

The Lawsuits Targeting President-elect Trump

An overview of the status of the main lawsuits that have been lodged against the president-elect in recent years.

🔗 222 🗨️ 61 ▶ Play 📖 Save

Prior to his reelection in November, President-elect Donald Trump faced years of litigation, including criminal cases brought against him. The cases against Trump have raised important questions about the application of certain laws and the nature of presidential authority. For example, Trump is expected to face sentencing on Jan. 10 in a New York case that Trump says should be thrown out due to the doctrine of presidential immunity.

A separate lawsuit brought by special counsel Jack Smith prompted a Supreme Court decision that Trump is seeking to apply in New York. The criminal cases have also raised questions about politicized prosecutions, or purported *lauffare*. Here is a rundown of the lawsuits and some of the key developments involved.

BY SAM DORMAN

Status | Ongoing

NEW YORK BUSINESS RECORDS CASE

CHARGES: Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg indicts Trump on 34 counts of business records falsification as part of an alleged scheme to hide an affair with adult film actress Stormy Daniels, also known as Stormy Daniels.

APRIL 4, 2023 Bragg indicts Trump on 34 counts.

AUG. 11, 2023 New York Supreme Court Justice Juan Merchan declines to recuse himself from the case over his daughter's work with a left-leaning political group.

MARCH 29 AND APRIL 1, 2024 Merchan imposes gag orders prohibiting Trump from commenting on court staff and the families of those involved with the case.

APRIL 19, 2024 Trial begins, making Trump the first former president to stand trial on criminal charges.

MAY 30, 2024 A jury finds Trump guilty on 34 felony counts of falsification of business records.

SEPT. 12, 2024 An appeals court rejects Trump's challenge to Merchan's gag order. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit denies Trump's request for emergency relief as part of his attempt to



relocate the case to federal court.

NOV. 22, 2024 Following Trump's election victory, Merchan delays sentencing that was scheduled for Nov. 26.

DEC. 2, 2024 Trump files motion to dismiss the case based on presidential immunity.

DEC. 17, 2024 Merchan rejects Trump's immunity-based arguments, saying the underlying conduct in question was unofficial.

JAN. 5, 2025 Merchan rejects Trump's motion that he enjoys immunity as president-elect and schedules sentencing for Jan. 10.

JAN. 7, 2025 An appeals court rejects Trump's attempt to halt proceedings in Merchan's court.

JAN. 8, 2025 Trump asks the U.S. Supreme Court to intervene and halt the sentencing.

Status | Ongoing

GEORGIA ELECTION CASE

DESCRIPTION: Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis indicted Trump and 18 co-defendants, alleging a vast conspiracy to unlawfully change the outcome of the 2020 presidential election.

AUG. 14, 2023 Trump and 18 co-defendants are indicted.

JANUARY 2024 Multiple defendants, including Trump, request that Willis be disqualified over concerns about her relationship with Nathan Wade, the prosecutor she hired for the Trump case.

FEB. 16, 2024 Willis testifies during contentious hearing over her potential disqualification.

MARCH 20, 2024 Fulton County Superior Court Judge Scott McAfee dismisses six charges from the indictment.

MARCH 16, 2024 McAfee rules Willis can stay on the case if Wade resigns, which he quickly does in a letter to Willis on the same day.

MARCH 20, 2024 Trump files an appeal of McAfee's refusal to disqualify Willis.

SEPT. 12, 2024 McAfee dismisses three more charges in the indictment.

NOV. 16, 2024 Georgia Court of Appeals unexpectedly cancels oral argument scheduled for Dec. 5 over the appeal.

DEC. 16, 2024 Appeals court issues its decision disqualifying Willis.



A TIMELINE

THE LAWSUITS AGAINST TRUMP

An overview of the status of the main lawsuits that have targeted the president-elect.



Status | Dismissed

FLORIDA CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS CASE

DESCRIPTION: Special counsel Jack Smith filed a 42-count indictment alleging that Trump mishandled classified documents at his Mar-a-Lago property in Florida.

