

FACT SHEET

RESIGNATIONS FROM CONGRESS OVER SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

Since 1990, there have been at least fifteen examples of elected members of Congress resigning from office over allegations of sexual misconduct. These resignations included Republican and Democrat officials engaging in immoral or illegal acts against male and female staffers, abusing their power.

Did you know?...

- ➔ **Rep. Anthony Weiner (D-NY)** — In June 2011, Representative Weiner [resigned](#) from office after he sent sexually explicit texts to women who were not his wife, including to a 15-year-old girl. Since leaving Congress, Anthony Weiner has [run](#) for the New York City Council in 2025 and [founded](#) his own lobbying firm.
- ➔ **Sen. Al Franken (D-MN)** — In January 2018, Senator Franken [resigned](#) after allegations of sexual misconduct and unwanted touching by multiple women, including the [release](#) of a photograph of Senator Franken touching a woman sexually while the woman was asleep.
- ➔ **Rep. Mel Reynolds (D-IL)** — In September 1995, Representative Reynolds resigned from office after a [conviction](#) in state court of criminal sexual assault, aggravated sexual abuse, solicitation of child pornography, and obstruction of justice. Mel Reynolds [served](#) 42 months of his 78-month sentence after President Bill Clinton commuted it.



In April 2026, **Rep. Eric Swalwell** resigned after allegations were made by multiple women of sexual harassment, and at least two allegations of rape were made by a former staffer.

Additionally, **Rep. Tony Gonzales** resigned after allegations of sexual misconduct towards staffers and allegations that he “discriminated unfairly by dispensing special favors or privileges.” One staffer, with whom Gonzales admitted having an affair, later committed suicide.

Resignations From Congress Over Sexual Misconduct

Executive Summary

Since 1990, there have been at least fifteen examples of elected members of Congress resigning from office over allegations of sexual misconduct. These resignations included Republican and Democrat officials engaging in immoral or illegal acts against male and female staffers, abusing their power, and utilizing public funds to settle these wide variety of allegations.

Resignations From Congress Related To Sexual Misconduct

- Since 1789, there have been [at least](#) 508 instances of alleged misconduct by elected members of Congress. Of those instances, there have been at least fifteen examples of members of Congress resigning from office over allegations of sexual misconduct.
 - **Rep. Tony Gonzales (R-TX)** – In April 2026, Representative Gonzales [resigned](#) after allegations of sexual misconduct towards staffers and allegations he “discriminated unfairly by dispensing special favors or privileges.” One staffer, with whom Gonzales admitted having an affair, later committed suicide.
 - **Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-CA)** — In April 2026, Representative Swalwell [resigned](#) after allegations were made by multiple women of sexual harassment and at least two allegations of rape were made by a former staffer.
 - **Rep. Tom Reed (R-NY)** — In May 2022, Representative Reed [resigned](#) after sexual assault allegations were made against him by a former lobbyist.
 - Tom Reed is [currently](#) the Vice Chairman of Prime Policy Group, a lobbying firm in Washington, DC.
 - **Rep. Pat Meehan (R-PA)** — In April 2018, Representative Meehan [resigned](#) after details emerged that he used taxpayer money to settle a sexual harassment claim brought by a female staff member.
 - Pat Meehan [worked](#) at Harvey Run Strategies as a lobbyist for clients including Consolidated Rail Corp. and Bankers Financial Corp.
 - **Rep. Blake Farenthold (R-TX)** — In April 2018, Representative Farenthold [resigned](#) after allegations of creating a hostile work environment for women in his congressional office and after details [emerged](#) revealing that he used public funds to settle a sexual harassment lawsuit against him.
 - Blake Farenthold [worked](#) as a lobbyist for the Calhoun Port Authority for less than a year in 2018-2019 due to “revolving door” restrictions. Farenthold [passed](#) away in June 2025.
 - **Sen. Al Franken (D-MN)** — In January 2018, Senator Franken [resigned](#) after allegations of sexual misconduct and unwanted touching by multiple women, including the [release](#) of a photograph of Senator Franken touching a woman sexually while the woman was asleep.

