



NEW REPORT

How House Republicans Are Weaponizing Congressional Oversight To Protect Convicted Felon Donald Trump and Attack President Biden

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**CONGRESSIONAL
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PROJECT 



REPORT: How House Republicans Are Weaponizing Congressional Oversight To Protect Convicted Felon Donald Trump and Attack President Biden

Today, House Republicans led by MAGA Judiciary Chair Jim Jordan will hold their latest hearing attacking the Department of Justice, claiming the Department is acting politically. This hearing is nothing but another political stunt designed to attack the Biden administration and undermine faith in the justice system in the wake of Donald Trump's criminal conviction on 34 felony counts for falsifying business records to interfere in the 2016 election.

Jordan and his committee have held hearings and sent over a dozen letters to the officials involved in prosecuting the former President, accusing all of them of political bias and threatening to take Congressional action to interfere – despite the Supreme Court [ruling](#) that the Constitution has a “fundamental policy against federal interference with state criminal prosecutions.”

The hypocrisy couldn't be clearer: Republicans have used their oversight authority to defend Trump throughout his various ongoing criminal investigations, all while investigating President Biden and finding no evidence of any wrongdoing. MAGA House Republicans are the ones weaponizing federal government power for political means.

By The Numbers:

- Letters: 23, requesting thousands of pages of documents and communications
- Threatening legislative proposals: 7
- Hearings & field hearings scheduled: 3
- Subpoenas: 1
- Cost to the American taxpayers: At least [\\$20 million and counting](#)

House Republicans Have Been Working To Interfere With Trump's Manhattan Trial For Over A Year

Last week, former President Donald Trump became a convicted felon when a jury found him guilty of 34 felonies for falsifying business records to deceive voters and interfere in the 2016 election. He was first indicted on March 30, 2023, and ever since, Jordan has used his Congressional oversight authority to interfere in the case. He has attacked the Manhattan District Attorney, Alvin Bragg, sending threatening letters and demands – even though Congress

[cannot lawfully](#) use its investigative power to engage in law enforcement, and the Supreme Court has [ruled](#) that the Constitution has a “fundamental policy against federal interference with state criminal prosecutions.”

Just After Trump’s Conviction, Jordan Announced A Hearing On The Trial And Sent A Letter Demanding Testimony From The Manhattan District Attorney’s Office. Just minutes after Trump was convicted on felony charges by the Manhattan jury, Chairman Jordan [declared](#) the verdict – decided by a jury of Trump’s peers, who unanimously agreed on all 34 counts – a “travesty of justice” issued by a “kangaroo court...weaponized by partisan prosecutors in front of a biased judge with an unfair process, designed to keep President Trump off the campaign trail.” He immediately [scheduled a Congressional hearing](#) on the outcome and [sent two letters](#) to the prosecutors involved in the case, demanding that Bragg and his assistant Matthew Colangelo appear for live testimony. Echoing Jordan, MAGA House Speaker Mike Johnson accused Trump’s prosecutors of election interference, [declaring](#) the trial “borderline criminal conspiracy.”

- **Jordan Started Investigating Bragg Weeks Before The Verdict Dropped.** With the trial underway in late April, Jordan [announced](#) that he was launching a new investigation into Alvin Bragg’s office, in a clear attempt to interfere with the state-level criminal prosecution. Jordan also [sent](#) a letter to Attorney General Garland, accusing Bragg of leading a “politicized prosecution” and demanding sensitive documents and information related to one of his lead prosecutors’ employment history as well as “all documents and communications between or among the Justice Department and the New York County District Attorney’s Office referring or relating to the prosecution of President Donald J. Trump.”

Jim Jordan Relentlessly Attacked Manhattan Prosecutor Alvin Bragg Amid Trump Trial Proceedings. As trial proceedings began in March 2024, Jordan began amping up his attacks on Bragg:

- **Jordan Accused Bragg of Political Interference, Ignoring The Impartial Grand Jury’s Decision To Indict.** Despite Trump only being indicted after an impartial grand jury [voted](#) to charge the former president, with the trial underway Jordan [accused](#) Bragg of political interference for “prosecut[ing] President Trump because he’s a political rival,” [calling](#) the case “**totally political and a complete sham.**” He even [labeled](#) the proceedings, “**election interference. Pure and simple.**”
- **Jordan Targeted Bragg’s Prosecutorial Record To Undermine Judicial Proceedings Against Trump.** Jordan took every opportunity to undermine the prosecutors involved in Trump’s trial by amplifying headlines about crime in New York

City, blaming Bragg. In March, with trial proceedings scheduled, Jordan [tweeted](#) that Bragg should be focused on subway crime in New York City instead of prosecuting Trump – “What Alvin Bragg should be focused on today: [Headline: Violence subway crime soaring: rail & present danger.]” In April, as jury selection began, Jordan [wrote](#): “You’re not safe in Alvin Bragg’s New York City. Sadly, he’s spending all his time attacking President Trump rather than cleaning up his own streets.” In April, shortly after the trial began, Jordan [tweeted](#) a headline stating “Police Searching For Suspect After Man Stabbed In The Back In Random Attack In East Village,” with the image captioned, “Alvin Bragg’s New York City.”