JUNE 6, 2023 Special counsel Jack Smith files initial 38-count indictment naming Trump and his assistant, Walter Nauta.

JULY 27, 2023 Smith files superseding indictment with 42 counts, naming Trump, Nauta, and Carlos De Oliveira, a property manager at Mar-a-Lago.

JULY 19, 2024 District Court Judge Aileen Cannon dismisses the case against Trump, holding that Smith's appointment violated the U.S. Constitution.



JULY 11, 2024 Special counsel's office files a notice of appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit.

NOV. 29, 2024 Post-election, Smith's office files a motion to voluntarily dismiss the appeal as to Trump, citing immunity.

NOV. 30, 2024 The 11th Circuit grants Smith's request to dismiss the appeal as it related to Trump.

JAN. 7, 2025 Cannon blocks release of Smith's final report.

Status | Dismissed

ELECTION INTERFERENCE CASE IN WASHINGTON

DESCRIPTION: Special counsel Jack Smith filed a four-count indictment, alleging that Trump attempted to defraud the United States and interfere with election certification in his actions on and surrounding Jan. 6, 2021.

AUG. 1, 2023 Special counsel Jack Smith files indictment in D.C. with four counts.

OCT. 16, 2023 D.C. Judge Tanya Chutkan imposes gag order on Trump.

FEB. 6, 2024 U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit upholds Chutkan's ruling that presidents do not enjoy immunity from criminal prosecution.

APRIL 25, 2024 Oral argument before Supreme Court on Trump's appeal in Trump v. United States.

JUNE 28, 2024 Supreme Court issues its ruling in *Fischer v. United States*, which focused on a different case but questioned an obstruction law used in Trump's case.

JULY 1, 2024 Supreme Court rules on Trump's appeal, says



presidents have different levels of immunity from criminal prosecution.

AUG. 27, 2024 Smith files superseding indictment after Supreme Court decision.

SEPT. 5, 2024 Case resumes in district court with status conference and discussion about how to reevaluate immunity.

NOV. 30, 2024 Trump wins 2024 presidential election.

NOV. 29, 2024 Chutkan dismisses case on request of Smith, who cites the DOJ's longstanding policy against prosecuting sitting presidents.

JAN. 8, 2025 DOJ says it will release part of Smith's findings from his prosecution of Trump.

Status | On appeal

NEW YORK CIVIL FRAUD CASE

CHARGES: New York Attorney General Letitia James filed a civil complaint alleging that Trump, his children, and others engaged in fraud to inflate the value of his assets.

SEPT. 21, 2022 New York Attorney General Letitia James files a civil complaint against Trump, his children, and others.

OCT. 4, 2023 Eleven-week bench trial begins.

FEB. 16, 2024 New York Supreme Court Justice Arthur Engoron orders Trump and his business executives to pay \$250 million in damages and bars Trump from doing business in the state for three years.



FEB. 29, 2024 New York appeals court allows partial hold on enforcing Engoron's judgment.

JULY 22, 2024 Trump asks appeals court to overturn the civil fraud judgment.

SEPT. 26, 2024 A five-judge panel in the New York Appellate Division, First Department, hears oral arguments over Trump's challenge to the judgment.

Illustration by The Epoch Times, Getty Images

By Sam Dorman | January 09, 2025 Updated: January 09, 2025

A TIME]

THE LAWSUITS AGAINST TRUMP

*An overview of the status of
cases that have targeted the*

Prior to his reelection in November, President Trump faced several pieces of litigation, including criminal cases brought by state and federal prosecutors. The cases against Trump have raised important questions about certain laws and the nature of presidential authority. In a landmark decision, the Supreme Court ruled against face sentencing on Jan. 10 in a New York case that challenges the doctrine of presidential immunity.

