

# [***The Latest | First 7 jurors seated at the end of the second day of Trump’s hush money trial***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6BTF-RBV1-DYMD-60KF-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Body**

NEW YORK — Following a protracted questionnaire phase and hours of questioning on Tuesday, seven jurors were seated by the time the court adjourned on [*the second day*](https://apnews.com/article/trump-hush-money-criminal-trial-new-york-dd1a8dcc063b7ad0fbe14af6e8724c2f) of [*Donald Trump*](https://apnews.com/hub/donald-trump) ’s hush money trial. Jury selection will resume Thursday morning.

The jurors are picked by process of elimination in a system that will repeat until a full jury is selected: Eighteen prospective jurors are brought to the jury box and then lawyers move to have certain prospective jurors eliminated “for cause.” They then eliminate some with peremptory challenges, which don’t require a reason.

Those selected for the 12-person panel were culled from the first wave of prospective jurors — a group of about 100 people. Several possible jurors were dismissed earlier in the day after saying they could not be impartial or had other commitments that would conflict with the trial, which is expected to last several weeks.

The first day of Trump’s trial [*ended on Monday*](https://apnews.com/article/trump-hush-money-trial-jury-selection-8da8759352478be8effd3d5734aae35e) with no one picked to sit on the jury or as one of six alternates.

The criminal trial is the first of any former U.S. commander-in-chief and also the first of Trump’s four indictments to go to trial.

Trump has [*pleaded not guilty*](https://apnews.com/article/donald-trump-arraignment-hush-money-81225510ef7638494852816878f612f0) to [*34 felony counts*](https://apnews.com/article/trump-indictment-full-document-640043319549) of falsifying business records as part of [*an alleged scheme*](https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/23741707-new-york-v-trump-statement-of-facts) to bury stories he feared could hurt his 2016 campaign.

The allegations focus on payoffs to two women, porn actor Stormy Daniels and Playboy model Karen McDougal, who said they had extramarital sexual encounters with Trump years earlier, as well as to a Trump Tower doorman who claimed to have a story about a child he alleged Trump had out of wedlock. Trump says none of these supposed sexual encounters occurred.

Currently:

— Here's [*what happened yesterday*](https://apnews.com/article/trump-hush-money-trial-jury-selection-8da8759352478be8effd3d5734aae35e) on the first day of Trump’s historic hush money trial

— Only 1 in 3 US adults think Trump acted illegally in New York hush money case, [*AP-NORC poll shows*](https://apnews.com/article/trump-trial-indictment-hush-money-poll-b3d9a555993faf22e6ebfaf798bfbd2b)

— Trump trial: Why can’t Americans see or hear what is happening [*inside the courtroom*](https://apnews.com/article/trump-court-new-york-cameras-d2b8b34aedbdce0aab5bbbf492fdc83a)

— Donald Trump brings his [*campaign to the courthouse*](https://apnews.com/article/trump-criminal-trial-campaign-833ca03359cb76331f16580ac04e398e) as his criminal hush money trial begins

Here's the latest:

**BIDEN MAKES NO MENTION OF TRUMP'S TRIAL AT CAMPAIGN STOPS IN PENNSYLVANIA**

President Joe Biden made a series of campaign stops in the Pennsylvania city of Scranton, where he spent part of his childhood, but he didn’t publicly mention his predecessor’s trial in New York even once.

Biden gave a speech at a community center, where he called for higher taxes on the rich and slammed Trump as out-of-touch and elitist.

He later visited his childhood home, lingering longer than planned and posing for pictures in the backyard with neighborhood children, as crowds of onlookers filled nearby sidewalks.

The president ended his day addressing campaign organizers at a union hall. Through it all, Biden didn’t bring up the hush money case against Trump that was in its second day.

Biden’s campaign has insisted that he will stay focused on governing and talking about policies that matter to American voters, while Trump is focused on himself and his legal issues. Complicating that hands-off message is the outsized amount of media attention the early part of Trump’s trial has attracted — but so far Biden has successfully ignored the proceedings.

**TRUMP CAMPAIGNS AT HARLEM BODEGA AFTER SPENDING TUESDAY IN COURT**

Former President Donald Trump arrived at a Harlem bodega for a campaign stop after his second day in court.