- **Jordan Explicitly Named Bragg In Tweets Defending Trump.** Jordan supported Trump unequivocally throughout the case and began explicitly targeting Bragg in tweets defending the former President as trial proceedings began. In April, Jordan [attacked](#) the case’s merits, tweeting, “Alvin Bragg’s star witness said he knew nothing about reimbursing Michael Cohen. The case is already falling apart,” and [accused](#) Bragg of “going after President Trump because he’s fighting for us.” He also [accused](#) Bragg of being an unfair prosecutor, “Alvin Bragg isn’t giving President Trump a fair deal. Neither will Jack Smith. Neither will Fani Willis.” Jordan also [tweeted](#), “Remember, Alvin Bragg’s case against President Trump is based on two faulty concepts: 1. The word of convicted liar Michael Cohen. 2. A shaky legal theory making a misdemeanor a felony. **Complete sham.**”
- **“It’s Borderline Criminal Conspiracy:” Echoing Jordan, MAGA Speaker Mike Johnson Accused The Biden Administration of Election Interference – Despite the Federal Government Having No Involvement In State Judicial Proceedings.** Johnson [posted](#), “The Biden administration is weaponizing our justice system to target President Trump. **It’s election interference. It’s borderline criminal conspiracy.** American people see right through it. It has to stop.”

Shortly After Former President Trump’s First Indictment in New York, House Republicans Tried to Interfere With the Investigation and Held A Sham Field Hearing. Shortly after Trump’s indictment, Jordan [sent](#) two letters to DA Bragg [demanding](#) information about the charges. He also [sent](#) a letter to and later moved to [subpoena](#) a former special assistant to the DA who ended his involvement in the case in February 2022. Just a few weeks later, Jordan and his MAGA cronies held a [partisan stunt field hearing](#) in the heart of Manhattan [painting a false narrative](#) of the District Attorney as a pro-crime, anti-victim prosecutor overseeing a city inundated by violence in the streets — even though overall crime in New York City had [declined](#) by about 5.6% since Bragg took office and was [more than three times higher](#) in Jordan’s home district at the time. Other Republicans, like Andy Biggs (R-AZ), [introduced legislation](#) to defund the Manhattan District Attorney’s office and recoup federal funds in retaliation for the indictment.

- **In Anticipation of Trump’s Indictment, Jordan Threatened The Local District Attorney’s Office With Requests for Documents and Testimony.** Over the span of less than a week, Jordan and other top House Republicans [sent three letters](#) to Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg and his office demanding documents and testimony related to expectations that Bragg might charge Trump over a hush-money payment to adult actress Stormy Daniels in 2016—even though legal experts suggested that any efforts to subpoena Bragg would “[disrupt the basic elements of our adversarial system of justice](#).” Further, one of Trump’s lawyers [personally prodded](#) Jordan to investigate any coming prosecution.
- **Oversight Chair James Comer Accused Bragg of “Weaponizing” His Office.** On Mar. 31, Comer [posted](#) on X, “The Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg has weaponized his office to launch a blatantly political indictment. This case rests on a far-fetched legal theory untested anywhere in the U.S. The American people deserve better than this cheap, political stunt. @foxandfriends”

After His Manhattan Indictment, Trump “Frequently Chat[ted]” with Top House Republicans Like Jim Jordan (R-OH) and Elise Stefanik (R-NY) To Discuss Their Probe Into Bragg. After Trump’s first indictment, he [reportedly](#) “frequently chat[ted] by phone with supporters such as House Judiciary chair Jim Jordan (R-Ohio) and GOP Conference chair Elise Stefanik (R-N.Y.) to discuss Republicans’ probes into Biden and Manhattan DA Alvin Bragg. Jordan and Stefanik — also members of the Judiciary’s panel that targets what it calls the ‘weaponization’ of law enforcement against conservatives — are particularly key players in Trump’s orbit.”