A separate lawsuit brought by special counsel Robert Mueller's decision that Trump is seeking to apply in New York raises important questions about politicized prosecutions, or purportedly. Here is a rundown of the lawsuits and some of





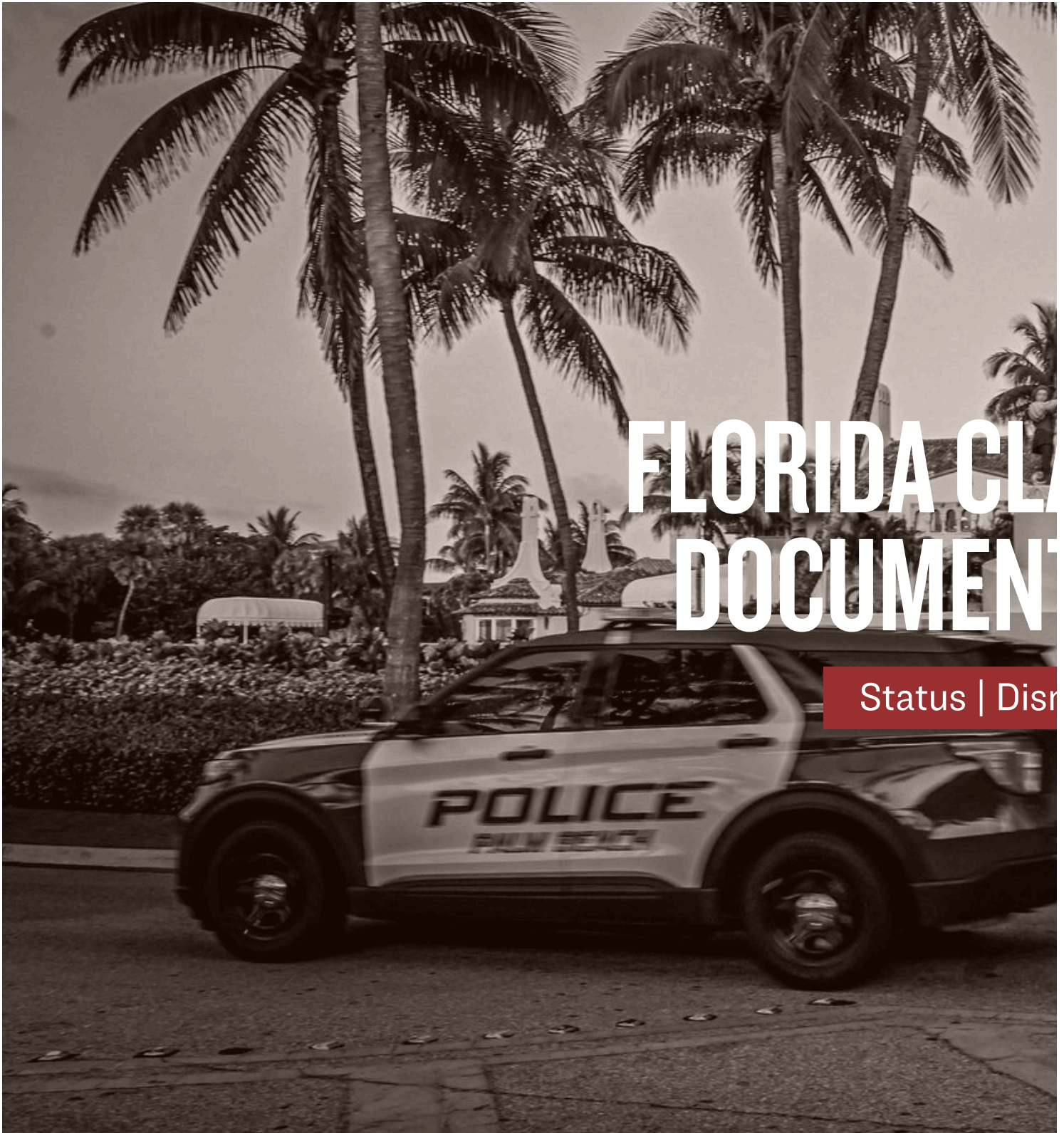
ELECTION INTERFERENCE CASE IN WAS

Status | Disruption

Description: Special counsel Jack Smith found evidence that Trump attempted to defraud the United States by interfering with the certification of the 2020 election results. This includes his actions on and surrounding the January 6th insurrection.

