



Written by [Staff](#) on December 5, 2023

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## Inside Track

### Wife of Iowa Politician Convicted of Ballot Stuffing



(Sadeugra/iStock/Getty Images Plus)

In Iowa, the wife of a county supervisor who wanted to help her husband secure the Republican nomination for Congress in the 2020 election was convicted on November 21 of 52 counts of voter fraud.

Fox News reported on November 23 that Kim Phuong Taylor, 49, was found guilty of utilizing a ballot-stuffing scheme for the benefit of her husband, Woodbury County Supervisor Jeremy Taylor, with a federal jury in Sioux City convicting her on three counts of fraudulent registration, 23 counts of fraudulent voting, and 26 counts of providing false information in registering and voting. She faces a maximum of five years in prison for each count. Jeremy has reportedly not been charged, but has been named as an unindicted co-conspirator.

Kim first committed voter fraud in the 2020 primary race in which her husband was running for Iowa's 4th Congressional District. He ended up coming in a distant third place, but then ran for Woodbury County supervisor in the 2020 general election. Kim committed fraud again — and this time, Jeremy won.

According to prosecutors, Kim, who is a native of Vietnam, approached various ethnically Vietnamese voters who had limited English skills and proceeded to fill out and sign their ballots and election forms, as well as those of their English-speaking children.

Prosecutors said Kim induced others to submit dozens of absentee ballots, voter registration forms, and absentee ballot request forms with false information; filled out and signed the voter forms of some voters without their permission; and told others that they could do the same for relatives who weren't present.

The Associated Press noted on November 21 that county officials were alerted to the fraud scheme when election workers processing absentee ballots noticed that a number of them had similar handwriting. Although no one testified to witnessing Kim sign any of the documents, authorities were able to piece together the situation based on the handwriting and the fact that she was present in each



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voter's home when the forms were completed.

— *Luis Miguel*

## **Congressmen Retiring Over Frustration With “Broken” System**



(Mikhail Makarov/iStock/Getty Images Plus)

Not only is the American public fed up with Congress, but many congressmen are just as frustrated — and are opting to jump ship. A November 22 article in *The Hill* noted that 30 members of the House — 19 Democrats and 11 Republicans — say they won't run for reelection in the next cycle. Some of the lawmakers claim the system is “broken” and that work cannot be accomplished in the current culture.

About half of the retirement announcements were made in October and November amid the fallout of the heated speaker battle in the House, which saw Representative Mike Johnson (R-La.) end up with the speaker's gavel after a brutal fight within the GOP during which RINOs (Republicans In Name Only) and conservatives shot down each other's preferred candidates.

According to *The Hill*, representatives leaving include Ken Buck (R-Colo.), Anna Eshoo (D-Calif.), Brian Higgins (D-N.Y.), Bill Johnson (R-Ohio), Derek Kilmer (D-Wash.), Debbie Lesko (R-Ariz.), and Adam Schiff (D-Calif.). Plus, “Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Texas) is running for Houston mayor, and Rep. Dean Phillips (D-Minn.) is mounting a longshot bid for the Democratic nomination for president. Both, however, can remain in Congress and run for reelection if they lose or drop out of their other races,” continued the paper.

The retirements may have a profound effect on the makeup of the next Congress. With a slim Republican majority, the 2024 election could easily result in either a Democratic majority or a bigger GOP majority. Because incumbents are more likely than newcomers to win, the loss of many incumbents creates a scenario where anything can happen.

This could give way to a new generation of elected officials who are less willing to compromise when it comes to defending the Constitution. The key, of course, is how informed voters are. Without the proper understanding of the Constitution and our system of government, there is no reason to expect that the newcomers who fill open seats will be any better than the representatives they replace.



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— *Luis Miguel*

## **New Jersey to Ban New Gas-powered Cars by 2035**



(Fahroni/iStock/Getty Images Plus)

New Jersey has announced a plan to ban the sale of new gasoline-powered automobiles by 2035. The Associated Press reported on November 21 about the announcement by Governor Phil Murphy, a Democrat, and Shawn LaTourette, commissioner of the state's Department of Environmental Protection.

