

Ken Paxton Research Memo

Executive Summary

Integrity & Corruption

- **Impeached By His Own Party:** The Republican-led Texas House voted overwhelmingly, 121-23, to impeach Paxton on bribery and abuse-of-office charges — the first impeachment of a Texas attorney general in modern history — with former Governor Rick Perry and Rep. Chip Roy among the Texas Republicans who publicly supported the proceedings. After his acquittal by the more conservative Texas Senate, Paxton led a campaign of revenge against more than 30 Texas House Republicans who voted to impeach him, helping oust at least five incumbents.
- **Bribery & The Nate Paul Scandal:** Eight of Paxton's top deputies — all Republicans Paxton himself had hired — reported him to the FBI in 2020 for abusing his office to help donor Nate Paul, alleging Paxton intervened in lawsuits, issued favorable legal opinions, and hired an inexperienced outside attorney to investigate Paul's enemies after Paxton's own veteran prosecutors said Paul's claims “sounded absolutely crazy” — in exchange for home renovations and a job for the woman with whom Paxton was having an affair. Paxton allegedly used a burner phone, a secret email account, and a fake Uber name (“Dave P.”) to conceal the relationship.
- **Whistleblower Retaliation:** A Texas court found Paxton's office illegally fired the four senior aides who reported him to the FBI and awarded the whistleblowers \$6.6 million — to be paid by Texas taxpayers — and Paxton's bid to make the legislature foot the bill is what triggered the House investigation that led to his impeachment. Nate Paul himself was sentenced to five years' supervised release and a \$1 million fine in 2025.
- **Securities Fraud Indictment:** Paxton was indicted in 2015 on three felony counts for soliciting investments from friends — including a fellow Texas state representative — while hiding that he was being paid to promote the company, a crime he himself had voted to create as a state legislator. The case dragged on for nearly a decade before Paxton accepted a 2024 pretrial deal requiring nearly \$300,000 in restitution, 100 hours of community service, and 15 hours of ethics training.

Abuse Of Office

- **Plea Deals for Sex Offenders:** Paxton's office cut a plea deal that kept an alleged sex trafficker out of prison and off the sex offender registry — and within a few years, the trafficker was back

in jail facing charges of assault with a deadly weapon and burglary. In a separate case, Paxton's office offered a Waco attorney accused of continuous sexual abuse of a child a plea deal of one day's time served and no sex offender registration — a deal the presiding judge rejected as too lenient before ultimately accepting a 60-day jail sentence. The Waco attorney was represented by Gerry Morris — the same lawyer who represented Paxton donor Nate Paul.

- **Voter-Fraud Prosecutions Targeting Voters of Color:** Paxton built an election-crimes unit years before they became a GOP trend and turned it on the people who run elections, opening at least 10 criminal investigations of election workers; his aggressive prosecutions disproportionately targeted Black and Latino voters and volunteers, upending lives and chilling turnout efforts, producing almost no convictions, and courts ultimately ruled he lacked the authority to bring many of them.
- **The AG Office As A Partisan Weapon:** Paxton sued the Biden administration at least 20 times by 2022 and bragged he had “opposed” Biden “more than 100” times — “judge shopping” by filing cases in single-judge divisions guaranteed to draw sympathetic Trump appointees, a practice he himself had once urged the Supreme Court to crack down on for eroding “confidence in the fairness and neutrality of our Nation's justice system.” ProPublica and the Texas Tribune identified at least 30 cases Paxton's office filed in counties with only a tenuous connection to the alleged wrongdoing.
- **Self-Dealing With State Contracts:** Paxton increasingly steered state litigation to private lawyers with personal or political ties to him — including a former aide billing \$3,780 an hour, nearly six times her in-house cost, and his own impeachment defense lawyer — awarding the contracts with no competitive bidding and no one's approval, sometimes to firms whose attorneys donated to his campaigns within days. His office also reallocated taxpayer-funded hotel rooms to major donors and foreign associates, and two senior aides who flagged the booking “errors” abruptly resigned after the state comptroller reopened an audit.

Personal Conduct & Hidden Wealth

- **Affair & Divorce:** In July 2025, Paxton's wife, state Senator Angela Paxton, filed for divorce on “biblical grounds,” citing Paxton's infidelity; the proceedings were initially sealed at the couple's request but were unsealed in December 2025 after media organizations challenged the seal. Paxton's affair was central to his impeachment — House managers alleged Nate Paul hired the woman so she could be closer to Paxton, in exchange for Paxton misusing his office to help Paul.
- **Mortgage Misrepresentations:** An Associated Press review found the Paxtons signed mortgages inaccurately declaring three separate homes as their primary residence, allowing them to lock in lower interest rates, and collected a homestead tax break on two homes at once

— and rented out at least two homes that their mortgage terms explicitly barred from being used as rentals.

- **Undisclosed Wealth & Real Estate:** The Wall Street Journal reported Paxton went from a middle-class lawyer to a multimillionaire on a public official's salary; he acquired at least 10 properties across five states but disclosed just one on his 2024 federal financial disclosure — something a former Texas Ethics Commission chairman called “ripe for investigation” — and his “blind” trust was managed by a church friend who had given Paxton \$20,000 for his legal defense and was caught texting Paxton updates on stock trades.
- **WatchGuard Self-Dealing:** As a state legislator, Paxton held stock in WatchGuard and voted for spending bills that steered state business to it — what one investigation called a possible ethics violation — then cashed out \$2.2 million when Motorola acquired the company in 2019. Paxton claimed he “didn't even know we had contracts with the State of Texas,” but WatchGuard's co-founder contradicted him, calling Paxton an original investor whose stake was “not insignificant.”
- **Gifts For His Legal Defense:** While under felony indictment, Paxton collected more than \$630,000 in personal gifts for his legal defense — including \$100,000 from the head of a medical imaging company his own office was helping investigate for Medicaid fraud, a gift a district attorney probed but declined to charge as bribery.
- **Taxpayer-Funded Travel & A Secret Trip To China:** Paxton's DPS security detail cost Texas taxpayers about \$2.8 million from January 2015 to August 2025 — averaging nearly \$245,000 a year and peaking at nearly \$500,000 in 2024 — and accompanied him on trips to Mexico, Europe, and Africa, as well as the Kentucky Derby, golf outings in North Carolina and Georgia, and a ski retreat with other Republican attorneys general. In 2019, Paxton took an undisclosed 10-day trip to China — staying in luxury hotels, meeting Chinese government officials, and traveling alongside corporate lobbyists — over staff warnings about Chinese Communist Party influence.
- **Ethics & Open Records Violations:** Paxton, whose office is charged with enforcing campaign finance and open records laws, was repeatedly found to have violated them himself — owing \$11,300 in unpaid Texas Ethics Commission fines for late filings (paid only after the Texas Tribune began asking questions) and being found by Travis County prosecutors to have unlawfully withheld his January 6th communications.

Extreme Policy Record

- **The Kate Cox Case:** After Kate Cox, a Texas mother whose fetus had received a fatal diagnosis, won a court order for a medically necessary abortion in December 2023, Paxton threatened to criminally prosecute any doctor who provided the procedure — forcing her to flee the state to obtain care. He also sued the Biden administration to block emergency-room abortion protections under EMTALA, pursued out-of-state providers as far as Austria for mailing abortion medication to Texas patients, and once fled his own home to avoid being served a subpoena in a lawsuit challenging Texas's abortion ban.
- **Stripping Health Care From Texans:** Paxton led a 20-state coalition to overturn the Affordable Care Act — an effort that threatened to strip pre-existing-condition protections from more than 4.5 million Texans — and attacked the Biden administration's effort to incentivize Texas to expand Medicaid as a “disgusting and unlawful abuse of power.”
- **Killing DACA & The Texas Dream Act:** Paxton led the multistate lawsuit that struck down DACA, threatening deportation protection and work authorization for more than 120,000 young Texans; joined the Trump Department of Justice to kill the bipartisan Texas Dream Act allowing undocumented students to pay in-state college tuition; and used consumer protection laws to investigate migrant shelters and immigrant-rights nonprofits in probes ProPublica and the Texas Tribune found were never prompted by a single consumer complaint.
- **Targeting Transgender Texans:** Paxton declared gender-affirming care for minors “child abuse” before any law banned it — triggering state investigations of families — sued doctors who treated transgender minors, and created a tip line for Texans to report transgender people in public restrooms. In a national first, he sued an El Paso doctor as a “scofflaw” for allegedly defying Texas's trans-care ban — then quietly dropped the suit a year later, conceding “no legal violations were found.”
- **Education, DEI & Public Schools:** On Martin Luther King Jr. Day in 2026, Paxton issued a legal opinion declaring decades of Texas diversity, equity, and inclusion programs unconstitutional and warning private employers their diversity initiatives could expose them to lawsuits; he also used his official state office to urge public-school students to recite “The Lord's Prayer, as taught by Jesus Christ” during school prayer time.

Threat To Democracy

- **The 2020 Election Lawsuit:** Paxton sued four battleground states to block their Electoral College votes for Biden — a long-shot bid the Supreme Court tossed out in three days for lack of standing, and which the Texas State Bar sought to sanction him for as knowingly baseless — even after Trump's own attorney general had said there was no evidence of widespread fraud. Paxton has never accepted the results of the 2020 election.

- **January 6th:** Paxton cut short a Jamaica vacation to speak at the January 6th rally that devolved into the Capitol insurrection, telling the crowd “we will not quit fighting” — then falsely blamed “antifa” infiltrators for the riot, was the only state attorney general in the country who refused to sign bipartisan letters condemning the attack, and was found by a Travis County district attorney to have unlawfully withheld his communications about the trip.
- **Breaking Ballot Security:** Over the objection of Texas's Republican secretary of state, Paxton issued a legal opinion letting anyone request access to ballots the day after an election — a reversal of decades of ballot-security practice that election officials warned would break the chain of custody and fuel baseless challenges.

Significant Findings

Integrity & Corruption

Impeachment By His Own Party

- In May 2023, the bribery allegations raised by Paxton's own deputies became the basis of articles of impeachment, and the Republican-led Texas House voted "overwhelmingly," 121-23, to impeach him.
- Paxton called his impeachment a “politically motivated sham,” while Trump branded pro-impeachment House Speaker Dade Phelan a “RINO.”
- High profile Texas Republicans, including former Governor Rick Perry and Rep. Chip Roy, supported the impeachment proceedings against Paxton.
- In September 2023, Paxton was acquitted by the more conservative Texas Senate.
- Paxton spent \$2.3 million in campaign funds on his impeachment legal defense.
- After his acquittal, Paxton led a campaign of revenge against more than 30 Texas House Republicans who had supported his impeachment, helping oust at least 5 incumbents.

Bribery And The Nate Paul Scandal

- In 2020, eight top Office of the Attorney General employees reported Paxton to the FBI for allegedly abusing his office to help donor Nate Paul — four were then fired and sued under the Texas Whistleblower Act, and Paxton's bid to make the Legislature pay his \$3.3 million settlement triggered the House investigation that led to his impeachment.
- Four of Paxton's senior aides turned whistleblowers, alleging he used his office to help donor Nate Paul — intervening in lawsuits, pulling records for Paul's attorneys, issuing favorable legal opinions, and hiring outside counsel to investigate Paul's enemies — in exchange for home renovations and a job for the woman with whom Paxton was having an affair.

- Paxton's affair was central to the impeachment case: House managers alleged that Nate Paul hired the woman Paxton was having an affair with so she could move closer to Paxton, in exchange for Paxton misusing his office to help Paul.
- Paxton's former chief of staff testified that Paxton admitted the affair, said it had ended, then months later said it had resumed and asked the office to “be more accommodating of it” — including with his security detail.
- After his own veteran prosecutors dismissed Nate Paul's conspiracy claims as “absolutely crazy,” Paxton hired Brandon Cammack — a lawyer five years out of law school with a DWI-and-misdemeanor caseload — as outside counsel, and Cammack let Paul and his attorney direct the investigation.
- Paxton allegedly used a burner phone, a secret email account, and a fake Uber name to conceal his relationship with Nate Paul.
 - Impeachment records showed that Nate Paul created an Uber account under the alias “Dave P.” that Paxton used to travel to Paul's home and to the apartment of the woman with whom he was allegedly having an affair.
- Paxton's own evidence backfired: the wire transfer he used to disprove bribery was dated the exact day his deputies reported him to the FBI — and paid to a company tied to Nate Paul.
- In April 2025, Nate Paul was sentenced to five years' supervised release and a \$1 million fine — the end of the federal investigation Paxton had tried to delegitimize.
- A Texas court found that Paxton's office illegally retaliated against the whistleblowers by firing them, and awarded them \$6.6 million — to be paid by Texas taxpayers.
- Paxton was investigated by the FBI, but the Department of Justice declined to prosecute — reportedly because a senior career official in its Public Integrity Section doubted a conviction could be secured.

The Securities Fraud Indictment

- In August 2015, Paxton was indicted on three felony counts for soliciting investments from friends while hiding that he was paid to promote the company — a crime he had voted to create as a legislator.
- In April 2016, the SEC brought civil fraud charges against Paxton in federal court over the same conduct, as part of its probe of the company that solicited the investments.
- In March 2024, after years of court delays, Paxton agreed to a pretrial deal requiring nearly \$300,000 in restitution, community service, and ethics courses, with no admission of guilt — the charges were formally dismissed in June 2025.

[Abuse Of Office](#)

Plea Deals In Sexual Abuse Cases

- Paxton's office cut a plea deal with an alleged sex trafficker, Rakim Sharkey, that included no jail time and no sex offender registry — within a couple of years the man was in jail again, for assault with a deadly weapon and burglary.
 - Texas Judge Sparkman: "I'm seeing a pattern... If they get a mistrial, all of a sudden it's just a little misdemeanor with a slap on the hand."
- Paxton's office offered Waco attorney Adam Hoffman, accused of continuous sexual abuse of a child, a plea deal of one day's time served and no sex offender registration — a deal the presiding judge rejected as too lenient before ultimately accepting a 60-day jail sentence.
 - Hoffman was represented by Gerry Morris — the same attorney who represented Paxton donor Nate Paul — which Cornyn's campaign cited as evidence that connected people get special treatment from Paxton's office.
 - Activist for victims of sexual violence: Paxton "has failed miserably to protect the victims who have trusted him to fight for them."

Voter-Fraud Prosecutions

- Paxton built an election-crimes unit years before they became a GOP trend and turned it on the people who run elections, opening at least 10 criminal investigations of election workers — including one against a county's top election official that a grand jury refused to indict.
- Paxton's aggressive voter-fraud prosecutions disproportionately targeted Black and Latino voters and volunteers, upending lives and chilling turnout efforts — yet produced almost no convictions, and courts ultimately ruled he lacked the authority to bring many of them.
- December 2020: Paxton's office spent twice as much time working on voter fraud cases in 2020 as in 2018, yet resolved half as many prosecutions.

Lawsuits As A Political Weapon

- Paxton sued the Biden administration within 50 hours of inauguration, filed at least 20 suits by March 2022, and later bragged he had "opposed" Biden "more than 100" times.
- Paxton filed cases in specific court divisions that all but guaranteed a sympathetic, often Trump-appointed judge — a practice critics call "judge shopping."
 - ProPublica and the Texas Tribune identified at least 30 cases Paxton's office filed over nine years in counties with only a tenuous connection to the alleged wrongdoing — a practice Paxton himself once urged the supreme court to crack down on, warning it eroded confidence in the justice system.
- Paxton rebuffed the Biden administration's demand for federal access to a border park that the Texas National Guard had sealed off with razor wire and fencing, telling DHS "your request is hereby denied."

Outsourcing State Legal Work To Allies

- A Texas Tribune and ProPublica investigation found Paxton increasingly steered state litigation to pricey private lawyers with personal or political ties to him — including a former aide billing \$3,780 an hour, nearly six times her in-house cost, and his own impeachment defense lawyer — rather than using his office's 700-plus attorneys.
 - After the head of civil litigation who was set to lead the Google case reported Paxton to the FBI and resigned, Paxton replaced his office's in-house effort by hiring two private firms — including one whose founder, a major donor, later gave Paxton \$25,000.
 - Paxton's office awarded three contracts for Google cases to the firm Norton Rose Fulbright, whose lead counsel on the litigation contributed \$5,000 to Paxton's campaign three times — twice within 16 days of signing one of those contracts.
 - Former Executive Director of the National Association of Attorneys General: “Large states typically don't hire outside counsel” — and Paxton's office is among the largest in the country.
- Paxton can award these lucrative legal contracts with no competitive bidding and no one's approval — and he repeatedly gave them to firms whose attorneys donated to his campaigns, sometimes within days of a contract being signed.

Taxpayer-Funded Hotel Rooms For Donors

- Paxton's office reallocated taxpayer-funded hotel rooms to major donors and foreign associates to avoid eating the cost of a nonrefundable booking — and after the state comptroller reopened an audit of the agency's travel spending, two senior aides who had flagged the booking “errors” abruptly resigned.

Personal Conduct & Hidden Wealth

Divorce On Adultery Grounds

- In July 2025, Paxton's wife, Angela Paxton, filed for divorce “on biblical grounds,” citing Paxton's infidelity.
- The divorce proceedings were initially sealed at the couple's request, but were unsealed in December 2025 after media organizations challenged the seal.

Mortgage And Homestead Misrepresentations

- An Associated Press review found the Paxtons signed mortgages inaccurately declaring three separate homes as their primary residence, allowing them to lock in lower interest rates, and collected a homestead tax break on two homes at once — conduct that, as Trump has said of his own political foes, can constitute mortgage fraud.
 - Trump has accused two of his political foes — Sen. Adam Schiff and New York Attorney General Letitia James — of mortgage fraud in similar but less serious circumstances, and

Paxton himself said he hoped James would be “held accountable” if she had “done something wrong.”

- Paxton has rented out at least two homes — a College Station house and a \$1.2 million Oklahoma “luxury cabin” — that his own mortgage terms explicitly barred from being used as rentals.

Profiting In Office And Undisclosed Real Estate

- Paxton acquired at least 10 properties across 5 states, but disclosed just one of them in his 2024 financial disclosure — something a former Texas Ethics Commission chairman said appeared “ripe for investigation.”
- Wall Street Journal: Paxton went from being a middle-class lawyer to a multimillionaire during two decades on a public official's salary.
 - New York Times: “When he first won public office, he listed his assets as less than \$200,000. Two decades later, on an annual state salary of about \$150,000, he reported a net worth approaching \$8 million with residential properties in Oklahoma, Florida, Utah and Hawaii.”
 - Punchbowl: “Paxton has a net worth of as much as \$12.6 million.”
- Paxton's “blind” trust was blind in name only: text messages showed his trustee — a church friend who had given Paxton \$20,000 for his legal defense, despite a state requirement that trustees be “disinterested” — updating him on stock trades in what legal experts called a potential ethics violation.
- As a state legislator, Paxton held stock in WatchGuard and voted for spending bills that steered state business to it, in what one investigation called a possible ethics violation — then cashed out for a \$2.2 million windfall when Motorola bought the company in 2019.
 - Paxton described himself as a minor investor with no influence and said “I didn't even know we had contracts with the State of Texas” — but WatchGuard's co-founder said Paxton was an original investor whose stake was “not insignificant.”
 - Paxton said he would correct any disclosure failures but rejected calls to require lawmakers to disclose investments in state contractors, saying he did not “see why it would help taxpayers to know that.”

Gifts For His Legal Defense

- While under felony indictment, Paxton collected more than \$630,000 in personal gifts for his legal defense — including \$100,000 from the head of a medical imaging company his own office was helping investigate for Medicaid fraud, a gift a district attorney probed but declined to charge as bribery.

Taxpayer-Funded Travel

- Paxton's Department of Public Safety security detail cost Texas taxpayers about \$2.8 million from January 2015 to August 2025 — an average of nearly \$245,000 a year, peaking at nearly \$500,000 in 2024.
 - From January 2015 to February 2016, nearly half of Paxton's \$78,000 in DPS security costs — about \$35,000 — went to frequent trips to his home and businesses in Collin County.
- DPS security detail accompanied Paxton on trips to Mexico, Europe and to Africa, as well as the Kentucky Derby, golf outings in North Carolina and Georgia, and a ski retreat with other Republican attorneys general.
- In 2019, Paxton took an undisclosed 10-day trip to China — staying in luxury hotels, meeting Chinese government officials, and traveling alongside corporate lobbyists — over staff warnings about Chinese Communist Party influence.

Campaign Finance Enforcement And Ethics Fines

- In the first campaign finance filing period after Paxton's impeachment in 2023, he raised \$1.7 million — \$1.2 million of it from just six donors who each gave at least \$100,000.
 - Tim Dunn — one of the six megadonors who bankrolled Paxton's post-impeachment fundraising haul — and fellow oil billionaire Farris Wilks poured \$2 million into a spinoff of Defend Texas Liberty, the PAC that vowed to defeat the House Republicans who impeached Paxton and whose president had hosted white supremacist and Hitler admirer Nick Fuentes.
- In January 2022, Paxton was late filing a campaign finance report, and reported \$2.1 million of the total \$2.8 million raised as unitemized.
- Paxton, as Attorney General, was responsible for enforcing Texas Ethics Commission penalties for campaign finance violations like faulty reports or misused campaign funds — but his office rarely did so.
 - From 2015 to 2024, the Texas Ethics Commission referred 2,500 unpaid fines to Paxton's office, yet his office filed just 175 enforcement lawsuits — about 7% of the cases referred.
 - As enforcement declined, the number of delinquent candidates and elected officials soared — in 2019, 327 filers owed \$1.3 million in fines, but by June 2024, 750 filers owed \$3.6 million.
- Paxton himself owed \$11,300 in Texas Ethics Commission fines for three late filings — fines referred to his own office for collection, which he paid only after the Texas Tribune began asking questions.
- In 2013, Paxton “accidentally” pocketed a \$1,000 Montblanc pen — a sentimental gift to another lawyer — at a Collin County courthouse security checkpoint.

Violations Of Open Records Law

- Paxton, whose office is charged with enforcing the state's open records laws, was found by prosecutors to have violated them himself.
 - Paxton refused to release records of his own communications around January 6th, 2021, despite a demand from the Travis County District Attorney.

[Extreme Policy Record](#)

Abortion And Reproductive Rights

- After Kate Cox, a Texas mother whose fetus had received a fatal diagnosis, won a court order for a medically necessary abortion in December 2023, Paxton threatened to criminally prosecute any doctor who provided the procedure — forcing her to leave Texas to obtain care.
- Paxton sued the Biden administration to block EMTALA emergency abortion protections, successfully arguing in federal court that federal law does not require emergency rooms to perform stabilizing abortions.
- Paxton pursued out-of-state medical providers in New York, Delaware, and even Austria, seeking to block them from mailing abortion medication to patients in Texas.
- Paxton sued to strike down a Biden administration rule protecting the privacy of women who live in abortion-ban states and travel out of state for care.
- Paxton fled his own home to avoid being served a subpoena in a lawsuit challenging Texas's abortion ban.

Health Care And The ACA

- Paxton led a 20-state coalition in seeking to overturn the Affordable Care Act, and won in the lower courts before the Supreme Court rejected the suit on standing grounds in 2021.
- Paxton's effort threatened to strip pre-existing conditions protections from more than 4.5 million Texans.
- Paxton sued the Biden administration over health care funding and attacked its effort to incentivize Texas to expand Medicaid, calling it a “disgusting and unlawful abuse of power.”

Immigration And DACA

- Paxton led a multistate lawsuit to end DACA — threatening deportation protection and work authorization for more than 120,000 young immigrants in Texas — reprising the strategy and arguments he had used to kill the related DAPA program, and the Fifth Circuit ultimately struck DACA down.
- Paxton joined the Trump Department of Justice to kill the Texas Dream Act, a landmark bipartisan bill that allowed undocumented immigrants to pay in-state tuition to attend public colleges and universities in Texas.
- Paxton repeatedly used consumer protection and other state laws to investigate and try to shut down immigrant rights nonprofits and migrant shelters — including a decades-old Catholic

network — in probes that ProPublica and The Texas Tribune found were never prompted by a single consumer complaint.

- Paxton sought to shut down Annunciation House, a nearly 50-year-old Catholic migrant shelter network in El Paso, accusing it of running “stash houses” — drawing condemnation from Catholic leaders, a district court loss, and a rebuke from Pope Francis, who called the effort “madness,” before the Texas Supreme Court let the investigation proceed in 2025.
- The courts repeatedly rejected Paxton's border legal strategy — the Supreme Court ruled against Texas twice in 2022 and 2023, and a federal judge blocked the state's marquee SB 4 immigration law in 2026.

LGBTQ And Transgender Rights

- In 2022, Paxton declared gender-affirming care “child abuse,” triggering state investigations of families — before any law prohibited such care.
- Paxton sued physicians for treating transgender minors, and expanded the state's ban on trans care to include licensed mental health providers.
- Paxton created a tip line for Texans to report transgender people in public restrooms.
- Paxton sued a New York-based online seller of chest binders.
- In a national first, Paxton sued an El Paso doctor for allegedly defying Texas's ban on transgender care for minors, branding him a “scofflaw” — then quietly dropped the suit a year later, conceding “no legal violations were found.”

Education And DEI

- Paxton used his official state office to urge public-school students to use school prayer time to recite “the Lord's Prayer, as taught by Jesus Christ.”
- On MLK Jr. Day in 2026, Paxton issued a legal opinion declaring decades of Texas diversity, equity, and inclusion programs unconstitutional, and warning private employers their diversity initiatives could expose them to lawsuits.

Guns And Firearm Regulation

- Paxton fought to block ATF background check requirements at gun shows.
- Paxton sued to block the ATF's pistol brace rule.
- After the Texas State Fair banned firearms following a shooting at the 2023 fair, Paxton sued to overturn the rule — and lost at every level.

Environment And Energy

- Paxton led a 28-state effort to strike down President Obama's Clean Power Plan.
- Paxton sued the Biden administration to block implementation of a tax on methane emissions created by the Inflation Reduction Act.

[MAGA Record](#)

The 2020 Election Lawsuit

- In December 2020, Paxton filed Texas v. Pennsylvania, asking the Supreme Court to block Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin from casting their electoral college votes for Biden.
- Trump's own Attorney General, Bill Barr, had already stated that the Department of Justice had no evidence of widespread voter fraud that could have had an impact on election results.
- The Supreme Court dismissed Paxton's lawsuit in just three days, noting that Texas had not “demonstrated a judicially cognizable interest in the manner in which another State conducts its elections.”
- The State Bar of Texas sued to have Paxton sanctioned for knowingly filing baseless lawsuits against other states.
- Paxton never accepted the results of the 2020 presidential election.

The January 6th Rally

- Paxton spoke at the January 6th rally in Washington, D.C., which devolved into the insurrection at the Capitol, telling the crowd “we will not quit fighting.”
- After the attack, Paxton falsely blamed “Antifa” infiltrators for the riot, and was the only state attorney general who refused to sign bipartisan letters condemning it.
- Paxton and his office refused to release his January 6th communication records in defiance of state open records law.

Alliance With Trump

- Paxton co-chaired “Lawyers for Trump” in 2020.
- Paxton supported Trump at his 2024 criminal trial in New York.
- Paxton led an amicus brief defending Trump and attacking the FBI's court-authorized search of Mar-a-Lago for classified documents.
- Trump endorsed Paxton's 2022 reelection and later claimed to have personally “saved” Paxton from conviction in his impeachment by the Texas Legislature.
- In 2026, Trump ally Steve Bannon called Paxton “more than just an attorney general that's been MAGA. He is a symbol of the heart of the grassroots MAGA movement.”

Election Law

- Over the objection of Texas's Republican-run Secretary of State, Paxton issued a legal opinion letting anyone request access to ballots the day after an election — a reversal of decades of ballot-security practice that election officials warned would break the chain of custody and fuel baseless challenges.

Background

- **BORN:** Warren Kenneth Paxton Jr., 12/23/1962 (Age: 63)
- **FAMILY:** Angela Paxton (Ex-wife), four children
- **EDUCATION:** Bachelor's in Psychology, Baylor University (1985); MBA, Baylor University (1986); J.D., University of Virginia School of Law (1991)
- **POLITICAL:** House of Representatives, Texas (2003-2013); State Senate, Texas (2013-2015); Attorney General, Texas (2015-Present).

Integrity & Corruption

Impeachment By His Own Party

In May 2023, The Bribery Allegations Raised By Paxton's Own Deputies Became The Basis Of Articles Of Impeachment, And The Republican-Led Texas House Voted "Overwhelmingly," 121-23, To Impeach Him

In May 2023, Paxton Was Impeached By The Republican-Led Texas House In An "Overwhelming" 121-23 Vote. "The Texas House voted Saturday to impeach Republican Attorney General Ken Paxton and place him on suspension immediately for alleged abuse of office. The overwhelming majority vote, 121 to 23, was a powerful statement of no-confidence in the state's top law enforcement officer. Gov. Greg Abbott can appoint an interim or can choose to leave the role vacant, according to the Texas Constitution. The GOP-led House took a united stand against Paxton, who has been under felony indictment for nearly eight years without trial, with 60 Republicans joining all but three of the 64 Democrats. Just 14 Republicans needed to join their colleagues across the aisle to approve the impeachment on a majority vote." [Houston Chronicle, [5/27/23](#)]

Three-Quarters Of Texas House Republicans Voted To Impeach Paxton. "The GOP-led House took a united stand against Paxton, who has been under felony indictment for nearly eight years without trial, with 60 Republicans joining all but three of the 64 Democrats. Just 14 Republicans needed to join their colleagues across the aisle to approve the impeachment on a majority vote. [...] A total of 23 Republicans voted against impeachment, a little more than a quarter of the House GOP caucus." [Houston Chronicle, [5/27/23](#)]

Paxton Was Accused Of Abusing His Office To Benefit Donors And Allies, Misusing Public Funds For His Own Benefit, Bribery, Unfitness For Office, And Abuse Of The Public Trust. "The 20 articles of impeachment mainly stem from allegations made against Paxton in a whistleblower suit filed by four of his top aides who reported him to law enforcement for allegedly taking bribes and abusing the power of his office to help a friend and campaign donor, Nate Paul. The articles allege the attorney general

took a series of unlawful actions to benefit Paul against the advice of his aides in exchange for renovations on his \$1 million Austin home and a job hookup for a woman with whom Paxton allegedly had an affair. The accusations against Paxton include intervening in a civil suit that did not involve the AG's office, pressuring staff to issue favorable legal opinions, providing Paul with a confidential FBI report and launching a baseless investigation with an unapproved attorney. The House committee also covered underlying facts in a 2015 felony securities fraud case against him. Paxton is accused in that case of failing to register as an investment advisor and soliciting investments for a technology company without notifying potential buyers that he would receive commissions for the sales." [Houston Chronicle, [5/27/23](#)]

Paxton Called His Impeachment A "Politically Motivated Sham," While Trump Branded Pro-Impeachment House Speaker Dade Phelan A "RINO"

After His Impeachment, Paxton Called It A "Politically Motivated Sham" And Blamed "The Corrupt Establishment's Eagerness To Overpower" The Millions Of Texans Who Re-Elected Him. "Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton (R) decried his impeachment by the GOP-led Texas House on Saturday as a 'politically motivated sham.' 'The ugly spectacle in the Texas House today confirmed the outrageous impeachment plot against me was never meant to be fair or just,' Paxton said in a statement posted to Twitter. 'It was a politically motivated sham from the beginning.' The Texas House voted 121-23 to impeach the state attorney general after a monthslong investigation produced a variety of allegations against him, including bribery, dereliction of duty, unfitness for office and abuse of public trust. Paxton is suspended from office while he awaits a trial in the state Senate. Paxton claimed that his office 'made every effort' to present evidence that would have disproven the allegations against him and accused the House of refusing to consider 'anything that would interfere with their desired result.' 'What we witnessed today is not just about me,' he said. 'It is about the corrupt establishment's eagerness to overpower the millions of Texas voters who already made their voices heard when they overwhelmingly re-elected me.'" [The Hill, [5/27/23](#)]

Donald Trump Called House Speaker Dade Phelan, Who Supported The Impeachment, A "RINO."

