

# [***Trump Found Guilty On All 34 Counts; Trump Attorney Argued Michael Cohen Lied On Stand; Sentencing Set For July 11th; Trump Maintains Innocence On All 34 Counts; Appeals Process To Challenge Conviction; Jury Finds Donald Trump Guilty On All 34 Counts In Hush Money Criminal Trial; Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg Holds Press Conference After Guilty Verdict In Criminal Trial Of Donald Trump; Senator Marco Rubio And Trump Attorney Will Scharf Criticize Criminal Case Against Donald Trump***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6C50-WCW1-F072-X1B5-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Guests:** Hugh Hewitt, Marco Rubio, Will Scharf

**Body**

DANA PERINO, FOX NEWS CHANNEL HOST: Alvin Bragg will give a press conference at 6:30 p.m. So, you stick around for Fox. So, we're going to have amazing coverage tonight from Bret Baier show, Jesse's show, Laura Ingraham, and then, of course, exclamation point all the way through. And then, I'll see you on America's newsroom in the morning. Coverage on the Trump verdict continues.

GREG GUTFELD, FOX NEWS CHANNEL HOST: Yes.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

DONALD TRUMP (R), FORMER U.S. PRESIDENT AND PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: This was a rigged, disgraceful trial. The real verdict is going to be November 5th by the people. And they know what happened here, and everybody knows what happened here.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BRET BAIER, FOX NEWS CHANNEL HOST: Former President Trump, just moments ago.

Good evening. I'm Bret Baier. Breaking tonight, a historic day in the United States of America. Donald Trump is the first former president to be convicted of felony crimes, after a New York jury found him guilty on all 34 counts of falsifying business records in what prosecutors called a scheme to influence the 2016 election through payments to an adult film actress.

That verdict exposes the former president to potential prison time, although it's not likely as a first offender, as the presumptive Republican presidential nominee seeks to return to the White House.

The judgement presents voters with another test of their willingness to accept the former president. He said, the ultimate vote here will be the American people on November 5th, just moments ago after that jury read all -- after all 34 counts were read and agreed to by the jury members.

Correspondent Nate Foy is outside the New York State Supreme Court with the latest in what has been a very interesting day late. Good evening, Nate.

NATE FOY, FOX NEWS CHANNEL NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT: Good evening, Bret.

Former President Donald Trump did not show any emotion, whatsoever as the jury returned a verdict of guilty on all counts in the first criminal trial ever involving a former U.S. president.

After 11-1/2 hours of deliberating, the jury found Trump guilty of falsifying business records to unlawfully influence the 2016 presidential election. As for what comes next, Trump now has 30 days to appeal. Jail time is considered unlikely because Trump has no criminal history, and these are non-violent crimes.

Trump will now be interviewed by a probation officer before his sentencing hearing on July 11th.

The former president faces four years for each of the 34 counts. But New York law limits the maximum sentence to 20 years for this level of felony.

Manhattan D.A. Alvin Bragg posted on X, writing after the verdict, "Today, a jury found Donald J. Trump guilty on all 34 felony counts. Bragg watched from the courtroom, as the guilty verdict came in. He is expected to hold the news conference later tonight.

Trump attorney, Todd Blanche, argued the only way that the jury reached a guilty verdict is if they believed Michael Cohen's testimony.

Blanche asserts that Cohen lied on the witness stand during this trial. Judge Merchan denied Blanche's motion.

Cohen is the only person directly connecting Trump to a Stormy Daniels' pay off leading up to the 2016 presidential election. So, as we look forward, Bret, with the legal and political calendar, the sentencing hearing, I mentioned is on July 11th. That's just four days before the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee. Bret.

BAIER: Nate Foy, great job covering this from beginning to end. We appreciate it.

I want to note about the ***politics*** --

(CROSSTALK)

FOY: Thank you.

BAIER: Thank you.

That the Trump donor site for the campaign is currently down. It went down some 10 minutes right after the verdict. We don't know what that means. Waiting for some reaction from the campaign.

They are saying this could be their biggest fundraising day as they look at this and reaction to it. Let's get some analysis on the legal side and the political side.

Trey Gowdy, former federal prosecutor, district attorney and former congressman from South Carolina. Fox News chief legal correspondent, anchor Fox News Sunday, Shannon Bream. And Jonathan Turley, professor at the George Washington University, law school.

You all have been digesting this all day. Let's just go down the line. Shannon, Jon, Trey, your thoughts on this and how it all developed?

SHANNON BREAM, FOX NEWS CHANNEL ANCHOR: Well, I think the more that we heard from Judge Merchan, the way that he was ruling on objections in the courtroom, the way that he allowed some evidence in and barred other evidence, and the jury instructions he ultimately gave yesterday, a lot of people started to feel like this jury, first of all, is going to be very confused, potentially, but also that they are given so many different off ramps that lead them to conviction, that it would be surprising probably the best case scenario was going to be a hung jury.

Now, there are a lot of things that I mentioned there that many people feel are reversible error, potentially, meaning that on appeal, there is a good chance that this Trump legal team can score some victories. Maybe this conviction is ultimately overturned. But Bret, you know, that's going to take weeks, months, years, potentially, and certainly pass this election, which makes a lot of other things coming down the pike very important, including that immunity decision we're waiting on from the Supreme Court could get that as soon as next week, Bret.

BAIER: Jonathan, the appeal process is a lengthy one usually through the New York appellate process. Is there possibly a way that this gets expedited because of the concerns about the election in particular?

JONATHAN TURLEY, FOX NEWS CHANNEL CONTRIBUTOR: Well, I think we're really out of runway needed to appeal this. The -- I think that it will go to the New York appellate court, there could be an effort to go to the U.S. Supreme Court to cut that short.

