



Timeline of Communications Between Ways and Means Committee and IRS

March-April 2010

According to TIGTA, the IRS's Determinations Unit "began searching for other requests for exemption involving the Tea Party, Patriots, 9/12 and IRC § 501(c)(4) applications involving political sounding names, e.g., "We the People" or "Take Back the Country."

June 3, 2011

Chairman Camp sends [letter](#) to Commissioner Shulman inquiring about IRS targeting of taxpayers who donated money to conservative groups, as well as information regarding audits of 501(c)(4) organizations.

June 29, 2011

According to TIGTA, IRS Exempt Organization Division director Lois Lerner is apprised of the IRS's discriminatory practices.

July 1, 2011

The IRS [responds](#) to Chairman Camp's June 3 letter by issuing a directive to halt investigations pending further guidance. The IRS failed to provide any explanation or assurances to the Committee that targeting was not occurring.

October 6, 2011

Chairman Boustany sends [letter](#) to Commissioner Shulman requesting information regarding the tax-exempt sector.

November 18, 2011

The IRS [responds](#) to Chairman Boustany with some requested information but includes no mention of knowledge of targeting conservative groups.

December 16, 2011

Ways and Means Oversight staff met with IRS staff, including Lois Lerner. The IRS staff did not mention knowledge that the IRS targeted conservative groups.

March 1, 2012

Chairman Boustany sends a follow-up [letter](#) to Commissioner Shulman with additional questions about reports that "the IRS has been questioning new tax-exempt applicants, including grassroots political entities such as Tea Party groups."

March 12, 2012

The IRS [responds](#) with no mention of knowledge of targeting conservative groups.

March 22, 2012

The Ways and Means Oversight Subcommittee holds its 2012 [hearing](#) on the tax return filing season and general IRS operations. Chairman Boustany asks then-IRS Commissioner Shulman about reports that the IRS has been targeting Tea Party groups. Shulman responds, “I can give you assurances...[t]here is absolutely no targeting.”

March 23, 2012

The IRS [sends](#) a supplementary response containing additional information, but again, makes no mention of knowledge of targeting conservative organizations.

April 23, 2012

Oversight Subcommittee Chairman Boustany and 61 other House Republicans sign a [letter](#) to Commissioner Shulman inquiring about reports that “numerous nonprofit civic organizations across the country have experienced extensive delays and received excessively burdensome information requests” when applying for tax-exempt status.

April 26, 2012

The IRS [sends](#) a second supplementary response but includes no information about its discriminatory practices.

May 3, 2012

After numerous responses from the IRS, Chairman Camp [sends](#) a letter to Commissioner Shulman seeking all 501(c)(4) applications from 2010 and 2011 in order to conduct an investigation into whether the IRS targeted conservative groups.

June 15, 2012

The IRS [responds](#) to the April 23 letter from Chairman Boustany and 61 other House Republicans, but includes no information about the IRS’s practices.

July 25, 2012

The Ways and Means Oversight Subcommittee holds a [hearing](#) on charitable organizations. In response to questions regarding reported IRS harassment of conservative groups, then-IRS Deputy Commissioner for Services and Enforcement Steve Miller tells the Subcommittee, “I am aware that some 200 501(c)(4) applications fell into this category [the determinations letter process]. We did group those organizations together to ensure consistency, to ensure quality.” Miller made no reference to the IRS’s discriminatory practices.

Fall 2012

The IRS makes all 2010 and 2011 501(c)(4) applications available to Ways and Means Committee staff, pursuant to Chairman Camp’s May 3 request.

November 15, 2012

Ways and Means Oversight staff met with IRS staff, including Lois Lerner. The IRS staff did not mention knowledge that the IRS targeted conservative groups.

June 3, 2011-present

Beginning with Chairman Camp's initial June 3, 2011 letter, Ways and Means Committee staff conducts an investigation into whether the IRS improperly targeted conservative political groups and their donors. Throughout the entirety of the investigation, IRS officials make no effort to inform Ways and Means staff that the IRS had, in fact, targeted conservative groups.

May 10, 2013

At an American Bar Association function, Lois Lerner, director of the IRS's Exempt Organizations Division, publicly apologizes for the IRS's discrimination against conservative organizations during the 2012 election.