my knowledge and ability, all evidence submitted was not obtained in violation of any law, rule, or regulation. Further, I am aware that the False Statements Act, 18 U.S.C. § 1001, applies to information submitted to the Office of Congressional Ethics.

Sincerely,

/s/Kendra Arnold

Kendra Arnold
Executive Director, Foundation for Accountability & Civic Trust

¹⁴ Members may obtain nonpublic information about a company or economic sector during the course of the official duties. U.S. House of Reps. Comm. on Ethics 116th Cong., *Memo Re. Reminder of STOCK Act Requirements, Prohibition Against Insider Trading & New Certification Requirement*, at 3 (June 11, 2020).

¹⁵ See, e.g., Tim Mak, *TikTokers Are Trading Stocks By Copying What Members Of Congress Do*, NPR, Sept. 21, 2021, available at: <https://www.npr.org/2021/09/21/1039313011/tiktokers-are-trading-stocks-by-watching-what-members-of-congress-do> (discussing that a portion of the public has lost trust in government to the extent they believe Members' stock trades are based on corruption and it would be financially beneficial to copy the Members' trades).