

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 31, 2024

Mr. Ronald L. Rowe, Jr.
Acting Director
United States Secret Service
245 Murray Ln SW – Bldg. T-5
Washington, D.C. 20223

Dear Acting Director Rowe:

Like so many Americans across the country, we were horrified by the assassination attempt against former President Donald Trump at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania earlier this month. We commend the men and women of the Secret Service who immediately responded to protect the former President and neutralize the gunman. Despite the quick actions of Secret Service agents, this attack resulted in the death of Corey Comperatore, serious injuries to two other attendees, and a bullet coming within an inch of killing the former President.

The Secret Service was first charged with protecting the President of the United States in 1902, and while it has taken on a number of other important missions over time, safeguarding the President and presidential candidates remains one of its core responsibilities. Recognizing the importance of this mission, Congress provided more than \$190 million to the Secret Service in Fiscal Year 2024, specifically for protection requirements related to the 2024 presidential campaign, plus an additional \$22 million above President Biden's budget request for protection-related travel costs.

Despite this increase, in mid-June, prior to the attempted assassination, the Secret Service submitted a reprogramming notification to our subcommittee detailing its intent to shift \$19 million to cover a shortfall for protection-related travel funding. Following the assassination attempt on former President Trump, President Biden announced that Secret Service protection will also be provided to presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. Two vice presidential candidates will now also require protection. As a result, the Secret Service is assuming new protection costs related to the campaign at a time when it already appears to lack sufficient resources to fulfill its protective mission.

Our subcommittee is currently drafting the Senate's Fiscal Year 2025 Homeland Security Appropriations bill, and we believe it is critical to understand the Secret Service's needs for the remainder of the 2024 presidential campaign as we consider appropriate levels of funding. Therefore, we respectfully request responses to the following by Wednesday, August 7th:


- 1) Provide the total number of protectees and their corresponding protection costs for the duration of the Trump and Biden administrations.

- 2) How has the Secret Service obligated the funding provided by Congress for the 2024 Presidential campaign, including travel-related protection expenses? Please detail the amount of this funding obligated to date, and the proposed plan for any remaining balances.
- 3) Did the Secret Service provide a level of protection for former President Trump's Pennsylvania rally equivalent to the protection provided for President Biden's campaign rally in Michigan the previous day? Why or why not?
- 4) Provide a comparison of protection, personnel, and funds obligated and/or committed on the Republican National Convention and the Democratic National Convention.
- 5) The Washington Post and New York Times have reported that the Trump campaign had requested additional Secret Service protection in recent months, but the Secret Service rejected those requests. Did the Trump Campaign request additional protection, including for the Pennsylvania rally? If so, provide the details of the requests, including the dates, the disposition of such requests, and the rationale for each decision.
- 6) Was the security failure at the Pennsylvania rally the result of insufficient resources?
- 7) In addition to providing protection to new presidential and vice presidential candidates, what changes, if any, is the Secret Service considering to its protection practices for the remainder of the presidential campaign?
- 8) Is the Secret Service currently projecting any funding shortfalls for Fiscal Year 2024? If so, provide in detail the basis and rationale of such shortfalls.
- 9) Given the 2024 election will take place in Fiscal Year 2025, do you believe additional resources above those requested in the President's FY25 budget request, will be required to adequately meet the Secret Service mission, including, the protection of presidential candidates, existing protectees, the election certification, and the Inauguration?

We recognize the sensitive nature of some of the answers to these questions, and therefore are prepared to receive answers in a classified briefing where necessary. However, we believe it is critical for the Secret Service to be as thorough and transparent as possible with the American public and with Congress.

We appreciate your prompt responses to these questions.

Sincerely,



Christopher S. Murphy
Chairman
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
Senate Appropriations Committee



Katie Boyd Britt
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
Senate Appropriations Committee