Interfering In Trump’s Second Indictment On Espionage Act Violation

In June 2023, Donald Trump was indicted in a federal court in Florida on 40 criminal charges of violating the Espionage Act and obstructing justice. House Republicans subsequently sprung to Trump’s defense, attacking federal prosecutors and sending demands for documents and information.

Jordan Sent Letters To Special Counsel Jack Smith Demanding All Documents And Communications Related To Trump’s Investigation and Prosecution. On Sept. 7, Jordan sent a letter to Special Counsel Jack Smith [accusing](#) his prosecutors of “intimidation and coercion” against one of Trump’s associates – a witness in his case on classified documents – and demanded all documents and communications related to the prosecutor in question. Following up on this request, Jordan sent another letter on Dec. 21 [demanding](#) a far more expansive set of files including “all documents and communications between or among the

Office of Special Counsel, the Office of the Attorney General, or the Office of the Deputy Attorney General referring or relating to the investigation and prosecution of President Donald Trump.”

After Trump’s Second Indictment, Jordan Sent A Letter Threatening An Investigation Into the Special Counsel. Following Trump’s second indictment, Jordan sent [two letters](#) to Attorney General Merrick Garland [demanding](#) sensitive information about the prosecution and [asking](#) Special Counsel Jack Smith for a memo and other documents “describing, listing, or delineating the authority and jurisdiction of the special counsel.” Days later, Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL) sent another letter to Garland demanding the public release of a [full list](#) of the special counsel’s staff, including “phone lists, or similar records.”

House Republicans Attacked Federal Prosecutors After Trump’s Second Indictment. After Trump’s second indictment, top House Republicans raged against the prosecutors involved in bringing charges. Former Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) [expressed](#) support for [eliminating funding](#) for a new FBI headquarters in [retaliation](#) for the charges. Far-right Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA) introduced legislation to [defund](#) Special Counsel Jack Smith’s office, [joined by](#) Reps. Andy Biggs (R-AZ) and Tim Burchett (R-TN). Top figures like now-Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) and House Majority Whip Tom Emmer (R-MN) made [cryptic remarks](#) about holding the DOJ “[accountable](#)”

Far-Right House Republicans Hosted A Press Conference About January 6 During Trump’s Arrest Hearing, Decrying The DOJ. At the exact same time as Trump’s scheduled [federal arraignment](#) and [arrest](#), a group of far-right House Republicans including Matt Gaetz (R-FL), Paul Gosar (R-AZ), Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA), Ralph Norman (R-VA) hosted a press conference described as a “[field hearing](#)” at the Capitol attacking the DOJ for prosecuting January 6 defendants. Many House Republicans called the indictment a form of “[election interference](#)” — even though the [very same Republicans](#) leading this press conference were key in efforts to undermine the 2020 election. In fact, the MAGA press conference featured Jeff Clark, an extreme [election-denying witness](#) who [schemed](#) with Trump to encourage state legislatures to overturn the 2020 election results. Last year, federal law enforcement authorities [searched Clark’s home](#), seizing his electronic devices as part of a [criminal investigation](#) into possible violations of laws related to false statements, conspiracy, and obstruction of justice.

Ahead of the Indictment, Jim Jordan Directed Staff To Work On Restricting Funds For The DOJ and FBI. According to the Wall Street Journal, Jordan [directed](#) his staff to work on legislation restricting funds for the DOJ and the FBI ahead of Trump’s indictment.

Trump's Third Indictment On January 6th Charges: House Republicans Threaten The Department of Justice

On August 1, 2023, a federal grand jury indicted Donald Trump on four charges related to the January 6th insurrection. Weeks earlier, Trump had announced he received a target letter for the Special Counsel's investigation into the January 6th insurrection, and House Republican leaders worked directly with Donald Trump to weaponize Congress in his defense. In a call directly after the announcement of the target letter with top GOP leaders, Trump discussed how Congress could be used to thwart the DOJ investigation into his crimes. In the hours after the grand jury indicted Donald Trump in connection with several crimes related to his attempt to overturn the 2020 election, Republicans rushed to his defense, calling the indictment a distraction from their investigation of Hunter Biden and attacking the Department of Justice.

After Trump's Third Indictment, Jordan Accused The DOJ of Colluding With the White House and Requested All Documents & Communications Related To Special Counsel Jack Smith. On Aug. 28, Jordan sent [two letters](#) to the White House and Attorney General Garland accusing the DOJ of "colluding" with the White House on Trump's third indictment and demanding all documents and communications between the DOJ and the Executive Office of the President related to prosecutions by Special Counsel Smith. Ultimately,

House Republicans Attacked The Judge Involved In The Case, Special Counsel Jack Smith, and Attorney General Merrick Garland After Trump's Third Indictment.