"Former President Trump, who threw his support behind Paxton on Saturday, took aim at Texas House Speaker Dade Phelan after the impeachment vote. 'So this is the RINO who is responsible for the Impeachment of a just re-Elected Attorney General of Texas who has done an outstanding job? What is our Country coming to?' the former president said in a post on Truth Social. The post was accompanied by a video of Phelan, in which he appeared to slur his words while at the state House dais. Paxton called for his resignation on Tuesday, alleging that Phelan presided over lawmakers 'in a state of apparent debilitating intoxication.'" [The Hill, [5/27/23](#)]

High Profile Texas Republicans, Including Former Governor Rick Perry And Rep. Chip Roy, Supported The Impeachment Proceedings Against Paxton

High Profile Texas Republicans, Including Former Governor Rick Perry And Rep. Chip Roy, Supported The Impeachment Proceedings Against Paxton. “On the other side of the Paxton fight are the state's more traditional conservatives, including current speaker of the Texas House of Representatives Dade Phelan and former Governor Rick Perry. ‘Republicans once believed in the rule of law,’ Mr Perry wrote in a Wall Street Journal essay last month. ‘That's why it's shocking to see some Republicans - through a coordinated effort of texts, emails and social media posts - working to delegitimise the impeachment proceedings against Attorney General Ken Paxton.’” [BBC, [9/05/23](#)]

Rep. Chip Roy, Formerly Paxton's First Assistant Attorney General, Called For Paxton's Resignation In 2020 And Later Sided Publicly With The Whistleblowers. “Rep. Chip Roy, R-Austin, who served as first assistant attorney general to Paxton, has taken sides against his former boss. Roy called for Paxton’s resignation in 2020. On Friday, Roy posted on X, formerly known as Twitter, in support of David Maxwell, a former Texas Ranger and one of the top deputies in Paxton’s office. Maxwell, who took the witness stand Friday, was among the staffers who reported Paxton to the FBI and he testified that he warned Paxton to stay away from Nate Paul, the political donor who Paxton is accused of misusing his office to help. ‘I stand squarely alongside David Maxwell & those standing with him,’ Roy said. ‘He is a Texas Ranger, law enforcement veteran over 4 decades, & my friend. His integrity is rock solid against political hot air.’” [Texas Tribune, [9/12/23](#)]

Former Texas State Senator Konni Burton, Once Rated The Most Conservative Member Of The Texas Senate, Said She Believed Paxton “Abused The Office.” “Support from the GOP had begun to fray as Paxton’s position grew increasingly precarious. Cornyn (R-Tex.), a former Texas attorney general, called the allegations ‘deeply disturbing,’ and Rep. Chip Roy, who worked for Paxton, called for his resignation. Former Rep. Louie Gohmert wrote that pursuing Paxton is not an example of ‘corrupt prosecution;’ and Konni Burton, a former Texas state senator who had the most conservative voting record, said she believed Paxton ‘abused the office.’” [Politico, [9/16/23](#)]

In September 2023, Paxton Was Acquitted By The More Conservative Texas Senate

Paxton Was Acquitted By The More Conservative Texas Senate. “Impeached Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton was acquitted on 16 impeachment articles on Saturday, thwarting an effort to remove him from office over allegations of corruption. ‘Attorney General Warren Kenneth Paxton Jr. is hereby, at this moment, reinstated to office,’ said Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, the Republican president of the Senate who also presided over the trial. While two Republican senators broke with their party to vote for conviction on some articles of impeachment, the vast majority of Paxton's party voted to acquit him following a two-week trial and a day of deliberations behind closed doors. Four impeachment articles that had been put on hold during the trial were dismissed immediately after the acquittal vote.” [NBC News, [9/16/23](#)]

Paxton Spent \$2.3 Million In Campaign Funds On His Impeachment Legal Defense

Paxton Spent \$2.3 Million In Campaign Funds On His Impeachment Legal Defense. “Attorney General Ken Paxton tapped his campaign funds to pay \$2.3 million on legal fees related to his impeachment trial over the last six months, according to a new campaign finance report. The report, which was published Thursday, is the first time Paxton has had to disclose his campaign spending since July. The House impeached him on abuse-of-office charges in May and the Senate acquitted him after a trial in September. Paxton has previously said his impeachment defense cost him over \$4 million. The report confirms Paxton used campaign funds to cover at least part of his defense and provides more detail as a politically charged battle plays out over impeachment costs. In Texas, officeholders are generally allowed to use campaign money to defend themselves in legal matters that arise from their status as an elected official.” [Texas Tribune, [1/18/24](#)]

After His Acquittal, Paxton Led A Campaign Of Revenge Against More Than 30 Texas House Republicans Who Had Supported His Impeachment, Helping Oust At Least 5 Incumbents

After His Acquittal, Paxton Backed Primary Challengers In More Than 30 Texas House Races Against Republicans Who Supported His Impeachment, Helping Oust At Least 5 Incumbents.

“Republican Texas House Speaker Dade Phelan headed to a primary runoff against challenger David Covey, bruising one of the state’s most powerful figures and emboldening state Attorney General Ken Paxton in his revenge campaign to oust GOP incumbent lawmakers who sought his impeachment. [...] Paxton’s overall success is yet to be determined. Paxton-endorsed challengers in more than 30 House races and his candidates had ousted at least five House members and forced at least five more into runoffs. Yet several of Phelan’s House leadership team fended off challenges. The runoff, nonetheless, struck is a heavy blow to Phelan, who through two terms led the Republican-majority House as it passed some of the toughest abortion restrictions in the nation, supported Gov. Greg Abbott’s nationally watched anti-immigration policies and ended diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives in public higher education.” [Associated Press, [3/06/24](#)]

Bribery And The Nate Paul Scandal

In 2020, Eight Top Office Of The Attorney General Employees Reported Paxton To The FBI For Allegedly Abusing His Office To Help Donor Nate Paul — Four Were Then Fired And Sued Under The Texas Whistleblower Act, And Paxton's Bid To Make The Legislature Pay His \$3.3 Million Settlement Triggered The House Investigation That Led To His Impeachment

The Whistleblower Case Began In 2020 When Eight Top Office Of The Attorney General Employees Reported Paxton To The FBI For Allegedly Abusing His Office To Help Nate Paul — Four Were Then Fired And Sued Under The Texas Whistleblower Act, And Paxton's Bid To Make The Legislature Pay

His \$3.3 Million Settlement Triggered The House Investigation That Led To His Impeachment. “The case originated in 2020, when eight top employees at the Office of the Attorney General went to the FBI to report allegations of corruption by Paxton. They accused Paxton of abusing his office to do favors for Austin real estate investor Nate Paul, including hiring an outside lawyer to investigate claims made by Paul about his business rivals. Some of the employees subsequently resigned, but four were fired and sued Paxton in November 2020 for violating the Texas Whistleblower Act. Paxton offered to settle the suit for \$3.3 million in February 2023, but when he asked the Legislature to foot the bill, the Texas House began its own investigation into the allegations. Later that year, the House impeached Paxton on corruption and bribery charges, relying heavily on information and testimony from the dismissed employees. The employees testified at Paxton’s Senate trial, where he was eventually acquitted.” [Texas Tribune, [9/13/23](#)]

Four Of Paxton's Senior Aides Turned Whistleblowers, Alleging He Used His Office To Help Donor Nate Paul — Intervening In Lawsuits, Pulling Records For Paul's Attorneys, Issuing Favorable Legal Opinions, And Hiring Outside Counsel To Investigate Paul's Enemies — In Exchange For Home Renovations And A Job For The Woman With Whom Paxton Was Having An Affair

Four Whistleblowers Alleged Paxton Used His Office To Help Donor Nate Paul In Exchange For Home Renovations And A Job For The Woman With Whom Paxton Was Having An Affair. “Late last year, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton fired multiple senior aides who accused him of accepting a bribe. A court filing obtained by The Texas Tribune reveals for the first time what four of those aides believe Paxton received in exchange for helping a donor with his business affairs. An updated version of a lawsuit filed by the four whistleblowers claims that Austin real estate developer Nate Paul helped Paxton remodel his house and gave a job to a woman with whom Paxton allegedly had an affair. In return, the aides allege, Paxton used his office to help Paul’s business interests, investigate Paul’s adversaries and help settle a lawsuit. The claims in the filing provide even more details about what the former aides believe Paxton’s motivations were in what they describe as a ‘bizarre, obsessive use of power.’” [Texas Tribune, [2/11/21](#)]

The Filing Alleged Paul Helped Renovate Paxton's Home And Gave A Construction-Management Job To Paxton's Alleged Affair Partner, Who Had No Experience In The Industry. “The latest filing is vague on many details. It says that Paxton purchased a home worth around \$1 million in the Tarrytown neighborhood of Austin in 2018. In 2020, the filing says, the house underwent renovations, ‘although permitting records in Travis County could not be located.’ “In mid-2020, some of the Plaintiffs received information suggesting that Nate Paul, either personally or through [a] construction company he owns and controls, was involved in the project,’ the lawsuit states. The filing doesn’t describe the nature of Paul’s alleged involvement or how the plaintiffs received the information. The whistleblowers also allege for the first time that Paxton may have helped Paul because the developer gave a job to a woman with whom he had an extramarital relationship. The lawsuit notes that the woman had no previous experience in the construction industry, ‘much less managing construction projects.’ The

woman, whom the Tribune is not naming because she is not a public figure, did not return a call for comment.” [Texas Tribune, [2/11/21](#)]

In Exchange, The Aides Alleged, Paxton Used His Office To Help Paul's Business Interests, Help Settle A Lawsuit For Him, And Investigate Paul's Adversaries. “In return, the aides allege, Paxton used his office to help Paul’s business interests, investigate Paul’s adversaries and help settle a lawsuit.” [Texas Tribune, [2/11/21](#)]

The Whistleblowers Said Paxton Hired Outside Counsel To Investigate Paul's Claims Of Mistreatment In The 2019 FBI Raid On His Home And Business — Even After Paxton's Own Aides Found “No Credible Evidence” For Those Claims. “The whistleblowers previously claimed that the attorney general’s most egregious abuse of power occurred when he hired a Houston defense attorney, Brandon Cammack, to review complaints Paul made alleging that he was mistreated by federal and state law enforcement officials when his home and business were raided by the FBI in 2019. While the aides tasked with investigating the issue found ‘no credible evidence’ that Paul’s rights were violated, Paxton joined Paul and his attorney and pushed back, they say in court filings. Top aides said hiring Cammack to investigate Paul’s claims was unusual and improper, the filings state.” [Texas Tribune, [2/11/21](#)]

The Whistleblowers Said Paxton Had Directed His Office To Help Paul's Attorneys Obtain Information From Other Agencies Through Open Records Requests, And To Issue Legal Opinions That Allowed Paul's Company To Fight Off Foreclosure Sales. “But the whistleblowers said they felt pressure even before Cammack was hired. In fall 2019, they were encouraged to help Paul’s attorneys obtain information through open records requests submitted to other agencies, related to the raid on his home and office. Paxton also took ‘a deep personal interest’ in a lawsuit between Paul’s firm and an Austin charity, directing the attorney general’s office to intervene after it had said it would not get involved. According to the filing, Paxton also directed top aides to issue a legal opinion that would help Paul’s business interests. Days after the opinion was issued, Paul’s attorneys used it to push off the foreclosure sales of several of his properties.” [Texas Tribune, [2/11/21](#)]

Paxton's Affair Was Central To The Impeachment Case: House Managers Alleged That Nate Paul Hired The Woman Paxton Was Having An Affair With So She Could Move Closer To Paxton, In Exchange For Paxton Misusing His Office To Help Paul

Olson's Relationship With Paxton Was Central To The Impeachment Case: House Managers Alleged Paul Hired Her At His Business So She Could Be Closer To Paxton, In Exchange For Paxton Misusing His Office To Help Paul. “Olson’s relationship with Paxton was central to the House managers’ impeachment case. Her testimony has been highly anticipated as she has never spoken publicly. House managers allege that Paxton misused his office to help his friend and donor Nate Paul investigate his business rivals. In exchange, Paul hired Olson to work at his business so she could be closer to Paxton,

the impeachment managers allege. They also allege that Paul and Paxton shared a secret Uber account that Paxton used to visit Olson's house." [Texas Tribune, [9/13/23](#)]

Paxton's Former Chief Of Staff Testified That Paxton Admitted The Affair, Said It Had Ended, Then Months Later Said It Had Resumed And Asked The Office To "Be More Accommodating Of It" — Including With His Security Detail

Paxton's Former Chief Of Staff Testified That Paxton Admitted The Affair, Said It Had Ended, Then Months Later Said It Had Resumed And Asked The Office To "Be More Accommodating Of It" — Including With His Security Detail. "Earlier in the trial, the former chief of staff testified that Paxton had admitted to having an affair with Olson and told staffers it had ended. But months later he told the staffer that the affair had resumed and he wanted the office 'to be more accommodating of it' when it came to things like his security detail." [Texas Tribune, [9/13/23](#)]

After His Own Veteran Prosecutors Dismissed Nate Paul's Conspiracy Claims As "Absolutely Crazy," Paxton Hired Brandon Cammack — A Lawyer Five Years Out Of Law School With A DWI-And-Misdemeanor Caseload — As Outside Counsel, And Cammack Let Paul And His Attorney Direct The Investigation

Paul's Lawyers Directed The Outside Counsel Hired By Paxton, Brandon Cammack, To Investigate Paul's Adversaries. "In September 2020, subpoenas were served to executives at four Texas banks who Austin real estate investor Nate Paul — a friend of Attorney General Ken Paxton — believed had information about an illegal scheme to defraud him. The subpoenas were signed by Brandon Cammack, who identified himself as a special prosecutor with the Texas Attorney General's office. But they were written by Paul. Earlier, Paul had sent a list of targets to Cammack, via his lawyer, who he wanted to see investigated and subpoenaed in what he called 'Operation Deep Sea.' He alleged he was the target of two massive yet separate conspiracies perpetrated by business rivals, judges and several law enforcement agencies, including agents that participated in an FBI-led raid on his home and business a year earlier. Cammack persuaded a judge to approve 25 additional subpoenas, which sought email or phone records of prosecutors investigating Paul, federal court staff, police officers, the head of a charity who sued him, a court-appointed lawyer in that lawsuit and the lawyer's wife. All of those targets were on Paul's list. And the investigation would never have happened without the support of Paxton." [Texas Tribune, [8/29/23](#)]

Paxton Brought In Cammack As Outside Counsel After Prosecutors In His Own Office Concluded Paul's Claims "Sounded Absolutely Crazy." "At Paxton's request, then-Deputy Attorney General for Criminal Justice David Maxwell met with Paul three times in July and August that year. Penley joined for two of them. Paul and his lawyer repeated the allegations, this time with the help of a PowerPoint presentation they named 'Operation Longhorn.' They said the metadata in digital search warrants proved they had been altered. Their theory was that originally agents got permission to search for drugs

but after finding none, illegally changed the warrants to search for evidence of financial crimes. Penley, a former 16-year federal prosecutor, told House investigators the allegation ‘sounded absolutely crazy.’ Maxwell, who served 24 years as a Texas Ranger, said he told Paul he’d never seen an instance where multiple agencies colluded to doctor a search warrant. The agency’s forensic examiners said the metadata could have changed for many reasons, including encryption that is a routine practice of the Department of Justice. Paxton was frustrated. In an interview the attorney general later gave to law enforcement officials, he lamented how his deputies weren’t taking Paul’s allegations seriously. ‘I just realized my office wasn’t getting it done,’ Paxton said.” [Texas Tribune, [8/29/23](#)]

Unlike Paxton's Veteran Deputies, Cammack Had Never Been A Prosecutor Or Police Officer — But He Was Willing To Take Direction From Paul And His Attorney. “Unlike the top deputies at the attorney general's office, Cammack had never been a prosecutor or police officer. He did not, as they did, have decades of experience as an attorney. He did, however, possess a trait they lacked: the willingness to take direction from Paul and his attorney. Cammack, who graduated from the University of Houston Law Center in 2015, knew Wynne through professional circles in Houston. It was Wynne who connected him to Paxton, who in early September 2020 hired Cammack as an outside counsel to investigate Paul’s complaint. Once hired, Cammack worked closely with Paul and Wynne. While Penley and Maxwell had pushed back against Paul’s claims, the investigation by Cammack proceeded as if Paul were running it.” [Texas Tribune, [8/29/23](#)]

When Paxton Hired Him, Cammack Was “A Lawyer With Five Years Of Experience” Whose Caseload Had Consisted Mostly Of DWI, Low-Level Theft, And Assault Cases. “Emails included in the trove of documents show how Paul and his lawyer, Michael Wynne, at times gave direction and forwarded information to a special prosecutor, Brandon Cammack, who was working for the office of the attorney general. Paxton hired Cammack — a lawyer with five years of experience whose docket at the time had mostly consisted of driving while intoxicated, low-level theft or assault cases — to probe Paul’s allegations of misconduct by a variety of state and federal officials, law enforcement agencies and business rivals after his home was raided by the FBI.” [Texas Tribune, [8/18/23](#)]

Paxton Allegedly Used A Burner Phone, A Secret Email Account, And A Fake Uber Name To Conceal His Relationship With Nate Paul

Paxton Allegedly Used A Burner Phone, A Secret Email Account, And A Fake Uber Name To Conceal His Relationship With Nate Paul. “The managers’ responses to Paxton’s pretrial motions offer new allegations against Paxton, including that he used a burner phone, secret email account and fake Uber name to hide his relationship with Paul. There are 150 exhibits across three documents totaling 3,760 pages. They include: [...] An interview with Paxton’s former personal aide who said he ferried documents to Paul on Paxton’s behalf and witnessed conversations about the renovations to Paxton’s home that suggested Paul had paid for it. [...] Trip records obtained from Uber showing an account Paul created under the alias “Dave P,” which Paxton used to travel to the home of Paul and the apartment of

the woman with whom the attorney general was allegedly having an extramarital affair. Paxton is married to state Sen. Angela Paxton, R-McKinney. An employment contract proving Paul had hired Paxton's alleged girlfriend to work at his business." [Texas Tribune, [8/18/23](#)]

Impeachment Records Showed That Nate Paul Created An Uber Account Under The Alias "Dave P." That Paxton Used To Travel To Paul's Home And To The Apartment Of The Woman With Whom He Was Allegedly Having An Affair

Impeachment Records Showed That Nate Paul Created An Uber Account Under The Alias "Dave P." That Paxton Used To Travel To Paul's Home And To The Apartment Of The Woman With Whom He Was Allegedly Having An Affair. "The lyrics are a reference to Paxton's 2023 impeachment trial, where records showed an Uber account created by Austin real estate developer Nate Paul under the name 'Dave P.' that was used by Paxton to travel to the home of Paul and to the apartment of a woman with whom the attorney general was allegedly having an extramarital affair." [Fox \$ News, [3/17/26](#)]

Paxton's Own Evidence Backfired: The Wire Transfer He Used To Disprove Bribery Was Dated The Exact Day His Deputies Reported Him To The FBI — And Paid To A Company Tied To Nate Paul

Paxton's Defense Team Produced A Bank Statement To Prove He Had Paid For The Home Renovations Himself—But The Wire Transfer Was Dated October 1, 2020, The Same Day His Subordinates Told His Office They Had Reported Him To The FBI. "But a bank statement that Paxton's defense team showed to a packed room of journalists Wednesday, to try to disprove the bribery allegations against him, has brought to light details that raise new questions about the attorney general's relationship with the wealthy donor. The wire transfer is dated Oct. 1, 2020 — the same day seven of Paxton's top deputies signed a letter informing the head of human resources at the Texas attorney general's office that they had reported Paxton to the FBI over accusations of bribery, abuse of office and improper influence." [Associated Press, [6/08/23](#)]

The Company Paxton Paid, Cupertino Builders, Did Not Register In Texas Until Weeks After The Payment, And Its Manager Was An Associate Of Nate Paul. "The \$121,000 payment was to Cupertino Builders, whose manager was an associate of Nate Paul, the Austin real estate developer and Paxton donor who is central to the impeachment charges, state corporation and court records show. The company did not incorporate as a business in Texas until more than three weeks after the transaction took place. A company of the same name was formed in Delaware in April of that year, although public filings there do not make clear who is behind it. Last year a court-appointed overseer for some of Paul's companies wrote in a report that Cupertino Builders was used for "fraudulent transfers" from Paul's business to Narsimha Raju Sagiraju, who was convicted of fraud in California in 2016. The report described Sagiraju as Paul's 'friend.'" [Associated Press, [6/08/23](#)]

In April 2025, Nate Paul Was Sentenced To Five Years' Supervised Release And A \$1 Million Fine — The End Of The Federal Investigation Paxton Had Tried To Delegitimize

In January 2025, Nate Paul Pleaded Guilty To A Federal Charge Of Lying To A Financial Institution, Ending The Investigation Tied To His Dealings With Paxton. “A real estate developer whose relationship with Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton was at the center of the Republican’s historic impeachment trial in 2023 pleaded guilty Wednesday to a federal charge of lying to a financial institution. The plea by Nate Paul, whose company is based in Texas, was entered before a U.S. magistrate judge and still must be reviewed by a district judge, court documents show. Records did not indicate when Paul might be sentenced. Paul claimed that federal investigators acted improperly when they raided his Austin home in 2019. He later sought help from Paxton, and the relationship and dealings between the two men played a prominent role in lawmakers impeaching Paxton, who was later acquitted in the Senate. Paxton has long denied wrongdoing and was not mentioned in federal indictments against Paul, which accused the developer of making false statements to banks in order to obtain more than \$170 million in loans.” [Associated Press, [1/15/25](#)]

In April 2025, Nate Paul Was Sentenced To Five Years' Supervised Release And A \$1 Million Fine — The End Of The Federal Investigation Paxton Had Tried To Delegitimize. “A real estate developer, whose relationship with Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton was at the center of the Republican’s historic impeachment trial in 2023 and a recently-ended federal corruption investigation, was sentenced Wednesday to five years’ supervised release and fined \$1 million for lying to a financial institution. Nate Paul, 38, was also ordered by U.S. District Judge David Ezra to serve four months’ home confinement at night, but he is allowed to leave for work and other appointments during the day. Paul had faced up to six months in prison under a previous plea agreement. [...] Paul had claimed that federal investigators acted improperly when they raided his Austin home in 2019. He later sought help from Paxton, and the relationship and dealings between the two men played a prominent role in state lawmakers impeaching Paxton, who was later acquitted in the Senate.” [CBS News, [4/20/25](#)]

A Texas Court Found That Paxton's Office Illegally Retaliated Against The Whistleblowers By Firing Them, And Awarded Them \$6.6 Million — To Be Paid By Texas Taxpayers

A Texas Court Found That Paxton's Office Illegally Retaliated Against The Whistleblowers By Firing Them, And Awarded Them \$6.6 Million — To Be Paid By Texas Taxpayers. “A district court judge awarded \$6.6 million combined to four whistleblowers who were fired shortly after they reported Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton to the FBI. ‘By a preponderance of the evidence,’ Travis County Judge Catherine Mauzy wrote in her Friday judgment, the plaintiffs proved liability, damages and attorneys fees in their complaint against the attorney general’s office. ‘Because the Office of the Attorney General violated the Texas Whistleblower Act by firing and otherwise retaliating against the plaintiff for in good faith reporting violations of law by Ken Paxton and OAG, the court hereby renders judgment for plaintiffs,’ Mauzy wrote. The court found that the four Paxton aides were fired in retaliation for reporting

allegations that he was using his office to accept bribes from an Austin real estate developer who employed a woman with whom Paxton was having an extramarital affair. Paxton has denied accepting bribes or misusing his office to help Nate Paul, the real estate developer.” [CNN, [4/05/25](#)]

Paxton Appealed The Ruling, But Dropped The Appeal In July 2025. “Texas will pay \$6.6 million to four former top deputies to Attorney General Ken Paxton who say they were fired after reporting their boss to the FBI. This years-long legal saga reached its conclusion on Wednesday, when Paxton dropped his appeal of the April judgement.” [Texas Tribune, [7/03/25](#)]

Texas Taxpayers Are Responsible For Paying The Whistleblower Judgment. “The Legislature will still have to appropriate the funds to pay the judgment, either during the upcoming special session or during the next regular session. Lawyers for the plaintiffs said in a statement the judgment will accrue \$1.2 million in interest if it goes unpaid until 2027. ‘To avoid answering questions under oath about his corruption, Ken Paxton surrendered to the whistleblowers in the trial court and consented to judgment,’ TJ Turner and Tom Nesbitt, lawyers for two of the plaintiffs, said in a joint statement. ‘But he appealed the judgment anyway, preventing the legislature from funding it during the recent session.’” [Texas Tribune, [7/03/25](#)]

Whistleblowers' Attorneys: Paxton Consented To Judgment To Avoid Testifying Under Oath, Then Appealed It Anyway. “‘To avoid answering questions under oath about his corruption, Ken Paxton surrendered to the whistleblowers in the trial court and consented to judgment,’ TJ Turner and Tom Nesbitt, lawyers for two of the plaintiffs, said in a joint statement. ‘But he appealed the judgment anyway, preventing the legislature from funding it during the recent session.’” [Texas Tribune, [7/03/25](#)]

Paxton Was Investigated By The FBI, But The Department Of Justice Declined To Prosecute — Reportedly Because A Senior Career Official In Its Public Integrity Section Doubted A Conviction Could Be Secured

Paxton Was Investigated By The FBI, But The Department Of Justice Declined To Prosecute — Reportedly Because A Senior Career Official In Its Public Integrity Section Doubted A Conviction Could Be Secured. “The Justice Department quietly decided in the final weeks of the Biden administration not to prosecute Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, effectively ending the corruption investigation that cast a long shadow over the political career of a close ally of President Donald Trump, The Associated Press has learned. [...] Politically appointed Justice Department leadership was not involved in the decision, which was recommended by a senior career official who had concerns about prosecutors’ ability to secure a conviction, according to another person briefed on the matter. Political appointees are not typically involved in public integrity section matters to avoid the appearance of political interference.” [Texas Tribune, [4/03/25](#)]

The Securities Fraud Indictment

In August 2015, Paxton Was Indicted On Three Felony Counts For Soliciting Investments From Friends While Hiding That He Was Paid To Promote The Company — A Crime He Had Voted To Create As A Legislator

August 2015: Paxton Was Indicted On Felony Securities Fraud Charges By A Grand Jury In Collin County. “Ken Paxton, the Republican attorney general of Texas and a former state legislator, has been indicted by a grand jury on charges of securities fraud and of failing to register with the state securities board, officials said. The grand jury in the northern Dallas suburb of McKinney handed up a three-count indictment against Mr. Paxton on Tuesday, the officials said. The indictment is to be unsealed on Monday, when Mr. Paxton is expected to turn himself in to the authorities at the Collin County Jail. The charges — two counts of first-degree securities fraud and one count of third-degree failure to register — are tied to Mr. Paxton’s work soliciting clients and investors for two companies while he was a member of the Texas House of Representatives, before he was elected attorney general in November.” [New York Times, [8/02/15](#)]

Paxton Allegedly Misled Friends And Colleagues Into Investing In A Technology Company While Concealing That He Was Being Compensated By That Company — And That He Was Not Himself An Investor. “In the most serious charges, first-degree securities fraud, Mr. Paxton is accused of misleading investors in a technology company, Servergy Inc., which is based in McKinney, his hometown. He is accused of encouraging the investors in 2011 to put more than \$600,000 into Servergy while failing to tell them he was making a commission on their investment, and misrepresenting himself as an investor in the company, said Kent A. Schaffer, one of the two special prosecutors handling the case. The group of investors were Mr. Paxton’s friends and included a colleague in the Texas House, Representative Byron Cook.” [New York Times, [8/02/15](#)]

As A State Representative In 2003, Paxton Voted To Amend The State Securities Law To Make It A Felony To Act As An Investment Advisor Without Registering—The Very Crime For Which He Was Eventually Indicted. “A conviction for a first-degree felony in Texas can carry a punishment of life in prison or a sentence of five to 99 years. A third-degree felony is punishable with a sentence of two to 10 years. Mr. Paxton helped create the possibility of such severe punishment: As a freshman representative in the Texas House in May 2003, he voted to amend the state securities law to make it a felony to act as an investment adviser representative without being registered, the very crime the grand jury accuses him of committing.” [New York Times, [8/02/15](#)]

In April 2016, The SEC Brought Civil Fraud Charges Against Paxton In Federal Court Over The Same Conduct, As Part Of Its Probe Of The Company That Solicited The Investments

In April 2016, The SEC Brought Civil Fraud Charges Against Paxton In Federal Court Over The Same Conduct, As Part Of Its Probe Of Servergy. “Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton has been charged in federal court with allegedly misleading investors in a technology company. The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission filed the charges Monday in a Sherman-based court. They are similar to the allegations Paxton faces in a pending indictment handed up by a Collin County grand jury last year. Paxton is named in the SEC’s complaint along with William Mapp, the founder and former CEO of Servergy Inc. Paxton is accused of raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for Servergy without disclosing he was making a commission. The case stems from when Paxton was a member of the Texas House — before he was elected attorney general in 2014. ‘People recruiting investors have a legal obligation to disclose any compensation they are receiving to promote a stock, and we allege that Paxton and White concealed the compensation they were receiving for touting Servergy’s product,’ Shamoil T. Shipchandler, director of the SEC’s Fort Worth regional office, said in a news release on the complaint.” [Texas Tribune, [4/11/16](#)]

In March 2024, After Years Of Court Delays, Paxton Agreed To A Pretrial Deal Requiring Nearly \$300,000 In Restitution, Community Service, And Ethics Courses, With No Admission Of Guilt — The Charges Were Formally Dismissed In June 2025

In March 2024, After Years Of Court Delays, Paxton Agreed To A Pretrial Deal Requiring Nearly \$300,000 In Restitution, Community Service, And Ethics Courses, With No Admission Of Guilt — The Charges Were Formally Dismissed In June 2025. “Prosecutors on Tuesday agreed to drop the securities fraud charges facing Attorney General Ken Paxton if he performs 100 hours of community service and fulfills other conditions of a pretrial agreement, bringing an abrupt end to the nearly nine-year-old felony case that has loomed over the embattled Republican since his early days in office. The deal, which landed three weeks before Paxton is set to face trial, also requires him to take 15 hours of legal ethics courses and pay restitution to those he is accused of defrauding more than a decade ago when he allegedly solicited investors in a McKinney technology company without disclosing that the firm was paying him to promote its stock. The amount of restitution totals about \$271,000, prosecutor Brian Wice said.” [Texas Tribune, [3/26/24](#)]