AUG. 1, 2023	Special counsel Jack Smith files indictment.
OCT. 16, 2023	D.C. Judge Tanya Chutkan imposes gag order.
FEB. 6, 2024	U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit grants Trump immunity from criminal prosecution.
APRIL 25, 2024	Oral argument before Supreme Court on immunity.
JUNE 28, 2024	Supreme Court issues its ruling in Fischev v. Trump but questioned an obstruction law used in the indictment.
JULY 1, 2024	Supreme Court rules on Trump's appeal, granting immunity from criminal prosecution.
AUG. 27, 2024	Smith files superseding indictment after Trump's immunity ruling.
SEPT. 5, 2024	Case resumes in district court with statutory immunity.
NOV. 6, 2024	Trump wins 2024 presidential election.
NOV. 25, 2024	Chutkan dismisses case on request of Snider and other prosecutors.
JAN. 8, 2025	DOJ says it will release part of Smith's files.





FLORIDA CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS

Status | Disposition

Description: Special counsel Jack Smith files initial 38-page report on how Trump mishandled classified documents at his home.

JUNE 8, 2023

Special counsel Jack Smith files initial 38

Waltine Nauta.

JULY 27, 2023

Smith files superseding indictment with Oliveira, a property manager at Mar-a-Lago.

JULY 15, 2024

District Court Judge Aileen Cannon dismisses Smith's motion to quash his appointment, claiming it violated the U.S. Constitution.

JULY 17, 2024

Special counsel's office files a notice of appeal.

NOV. 25, 2024

Post-election, Smith's office files a motion to quash his appointment, citing immunity.

NOV. 26, 2024

The 11th Circuit grants Smith's request to quash his appointment.

JAN. 7, 2025

Cannon blocks release of Smith's final report.



GEORGIA FILE



Description: Fulton County District Attorney Ramsey Clark has filed a 18-count indictment against Donald Trump and 18 co-defendants, alleging a vast conspiracy to overturn the 2020 presidential election.

AUG. 14, 2023

Trump and 18 co-defendants are indicted

JANUARY 2024

Multiple defendants, including Trump, recuse themselves from the case over their relationship with Nathan Wade, the prosecutor who filed the indictment.

FEB. 15, 2024

Willis testifies during contentious hearing

MARCH 13, 2024

Fulton County Superior Court Judge Scott Willis rules on the case

MARCH 15, 2024

McAfee rules Willis can stay on the case if he recuses himself. Willis recuses himself on the same day.