Shortly after Trump's third indictment, top House Republicans rushed to interfere. House GOP Chair Elise Stefanik [reportedly](#) spoke on the phone with Trump to strategize ways to rally House Republicans around the former president, pushing House Republicans to target key figures involved in the case. Far-right Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL) [introduced](#) a resolution to censure the District Court judge overseeing Trump's indictment on January 6 charges, Tanya Chutkan, and Marjorie Taylor Greene [revamped](#) plans to impeach Attorney General Merrick Garland and to use the Holman Rule to defund Jack Smith's special counsel. Former Speaker McCarthy [threatened](#) that House Republicans would "continue to uncover the truth" about the supposed "two-tiered system of justice." Meanwhile, Oversight Chair James Comer (R-KY) [rushed](#) to Fox News to attack Special Counsel Smith, while Chair Jordan [fervently defended](#) Trump, posting on X, "When you drain The Swamp, The Swamp fights back. President Trump did nothing wrong!"

Top House Republicans Were In Close Contact With Trump As His January 6 Indictment Surfaced. In early July 2023, former President Trump [received a target letter](#) from the DOJ as part of special counsel Jack Smith's investigation into the January 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. Shortly after Trump announced the target letter on social media, House GOP Conference Chair Elise Stefanik (R-NY) [spoke](#) with the former president. Jim Jordan even [asked](#) Smith for a memo and other documents "describing, listing, or

delineating the authority and jurisdiction of the special counsel.” According to CNN [reporting](#), Stefanik was once again in contact with Trump to strategize his defense on August 1 when the indictment was handed down, and the Trump campaign distributed [talking points](#) to House Republicans to ensure that they remained on message in defense of the former president.

Interfering In Trump’s Fourth Indictment: Election Interference In Georgia

On August 14, 2023, Donald Trump was [indicted](#) for a fourth time by state prosecutors in Georgia on 10 felony racketeering and conspiracy charges over his efforts to overturn the 2020 election results in the state. Just like in New York, House Republicans immediately targeted the local prosecutor bringing charges against Trump, Fani Willis.

After Trump’s Georgia Indictment, Jordan Began Working Overtime to Attack The Prosecutors & Investigators Involved. On the same day Trump was brought in for his mugshot and fingerprinting, Jordan [sent a letter](#) to DA Fani Willis accusing her of coordinating with the DOJ. He also demanded access to documents and communications about federal funding and Executive Branch relationships.

- **Jordan Targeted Prosecutors Involved In Trump’s Georgia Case.** Jordan has worked to interfere with criminal proceedings against Trump in Georgia by tying up local prosecutors with threatening letters and records requests. On Jan. 12, he [sent a letter](#) to Special Assistant District Attorney Nathan Wade accusing the state prosecutors of “improper coordination among politicized actors,” demanding all documents and communications with Special Counsel Jack Smith, the White House, the January 6 Select Committee, and more. On May 9, he sent another letter rehashing the allegations and [requesting his testimony](#) before the House Judiciary Committee.
- **Jordan Sent Numerous Letters To Willis Accusing Her of A Politically-Motivated Prosecution.** Jordan has also directly targeted the district attorney involved in the case with threatening letters and records requests. On Aug. 24, Jordan sent a letter to Willis, [accusing](#) her of a “politically motivated” prosecution and colluding with DOJ Special Counsel Jack Smith, and demanded information about federal funding as well as all documents and communications with the federal government. On Sept. 27, Jordan [doubled down](#) on his accusations, declaring her response to his letter “hostile” and threatened legislation broadening authority to move criminal cases from state court to federal court as well as legislative reforms “to insulate former and current Presidents from politically motivated prosecutions by state and local officials.” On Dec. 6, Jordan sent [yet another letter](#) renewing his allegations and demanding all documents and communications with the January 6 Select Committee.



House Republicans Attacked Georgia Prosecutors After Trump’s Third Indictment In Georgia. After Trump’s fourth Georgia indictment, House Republicans followed the same playbook as before, declaring Willis a “[far-left radical district attorney](#)” and a “[rogue DA](#).” Fringe figures like Marjorie Taylor Greene and Lauren Boebert compared the indictment to a “[banana republic](#)” and “[full communism](#).” Other Republicans [accused](#) her of “election interference,” with one going so far as to call for her to be [removed from office and criminally prosecuted](#).