

Gavin Newsom calls for congressional investigation into GOP chat messages

The California governor's formal request to the U.S. House Oversight and Government Reform Committee to open an investigation comes a day after POLITICO's bombshell report revealed explicit messages from leaders of Young Republicans' groups.



California Gov. Gavin Newsom hosts a press conference and signs a slew of climate initiative bills at the Academy of Sciences, Friday, Sept. 19, 2025, in San Francisco. | Camille Cohen/AP

By **JULIANN VENTURA**
10/15/2025 04:19 PM EDT



SACRAMENTO, California — Gavin Newsom is calling for a congressional investigation into GOP groups after leaked messages exposed antisemitic and racist comments in a Young Republicans group chat.

“Calling for gas chambers. Expressing love for Hitler. Endorsing rape. Using racist slurs. This is not a ‘joke,’ and it is not fringe,” the California governor said.

Advertisement



Do you have the right tax agenda to adapt, pivot and navigate change?
Talk to an EY Tax team member to set the right path for your organization's future.



[Learn More](#)

Newsom’s formal request to the U.S. House Oversight and Government Reform Committee to open an investigation comes a day after POLITICO’s [bombshell report](#) revealed messages of praise for Adolf Hitler and racial epithets from leaders of Young Republicans’ groups between January and early August. Newsom in the letter to Committee Chair James Comer referenced the reporting and noted specific messages in which the groups’ leaders muse about putting their political opponents in gas chambers, use racist and antisemitic slurs, and joke about raping their enemies.

The governor also noted the ongoing investigations by the committee into [Harvard University](#) and [other institutions](#) over allegations that the schools did not adequately address instances of antisemitism on college campuses, and that several of the individuals involved with the leaked messages have been “directly engaged in activities on college campuses.”

“If Congress can investigate universities for failing to stop antisemitism, it must also investigate politicians’ own allies who are openly celebrating it,” Newsom said.

The letter calls out Vice President JD Vance, who has [sought to downplay the messages](#) by calling them “edgy, offensive jokes,” and other national figures who have not condemned the chat, arguing their “disturbing silence” undermines the credibility of federal agencies tasked with investigating such conduct.

FILED UNDER: CALIFORNIA

California Playbook

Inside the Golden State political arena

EMAIL