MARCH 29, 2024

Trump files an appeal of McAfee's refusal

SEPT. 12, 2024

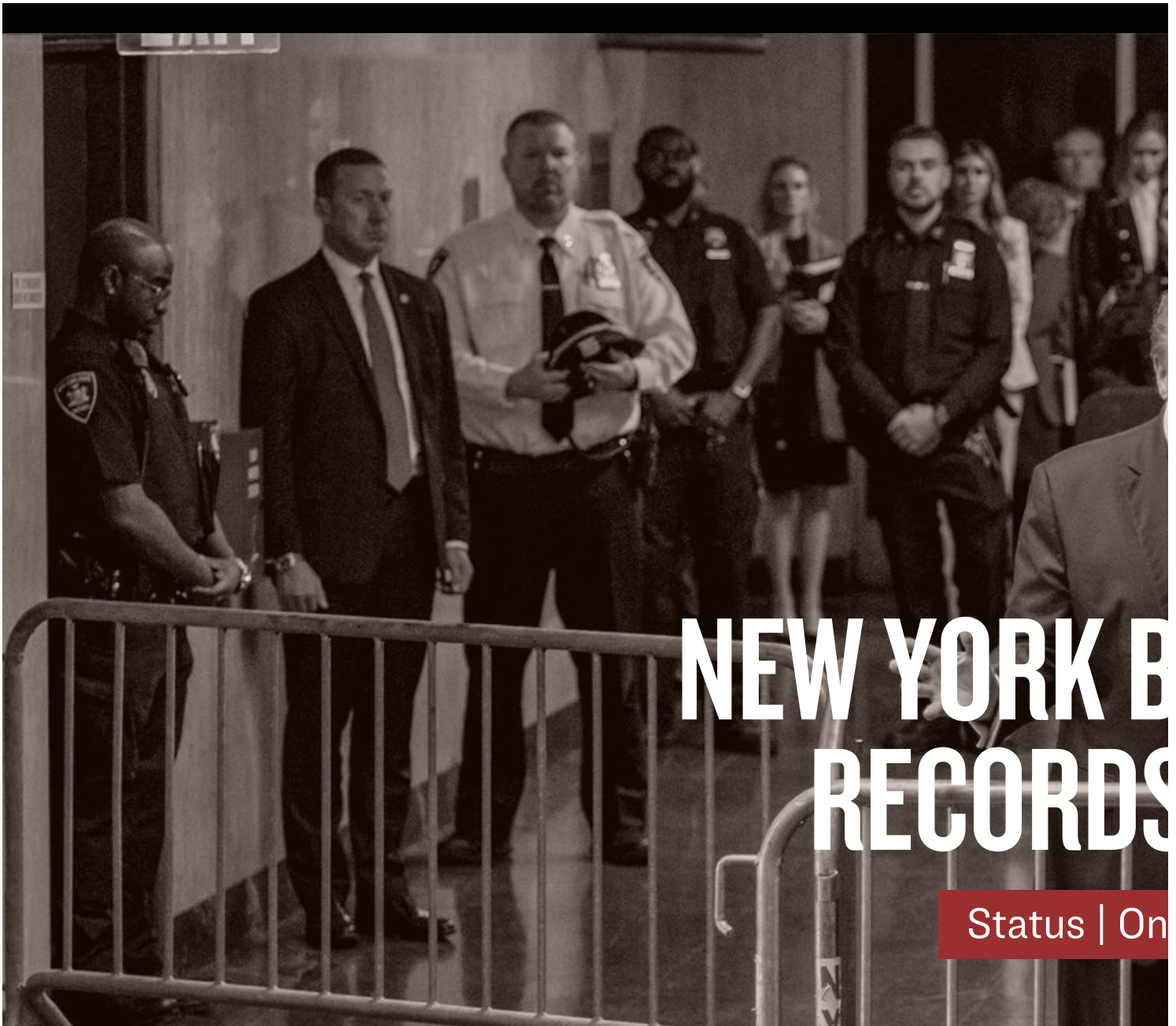
McAfee dismisses three more charges in t

NOV. 18, 2024

Georgia Court of Appeals unexpectedly ca
over the appeal.

DEC. 19, 2024

Appeals court issues its decision disqualif



**NEW YORK B
RECORDS**

Status | On



Charges: Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg charged Trump with falsification of business records as part of a hush agreement with adult film actress Stephanie Clifford, also known as Stormy Daniels.

APRIL 4, 2023	Bragg indicts Trump on 34 counts.
AUG. 11, 2023	New York Supreme Court Justice Juan Merchan rules against Trump, finding his daughter's work with a left-leaning political group was not obscene.
MARCH 26 AND APRIL 1, 2024	Merchan imposes gag orders prohibiting Trump and others from discussing the case.
APRIL 15, 2024	Trial begins, making Trump the first former president to stand trial in a criminal case.
MAY 30, 2024	A jury finds Trump guilty on 34 felony counts.
SEPT. 12, 2024	An appeals court rejects Trump's challenge to the conviction, and the Second Circuit denies Trump's request to transfer the case to federal court.
NOV. 22, 2024	Following Trump's election victory, Merchan dismisses the case.
DEC. 2, 2024	Trump files motion to dismiss the case based on the election results.

DEC. 17, 2024

Merchan rejects Trump’s immunity-based was unofficial.

JAN. 3, 2025

Merchan rejects Trump’s notion that he e sentencing for Jan. 10.

