



# Opposition Research: Eric Robert Greitens

**Former Governor of Missouri (R) – Resigned June 1, 2018**

This Core Book summarizes opposition research on Eric Robert Greitens, the 56th Governor of Missouri who resigned in June 2018 facing near-certain impeachment and two felony indictments. Research drew from 14 data sources including 1,500 tweets, 171 YouTube videos, 12 Instagram posts, 181 news articles, and 43 political emails, supplemented by extensive web research into court records, ethics commission findings, and investigative journalism.

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# Top Vulnerabilities

## Resigned in Disgrace:

Only Missouri governor forced from office by his own party. Faced two felony indictments and near-certain impeachment by a Republican supermajority (138 of 163 House members signed the petition). 508-day tenure, shortest since 1861.

## Domestic Abuse Allegations:

Ex-wife Sheena Greitens filed sworn affidavit alleging physical violence against both her and their children, including "cuffing our then three-year-old son across the face" and an incident leaving a child with "a swollen face, bleeding gums, and loose tooth."

## Dark Money Empire:

Operated one of the most elaborate dark money networks in state history. "A New Missouri" 501(c)(4) raised \$6.1 million anonymously. Freedom Frontier funneled \$4.37 million through LG PAC. Total dark money estimated at \$6+ million. Republican state rep called it "a criminal enterprise from its inception."

## Charity Donor List Theft:

Stole confidential donor list from The Mission Continues, the veterans charity he founded, and used it to raise nearly \$2 million for his campaign. Lied about it to the Ethics Commission and in campaign filings.

# Top Vulnerabilities (Continued)

## **Record Ethics Fine:**

Missouri Ethics Commission assessed \$178,000 fine (record at the time) for campaign finance violations including unreported dark money coordination.

## **Sexual Misconduct:**

Admitted extramarital affair with his hairdresser. She testified he bound her hands, blindfolded her, took a photo without consent, and threatened blackmail. House committee deemed her "overall credible."

## **Violence-Inciting Campaign Ad:**

2022 "RINO Hunting" ad showed Greitens in tactical gear leading armed men breaking down a home door. Removed by Facebook for inciting violence. Flagged by Twitter for abusive behavior.

## **Transparency Hypocrisy:**

Promised Missourians would see "every single one of our donors" then ran the most secretive fundraising operation in Missouri history, resigning hours after a judge ordered donor identities revealed.

# Candidate Bio



## Personal Information

**Age:** 51 (born April 10, 1974)

**Birthplace:** St. Louis, Missouri

**Residence:** Missouri (exact current address unknown; previously Innsbrook, Warren County)

**Family:** Divorced from Sheena Chestnut Greitens (May 2020). Two sons (minors). Parents: Rob Greitens (USDA accountant), Becky Greitens (special ed teacher). Brothers: Marc and Aaron.

**Religion:** Jewish (raised Jewish by Jewish mother and Catholic father; attended B'nai El synagogue in Maryland Heights). First Jewish governor of Missouri.

**Party:** Republican (switched from Democrat in 2015 via Fox News op-ed). Grew up in a Democratic family.



## Education & Career

**Education:** Parkway North High School, Class of 1992; Duke University (B.A., ethics); University of Oxford (M.Phil. and D.Phil., Rhodes Scholar); White House Fellow (2005-2006)

**Military:** U.S. Navy SEAL, Lieutenant Commander (Reserve). BUD/S Class 237. Four deployments (Afghanistan, Southeast Asia, Horn of Africa, Iraq). Wounded near Fallujah (Purple Heart). Bronze Star. 18 total military awards. Resigned commission May 1, 2021.

**Career:** Navy SEAL officer (2001-~2007); Founder/CEO, The Mission Continues (2007-2014); Author of 3 books (2 NYT bestsellers); Public speaker (\$20K-\$75K/speech); Governor of Missouri (Jan 2017-Jun 2018, resigned); U.S. Senate candidate, Missouri (2022, lost primary, 3rd place with 18.9%).

**Net Worth:** Approximately \$2 million (range: \$1M-\$5M). Senate disclosure showed \$880K-\$1.35M in assets. Never released personal tax returns.



# Social Media & Political Context

## Social Media Presence

- Twitter/X: @EricGreitens, 129,678 followers, 5,917 posts
- Instagram: @ericgreitens, ~23K followers, 213 posts
- Facebook: EricGreitens (data collection failed)

## Race Overview

**Note:** Eric Greitens has not announced a candidacy for any office as of January 2026. His last campaign was for the U.S. Senate in Missouri in 2022, where he finished third in the Republican primary behind Eric Schmitt (winner) and Vicky Hartzler.

## Missouri Political Context

Missouri is a solidly Republican state at the statewide level. Republicans hold supermajorities in both chambers of the state legislature. The state voted for Trump by approximately 15 points in both 2016 and 2020.