I just don't see the Supreme Court likely granting that type of expedited process any more than they did for Jack Smith. So, he is very likely going to be in that New York appellate process for a while. This is a target rich environment for appeal. Many of us believe there are layers of reversible error here. And in the end, he very well could be vindicated.

I think that that's part of what people have to understand that you can disagree with this decision. I am disappointed in it, because many of us feel this was a legally flawed case, and that it was political, and its motivations by Alvin Bragg and others.

But we are a nation committed to the rule of law. We have ways and people waiting to review this case. I think that review is likely to go in Trump's favor, but it may take a while. It may go into the federal system.

But being in that courtroom today, you could feel the weight of history. For a lot of people in that room, it was clearly thrilling. Many of us thought it was a sad moment. It was also a bizarre moment, because the judge had basically said the jury could not come to a verdict. And people were leaving the courtroom when the judge basically said, my mistake, we have a verdict. And there was just an absolute hush in the room. And it changed immediately.

Of all the people in that room that pressure was clearly building. But the one who didn't seem to show it was former President Trump. He didn't show any emotion at all, as this mantra of 34 guilty verdicts was heard from the foreperson.

BAIER: All right. We are looking live at the Trump motorcade as it makes its way through the streets of New York, heading back to Trump Tower.

Trey, we also have on the screen that district attorney Alvin Bragg is set to hold a news conference at 6:30 Eastern Time. We will take that live here on Fox.

The district attorney obviously ready to crow about a successful guilty on 34 counts. But in order to get there, Trey, as we've talked about many times, he had to do some interesting things with those charges. And the judge had to do some interesting things with the instructions to the jury in this case.

TREY GOWDY, FOX NEWS CHANNEL HOST: Yes, they took a misdemeanor, they put a tuxedo on it and called it a felony.

Keep in mind, Bret, he ran for office promising to do what was done today.

So, if that's where we are as a country, where we're going to elect the chief law enforcement officer, who promises to go after people not crimes, you couple that with the evidentiary rulings from this judge.

As you know, Bret, I was a prosecutor. I enjoyed some pro-prosecution judges. I never seen one like Judge Merchan. I never saw -- never saw a judge whose evidentiary rulings undercut the defense. And that doesn't even get to the jury instructions, which were essentially a roadmap to a guilty -- to a guilty verdict.

Juries are only as good as the information they are given.

(CROSSTALK)

BAIER: You know --

GOWDY: So, the verdict does not surprise me.

BAIER: And the fact that the time, Shannon, it seemed like guilty was probably the way this was going just by the timing of it, as we were looking at it. We're going to have a lot of time to digest the ***politics*** and the political fallout. The latest poll that we could find was a Marist poll that dealt with this, specifically, if Donald Trump is found guilty in the hush money trial in New York, are you more likely to vote for him? 15 percent less likely 17 percent. Or will it make no difference in your vote? 67 percent.

The question is, what does it mean politically as this legal process continues to play out?

BREAM: Yes, you remember Bret, over a year ago, before he was indicted in this first case by Alvin Bragg, that when he was asked about potentially dropping out if indicted, he said, no. That he thought it would help his numbers. We've referred to that many times because he was right. It's helped with fundraising. You mentioned their web site is down right now. Has it been crashed because people showed up there and responded to their texts calling for fundraising.

It's helped him in the polling. It helped him to get rid of all of his rivals in the GOP primary, as each of them were forced to go out and essentially defend him against what they have all been calling a political prosecution through these cases.

So, there is been definitely some political upside. You heard the president come out after the verdict today. He was pretty subdued but he was fighting. And that's what his folks like to see. His supporters want that. They liked that about him. They feel like he's fighting for them as well.

So, he said, this is far from over. And now, the decision, the verdict comes to the people on November 5th, and I think that will be the line going forward that seems to really rally his base.

Whether it connects with independents, we know there is a very small group that's movable at this point. And we'll see how they feel.

BAIER: Yes. As again, we are looking at the Trump motorcade, live going through Manhattan, you know, we've had a flurry of statements from political figures, most of them on the right. We did have a statement from the Biden campaign, we expect something more from, perhaps, the president himself.

But speaker Mike Johnson put out a pretty lengthy statement, in which he, in part, said, "Today is a shameful day in American history. Democrats cheered as they convicted the leader of the opposing party on ridiculous charges, predicated on the testimony of a disbarred convicted felon. This is a purely political exercise, not a legal one."

Continuing, "The American people see this as law fair, they know what's wrong and dangerous. President Trump will rightfully appeal this absurd verdict, and he will win."

You know, we talked a little bit about the appeal process and what's going to happen. Let's take a look really quickly at what comes next, specifically, in this legal process for former President Trump.

Correspondent C.B. Cotton is outside the New York State Supreme Court as well tonight. Good evening, C.B.

C.B. COTTON, FOX NEWS CHANNEL NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT: Hi. Good evening, Bret.

Yes, this appeals process could buy former President Donald Trump time to challenge this conviction before the November election. So, Trump's team has 30 days to file a notice of appeal with New York's appellate division.

There, Trump's legal team can request any sentencing penalties to be put on hold while the appeals process plays out. As for the conviction, Trump's lawyers can appeal that too. Legal experts argue there are several grounds Trump's team can pursue, one theory, Trump's defense team may argue that Stormy Daniels' testimony was prejudicial.

Now, during Daniels' testimony, defense attorney Todd Blanche, argued for a mistrial. Basically, saying that Daniels' recounting of an alleged sexual encounter with the former president had, "nothing to do," with the charges in this case.

Judge Juan Merchan, said the level of detail Daniels' provided was, "unnecessary," but ultimately, he denied both request and said the defense was partly to blame for allowing that testimony to stray.

Trump's lawyers may also appeal over the prosecutor's novel legal strategy that we've been talking about. Again, Trump was charged with 34 felony counts of falsifying business records. Those are typically a misdemeanor under New York state law.