Paxton’s Trial Was Set To Begin In April 2024, After Years Of Delays Related To Venue And Compensation For Special Prosecutors. “The securities fraud case, meanwhile, has been repeatedly delayed by disputes over where the trial should take place and how much the special prosecutors handling the case should be paid. The legal saga dates back to July 2015, when Paxton was indicted on three felony securities fraud charges just months into his first term as the state’s top lawyer.” [Texas Tribune, [3/26/24](#)]

The Charges Were Officially Dismissed In June 2025 After Paxton Completed His Pretrial Diversion Program. “Attorney General Ken Paxton's felony securities fraud case has been dropped after he completed the conditions of a pretrial diversion program, his attorney said. Attorney Dan Cogdill posted

a signed motion dismissing the charges against Paxton on Instagram Wednesday. [...] In March 2024, Paxton agreed to a pretrial intervention which required the attorney general to complete 100 hours of community service, 15 hours of legal ethics training and pay around \$300,000 in restitution to the alleged victims. At the time of the agreement, Cogdill said the diversion wasn't an admission of guilt. 'At the end of the day, it is not a plea bargain. He didn't plead. There is no admission of guilt. There will never be an admission of guilt because he is not guilty, but we are glad to have this behind us,' Cogdell said last year." [Fox 26 Houston, [6/18/25](#)]

Abuse Of Office

Plea Deals In Sexual Abuse Cases

Paxton's Office Cut A Plea Deal With An Alleged Sex Trafficker, Rakim Sharkey, That Included No Jail Time And No Sex Offender Registry—Within A Couple Of Years The Man Was In Jail Again, For Assault With A Deadly Weapon And Burglary

Paxton's Office Cut A Plea Deal With An Alleged Sex Trafficker, Rakim Sharkey, That Included No Jail Time And No Sex Offender Registry. "Two years ago, Rakim Sharkey was facing the rest of his life in prison for sex trafficking two minors and an adult woman. But former prosecutors in the Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton's office offered him a plea deal that kept him out of prison and off the sex offender registry. [...] Sharkey was initially arrested with another man in 2017 for selling the sexual favors of three women through force, fraud or coercion. This included two minors. He was charged with 'continuous' trafficking of persons for the alleged repeated occurrences, which carries a prison term of 25 years to life in prison. The girls were runaways from a San Antonio drug treatment center. In court, they described beatings and being forced to have sex with older men over the course of days. Lawyers from Paxton's sex trafficking unit had a wealth of evidence against the two men including: text messages arranging meetings with men, photographs, hotel surveillance, cooperating victims and at least one corroborating witness. A plea deal including significant jail time had been floated by prosecutors early on, but was rejected by the defense team. [...] By the time the case went back to court, it had another prosecutor — the case's eighth. James Winters was less interested in going forward with the case. He decided to give the men plea deals that included no jail time and no addition to the sex offender registry." [Texas Public Radio, [7/22/25](#)]

Within Two Years, Sharkey Was Jailed Again — Charged With Assault With A Deadly Weapon, Unlawful Restraint, And Burglary. "That deal may now be coming apart though, as Sharkey was rearrested in Nueces County in April. He has been charged with assault with a deadly weapon, unlawful restraint and burglary. According to police records, Sharkey and a second man used weapons to try and rob and detain people in a house in Corpus Christi. Three and a half bags of marijuana were seized along with pills, cash and guns. [...] Sharkey now sits in a Nueces County jail. Heavily redacted

arrest records allege that Sharkey and a man named Dantril Tapp-Hawkins entered a home with a shotgun intending to rob the residents. Witnesses and much of the police officers statements are redacted, so it is unclear what transpired, but it was Hawkins and Sharkey who appear to have been bloodied in the ensuing melee.” [Texas Public Radio, [7/22/25](#)]

Texas Judge Sparkman: “I’m Seeing A Pattern... If They Get A Mistrial, All Of A Sudden It’s Just A Little Misdemeanor With A Slap On The Hand”

Texas Judge Sparkman: “I’m Seeing A Pattern... If They Get A Mistrial, All Of A Sudden It’s Just A Little Misdemeanor With A Slap On The Hand.” “For instance, attack ads from Cornyn’s allies highlight the case of a man originally charged with child sex trafficking who received a deal for a probation sentence. And Sparkman brought up another case in open court last month, noting that Paxton had also taken over a murder-for-hire case that he oversaw, which resulted in a misdemeanor plea and a four-day jail sentence. ‘I’m seeing a pattern here that is concerning me,’ Sparkman said, referring to the way Paxton’s office prosecutes cases. ‘If they get a mistrial, all of a sudden it’s just a little misdemeanor with a slap on the hand.’ Court records show that all three cases drawing scrutiny began as high-level felony charges and ended in mistrials. All were eventually resolved with plea deals resulting in little to no jail time. And in each case, the judge presiding over the deal insisted on a harsher punishment than what Paxton’s office originally proposed.” [Texas Tribune, [5/19/26](#)]

Paxton's Office Offered Waco Attorney Adam Hoffman, Accused Of Continuous Sexual Abuse Of A Child, A Plea Deal Of One Day's Time Served And No Sex Offender Registration — A Deal The Presiding Judge Rejected As Too Lenient Before Ultimately Accepting A 60-Day Jail Sentence

Paxton's Office Offered Waco Attorney Adam Hoffman, Accused Of Continuous Sexual Abuse Of A Child, A Plea Deal Of One Day's Time Served And No Sex Offender Registration. “As part of the indecent assault plea, Hoffman agreed to make a statement that he ‘did then and there, with the intent to arouse or gratify my sexual desire, touch genitals of [the victim, identified by initials] ... and I acted without the complainant’s consent.’ Crucially, Hoffman was legally admitting to abusing an individual whose age is not specified in the plea documents. That crime does not require him to register as a sex offender. And prosecutors were agreeing to a jail sentence of ‘time served,’ which included the one day in jail Hoffman had spent following his initial arrest before he bonded out.” [Texas Tribune, [5/19/26](#)]

An Initial Attempt To Prosecute Hoffman Ended In A Mistrial When Jurors Could Not Agree On A Verdict. “In the end, jurors could not deliver a verdict. ‘Deliberations are not productive at this point,’ the lead juror wrote in a note to the judge after the jury had deliberated for nine hours. The note also said that five jurors were leaning toward a ‘not guilty’ verdict, while seven felt that the boy’s testimony, as well as that of forensic experts, ‘were enough to prove guilt.’” [Texas Tribune, [5/19/26](#)]

The Victim, A Child, Did Not Want To Be Retraumatized By Testifying Again In A New Trial.

“Prosecutors were left with three options – dismiss the case, negotiate a plea agreement or take the case to trial again, which would have required the victim to take the witness stand once more. ‘It was horrible,’ his mother recalled in an interview. Her son had been forced to talk about ‘the most horrible things that have ever happened in his life, in a room full of strangers and the person that did it, and he didn’t want to do it again.’” [Texas Tribune, [5/19/26](#)]

The Initial Plea Deal Contained A Jail Sentence Of Time Served, Which Was Just One Day—But The Judge Overseeing The Case Upped It To 60 Days.

“And prosecutors were agreeing to a jail sentence of ‘time served,’ which included the one day in jail Hoffman had spent following his initial arrest before he bonded out. [...] ‘My inclination is not to accept a one-day sentence,’ Sparkman said, before calling a short recess. When everyone returned, Cantu pitched a new agreement: Hoffman would spend 30 days in jail and surrender his Texas law license. She also noted there was a ‘lifetime protective order’ barring him from any contact with the victim. [...] ‘No,’ she answered, adding, ‘It’s just not enough. He’s dangerous. This isn’t justice, and I can’t do it.’ Sparkman asked her why her answer had changed. ‘My son just still doesn’t want to testify again, but 30 days isn’t enough,’ she responded. Sparkman responded by upping the sentence to 60 days. Hoffman’s defense lawyer accepted the deal on the spot.” [Texas Tribune, [5/19/26](#)]

Hoffman Was Represented By Gerry Morris — The Same Attorney Who Represented Paxton Donor Nate Paul — Which Cornyn's Campaign Cited As Evidence That Connected People Get Special Treatment From Paxton's Office

Hoffman’s Defense Attorney, Gerry Morris, Also Represented Nate Paul. “As it turns out, Hoffman was being represented by Gerry Morris, the same attorney who represented Paxton donor Nate Paul. Paul, a Texas real estate developer, reached a plea deal in a federal fraud case last year stemming from a years-long investigation into false statements made to secure loans in 2017 and 2018, according to reporting from KVUE.” [[5/07/26](#)]

Cornyn’s Campaign Claimed That Hoffman Received A Good Deal From The AG’s Office Because Of He Was Connected To Paxton Through Morris. “Three years of child abuse. Ken Paxton’s office cut the predator a deal. And the attorney defending him? The same lawyer connected to Paxton’s donor, Nate Paul. How many more connected people get special treatment before Texans say enough?” [X, [5/07/26](#)]

Activist For Victims Of Sexual Violence: Paxton “Has Failed Miserably To Protect The Victims Who Have Trusted Him To Fight For Them”

Activist For Victims Of Sexual Violence: Paxton “Has Failed Miserably To Protect The Victims Who Have Trusted Him To Fight For Them.” “Ken Paxton has failed. He failed the Waco community, and he’s failed Texans. I don’t say that lightly — and it brings me no pleasure to write those words. But it’s the

truth. As a survivor of sexual assault, I know firsthand the trauma that victims go through and the struggles that they must endure. Victims of sexual violence feel as if they have been stripped of their God-given dignity and innocence, and it leaves many with emotional scars that are difficult to overcome. It is tough enough to go through something as life-altering as sexual assault, but if the victim courageously comes forward and reports their traumatic experience to authorities, they have hope that they can count on those in positions of authority to protect them and fight for them. In the case of Paxton, he has failed miserably to protect the victims who have trusted him to fight for them.” [Washington Examiner, [5/22/26](#)]

Voter-Fraud Prosecutions

Paxton Built An Election-Crimes Unit Years Before They Became A GOP Trend And Turned It On The People Who Run Elections, Opening At Least 10 Criminal Investigations Of Election Workers — Including One Against A County's Top Election Official That A Grand Jury Refused To Indict

Paxton Created A Unit Dedicated To Pursuing Election Crimes Five Years Before Such "Election Integrity" Units Became A Trend In Republican-Controlled States. “Paxton, who has been under a securities fraud indictment for seven years, has touted his eagerness to pursue election-related crimes. He created a unit dedicated to doing so five years ago, long before so-called election integrity units became a trend in Republican-controlled states. (He’s denied wrongdoing in the ongoing securities fraud case.)” [ProPublica, [11/03/22](#)]

Between January 2020 And September 2022, Paxton's Office Opened At Least 390 Election-Crime Investigations But Secured Just Five Convictions. “Between January 2020 and September 2022, records show, the office opened at least 390 cases looking into potential election crimes. That includes criminal investigations of both voters and election workers. It’s not clear how many cases Paxton’s office attempted to prosecute. But the records show that, like other prosecutors’ efforts around the country, Paxton often comes up empty. His office secured five election-related convictions during that period.” [ProPublica, [11/03/22](#)]

While Other Republican Officials Investigated Voters After 2020, Paxton's Office Took A Further Step, Opening At Least 10 Criminal Investigations Into The People Who Help Run Elections. “In the wake of the 2020 presidential election, Republican officials around the country have been giving increasing attention and resources to investigating election crimes. Most have focused on the alleged wrongdoing of voters. But Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton is also working a different angle: His office has been criminally investigating the people who help run elections. Over the past two years, Paxton’s office opened at least 10 investigations into alleged crimes by election workers, a more extensive effort than previously known, according to records obtained by ProPublica. One of his probes was spurred by a complaint from a county GOP chair, who lost her reelection bid in a landslide. She

then refused to certify the results, citing ‘an active investigation’ by the attorney general.” [ProPublica, [11/03/22](#)]

Most Of Paxton's Investigations Of Election Workers Centered On Allegations Of Obstructing A Poll Watcher — A Misdemeanor Under A Controversial, Recently Expanded Texas Law That Experts Fear Could Disrupt The Election Process.

“Most of Paxton’s investigations of election workers center on allegations of obstructing a poll watcher, which is banned by a controversial and recently expanded law that experts fear could open the door for turmoil in the election process. Texas is one of the few states where blocking the view or limiting the movements of poll watchers — partisan volunteers who monitor election sites — can bring criminal penalties. Obstruction is a misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in jail.” [ProPublica, [11/03/22](#)]

Paxton's Office Unsuccessfully Tried To Indict Election Workers In At Least Two Cases, And As Of Mid-October 2022 None Of Its 10 Identified Investigations Of Election Workers Had Produced Criminal Charges.

“In at least two of the cases, Paxton’s office unsuccessfully tried to indict election workers, attempts that were first reported by the Austin American-Statesman. In the remaining eight investigations identified by ProPublica, it is unclear just how far the probes went. As of mid-October, none of the cases resulted in criminal charges.” [ProPublica, [11/03/22](#)]

Paxton's Office Criminally Investigated Travis County's Top Election Official, Dana DeBeauvoir, And — In An Unusual Move — Brought Her Case Before A Grand Jury In A More Conservative Suburban County Rather Than Where She Lived And The Incident Occurred, Yet The Grand Jury Declined To Indict Her.

“Dana DeBeauvoir said she has already seen the impact of Paxton’s efforts on the ground — and in her own life. She told ProPublica that in her 36 years as the top election official in Travis County, where Austin is located, nothing compared to the disruption she saw in the 2020 election. When an unmasked poll watcher named Jennifer Fleck began photographing the counting of ballots, which was against the rules, a volunteer asked her to leave. Fleck refused, then began screaming and banging on the window of the room where votes were being counted, DeBeauvoir said. Ultimately, the police arrived, arrested Fleck and charged her with criminal trespass. Officers allegedly found that Fleck had a “button camera on her shirt” connected to a “recording device that had been secreted in Fleck’s pants,” according to police records. Fleck also faces a perjury charge because she swore in an affidavit that she would not use recording devices. The case is pending. Weeks later, DeBeauvoir said, the county attorney informed her that Paxton’s office had a different view of the incident: DeBeauvoir herself was now the subject of a criminal investigation. Attorneys advised her to not speak about the case. ‘I never felt more alone,’ DeBeauvoir said. ‘Everything that was being said was completely untrue. And I could not defend myself.’ The next year, Paxton attempted to prosecute DeBeauvoir for obstructing a poll watcher, court records show. In an unusual move, when his office brought her case before a grand jury, prosecutors didn’t do it in Travis County — where DeBeauvoir lives and the incident took place — but in a suburban county that is more conservative. Yet, in a rarity for the criminal justice system, the grand jury in April 2021 declined to indict her.” [ProPublica, [11/03/22](#)]

Paxton's Aggressive Voter-Fraud Prosecutions Disproportionately Targeted Black And Latino Voters And Volunteers, Upending Lives And Chilling Turnout Efforts — Yet Produced Almost No Convictions, And Courts Ultimately Ruled He Lacked The Authority To Bring Many Of Them

Paxton Accused Leticia Sanchez, A Church Deaconess And Community Voter-Registration Activist, And Three Other Hispanic Women Of Running An "Organized Voter Fraud Ring" — A Case Dismissed Five Years Later After Texas's Highest Criminal Court Ruled He Lacked The Authority To Prosecute It. “Leticia Sanchez was a church deaconess, teacher’s aide and an activist in her majority-Latino community helping register people to vote before she was arrested in 2018 for the first time in her life. Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton (R) accused her and three other Hispanic women of forming an ‘organized voter fraud ring’ that targeted elderly voters by applying for mail-in ballots they had not requested. Five years later, the case was dismissed after the state’s highest criminal court ruled Paxton didn’t have the authority to prosecute Sanchez. But even with her record cleared, the cost of being branded a felon was enormous.” [Washington Post, [9/02/24](#)]

The Charges Against Sanchez Originated With A Republican Activist Who Alleged She Was Part Of A "Mexican Mafia" Ballot Scheme To Elect Hispanic Democrats — An Accusation Paxton's Office Took Up, Surveilling Sanchez, Searching Her Home, And Handcuffing Her At Work. “Working with other leaders, Sanchez registered hundreds to vote and helped elect Hispanic leaders for local office. But those elections raised the suspicion of a Republican activist, Aaron Harris, who began interviewing seniors and concluded Sanchez was illegally collecting absentee ballots, court records show. He alleged she formed part of a ‘Mexican mafia’ scheme to help certain candidates starting in 2014. Those candidates were largely Democrats of Hispanic descent, some of whom were successfully elected. [...] Harris sent a full accounting of his investigation to Paxton’s office. They dove in. Investigators surveilled Sanchez, obtained warrants to search her home and finally, handcuffed her at her job. Prosecutors charged her with one count of illegal voting and 16 counts of providing false information on an application for a mail-in ballot. Sanchez’s daughter was also charged in the sting. The mug shots of Sanchez, her daughter and two others were plastered on local and conservative media. Her arrest was cited in reports for congressional Republicans and conservative think tanks.” [Washington Post, [9/02/24](#)]

Sanchez's Case Was Dismissed After Texas's Court Of Criminal Appeals Ruled In 2021 That Paxton Could Not Prosecute Election Crimes Without A Local Prosecutor's Consent — But Not Before She Lost Her Job, And Others Charged Lost Six-Figure Savings And Their Homes. “That ruling came in 2021, when Texas’s Court of Criminal Appeals ruled Paxton could not prosecute election fraud cases without a referral or consent of a local prosecutor. The court ruled that a decades-old law giving the attorney general powers to prosecute election crimes was unconstitutional. They reaffirmed that decision in 2022. As a result of the ruling, Sanchez’s case was dismissed. For Sanchez and others who were charged with crimes, only to later see them dismissed, much has been lost: six-figure fortunes,

dream homes and for some, faith in their adopted country. The deaconess was fired from her school job. Her grandchildren were bullied. Friends and family kept their distance.” [Washington Post, [9/02/24](#)]

Sanchez's Case Fit A Pattern Under Paxton: Aggressive Election-Fraud Prosecutions That Upend Lives But Rarely Reach Trial Or End In Conviction. “The church leader’s case fits a pattern that has emerged in Texas under Paxton: Aggressive prosecutions for alleged election fraud crimes that upend lives but result in few cases that go to trial and end in a conviction. The Republican attorney general and his supporters believe election fraud is rampant, and point to the large number of charges filed as proof. Yet many of those charged have stories like Sanchez’s.” [Washington Post, [9/02/24](#)]

Civil Rights Groups Say Paxton's Election-Fraud Charges Disproportionately Target Black And Latino Voters And Volunteers, Producing A Chilling Effect On The Community Groups That Work To Boost Turnout In A State With One Of The Nation's Lowest Voter-Participation Rates. “Civil rights groups say the charges tend to target Black or Latino voters and volunteers, many of whom are Democrats. The result has been a chilling effect on volunteers and community groups that for decades have worked to increase turnout in a state with one of the nation’s lowest voter participation rates. Critics say the charges are part of a wider effort by predominantly White, Republican state lawmakers to suppress votes in some of the fastest-growing parts of the majority-minority state: urban and suburban communities that lean Democrat.” [Washington Post, [9/02/24](#)]

Critics In Both Parties Say Paxton's Election Police Follow A Predictable Election-Season Pattern — Announcing Investigations After Contested Races, Timing Indictments And Raids To The Run-Up To Early Voting, And Scaring Off New Voters And Volunteers. “Critics, both Democrats and Republicans, said they have become accustomed to the election season rollout: After a contested race result, the attorney general’s election police announce an investigation. Indictments and raids are timed to the run-up to early voting in the next election. And new, inexperienced voters and volunteers are scared off.” [Washington Post, [9/02/24](#)]

Paxton's Election Integrity Unit Opened At Least 169 Voter-Fraud Cases Since 2016 That Appear To Have Produced Just One Judgment, With The Rest Closed For Insufficient Evidence Or Declined Prosecution. “Paxton’s election integrity unit opened at least 169 cases of alleged voter fraud that appear to have resulted in just one judgment since 2016, according to records they released in response to a request from the nonprofit watchdog group American Oversight. The rest of the cases were closed due to, among other things, insufficient evidence or prosecutors declining to pursue them. It is unclear how Paxton’s office defines a “judgment,” and they did not respond to a request to explain the records.” [Washington Post, [9/02/24](#)]

LULAC, The Nation's Oldest Latino Civil Rights Organization, Asked The U.S. Justice Department To Investigate Paxton's Office For Voting Rights Act Violations After Its Texas Members Were Targeted In Voter-Fraud Raids. “The nation's oldest Latino civil rights organization, LULAC, is one of several

entities in Texas targeted in voter fraud raids led by state Attorney General Ken Paxton, CBS News has learned. In a letter first obtained by CBS News, LULAC requested that the Justice Department investigate Paxton's office for Voting Rights Act violations. The organization is accusing Paxton's office of carrying out illegal searches premised on voter fraud." [CBS News, [8/27/24](#)]

After Paxton's Office Announced Undercover Operations Into Alleged Noncitizen Voter Registration, Texas Authorities Executed Search Warrants Against LULAC Members And Latino Activists, Confiscating Their Laptops And Phones. "Last week, Paxton's office announced in a press release that it was launching undercover operations and an investigation into reports alleging some organizations in Texas are unlawfully registering noncitizens to vote, in violation of state and federal law. LULAC officials told CBS News that some of the group's Texas members were targeted and had their laptops and cell phones confiscated by Texas authorities executing search warrants. Some of the raids focused on Latino activists across the state." [CBS News, [8/27/24](#)]

December 2020: Paxton's Office Spent Twice As Much Time Working On Voter Fraud Cases In 2020 As In 2018, Yet Resolved Half As Many Prosecutions.

December 2020: Paxton's Office Spent Twice As Much Time Working On Voter Fraud Cases In 2020 As In 2018, Yet Resolved Half As Many Prosecutions. "The Texas Attorney General's office spent nearly twice as much time working on voter fraud cases this year as it did in 2018 — logging more than 22,000 staff hours — yet resolved just 16 prosecutions, half as many as two years ago, records show. All 16 cases involved Harris County residents who gave false addresses on their voter registration forms. None of them received any jail time." [Governing, [12/22/20](#)]

Paxton Nearly Doubled His Election Integrity Unit's Law Enforcement Staff And Doubled Its Prosecutors. "Attorney General Ken Paxton, who has made the hunt for voter fraud a top priority of his office, between January and October gave the election integrity unit access to eight additional law enforcement sergeants on top of the nine already assigned to it, and doubled the number of prosecutors to four, according to records obtained from the agency by nonprofit government watchdog American Oversight and shared with Hearst Newspapers. In its 15 years of its existence, the unit has prosecuted a few dozen cases in which offenders received jail time, none of them involving widespread fraud." [Governing, [12/22/20](#)]

December 2021: Paxton's Election Integrity Unit Closed Just 3 Cases All Year. "Texas Republican Attorney General Ken Paxton has been one of former President Donald Trump's most reliable allies in spreading the myth of widespread voter fraud, particularly in the 2020 election, and frequently boasts that few states are as vigilant. His office's election integrity unit added two lawyers to the team in the last year, bringing it up to six staffers total, and worked more than 20,000 hours between October 2020 and September 2021. Its budget, meanwhile, ratcheted up from \$1.9 million to \$2.2 million during that time. Yet records from the office show that the unit closed just three cases this year, down from 17 last

year, and opened seven new ones. That includes the newly created unit focused on the 2021 local elections, which has yet to file a single case.” [Houston Chronicle, [12/18/21](#)]

Lawsuits As A Political Weapon

Paxton Sued The Biden Administration Within 50 Hours Of Inauguration, Filed At Least 20 Suits By March 2022, And Later Bragged He Had "Opposed" Biden "More Than 100" Times

In 2021, Paxton Sued The Biden Administration Within 50 Hours Of Biden’s Inauguration. “Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on Friday sued the Biden administration over its 100-day deportation pause, citing an 11th-hour agreement between Texas and the Trump administration that required the Department of Homeland Security to consult with the state before making changes. It’s the first lawsuit challenging one of the Biden administration’s immigration actions, coming roughly 50 hours after President Joe Biden took the oath of office.” [CNN, [1/22/21](#)]

Paxton Sued In Order To Enforce An Agreement, Signed Days Earlier By The Trump Administration, Requiring The Department Of Homeland Security To Consult With The State Of Texas Before Changing Immigration Policy. “One of those efforts included striking agreements with some states and municipalities that would require the incoming administration to consult with jurisdictions before adopting or modifying immigration policies, according to an agreement obtained by CNN and earlier reported by BuzzFeed. The agreement appears to give localities buy-in on immigration enforcement policy decisions and as a result, delay the rollout of new policies. It is unclear if those agreements are legal or enforceable. Over the past several weeks, career senior officials at Immigration and Customs Enforcement made a point to keep track of the actions that will need to be undone by the Biden administration, a DHS official told CNN. Biden transition team members were ‘candid about being prepared to abandon current practices,’ the official said.” [CNN, [1/20/21](#)]

By March 2022, Texas And Paxton Had Filed 20 Lawsuits Against The Biden Administration.

“Attorney General Ken Paxton’s office has sued the Biden administration 20 times in Texas federal courts over everything from mask mandates to immigration policies. Trump-appointed judges have ruled in seven of them, all in favor of Texas.” [KERA News, [3/15/22](#)]

In January 2025, Paxton Bragged He Had Opposed The Biden Administration “More Than 100” Times. “Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, joined by a 22-state coalition, filed a lawsuit Thursday against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to block the implementation of a methane emissions tax created under the Inflation Reduction Act. The lawsuit, filed in the final days of President Biden’s administration, argues that the EPA rule — which imposes a monetary penalty on certain oil and gas facilities that exceed methane emission limits — is unlawful and exceeds the federal agency’s authority.

‘Over the past four years I have opposed the Biden Administration more than 100 times to stop its radical attempts to undermine the law. I am positive this last-minute effort to harm the energy industry will be halted as well,’ Paxton said in a press release. ‘In only four days, when President-elect Trump resumes office, America will no longer be burdened by a runaway bureaucracy intent on destroying our liberties.’” [Texas Tribune, [1/16/25](#)]

Paxton Filed Cases In Specific Court Divisions That All But Guaranteed A Sympathetic, Often Trump-Appointed Judge — A Practice Critics Call “Judge Shopping”

Paxton Filed Cases In Specific Court Divisions That All But Guaranteed A Sympathetic, Often Trump-Appointed Judge — A Practice Critics Call “Judge Shopping.” “From enforcement priorities, to a deportation moratorium, to programs meant to mitigate irregular migration, Texas has repeatedly turned to the courts as a tactic to derail Biden immigration policies. To maximize its chances of success, Paxton’s office has strategically filed lawsuits in specific federal court districts and divisions that improve the odds of a sympathetic judge, in what critics have labeled ‘judge shopping.’ As a result, Texas has often been able to stall policy changes, foster confusion, and prevent the Biden administration from realizing its initial vision of a more humane, orderly system.” [National Immigration Forum, [8/15/24](#)]

Paxton's Office Filed At Least 18 Of Its Lawsuits In Divisions Where A Single, Predetermined Judge Was Guaranteed To Oversee The Case. “Paxton’s office has brought 28 cases against the Biden administration in Texas federal courts, according to a DOJ brief, which said that all of those lawsuits have been filed ‘in just seven Divisions where local rules severely limit the number of judges to whom the cases could be assigned.’ Eighteen of those cases were filed in divisions where a single, pre-determined judge is assigned all lawsuits, the DOJ has said. Tipton presides over virtually all civil litigation filed in Victoria, Texas, including at least seven lawsuits brought by Paxton against the administration in that division. In one of those cases – concerning the how the administration prioritizes deportations – Tipton in 2021 halted the policy and ordered regular updates from the administration on how it was managing its deportations in accordance with his order. That case is now being reviewed by the US Supreme Court, which has kept the Biden policy on pause. Tipton was appointed by former President Donald Trump and is viewed as a very conservative judge, having been confirmed without the support of any Democrats.” [CNN, [3/03/23](#)]

ProPublica And The Texas Tribune Identified At Least 30 Cases Paxton's Office Filed Over Nine Years In Counties With Only A Tenuous Connection To The Alleged Wrongdoing — A Practice Paxton Himself Once Urged The Supreme Court To Crack Down On, Warning It Eroded Confidence In The Justice System

ProPublica And The Texas Tribune Identified At Least 30 Cases Paxton's Office Filed Over Nine Years In Counties With Only A Tenuous Connection To The Alleged Wrongdoing — A Practice

Paxton Himself Once Urged The Supreme Court To Crack Down On, Warning It Eroded Confidence In The Justice System. “The case was not the first that Paxton’s office had filed in a county with little connection to the allegations of wrongdoing made by his office. ProPublica and The Texas Tribune have identified at least 30 cases filed by the attorney general over the past nine years that have a tenuous connection to the counties in which they were filed. The filings mark a striking departure from Paxton’s previous opposition to the practice. In a 2017 legal brief that Paxton wrote on behalf of 17 states, he urged the U.S. Supreme Court to crack down on forum shopping in federal courts. The practice, he wrote, ‘has the pernicious effect of reducing confidence in the fairness and neutrality of our Nation’s justice system.’” [ProPublica, [5/20/26](#)]

Paxton Rebuffed The Biden Administration's Demand For Federal Access To A Border Park That The Texas National Guard Had Sealed Off With Razor Wire And Fencing, Telling DHS “Your Request Is Hereby Denied”

Paxton Rebuffed The Biden Administration's Demand For Federal Access To A Border Park That The Texas National Guard Had Sealed Off With Razor Wire And Fencing, Telling DHS “Your Request Is Hereby Denied.” “Texas’ attorney general on Friday forcefully rejected a request from the Biden administration to grant federal immigration officials full access to a park along the southern border that the state National Guard has sealed off with razor wire, fencing and soldiers. For three weeks, the federal government and Texas have clashed over Shelby Park, a city-owned public park in the border town of Eagle Pass that was once a busy area for illegal crossings by migrants. Texas National Guard soldiers deployed by Gov. Greg Abbott took control of Shelby Park earlier in January and have since prevented Border Patrol agents from processing migrants in the area, which once served as a makeshift migrant holding site for the federal agency. The Department of Homeland Security, which oversees the Border Patrol, had given Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton until Friday to say the state would relent and allow federal agents inside Shelby Park. On Friday, however, Paxton rebuffed that demand, saying Texas state officials would not allow DHS to turn the area into an ‘unofficial and unlawful port of entry.’ ‘Your request is hereby denied,’ Paxton wrote in his letter.” [CBS News, [1/27/24](#)]

Outsourcing State Legal Work To Allies

A Texas Tribune And ProPublica Investigation Found Paxton Increasingly Steered State Litigation To Pricey Private Lawyers With Personal Or Political Ties To Him — Including A Former Aide Billing \$3,780 An Hour, Nearly Six Times Her In-House Cost, And His Own Impeachment Defense Lawyer — Rather Than Using His Office's 700-Plus Attorneys

Paxton’s Office Outsourced Litigation To Outside Counsel, Often Friends And Allies, For Exorbitant Fees. “In the past five years, Paxton has grown increasingly reliant on pricey private lawyers to argue cases on behalf of the state, rather than the hundreds of attorneys who work within his office, an

investigation by The Texas Tribune and ProPublica found. These are often attorneys, like Bash, with whom Paxton has personal or political ties.” [Texas Tribune, [7/24/25](#)]