## 2022 Senate Primary Results

Greitens finished third despite leading in early polls, after the domestic abuse allegations and a \$6 million anti-Greitens ad campaign by Show Me Values PAC.

# Resignation Under Threat of Impeachment

Eric Greitens resigned as Governor of Missouri on June 1, 2018, after serving just **508 days**, the shortest tenure of any elected Missouri governor since 1861. He faced two separate felony indictments and near-certain impeachment by his own party.

## The Affair and Blackmail Allegations

On January 10, 2018, **KMOV broadcast a story** revealing Greitens' 2015 extramarital affair with his hairdresser. The woman testified before the Missouri House Special Investigative Committee that Greitens bound her hands to exercise equipment, blindfolded her, took a photo without consent, and threatened: "You're never going to mention my name, otherwise there will be pictures of you everywhere." She also testified she was "coerced" into performing oral sex.

## The Felony Indictments

On February 22, 2018, a St. Louis grand jury **indicted Greitens on felony invasion of privacy**, making him the first sitting Missouri governor to be indicted. On April 20, 2018, he was **indicted on a second felony** for computer data tampering related to the unauthorized use of The Mission Continues donor list.

# Near-Certain Impeachment and Resignation

## The Impeachment Petition

On May 3, 2018, [138 of 163 House members and 29 of 34 Senators signed a petition](#) to self-convene for impeachment, the first time the Missouri legislature used this constitutional authority. With nearly 85% of the House having signed, impeachment was considered virtually certain. The House Special Investigative Committee deemed the woman an "overall credible witness" in a [24-page report \(PDF\)](#).

## The Resignation Deal

After a judge ruled Greitens must testify under oath on June 4, he [announced his resignation](#) on May 29, 2018. The computer tampering charge was dismissed with prejudice as part of the deal. The invasion of privacy charge had already been dropped after the Circuit Attorney was ruled a required defense witness. Special prosecutor Jean Peters Baker later declined to refile, citing insufficient evidence.

House Speaker Todd Richardson called the committee's testimony "beyond disturbing."

# Domestic Abuse Allegations

On March 21, 2022, ex-wife Sheena Greitens [filed a sworn affidavit](#) in Boone County Circuit Court alleging physical abuse during their marriage.

## Specific Allegations (Sworn Under Oath)

1	<b>Late April 2018:</b> "Eric knocked me down and confiscated my cell phone, wallet and keys so that I was unable to call for help."
2	<b>Early June 2018:</b> "cuffing our then three-year-old son across the face at the dinner table in front of me and yanking him around by his hair."
3	<b>November 2019:</b> Son returned from visit with "a swollen face, bleeding gums, and loose tooth." The child said "Dad had hit him." Tooth surgically removed May 2020.
4	Repeatedly threatened suicide and concealed a firearm. On three occasions, "multiple people other than myself were worried enough to intervene to limit Eric's access to firearms."
5	Threatened to accuse Sheena of child abuse if she did not delete emails to their therapist.
6	Threatened to have her arrested for "kidnapping and child abuse" if she tried to fly with their children, saying "because of his authority as a former Governor who had supported law enforcement, the police would support him."



# Domestic Abuse: Corroboration and Impact

## Corroborating Documentation

Sheena Greitens stated she has photographs of injuries to their child from the November 2019 incident, contemporaneous emails to lawyers and therapists from 2018, and records showing allegations were "reported to multiple lawyers, therapists, and our mediator, in 2018 and afterward."

## Political Impact

Sen. Josh Hawley: "If you hit a woman or a child, you belong in handcuffs, not the United States Senate."

Former major donor John Danforth funded a \$20M super PAC to recruit an independent candidate to block Greitens. Show Me Values PAC spent nearly \$6 million on ads highlighting the allegations. Greitens fell from first to third place in the primary.

# Dark Money Network Overview

Greitens operated one of the most elaborate dark money networks in Missouri history, documented by the Brennan Center for Justice, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW), and the Missouri House Special Investigative Committee.

## **"A New Missouri" 501(c)(4)**

Created February 2017, weeks after Greitens took office. Raised \$6.1 million in 2017 from anonymous donors, including two separate \$1 million contributions. All 67 recorded donations exceeded \$2,600, the new cap voters imposed via Amendment 2 in 2016, suggesting the nonprofit was used to circumvent contribution limits. Staffed by campaign veterans: Austin Chambers (campaign manager), Jeff Stuermer (treasurer), Meredith Gibbons (finance director). Headquarters in a building owned by a major campaign donor.