But again, the D.A. charged those counts as felonies, alleging the records covered up a second crime, a violation of a New York State election law, which makes it a crime to promote a candidate's election through, "unlawful means".

Now, Bret, if this conviction is upheld upon appeal, Trump could then had try it -- try to appeal to New York's highest appeals court. And then, at that point, he could take this case all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

You may remember, more than two decades ago, and Bush v Gore, the U.S. Supreme Court did become involved and estate matter, finding that Florida could not reassess those votes, therefore, upholding the election that Bush won.

Back to you.

BAIER: OK. C.B. thank you. Again, reaction coming in fast and furious. One of the first people putting out a statement, former secretary of state, former CIA director, Mike Pompeo, saying, "the future of this country should and will be decided by the American people in an election not by 12 New Yorkers in a travesty of a politicized courtroom."

Tom Cotton, senator from Arkansas, as we look live at the Trump motorcade again getting to Trump Tower. Tom Cotton, saying, the Trump jury made a mistake partly because the nakedly partisan judge bias the trial at every turn, from allowing an unconstitutional indictment in the first place, to excluding key evidence to rigging the jury instructions.

The American people see right through Joe Biden and the Democrats weaponization of the legal system against Senator Cotton there.

Speaking of the Democrats and the reaction so far, we've only gotten reaction from the Biden-Harris campaign. Let's talk about that. And that reaction from White House correspondent Peter Doocy. He is live on the North Lawn. Good evening, Peter.

PETER DOOCY, FOX NEWS CHANNEL WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT: And Bret, good evening. There is now some White House reaction coming from the Counsel's Office, and it falls way short of some of the reporting about what we might hear from the White House, and officials calling President Trump officially convicted felon Donald Trump.

Instead, the Counsel's office spokesman is just saying we respect the rule of law and have no additional comment right now.

There is nothing official from President Biden, and you can count on one hand the amount of times that he has referenced this case over the last few months.

He said, at one point, he knows Trump is free on Wednesdays, which is when court was out. And he has joked that Trump is busy.

But the first -- the closest thing to Biden reaction is coming from the campaign in Wilmington and the communication's director, who says, in part, "Donald Trump has always mistakenly believed he would never face consequences for breaking the law for his own personal gain.

But today's verdict does not change the fact that the American people face a simple reality. There's only one way to keep Donald Trump out of the Oval Office at the ballot box, convicted felon or not. Trump will be the Republican nominee for president.

And this is going to have no difference in the way 67 percent of voters are going to approach November in the new NPR PBS Marist poll. 17 percent are saying a guilty verdict makes them more likely to back Trump, 15 percent say less likely.

Speaker Mike Johnson is saying --

BAIER: All right, let's listen in to see if we can hear anything at the -- Donald Trump there, hold on.

Motorcade arriving there at Trump Tower, just give the fist pump and walking in. He has had a number of Truth Social posts today. And we expect there'll be something more than we saw on perhaps at the cameras right after he left the courtroom.

Peter, we interrupted there. You were making the point that I made earlier about how many people this affects potentially in the election to the Biden. Does the Biden campaign see that or are they looking to capitalize obviously on this moment?

DOOCY: It seems like they do see it because they are still trilling in a lot of polls and decided that yesterday after weeks of a trial was the day they had to finally go to New York and address all the cameras.

I will point out, they said they only did that press conference in New York outside the trial because that's where all the cameras are.

Well, next week, all the cameras are going to be right by campaign H.Q. in Wilmington, Delaware for Hunter's gun trial. We don't expect to hear much from President Biden about that or this.

He is not here at the White House. He and the rest of the first family are in Delaware right now, they are marking today which is the 9th anniversary of Beau Biden's passing.

So, the first on camera reaction, or at least the first chance at that is going to be at some point tomorrow either when the president is coming back, or when he is hosting the Kansas City Chiefs for their Super Bowl presentation here at the White House, Bret.

BAIER: Peter, what is next physically for the president as far as the campaign trail? Do we have anything on that?

DOOCY: They're going to use the world stage to try to show that the president is the diplomat in the race because we don't think he's going to have anything all weekend. And then at the beginning of next week, he will fly to France for the 80th anniversary of D-Day, which fits in with the whole Biden campaign theme of the last couple months that he is a defender of democracy.

We also hear Joe Biden talk a lot about a report that Donald Trump and his allies dispute in the Atlantic that Trump went to France for a different anniversary five years ago, and called the people that were buried there suckers and losers. You can expect next week to be a lot more on President Biden bringing that back while he talks about democracy and threats to democracy and freedom versus fascism.

But in terms of actually going to the Great Lakes, Blue wall states or the Sunbelt states, that's not going to come for a couple more weeks. It seems like the big -- they're building up for a trip to Europe, and then practice for the debate, which is in less than a month.

BAIER: That's right. OK. Peter Doocy, standby if you would. Thank you.

I want to go back to the legal eagles really quickly. Jonathan, and Trey and Shannon.

Jonathan, we talked about the appeal process. It's expected that this is going to be filed at least quickly. We've heard that the sentencing from Judge Juan Merchan is going to come down on July 11th. Again, that's four days before the start of the Republican National Convention.

What are the possibilities for sentencing and if an appeal is filed before that, does the sentencing get delayed?

TURLEY: It can be delayed if those appeals are successful. It's unlikely, you know -- it's also unlikely that he would get jail time, he's a first offender. These are not violent offenses.

I also believe that Judge Merchan will have to recognize how he would set off a cascading problem if you try to even put a leading presidential candidate on home confinement in New York.

So, you're going to have multi tracks going forward, there's going to be appeals taken. While he does -- he -- the president will be subjected to an interview with a probation officer, then a sentencing.

Most of us are assuming that there's not going to be jail time. But it's -- the judge obviously has some leeway.

But I also expect you're going to find some sort of three point shots, they might try to leapfrog to the Supreme Court as unlikely as that is.