Paxton Hired Zina Bash — Formerly Senior Counsel On His Own Leadership Team — At \$3,780 An Hour, Nearly Six Times Her In-House Cost. “One day in late May 2024, lawyer Zina Bash spent 6 1/2 hours working on a case against Facebook parent company Meta on behalf of the state of Texas. She reviewed draft legal filings. She participated in a court-ordered mediation session and then discussed the outcome with state Attorney General Ken Paxton. In her previous job as senior counsel on Paxton’s leadership team, that labor would have cost Texas taxpayers \$641. But Bash had moved to private practice. Paxton hired her firm to work on the Meta case, allowing her to bill \$3,780 an hour, so that day of work will cost taxpayers \$24,570.” [Texas Tribune, [7/24/25](#)]

Paxton Hired Tony Buzbee — His Lead Attorney In His Impeachment Trial — To Lead The State's Antitrust Lawsuit Against BlackRock, State Street, And Vanguard. “Paxton’s style of procurement also benefited Buzbee, the man who successfully defended him during his impeachment trial, which stemmed from allegations the whistleblowers raised. The attorney general chose to skip most of the proceedings, so for the 10 days of trial in the Texas Senate, his most vociferous advocate was the loquacious Buzbee. The pair sat side by side when the attorney general did attend. A little more than a year later, Paxton hired The Buzbee Law Firm to pursue an antitrust suit against the investment firms BlackRock, State Street and Vanguard that accuses the companies of manipulating the coal market in a way that allegedly increased electricity prices for Texans. The firms deny wrongdoing.” [Texas Tribune, [7/24/25](#)]

Buzbee Is Known Primarily For Personal Injury Work, Not Antitrust Litigation. “Buzbee is a successful litigator and one of Houston’s most famous plaintiffs’ attorneys. Among other victories, he won settlements for victims of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and \$73 million for Gulf of Mexico oil drillers in a 2001 antitrust case. But he’s known primarily for personal injury work, not antitrust litigation.” [Texas Tribune, [7/24/25](#)]

After The Head Of Civil Litigation Who Was Set To Lead The Google Case Reported Paxton To The FBI And Resigned, Paxton Replaced His Office's In-House Effort By Hiring Two Private Firms — Including One Whose Founder, A Major Donor, Later Gave Paxton \$25,000

After The Head Of Civil Litigation Who Was Set To Lead The Google Case Reported Paxton To The FBI And Resigned, Paxton Replaced His Office's In-House Effort By Hiring Two Private Firms — Including One Whose Founder, A Major Donor, Later Gave Paxton \$25,000. “Over fall 2020, each of the lawyers in his office who had accused Paxton of wrongdoing quit or was fired. That included Darren McCarty, the head of civil litigation who was supposed to lead the Google litigation before he reported his boss to the FBI. He resigned on Oct. 26. Less than two months later, on Dec. 16, Paxton signed contracts with The Lanier Law Firm and Keller Postman to investigate Google. They filed the lawsuit

against the tech giant in federal court the same day. [...] Mark Lanier, founder of The Lanier Law Firm, which the state hired to work on a separate Google case, is a large donor to Texas elected officials. He has contributed \$31,000 to Paxton's campaigns since 2015. The largest contribution, for \$25,000, came six months after Lanier signed his firm's Google contract. The Lanier contract is slightly different from the others the attorney general's office awarded, in that the firm's payment is partially based on a basic hourly rate but it could also be paid more if it wins the case, as in the contingent-fee model. Lanier noted in an emailed statement to the newsrooms that he took a reduced fee on this case and maintained that the attorney general's office needed the kind of firepower his team can bring against an opponent like Google. 'The Texas AG office and its lawyers are good, but specialists are needed in a war like this. And it is a war,' Lanier wrote. 'It would be irresponsible to pursue Google on behalf of Texans without bring[ing] the fullest resources you can.'" [Texas Tribune, [7/24/25](#)]

Paxton's Office Awarded Three Contracts For Google Cases To The Firm Norton Rose Fulbright, Whose Lead Counsel On The Litigation Contributed \$5,000 To Paxton's Campaign Three Times — Twice Within 16 Days Of Signing One Of Those Contracts

Paxton's Office Awarded Three Contracts For Google Cases To The Firm Norton Rose Fulbright, Whose Lead Counsel On The Litigation Contributed \$5,000 To Paxton's Campaign Three Times — Twice Within 16 Days Of Signing One Of Those Contracts. "The connections between Paxton and the lawyers he has hired also extend to other firms. The attorney general's office hired the firm Norton Rose Fulbright, one of the largest in the country with more than 3,000 lawyers on staff, to work on separate Google cases for the state, focusing on consumer protection allegations. The attorney general's office has awarded three contracts to the firm since 2022 for cases against the tech giant. Three times during that period, Joseph Graham, the firm's lead counsel on the Google litigation, contributed \$5,000 to Paxton's campaign for attorney general. Twice, the donations came within 16 days of Graham signing one of the firm's contracts with the attorney general. The firm and its attorneys have contributed \$39,500 to Paxton's campaign since he took office. Neither Graham nor Norton Rose Fulbright responded to requests for comment." [Texas Tribune, [7/24/25](#)]

Former Executive Director Of The National Association Of Attorneys General: "Large States Typically Don't Hire Outside Counsel"—And Paxton's Office Is Among The Largest In The Country

Former Executive Director Of The National Association Of Attorneys General: "Large States Typically Don't Hire Outside Counsel"—And Paxton's Office Is Among The Largest In The Country. "Chris Toth, former executive director of the National Association of Attorneys General, questioned why so much extra help is needed. Outside counsel is appropriate for small states, he said, that 'only have so many lawyers with so many levels of expertise.' The Texas attorney general's office, one of the largest in the country, has more than 700 attorneys. 'Large states typically don't hire outside counsel,' Toth said. 'They should have the people in-house that should be able to go toe-to-toe with the best attorneys that are out there.'" [Texas Tribune, [7/24/25](#)]

Paxton Can Award These Lucrative Legal Contracts With No Competitive Bidding And No One's Approval — And He Repeatedly Gave Them To Firms Whose Attorneys Donated To His Campaigns, Sometimes Within Days Of A Contract Being Signed

Paxton Can Unilaterally Hand Out Contracts Without Soliciting Bids From Competitors. “There is little to stop Paxton, or any other occupant of his office, from handing these contracts out. The attorney general can award them without seeking bids from other law firms or asking anyone’s permission. Asked to provide competitive-bid documents for the contingent-fee contracts it has awarded, the attorney general’s office said it had none because state law ‘exempts the OAG from having to do all of the solicitation steps when hiring outside counsel.’ Given the high-profile nature of representing an attorney general and the potential for a big payday, many qualified firms would be eager to compete for this work, said Paul Nolette, a professor of political science at Marquette University who studies attorneys general. ‘I’d be curious to know what the justification is for this not going on the open market,’ Nolette said.” [Texas Tribune, [7/24/25](#)]

Paxton Repeatedly Awarded Contracts To Firms Whose Attorneys Donated To His Campaigns — Sometimes Within Days Of A Contract Being Signed. “The attorney general’s office has awarded three contracts to the firm since 2022 for cases against the tech giant. Three times during that period, Joseph Graham, the firm’s lead counsel on the Google litigation, contributed \$5,000 to Paxton’s campaign for attorney general. Twice, the donations came within 16 days of Graham signing one of the firm’s contracts with the attorney general. The firm and its attorneys have contributed \$39,500 to Paxton’s campaign since he took office. Neither Graham nor Norton Rose Fulbright responded to requests for comment. Mark Lanier, founder of The Lanier Law Firm, which the state hired to work on a separate Google case, is a large donor to Texas elected officials. He has contributed \$31,000 to Paxton’s campaigns since 2015. The largest contribution, for \$25,000, came six months after Lanier signed his firm’s Google contract.” [Texas Tribune, [7/24/25](#)]

Taxpayer-Funded Hotel Rooms For Donors

Paxton's Office Reallocated Taxpayer-Funded Hotel Rooms To Major Donors And Foreign Associates To Avoid Eating The Cost Of A Nonrefundable Booking — And After The State Comptroller Reopened An Audit Of The Agency's Travel Spending, Two Senior Aides Who Had Flagged The Booking "Errors" Abruptly Resigned

Paxton's Office Was Under Scrutiny After Employees Reallocated Taxpayer-Funded Hotel Rooms To Donors And Other Private Citizens — Some Of Whom Did Not Pay Until The State Comptroller Began Auditing The Agency — And Two Senior Officials Resigned Soon After. “Attorney General Ken Paxton’s office is under scrutiny after agency employees reallocated taxpayer-funded hotel rooms to

donors and other private citizens, some of whom failed to cover the cost of the stay until the state comptroller began auditing the agency's finances earlier this year. Two senior officials involved in the incident resigned soon after it was brought to agency leadership's attention." [Texas Tribune, [4/02/26](#)]

The Investigation Centered On Hotel Rooms The Agency Booked For Employees Attending Trump's 2025 Inauguration And Supreme Court Arguments Over A Texas Age-Verification Law Defended By Paxton's Office. "The more recent investigation centers on hotel rooms the agency booked for employees attending last year's inauguration of President Donald Trump and Supreme Court arguments over a new state law, defended by Paxton's office, that requires adult websites to verify users' ages." [Texas Tribune, [4/02/26](#)]

The Agency Paid More Than \$20,000 For A Nonrefundable Block Of 10 Rooms At A Courtyard Marriott; After A Winter Storm Stranded Several Travelers, Employees Filled The Roughly \$16,000 In Unused Rooms With Private Citizens Willing To Pay Out Of Pocket. "The agency paid more than \$20,000 for a nonrefundable block of 10 hotel rooms at the Courtyard Marriott. Then, a winter storm prevented several of the travelers from getting to Washington. The agency would have been on the hook for approximately \$16,000 of unused hotel rooms, documents obtained through an open records request show. Instead, agency employees identified private citizens who wanted the rooms and agreed to pay out of pocket for them." [Texas Tribune, [4/02/26](#)]

The Private Citizens Who Took The Rooms Included Major Paxton Donors Terry And Jennifer Lacore, Controversial Albanian Businessman Bashkim Ulaj, Albanian Republican Party Chair Fatmir Mediu, And A Frisco Megachurch Pastor. "The people who agreed to take the rooms included major Paxton donors Terry and Jennifer Lacore, controversial Albanian businessman Bashkim Ulaj and chair of the Albanian Republican Party Fatmir Mediu. Keith Craft, lead pastor at Elevate Life Church in Frisco, later took one of the rooms as well. The list was first reported by Texas Bullpen." [Texas Tribune, [4/02/26](#)]

Terry And Jennifer Lacore, Who Took Rooms, Donated \$75,000 To Paxton's 2022 Re-Election, Have Periodically Paid For His Air Travel, And Maxed Out To His U.S. Senate Campaign. "Terry and Jennifer Lacore, who run LACOR Enterprises, donated \$75,000 to Paxton during his 2022 re-election campaign and have periodically paid for his air travel, per Texas Ethics Commission filings. The couple also maxed out in contributions — \$7,000 each — to Paxton's U.S. Senate campaign last year, according to Federal Election Commission records." [Texas Bullpen, [4/02/26](#)]

Fatmir Mediu, Another Room Recipient, Is A Documented Associate Of Paxton And Head Of Albania's Republican Party. "Meanwhile, Mediu is a documented associate of Paxton and head of Albania's Republican Party..." [Texas Bullpen, [4/02/26](#)]

Paxton's Wife, State Sen. Angela Paxton — Who Authored The Age-Verification Law Argued At The Supreme Court And Filed For Divorce Six Months Later — Also Took One Of The Rooms At Her Own Expense. “State Sen. Angela Paxton, a Republican from McKinney who filed for divorce from Ken Paxton six months later, also took one of the rooms at her own expense. Sen. Paxton authored the bill that was argued, and ultimately upheld, at the Supreme Court.” [Texas Tribune, [4/02/26](#)]

Agency Employees Did Not Follow The Proper Process To Transfer The Rooms, And When Two Private Citizens Failed To Use Rooms They Had Agreed To Take, The Cost Was Billed Back To Paxton's Office — With The Private Citizens' Names Attached To The Charge. “The state employees did not go through the proper process to transfer these rooms, according to the agency’s internal report. And when two of the private citizens who were supposed to take over the rooms did not end up using them, they were ultimately billed to the OAG — with the names of the two private citizens, one of whom previously donated to Paxton, attached to the charge.” [Texas Tribune, [4/02/26](#)]

The Private-Citizen Bookings Saved The Agency \$7,296, But It Still Paid \$8,339 For Unused, Nonrefundable Rooms. “These private citizen bookings saved the agency \$7,296, although it still paid \$8,339 for the unused, nonrefundable rooms.” [Texas Tribune, [4/02/26](#)]

After The State Comptroller Opened A Post-Payment Audit Of The Agency's Travel And Purchasing In June, Two Guests Belatedly Paid For Their Rooms And The Hotel Reimbursed Paxton's Office. “In June, officials from the state comptroller’s office notified the attorney general’s office they were opening a “routine post-payment audit” to review payroll, purchasing and travel expenditures. A few weeks later, Craft and another guest paid the hotel for the cost of the room; the hotel then reimbursed Paxton’s office. That audit was paused after Comptroller Glenn Hegar left office and was replaced by acting Comptroller Kelly Hancock.” [Texas Tribune, [4/02/26](#)]

The Audit Was Paused When Comptroller Glenn Hegar Left Office, Then Reopened By Acting Comptroller Kelly Hancock Days After The March 3 Primary. “In October, two of Paxton’s senior aides, chief financial officer Michele Price and chief of staff Lesley French, began emailing about the travel discrepancies. The conversation, and the emails, subsided, until days after the March 3 primary election — when Hancock reopened the audit.” [Texas Tribune, [4/02/26](#)]

Within Days Of The Audit Reopening, Paxton's Chief Of Staff Warned Senior Officials Of Hotel-Booking "Errors And Mistakes" That "Could Potentially Be Misconstrued In An Audit" — Then She And The Agency's Chief Financial Officer Both Resigned. “Soon after, French alerted fellow senior officials of what Molina described as ‘errors and mistakes’ in hotel bookings that ‘could potentially be misconstrued in an audit.’ The next day, she resigned. A few days later, Price resigned as well. Neither said anything in their resignation letters about the investigation or the audit. French said she had accepted another position. Price did not provide a reason for her resignation.” [Texas Tribune, [4/02/26](#)]

Cornyn's Campaign Has Suggested The Episode Connects To Paxton's Eastern Europe Travel And Meetings With Telecom Executives, Though It Points To No Direct Link. “Here’s where it gets even more concerning. The Albanian businessman involved work in telecom. And Ken Paxton? He’s been traveling through Eastern Europe meeting with telecom executives. From Albania to Kosovo and beyond, the connections raise serious questions: Why these meetings? Who benefits? And why are the same names showing up in taxpayer-funded perks?” [CrookedKen.com, accessed [5/25/26](#)]

Personal Conduct & Hidden Wealth

Divorce On Adultery Grounds

In July 2025, Paxton’s Wife, Angela Paxton, Filed For Divorce “On Biblical Grounds,” Citing Paxton’s Infidelity

In July 2025, Paxton’s Wife, Angela Paxton, Filed For Divorce “On Biblical Grounds,” Citing Paxton’s Infidelity. “State Sen. Angela Paxton announced Thursday she has filed for divorce from her husband, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton. ‘I believe marriage is a sacred covenant and I have earnestly pursued reconciliation,’ Angela Paxton, R-McKinney, said in a post on X. ‘But in light of recent discoveries, I do not believe that it honors God or is loving to myself, my children, or Ken to remain in the marriage.’ In her divorce filing, Senator Paxton alleged that her husband had committed adultery, listing it as the ‘grounds for divorce.’ The couple stopped living together more than a year ago — ‘on or about June 1, 2024’ — according to a copy of the filing obtained by The Texas Tribune.” [Texas Tribune, [7/10/25](#)]

The Divorce Proceedings Were Initially Sealed At The Couple's Request, But Were Unsealed In December 2025 After Media Organizations Challenged The Seal

The Divorce Proceedings Were Initially Sealed At The Couple's Request, But Were Unsealed In December 2025 After Media Organizations Challenged The Seal. “Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton and state Sen. Angela Paxton agreed to unseal records in their divorce after several media organizations, including the Texas Tribune, sued to make the records available to the public. Angela Paxton, R-McKinney, filed for divorce in July on ‘biblical grounds,’ alleging her husband had committed adultery, according to the divorce filing. A Collin County judge subsequently sealed all records related to the divorce proceedings. Several news and watchdog organizations, including ProPublica, The Texas Newsroom and Campaign for Accountability, then filed a plea in September for the records to be unsealed.” [Texas Tribune, [12/18/25](#)]

Mortgage And Homestead Misrepresentations

An Associated Press Review Found The Paxtons Signed Mortgages Inaccurately Declaring Three Separate Homes As Their Primary Residence, Allowing Them To Lock In Lower Interest Rates, And Collected A Homestead Tax Break On Two Homes At Once — Conduct That, As Trump Has Said Of His Own Political Foes, Can Constitute Mortgage Fraud

Cornyn Campaign: Paxton Claimed Four Separate Residential Properties As A Primary Residence Or Non-Rental On Mortgage Paperwork — Conduct The Campaign Says Could Violate Federal And Texas Law. “Ken Paxton obtained mortgages on four separate residential properties — three in Texas and one in Oklahoma — each time affirming in writing that the property would be for his sole use, and not to be used as rentals. However, according to public records, this WAS NOT TRUE. Falsely claiming a property as your primary residence on mortgage paperwork is a federal offense under 18 U.S.C. § 1014, punishable by up to 30 years in prison and \$5 million in fines per violation. In one instance, Paxton also claimed a homestead tax exemption — a criminal offense under Texas law if done fraudulently.”

[CrookedKen.com, accessed [5/22/26](#)]

An Associated Press Review Of Public Records Found The Paxtons Signed Mortgages Inaccurately Declaring Each Of Three Houses Their Primary Residence, Improperly Locking In Low Interest Rates That Legal Experts Say Will Save Them Tens Of Thousands Of Dollars. “Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton and his wife, state Sen. Angela Paxton, are longtime owners of a \$1.5 million house in a gated community in McKinney. In 2015, they snapped up a second home in Austin. Then another. The problem: Mortgages signed by the Paxtons contained inaccurate statements declaring that each of those three houses was their primary residence, enabling the now-estranged couple to improperly lock in low interest rates, according to an Associated Press review of public records. The lower rates will save the Paxtons tens of thousands of dollars in payments over the life of the loan, legal experts say.”

[CBS News, [7/24/25](#)]

The Paxtons Hold Mortgages On Three Homes — One Near Dallas, Two In Austin — Each Listed As Their Primary Residence, A Designation That Locks In Lower Interest Rates Worth Tens Of Thousands Of Dollars Over The Life Of A Loan. “Documents reviewed by the AP show the Paxtons hold mortgages on three homes — one in suburban Dallas, two in Austin — that are each listed as their primary residence. The designation comes with a considerable financial upside. Interest rates on primary homes are significantly lower than those for mortgages on secondary homes or investment properties, saving buyers tens of thousands of dollars — if not more — over the life of a loan.” [CBS News, [7/24/25](#)]

Only One Of Those Homes — The Suburban Dallas House In Angela Paxton's Senate District — Fits The Definition Of A Primary Residence: It Is Where The Paxtons' Family Has Long Lived, Where

They Are Registered To Vote, And Where Ken Paxton's Senate Campaign Website Recently Said He Lived. “The suburban Dallas home is where the Paxtons' family has long resided. It's where Ken and Angela Paxton are registered to vote. It is in the state Senate district that Angela Paxton represents in the Legislature, which Ken Paxton held before his election in 2014 to be attorney general. It's also where Ken Paxton's Senate campaign website until recently said he lived.” [CBS News, [7/24/25](#)]

The Records Also Showed The Paxtons Collected An Improper Homestead Tax Break On Two Homes At Once. “The records also revealed that the Paxtons collected an improper homestead tax break on two of those homes at the same time. It is a federal and state crime to knowingly make false statements on mortgage documents. It's also against the law in Texas to collect a homestead tax break on two separate properties.” [CBS News, [7/24/25](#)]

In 2018, The Paxtons Simultaneously Collected Homestead Property Tax Breaks On Their Suburban Dallas Home And On A \$1.1 Million Austin Home — A Break A Homeowner May Claim On Only One Primary Residence. “In 2018, the Paxtons simultaneously collected homestead property tax breaks on their family's home in suburban Dallas, as well as on a \$1.1 million home in Austin, property records and tax statements show. That tax break is a property tax reduction that a homeowner is eligible to collect on one property that is also their primary home. Officials at the Travis Central Appraisal District, the government agency that assesses property in Austin, said the benefits of the tax break transferred to the Paxtons from a previous owner of the home for the duration of 2018. Some property owners forgo the yearlong tax break when buying a home, the assessing officials said.” [CBS News, [7/24/25](#)]

Trump Has Accused Two Of His Political Foes — Sen. Adam Schiff And New York Attorney General Letitia James — Of Mortgage Fraud In Similar But Less Serious Circumstances, And Paxton Himself Said He Hoped James Would Be “Held Accountable” If She Had “Done Something Wrong”

Trump Has Accused Two Of His Political Foes — Sen. Adam Schiff And New York Attorney General Letitia James — Of Mortgage Fraud In Similar But Less Serious Circumstances, And Paxton Himself Said He Hoped James Would Be “Held Accountable” If She Had “Done Something Wrong.”

“President Donald Trump has accused two of his political foes — Sen. Adam Schiff of California and New York Attorney General Letitia James — of committing mortgage fraud in similar, though far less serious, circumstances. [...] Paxton, himself, has weighed in on the investigation of James, saying he hoped authorities would look into her conduct. ‘I hope that if she's done something wrong, I hope that she's actually held accountable,’ he told supporters last month.” [CBS News, [7/24/25](#)]

Paxton Has Rented Out At Least Two Homes — A College Station House And A \$1.2 Million Oklahoma “Luxury Cabin” — That His Own Mortgage Terms Explicitly Barred From Being Used As Rentals

Land Records Indicate The Paxtons May Have Violated The Terms Of At Least Two Other Mortgages By Renting Out A College Station Home And A \$1.2 Million Oklahoma "Luxury Cabin," Both Of Which Their Mortgages Bar From Being Rented. “Separately, land records indicate the Paxtons may have violated the terms of at least two mortgages on other houses they own. The mortgage on a home in College Station, Texas, says the property is for the Paxtons' exclusive use and cannot be rented out. Doing so would be grounds for terminating the mortgage, the document states. The home has been listed for rent on real estate websites on-and-off since at least 2022. Ken Paxton also holds a \$1.2 million mortgage on a "5 bedroom luxury cabin" in Broken Bow, Oklahoma, that is for rent on Airbnb and other short-term rental sites, records show. The property's mortgage stipulates that it cannot be rented out.” [CBS News, [7/24/25](#)]

Cornyn Campaign: Paxton Rents Out Homes That, According To Mortgage Terms, Were To Be Owner-Occupied Or Were Barred From Being Rented. “AUSTIN, TX – Property 1 (2015 Purchase) The Paxtons purchased the property in 2015 using a \$175,200 mortgage. They classified the property as their primary residence on the mortgage. The loan required them to occupy the home within 60 days. They never did. The Mortgage terms forbade them from listing it as a rental. However, the Paxtons regularly listed the property as a rental on Zillow. Paxton even admitted he received rental income from the property, which was against the terms of the mortgage he secured. [...] AUSTIN, TX – Property 2 (2019 Refinance) The Paxtons refinanced this property through two separate lenders. One mortgage classified the home as a second residence. The other listed it as a primary residence. They also claimed a homestead exemption on this home. The Mortgage terms forbade them from listing it as a rental. However, the Paxtons regularly listed the property as a rental on Zillow. Paxton even admitted he received rental income from the property, which was against the terms of the mortgage he secured. College Station, TX – Property 3 (2016 Purchase) Paxtons purchased the property in 2016 with a mortgage from Cornerstone Home Lending. They classified it as a second home on the mortgage. The loan prohibited the use of the home as a rental property. The property has been listed for rent at least seven times since 2015. This home is currently being rented, despite the fact that it violates the terms of the mortgage. Broken Bow, OK – Property 4 (2022 Purchase) Paxton purchased the property in 2022 with a \$1.28 million mortgage. He classified it as a second home on the mortgage. The loan prohibited short-term rentals or timeshare use. The property operates as a luxury short-term rental (Copper Canyon Lodge). Paxton is the sole owner and sole signer on the mortgage. Rental listings are active on VRBO and include luxury services.” [CrookedKen.com, accessed [5/22/26](#)]

Profiting In Office And Undisclosed Real Estate

Paxton Acquired At Least 10 Properties Across 5 States, But Disclosed Just One Of Them In His 2024 Financial Disclosure—Something A Former Texas Ethics Commission Chairman Said Appeared “Ripe For Investigation”

Paxton Acquired At Least 10 Properties Across 5 States, But Disclosed Just One Of Them In His 2024 Financial Disclosure. “Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton has purchased millions of dollars’ worth of properties in recent years. So why is he keeping them secret? Paxton and his blind trust have been on a real estate buying spree since 2021, more than doubling his holdings by purchasing land and homes from Hawaii to Florida. But of the 10 properties the attorney general or his blind trust currently own, just one was listed on his most recent official financial statement. That’s even fewer than last year, when The Texas Newsroom first reported that Paxton did not disclose all of his properties to state ethics regulators.” [Texas Standard, [9/18/24](#)]

Paxton Owns Additional Homes And Rental Properties In Oklahoma, Florida, Utah, And Hawaii. “Paxton, his wife and a family trust spent almost \$3.5 million buying six properties across the U.S. in less than 10 months from July 2021 to April 2022, real-estate records reviewed by The Wall Street Journal show. The properties are a five-bedroom luxury lodge in Oklahoma; a townhouse and two rental homes in Florida; and parcels of land in a Utah ski town and on Maui, Hawaii.” [Wall Street Journal, [6/29/23](#)]

A Former Texas Ethics Commission Chairman Said The Arrangement Appeared “Ripe For Investigation” And Questioned The Validity Of Paxton’s Supposedly Blind Trust That Held His Assets. “Paxton’s spokespeople did not answer questions about why he’s choosing to disclose even less about his properties this year. One former ethics regulator says the attorney general’s financial disclosures — or lack thereof — appear to be ripe for investigation. ‘This is actually a very important document because of the possibility for improper influence of an office holder,’ said Jim Clancy, the former chairman of the Texas Ethics Commission. If a public servant’s spending suddenly spikes, he said, ‘it raises a question about the possibility of improper influence of an office holder who only has one reported source of income.’ [...] Clancy, who served on the Texas Ethics Commission from 2010-2018, questioned whether Paxton’s trust is truly blind. That’s because the Paxtons appear to have knowledge of its current assets, public records show. For example, five of the trust’s seven properties were initially purchased by Paxton and later moved to the trust, according to county appraisal district records.” [Texas Standard, [9/18/24](#)]

Wall Street Journal: Paxton Went From Being A Middle-Class Lawyer To A Multimillionaire During Two Decades On A Public Official's Salary

Wall Street Journal: Paxton Went From Being A Middle-Class Lawyer To A Multimillionaire During Two Decades On A Public Official's Salary. “Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton went from being a middle-class lawyer to a multimillionaire during his two decades on a public official’s salary, according to thousands of pages of previously unreported documents that shed new light on the personal finances of one of the Republican Party’s most-watched midterm candidates. Paxton, who entered state government in 2003 with a modest income and few assets, by 2018 told a lender he had amassed a net

worth of about \$5.5 million, not including millions in assets he and his wife had previously moved into a blind trust.” [Wall Street Journal, [10/09/25](#)]

Paxton’s Salary In 2022-2023 Was \$153,750. “The property purchases aroused suspicions of investigators working for House members in part because of the timing and the large sums expended, these people said. Paxton made \$153,750 a year as attorney general while his wife, Angela Paxton, a longtime high-school math teacher, is a Texas state senator, a role that pays \$7,200 a year, plus some per-diem payments every other year.” [Wall Street Journal, [6/29/23](#)]

New York Times: “When He First Won Public Office, He Listed His Assets As Less Than \$200,000. Two Decades Later, On An Annual State Salary Of About \$150,000, He Reported A Net Worth Approaching \$8 Million With Residential Properties In Oklahoma, Florida, Utah And Hawaii”

New York Times: “When He First Won Public Office, He Listed His Assets As Less Than \$200,000. Two Decades Later, On An Annual State Salary Of About \$150,000, He Reported A Net Worth Approaching \$8 Million With Residential Properties In Oklahoma, Florida, Utah And Hawaii.” “All along, Mr. Paxton kept getting richer. When he first won public office, he listed his assets as less than \$200,000. Two decades later, on an annual state salary of about \$150,000, he reported a net worth approaching \$8 million with residential properties in Oklahoma, Florida, Utah and Hawaii. Mr. Paxton has been secretive about the source of his wealth, creating a blind trust and then failing for years to disclose to regulators the assets in that trust as required by state ethics rules.” [New York Times, [5/18/26](#)]

Punchbowl: “Paxton Has A Net Worth Of As Much As \$12.6 Million”

Punchbowl: “Paxton Has A Net Worth Of As Much As \$12.6 Million.” “Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton has a net worth of as much as \$12.6 million, according to a recent financial disclosure report with the Senate made public this week.” [Punchbowl, [6/20/25](#)]

Paxton's "Blind" Trust Was Blind In Name Only: Text Messages Showed His Trustee — A Church Friend Who Had Given Paxton \$20,000 For His Legal Defense, Despite A State Requirement That Trustees Be "Disinterested" — Updating Him On Stock Trades In What Legal Experts Called A Potential Ethics Violation

Wall Street Journal: Text Messages Reveal Paxton's “Closer Involvement” In His Supposedly Blind Trust — Including Receiving Updates On Stock Trades. “Paxton in 2015 put his assets into a blind trust, a tool used by politicians to avoid conflicts of interest by separating them from management of their money. Although he said in public filings that he would no longer know what assets were in his trust, the text messages show a closer involvement, including in one instance his trustee texting Paxton updates on stock trades.” [Wall Street Journal, [10/09/25](#)]

In March 2020, Trustee Charles Loper III Texted Paxton A List Of Eight Stock Buys — Made The Day Before — That Legal Experts Said Could Violate Ethics Rules On Blind Trusts. Months Later, Angela Paxton Told Loper To Keep Her Informed Of Any Financial Moves By Her Husband And Not To Assume She Consented “Even If He Tells You I Consent.” “But the text messages with the trust’s trustee, Charles Loper III, show otherwise. In March 2020, Loper texted Ken Paxton a list of eight stock buys worth a combined \$618,000. The trust’s bank-account records show it had made the buys the day before. Legal experts called the texting of the stock trades a potential violation of ethics statutes defining blind trusts as blind only if the trust is managed without consultation. ‘That would be an occasion in which a blind trust is blind in name only,’ Texas trust attorney Brad Wiewel said. [...] In the summer of 2020, Angela Paxton texted Loper: ‘Please keep me informed of any financial actions initiated by Ken and don’t assume I am aware even if he tells you I consent.’” [Wall Street Journal, [10/09/25](#)]

Loper Is A Personal Friend Of Paxton From Church Who Gave Him \$20,000 For His Legal Defense — Yet Texas Law Requires A Blind-Trust Trustee To Be A “Disinterested Party.” “Loper is a close friend of the Paxtons from church who had gifted Ken Paxton \$20,000 for his legal defense. Texas law requires a trustee to be a “disinterested party.” [Wall Street Journal, [10/09/25](#)]

As A State Legislator, Paxton Held Stock In WatchGuard And Voted For Spending Bills That Steered State Business To It, In What One Investigation Called A Possible Ethics Violation — Then Cashed Out For A \$2.2 Million Windfall When Motorola Bought The Company In 2019

While A State Legislator, Paxton Invested In WatchGuard, A Police Camera Company That Later Won A Contract With The Texas Department Of Public Safety. “The investment had drawn scrutiny over the years in Texas, sparked by ethics concerns about a lucrative contract the company obtained in 2006 from the Texas Department of Public Safety while Paxton was an investor and a state legislator. Paxton said in 2008 that he wasn’t aware the company had a state contract.” [Wall Street Journal, [10/09/25](#)]

A USA Today Investigation Found That WatchGuard Built Its Police-Camera Business On A Texas Contract Obtained While Paxton And A Fellow State Lawmaker Were Shareholders — Both Voted For The Spending Bills That Sent State Business To The Company And Both Later Sold Shares At A Profit, In Possible Violation Of State Ethics Laws. “A company that became a national leader in providing patrol cameras to police was built on the strength of a Texas contract obtained while two state lawmakers were shareholders in the firm -- a possible violation of state ethics laws. WatchGuard Video points with pride to the legislators who became early investors in the company as it grew from a tiny startup into a government contracting powerhouse. The two men said they never pulled strings on behalf of WatchGuard. But they voted for the spending bills that gave state business to the company,

and both turned a profit after selling some of their shares. Their actions might violate the state constitution and disclosure rules established by the Texas Ethics Commission.” [USA Today, [10/16/08](#)]

In 2019, Paxton Cashed Out His WatchGuard Stake For A Multimillion-Dollar Gain When Motorola Solutions Bought The Company. “A \$2.2 million windfall arrived in 2019. The gain derived from Paxton’s 2004 investment in a police video technology company, later named WatchGuard, that he had shifted into the blind trust. Paxton, who reported investing about \$300,000 in WatchGuard, cashed out with a huge gain when the company was bought by Motorola Solutions in 2019 for about \$250 million.” [Wall Street Journal, [10/09/25](#)]

Paxton Described Himself As A Minor Investor With No Influence And Said “I Didn’t Even Know We Had Contracts With The State Of Texas” — But WatchGuard’s Co-Founder Said Paxton Was An Original Investor Whose Stake Was “Not Insignificant.”