Hundreds of onlookers were waiting as his motorcade pulled up outside the Sanaa Convenient Store, a location chosen for him to spotlight his campaign messages on crime and inflation.

Trump pumped his fist and shook hands with some supporters. He joined them as they chanted “Four more years!” before heading into the bodega. He came out after a few minutes and said, “They want law and order.”

**7TH JUROR SELECTED BEFORE COURT ADJOURNS TUESDAY**

A seventh juror in Donald Trump’s hush money trial was chosen before the court adjourned for the day.

On his way out of the courthouse, Trump once again stopped in the hallway to rail against the case to reporters.

“We are going to continue our fight against this judge,” he said, accusing Judge Juan Merchant of “rushing” the trial.

**NYC MAYOR VISITS COURTHOUSE TO ‘INSPECT’ POLICE PRESENCE**

New York City Mayor Eric Adams said Tuesday that court officers and police officers were doing a good job of maintaining order outside the courthouse where jury selection for Trump’s hush money trial was proceeding.

“Justice is going to take its course here in the city but the name of the game is to make sure we minimize our resources, and I think no one does it better than our law enforcement apparatus, knowing how to control big events, making sure it’s done right,” Adams said.

The Democratic mayor visited the area across the street from the courthouse and said he wanted to ensure that police resources were being allocated appropriately because “you have to inspect what you expect.”

Adams checked out the courthouse scene following a news conference nearby at City Hall.

**SECOND POOL OF POTENTIAL JURORS SWORN IN**

A second group of potential jurors in Donald Trump's hush money trial in Manhattan were sworn in Tuesday afternoon.

The 96 individuals looked around curiously as they passed a half-dozen journalists and a sketch artist seated in the back row of the courtroom for the trial's second day.

“Ma’am, ma’am put your cell phone away,” a court security officer told one panelist after she saw the former president and tried to pull out her phone.

They were sworn in, vowing to truthfully answer all questions, and subsequently sent home for the day.

“I know that you’ve been sitting around all day, waiting for something to happen, and I want you to know that that wasn’t lost on us,” Judge Juan M. Merchan said, telling them that things would start right away when they return Thursday morning.

**SELECTED JURORS SWORN IN**

The first six jurors selected for Trump's criminal trial were sworn in just before 4 p.m. on Tuesday.

“This will be your permanent seat for the duration of the trial,” Judge Juan M. Merchan told the jurors as they took their places in the jury box.

The jurors stood and all raised their right hands. The panelists selected so far are an IT worker, an English teacher, an oncology nurse, a sales professional, a software engineer and a corporate lawyer.

**6 JURORS SELECTED IN TRUMP TRIAL**

The first six jurors in Donald Trump's hush money trial were seated by late afternoon Tuesday after a protracted questionnaire process that began a day earlier and hours of questioning.

Those picked for the 12-person panel were culled from the first wave of prospective jurors — a group of about 100 people. The jurors were selected by process of elimination. Several other potential jurors were dismissed earlier in the day after saying they could not be impartial or had other commitments that would conflict with the trial, which is expected to last several weeks. At least one was excused after coming down with flu-like symptoms.

Fifteen other jurors still need to be selected and a second wave of potential jurors has yet to be questioned.

**JUDGE ALLOWS QUESTIONING OF POTENTIAL JURORS ABOUT SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS**

Judge Juan M. Merchan will allow attorneys in Donald Trump's hush money trial to ask prospective jurors about social media posts after Trump lawyer Todd Blanche raised the issue.

With prospective jurors not yet back in the room, Blanche told the judge he had found a number of social media posts he said come from possible jurors that are “very much contrary to the answers they gave.”

As an example, he showed Merchan a Facebook post that he said was from a prospective juror’s account and which described going to a Manhattan dance party to celebrate Trump’s loss in the last election.

Merchan said he would ask the juror to come in and permit attorneys to ask her questions about it.

This is clearly an anti-Trump event that she’s outside rallying and celebrating with,” Susan Necheles, one of Trump's attorneys, said.