The important thing is people have to remember that around here, you can see there are very upset people here. And there's also many people who I can only describe as an ecstasy over this verdict.

But for most Americans, I think they have to recognize that these moments are also a leap of faith in our system. You can disagree with this verdict, not hate the jury for it, you can really believe in the system enough that this can be reversed. I think what you were just repeating, Bret, is that a lot of people seem to be taking that view, they are not taking the verdict on its face as validating these charges. There is a feeling that this -- that the president can't seem to escape this vortex of New York, that he's being pulled from courthouse to courthouse.

So, in some ways, the president is going to regain control of that message. He was certainly regain control of the legal side, as he picks what appeals to take as it unfolds in the coming days.

BAIER: Yes, Shannon, in fact, Judge Merchan made a point in one of the Q and As back and forth after the defense stood up and ended a statement saying that this could end up with the former president in jail. He said, no, that's a ridiculous outrageous statement, because I make the decision about the sentencing, suggesting that it's not going to be that.

I guess what the Mark Levins and other constitutional folks are saying is that this is a due process situation for the election, not necessarily for the candidate, but for the American people, the voter, and whether that expedite some kind of roadway to the Supreme Court or not.

BREAM: Yes, and that would be something that if you're the Trump legal team, why not try it, it doesn't mean it's going to be successful. It has a chance like anything else you would put out into the legal universe, that there's a possibility, it takes a number of votes, that would be four. Generally, to take up a case, a five for something that's considered an emergency petition.

But for something to jump from a state court, something that starts out as solely a state court case, over to the Supreme Court doesn't happen a lot. But if you can show an issue of federal constitutional issue with the justices, you know, I think that Mark is the one who referred to Bush v. Gore, and some of the legislative -- or excuse me, the litigation that was happening down in Florida during 2000 that got to the Supreme Court, there can be times you push into that question.

Now, as we know, there are two other cases the Supreme Court is already considering. Right now we're waiting on those from them that could impact President Trump in a big way legally.

And remember, they had a unanimous decision earlier this year to keep him on the ballot when there were a number of states that tried to kick him out under the 14th Amendment.

They are loath to get involved in political issues unless absolutely drawn into them as a general rule. So, I think that that appeal, if it came directly from this, from the Trump legal team is worth a try. I would not put the probability that the justices would take it very high.

BAIER: Yes, Trey, last thing. We are waiting again at the bottom of the hour, we expect the District Attorney Alvin Bragg to come out and present in front of the reporters and it said that it's a news conference, we'll see what that develops into.

What do you expect him to say? Having been a prosecutor on the winning side of 34 counts, finding the former president of the United States guilty.

GOWDY: I think he will feign humility. He will talk about the rule of law. I'll be curious but it's hard for those of us not from New York to find a crime for which you actually can't be in prison in New York.

I mean, they're not known for being really tough on felon, so and especially not Alvin Bragg.

Remember, he came into office with a very long list of things that he would not bother to prosecute. So, he'll gloat a little bit but he may have won the battle and lost the war. I will be surprised -- I'll be surprised if the rest of America reacts the way that Manhattan and the press corps reacted to this verdict. I think it's a sad day for people who like a justice system that actually is blind.

BAIER: OK, legal eagles, if you'll stand by, please, let's bring in our panel political more (ph), syndicated radio host Hugh Hewitt, Leslie Marshall, Democratic strategist and Byron York, chief political correspondent of The Washington Examiner. Hugh, your reaction today.

HUGH HEWITT, SYNDICATED RADIO HOST: It's not surprising, but I'm very disappointed. It's actually a travesty in the justice system, Bret. There are so many grounds on which to appeal at the beginning with the conflicts that the judge has that are obvious, the sort of conflicts that Dick Durbin and Sheldon Whitehouse are arguing should get Alito often the case having to do with the J6 defendants.

The complexes judge had are many and we could go through them. But I don't want to waste time, I'll simply say, in addition to that, we had a charging document that is best to fight a crime. We had Brad Smith not allowed to testify to the full extent of his knowledge. We had very confusing jury instructions. And we had the admission of guilty pleas by Cohen and Pecker that ought not to have been admitted.

So, it's a travesty. And politically, I think that's going to help President Trump. You sow the win, you reap the whirlwind. I've already seen the donation notices coming out, it's an avalanche of donation to Donald Trump. And I expect that the whirlwind will be huge uptick in turnout and contribution.

BAIER: Yes, as I mentioned, the donation site was down, we're going to see if it's back up, but whether that is from traffic or something else, we'll see.

Leslie, your thoughts how this affects the election, how do Democrats take this? Are they going to jump on the term convicted felon? And is this going to be all part of this plan ahead of the election as far as threat to democracy and convicted felon all the way to November?

LESLIE MARSHALL, FOX NEWS CHANNEL CONTRIBUTOR: Well, let's be clear that the DOJ, the Feds had passed on this, our own Shannon Bream had said, you know in an earlier interview that it is not President Biden that brought this nor is it the Democratic Party. I mean, this was brought by the state.

One, I'm kind of surprised at the verdict. I didn't think it was going to be guilty on all 34 counts. Two, the reason I don't think this is politically motivated, Bret. And I said it before, and I'll say it again, is because I would agree with you that this helps Donald Trump. It helps check writing and money coming into his campaign. It helps with people who weren't going to support him say, I'm 100 percent all in now.

The latest poll on those numbers is NPR, PBS. And it really find so guilty or not, it doesn't really make a huge difference. I think if anything, it could hurt the president -- the former president just a little bit because he's going to be campaigning on the woe, is me (ph) platform. And I'm just not sure how much steam that has if Joe Biden is talking about this is what I've done and what I'm going to do for voters and for America.

BAIER: Website is back up we're being told by a campaign folks.

Byron, the --

MARSHALL: Yes, the check writing.