Paxton Described Himself As A Minor Investor With No Influence And Said “I Didn’t Even Know We Had Contracts With The State Of Texas” — But WatchGuard’s Co-Founder Said Paxton Was An Original Investor Whose Stake Was “Not Insignificant.” “Cook and Paxton, who still own a small share of the company, both described themselves as minor investors with no influence on the direction of the company. ‘I didn’t even know we had contracts with the state of Texas,’ Paxton said. However, Vanman said Paxton was a personal friend and original investor whose ownership was ‘not insignificant.’ And Vanman said Cook, until a few months ago, was ‘very active on our board’ and had been one of the company’s largest investors, ranking third or fourth among about 30 individuals.” [USA Today, [10/16/08](#)]

Paxton Said He Would Correct Any Disclosure Failures But Rejected Calls To Require Lawmakers To Disclose Investments In State Contractors, Saying He Did Not “See Why It Would Help Taxpayers To Know That.”

Paxton Said He Would Correct Any Disclosure Failures But Rejected Calls To Require Lawmakers To Disclose Investments In State Contractors, Saying He Did Not “See Why It Would Help Taxpayers To Know That.” “But Jennifer Peebles of Texas Watchdog, a nonpartisan group that promotes open government, said lawmakers should be required by law to disclose whether they invest in businesses holding state contracts. Paxton said he would happily correct any disclosure failures, but he balked at Peebles’ idea. ‘I don’t see why it would help taxpayers to know that,’ he said. ‘I don’t have time to spend tracking every investment I make ... that’s the whole point of being a passive investor.’” [USA Today, [10/16/08](#)]

Paxton Failed To Disclose His Ownership In WatchGuard In 2008. “Paxton and Cook have previously disclosed ownership in Enforcement Video L.P., the registered company name for WatchGuard Video.

But records show Paxton did not disclose his ownership in WatchGuard on his 2008 personal financial statement filed with the Texas Ethics Commission.” [USA Today, [10/16/08](#)]

Gifts For His Legal Defense

While Under Felony Indictment, Paxton Collected More Than \$630,000 In Personal Gifts For His Legal Defense — Including \$100,000 From The Head Of A Medical Imaging Company His Own Office Was Helping Investigate For Medicaid Fraud, A Gift A District Attorney Probed But Declined To Charge As Bribery

While Under Felony Indictment, Paxton Collected More Than \$630,000 In Personal Gifts Designated For His Legal Defense. “Attorney General Ken Paxton, who has been fighting securities fraud charges for most of his first term, collected \$84,000 in gifts last year to help pay for his legal defense, he says in a newly released financial disclosure statement. That means he has now gotten a total of over \$630,000 for his legal defense from people he has described over the past three years as family friends or others who are not covered by state bribery laws. The \$84,000 that Paxton received in 2017 is much less than he received for his legal defense in the two previous years: nearly \$218,000 in 2016 and over \$329,000 in 2015.” [Texas Tribune, [2/13/18](#)]

State Bribery Laws Say That Elected Officials Cannot Accept Gifts From Parties Subject To Their Authority, But Paxton Has Claimed He Gets An Exemption That Allows Him To Take Gifts From People With Whom He Has A Relationship That Is “Independent” Of His “Official Status.” “State bribery laws say that elected officials cannot accept gifts from parties subject to their authority. But Paxton has justified the contributions to his legal defense by claiming an exemption that allows him to take gifts from people with whom he has a relationship that is ‘independent’ of his ‘official status.’ The \$84,000 that Paxton got in 2017 for his legal defense came from 10 sources, including two couples that gave \$25,000 each. One couple was Shawn Clayton, the president and CEO of Dallas landscape company Superscapes, and his wife, Erin. The other \$25,000 givers were Steven and Carrie Parsons, a Dallas husband and wife who have previously contributed tens of thousands of dollars to Paxton’s legal defense.” [Texas Tribune, [2/13/18](#)]

Paxton Accepted \$100,000 For His Criminal Defense From The Head Of A Medical Imaging Company While His Office Was Helping Investigate That Company For Medicaid Fraud. “Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, who is under indictment on felony charges of duping investors in a tech startup, accepted \$100,000 for his criminal defense from the head of a medical imaging provider while his office investigated the company for Medicaid fraud. Dallas-based Preferred Imaging LLC settled a \$3.5 million whistleblower lawsuit in a case handled by the U.S. Justice Department and Paxton’s Texas Civil Medicaid Fraud Division, the head of which co-signed the agreement in June.” [CBS News, [7/26/16](#)]

Paxton Was Investigated For Violating The Anti-Bribery Statute, But In 2017 The Kaufman County District Attorney Conducting The Investigation Determined No Crime Had Been Committed. “A \$100,000 donation to Attorney General Ken Paxton’s legal fund did not constitute bribery, Kaufman County District Attorney Erleigh Wiley said Friday when announcing her office had closed its investigation into the gift from a CEO whose company was under investigation for fraud. Wiley’s office originally announced its probe into the donation on Oct. 5. Paxton accepted the gift in 2015 from James Webb, whose diagnostics company was under investigation after it allegedly billed the government for Medicaid and Medicare services conducted without proper medical supervision. Webb’s company ultimately paid \$3.5 million in a settlement. Webb gave the donations to Paxton, who has been facing securities fraud charges since 2015, to help him pay his growing legal bills. Wiley’s office investigated if the donation constituted a bribe, as Paxton’s office was involved in the investigation into Webb’s company. Paxton’s office, however, said the U.S. Attorney General’s office was primarily handling Webb’s case. Paxton has disclosed accepting at least \$547,000 in donations toward his legal fees.” [Texas Tribune, [10/27/17](#)]

Taxpayer-Funded Travel

Paxton's Department Of Public Safety Security Detail Cost Texas Taxpayers About \$2.8 Million From January 2015 To August 2025 — An Average Of Nearly \$245,000 A Year, Peaking At Nearly \$500,000 In 2024

Paxton's Department Of Public Safety Security Detail Cost Texas Taxpayers About \$2.8 Million From January 2015 To August 2025 — An Average Of Nearly \$245,000 A Year, Peaking At Nearly \$500,000 In 2024. “Since first entering office in January 2015 and up through August 2025, the most recent reporting available, Paxton’s security detail has cost a total of about \$2.8 million, those DPS records obtained by the Texas Observer show. The annual cost of his security detail clocked in at an average of \$245,000 a year—but the costs have steadily ticked up in recent years. At the peak, in 2024, it cost DPS nearly \$500,000 to accompany Paxton on his travels.” [Texas Observer, [2/25/26](#)]

Paxton’s Detail Racked Up Nearly \$1 Million In Lodging Costs, \$835,000 In Travel, \$526,000 In Food, \$24,000 In Fuel, And \$352,000 In Other Unspecified Costs. “Collectively, what the DPS reports show for Paxton is that over his more-than-decade-long tenure, his security detail has racked up a considerable tab protecting him during his travels. In total, Paxton’s security detail racked up \$965,000 in lodging costs since 2015, \$835,000 in travel, \$526,000 in food, \$24,000 in fuel, and \$352,000 in other unspecified expenses.” [Texas Observer, [2/25/26](#)]

Paxton's Top Destinations Included Texas Cities Near His Home Base In Collin County, As Well As Washington, D.C., Florida, And California. “And Paxton’s tenure has also been filled with lots, and lots,

of travel—across Texas, namely to his homebase in Collin County; all around the United States; and, increasingly, to exotic destinations abroad. [...] Over the course of his tenure, Paxton made 100 trips to Frisco, 59 to his hometown of McKinney, 44 to Plano, and 35 to Allen, according to the DPS reports. (Paxton was known, especially in his earliest years, to frequently work from his North Texas home.) Outside of Texas, Paxton has most frequently traveled to Washington, D.C., along with Florida (total spent \$220,000), California (\$181,000), and Utah (\$107,000).” [Texas Observer, [2/25/26](#)]

From January 2015 To February 2016, Nearly Half Of Paxton's \$78,000 In DPS Security Costs — About \$35,000 — Went To Frequent Trips To His Home And Businesses In Collin County

From January 2015 To February 2016, Nearly Half Of Paxton's \$78,000 In DPS Security Costs — About \$35,000 — Went To Frequent Trips To His Home And Businesses In Collin County. “Since he took office in 2015, nearly half of Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton’s total security costs have gone to dozens of trips to Collin County, where he has a home and businesses, according to records obtained by The Texas Tribune. Paxton has used taxpayer-funded security officers and drivers to travel at least twice a month and often as many as four times a month to North Texas for the past year. The attorney general has a house, law firm and title company in McKinney, as well as financial interests in businesses located in Allen, Plano and Frisco, according to the annual disclosure statement all officeholders must file with the state. Members of the congregation at Prestonwood Baptist, the North Texas megachurch Paxton attends, have told the Tribune they’ve seen Paxton and his wife being picked up at the church’s main entrance by black sedans, SUVs and men in suits who appeared to be a security detail. Paxton, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and Gov. Greg Abbott are all entitled to drivers and officers provided by the Texas Department of Public Safety through its executive protection bureau, according to the agency. But the extent to which officeholders have made use of those security details has varied widely. The latest records available from DPS show that from January 2015 to February 2016, travel, lodging and meals for Paxton’s security detail cost taxpayers \$78,000. Nearly half of that — about \$35,000, which includes \$16,000 for lodging alone — was spent on the DPS team’s travel to cities in Collin County. Those totals do not include overtime pay for the officers traveling with Paxton.” [Texas Tribune, [5/03/16](#)]

DPS Security Detail Accompanied Paxton On Trips To Mexico, Europe And To Africa, As Well As The Kentucky Derby, Golf Outings In North Carolina And Georgia, And A Ski Retreat With Other Republican Attorneys General

In December 2023, The Texas Department Of Public Safety Spent More Than \$80,000 Protecting Paxton During A Luxury AGA Junket In South Africa Featuring A Safari And Five-Star Hotel. “In December 2023, Paxton travelled with security to South Africa, a trip which aligned with a luxury junket that the AGA was hosting at the same time. As CNN reported, ‘The trip featured a safari, a stay at a five-star hotel ... as well as wine tours and gourmet dinners at restaurants that serve fresh prawns and Wagyu ribeye steak.’ Lobbyists and lawyers for major corporations including Amazon, Uber, and Pfizer

were reportedly also in attendance. Per CNN, Paxton was among the state AGs on the invite list. The high-end trip cost DPS more than \$80,000.” [Texas Observer, [2/25/26](#)]

Paxton's DPS Security Detail Accompanied Him On Trips To Europe And Africa, The Kentucky Derby, A RAGA Golf Retreat In Pinehurst, North Carolina, And A RAGA Ski Retreat In Big Sky, Montana. “A few months later, in February 2024, Paxton and his security detail went to Big Sky, Montana, which lined up with RAGA’s “Victory Fund Ski Retreat” (DPS’ bill: \$11,927). A trip to Orlando in March 2024 cost DPS nearly \$19,000. Weeks later, a trip to Pinehurst, North Carolina, for a RAGA golf retreat cost around \$8,000. Then, in May 2024, photos show that Paxton attended the Kentucky Derby in Lexington; DPS records show a trip costing \$13,000 to the same destination that month. Paxton has also traveled extensively across Europe.” [Texas Observer, [2/25/26](#)]

Former Top Deputy: Paxton “Always Cared About What Trip He Was Going On, Who Was Taking Him To Dinner... He Likes The Perks Of The Office.” “Paxton reportedly has a reputation for fully enjoying the luxuries that can come with his powerful office. ‘He always cared about what trip he was going on, who was taking him to dinner,’ said Blake Brickman, one of his former top deputies who became an FBI whistleblower accusing Paxton of engaging in bribery and abuse of power, according to records from Paxton’s impeachment trial. ‘He likes the perks of the office.’” [Texas Observer, [2/25/26](#)]

Notable Trips Included:

- **South Africa (AGA junket, December 2023): over \$80,000**
- **Helsinki, Krakow, Prague, and Tel Aviv (March 2023): approximately \$180,000 (Israel leg alone: \$70,000)**
- **Malta, Italy, Albania, and Kosovo with wife Angela (Summer 2022): approximately \$80,000**
- **Kentucky Derby (May 2024): \$13,000**
- **Big Sky, Montana RAGA ski retreat (February 2024): \$11,927**
- **Pinehurst, NC RAGA golf retreat: approximately \$8,000**
- **San José de Cabo, Mexico (December 2022): \$20,000**

[Texas Observer, [2/25/26](#)]

In 2019, Paxton Took An Undisclosed 10-Day Trip To China — Staying In Luxury Hotels, Meeting Chinese Government Officials, And Traveling Alongside Corporate Lobbyists — Over Staff Warnings About Chinese Communist Party Influence

In 2019, Paxton Took An Undisclosed 10-Day Trip To China, Organized By The Attorney General Alliance, Against The Advice Of Staff Who Warned Of Potential Chinese Communist Party Influence. “Ken Paxton, the suspended attorney general of Texas, traveled to China with other attorneys general in a secretive trip that included meetings with government officials and did so against the advice of his staff who expressed worry over potential Chinese Communist Party influence, according to sources and internal documents obtained by Fox News Digital. The shadowy trip — facilitated by the

Attorney General Alliance (AGA) and Conference of Western Attorneys General (CWAG) — was a 10-day excursion taking place between Oct. 30, 2019, and Nov. 8, 2019, and included stops in the Chinese cities of Beijing, Hangzhou, Shanghai and Macau, according to an itinerary of the trip reviewed by Fox News Digital. ‘My first thought was this is a terrible decision to have made,’ said one individual with knowledge of the trip, speaking on condition of anonymity in order to avoid retribution. ‘Under no set of circumstances as a U.S. law enforcement official should you willingly go to China.’ Paxton — accompanied on the trip by his wife Angela, a Texas state senator — was not required to report the trip and ultimately attended against wishes from staffers who raised potential government influence and surveillance concerns, officials familiar with the matter said.” [Fox News, [7/03/23](#)]

Paxton Stayed In Luxury Hotels And Met With Chinese Government Officials. “On the trip, the delegation first traveled to Beijing where they stayed at a Four Seasons hotel. In Beijing, the attorneys general met with Chinese federal court officials and Chinese prosecutors; met with the general counsel of the state-run China State Construction and Engineering; toured the Microsoft offices; and participated in several historical tours including one to Tiananmen Square, the site of an infamous government massacre of protesting students in 1989. They then traveled to Hangzhou where they stayed in a Sheraton resort. Their short stay in the city was highlighted by an all-day visit to the headquarters for Alibaba, the hundred-billion-dollar e-commerce platform closely regulated by the Chinese government. After Hangzhou, the delegation traveled to Shanghai where they stayed at a Waldorf Astoria hotel. In addition to sightseeing in the city, they met with leaders at law firm Squire Patton Boggs Shanghai and anonymous ‘local officials.’ In their final leg of the trip, the delegation traveled to Macau where they stayed at the Venetian Macau. The main purpose of the leg was leisure.” [Fox News, [7/03/23](#)]

Paxton Was Accompanied By Lobbyists And Executives From Major Corporations Like Microsoft And Alibaba — And A Former Executive Director Of The National Association Of Attorneys General Warned That The AGA Was Funded By Lobbyists And Corporations “Paying For Access.” “AGA Executive Director Karen White and executives from Microsoft, Alibaba, JUUL and various other companies and law firms were also listed on the trip attendee list. [...] The AGA has received criticism for allegedly selling access to special interests, Axios reported last year. Chris Toth, who acted as the executive director of the National Association of Attorneys General, made the comments in his retirement letter last June. ‘I have become increasingly alarmed at the growing influence of lobbyist and corporate money in the attorney general arena, particularly involving entities that are being investigated and/or sued by AGs,’ Toth wrote in the letter, singling out AGA and CWAG, saying it ‘seems to exist for no other reason than to provide access by such actors to attorneys general.’ ‘But the AGA funding model, e.g., a minimum contribution of \$10k to attend their annual meeting, forecloses access to all but the most well-funded persons and groups,’ Toth wrote. ‘There is clearly no functional vetting mechanism for who gains access and who can essentially buy programming at AGA meetings.’ Toth said that ‘this places AGs in a very compromising and potentially embarrassing situation,’ adding that ‘AGA is overwhelmingly dependent on corporate and lobbyist money for its activities.’ ‘Dues only account for a very small share of its revenue,’ Toth wrote. ‘That means when you go on a delegation,

some lobbyist or corporation is paying for that. When you have your room and airfare paid for, some portion of that is coming from someone you are investigating or suing.” [Fox News, [7/03/23](#)]

Campaign Finance Enforcement And Ethics Fines

In The First Campaign Finance Filing Period After Paxton's Impeachment In 2023, He Raised \$1.7 Million — \$1.2 Million Of It From Just Six Donors Who Each Gave At Least \$100,000

In The First Campaign Finance Filing Period After Paxton's Impeachment In 2023, He Raised \$1.7 Million — \$1.2 Million Of It From Just Six Donors Who Each Gave At Least \$100,000. “The report, due Monday and published Tuesday, covers his fundraising for the final 12 days of June, a narrower-than-usual window due to a moratorium on fundraising around the regular legislative session. Paxton raised \$1.7 million over the period, a figure he announced Monday, hailing it as a triumph despite the impeachment. It was the most Paxton had raised in a post-session fundraising period following a statewide election, topping the \$1.4 million he collected during a comparable period in 2019. His report shows that \$1.2 million of the \$1.7 million came from six supporters who gave at least \$100,000 each.” [Texas Tribune, [7/18/23](#)]

Top Donors Included Curves International Founder Gary Heavin (\$500,000); Midland Oilmen Doug Scharbauer (\$250,000), Tim Dunn (\$150,000), And Kyle Stallings (\$100,000); And Dallas Hotelier Monty Bennett (\$100,000) — All Common GOP Megadonors, With Dunn Especially Known For Backing The Far Right. “His report shows that \$1.2 million of the \$1.7 million came from six supporters who gave at least \$100,000 each. The top donor, at \$500,000, was Gary Heavin, the founder of the fitness chain Curves International. Heavin is from the Waco suburb of Woodway. Paxton’s second-largest donor was Doug Scharbauer, who contributed \$250,000. Scharbauer is a Midland oil mogul who is a regular major donor to Texas Republicans. Paxton’s other six-figure donors included two other Midland oilmen, Tim Dunn (\$150,000) and Kyle Stallings (\$100,000), as well as Dallas hotelier Monty Bennett (\$100,000). A sixth donor, Midland’s William Holmes, wrote Paxton three smaller checks that added up to \$100,000. All are common GOP megadonors, and Dunn is especially supportive of the far right in Texas.” [Texas Tribune, [7/18/23](#)]

Tim Dunn — One Of The Six Megadonors Who Bankrolled Paxton's Post-Impeachment Fundraising Haul — And Fellow Oil Billionaire Farris Wilks Poured \$2 Million Into A Spinoff Of Defend Texas Liberty, The PAC That Vowed To Defeat The House Republicans Who Impeached Paxton And Whose President Had Hosted White Supremacist And Hitler Admirer Nick Fuentes

Tim Dunn — One Of The Six Megadonors Who Bankrolled Paxton's Post-Impeachment Fundraising Haul — And Fellow Oil Billionaire Farris Wilks Poured \$2 Million Into A Spinoff Of Defend Texas Liberty, The PAC That Vowed To Defeat The House Republicans Who Impeached Paxton And

Whose President Had Hosted White Supremacist And Hitler Admirer Nick Fuentes For Nearly Seven Hours. “Texas’ most prolific far-right donors have reloaded in the wake of scandal — and with a bruising primary on the horizon. A campaign finance report posted Wednesday showed that West Texas oil billionaires Tim Dunn and Farris Wilks have poured \$2 million into a new group, Texans United for a Conservative Majority, that has started spending against Texas House Republicans. The group is a spinoff of Defend Texas Liberty, the political action committee that came under fire in October, after The Texas Tribune reported that its then-president, Jonathan Stickland, hosted notorious white supremacist and Adolf Hitler admirer Nick Fuentes for nearly 7 hours. Defend Texas Liberty — which has vowed to go after House Republicans who voted to impeach Attorney General Ken Paxton — curtailed its political giving after the scandal, disclosing only one candidate contribution through Dec. 31. But Texans United for a Conservative Majority popped up in December and had to meet a reporting deadline of Tuesday because it is involved in a special election next week. It filed the report a day late.” [Texas Tribune, [1/24/24](#)]

In January 2022, Paxton Was Late Filing A Campaign Finance Report, And Reported \$2.1 Million Of The Total \$2.8 Million Raised As Unitemized

In January 2022, Paxton Was Late Filing A Campaign Finance Report, And Reported \$2.1 Million Of The Total \$2.8 Million Raised As Unitemized. “Attorney General Ken Paxton has not disclosed a large chunk of his campaign donors from the past six months, a week after he was required to report them to the Texas Ethics Commission. Paxton, who is in a hotly contested Republican primary, had until Jan. 18 to submit his latest campaign finance report, which covers July 1 through Dec. 31, 2021. His campaign filed it a day late, citing technical issues, and left \$2.1 million in donations unitemized out of the \$2.8 million total that he raised. Campaigns are required to itemize — or provide donor names and other identifying information — for any donations they receive online or any that exceed \$90.” [Texas Tribune, [1/25/22](#)]

It Was Highly Unusual For A Candidate, A Week After A Filing Deadline, To Still Not Have Disclosed Information For Such A Large Portion Of Their Donors. “It is not unheard of for a candidate to file a TEC report late by a number of days or make a mistake in reporting contributions that needs to be corrected by an amended report. But it is unusual for a candidate, a week after a deadline, to still not have disclosed information for such a large portion of their donors. While not all of the \$2.1 million in donations may have required itemization, it is likely that many did. The period included a fundraiser with former President Donald Trump at his Mar-a-Lago Club in Florida where admission started at \$1,000 per person.” [Texas Tribune, [1/25/22](#)]

Paxton, As Attorney General, Was Responsible For Enforcing Texas Ethics Commission Penalties For Campaign Finance Violations Like Faulty Reports Or Misused Campaign Funds — But His Office Rarely Did So

Paxton, As Attorney General, Was Responsible For Enforcing Texas Ethics Commission Penalties For Campaign Finance Violations Like Faulty Reports Or Misused Campaign Funds — But His Office Rarely Did So. “Three decades following its inception, the commission is toothless. Compliance of Texas’ ethics laws is largely voluntary. That’s because the agency relies on the Texas attorney general to enforce payment of fines for violations. And under Ken Paxton, who himself owed \$11,000 in ethics fines until recently, that has rarely happened. A review by The Texas Tribune found that the number of politicians, lobbyists and political action committees that owe fines for breaking state campaign finance laws has exploded in recent years. The Texas Ethics Commission issues the penalties for violations of state campaign finance laws, most often when entities fail to file required reports detailing their fundraising, spending or personal financial holdings. Those penalties could also be for infractions like spending campaign dollars on improper expenditures, failing to register as a lobbyist or using government resources to campaign.” [Associated Press, [7/23/24](#)]

From 2015 To 2024, The Texas Ethics Commission Referred 2,500 Unpaid Fines To Paxton's Office, Yet His Office Filed Just 175 Enforcement Lawsuits — About 7% Of The Cases Referred

From 2015 To 2024, The Texas Ethics Commission Referred 2,500 Unpaid Fines To Paxton's Office, Yet His Office Filed Just 175 Enforcement Lawsuits — About 7% Of The Cases Referred. “Since Paxton took office in 2015, the ethics commission has referred 2,500 unpaid fines to the attorney general for enforcement, the Tribune found. During that time, Paxton’s office has filed just 175 enforcement lawsuits, or 7% of the cases referred to it. Most occurred early in his tenure. After filing none in 2020 and 2021, the attorney general’s office brought 18 cases in 2022, 25 last year and just one so far in the first six months of 2024.” [Associated Press, [7/23/24](#)]

As Enforcement Declined, The Number Of Delinquent Candidates And Elected Officials Soared—In 2019, 327 Filers Owed \$1.3 Million In Fines, But By June 2024, 750 Filers Owed \$3.6 Million

As Enforcement Declined, The Number Of Delinquent Candidates And Elected Officials Soared—In 2019, 327 Filers Owed \$1.3 Million In Fines, But By June 2024, 750 Filers Owed \$3.6 Million. “As enforcement has lagged, the number of delinquent candidates and elected officials has soared. In 2019, 327 filers owed \$1.3 million in fines. Through June, 750 filers owed \$3.6 million.” [Associated Press, [7/23/24](#)]

Paxton Himself Owed \$11,300 In Texas Ethics Commission Fines For Three Late Filings — Fines Referred To His Own Office For Collection, Which He Paid Only After The Texas Tribune Began Asking Questions

Paxton Himself Owed \$11,300 In Texas Ethics Commission Fines For Three Late Filings — Fines Referred To His Own Office For Collection, Which He Paid Only After The Texas Tribune Began Asking Questions. “And under Ken Paxton, who himself owed \$11,000 in ethics fines until recently,

that has rarely happened. [...] Paxton himself until June was a delinquent filer whom the TEC has referred to attorney general's office for enforcement. Unsurprisingly, Paxton's office had not sought repayment from him. He owed \$11,300 for fines that piled up from filing three late reports. Paxton used his \$2.4 million campaign account to pay the fines on June 25, after the Tribune had contacted his office seeking an interview about its process for pursuing delinquent filers on June 12, 14 and 17."

