

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 24, 2026

Ms. Orice Williams Brown  
Acting Comptroller General of the United States  
U.S. Government Accountability Office  
441 G Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Acting Comptroller General Brown:

As members of the House Budget Committee, we request that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) investigate actions taken regarding construction of a ballroom at the East Wing of the White House. Recent reporting<sup>1</sup> indicates that the President misrepresented the costs and source of funds for the construction of a ballroom.

Reporting indicates that initial, internal estimates on July 11, 2025, found the ballroom would cost \$270 million to build, with \$100 million coming from taxpayers. Specifically, \$3.6 million in Secret Service money would be used for demolition. However, when President Trump first announced the ballroom on July 31, 2025, he publicly said it would cost \$200 million and all costs of the project would come from donated funds. By the time demolition of the East Wing began on October 20, 2025, internal estimates for the project had ballooned to \$478 million, with half of the funds coming from taxpayers. Yet President Trump publicly claimed total costs would be \$300 million and all funds would be donated. He further revised the publicly estimated costs up to \$400 million by December 2025. By March 2026, internal cost estimates expected costs to reach \$600 million, with \$307 million coming from taxpayers. On June 12 and June 15, 2026, the Office of Management and Budget apportioned a combined \$396 million for “White House Security Measures,” presumably to help build the ballroom.<sup>2</sup>

We are concerned about the multiple changes in estimates of the cost of the ballroom, including whether publicly stated estimates match internal estimates and where the funds will come from. We request that GAO investigate ballroom construction for:

1. What processes for review and approval are relevant federal agencies applying for the design and construction of the White House ballroom project? How do these processes compare to those followed for similar federal construction projects?
2. How are relevant federal agencies funding the White House ballroom project (including donated materials), what are the total project cost estimates, how much has been obligated and expended, and what is the anticipated timeline for completing the project? What additional costs do relevant federal agencies project beyond initial design and construction for the ballroom, such as for operations and maintenance, and how do they compare to similar projects?

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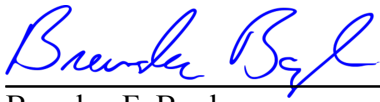
<sup>1</sup> Sarah Blaskey and Jonathan O’Connell, Records reveal \$600M estimate for Trump’s ballroom project, with half from taxpayers, WASHINGTON POST (June 16, 2026), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/investigations/2026/06/16/records-reveal-600m-estimate-trumps-ballroomproject-with-half-taxpayers/>.

<sup>2</sup> Search of “White House Security Measures” apportionment data from OPEN OMB on June 22, 2026, <https://openomb.org/search?term=white+House+Security+Measures>.

3. What elements of the White House ballroom construction are security-related, what criteria were used to identify those elements as security-related, and what is the funding source for those elements? What is the role of the Secret Service in the project and how is the agency collaborating with other relevant federal entities? How are Secret Service costs for securing the White House expected to change following the completion of the White House ballroom?

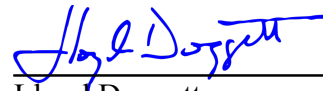
If you have any questions about this, please contact House Budget Committee Democratic staff. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



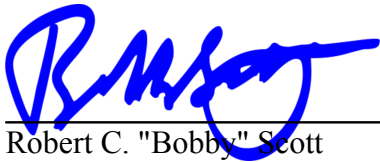
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Brendan F. Boyle  
Ranking Member  
House Budget Committee



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Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress




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Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress



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Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress



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Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



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Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress



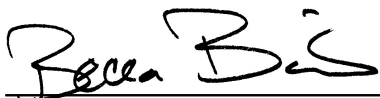
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Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress



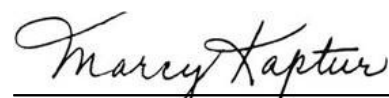
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Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress



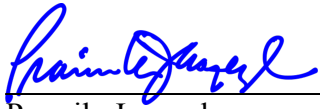
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Becca Balint  
Member of Congress



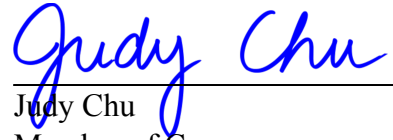
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Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress



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Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



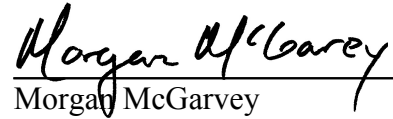
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Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



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Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



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Morgan McGarvey  
Member of Congress



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Gabe Amo  
Member of Congress