BAIER: -- statement -- the statement that came out right after the -- he left the courtroom was pretty brief. We played a little bit of it. Here's another piece.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

DONALD TRUMP, FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: I'm a very innocent man. And it's OK, I'm fighting for our country, I'm fighting for our Constitution. Our whole country is being rigged right now. This was done by the Biden administration in order to move or to hurt an opponent, a political opponent. And I think it's a just a disgrace, and we'll keep fighting. We'll fight till the end, and we'll win.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BAIER: So, he's clearly going to use this to his advantage rhetorically on the campaign trail, he thinks it helps. How do you see it?

BYRON YORK, FOX NEWS POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT: It does, he's talking to his supporters right there and his rallies still sometimes say, they're -- you know, they're not coming after me. They're coming after you. I'm just in the way.

So, covering the primaries in the caucuses this year, Republicans are pretty much unanimously built in the belief that Trump has been unfairly pursued here that he was a victim of politicized prosecution.

And obviously, they have a case, the district attorney who brought this case is an elected Democrat in Manhattan. He was actually elected on a platform of pursuing Trump. And he did bring in a former number three at the Biden Justice Department to help pursue or prosecute this case.

The judge is a Biden donor. And the jury, of course, came from a district in which President Biden won by about 85 percent in 2020.

So, the Trump supporters have a point when they talk about the political aspects of this case.

Now, I do think amongst Trump supporters, there's going to be kind of a shock effect. I mean, even if you're expecting something when it actually happens, it can kind of take your breath away. And I think that may be happening right now among those supporters, but they've really already processed and they have placed this episode in what they think is a long line of unfair pursuit of Trump going back to the Trump Russia investigation, so I don't think it's going to change any of their support, maybe make it more intense.

BAIER: All right, Robert F. Kennedy is -- Jr. is on X now live, saying -- talking about the politicization of the legal system. Saying that the DOJ - - his dad changed the DOJ not to ever practice ***politics***, not specifically defending Trump but suggesting ***politics*** played a role in this trial.

Obviously, he is the independent candidate in all of this. Let's bring in, on the phone, Florida Senator, Republican Marco Rubio. Senator Rubio, thanks for joining us. Your reaction?

SEN. MARCO RUBIO, (R-FL) (through telephone): It's -- they just elected Donald Trump president, so politically I think it's good. I think, unfortunately, they have made a travesty, a mockery of our criminal justice system. I think all over the world right now they're watching news reports and saying what, has America turned into us? Meaning these third world countries, these dictatorships, these crazy places.

I don't know what people have already seen. We literally have a judge that supported Joe Biden in 2020. He supported him. His daughter makes money off political campaigns of the far left. A jury pulled from one of the most liberal counties in America, a prosecutor that basically ran on the promise that I'm going to get Trump. I don't know what I'm going to get him on yet, but I'm going to get him on something. Charges that basically turned a misdemeanor into a felony by tying it -- we don't know yet what the crime is, because they introduced a new crime in the jury instructions saying, oh, and by the way in addition to the federal election interference he was never charged with, you can also tie it as a felony -- you can also turn it into a felony by tying it to some tax law in New York, something they never mentioned throughout the entire trial.

The list goes on and on and on. I think it's terrible. I think what this showed today is that they can go after a former president with a ridiculous charge like this and gain a conviction, they can go after anybody. Most people can't afford to fight this stuff off. So I think the shock, and I'm not sure if that was Byron York or who that was on the air with you a second ago saying about the shock.

BAIER: Yes, Byron.

RUBIO: Yes. So I think he's right. The shock is not that they went after him. They have been doing this against Trump for seven, eight years. The shock is that this could happen in America. I grew up listening to people tell me about show trials and things that happened in Cuba. This is a show trial. This is like a Roman Coliseum -- listen, I was in a place where CNN was on television when the verdict come in. You could hear one of the people on the camera, they were off camera, sort of shriek with joy. That's the crowd at the Coliseum cheering "Kill him, kill him." This derangement has poisoned American ***politics***, and the harm this has done today to our system of justice is terrible.

For Trump, he just raised $60 million money in 30 minutes. People that didn't like Donald Trump are going to say enough is enough and people are out of control. But I think for our system of justice and for America, this is an ugly, ugly blemish to our reputation around the world, and frankly, to the basic concepts a lot people have of our justice system here in the country.

BAIER: Quickly, senator, how do you think in this environment, with this reaction, 34 counts guilty by this jury, and all the reaction that we are seeing pour out. The Biden campaign already saying in New York today we saw that no one is above the law -- how in this environment are we as a country going to come back together? This is going to be a bumpy five months before November.

RUBIO: Yes. I think there has to be a point in which we say, look, these people love to talk about the rule of law. They have literally manipulated and violated every rule that they can over the last seven years because they think that their hatred for Donald Trump, that he somehow is not worthy of the same protections everybody else is. That's why they tried to impeach him after he was out of office. They tried to bankrupt his company. They had four charges in four different jurisdictions on equal application of the law. They did away -- they would never say about other candidates in the past.

So I think truly there is a level of derangement here where these people have convinced themselves they hate him so much -- you saw with De Niro the other day. This guy out of his mind the way is he acting on the streets there in New York. It's a derangement that I think blinded them to common sense and dignity to the point where I think it's really pushing Americans to be polar opposites.

But I do think there's a large number of Americans who didn't follow the trial that are scratching their heads saying this is too much already. This has gone way too far. I think you're going to see it in the polls. I think you're going to see it in November. I think we saw it already today with the amount of money that came pouring in in the last 30 or 45 minutes.

BAIER: All right, Senator Rubio, we appreciate your time. Thank you for joining us on the phone.

Again, we are waiting for Alvin Bragg, the district attorney, to hold a news conference. Running a bit late there. We expect to take that live here on FOX to hear his thoughts about this case.

