



## TALKING POINTS ON CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS

*Updated: January 24, 2023*

**Key Point:** President Biden is cooperating fully with the Department of Justice and will continue to do so. Donald Trump repeatedly obstructed efforts to retrieve sensitive documents to the point the Department of Justice had to obtain and execute a search warrant. **Comparing Biden's cooperation to Trump's obstruction is like comparing apples and arsenic.**

### **Biden**

- What Happened: **Exhaustive searches** found as few as 25-30 misplaced classified documents.
- The Response: **Full Cooperation:** A textbook approach to reporting and turning over misplaced classified materials immediately when found in total compliance with the law.

### **Trump**

- What Happened: **Intentional theft** of hundreds of classified documents
- The Response: **Obstruction:** Repeatedly obstructed requests from the National Archives and a Department of Justice subpoena for classified documents, **forcing DOJ to obtain and execute a search warrant** after which officials found at least 325 classified documents.

### **The Department of Justice investigating is the appropriate path forward.**

- Unlike former President Trump, President Biden and his legal team have fully cooperated with the Department of Justice from day one.
- President Biden and his legal team, without being asked, offered the DOJ access to every room in the president's private home to ensure that all documents that need to be in the possession of the government are identified and properly handled.
- Because President Biden and his legal team are fully cooperating with the DOJ, the investigation into the discovery of misplaced classified documents should proceed swiftly and efficiently.

**The simple fact is that the MAGA Republicans pushing Trump-style investigations of Biden are hypocrites who have no credibility.**

When former President Trump stole and hid classified documents and obstructed efforts by the National Archives and the DOJ to get them back:

- The House Judiciary Committee said it was a “[joke](#).”
- James Comer claimed documents found at Mar-A-Lago “[didn’t amount to a hill of beans](#)” and that stolen classified documents were not a “[not a priority](#)” for the Oversight Committee.

Now, these hypocrites are singing a different tune:

- Comer has pledged to hold [immediate hearings](#).
- House-kingmaker Marjorie Taylor Green has called for impeachment, telling [FOX News](#): “I think we need to investigate the Bidens nonstop. I’ve been very vocal on impeaching Joe Biden and hopefully we can get that done this Congress.”

## **KEY WORDS**

*Cooperation vs Obstruction*

*Misplaced vs Stolen*

*Voluntary vs Subpoena*

*Immediate vs Search Warrant*

## **OVERVIEW: THE FACTS**

- When President Biden’s personal lawyers found a handful of documents, they immediately contacted the National Archives and have been cooperating with both the Archives and the Department of Justice to rectify the situation, even voluntarily providing access to the DOJ to search every inch of President Biden’s private residence.
- Attorney General Merrick Garland asked the Trump-appointed U.S. Attorney for Chicago to review the matter and has now appointed a special counsel.
- Whereas with Mar-a-Lago, the Department of Justice was forced to execute a search warrant after former President Trump and his [lawyers refused to turn over numerous documents](#) after months of requests.
- [According to NPR](#), Trump staffers “likely concealed and removed” documents as part of an effort to obstruct the federal investigation into the discovery of the government records.” Even Trump’s lawyer refused to state that all of the documents had been returned, [according to The Washington Post](#).
- While Biden’s lawyers handed over a handful of classified documents, according to [CNN](#), “Federal investigators have recovered at least 325 classified documents from Trump as part of their inquiry.”