November 1, 2025

Los Angeles, CA 90024

House Commission on Congressional Communications Standards
(Franking Commission)
1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Ladies and Gentlemen:

In Los Angeles, I am a constituent of Ted Lieu, the Representative of the 36th California Congressional District. In October 2025, he used his Congressional franking privilege to send all his constituents a letter about California state Proposition 50, a special state election and democratic partisan initiative to redistrict California congressional districts.

I believe this was partisan abuse of his Congressional franking privilege. He should have paid for such a mailing using democratic party funds. He should not have had the U.S. postal service cover the costs of sending such a partisan election mailing to every household in his district.

While he did not overtly express support for redistricting in the letter, he stated that he was making his constituents aware of the state election and encouraging them to contact the California Secretary of State's office with any questions regarding the election. Clearly, he intended to raise attention about a partisan issue and bring out a supporting vote without expending any of his own campaign funds to cover the massive costs of this mailing to every constituent in his district. This mailing about a state (non-federal) election was unnecessary for the exercise of his duties as a member of the United States Congress. I believe it should be considered a partisan matter and a violation of the Congressional franking privilege. Congressman Lieu's office should reimburse the U.S. postal service for cost of that partisan mailing.

Sincerely,

Russell A Baum

Received. 11/6/25 - [illegible]

Russell A. Baum
Foreign Service Officer (Retired)

TED W. LIEU
36TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0536

2454 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3976

1645 CORINTH AVENUE, SUITE 101
LOS ANGELES, CA 90025
(323) 651-1040

1600 ROSECRANS AVENUE, 4TH FLOOR
MANHATTAN BEACH, CA 90266
(310) 321-7664

Dear Neighbor,

I am reaching out to make sure you're aware that California is having a statewide special election on Nov. 4, 2025. Here is more information on the legislative measure that will appear on the statewide special election ballot from the California Secretary of State's office:

> The California Constitution establishes the Citizens Redistricting Commission, which is required to adjust the boundary lines of congressional, Senate, Assembly, and State Board of Equalization districts in the year following the year in which the national census is taken at the beginning of each decade.
>
> This measure, which would include a legislative finding that it is in response to redistricting in Texas in 2025, would, notwithstanding the authority of the Citizens Redistricting Commission, require the state to temporarily use the congressional districts reflected in AB 604 of the 2025–26 Regular Session for every congressional election until the new congressional boundary lines are drawn by the commission in 2031.

The last day to register to vote for this election is October 20, 2025. According to California's Secretary of State, all registered voters in California will receive a vote-by-mail ballot in October. Vote-by-mail ballots can be returned by mail, drop-off locations, or at your county elections office.

For more information about the upcoming Special Election on November 4, 2025, please visit the California Secretary of State's website at www.sos.ca.gov or call their office at (916) 653-6814.

If you have any questions about my work for our district or in Washington, please call my office at (323) 651-1040 or visit lieu.house.gov to learn more about how we can assist you. You can also subscribe to my newsletter at lieu.house.gov/contact/newsletter to learn more about what I'm doing to fight for you.

Thank you,

Ted W Lieu

Ted W. Lieu

Member of Congress

TLF25_001 | ♻ | Paid for by official funds authorized by the House of Representatives.

Congressman Ted W. Lieu
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
Official Business

Ted W. Lieu

M.C.
PRSRT STD

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<maddress> , <mcity> , <mzip5>-<mzip4>

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MIKE CAREY, OHIO
CHAIRMAN

JOSEPH D. MORELLE, NEW YORK
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

House Communications Standards Commission

1309 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515-6157
(202) 226-0647

November 6, 2025

Mr. Rusell A. Baum

Los Angeles, CA 90024

Mr. Baum,

This communication is in response to your letter of complaint against Congressman Ted Lieu, representing California's 36th Congressional district, dated November 1, 2025.

After a thorough review of the materials submitted by you and items in our possession, the material(s) distributed by Rep. Lieu's office was deemed frankable under 39 U.S.C. 3210 (a)(3)(A) and (a)(3)(H). For your records, a copy of the Advisory Opinion granted (AO39405-4) is attached.

As such, pursuant to Rule 25 (c)(2)(a) of the Rules of the House Communications Standards Commission for the 119th Congress, the Commission considers this matter closed.

Sincerely,

Mike Carey
Chairman

Joseph D. Morelle
Ranking Member

House Communications Standards Commission

30-39405-4

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS
STANDARDS COMMISSION

1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

STAFF ADVISORY OPINION

Office of	Staff Contact:	Record Number:
Lieu, Ted 2454 RHOB	Jenna Bushnell	39405-4

Date of Initial Review:	Date Issued:
9/4/2025	9/9/2025

Description of Request:

Request for a staff advisory opinion on the frankability of material submitted as described below (copy attached).

Format of Material:	Means of Distribution:
Postal Mailer	Not Applicable;

Description of Material:

Franked Letter on Upcoming Election

Advisory:
Material submitted was deemed Frankable under provisions of:
3210(a)(3)(A)