[Associated Press, [7/23/24](#)]

In 2013, Paxton "Accidentally" Pocketed A \$1,000 Montblanc Pen — A Sentimental Gift To Another Lawyer — At A Collin County Courthouse Security Checkpoint

In 2013, Paxton "Accidentally" Pocketed A \$1,000 Montblanc Pen — A Sentimental Gift To Another Lawyer — At A Collin County Courthouse Security Checkpoint. "It happened last year at a Collin County courthouse, where lawyer Joe Joplin rushed through the security stop, needing to get to a hearing. A few hours later, he realized he'd left a tray of three pens at the metal detector. One was a gift from his wife - a \$1,000 Montblanc. [...] On the security video, the sheriff said he saw several people go through the machine after Joplin. And then he recognized the guy who picked up the pens - state Sen. Ken Paxton of McKinney. 'It looked like he took a pen and put it in his pocket out of the tray,' Box said. He asked a deputy to call Paxton and see whether he had it. He looked. He did. A day or so later, Paxton gave the pricey rollerball pen to a deputy to return to Joplin, the sheriff said." [Dallas Morning News, [11/18/14](#)]

Cornyn's Campaign Called It "Weird" To "Accidentally" Pocket Someone Else's \$1,000 Pen At A Courthouse. "If you saw someone else's \$1,000 pen, would you pocket it? Ken did. In 2012, at the Collin County Courthouse, someone accidentally left behind a sentimental gift from their wife at the security screening area. It wasn't just a simple writing utensil, but rather a \$1,000 Montblanc pen. A review of security footage later showed then-State Senator Ken Paxton walking through the checkpoint, picking up the tray that wasn't his, and slipping one of the pens into his pocket. Instead of coming forward to return the obviously expensive pen, Ken Paxton left the building. It wasn't until the Sheriff personally reviewed the tape and recognized him that Paxton was contacted. Only then—after being caught—did Paxton admit he had it and return the expensive pen through a deputy. His team called it a 'simple mistake.' But most people don't 'accidentally' pocket someone else's \$1,000 pen at a courthouse. Weird, right?" [CrookedKen.com, accessed [5/22/26](#)]

Violations Of Open Records Law

Paxton, Whose Office Is Charged With Enforcing The State's Open Records Laws, Was Found By Prosecutors To Have Violated Them Himself

Paxton, Whose Office Is Charged With Enforcing The State's Open Records Laws, Was Found By Prosecutors To Have Violated Them Himself. “The Texas Public Information Act grants the public the right to government records, even those kept on personal devices or on a public official's online accounts. Normally, the Texas attorney general's office enforces the state open records law. But when an open records complaint is filed against a state agency, the law says the Travis County district attorney or the attorney general must handle them. In this case, the newspapers filed their complaint with the Travis County district attorney.” [Texas Tribune, [1/21/22](#)]

Paxton Refused To Release Records Of His Own Communications Around January 6th, 2021, Despite A Demand From The Travis County District Attorney

Paxton Refused To Release Records Of His Own Communications Around January 6th, 2021, Despite A Demand From The Travis County District Attorney. “Attorney General Ken Paxton said the Travis County district attorney's determination that Paxton violated open records laws by withholding information related to his trip to Washington, D.C., on the day of the Capitol insurrection was “meritless” and that his office had fulfilled its obligation under the law. Last week, the district attorney's office gave Paxton four business days to turn over communications requested by the state's leading newspapers relating to his trip or face a lawsuit. [...] The Travis County district attorney's office action stems from a complaint by editors from five of the state's top newspapers — the Austin American-Statesman, The Dallas Morning News, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, the Houston Chronicle and the San Antonio Express-News — alleging that the state's top law enforcement official had violated Texas' open records law by withholding communications related to Paxton's trip to Washington, D.C., last year that they argue are subject to disclosure.” [Texas Tribune, [1/21/22](#)]

Grants To Progressive Organizations

The Cornyn Campaign Has Attacked Paxton For Approving More Than \$7 Million In Taxpayer-Funded Grants From The Attorney General's Office To Legal Aid, Immigrant-Services, And LGBTQ+ Groups The Campaign Brands As "Radical Left-Wing" Organizations

The Cornyn Campaign Says That Under Paxton, The Attorney General's Office Approved Over \$7 Million In Taxpayer-Funded Grants To Groups It Calls “Radical Left-Wing” Organizations. “Sen. John Cornyn's campaign has unveiled a digital strategy targeting fellow Republican Ken Paxton, claiming the Texas attorney general directed millions in taxpayer funds to progressive organizations. The Cornyn campaign launched a microsite, CrookedKen.com, featuring a video that itemizes \$7.1 million in grants reportedly approved by Paxton's office to organizations the campaign characterizes as left-leaning.” [Crossroads Today, [5/14/25](#)]

The Campaign's Video Named Recipients Including Legal Aid And Immigrant-Services Groups, A DEI-Focused Supplier Council, And An LGBTQ+ Center. “The campaign's video documents several grant recipients, including American Gateways (\$253,539), Grassroots Leadership (\$15,000), Texas Civil Rights Project (\$415,874), and the Montrose Center, which focuses on LGBTQ+ services (\$896,206). The largest allocations went to Legal Aid of Northwest Texas (\$2,281,633) and Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid (\$2,135,753), according to the campaign's figures. Additional grants highlighted by the campaign include those to Boat People SOS Houston (61 grants totaling \$219,463), Diocesan Migrant and Refugee Services (72 grants totaling \$253,455), Lone Star Legal Aid (105 grants totaling \$400,534), and DFW Minority Supplier Council (six grants totaling \$2,100). Mackowiak asserted these organizations ‘provide legal aid to illegal immigrants, promote DEI and ESG values, and provide “gender affirming” resources to children as young as seven.’” [Crossroads Today, [5/14/25](#)]

Cornyn Campaign: Paxton Made Grants To Groups That “Help Illegal Immigrants Fight Deportation,” “Train Clients How To Resist ICE,” And “Offer Gender Ideology Programs For Kids As Young As 7.” “Ken Paxton talks tough on the border — but behind the scenes, he was cutting checks to some of the most radical organizations in Texas. Over \$7 million in taxpayer-funded grants from Paxton’s Office of the Attorney General (OAG) went to groups that: Help illegal immigrants fight deportation Train clients how to resist ICE Oppose Governor Abbott’s border security operation Provide DEI training Offer gender ideology programs for kids as young as 7 And the worst part? Ken Paxton could’ve stopped it. Instead, he paid for it.” [CrookedKen.com, accessed [5/22/26](#)]

His Defense Team’s Democratic Ties

Cornyn Campaign: Paxton's Criminal Defense Team Includes Lawyers With Ties To The Clinton- And Obama-Era Justice Departments And Left-Leaning Legal Coalitions

Cornyn Campaign: Paxton's Criminal Defense Team Includes Lawyers With Ties To The Clinton- And Obama-Era Justice Departments And Left-Leaning Legal Coalitions. “When he got in legal trouble, he didn’t call conservative legal warriors. He brought in a legal team with ties to liberal donors, former Democrat prosecutors, and Washington insiders. When his office needed help, Paxton hired firms that fund liberal causes. When he gave out grants, they went to groups that oppose Republican values. [...] Paxton’s criminal defense team includes lawyers with ties to the Clinton DOJ, the Obama-era Justice Department, and left-leaning legal coalitions. One of his lead lawyers, Bill Mateja, worked under James Comey. Another lawyer, Philip Hilder, is a former federal prosecutor and co-chair of the ABA’s National Institute on Securities Fraud, a group that has long advocated for stricter regulation and federal control. Paxton also brought in Terri Moore, a former government attorney in Dallas and Tarrant Counties, both Democrat-run jurisdictions. She calls herself a ‘Kojack Democrat’ and has donated to liberal causes. Ken Paxton also hired Dan Cogdell as his defense attorney, even though Cogdell is currently representing the East Plano Islamic Center development project, which Paxton himself

admitted was a conflict of interest as that group is under investigation by Ken's office.”

[CrookedKen.com, accessed [5/22/26](#)]

Extreme Policy Record

Abortion And Reproductive Rights

After Kate Cox, A Texas Mother Whose Fetus Had Received A Fatal Diagnosis, Won A Court Order For A Medically Necessary Abortion In December 2023, Paxton Threatened To Criminally Prosecute Any Doctor Who Provided The Procedure — Forcing Her To Leave Texas To Obtain Care

In December 2023, Paxton Threatened Doctors With Criminal Prosecution If They Performed A Court-Ordered, Medically Necessary Abortion. “Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on Thursday threatened to prosecute any doctors involved in providing an emergency abortion to a woman, hours after she won a court order allowing her to obtain one for medical necessity. Paxton said in a letter that the order by District Court Judge Maya Guerra Gamble in Austin did not shield doctors from prosecution under all of Texas's abortion laws, and that the woman, Kate Cox, had not shown she qualified for the medical exception to the state's abortion ban.” [Reuters, [12/07/23](#)]

Kate Cox Sued To Block Texas From Enforcing Its Near-Total Abortion Ban In Her Case, Saying Her Continued Pregnancy Threatened Her Health And Future Fertility After Her Fetus Was Diagnosed With A Fatal Genetic Condition. “Cox, 31, of the Dallas-Fort Worth area filed a lawsuit on Tuesday, opens new tab seeking a temporary restraining order preventing Texas from enforcing its near-total ban on abortion in her case, saying her continued pregnancy threatened her health and future fertility. Guerra Gamble said she was granting the order at a hearing Thursday morning. Cox's lawyers have said her lawsuit is the first such case since the U.S. Supreme Court last year allowed states to ban abortion. Cox's fetus was diagnosed on Nov. 27 with trisomy 18, a genetic abnormality that usually results in miscarriage, stillbirth or death soon after birth.” [Reuters, [12/07/23](#)]

Kate Cox Ultimately Left Texas To Obtain The Abortion After The Texas Supreme Court Ruled Against Her. “Kate Cox, a 31-year-old woman from the Dallas area facing pregnancy complications who had sued the state of Texas for access to an abortion, has left the state to get the procedure, according to the Center for Reproductive Rights. ‘This past week of legal limbo has been hellish for Kate,’ Nancy Northup, president and CEO at the Center for Reproductive Rights, wrote in a statement. ‘Her health is on the line. She's been in and out of the emergency room and she couldn't wait any longer.’ The group notes that Cox is not giving interviews and that the details about where she traveled for the abortion is not being disclosed to the public. On Monday evening, hours after Cox's lawyers announced her decision to leave the state for care, the Texas Supreme Court issued a ruling in the case.

It found that her lawyers and doctor had not proven she was eligible for an abortion under Texas's narrow exception to its abortion ban.” [NPR, [12/11/23](#)]

Paxton Sued The Biden Administration To Block EMTALA Emergency Abortion Protections, Successfully Arguing In Federal Court That Federal Law Does Not Require Emergency Rooms To Perform Stabilizing Abortions

Paxton Sued The Biden Administration To Block EMTALA Emergency Abortion Protections. “Texas is suing the Biden administration over guidance released Monday telling the nation’s doctors they’re protected by federal law to terminate a pregnancy as part of emergency treatment — and threatening to defund hospitals that don’t perform these procedures. The Biden administration’s guidance states that federal law requires doctors to perform abortions for pregnant people in emergency rooms when it is ‘the stabilizing treatment necessary’ to resolve a medical emergency, including treatments for ectopic pregnancy, hypertension and preeclampsia. [...] Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton’s office filed the suit challenging the guidance in federal court on Thursday, saying the Biden administration’s guidance violates the state’s ‘sovereign interest in the power to create and enforce a legal code.’” [Texas Tribune, [7/14/22](#)]

In 2024, The Fifth Circuit Court Of Appeals, Known For Its Conservative Bent, Ruled In Favor Of Paxton And Texas. “Federal regulations do not require emergency rooms to perform life-saving abortions if it would run afoul of state law, a federal appeals court ruled Tuesday. After the overturn of Roe v. Wade in June 2022, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services sent hospitals guidance, reminding them of their obligation to offer stabilizing care, including medically necessary abortions, under the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA). [...] In August 2022, a federal district judge in Lubbock agreed with Texas, saying this guidance amounted to a new interpretation of EMTALA and granting a temporary injunction that was later extended. The 5th Circuit heard arguments in November, and the judges seemed prepared to uphold the injunction. [...] ‘We agree with the district court that EMTALA does not provide an unqualified right for the pregnant mother to abort her child,’ Englehardt wrote. ‘EMTALA does not mandate medical treatments, let alone abortion care, nor does it preempt Texas law.’” [Texas Tribune, [7/14/22](#)]

Paxton Pursued Out-Of-State Medical Providers In New York, Delaware, And Even Austria, Seeking To Block Them From Mailing Abortion Medication To Patients In Texas

Paxton Sued An Austria-Based Nonprofit, Aid Access, Seeking To Block It From Mailing Abortion Medication To Patients In Texas. “Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton is suing more providers for allegedly shipping abortion medication into Texas. Paxton’s office announced a new suit Tuesday against Aid Access, a nonprofit based in Austria, as well as two medical providers. The office asked a Galveston County judge for a temporary injunction that would prevent the defendants from providing medicine to Texas residents and practicing in the state without a license. The suit alleges Aid Access’s

founder, Dutch physician Dr. Rebecca Gomperts, and California physician Dr. Remy Coeytaux violated Texas' abortion law by prescribing 'abortion-inducing drugs' to Texans and shipping the medications into the state." [Houston Public Media, [2/25/26](#)]

Paxton Also Sued A Telehealth Abortion Provider Based In Delaware. "A Delaware telehealth abortion provider is being sued by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton. The lawsuit accuses Debra Lynch's telehealth service, Her Safe Harbor, of violating Texas law by routinely sending abortion-inducing pills to women across state lines. Texas has banned most abortions, with medical providers risking decades in prison and at least \$100,000 in fines. The drugs are illegal there and state law makes it a felony to supply them by mail or other means." [WHYY, [1/29/26](#)]

Paxton Also Sued A New York County Clerk In An Attempt To Force The State To Enforce A Texas Court Judgment Against A New York Doctor Accused Of Mailing Abortion Medication To Patients In Texas. "Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton (R) is taking legal action against a New York county clerk for refusing to file a judgment and court summons against a doctor who allegedly prescribed and mailed abortion medication to a woman in Texas. Paxton's office has submitted a petition seeking a writ of mandamus to force Ulster County Clerk Taylor Bruck to enforce the judgment against the doctor and ensure she pays the Texas penalty, according to a statement. Bruck confirmed to The Hill that the attorney general's office has tried to file documents related to the case. Paxton sued New York doctor Margaret Carpenter in December for allegedly violating Texas's abortion ban after she prescribed and mailed abortion pills to a 20-year-old Texas woman. A Texas judge ordered Carpenter to pay more than \$100,000 in penalties for prescribing the medication, but neither she nor her attorney appeared at a court hearing or responded to the lawsuit." [The Hill, [7/28/25](#)]

A Judge In New York Dismissed Paxton's Complaint, Saying The Doctor Was Protected From Out-Of-State Retaliation By New York's "Shield Law." "A New York judge dismissed a legal challenge Friday from Texas seeking to enforce a more than \$100,000 civil judgment against a doctor accused of prescribing abortion pills to a Dallas-area woman in an early test of the state's 'shield law' designed to protect providers. Republican Texas State Attorney General Ken Paxton wanted a New York court to enforce a civil decision from Texas against Dr. Margaret Carpenter, who practices north of New York City in Ulster County, for allegedly prescribing abortion medication via telemedicine. But acting Ulster County Clerk Taylor Bruck refused to file the judgment, saying he was a government employee who had to comply with New York's shield law, which protects providers from other states' reach. New York is among at least eight states with shield laws. Opponents of the laws argue they violate a constitutional requirement that states respect the laws and legal judgments of other states. Justice David Gandin ruled that Bruck followed New York law and granted his motion to dismiss the petition from Texas. The judge, sitting in Kingston, wrote that the medical services Carpenter rendered are legal in New York and that they fall 'squarely within the definition of 'legally protected health activity' under the state's shield law." [Texas Tribune, [10/31/25](#)]

A Federal Judge Dismissed A Separate Paxton Lawsuit Seeking To Strike Down New York's Shield Law. "A federal judge in New York dismissed a lawsuit filed by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, who was attempting to have the defending state's abortion shield law vacated. The statute protects healthcare providers who prescribe abortion pills across state lines. [...] New York refused to accept the claim from Paxton regarding a prescription issued by Carpenter, citing a "shield" rule that protects healthcare providers from being held liable. New York law also blocks subpoena or extradition orders from other states. In the ruling, Judge David M. Gandin said Paxton's lawsuit 'fails to set forth allegations sufficient to make out a claim of a violation of lawful procedure or an error of law.' He affirmed that 'the medical services Dr. Carpenter rendered are legal in New York state.' Gandin added that Carpenter's actions are legally protected under the law, which protects abortion-related 'health activity.' The judge also stated that the state's protection was designed for this exact situation." [Health Exec, [11/04/25](#)]

Paxton Sued To Strike Down A Biden Administration Rule Protecting The Privacy Of Women Who Live In Abortion-Ban States And Travel Out Of State For Care

Paxton Sued To Strike Down A Biden Administration Rule Protecting The Privacy Of Women Who Live In Abortion-Ban States And Travel Out Of State For Care. "Texas sued the Biden administration in an effort to block a new rule that seeks to protect the privacy of women living in states that ban abortion who travel out of state for the procedure. In a lawsuit filed on Wednesday, in Lubbock, Texas, the state is asking a federal judge to strike down the rule, which prohibits healthcare providers and insurers from giving state law enforcement authorities information about reproductive healthcare that is legal where it was provided." [Reuters, [9/05/24](#)]

The Rule Would Block Health Providers And Insurers From Sharing Personal Information With Law Enforcement Regarding Reproductive Care That Was Legal Where It Was Provided. "In a lawsuit filed on Wednesday, opens new tab in Lubbock, Texas, the state is asking a federal judge to strike down the rule, which prohibits healthcare providers and insurers from giving state law enforcement authorities information about reproductive healthcare that is legal where it was provided. President Joe Biden, a Democrat, said in announcing the rule in April that no one should have their medical records 'used against them, their doctor, or their loved one just because they sought or received lawful reproductive health care.' The measure came in response to efforts by authorities in some Republican-led states that ban abortion, including Texas, to restrict out-of-state travel for abortion. So far, no criminal prosecutions or civil judgments have resulted from those efforts." [Reuters, [9/05/24](#)]

Paxton Also Sued To Overturn A Separate Rule, Issued In 2000, Which Said Health Care Providers And Insurers Can Only Hand Over Information If It Is Related To A Legitimate Law Enforcement Inquiry And Is Limited In Scope. "Texas is also asking the court to block a separate rule issued in 2000, which said healthcare providers and insurers can only hand over information if it is relevant to a

legitimate law enforcement inquiry and is limited in scope. Texas said in its lawsuit that providers frequently cite the 2000 rule as a reason for not responding to subpoenas from state investigators, and have begun invoking the new rule as well. Both rules were issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), the federal law on patient privacy. Texas claims that HHS went beyond its authority under HIPAA in passing both rules, because the law preserves states' authority to conduct investigations. 'This new rule actively undermines Congress's clear statutory meaning when HIPAA was passed, and it reflects the Biden administration's disrespect for the law,' Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton said in a statement." [Reuters, [9/05/24](#)]

Paxton Fled His Own Home To Avoid Being Served A Subpoena In A Lawsuit Challenging Texas's Abortion Ban

Paxton Fled His Own Home To Avoid Being Served A Subpoena In A Lawsuit Challenging Texas's Abortion Ban. "Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton fled his home in a truck driven by his wife, state Sen. Angela Paxton, to avoid being served a subpoena Monday, according to an affidavit filed in federal court. [...] 'A few minutes later I saw Mr. Paxton RAN from the door inside the garage towards the rear door behind the driver side,' Herrera wrote. 'I approached the truck, and loudly called him by his name and stated that I had court documents for him. Mr. Paxton ignored me and kept heading for the truck.' Herrera eventually placed the subpoena on the ground near the truck and told him he was serving him with a subpoena. Both cars drove away, leaving the documents on the ground." [Texas Tribune, [9/26/22](#)]

Health Care And The ACA

Paxton Led A 20-State Coalition In Seeking To Overturn The Affordable Care Act, And Won In The Lower Courts Before The Supreme Court Rejected The Suit On Standing Grounds In 2021

Paxton Led A 20-State Coalition In Seeking To Overturn The Affordable Care Act. "Texas is suing the federal government over President Barack Obama's landmark health care law — again. In a 20-state lawsuit filed Monday in federal court, Attorney General Ken Paxton argued that after the passage of the GOP's tax plan last year — which also repealed a provision of the sweeping legislation known as 'Obamacare' that required people to have health insurance — the health care law is no longer constitutional. 'Texans have known all along that Obamacare is unlawful, and a divided Supreme Court's approval rested solely on the flimsy support of Congress' authority to tax. Congress has now kicked that flimsy support from beneath the law,' Paxton said in a statement Monday. 'With no remaining legitimate basis for the law, it is time that Americans are finally free from the stranglehold of Obamacare, once and for all.'" [Texas Tribune, [2/26/18](#)]

Paxton Claimed That Dismantling The Affordable Care Act Would Allow Congress To Replace It “With A Plan That Ensures Texans And All Americans Have Better Choices For Health Coverage At More Affordable Prices.” “Texas did not elect to create a state exchange for health insurance, as the Affordable Care Act provided for, but the law still had important impacts on the state, Paxton said, including increasing the amount of money Texas must pay the Internal Revenue Service through its Medicaid managed care organizations. Repealing the law would allow Congress to ‘replace that failed experiment with a plan that ensures Texans and all Americans have better choices for health coverage at more affordable prices,’ Paxton said.” [Texas Tribune, [2/26/18](#)]

Paxton’s Effort Threatened To Strip Pre-Existing Conditions Protections From More Than 4.5 Million Texans

Paxton’s Effort Threatened To Strip Pre-Existing Conditions Protections From Millions Of Americans. “In February, the 20 states filed a lawsuit asking a federal judge to strike down the ACA. The plaintiffs argue that Congress’ elimination of the uninsured penalty this year rendered the law unconstitutional. Last week, attorneys for Paxton’s office asked a federal judge in Fort Worth to block the ACA while the lawsuit plays out. Experts say a favorable ruling for the conservative attorneys general could kick millions of Americans off their health coverage and have far-reaching and catastrophic effects on the U.S. health care system.” [Texas Observer, [9/14/18](#)]

At The Time He Filed His Suit, Texas Had The Highest Uninsured Rate In The Country, And Was Home To 4.5 Million Adults Under 65 With A Pre-Existing Condition That Could Make Them Uninsurable Without ACA Protections. “‘Texas was not a state that applied much in the way of regulations for individual health insurance, so it was very difficult for people with any kind of pre-existing conditions to get coverage [before the ACA],’ said Karen Pollitz, a senior fellow at the Kaiser Family Foundation. Texas already has the highest uninsured rate in the country, and more than 4.5 million adults under 65 in the state have a pre-existing condition that would likely make them uninsurable without the ACA’s protections. If the plaintiffs win, millions of other patients could be denied care or charged more for coverage.” [Texas Observer, [9/14/18](#)]

Paxton Sued The Biden Administration Over Health Care Funding And Attacked Its Effort To Incentivize Texas To Expand Medicaid, Calling It A “Disgusting And Unlawful Abuse Of Power”

Paxton Sued The Biden Administration To Preserve A Texas Health Care Funding Deal And Opposed Federal Incentives For Texas To Expand Medicaid. “Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton sued the Biden administration Friday to reinstate an eight-year extension to a federal health care funding agreement, worth billions of dollars annually and set to expire next year, that the state uses to help pay for health care for uninsured Texans. [...] Biden tried unsuccessfully to incentivize Texas and other states to expand Medicaid eligibility by dangling billions of dollars in additional Medicaid funding for the government health care program for low-income people.” [Texas Tribune, [5/14/21](#)]

Paxton Called Biden's Pressure To Expand Medicaid A "Disgusting And Unlawful Abuse Of Power Aimed At Sovereign States." "Texas lawmakers declined to move forward on the issue during this year's legislative session, which ends later this month. 'This disgusting and unlawful abuse of power aimed at sovereign states must end,' Paxton said." [Texas Tribune, [5/14/21](#)]

Immigration And DACA

Paxton Led A Multistate Lawsuit To End DACA — Threatening Deportation Protection And Work Authorization For More Than 120,000 Young Immigrants In Texas — Reprising The Strategy And Arguments He Had Used To Kill The Related DAPA Program, And The Fifth Circuit Ultimately Struck DACA Down

Paxton Led A Multistate Lawsuit To End DACA, Which Would Have Stripped Deportation Protection And Work Authorization From Roughly 120,000 Young Immigrants In Texas. "The Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents program, announced by President Barack Obama's administration in 2014, was a sweeping executive action that would have protected about 4 million undocumented immigrants from deportation. But that program never went into effect — 26 states, with Texas at the helm, successfully sued to block it. Now, Texas has mounted a similar effort in hopes that strategy works again: a long-promised lawsuit to challenge Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals — an older, narrower Obama-era initiative that President Donald Trump has promised to end. History and legal precedent seem to favor Texas. At a news conference announcing the suit last week, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton invoked the state's prior victory as a harbinger of success to come. 'The courts blocked DAPA after I led another state coalition challenging its constitutionality all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court,' Paxton said. 'Our coalition is confident that ultimately, through our federal lawsuit, DACA will meet the same fate.' [...] And, perhaps most importantly, the DACA 'Dreamers' are not hypothetical the way DAPA recipients were: There are several hundred thousand DACA recipients living and working in the United States and more than 120,000 in Texas alone." [Texas Tribune, [5/07/18](#)]

Paxton Had Previously Led A Coalition That Successfully Invalidated A Similar Obama Program, DAPA (Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents). "DAPA died at the U.S. Supreme Court, but the deadly shot came from Texas. The Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents program, announced by President Barack Obama's administration in 2014, was a sweeping executive action that would have protected about 4 million undocumented immigrants from deportation. But that program never went into effect — 26 states, with Texas at the helm, successfully sued to block it. [...] DACA and DAPA are built on the same legal framework, but they vary widely in scope. DACA, announced in 2012, covers young adults brought to the United States as minors; many

DACA recipients remember no other home country. DAPA would have granted a much bigger group — the undocumented parents of legal residents — the same legal work permits and protection from deportation.” [Texas Tribune, [5/07/18](#)]

Paxton Used Many Of The Same Arguments Against DACA As He Had Against DAPA. “With its eyes on that win, Texas has taken up the same legal arguments it successfully used last time. Texas and its allies again claim that Obama didn’t have the power to enact DACA but used an executive action to create a program they say could be enacted lawfully only by Congress. And the suit against DACA appears poised to follow DAPA’s three-stop path through the federal courts, going first to a district court that ruled against DAPA, then to an appellate court that also ruled against DAPA, and finally reaching resolution at the U.S. Supreme Court, which last time dead-locked in a 4-4 tie that left Texas’ DAPA win in place.” [Texas Tribune, [5/07/18](#)]

While 25 States Joined Texas In Suing To Overturn DAPA, Just 7 Joined Texas To Overturn DACA. “DACA has also won three favorable rulings from federal judges, though one federal judge has defended Trump’s authority to end it. In 2014, when Texas sued over DAPA, it had more more wind at its back — 25 states joined Texas in the suit. This time, only seven are in the coalition.” [Texas Tribune, [5/07/18](#)]

Eight States Eventually Joined Texas’s DACA Lawsuit. “Hanan ruled in favor of Texas and eight other conservative states that sued to halt DACA, which provides limited protections to about 650,000 people.” [Associated Press, [7/16/21](#)]

The Fifth Circuit Court Of Appeals Agreed With Paxton And Struck Down DACA, Though Current Enrollees Can Continue To Renew Their Status Pending Appeal. “On January 17, 2025, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals issued a decision modifying the injunction but keeping the stay pending appeal which would mean that renewals can continue for existing DACA recipients. The 5th Circuit limited its decision to Texas and sent the case back to the district court with an instruction to sever the forbearance from deportation provision from the work authorization, meaning that no more work permits would be granted (only protection from deportation) for Texas residents. The mandate issued on March 11 is presumed to make these changes go into effect meaning that first-time requests should have begun to be processed and be approved or denied in all 50 states, including Texas. However, USCIS has not fully processed, approved, or denied any first-time requests and we are waiting to see how the district court judge implements the Fifth Circuit mandate. It is important to note that current DACA recipients in Texas continue to have access to their current work permits.” [National Immigration Law Center, accessed [5/19/26](#)]

Paxton Joined The Trump Department Of Justice To Kill The Texas Dream Act, A Landmark Bipartisan Bill That Allowed Undocumented Immigrants To Pay In-State Tuition To Attend Public Colleges And Universities In Texas

Paxton Worked With The Trump Administration To Kill The Texas Dream Act, A Landmark Bipartisan Bill That Allowed Undocumented Immigrants To Pay In-State Tuition To Attend Public Colleges And Universities In Texas. “A top Justice Department official boasted at a private Republican gathering that the Trump administration was able to kill a Texas law that gave undocumented immigrants in-state tuition ‘in six hours’ by coordinating with Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, according to a recording obtained by NBC News.” [NBC News, [6/26/25](#)]

Paxton Allegedly Colluded With The Trump Department Of Justice, Through Improper “Legal Choreography,” To Overturn The Law. “Outside organizations sought to invalidate the ruling Tuesday, arguing that the Justice Department and Paxton’s office ‘colluded to secure an agreed injunction’ and engaged in improper ‘legal choreography’ to obtain their desired outcome. Speaking at the Republican Attorneys General Association a day after the quick court victory, Deputy Associate Attorney General Abhishek Kambli seemed to confirm that. ‘So just yesterday, we had filed a lawsuit against Texas, had a consent decree the same day, or consent judgment, and it got granted hours later,’ Kambli told participants, according to audio obtained by NBC News. ‘And what it did was, because we were able to have that line of communication and talk in advance, a statute that’s been a problem for the state for 24 years, we got rid of it in six hours.’” [NBC News, [6/26/25](#)]

Paxton, Whose Job As Attorney General Is To Defend Texas Law, Declined To Defend The Dream Act In Court. “Skye Perryman, the president and CEO of Democracy Forward, criticized Paxton for not defending the bipartisan Texas Dream Act, which the Legislature passed and Gov. Rick Perry signed more than two decades ago. She noted that the Legislature had declined to repeal the law. Paxton recently announced that he is going to challenge U.S. Sen. John Cornyn in the Republican primary next year — a GOP-versus-GOP battle between two men who have been sparring for years and vying for President Donald Trump’s attention. ‘Instead of defending the law of Texas ... Attorney General Paxton colluded with the Trump-Vance administration to try to eliminate the law through the courts,’ Perryman said in a statement. ‘This maneuver is a misuse of the courts. If Attorney General Paxton will not defend Texans, we will. We are committed to ensuring that this cynical move is opposed, to defending the Texas Dream Act, and to supporting the courage of our clients.’ Carl Tobias of the University of Richmond School of Law said the heads of the Texas House and Senate should be concerned that Paxton’s office declined to defend a state law.” [NBC News, [6/26/25](#)]

Paxton Repeatedly Used Consumer Protection And Other State Laws To Investigate And Try To Shut Down Immigrant Rights Nonprofits And Migrant Shelters — Including A Decades-Old Catholic Network — In Probes That ProPublica And The Texas Tribune Found Were Never Prompted By A Single Consumer Complaint

Paxton Sued To Dissolve FIEL, An Immigrant Rights Nonprofit, Claiming Its Public Criticism Of Trump, Abbott, And Texas Immigration Law Violated Rules On Nonprofit Political Activity. “Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton’s latest lawsuit against an immigrants’ rights organization claims the Houston group violated federal rules that govern nonprofits’ political involvement by criticizing former President Donald Trump, Republican Gov. Greg Abbott and a new state immigration law. Paxton sued FIEL — a Spanish acronym for Familias Inmigrantes y Estudiantes en la Lucha, which translates to Immigrant Families and Students in the Fight — a month ago in the 127th Harris County District Court and asked a judge to dissolve the organization. The immigrant-run group, founded in 2007, offers education, social and legal services to immigrant families in the region. The lawsuit, first reported Friday by the Houston Chronicle, is the latest effort from Paxton’s office to shut down entities that help migrants by accusing those groups in state courts of human smuggling; judges have so far rejected those claims. However the state’s lawsuit against FIEL appears to be the first to target a group far from the border and the first to target what is essentially political speech.” [Texas Tribune, [8/16/24](#)]

Paxton Also Targeted Migrant Shelters, Though Courts Largely Blocked His Attempts. “The lawyers said that it’s just the most recent instance of Paxton misusing a state statute to try shutting down an organization that aids migrants — as he tried in El Paso, where he filed a lawsuit aimed at shutting down a decades-old a migrant shelter network. [...] In February, Paxton’s office asked Annunciation House in El Paso for records related to the nonprofit’s work with immigrants, alleging it operated as a stash house. A judge last month dismissed a related lawsuit filed by the state, but Texas has since appealed the dismissal. In the Rio Grande Valley, one of the largest migrant aid groups in the state, Catholic Charities, received a similar request from Paxton’s office. A Hidalgo County judge last month ruled that Paxton could not depose the leader of the McAllen shelter, which helps migrants by temporarily providing food, shelter and other basic necessities. Paxton’s office has also reportedly sent similar letters to Angeles Sin Fronteras in Mission and Team Brownsville. ‘The attorney general’s latest attack on an immigrants’ rights organization follows a familiar formula of loudly publicized harassment and targeted misinformation to create fear and confusion,’ said David Donatti, a senior staff attorney at the ACLU of Texas. ‘Once again, he wishes to eliminate efforts to educate immigrants, their families, and our communities about our constitutional rights. His track record in court is dismal, and we hope and expect that his losing streak will continue.’” [Texas Tribune, [8/16/24](#)]

ProPublica And The Texas Tribune Found Paxton Repeatedly Used Consumer Protection Law To Investigate Groups Over Activities Like Sheltering Migrants, Treating Transgender Teens, And Promoting Diverse Workplaces. “An analysis by ProPublica and The Texas Tribune shows that in the past two years, Paxton has used consumer protection law more than a dozen times to investigate a

range of entities for activities like offering shelter to immigrants, providing health care to transgender teens or trying to foster a diverse workplace.” [Texas Tribune, [5/30/24](#)]

None Of The Investigations Were Prompted By A Consumer Complaint. “Not a single one of the investigations was prompted by a consumer complaint, Paxton’s office confirmed. A complaint is not necessary to launch a probe.” [Texas Tribune, [5/30/24](#)]