**POTENTIAL JURORS DEMUR WHEN ASKED FOR THEIR OPINIONS OF TRUMP**

Several prospective jurors in Donald Trump's hush money trial hemmed and hawed after being asked about their opinions of the former president during the questioning phase of jury selection on Tuesday.

When asked about his personal views of Trump, a Manhattan bookseller said it “has absolutely no bearing on the case that you’re presenting or defending. That is a separate thing.

“What I think of President Trump outside this room has nothing to do with what goes on in this room.”

Trump's lawyer Todd Blanche again asked the man to divulge his views of Trump, suggesting he imagine himself sitting at a bar with friends. The man demurred, getting a laugh out with his response: “If we were at a bar, I would.”

“You’re asking me to imbue my political views into a criminal case,” the man continued, calling them apples and oranges.

Finally, he offered: “I’m a Democrat, so there you go.”

Another man, a criminal prosecutor in the Bronx, said he had at least some positive views toward the former president.

“There’s things associated with him that I agree with, things I don’t really agree with him on,” the man said. He added, “I have a lot of friends in law enforcement who are pro-Trump.”

Another prospective juror said she’s not into ***politics*** and doesn’t have an opinion about Trump, but she is aware of criticism of his treatment of women.

“I’m a female, he’s targeted some females, so I would say some of my friends have strong opinions on him,” said the woman, who works in social media marketing for a sports betting company.

**TRUMP BACKTRACKS ON BEING PRESENT FOR ALL SIDEBAR QUESTIONING**

A day after Donald Trump insisted that he be present during one-on-one sidebar questioning of prospective jurors in his hush money trial, the former president changed his mind. Before an early afternoon break on Tuesday, Trump’s lawyers informed Judge Juan M. Merchan that he no longer wished to exercise his right to be present for all sidebars.

No such questioning has taken place, yet. The judge on Monday said that instead of in a side room, he’d conduct such questioning in his courtroom — with other jurors ushered out — to accommodate the logistical challenges of having his Trump and his Secret Service detail present.

“Mr. Trump, yesterday we discussed whether you wanted to be present at sidebars. You indicated you did. Your attorney indicated to me that you have changed your mind,” Merchan said, noting that Trump had signed a form waiving that right, known as Antommarchi Rights.

**FIRST WAVE OF JURY SELECTION ENTERS NEW PHASE**

The first wave of jury selection in former President Donald Trump's hush money trial entered a new phase just before noon Tuesday after the remaining people from the first pool of potential jurors finished answering the questionnaire, allowing attorneys to begin individual questioning.

“Let’s talk about the obvious: The defendant in this case is both the former president and a candidate for that office. No one is suggesting that you can’t be a fair juror because you’ve heard of Donald Trump,” Assistant District Attorney Joshua Steinglass told the group. “We don’t expect you to have been living under a rock for the last eight years or the last 30 years.”

Steinglass spelled out the unique nature of the case, telling prospective jurors the witnesses include a former tabloid publisher, an adult film star, and Trump’s former lawyer, Michael Cohen, who went to prison for crimes including lying to Congress.

He added that some witnesses have written books and recorded podcasts about the issues involved in the case, that in the past some have denied “many of the same facts that they’ll testify about here,” and that some have received immunity to compel their cooperation.

**DISMISSED WOULD-BE JUROR SAYS TRUMP LOOKED ‘EXACTLY LIKE HE DOES ON TV’**

One would-be juror in former President Donald Trump's hush money trial shared her reaction to seeing Trump in person for the first time after being dismissed from the pool on Tuesday.

“Hilariously, my first thought was, ‘Oh, he looks exactly like he does on TV,’” Kara McGee recalled to reporters outside the Manhattan courthouse.

McGee, who works in cybersecurity, said she made eye contact with Trump after she told the judge that it would be hard for her to be a juror due to her work schedule.

McGee said that when she received her jury duty letter, her mother pointed out the date coincided with Trump’s trial, and she responded, “That sounds fascinating. I really hope I get to be on it.”