# Dark Money Pipelines

1

## Pipeline 1: Attack Ads

Unknown donors (incl. one \$5M donor) → Freedom Frontier (501c4) → LG PAC (super PAC, \$4.37M) → Ads attacking Greitens' GOP primary opponents

2

## Pipeline 2: Direct Support

Unknown donors → American Policy Coalition (501c4) → SEALs for Truth (super PAC, \$1.975M, largest single donation in MO history) → Greitens campaign

3

## Pipeline 3: Post-Election

Unknown donors (\$6.1M) → A New Missouri → Political consulting, out-of-state travel, \$1.7M to Nick Ayers-linked firm Target Enterprises

## Known Donors

- The Seminar Network (Koch-affiliated): \$50,000 to A New Missouri
- Judicial Crisis Network: \$500,000 to A New Missouri
- Two unknown donors: \$1 million each to A New Missouri
- Freedom Frontier: \$4.37 million to LG PAC (100% of LG PAC funding)

# Dark Money: The Criminal Enterprise

State Rep. Jay Barnes (R), chairman of the House investigative committee, called it "a criminal enterprise from its inception, designed to illegally skirt donation limits and conceal the identities of major donors."

Greitens resigned hours after a judge ordered A New Missouri's donor identities revealed. [Source: St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#)

# Charity Donor List Theft

Greitens founded The Mission Continues, a 501(c)(3) veterans charity, in 2007 and signed a confidentiality agreement covering donor information in 2012. After leaving as CEO in 2014, he directed political aides to use the charity's donor list for campaign fundraising, raising nearly \$2 million from charity donors.

## The Lies

When confronted by the AP in October 2016, Greitens said: "No, we were not working off of a Mission Continues donor list." The campaign then falsely named former aide Danny Laub as the source. Laub later testified he was "duped into being a scapegoat."

## The Indictment

Missouri Attorney General Josh Hawley (a fellow Republican) concluded the conduct constituted felony computer tampering. Greitens was indicted April 20, 2018. The charge was dismissed with prejudice as part of his resignation deal.

The Mission Continues stated it "did not provide, nor authorize the use of, our donors' information to any persons or groups for political/campaign purposes." Source: CBS News

# Campaign Finance Violations

## \$178,000 Ethics Commission Fine (February 2020)

The Missouri Ethics Commission assessed a record \$178,000 fine (reduced to \$38,000 consent order) for two violations:

1. **LG PAC coordination:** Campaign finance director shared a potential contributor list with a Freedom Frontier operative; Freedom Frontier then gave \$4,370,000 to LG PAC. Campaign manager Austin Chambers emailed "Hoping this is NA" (Nick Ayers' initials) when LG PAC began placing ads. After Chambers "expressed a concern" about the Springfield market, LG PAC spent nearly \$100,000 on Springfield ads.
2. **Unreported polling:** A New Missouri paid for nearly \$80,000 in polling received by the campaign but never disclosed.

## Additional Complaints

In December 2021, the Campaign Legal Center filed a complaint alleging Greitens spent over \$100,000 in gubernatorial campaign funds on his Senate race, potentially triggering the remaining \$140,087 from the consent order. CREW also sued the FEC for inaction on the dark money groups. Freedom Frontier dissolved as a corporate entity six days after CREW filed an IRS complaint against it.

# Hypocrisy and Contradictions

## Transparency

Promised voters would see "every single one of our donors" during a January 2016 radio appearance, then ran the most secretive fundraising operation in Missouri history. A New Missouri raised \$6.1 million anonymously. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch and Kansas City Star published a joint editorial criticizing "secret fundraising and secret spending."

## Law and Order

Positioned himself as a law-and-order conservative while facing two felony indictments, violating a signed confidentiality agreement, using a disappearing-message app (Confide) in the Governor's Office potentially violating Missouri's Sunshine Law, and operating what a Republican legislator called "a criminal enterprise."

## Family Values

Campaigned as a devoted family man while conducting an extramarital affair. Ex-wife subsequently filed sworn affidavit alleging he physically abused both her and their children. His current social media rebrand heavily features fatherhood content.

## Pro-Veteran

Founded a veterans' charity, then exploited its confidential donor list for personal political gain, raising nearly \$2 million. The organization was forced to distance itself from its founder.

# Pay-to-Play Concerns

## Express Scripts No-Bid Contract

Express Scripts, a pharmacy benefits company, [gave \\$10,000 to fund Greitens' inauguration](#) and contributed to his campaign. Greitens subsequently announced plans to award Express Scripts a \$250,000 no-bid contract for a prescription drug monitoring program, announced at a press conference held at Express Scripts' headquarters.

## Megadonor Access

Private sources paid almost \$325,000 in travel and housing expenses for Greitens to attend events with out-of-state millionaire megadonors. Stan Herzog, who donated \$650,000 to Greitens' campaign, spent \$60,000 on four out-of-state trips for the governor and owns the building where the dark money group was headquartered.