Paxton Sought To Shut Down Annunciation House, A Nearly 50-Year-Old Catholic Migrant Shelter Network In El Paso, Accusing It Of Running "Stash Houses" — Drawing Condemnation From Catholic Leaders, A District Court Loss, And A Rebuke From Pope Francis, Who Called The Effort "Madness," Before The Texas Supreme Court Let The Investigation Proceed In 2025

In January 2025, The Texas Supreme Court Ruled That Paxton Could Investigate Annunciation House, A Catholic Migrant Shelter Network. “Attorney General Ken Paxton can proceed with his investigation of an El Paso migrant shelter network he has accused of violating state law by helping undocumented migrants, the Texas Supreme Court ruled Friday. The ruling does not weigh in on the merits of the case, but says the district court erred in blocking Paxton from obtaining documents and getting an injunction to close the shelter. The case began in February 2024 when the attorney general’s office demanded documents from the shelter, Annunciation House, related to its work with immigrants. Annunciation House, which opened its first shelter at a Catholic church nearly 50 years ago, primarily serves people who have been processed and released into the U.S. by federal immigration officials. The shelter’s director, Ruben Garcia, communicates regularly with Border Patrol and other federal officials to help find shelter for immigrants who have nowhere else to go while their cases are processed.” [Texas Tribune, [1/13/25](#)]

An El Paso District Court Judge Rejected Paxton's Effort To Shut Down The Annunciation House Migrant Shelter Network, Finding That The State Was Harassing Its Employees And Guests And That The Statutes Paxton Invoked Were Preempted By Federal Law. “An El Paso district court judge has denied Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton’s efforts to shut down the Annunciation House network of migrant shelters in El Paso, saying the state was harassing its employees and guests. In a pair of rulings issued Tuesday morning, 205th District Judge Francisco Dominguez said the AG’s office efforts to shut down the nonprofit organization on allegations that it is operating a stash house are ‘unenforceable,’ stating those statutes are pre-empted by federal law.” [El Paso Matters, [7/02/24](#)]

Paxton Accused The Catholic Nonprofit Annunciation House Of Running “Stash Houses” And Engaging In Human Trafficking — Allegations The Organization Vigorously Disputed And That Pope Francis Called “Madness.” “In recent months, Paxton and Texas Gov. Greg Abbott have criticized Annunciation House and other Catholic organizations for providing services to migrants on the border. In an interview on ‘60 Minutes’ that aired May 19, Pope Francis called Paxton’s efforts to close Annunciation House ‘madness.’ Paxton accused Annunciation House of operating “stash houses” and

engaging in human trafficking – allegations vigorously disputed by Annunciation House and its supporters in El Paso.” [El Paso Matters, [7/02/24](#)]

El Paso Times Headline: “Pope Francis calls Texas Ag Ken Paxton's Attacks On El Paso's Annunciation House 'Madness.'” [El Paso Times, [6/02/24](#)]

Catholic Leaders And Local Officials Condemned Paxton's Lawsuit To Shut Down Annunciation House As An Abuse Of Power And A Violation Of Religious Liberty, With El Paso's Bishop Vowing The Church Would "Vigorously Defend" People Of Faith Acting On Their Convictions. “Catholic leaders and local officials condemned Feb. 23 an attempt by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton to shut down a Catholic nonprofit serving migrants and asylum-seekers at the Southern border, calling it an abuse of power and a violation of religious liberty. Paxton's office accused Annunciation House in El Paso, Texas, of ‘facilitating illegal entry to the United States’ and ‘human smuggling,’ filing a lawsuit in an attempt to shut it down. Paxton's lawsuit sparked immediate outrage from Bishop Mark Seitz of El Paso, who vowed in a Feb. 22 statement supporting Annunciation House that the church would ‘vigorously defend the freedom of people of faith and goodwill to put deeply held religious convictions into practice.’ He wrote, ‘We will not be intimidated in our work to serve Jesus Christ in our sisters and brothers fleeing danger and seeking to keep their families together.’” [National Catholic Reporter, [2/26/24](#)]

The Courts Repeatedly Rejected Paxton's Border Legal Strategy — The Supreme Court Ruled Against Texas Twice In 2022 And 2023, And A Federal Judge Blocked The State's Marquee SB 4 Immigration Law In 2026

June 2022: The United States Supreme Court Ruled That The Biden Administration Could End The “Remain In Mexico” Policy After Paxton Sued To Keep The Policy In Place. “The U.S. Supreme Court ruled Thursday that the Biden administration has the right to end a Trump-era immigration policy that forces asylum-seekers to wait in Mexico as their cases make their way through U.S. immigration courts. In a 5-4 ruling, the justices ruled against Texas and Missouri, which had argued that the Biden administration violated the law by rescinding the program, and sent the case back to the district court to determine if terminating the policy violated any administrative laws. But the justices determined that the government’s cancellation of the Migrant Protection Protocols, referred to as MPP and also called “remain in Mexico,” did not violate a section of immigration law that Texas and Missouri had used to argue that the Biden administration illegally ended the program. Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Brett Kavanaugh joined the three more liberal justices in the majority.” [Texas Tribune, [6/30/22](#)]

June 2023: The United States Supreme Court Ruled That Texas Lacked Standing To Challenge A Biden Immigration Policy That Prioritized Certain Groups Of Unauthorized Immigrants For Arrest And Deportation. “In a major victory for the Biden administration, the Supreme Court on Friday ruled that Texas and Louisiana do not have a legal right, known as standing, to challenge a Biden

administration policy that prioritizes certain groups of unauthorized immigrants for arrest and deportation. The justices therefore did not weigh in on the legality of the policy itself, instead reversing a ruling by a federal district court in Texas that struck down the policy. The vote was 8-1. Justice Brett Kavanaugh wrote for a majority that included Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan, and Ketanji Brown Jackson. Justice Neil Gorsuch wrote an opinion in which he agreed that the states lacked standing, but for a different reason; his opinion was joined by Justices Clarence Thomas and Amy Coney Barrett (who wrote her own concurring opinion, joined by Gorsuch)." [SCOTUS Blog, [6/23/23](#)]

May 2026: A Federal Judge Granted A Preliminary Injunction Against Texas SB 4, Which Made Illegal Entry A State Crime And Authorized State Judges To Order Migrants Removed To Mexico. "A Texas law that would allow state and local police to arrest people suspected of having crossed the southern border illegally is once again halted, a day before it was supposed to take effect. Senate Bill 4, passed in 2023, makes the illegal crossings of the Mexico-Texas border a state crime. It also requires state magistrate judges to order those arrested for illegal entry to leave the country for Mexico if they are convicted, or in lieu of prosecution. Civil rights groups brought a lawsuit earlier this month, arguing that the sections involving the state's judicial system are unconstitutional because they encroach on the federal government's sole authority over immigration laws. It also challenged the state crime provision, saying that the law provides no defense for people who had federal permission to enter the country or those who might have pending immigration status, such as a green card." [Houston Public Media, [5/15/26](#)]

LGBTQ And Transgender Rights

In 2022, Paxton Declared Gender-Affirming Care "Child Abuse," Triggering State Investigations Of Families — Before Any Law Prohibited Such Care

2022: Paxton Declared Gender-Affirming Care "Child Abuse," Triggering State Investigations Of Families — Before Any Law Prohibited Such Care. "Abbott's letter to state agencies came after Republican Attorney General Ken Paxton this week released a non-binding legal opinion that labeled certain gender-confirming treatments as 'child abuse.' That goes against the nation's largest medical groups, including the American Medical Association, which have opposed Republican-backed restrictions filed in statehouses nationwide. [...] The uncertainty over the impact is largely due to the fact that attorney general opinions do not carry the weight of law. In Houston, the county office that represents the state in civil child abuse cases said it would not take any actions based on the letter, and Texas' largest child welfare advocacy group said it was unclear what judges and prosecutors would do with the opinion." [Associated Press, [2/23/22](#)]

Courts Temporarily Barred The Investigations, But In April 2026 The Texas Supreme Court Lifted That Block — Largely Because The State Had Already Closed The Inquiries And One Affected Minor Had Turned 18. “The Texas Supreme Court tossed temporary injunctions Friday that halted child abuse investigations against parents who allowed their transgender kids to access puberty blockers and hormone therapy, in large part because the state has closed such inquiries into three families who sued and a fourth child is now an adult. The court’s ruling did not determine whether providing such healthcare to kids constitutes child abuse, as Attorney General Ken Paxton concluded in a nonbinding legal opinion in 2022. The legal battle seeking to shield parents from such state investigations began before Texas banned doctors outright from providing puberty blockers and hormone therapies to kids for gender transitioning. There was no immediate comment from the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. Four families and the organization PFLAG, Inc. had won temporary injunctions stopping DFPS from investigating reports of trans minors using puberty blockers and hormone therapy. While the agency’s appeal of the temporary injunctions were pending, DFPS officials permanently closed its investigations and a fourth child has now reached their 18th birthday. As such, the Texas Supreme Court ruled, there was no need to keep the temporary injunctions in place.” [Texas Tribune, [4/24/26](#)]

Paxton Sued Physicians For Treating Transgender Minors, And Expanded The State’s Ban On Trans Care To Include Licensed Mental Health Providers

Paxton Sued Physicians For Treating Transgender Minors. “A Dallas pediatrician has surrendered her medical license, a year after becoming the first target of a law that banned providing gender-transitioning hormones to minors. Last October, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton filed a lawsuit against adolescent medicine physician May Lau for prescribing testosterone to at least 21 patients. Her license was cancelled by her request early this month, according to the Texas Medical Board. [...] The case was the first brought under Senate Bill 14, a 2023 law that prohibits physicians and health care providers from prescribing hormones to minors to transition their biological sex. The suit accused Lau of violating the law by authorizing the use of testosterone by at least 21 patients between the ages of 14 and 17 to transition their biological gender or affirm their gender identity. Lau surrendering her license was ‘a major victory for our state,’ Paxton said in a Friday news release.” [Texas Tribune, [10/24/25](#)]

Paxton Issued A Legal Opinion Extending The State's Ban On Trans Care For Minors To Licensed Mental Health Providers Who Diagnose Or Treat Gender Dysphoria. “Mental health providers licensed by the state cannot provide gender-transitioning care to minors, according to Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton. Paxton clarified in his legal opinion Friday that Senate Bill 14, a 2023 state law that bans health care providers from providing or facilitating treatment to minors that transitions their birth gender, such as with surgery or hormone treatments, also applies to mental health providers licensed by the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council. [...] Mental health providers often help diagnose and recommend treatment to adults and minors with gender dysphoria, a psychological

diagnosis widely accepted in the medical and mental health communities for someone whose gender identity doesn't match their gender assigned at birth. The treatment can include depression and anxiety, assessments for readiness for hormone therapy or surgeries, and support for families." [Texas Tribune, [3/02/26](#)]

Paxton Created A Tip Line For Texans To Report Transgender People In Public Restrooms

December 2025: Paxton Created A Tip Line For Texans To Report Transgender People In Public Restrooms. "Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton is encouraging the public to help enforce the state's "bathroom bill" via a tip line for suspected violations of the new law designed to restrict which facilities transgender people can use. Senate Bill 8, also known as the Texas Women's Privacy Act, requires government buildings, schools and colleges to restrict access to restrooms and locker rooms based on sex assigned at birth. If someone does enter the "wrong" bathroom, institutions, not the individual, are punished by the state, with \$25,000 first-time fines and \$125,000 subsequent penalties per day. Individuals can also sue agencies if they are in a restroom and are 'affected' by a violation of the law." [Texas Tribune, [12/17/25](#)]

The Tip Line Form Has An Option To Submit Photos; However, Taking Photos Inside A Restroom Is Illegal. "The form also has an option to submit photos to the tip line, however, taking photos inside a restroom is illegal. In 2023, Williamson County GOP Chair Michelle Evans had her phone confiscated by Department of Public Safety officers and was investigated by Travis County District Attorney Jose Garza after she posted a photo of a trans woman inside a Texas Capitol restroom. Evans sued Garza to stop the investigation, arguing the photo was not an invasion of privacy, but in early December the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled against her." [Texas Tribune, [12/17/25](#)]

Paxton Sued A New York-Based Online Seller Of Chest Binders

Paxton Sued A New York-Based Online Seller Of Chest Binders. "Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton announced Friday that the state had filed a lawsuit against New York-based clothing company Lola Olivia over the sale of binders, arguing that the retailer violates consumer protection laws that ban 'false, misleading, or deceptive advertising.' The lawsuit, which seeks \$1,000,000 in monetary relief among other measures, alleges that binders cause 'lasting damage,' painting a dire and inaccurate picture of the health concerns associated with chest binding among youth." [Them, [2/20/26](#)]

Paxton Claimed The Company Was Misleading Children By Failing To Inform Them Of The Risks Of Chest Binding. "Paxton issued a press release accompanying the lawsuit that describes youth transition as 'child abuse,' vowing to bring 'swift and unrelenting justice' to Lola Olivia and other companies that sell binders. 'It's unconscionable that there are people in this world who are trying to make a fortune by hurting kids, but that's exactly what's going on here,' Paxton wrote." [Them, [2/20/26](#)]

Paxton's Lawsuit Misrepresented The World Professional Association Of Transgender Health's Standards Of Care To Portray Chest Binders As Dangerous. “For instance, the lawsuit claims that ‘even’ the World Professional Association of Transgender Health ‘has indicated that the use of breast binders ... bears significant risk,’ when, in actuality, the 2022 WPATH Standards of Care acknowledge ‘common negative health impacts’ like ‘back/chest pain, shortness of breath and overheating’ while advising that physicians treating trans youth should counsel them to use ‘binders specifically designed for the gender diverse population.’ ‘If youth report negative health impacts from chest binding, these should ideally be addressed by a gender-affirming medical provider with experience working with TGD youth,’ the Standards of Care conclude. Similar misrepresentations of medical research occur throughout the document. In fact, many of the lawsuit’s citations refer to the Food and Drug Administration’s own communications on chest binding. Under the Trump administration, the FDA has been threatening companies that sell binders, sending warning letters in December 2025 to 12 manufacturers, including prominent queer- and trans-owned companies such as TomboyX and gc2b.” [Them, [2/20/26](#)]

In A National First, Paxton Sued An El Paso Doctor For Allegedly Defying Texas's Ban On Transgender Care For Minors, Branding Him A "Scofflaw" — Then Quietly Dropped The Suit A Year Later, Conceding "No Legal Violations Were Found"

In Fall 2024, Paxton Sued El Paso Pediatric Endocrinologist Dr. Hector Granados, Alleging He Continued Providing Gender-Affirming Care After The State's Ban Took Effect. “On the Texas border, Dr. Hector Granados treats children with diabetes at his El Paso clinics and makes hospital rounds under the shadow of accusations that have thrown his career into jeopardy: providing care to transgender youth. In what’s believed to be a U.S. first, Texas is suing Granados and two other physicians over claims that they violated the state’s ban on gender-affirming care for minors, calling the doctors ‘scofflaws’ in lawsuits filed last fall that threaten to impose steep fines and revoke their medical licenses. He denies the accusations, and all three doctors have asked courts to dismiss the cases.” [Associated Press, [2/27/25](#)]

Paxton Quietly Withdrew The Suit In September 2025, His Office Saying “No Legal Violations Were Found” After Reviewing Granados' Complete Medical Records. “One of the nation’s first doctors accused of illegally providing care to transgender youth under GOP-led bans was found to have not violated the law, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton’s office says, nearly a year after the state sued the physician. Dr. Hector Granados, a pediatric endocrinologist in El Paso, was called a ‘scofflaw’ last year by Paxton’s office in a lawsuit that accused him of falsifying medical records and violating a Texas ban that took effect in 2023. More than two dozen states have prohibitions on gender-affirming care for transgender youth, but Texas was the first to bring cases against doctors, filing lawsuits against Granados and two other providers. The cases against the other doctors, both in Dallas, remain ongoing. But Paxton’s office quietly withdrew its lawsuit last week against Granados, saying in a statement that

'no legal violations were found' following a 'review of the evidence and Granados' complete medical records.'" [Texas Tribune, [9/11/25](#)]

Granados Said He Halted Providing Gender Affirming Care Before The Law Came Into Effect, And That Paxton Never Contacted His Office Before Filing The Lawsuit. "Granados, who says Paxton's office never reached out before suing him last October, said he wished the state had first let him show he had stopped providing gender-affirming care for youth before the law took effect. 'It was just out and then we had to do everything afterwards,' Granados said in an interview. [...] Granados said he was meticulous in halting gender-affirming care for youth before Texas' ban took effect. He said that before the ban, treating transgender youth was just an extension of his practice that treats youth with diabetes, growth problems and early puberty. He said that after the ban, he did continue to prescribe puberty blockers and hormone replacement therapy, but that those treatments were not for gender transition. Granados said they were for youth with endocrine disorders, which occur when hormone levels are too high or too low." [Texas Tribune, [9/11/25](#)]

Paxton's Lawsuit Branded Dr. Granados A "Scofflaw Who Is Harming The Health And Safety Of Texas Children" — A Charge His Office Later Abandoned. "Texas' lawsuit against Granados called him a 'scofflaw who is harming the health and safety of Texas children.' It referenced a 2015 news article about transgender care that quoted Granados and medical articles he had written on the topic. Also listed in the lawsuit were details on unnamed patients, including their ages and what they had been prescribed, including testosterone. [...] Granados' attorney, Mark Bracken, said that after entering into an agreed protective order with the state, they were able to confidentially produce patient records to show Granados had complied with the law. Peter Salib, an assistant professor of law at the University of Houston Law Center, said that it's "unusual" for a state to drop a case due to lack of violations after filing a lawsuit. 'They have a lot of opportunity to find out what is going on before they decide to bring a lawsuit,' he said." [Texas Tribune, [9/11/25](#)]

Education And DEI

Paxton Used His Official State Office To Urge Public-School Students To Use School Prayer Time To Recite "The Lord's Prayer, As Taught By Jesus Christ"

Paxton Used His Official State Office To Urge Public-School Students To Use School Prayer Time To Recite "The Lord's Prayer, As Taught By Jesus Christ." "With a new Texas law in effect allowing time for prayer and reading religious texts in public schools, Attorney General Ken Paxton on Tuesday encouraged students to practice the Lord's Prayer as relayed in the King James Version of the Bible, marking the latest instance of a Texas public official endorsing Christianity over other faiths. [...] 'In Texas classrooms, we want the Word of God opened, the Ten Commandments displayed, and prayers lifted up,' Paxton wrote. 'Twisted, radical liberals want to erase Truth, dismantle the solid foundation

that America's success and strength were built upon, and erode the moral fabric of our society. Our nation was founded on the rock of Biblical Truth, and I will not stand by while the far-left attempts to push our country into the sinking sand.'" [Texas Tribune, [9/02/25](#)]

Paxton Endorsed Not Just A Christian Worldview But An Explicitly Protestant One. "Chancey said he was struck by Paxton explicitly suggesting a form of Christianity with the prayer he chose. Paxton encouraged the recitation of a traditionally Protestant form of the Lord's Prayer, from the King James Version of the Bible. It differs from the Catholic version of the prayer. 'There's just a blatantness and upfrontness about it that really shows the influence of Christian-nationalistic ideology,' Chancey said of Paxton's announcement." [Washington Post, [9/04/25](#)]

On MLK Jr. Day In 2026, Paxton Issued A Legal Opinion Declaring Decades Of Texas Diversity, Equity, And Inclusion Programs Unconstitutional, And Warning Private Employers Their Diversity Initiatives Could Expose Them To Lawsuits

On MLK Jr. Day In 2026, Paxton Issued A Legal Opinion Declaring Decades Of Texas Diversity, Equity, And Inclusion Programs Unconstitutional. "In an exhaustive legal opinion released on Monday's Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday, Attorney General Ken Paxton criticized decades-old and long-moot guidance issued by John Cornyn, his opponent in the March 3 Republican primary for U.S. Senate, and claimed a litany of Texas initiatives meant to offset historical discrimination against people of color and women are unconstitutional. [...] After criticizing Cornyn, Paxton' spends the bulk of the new opinion purporting to "dismantle" decades of what he calls diversity, equity and inclusion frameworks, "memorialized in over 100 woke state laws," in schools and state and local governments, according to a press release from his office." [KERA News, [1/20/26](#)]

Paxton Warned Private Employers That Their Diversity Initiatives Could Expose Them To Liability Under State And Federal Law. "The opinion also argues that private companies in Texas engaging in 'woke DEI practices,' such as offering sex or race-based employee resource groups and considering sex and race in hiring, were exposing themselves to liability under state and federal law. 'This action to dismantle DEI in Texas helps fulfill the vision articulated by Martin Luther King, Jr. when he dreamed that his children would one day live in a nation where they were judged not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character,' Paxton said in a statement. 'It's imperative that all private-sector employers, schools and state and local government entities — based on this legal opinion — immediately abolish any DEI, affirmative action, or unconstitutional discrimination programs under their authority,' Paxton added. 'We must return to the basic principles of equal opportunity for all.'" [KERA News, [1/20/26](#)]

Paxton Asserted That Dismantling DEI Fulfilled The Vision Of Martin Luther King Jr. — A Claim King's Own Son Has Rejected. "This action to dismantle DEI in Texas helps fulfill the vision articulated by Martin Luther King, Jr. when he dreamed that his children would one day live in a nation where they

were judged not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character,' Paxton said in a statement. [...] In 2021, Martin Luther King Jr.'s oldest son told The Texas Tribune that Texas Republicans were taking his father's words out of context to defend legislation the late civil rights icon likely would have opposed. His comments at the time were about new limits on how racism and current events are taught in public schools. 'Yes, we should judge people by the content of the character and not the color of their skin — but that is when we have a true, just, humane society where there are no biases, where there is no racism, where there is no discrimination,' Martin Luther King III said in 2021. 'Unfortunately, all of these things still exist.'" [KERA News, [1/20/26](#)]

Guns And Firearm Regulation

Paxton Fought To Block ATF Background Check Requirements At Gun Shows

Paxton Fought To Block ATF Background Check Requirements At Gun Shows. "Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton is suing the Biden Administration to block new requirements for gun sales. The ATF recently expanded federal licensing rules and background checks to include some private sales of firearms. Paxton says the ATF is overstepping its authority." [Fox 4 News, [5/01/24](#)]

Paxton: "Come And Take It." "'My message to Joe Biden yesterday, today and forever is this: come and take it,' said the attorney general during a news conference Wednesday at the Frisco Gun Club." [Fox 4 News, [5/01/24](#)]

In April 2026, The Trump Department Of Justice Dropped Its Defense Of The Biden-Era Rule.

"Attorney General Ken Paxton is touting a major win for gun owners after the Trump Department of Justice backed off defending a Biden-era rule that targeted private firearm sales. The move leaves in place a court injunction that blocks enforcement of the regulation in Texas and other plaintiff states while litigation continues. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives' 'engaged in the business' rule—pushed under the Biden administration—sought to dramatically expand who counts as a 'dealer' under federal law. By redefining the term, the rule would have forced many ordinary gun owners who occasionally sell firearms to obtain a federal license and run background checks or risk civil and criminal penalties." [Texas Scorecard, [4/24/26](#)]

Paxton Sued To Block The ATF's Pistol Brace Rule

Paxton Sued To Block The ATF's Pistol Brace Rule. "Attorney General Ken Paxton filed a lawsuit against President Joe Biden on Thursday, claiming that an amended rule from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives violates Americans' Second Amendment rights. Paxton partnered with Gun Owners of America, a gun rights group, on the lawsuit, which found fault with how the federal firearm agency classifies guns with 'stabilizing braces.' Last month, the U.S. Department of Justice

finalized a rule that amended an ATF definition for firearms equipped with stabilizing braces, a rear attachment originally designed for veterans with disabilities. Under the new rule, firearms — including pistols — outfitted with the rearward attachment are classified as rifles or ‘short-barreled rifles,’ which are subject to stricter regulations than guns without these accessories.” [Texas Tribune, [2/09/23](#)]

Paxton: “This Is Yet Another Attempt By The Biden Administration To Create A Workaround To The U.S. Constitution And Expand Gun Registration In America.” “‘This is yet another attempt by the Biden administration to create a workaround to the U.S. Constitution and expand gun registration in America,’ Paxton said in a press release. ‘There is absolutely no legal basis for ATF’s haphazard decision to try to change the long-standing classification for stabilizing braces, force registration on Americans, and then throw them in jail for ten years if they don’t quickly comply.’” [Texas Tribune, [2/09/23](#)]

The Pistol Brace Rule Was Blocked By Federal Courts In 2023 And 2024. “A federal appeals court on Friday found that a U.S. regulation restricting ownership of gun accessories known as pistol braces, which was already blocked by another court, is likely illegal. A 2-1 panel of the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals found that a challenge to the rule by 25 Republican state attorneys general and others was likely to succeed because the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) had not clearly explained what products would be covered by the rule, making it arbitrary and capricious. The decision comes about a year after the 5th Circuit reached the same conclusion in another case by gun rights groups challenging the rule. Following that ruling, U.S. District Judge Reed O'Connor in Fort Worth, Texas, vacated the rule.” [Reuters, [8/09/24](#)]

After The Texas State Fair Banned Firearms Following A Shooting At The 2023 Fair, Paxton Sued To Overturn The Rule—And Lost At Every Level

Following A Shooting At The 2023 Fair, The Texas State Fair Banned Firearms. “A Dallas County district judge dismissed state Attorney General Ken Paxton’s suit against the State Fair of Texas and the City of Dallas, for gun restrictions that were enacted following a 2023 shooting that injured three people at the fairgrounds. [...] ‘Last year the State Fair adopted a comparable policy to that of most all similar events in Texas, such as athletic competitions, concerts, and other fairs and festivals throughout the state. The State Fair of Texas spends millions of dollars each year on safety and security measures,’ Condoianis said.” [Texas Tribune, [6/30/25](#)]

Paxton Sued The Fair And The City Of Dallas, Which Hosts The Fair, To Overturn The Rule. “The state and its third biggest city are set to square off in court over a ban on guns at Texas’ most celebrated tribute to itself — the State Fair. Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton announced on Thursday that he is suing the city of Dallas and state fair officials for its new policy of banning all firearms from the fairgrounds.” [Texas Tribune, [8/29/24](#)]

Paxton's Lawsuit Was Rejected By The District Court, An Appeals Court, And The Texas Supreme Court. “A Dallas County district judge dismissed state Attorney General Ken Paxton’s suit against the State Fair of Texas and the City of Dallas, for gun restrictions that were enacted following a 2023 shooting that injured three people at the fairgrounds. [...] An appeals court and the Supreme Court of Texas had also denied Paxton’s appeal to stop the gun restrictions from going into effect. The fair previously allowed attendees with valid handgun licenses to carry their weapon as long as it was concealed.” [Texas Tribune, [6/30/25](#)]

Environment And Energy

Paxton Led A 28-State Effort To Strike Down President Obama's Clean Power Plan

September 2016: Paxton Led A 28-State Effort To Strike Down President Obama's Clean Power Plan. “Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on Monday accused the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency of trying to ‘force Texas to change how we regulate energy production,’ through what he called an ‘unprecedented expansion of federal authority.’ ‘What we need is more reliable energy — not less, and the EPA is trying to stop that,’ the Republican said while appearing on a panel in Washington, D.C. Paxton specifically targeted the Clean Power Plan, President Obama’s state-by-state effort to fight climate change by shifting away from coal power to cleaner-burning natural gas and renewable resources. His appearance on the panel, organized by the conservative Texas Public Policy Foundation, came one day before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia is to hear four hours of oral arguments over the carbon dioxide-cutting rule. Those watching the litigation say the outcome could make or break Obama’s legacy on climate change.” [Texas Tribune, [9/25/16](#)]

The Clean Power Plan Would Have Forced States To Cut Carbon Dioxide Emissions From Power Plants. “The regulations would force states to slash carbon dioxide emissions from power plants however they see fit — accelerating a shift from coal that started years ago. Carbon dioxide is a potent greenhouse gas that directly contributes to climate change.” [Texas Tribune, [9/25/16](#)]

Texas At The Time Was By Far The Nation’s Largest Emitter Of Carbon Dioxide, But Many State Leaders Did Not Acknowledge That Climate Change Even Exists. “For Texas — the nation’s biggest carbon dioxide emitter by far — that would mean cutting an annual average of 51 million tons of emissions, down about 21 percent from 2012 levels. [...] That ruling let Texas leaders off the hook in having to take any action to help address human-driven climate change — the warming phenomenon that many state leaders do not acknowledge exists, despite overwhelming scientific evidence.” [Texas Tribune, [9/25/16](#)]

Paxton Applauded When President Trump Curtailed The Plan In 2017. “Texas Republicans and fossil fuel champions cheered an executive order signed by President Trump on Tuesday aimed at curtailing

several major Obama-era climate regulations, calling it a major win for utility ratepayers and the state economy. [...] ‘President Trump’s executive order is a significant step toward sparing all of us from a potentially disastrous change to the nation’s energy policy that was orchestrated during the Obama era in violation of federal law,’ Paxton said in a statement Tuesday. ‘The so-called Clean Power Plan would have subjected Americans to higher electricity costs and could have weakened the nation’s power grid.’” [San Antonio Report, [3/29/17](#)]

Paxton Sued The Biden Administration To Block Implementation Of A Tax On Methane Emissions Created By The Inflation Reduction Act

In January 2025, Paxton Sued The Biden Administration To Block Implementation Of A Tax On Methane Emissions Created By The Inflation Reduction Act. “Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, joined by a 22-state coalition, filed a lawsuit Thursday against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to block the implementation of a methane emissions tax created under the Inflation Reduction Act. The lawsuit, filed in the final days of President Biden’s administration, argues that the EPA rule — which imposes a monetary penalty on certain oil and gas facilities that exceed methane emission limits — is unlawful and exceeds the federal agency’s authority.” [Texas Tribune, [1/16/25](#)]

MAGA Record

The 2020 Election Lawsuit

In December 2020, Paxton Filed Texas V. Pennsylvania, Asking The Supreme Court To Block Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania, And Wisconsin From Casting Their Electoral College Votes For Biden

In December 2020, Paxton Filed Texas V. Pennsylvania, Asking The Supreme Court Of The United States To Block Four Battleground States — Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania, And Wisconsin — From Casting Their Electoral College Votes For Biden. “Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton is suing four battleground states — Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin — whose election results handed the White House to President-elect Joe Biden. In the suit, he claims that pandemic-era changes to election procedures in those states violated federal law and asks the U.S. Supreme Court to block the states from voting in the Electoral College. The last-minute bid, which legal experts have already characterized as a long shot, comes alongside dozens of similar attempts by President Donald Trump and his political allies. The majority of those lawsuits have already failed. There is no evidence of widespread fraud in the 2020 election, officials in most states and U.S. Attorney General Bill Barr have said. Biden won in all four states where Paxton is challenging the results.” [Texas Tribune, [12/08/20](#)]

Biden Won All Four States Paxton Sued, And Officials Across The Country — Including Trump's Own Attorney General — Found No Evidence Of Widespread Fraud. “There is no evidence of widespread fraud in the 2020 election, officials in most states and U.S. Attorney General Bill Barr have said. Biden won in all four states where Paxton is challenging the results.” [Texas Tribune, [12/08/20](#)]

Paxton Said The Four States Had “Destroyed That Trust And Compromised The Security And Integrity Of The 2020 Election.” “Trust in the integrity of our election processes is sacrosanct and binds our citizenry and the States in this Union together. Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin destroyed that trust and compromised the security and integrity of the 2020 election. The states violated statutes enacted by their duly elected legislatures, thereby violating the Constitution.” [CBS News, [12/08/20](#)]

Paxton Said The States “Not Only Tainted The Integrity Of Their Own Citizens’ Vote, But Of Texas And Every Other State.” “By ignoring both state and federal law, these states have not only tainted the integrity of their own citizens' vote, but of Texas and every other state that held lawful elections.” [CBS News, [12/08/20](#)]

Trump’s Own Attorney General, Bill Barr, Had Already Stated That The Department Of Justice Had No Evidence Of Widespread Voter Fraud That Could Have Had An Impact On Election Results

Trump’s Own Attorney General, Bill Barr, Had Already Stated That The Department Of Justice Had No Evidence Of Widespread Voter Fraud That Could Have Had An Impact On Election Results.