**MORE POTENTIAL JURORS EXCUSED, BUT NOT EVERYONE**

In the interest of saving time as jury selection in Donald Trump's trial stretched into its second day Tuesday, Judge Juan M. Merchan asked prospective jurors to raise concerns about their ability to serve before filling out the [*entire questionnaire*](https://apnews.com/article/trump-jury-selection-hush-money-trial-manhattan-56d540406cd174ab143fe12469e9adef).

A number of potential jurors were dismissed before noon Tuesday, including an Upper East Sider who works at a financial services firm and worried that spending four days a week in court, for an estimated six weeks, would load him down with work at night.

But not everyone who voiced concerns is being dismissed outright. One Upper West Side resident who works for a senior living company said she has her own court date April 30.

“We can work around that,” Merchan said.

The former president jotted down notes and raised sheets of paper to his face as jurors rattled off answers to the lengthy questionnaire.

After one prospective juror said she would be unable to serve impartially, the former president twisted in his chair, looking in the direction of the box.

**PROSECUTORS WANT TRUMP FINED, ADMONISHED OVER TRUTH SOCIAL POSTS**

Following up on a request made in court Monday, prosecutors in Donald Trump's hush money case filed court documents outlining why they believe he should be fined $3,000 for [*violating a gag order*](https://apnews.com/article/trump-trial-new-york-gag-order-a3193356a115951052bbd92f528d1989) barring him from disparaging prosecution witnesses.

The Manhattan district attorney’s office highlighted three social media posts from Trump on Truth Social that name Michael Cohen and/or Stormy Daniels — in one case calling them “two sleaze bags who have, with their lies and misrepresentations, cost our Country dearly” — saying he should be fined a thousand dollars for each post, admonished and ordered to take the posts down.

“It is absolutely critical that defendant immediately halt any conduct that would violate the April 1 order’s narrow restrictions to protect the integrity of the ongoing trial,” the filing reads.

Judge Juan M. Merchan has set a hearing on the matter for April 23.

**POOL OF POTENTIAL JURORS PARED DOWN WITH MORE DISMISSALS**

The initial group of 96 prospective jurors in Donald Trump's hush money case was reduced to just 30 on Tuesday morning after Judge Juan M. Merchan announced that he had excused one potential juror who was due to answer the questionnaire had come down with flu-like symptoms.

He said she duly showed up in a mask, but said she didn’t feel well enough to go ahead with the day.

Another prospective juror — a partner in an accounting firm — was also excused after saying he feared his ability to be impartial could be compromised by “unconscious bias” from growing up in Texas and working in the finance world with people who “intellectually tend to slant Republican.”

“A bunch of family and friends are Republicans, it’s probably going to be tough to be impartial,” he said.

A second group of about 100 prospective jurors has yet to be questioned.

**TRUMP BEGINS SECOND DAY OF TRIAL RAILING ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

Former president and presumptive GOP presidential nominee Donald Trump started Tuesday complaining about his hush money trial, calling it “AN ASSAULT ON AMERICA!” and railing about a gag order that bars him from publicly commenting on the cases’ jurors, potential witness and others.

“This conflicted, Trump Hating Judge won’t let me respond to people that are on TV lying and spewing hate all day long,” he wrote on his Truth Social network. “He is running rough shod over my lawyers and legal team.“

“I want to speak, or at least be able respond,” he went on, demanding the order be lifted. “Election Interference! RIGGED, UNCONSTITUTIONAL TRIAL! Take off the Gag Order!!!”

On his way into the courtroom, Trump stopped briefly to address a TV camera stationed in a hallway and denounced the proceeding and the judge.

“This is a trial that should have never been brought,” he said. “’I was paying a lawyer and marked it down as a legal expense \u2026 and you get indicted over that?”

Judge Juan M. Merchan will hold a hearing on April 23 over the prosecution’s assertion that Trump [*violated the gag order*](https://apnews.com/article/trump-trial-new-york-gag-order-a3193356a115951052bbd92f528d1989) when he disparaged prosecution witnesses Cohen and Daniels as “ [*two sleaze bags*](https://apnews.com/article/trump-trial-new-york-gag-order-a3193356a115951052bbd92f528d1989),” circulated an earlier statement from Daniels and lashed out at what he claimed was a double standard by prosecutors.

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