Restrictions on new gas-powered light-duty vehicles will begin in New Jersey in model year 2027, and ramp up to a complete ban on new gas-powered vehicle sales by 2035. The new rule does not ban ownership of gas-powered vehicles, nor does it ban the sale of used cars that run on fossil fuels.

Murphy even claimed that the ban isn't actually a ban: "[The rule] does not ban gasoline cars, nor does it force consumers to buy EVs [electric vehicles]. [It] will provide certainty to vehicle manufacturers, suppliers, utilities, and charging infrastructure companies to make the long-term investments that will be crucial to large-scale deployment of light-duty ZEVs [zero-emission vehicles] and consumer choice." (In other words, it's not a ban on gas cars, it only forces manufacturers to stop producing them if they wish to sell cars in New Jersey.)

Thus far, New Jersey consumers haven't been keen to purchase EVs. "Governments can mandate and auto manufacturers can build, but none of these goals will be met if consumers don't buy the vehicles," Jim Appleton of the New Jersey Coalition of Automotive Retailers told news station New Jersey 101.5 on November 21. He noted that many consumers "are still put off by the high price" of EVs: While base models for new gas-powered vehicles typically begin around \$15,000, prices for new electric vehicles start at about \$40,000 for base models, and with more accessories can easily top \$100,000. Plus, the infrastructure to charge electric vehicles is not yet available, with charging stations being few and far between.

The Garden State joins several others in putting the climate cart in front of the fossil-fuel horse, with California, Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington having created similar rules.

— *James Murphy*



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## Eric Adams Accused of Sexual Assault



Eric Adams (AP Images)

On November 22, New York City Mayor Eric Adams was slapped with a civil summons alleging that he sexually assaulted a co-worker 30 years ago while he was in the New York City Police Department.

The news of the sexual-assault allegation, broken by news website The Messenger on November 23, was met by the mayor and his office with a complete denial, with Adams claiming he never even met the plaintiff.

“It absolutely did not happen. I don’t recall ever meeting this person. And I would never harm anyone in that magnitude. It did not happen,” Adams said while speaking to reporters. “It’s going to go its course; it’s going to take its process. But it did not happen. And that is not who I am, and that’s who I have never been in my professional life.”

According to the summons, the plaintiff is seeking \$5 million in damages. “The claims brought here allege intentional and negligent acts and omissions for physical, psychological, and other injuries suffered as a result of conduct that would constitute sexual offenses,” reads the document.

The claim against Adams was filed under New York state’s Adult Survivors Act, which was signed in May 2022, went into effect in November 2022, and expired on November 23, 2023 — meaning the claim came in right under the deadline. The act allowed alleged victims of sexual offenses for which the statute of limitations had lapsed to file civil suits for a one-year period.

For several months Adams has also been dealing with a quagmire of legal woes related to allegations of financial wrongdoing by his team. While he has not been charged with anything, at least one individual with long-standing ties to the mayor is accused of being involved in a straw-man donor scheme, in which the Adams campaign colluded with the Turkish government to get Turkish money in exchange for fast-tracking the opening of a high-rise consulate in time for President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan of Turkey to cut the ribbon on the facility.

— *Luis Miguel*



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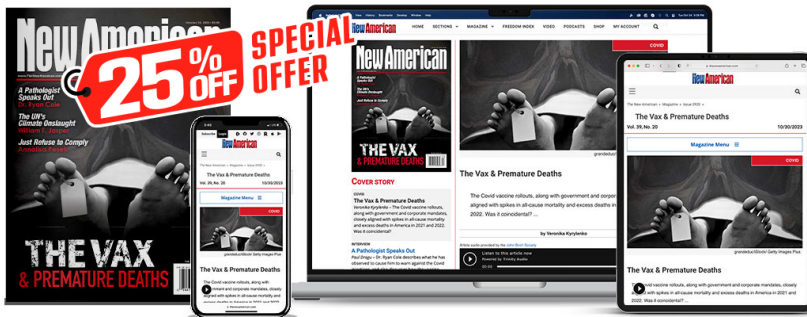
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