- Al Franken has [hosted](#) several podcasts and has participated in several stage and television shows.
- **Rep. Trent Franks (R-AZ)** — In December 2017, Representative Franks [resigned](#) after allegations of sexual harassment by multiple female staffers, including [allegations](#) he offered \$5 million to carry his child and retaliation when she declined.
 - Trent Franks [later](#) ran for his old seat in 2024, where he came in fourth place in the Republican primary.
- **Rep. John Conyers (D-MI)** — In December 2017, Representative Conyers [resigned](#) after multiple allegations by women of sexual misconduct, [including](#) an alleged settlement for a victim made by his office using public funds.
 - John Conyers [passed](#) away in October 2019.
- **Rep. David Wu (D-OR)** – In August 2011, Representative Wu [resigned](#) after being [accused](#) of aggressive behavior and sexual assault by the daughter of a campaign donor.
 - David Wu currently [identifies](#) a consultant who advises foreign businesses on strategies for acquiring U.S. companies and assets.
- **Rep. Anthony Weiner (D-NY)** — In June 2011, Representative Weiner [resigned](#) from office after reporting found he had sent sexually explicit texts to women who were not his wife, including to a 15-year-old girl.
 - Since leaving Congress, Anthony Weiner has [run](#) for New York City Council in 2025, [founded](#) his own lobbying firm, [served](#) as CEO of a Brooklyn-based kitchen-countertop company, and [hosted](#) a weekly live radio show with WABC radio.
- **Sen. John Ensign (R-NV)** - In May 2011, Senator Ensign [resigned](#) after details emerged of his affair with a campaign staffer led to allegations of improper behavior, including [financial payments](#) from Senator Ensign's parents worth \$96,000 to his mistress and her family, and allegations Senator Ensign [helped](#) his mistress' husband's work as a lobbyist.
 - After leaving Congress, John Ensign [returned](#) to his veterinary practice in Las Vegas, Nevada. As of March 2026, he is no [longer](#) on listed on the practices team page. In July 2019, Ensign and his wife [divorced](#).
- **Rep. Eric Massa (D-NY)** - In March 2010, Representative Massa [resigned](#) after allegations of sexual misconduct were made by at least two male staffers. In 2017, [reporting](#) by the *New York Daily News* claimed that nearly \$100,000 were paid to settle the harassment claims by two male staffers against Massa.
 - Verifiable evidence of Eric Massa's current employment is currently unclear, with the most recent updates [indicating](#) he lives in Corning, N.Y.

- **Rep. Mark Foley (R-FL)** - In September 2006, Representative Foley [resigned](#) from office after allegations were made that he had sent sexually explicit messages to current and former congressional pages under the age of 18.
 - After leaving office, Mark Foley [opened](#) a real estate company in Palm Beach, Florida and [hosted](#) a political show on Seaview AM 960 radio in Florida.
- **Rep. Mel Reynolds (D-IL)** – In September 1995, Representative Reynolds [resigned](#) from office after a [conviction](#) in state court of criminal sexual assault, aggravated sexual abuse, solicitation of child pornography, and obstruction of justice.
 - Mel Reynolds [served](#) 42 months of his 78 month sentenced after his sentenced was commuted by President Bill Clinton. Reynolds later was indicted for failing to file tax returns from 2009 through 2012 and sentenced to six additional months in prison.
- **Rep. Donald “Buz” Lukens (R-OH)** – In October 1990, Representative Lukens [resigned](#) from office after [allegations](#) that he fondled and propositioned a Capitol elevator operator. This allegation, which came after he previously had been [convicted](#) of contributing to the delinquency of a minor after paying a girl for sex, led to his resignation.
 - Donald Lukens [passed](#) away in 2010.