The Trump defense attorney Todd Blanche will be on "JESSE WATTERS PRIMETIME" at 8:00 p.m. tonight, and you will hear directly from him as he obviously argued this case in front of Judge Juan Merchan.

Bring back our political panel. Hugh, you heard Senator Rubio. I think you are going to see a cavalcade of Republicans come to this point. But do we fully appreciate, can we fully appreciate what this verdict means for independents, for suburban women, for somebody who is not paying attention, who didn't listen really into the dynamics of the trial but understands that something happened with jurors and a guilty, finding guilty on 34 counts, around the edges on this election, can we get a sense of it?

HEWITT: I don't think we will know for some time, Bret, because it's hard to measure disgust and the impact of disgust. It's very disgusting to see people celebrating this. And I noted Senator Rubio's comment about being on set on CNN. Very difficult to measure how people who are not typically connected to the political arena get motivated.

But people who don't like the government generally, who don't believe in the government working efficiently, and who followed at all the pursuit, the dogged, relentless pursuit of Donald Trump from 2015 forward, I think their disgust is going to be very immense and will move the polls in favor of Donald Trump. We may not see it for a while. We will hear about it on the June 27th debate. We will hear about it at the convention. But this judge did the country a dirty deed.

And I believe -- I'm not blaming the jury. Those instructions were almost impossible to follow for a lawyer. I'm just thinking the disgust with the political system will redound to the benefit of Donald Trump, and pretty quickly.

BAIER: Byron, do you agree with that? Where do you think this falls? Again, sentencing is July 11th, four days before the RNC convention. We don't know what this judge is going to do, if he is going to -- it's unlikely that he is going to give prison time, but there could be some sort of probation. He has four days before he has to get to Milwaukee.

YORK: Well, we do have some polls in which people were asked if you are inclined to vote for Donald Trump, or if you are open to voting for Donald Trump, maybe you haven't fully decided, would it matter in your decision if he were convicted of a felony? And some small number of Americans say that it would. So, if those are actual votes that Trump loses, I mean, just look at the polls. I mean, it's really, really close. It's very close between Trump and Biden nationally. And it's close in the key swing states. So it actually could make a difference. A lot has got to happen between now and then.

And I would say one last thing, which is Trump will certainly spend the next several months sowing doubt and undercutting any validity of this decision. He may make some converts on that. But on the other side, so many Americans believe that Joe Biden is too old, that his physical and mental health is not good enough to serve until he is 86 years old. That's an unfixable problem, and we may have a really, really unusual dynamic going on in this campaign.

BAIER: Former, or current governor for North Dakota Doug Burgum who we had on set last night with a statement saying "This verdict is a travesty of justice. The judge was a Biden donor. The prosecutors were Biden supporters. This lawfare should scare every American. The American people will have their say in November."

Leslie, a lot of potential V.P. candidates weighing in very loudly on X and other places.

MARSHALL: And very predictable what they are going to say because they are hoping to be number two on the ticket with former President Donald Trump.

Look, to both you and Byron's comments, I would disagree regarding these issues, and I say these issues whether it is Donald Trump being found guilty or even if he had been acquitted, or Joe Biden's age. Those are just not the top of mind issue among voters, and even more really matter when it comes down to the numbers. Again, ***politics*** is a numbers game. You have six states, a sliver of people, mostly independents within those states that I think are very much, like you said, Bret. They know something happened in New York, guilty, not sure what it's all about. But those are not the kitchen table issues that people are voting on.

And I don't think that's going to put Donald Trump over the finish line. I think the people that are outraged about this verdict already support him, and I think even in my own party, there are many of us that wish that Joe Biden were 35 but they know it's not the case, and they know the choice is going to be between two older men.

And just lastly, I would say Senator Rubio, a little bit of drama. There were no lions or tigers attacking the Christian former president being thrown into the Coliseum to his death.

BAIER: All right, stand by, if you would, panel. Let's bring in Trump attorney Will Scharf. He's the former president's appellate team handling his appeals in other cases. Will, your reaction to this and what comes next?

WILL SCHARF, TRUMP ATTORNEY: Bret, I think this is one of the darkest day in the American republic. When James Madison wrote in "The Federalist Papers" about the use by political faction of newfangled and artificial treasons to oppress their opponents, I think he had a case like this in mind.

This is a made-up case. This was a sham trial in front of a deeply, deeply, irretrievably biased judge. It's absolutely shameful. The only thing that today's verdict proves is that Joe Biden and his political allies have successfully weaponized our legal system and weaponized the courts in a way that is unprecedented in American history and in a way that should, frankly, alarm all Americans who are concerned about the future of our constitutional republic.

BAIER: Will, what is the future of appellate process? And can anything be expedited before the election?

SCHARF: This case is replete with reversible error going back to the very first day, continuing through jury instructions. Every aspect of this case is ripe for appeal. We are going to appeal as quickly as we can. We will seek expedited review of this case. And we're going to trust that the appellate courts in New York understand the dangerous pandora's box that this lawless judgment has opened, and that they understand the potential ramifications to our legal system if this unjust verdict is allowed to stand.

BAIER: What about the Mark Levins of the world that say there is a way to get outside the New York appellate system to go directly to the Supreme Court as an issue about due process for the voters, since this will be the Republican nominee ahead of the November 5th election?

SCHARF: All options are on the table. And we are actively considering all options that could lead to justice for President Trump here, because justice has not been done in this New York courtroom today.

BAIER: Have you talked to the former president? How does he view this? Did he see this coming? Did he expect that this is what was going to happen?

SCHARF: I was with the former president earlier today. I would say that in general President Trump is an optimist. President Trump believes that we are going to take back the country next November, that the American people will ultimately have their say, and that they want him back in the White House where he can go about making this country great again. I doubt if this is going to really affect him in that way all that much, because he knows that he has the American people on his side.