JAN. 7, 2025

An appeals court rejects Trump’s attempt

JAN. 8, 2025

Trump asks the U.S. Supreme Court to int

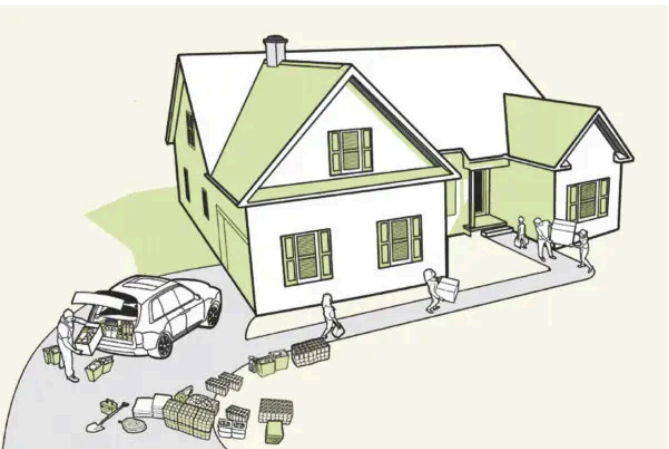


More Infographic

[See More](#)



Infographic: A Who’s Who of All Trump’s Cabinet Level Nominees



Home Prep Guide: What You Need to Last 2 Weeks in an Emergency



Trump and Harris: A Policy Comparison



A Complete Timeline of Key Events of Falun Gong



Explore Shen Yun's 2024 Season



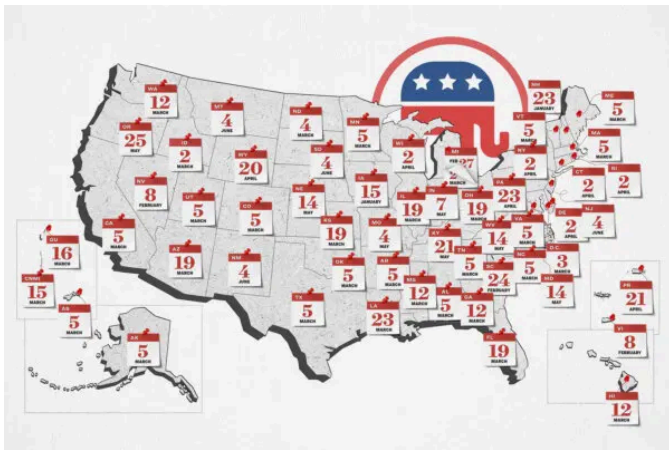
Officials From Around the World Commemorate World Falun Dafa Day



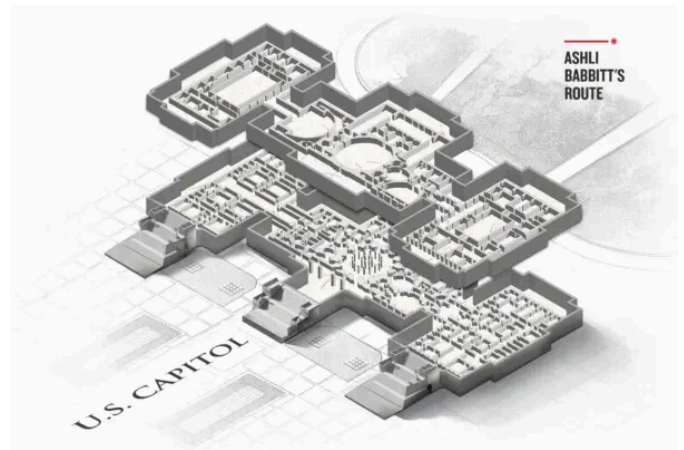
'Never Trump' Billionaires Lead Nikki Haley's 2023 Fundraising



The Killing of Ashli Babbitt: A Timeline



The 2024 Republican Presidential Primary Calendar



EXCLUSIVE: After Shooting Ashli Babbitt, Capitol Police Lt. Made False Radio Report: Lawsuit

Copyright © 2000 - 2025 The Epoch Times Association Inc. All Rights Reserved.

[Cookies Settings](#)