## Trump Transition Allegations (2024)

Greitens filed a sworn declaration alleging that Trump advisor Boris Epshteyn, who served as his 2022 Senate campaign adviser, communicated "an implicit expectation to engage in business dealings with him before he would advocate for or suggest my appointment to the President." [Source: KSDK](#)



# RINO Hunting Ad

On June 20, 2022, Greitens released a 38-second campaign video declaring "Today, we're going RINO hunting" while cocking a shotgun. The ad showed Greitens and men in military camouflage breaking down a home's door with guns drawn and using flash grenades.

## Platform Response

Facebook removed the video for violating policies on violence and incitement. Twitter flagged it for abusive behavior and prevented sharing.

## Political Reaction

Missouri state Senate Majority Leader Caleb Rowden (R) said they had contacted the Missouri Highway Patrol and hoped Greitens "finds the help he needs." Campaign manager Dylan Johnson dismissed criticism: "If anyone doesn't get the metaphor, they are either lying or dumb."

# Recommended Attack Lines: Tier 1

1

## "Resigned in Disgrace"

**Audience:** Republican Primary / General / Cross-partisan

**Evidence:** Only Missouri governor forced from office by his own party. 85% of House signed impeachment petition. Resigned rather than face certain removal.

**Sample message:** "Eric Greitens didn't leave office because he wanted to. His own Republican colleagues were days away from removing him."

**Rebuttal risk:** Greitens will claim charges were dropped and he was "exonerated." Counter: resignation deal explicitly acknowledged prosecutors had "sufficient evidence" to go to trial.

2

## "Abuser"

**Audience:** Republican Primary / General / Cross-partisan

**Evidence:** Ex-wife's sworn affidavit with documented injuries to children, corroborated by contemporaneous emails and photos.

**Sample message:** "Sheena Greitens swore under oath that Eric hit their three-year-old son across the face. Even Josh Hawley said he belongs in handcuffs, not in office."

**Rebuttal risk:** Greitens will call allegations "fabricated." Counter: Sheena Greitens' allegations were documented with third parties at the time they occurred, not manufactured later.

3

## "Dark Money King"

**Audience:** Republican Primary / General

**Evidence:** Promised donor transparency, then ran most secretive fundraising operation in MO history. A New Missouri raised \$6.1M anonymously.

**Sample message:** "Eric Greitens promised you'd see every donor. Instead, he hid behind shell companies and resigned the moment a judge ordered him to reveal who was really paying."

**Rebuttal risk:** Greitens will frame as free speech issue. Counter: Republican state rep called it "a criminal enterprise."

# Recommended Attack Lines: Tier 2 & 3

## Tier 2: Strong (Additional Context Helpful)

- 1

**"Fake Conservative"**

**Audience:** Republican Primary

**Evidence:** Registered Democrat until 2015. Praised Obama. Party switch announced via Fox News op-ed.

**Sample message:** "Eric Greitens was a Democrat until it wasn't convenient anymore. He praised Barack Obama and only became a Republican when he wanted to run for office."

**Rebuttal risk:** Greitens will cite his military service as proof of conservative values.
- 2

**"Charity Exploiter"**

**Audience:** General / Cross-partisan

**Evidence:** Stole donor list from veterans' charity he founded, raised \$2M, then lied about it.

**Sample message:** "He founded a charity for wounded veterans, then raided their donor list to fund his political career. That's not service. That's exploitation."

**Rebuttal risk:** Greitens will say he was cleared. Counter: \$178K Ethics Commission fine says otherwise.

## Tier 3: Situational

- 1

**"Pay-to-Play"**

**Audience:** General/Reform.

**Evidence:** Express Scripts inauguration donation → no-bid state contract. Private donors paid \$325K for travel.
- 2

**"Too Dangerous"**

**Audience:** General/Suburban women.

**Evidence:** Concealed firearm from wife, suicide threats, RINO hunting ad. Even the Navy was reluctant to take him back.
- 3

**"Foreign Money"**

**Audience:** General/National security.

**Evidence:** Campaign consultant testified about conversations where "foreign money was discussed." Referred to FBI.

# Source Index

## Government Records & Official Sources

- [Missouri House Special Investigative Committee Report \(PDF\)](#)
- [FEC - Eric Greitens Candidate Page](#)
- [FEC - Greitens for US Senate Committee](#)

## Major News Sources

- [NPR - Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens Resigns](#)
- [PBS - Greitens Charged with Felony Over Charity Donor List](#)
- [CBS News - Computer Tampering Charge](#)
- [NBC News - Impeachment Special Session](#)
- [CNN - Abuse Accusations](#)
- [Missouri Independent - Abuse Affidavit](#)
- [St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Dark Money Veil](#)

## Investigative & Watchdog Sources

- [Brennan Center - Dark Money and the Downfall of Eric Greitens](#)
- [CREW - Pro-Greitens Nonprofit Raised \\$6 Million](#)
- [Campaign Legal Center - Complaint Against Greitens](#)