BAIER: The district attorney Alvin Bragg in moments, we're told, is going to address the media about this verdict, the 34 guilty counts on all those charges. What do you expect him to say?

SCHARF: I think Alvin Bragg is going to spike the football. I think it's tragic that he has allowed so much violent crime in New York to go unpunished, and that he resurrected this absurd zombie case to persecute the principle political rival of Joe Biden, of his political ally. I think it's outrageous abuse of his office. I think Alvin Bragg should be ashamed of himself. But unfortunately, I don't think we will see any since of shame from him tonight.

BAIER: Will, if you will stand by, we are going to wait for the district attorney to come on. We'll get some reaction from you afterwards.

I'm going to go back to the legal panel, Shannon, Trey, and Jonathan. Jonathan, that line, I'm sure we're going to hear it, no one is above the law -- it is powerful, it is true. And there just are questions whether this case in the way it was tried and the way that the judge dealt with it was fair to both sides.

TURLEY: Oh, I think there's going to be lasting questions to that effect. The law here was being written as the trial unfolded. You have a case that even people on other networks has admitted -- have admitted would never have been brought against anyone but Trump. In fact, you had another analyst on another network saying that they would never be able to secure a conviction outside Manhattan.

I think that's part of what really undermines the legitimacy of this verdict. It fulfills the narrative that the former president has been stating for years, that there is this weaponization of the legal system. I happen to think that that's accurate here. We can talk about the other cases. But this is a manufactured criminal case that zapped a dead misdemeanor into life and converted into 34 felony counts.

And I just looked at the jury verdict. There is no indication that I saw of what the second crime was. So I still don't know what the president was convicted of. They were unanimous in saying that a second crime was committed, and that these record -- that's these falsified documents were furthering that unlawful means. They just don't say what each of them concluded really was that second offense.

That's going to be a problem on appeal because you're supposed to be unanimous. In some ways, by the way, it may work to Trump's favor that that verdict form did not include that information, because you really can't make that cat walk backwards. If they did not record it, they could have reached a verdict that was four, four, four, where four people found falsification, four people found a federal election violation, and four found taxation. We just don't know at this stage, and I'm not sure we will ever know. And that will be a problem for a lot of appellate judges.

BAIER: Sure. And Shannon, it was very complicated. And we talked about that, about the 55 pages. It took an hour-and-a-half, almost, for Judge Merchan to read it to the jury. And as Jonathan talks about, how they reached that decision is going to be fascinating when they talk to jurors.

However, politically now it is a former president of the United States who is a convicted felon. And it's much simpler, fits on a bumper sticker, and D.A. Bragg is probably going to come out and make it very simple.

BREAM: He probably will. And we know there has been a lot of discussion within the Biden-Harris campaign about how they wanted to message this, what language they were going to use. But that comes at the same time Hunter Biden is heading into his first federal trial next week on gun charges.

BAIER: Shannon, let me interrupt.

BREAM: He's got that to deal with. He could, too, possibly become a convicted felon. Bret?

BAIER: Thank you, Shannon. Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg reacting to the guilty verdict of the former president of the United States. Let's listen in.

ALVIN BRAGG, (D) MANHATTAN DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Good evening. First and foremost, I want to thank the jury for its service. Jurors perform a fundamental civic duty. Their service is literally the corner stone of our judicial system. We should all be thankful for the careful attention that this jury paid to the evidence and the law and their time and commitment over these past several weeks.

Twelve everyday New Yorkers, and, of course, our alternates, heard testimony from 22 witnesses, including former and current employees of the defendant, media executives, book publishers, custodians of records, and others. They reviewed call logs, text messages, and emails. They heard recordings. They saw checks and invoices, bank statements and calendar appointments.

This type of white-collar prosecution is core to what we do at the Manhattan district attorney's office. In the 1930s, District Attorney Thomas Dewey ushered in the era of the modern independent professional prosecutor. For now nearly 90 years, dedicated professionals in this office have built upon that fine tradition. A major part of our practice during that nearly 90 years has been public integrity work, including cases involving jurists, local and state electeds, public servants, and others.

I want to thank this phenomenal prosecution team, embodying the finest traditions of this office -- professionalism, integrity, dedication, and service. They are model public servants, and I am proud and humbled to serve side by side with them.

The 12 everyday jurors vowed to make a decision based on the evidence and the law, and the evidence and the law alone. Their deliberations led them to a unanimous conclusion beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant, Donald J. Trump, is guilty of 34 counts of falsifying business records in the first degree to conceal a scheme to corrupt the 2016 election.

And while this defendant may be unlike any other in American history. We arrived at this trial and ultimately today at this verdict in the same manner as every other case that comes through the courtroom doors -- by following the facts and the law, and doing so without fear or favor.

I want to conclude by expressing deep gratitude to the NYPD and the officers of -- the officers of the Office of Court Administration for securing the courthouse, all of our safety, making sure the courthouse, and all of the other matters that are important in their own right continued seamlessly. They will continue to be and have always been incredible partners. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Do you plan to request a prison sentence for Donald Trump's multiple violations.

BRAGG: The judge scheduled a sentencing for July 11th. We will speak in court in that time. He also set a motion schedule. We will speak in our court filings as we have done throughout this proceeding.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Donald Trump has repeatedly targeted you personally and members of your prosecution team? Do you have a response to the former president after the trial?

BRAGG: I do not.

(INAUDIBLE)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: How do you think of all that now seeing the results today --

(INAUDIBLE)

BRAGG: I did my job. Our job is to follow the facts and the law without fear or favor. And that's exactly what we did here. And what I feel is gratitude to work alongside phenomenal public servants who do that each and every day in matters that you all write about and make the press, and lots of matters that you don't. I did my job. We did our job. Many voices out there. The only voice that matters is the voice of the jury, and the jury has spoken.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Mr. Steinglass, many people said the prosecution was masterful and flawless. I just want to know how you feel at this moment? How do you feel?

BRAGG: Mr. Steinglass, I think some you probably saw him speak for a little bit the other day.

(LAUGHTER)

BRAGG: So he has done his job as has this team, and he just told me tell them how I feel. I think you said that. I will just say enormous gratitude. Our system, I talk about the jurors at the beginning of my remarks. We have a phenomenal system. Twelve everyday New Yorkers listened to the judge's directions, they followed the evidence. You saw them in court every day. They were careful and attentive. And so, I feel deep gratitude to work alongside them, to be a part of this system.

And I just want to echo that this is what we're doing every single day. I mean, during this trial, just this week, a ghost gun indictment, Grimaldi's wage theft, a plea resolution, sex crimes, convictions, all sorts of work that's being done by phenomenal public service. So we're before you today on this obviously consequential matter. But this is what we do every day. We follow the facts and the law without fear or favor.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: If a jail sentence is in the cards, it is likely that Trump and his attorneys would seek stay on enforcement of that sentence and make an appeal. If that were the scenario, would your office object to staying the sentence?

BRAGG: I'm going to let our words in court speak for themselves when we get to the sentencing matter. I'm not going to address hypotheticals. They raise arguments. We'll respond. And I think your question really underscores an important point. This is active, ongoing matter. We have other phases of this going ahead. We will continue to do our speaking about this matter about issues like that in court.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: From day one, the viability of this case has been questioned in all sorts of media outlets all over the place, including from the defendant himself. Can you respond to any of that, how you feel now that you have gotten the conviction?

BRAGG: So my response, again, is I did my job. And I think particularly I talk about the history of the office, my personal history. I started as a prosecutor in 2003 in the public integrity unit in the New York State Attorney General's Office. I served also in the Public Integrity unit in the Southern District of New York. These are the kind of cases I have done personally, and it's a hallmark of the tradition of this office that I'm proud to lead.

And I don't want to go into the whole body of the litigation, but we now have a federal court decision ruling on the legal theories. We had a state court decision on the omnibus motions. But most importantly, today, we have the most important voice of all, and that's the voice of the jurors. They have spoken. Donald J. Trump has been convicted of 34 counts of falsifying business records.

Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Mr. District attorney your office has been investigating this case since --

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: -- are you concerned about retribution if Trump is elected president?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: You went to the Supreme Court twice --

BAIER: District Attorney Alvin Bragg, and over his left shoulder was Matthew Colangelo who he hired as former senior Justice Department official in the Biden administration, touting the 34 counts, now convictions of former President Donald Trump.

Let's quickly bring in Trump attorney Will Scharf who was with us earlier. Will, your reaction to the district attorney, what he said there?

SCHARF: I think Alvin Bragg just lied to the American people. He insisted repeatedly that this is a normal case brought in the normal course of business for the D.A.'s office when that couldn't be further from the truth. There's nothing normal about resurrecting dead misdemeanor business records charges from seven years ago and bringing them against the leading presidential candidate in the country at the height of a presidential election. There's nothing normal about seeking a wildly unconstitutional gag order against a political candidate, or, for that matter, any defendant. There is absolutely nothing normal about this sham of a case.

I believe the American people will see through his shallow words. And I believe the American people will support President Trump even more so because of these injustices that he is being subjected to by this lawless prosecutor and lawless judge in this lawless New York court.

BAIER: So, for people watching this that may be Trump supporters, what do you say to them? They probably are throwing up their hands or throwing things at the television, saying this is not fair and it may affect the election. You're on the legal side of things and fighting the appellate process. What do you say to a Trump supporter tonight who looks at this and feels pretty dismayed?

SCHARF: I think it's very important that we all remember where this comes from. It was Joe Biden himself who said that he would attempt to prevent President Trump from winning the presidency again through, quote-unquote, constitutional means, meaning the weaponization of our legal system against his political opponent in a fashion reminiscent of banana republics or the Soviet Union. This all started --

BAIER: All right, so you have -- let me interrupt you, Will. We have gone around this block. And obviously you can make the tangential argument and say this looks like it's all connected. Do you have hard evidence that the Biden machine in the White House, the campaign, or the DOJ, is somehow directly tied -- I mentioned Matthew Colangelo being a former DOJ attorney -- directly tied to what we saw here in this courtroom?

SCHARF: I think when you look at all of the litigation going on against President Trump across the country, it is very clear that it is being coordinated out of the Biden administration. You mentioned the former number three at the Biden DOJ who mysteriously quit his job to become a local prosecutor essentially in New York to bring this case. We have seen records of Fani Willis suspiciously being in the White House Counsel's office, she and her special prosecutor, Nathan Wade, including on the very day that Jack Smith was appointed special counsel.

When you look at these cases all as one instead of individually, it is clear, it is clear as day that this is a concerted campaign of lawfare that's an attempt to take the presidential election away from the ballot box where it belongs and put it into courtrooms across America, which is absolutely outrageous, and, I believe, deeply un-American.

BAIER: I have 15 seconds, here, Will. Is there a process that you think an appeal is going to win, and how long will that take?

SCHARF: We will appeal this case. I believe that ultimately we will win this case on appeal. This case is replete with reversible error, and we are looking forward to getting down to doing that work in the days ahead.

BAIER: Will, we appreciate your time and the reaction today and to District Attorney Bragg. Thank you.

SCHARF: Thanks, Bret.

BAIER: Well, this has been a historic day. No matter what side of the aisle you sit on, no matter how you think about ***politics***, this is history in the making. It is the first time a former president of the United States has been criminally prosecuted and found guilty by a jury of his peers -- 34 counts against former President Donald Trump, who says the ultimate determination will be by the American people on November 5th, and he says he'll keep fighting.

We'll keep covering it, all of it, fair, balanced, and unafraid. Here's Laura.

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