“Attorney General William Barr said Tuesday the Justice Department has not uncovered evidence of widespread voter fraud that would change the outcome of the 2020 presidential election. His comments come despite President Trump's repeated claims that the election was stolen, and his refusal to concede his loss to President-elect Joe Biden. In an interview with The Associated Press, Barr said U.S. attorneys and FBI agents have been working to follow up on specific complaints and information they've received, but they've uncovered no evidence that would change the outcome of the election. ‘To date, we have not seen fraud on a scale that could have affected a different outcome in the election,’ Barr told the AP.” [CBS News, [12/01/20](#)]

The Supreme Court Dismissed Paxton’s Lawsuit In Just Three Days, Noting That Texas Had Not “Demonstrated A Judicially Cognizable Interest In The Manner In Which Another State Conducts Its Elections”

The Supreme Court Dismissed Paxton’s Lawsuit In Just Three Days, Noting That Texas Had Not “Demonstrated A Judicially Cognizable Interest In The Manner In Which Another State Conducts Its Elections.” “Briskly rejecting a long-shot but high-stakes case, the U.S. Supreme Court on Friday tossed out the Texas lawsuit that had become a vehicle for Republicans across the country to contest President-elect Joe Biden’s victory. In a few brief sentences, the high court said it would not consider the

case for procedural reasons, because Texas lacked standing to bring it. ‘Texas has not demonstrated a judicially cognizable interest in the manner in which another State conducts its elections,’ the court wrote in an unsigned ruling Friday evening.” [Texas Tribune, [12/11/20](#)]

The State Bar Of Texas Sued To Have Paxton Sanctioned For Knowingly Filing Baseless Lawsuits Against Other States

The State Bar Of Texas Sued To Have Paxton Sanctioned For Knowingly Filing Baseless Lawsuits Against Other States. “The state bar had sought to sanction Paxton, which could have carried a punishment ranging from a private reprimand to disbarment. Lawyers from the bar — which regulates law licenses in Texas — have argued that Paxton, in falsely claiming to have uncovered major evidence of election wrongdoing, forced the battleground states ‘to expend time, money, and resources to respond to the misrepresentations and false statements.’” [Texas Tribune, [1/23/25](#)]

The Complaint, And A Similar One Against One Of Paxton's Top Deputies, Were Dismissed On Separation-Of-Powers Grounds. “In its decision to dismiss the lawsuit against Webster last month, the Texas Supreme Court upheld an earlier ruling by a Williamson County district judge who said that taking Webster’s law license would violate the Texas Constitution’s separation-of-powers doctrine. In their motion to drop Paxton’s case, state bar lawyers acknowledged that their lawsuit against the attorney general “raises identical separation of powers issues” as those at issue in Webster’s case.” [Texas Tribune, [1/23/25](#)]

Paxton Never Accepted The Results Of The 2020 Presidential Election

Paxton Never Accepted The Results Of The 2020 Presidential Election. “Nearly two years after the 2020 elections, Paxton still has not said whether he accepts the results of that presidential election, a question posed to his office in The Texas Tribune’s request for comment. His three opponents in the GOP primary earlier this year were asked that question in a debate, but Paxton skipped the event (two of those candidates, Eva Guzman and George P. Bush, said Biden had won the presidency, while U.S. Rep. Louie Gohmert said he did not know). [...] As recently as May 2022, the head of Paxton’s election integrity unit in the attorney general’s office was continuing to push the idea that the election had been stolen by screening a debunked film called ‘2000 Mules,’ which falsely claims there was significant voter fraud during the 2020 presidential election.” [Texas Tribune, [10/19/22](#)]

The January 6th Rally

Paxton Spoke At The January 6th Rally In Washington, D.C., Which Devolved Into The Insurrection At The Capitol, Telling The Crowd “We Will Not Quit Fighting”

Paxton Spoke At The January 6th Rally In Washington, D.C., Which Devolved Into The Insurrection At The Capitol, Telling The Crowd “We Will Not Quit Fighting.” “On Jan. 6, Paxton spoke at the pro-Trump rally in Washington. Appearing with his wife, state Sen. Angela Paxton, R-McKinney, the attorney general touted his unsuccessful legal effort to overturn the presidential election. ‘What we have in President Trump is a fighter,’ Paxton told the crowd of Trump supporters. ‘And I think that’s why we’re all here. We will not quit fighting. We’re Texans, we’re Americans, and the fight will go on.’ Members of the crowd, stirred up by false claims of voter fraud, later stormed the Capitol, fought with riot police and threatened lawmakers.” [Texas Tribune, [3/25/21](#)]

Paxton Cut Short A Vacation In Jamaica To Attend The Rally In Washington DC. “REQUEST 1): Attorney General Ken Paxton said he urgently needs to meet with President Trump. AG Paxton was on vacation in Jamaica and cut it short to fly back to DC support and speak at the rally on the 6th . In his speech he plans to highlight the case that he brought on behalf of Texas to the Supreme Court. He arrives in DC at 6:00PM on Tuesday, January 5th and could meet that evening or anytime on January 6th or 7th.” [U.S. House January 6 Select Committee documents, GovInfo.gov, [1/04/21](#)]

After The Attack, Paxton Falsely Blamed “Antifa” Infiltrators For The Riot, And Was The Only State Attorney General Who Refused To Sign Bipartisan Letters Condemning It

After The Attack, Paxton Falsely Blamed “Antifa” Infiltrators For The Riot. “But by the evening — after members of the crowd he had invited to Washington, D.C., stirred up with false claims about election fraud, resorted to violence, smashing windows and scaling walls to breach the nation’s Capitol in a mob that forced members of Congress to flee and left at least one woman dead — he had claimed they were not his ilk at all. ‘These are not Trump supporters,’ he falsely claimed on Twitter and Facebook, citing incorrect reports that the pro-Trump mob that invaded the Capitol had been infiltrated by liberal antifa activists, members of a loose anti-facist movement that opposes actions seen as ‘authoritarian, homophobic, racist or xenophobic.’ [...] When asked by The Texas Tribune what evidence Paxton had that antifa protesters had attacked the U.S. Capitol while posing as Trump supporters, a spokesman for Paxton said he was merely sharing a tweet from a journalist. The person whose claims he promoted was Paul Sperry, a former reporter for the right-wing website WorldNetDaily, who ‘has a long record of promoting anti-Muslim conspiracy theories,’ according to research from Georgetown University.” [Texas Tribune, [1/07/21](#)]

Paxton Was The Only State Attorney General Who Did Not Sign Either Of Two Bipartisan Letters From The National Association Of Attorneys General Condemning The Attack On The Capitol.

“Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton is the only state attorney general in the United States who did not sign on to either of two letters sent this week condemning the violent insurrection of the U.S. Capitol mounted last week by supporters of President Donald Trump. Paxton has individually condemned the violence on television and social media while falsely claiming the pro-Trump mob that invaded the Capitol was infiltrated by liberal antifa activists. There has been no evidence that antifa activists

participated in the Jan. 6 attack that left five people dead and was intended to disrupt the certification of the presidential election results. Attorneys general from 46 states - in addition to those representing Washington D.C. and three U.S. territories - signed a letter Tuesday sent to Acting U.S. Attorney General Jeffrey A. Rosen condemning the attack. Only Paxton and the Republican attorneys general from Louisiana, Indiana and Montana did not sign the letter. [...] By Wednesday, those three holdouts sent Rosen their own letter, which Paxton also did not sign." [Texas Tribune, [1/13/21](#)]

Paxton And His Office Refused To Release His January 6th Communication Records In Defiance Of State Open Records Law

Paxton And His Office Refused To Release His January 6th Communication Records, Despite A Travis County District Attorney Finding That The Refusal Violated State Open Records Law.

"Attorney General Ken Paxton said the Travis County district attorney's determination that Paxton violated open records laws by withholding information related to his trip to Washington, D.C., on the day of the Capitol insurrection was 'meritless' and that his office had fulfilled its obligation under the law. Last week, the district attorney's office gave Paxton four business days to turn over communications requested by the state's leading newspapers relating to his trip or face a lawsuit. On Friday, Austin Kinghorn, a lawyer for the attorney general's office, dismissed the district attorney's findings, saying that office had provided no provisions under the state's open records law that had been violated and implied that the newspapers had made the requests to publish stories about them. [...] The Texas Public Information Act grants the public the right to government records, even those kept on personal devices or on a public official's online accounts." [Texas Tribune, [1/21/22](#)]

Alliance With Trump

Paxton Co-Chaired "Lawyers For Trump" In 2020

Paxton Co-Chaired "Lawyers For Trump" In 2020. "Republican Attorney General Ken Paxton, known nationally for his legal efforts to roll back policies enacted by President Barack Obama, was named one of four co-chairs of the new Lawyers for Trump coalition. The Trump campaign, in announcing the creation of the group, said its goal would be to 'mobilize support for President Trump and secure four more years of strong leadership.' Paxton, who last year served as the chair of the Republican Attorneys General Association, joins co-chairs Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge, California National Committeewoman of the Republican National Committee Harmeet Dhillons and former Deputy White House Counsel Stefan Passantino." [Houston Chronicle, [7/23/20](#)]

Paxton Supported Trump At His 2024 Criminal Trial In New York

Paxton Supported Trump At His 2024 Criminal Trial In New York. “Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton walked into the courtroom behind Donald Trump. Paxton is sitting in the front of the gallery, a few seats down from Eric Trump.” [Politico, [4/30/24](#)]

Paxton Called The Prosecution Of Trump A “Sham Of A Trial” And A “Travesty Of Justice.” “Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton attended former President Donald Trump's hush-money trial Tuesday in New York in a show of support for his longtime ally. ‘With President Trump in NYC to sit through this sham of a trial,’ Paxton, a three-term Republican, said in post on his personal X, formerly Twitter, account. ‘This trial is a travesty of justice. I stand with Trump.’” [Austin American-Statesman, [4/30/24](#)]

Paxton Led An Amicus Brief Defending Trump And Attacking The FBI's Court-Authorized Search Of Mar-A-Lago For Classified Documents

Paxton Led An Amicus Brief Defending Trump And Attacking The FBI's Court-Authorized Search Of Mar-A-Lago For Classified Documents. “Texas's Ken Paxton and 10 other GOP state attorneys general came to the defense of former president Donald Trump on Tuesday in his legal fight over documents the FBI seized last month, filing an amicus brief in a federal appellate court that argued the Biden administration could not be trusted. In a 21-page document that repeated numerous right-wing talking points but that experts said broke little new legal ground, the officials accused the Biden administration of ‘ransacking’ Mar-a-Lago, the Florida home of the former president, during an Aug. 8 court-authorized FBI raid and of politicizing the Justice Department. [...] The amicus brief urges the appellate court to deny the appeal. ‘Given Biden’s track record, combined with his rhetoric demonizing anyone he disagrees with, the courts must be on high alert to the ways in which [the Justice Department] may abuse its power to punish President Donald Trump,’ Paxton, whose office led the effort, said in a statement Tuesday.” [Washington Post, [9/21/22](#)]

Trump Endorsed Paxton's 2022 Reelection And Later Claimed To Have Personally “Saved” Paxton From Conviction In His Impeachment By The Texas Legislature

Trump Endorsed Paxton's 2022 Reelection. “Former President Donald Trump has backed Attorney General Ken Paxton for reelection, passing over primary challenger George P. Bush in bestowing the highly sought-after endorsement. ‘It is going to take a PATRIOT like Ken Paxton to advance America First policies in order to Make America Great Again,’ Trump said in a statement Monday evening. “Ken has my Complete and Total Endorsement for another term as Attorney General of Texas. He is a true Texan who will keep Texas safe—and will never let you down!” [Texas Tribune, [7/26/21](#)]

Trump Later Claimed His Own Intervention “Saved” Paxton From Conviction In His Texas Senate Impeachment Trial. “Former President Donald Trump is claiming credit for Attorney General Ken Paxton’s acquittal. Posting on his Truth Social platform Monday, Trump claimed that his sporadic defenses on social media for his long-time ally helped sway the course of Paxton’s impeachment trial.

'Yes, it is true that my intervention through TRUTH SOCIAL saved Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton from going down at the hands of Democrats and some Republicans, headed by PAUL RINO (Ryan), Karl Rove, and others, almost all of whom came back to reason when confronted with the facts,' Trump said, naming checking former U.S. House Speaker Paul Ryan and former White House Chief of Staff Karl Rove. Neither Republican had a formal role in the impeachment process, though Rove penned a Wall Street Journal op-ed prophesying Paxton's demise." [Texas Tribune, [9/18/23](#)]

In 2026, Trump Ally Steve Bannon Called Paxton "More Than Just An Attorney General That's Been MAGA. He Is A Symbol Of The Heart Of The Grassroots MAGA Movement"

In 2026, Trump Ally Steve Bannon Called Paxton "More Than Just An Attorney General That's Been MAGA. He Is A Symbol Of The Heart Of The Grassroots MAGA Movement." "'Ken Paxton is more than just an attorney general that's been MAGA. He is a symbol of the heart of the grassroots MAGA movement,' said Steve Bannon, the former senior adviser to Trump and War Room host who has been broadcasting his popular show from a rented ranch in North Texas in the days leading up to the election. 'He's resilient because folks here know he has fought the good fight for years and years and years,' Bannon said. 'He has resilience because people know where his heart is, and he's a fighter.'" [Politico, [3/03/26](#)]

Election Law

Over The Objection Of Texas's Republican-Run Secretary Of State, Paxton Issued A Legal Opinion Letting Anyone Request Access To Ballots The Day After An Election — A Reversal Of Decades Of Ballot-Security Practice That Election Officials Warned Would Break The Chain Of Custody And Fuel Baseless Challenges

Paxton Issued A Legal Opinion Reversing Decades Of Ballot Security Practice — One A Former Trump Election-Security Official Warned Would "Break... That Chain Of Custody." "A legal opinion released by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton last week will almost certainly throw county elections offices into chaos after November, experts say, exposing election clerks to possible criminal charges and materially reducing the security of every ballot cast in the state. Federal and state law require that ballots be kept secure for 22 months after an election to allow for recounts and challenges — a time frame Texas counties have had set in place for decades. Paxton's opinion, which doesn't stem from any change to state law, theoretically permits anyone — an aggrieved voter, activist or out-of-state entity — to request access to ballots as soon as the day after they are counted. Such requests have been used by activists all over the country as a way to 'audit' election results." [Texas Tribune, [8/24/22](#)]

Paxton's Non-Binding Opinion Opened The Door For Private Citizens To Request Access To Official Ballots As Soon As The Day After They Are Counted — Access Experts Said Activists Could Use To

Baselessly Challenge Results. “The opinion from Paxton doesn’t carry the force of law, but experts say it will almost certainly serve as the basis for a lawsuit by right-wing activists. The opinion has already impacted elections administrators across the state, who told Votebeat that they’ve seen an onslaught of requests since Paxton released it.” [Texas Tribune, [8/24/22](#)]

The Texas Secretary Of State’s Office Advised Paxton “In No Uncertain Terms” That The Attorney General Should Not Change The Ballot Access Waiting Period. “Paxton’s office sought input from the secretary of state’s office prior to issuing the decision, which was requested by state Sen. Kelly Hancock and state Rep. Matt Krause, both Republicans. In no uncertain terms, the secretary of state’s office — which is run by a Republican appointed by Gov. Greg Abbott — recommended keeping the current waiting period.” [Texas Tribune, [8/24/22](#)]

The Secretary Of State’s General Counsel Warned Paxton That His Opinion Threatened The Integrity Of Elections By Inserting Uncertainty Into The Validity Of Ballots That Would Be Removed From Locked Storage. “‘The voted ballots are the core of the election process and the prohibition on disturbing the ballots (except in limited circumstances as permitted by the Election Code) preserves the integrity of the election itself,’ wrote Adam Bitter, general counsel for the office, in a letter obtained by Votebeat through a public records request. ‘Handling of the voted ballots themselves opens up the possibility of accidental or intentional damage or misplacement that could call into question the election after the fact.’” [Texas Tribune, [8/24/22](#)]

Former Top Trump Election-Security Official Matthew Masterson Warned Paxton’s Move Would “Break That Chain Of Custody” So Badly That “You Would Not Be Able To Prove That This Was The Ballot A Given Voter Cast.” “Matthew Masterson, who previously served as the Trump administration’s top election security official and now is Microsoft’s director of information integrity, said that Paxton’s opinion will make it impossible for elections administrators to appropriately ensure that ballots are kept secure. The security controls exist for a good reason, he said, and undermining them has serious implications. ‘If you open up the floodgates and give anyone access to the ballots throughout that process, you have broken that chain of custody to the point where you would not be able to prove that this was the ballot a given voter cast,’ Masterson said.” [Texas Tribune, [8/24/22](#)]

Williamson County Elections Director Chris Davis: “I Don’t Know If The Drafters Of This Opinion Have A Firm Grasp On How Ballot Security And Ballot Processing Is Done At The County Level.” “The opinion itself provides little guidance as to how long or for what reasons elections administrators can block access to such ballots, leaving administrators across the state concerned about their ability to appropriately comply. ‘If I read this literally as a layman, I think I’m required to provide ballots the day after an election before the results have even been canvassed,’ said Chris Davis, elections director in Williamson County. He said such a release would make it impossible for counties to confidently conduct recounts that would stand up to legal scrutiny. ‘I don’t know if the drafters of this opinion have a firm

grasp on how ballot security and ballot processing is done at the county level,' he said." [Texas Tribune, [8/24/22](#)]

Campaign Finance

U.S. Senate Campaign Overview

2026 Cycle

Total Receipts: \$7,007,950.84

Total Individual Contributions: \$6,984,396.40
Other Committee Contributions: \$22,000.00
Transfers From Other Authorized Committees: \$0.00
Offsets To Operating Expenditures: \$1,554.44
Other Receipts: \$0.00

Total Disbursements: \$4,861,414.33

Operating Expenditures: \$4,799,185.62
Transfers To Other Authorized Committees: \$0.00
Total Contribution Refunds: \$62,228.71
Other Disbursements: \$0.00

Cash On Hand (3/31/26): \$2,146,536.51

[FEC, Warren Kenneth Paxton Jr. Financial Summary, accessed [5/13/26](#)]

Out-Of-State Contributions

In The 2026 Election Cycle, Paxton Received Approximately 14% Of His Contributions From Out-Of-State Donors

2025-2026: Paxton Received 14% Of His Contributions From Out-Of-State Donors. According to OpenSecrets, Paxton received 14.43% (\$753,405) of his contributions from out-of-state donors from 2025-2026. [OpenSecrets, accessed [5/13/26](#)]

Top Donors And Industries

Top Donors

OpenSecrets: Ken Paxton's Top Donors 2025-2026			
Contributor	Total	Individuals	PACs
Ryan LLC	\$228,500	\$228,500	\$0
Pace-O-Matic Inc	\$42,000	\$42,000	\$0
Manrique Custom Vision	\$28,000	\$28,000	\$0
Bobby Cox Companies	\$28,000	\$28,000	\$0
Lott Companies	\$21,000	\$21,000	\$0
Glasheen, Valles & Inderman	\$21,000	\$21,000	\$0
Discovery Operating	\$21,000	\$21,000	\$0
JAT Capital Partners	\$21,000	\$21,000	\$0
Wan Bridge	\$21,000	\$21,000	\$0
Ryan	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$0
Barrington Service Corp	\$16,500	\$16,500	\$0
Deason Capital Services	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$0
Double Diamond Inc	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$0
Fairly Group	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$0
Thisway Global	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$0
SG Interests	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$0
Keith & Lorfing	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$0
Worldwide Express	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$0
Arm Energy LLC	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$0
Loewy Law Firm	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$0

[OpenSecrets, Ken Paxton Top Contributors, accessed [5/13/26](#)]

Top Industries/Sectors

OpenSecrets: Ken Paxton's Top Industries 2025-2026

Industry	Total	Individuals	PACs
Retired	\$990,196	\$990,196	\$0
Tax return services	\$228,500	\$228,500	\$0
Investors	\$128,507	\$128,507	\$0
Business services	\$94,742	\$94,742	\$0
Real estate	\$76,704	\$76,704	\$0
Real Estate developers & subdividers	\$72,310	\$72,310	\$0
Independent oil & gas producers	\$69,908	\$69,908	\$0
Attorneys & law firms	\$68,155	\$68,155	\$0
Private Equity & Investment Firms	\$56,000	\$56,000	\$0
Oil & Gas	\$53,022	\$53,022	\$0
Trial lawyers & law firms	\$52,500	\$52,500	\$0
Energy production & distribution	\$49,082	\$49,082	\$0
Commercial banks & bank holding companies	\$47,729	\$47,729	\$0
Casinos, racetracks & gambling	\$42,000	\$42,000	\$0
Insurance companies, brokers & agents	\$41,562	\$41,562	\$0
Real estate agents	\$40,312	\$40,312	\$0

Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	\$38,521	\$38,521	\$0
Health, Education & Human Resources	\$38,500	\$38,500	\$0
Optometrists & Ophthalmologists	\$37,012	\$37,012	\$0
Public works, industrial & commercial construction	\$35,360	\$35,360	\$0

[OpenSecrets, Ken Paxton Top Industries, accessed [5/13/26](#)]

OpenSecrets: Ken Paxton's Top Sectors 2025-2026			
Sector	Total	Individuals	PACs
Other	\$1,049,209	\$1,049,209	\$0
Finance/Insur/RealEst	\$845,832	\$845,832	\$0
Misc Business	\$269,689	\$269,689	\$0
Energy/Nat Resource	\$207,894	\$207,894	\$0
Health	\$187,292	\$177,292	\$10,000
Lawyers & Lobbyists	\$153,099	\$153,099	\$0
Construction	\$112,662	\$112,662	\$0
Transportation	\$106,866	\$105,366	\$1,500
Agribusiness	\$62,194	\$62,194	\$0
Communic/Electronics	\$57,283	\$57,283	\$0
Ideology/Single-Issue	\$15,450	\$10,450	\$5,000
Defense	\$5,375	\$5,375	\$0

[OpenSecrets, Ken Paxton Top Industries, accessed [5/13/26](#)]

Alleged Improper Use Of Campaign Footage

Paxton's Senate Campaign Announcement Video Reused Footage From His State Attorney General Campaign — Which, Critics Allege, Could Be An Illegal Transfer Of Assets From A State Campaign To A Federal One

Paxton's Senate Campaign Announcement Video Reused Footage From His State Attorney General Campaign — Which, Critics Allege, Could Be An Illegal Transfer Of Assets From A State Campaign To A Federal One. “Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton (R) is facing allegations of violating federal campaign finance law after his U.S. Senate campaign allegedly reused video footage originally paid for by his state-level campaign. The claim comes from an anonymous source, who argues that Attorney General Paxton’s Senate advertisement, Ken Paxton: The Conservative They Couldn't Cancel, repurposes b-roll video footage that was purchased with funds from his Texas Attorney General campaign. If true, this constitutes an illegal transfer of campaign assets under federal law. According to the Federal Election Commission (FEC), federal candidates are prohibited from using assets funded by a nonfederal campaign committee unless the federal campaign pays the full cost. The rule exists to prevent federal campaigns from exploiting state-level committees, which often operate under looser contribution limits. Texas, for example, imposes no contribution limits on state campaigns.” [Texas Politics, [5/08/25](#)]

Public Financial Disclosures

Paxton’s Personal Financial Disclosures

- [2025 Candidate Report](#)
- [2025 Candidate Report \(Amendment 1\)](#)

Paxton’s Federal Personal Financial Disclosures

Paxton Reported A Net Worth Between –\$1,875,958 And \$11,149,998

Paxton Reported A Net Worth Between –\$1,875,958 And \$11,149,998. According to Paxton’s 2025 candidate financial disclosure, he had a net worth of between –\$1,875,958 and \$11,149,998. [2025 Candidate Report (Amendment 1), filed [11/24/2025](#)]

Paxton Disclosed Earned Income Of At Least \$213,406

Paxton Disclosed Earned Income Of At Least \$213,406.

Paxton Candidate Annual Personal Financial Disclosure Earned Income				
Who Was	Type	Who Paid	Amount Paid	Income Preceding Year

Paid				
Self	Salary	The State of Texas Austin, TX	\$211,406.00	n/a
Spouse	Salary	State of Texas Austin, TX	> \$1,000	n/a
Spouse	Salary	Tamka LLC McKinney, TX	> \$1,000	n/a
Total:			>\$213,406.00	n/a

[2025 Candidate Report (Amendment 1), filed [11/24/2025](#)]

Paxton Disclosed Assets Valued Between \$4,374,042 And \$12,715,005, And “Unearned” Income Between \$106,204 And \$1,027,746

Paxton Disclosed Assets Valued Between \$4,374,042 And \$12,715,005, And “Unearned” Income Between \$106,204 And \$1,027,746.

Paxton Candidate Personal Financial Disclosure Assets And “Unearned” Income					
Asset	Asset Type	Owner	Value	Income Type	Income
Texas Blind Trust	Trust Excepted	Joint	Unascertainable	Excepted Trust	None (or less than \$201)
Texas Blind Trust	Trust General Trust	Joint	--		
Asset of Texas Blind Trust <i>Description:</i> Residential Property 523 (Austin, TX)	Real Estate Residential	Joint	\$100,001 - \$250,000	None	None (or less than \$201)
Asset of Texas Blind Trust <i>Description:</i> Residential	Real Estate Residential	Joint	\$250,001 - \$500,000	None	None (or less than \$201)

Property 615 (College Station, TX)					
Asset of Texas Blind Trust <i>Description:</i> Residential Property 833 (Austin, TX)	Real Estate Residential	Joint	\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	None	None (or less than \$201)
Asset of Texas Blind Trust <i>Description:</i> Residential Property 180 (Ocala, FL)	Real Estate Residential	Joint	\$100,001 - \$250,000	None	None (or less than \$201)
Asset of Texas Blind Trust <i>Description:</i> Residential Property 218 (Broken Bow, OK)	Real Estate Residential	Joint	\$100,001 - \$250,000	None	None (or less than \$201)
Asset of Texas Blind Trust <i>Description:</i> Residential Property 142 (Ocala, FL)	Real Estate Residential	Joint	\$100,001 - \$250,000	None	None (or less than \$201)
Asset of Texas Blind Trust <i>Description:</i> Undeveloped Land (Brazos, TX)	Real Estate Unimproved Land	Joint	\$15,001 - \$50,000	None	None (or less than \$201)
Bank of the Ozarks (Little Rock, AR) <i>Type:</i> Checking	Bank Deposit	Joint	\$1,001 - \$15,000	None	None (or less than \$201)
American National Bank of Texas (Terrell, TX) <i>Type:</i> Checking	Bank Deposit	Joint	None (or less than \$1,001)	None	None (or less than \$201)

W. Kenneth Paxton Jr PLLC <i>Company:</i> W. Kenneth Paxton Jr PLLC (McKinney, TX) <i>Description:</i> Law Practice <i>Filer comment:</i> Professional Limited Liability Company	Business Entity Limited Liability Company (LLC)	Self	None (or less than \$1,001)	None	None (or less than \$201)
RSKA Holdings LLC <i>Company:</i> RSKA Holdings LLC (McKinney, TX) <i>Description:</i> Holding Company	Business Entity Limited Liability Company (LLC)	Self	--		
1% Interest Premier Vertical Properties <i>Company:</i> Premier Vertical Properties LP (McKinney, TX) <i>Description:</i> Holding company	Business Entity Limited Liability Company (LLC)	Self	--		
1% Cell Tower Income Premier Vertical Properties <i>Description:</i> 1% Cell Tower Income Premier Vertical Properties	Personal Property Other Property	Self	\$1,001 - \$15,000	Rent/Royalties	\$5,001 - \$15,000
Tamka LLC <i>Company:</i> Tamka LLC (McKinney, TX) <i>Description:</i> Leadership Consulting	Business Entity Limited Liability Company (LLC)	Spouse	--		
American National	Bank	Spouse	\$1,001 -	None	None (or less

Bank of Texas (Terrell, TX) <i>Type: Checking</i>	Deposit		\$15,000		than \$201)
Premier Vertical Properties LP <i>Company: Premier Vertical Properties LP (McKinney, TX)</i> <i>Description: Investments in passive income assets</i>	Business Entity Limited Partnership (LP)	Joint	--		
Cell Tower <i>Description: Cell Tower</i>	Personal Property Other Property	Joint	\$250,001 - \$500,000	Rent/Royalties	\$100,001 - \$1,000,000
American National Bank of Texas (Terrell, TX) <i>Type: Checking</i>	Bank Deposit	Joint	\$50,001 - \$100,000	None	None (or less than \$201)
BKV Energy <i>Description: Mineral Rights (Denver, CO)</i>	Real Estate Mineral Rights	Joint	Unascertainable	Rent/Royalties	\$1,001 - \$2,500
Oil & Gas Working Interests <i>Company: Victoria Energy Corp (Farmersville, TX)</i> <i>Description: Oil and Gas</i>	Corporate Securities Non-Public Stock	Joint	Unascertainable	Dividends	\$201 - \$1,000
GGBZX - Guidestone Funds Aggressive Allocation Fund - IN	Mutual Funds Mutual Fund	Spouse	\$100,001 - \$250,000	None	None (or less than \$201)
DFSCX - Dfa U.S. Micro Cap Portfolio	Mutual Funds	Spouse	\$1,001 - \$15,000	None	None (or less than \$201)

	Mutual Fund				
DFEVX - Dfa Emerging Markets Value Portfolio	Mutual Funds Mutual Fund	Spouse	\$1,001 - \$15,000	None	None (or less than \$201)
DFISX - Dfa International Small Company Portfolio	Mutual Funds Mutual Fund	Spouse	\$1,001 - \$15,000	None	None (or less than \$201)
DFIVX - Dfa International Value Portfolio	Mutual Funds Mutual Fund	Spouse	\$1,001 - \$15,000	None	None (or less than \$201)
DFSVX - Dfa U.S. Small Cap Value Portfolio	Mutual Funds Mutual Fund	Spouse	\$1,001 - \$15,000	None	None (or less than \$201)
DFLVX - Dfa U.S. Large Cap Value Portfolio [The]	Mutual Funds Mutual Fund	Spouse	\$1,001 - \$15,000	None	None (or less than \$201)
DFLVX - Dfa U.S. Large Cap Value Portfolio [The]	Mutual Funds Mutual Fund	Self	\$100,001 - \$250,000	None	None (or less than \$201)
DFREX - Dfa Real Estate Securities Portfolio	Mutual Funds Mutual Fund	Spouse	\$1,001 - \$15,000	None	None (or less than \$201)
DISVX - Dfa International	Mutual Funds	Spouse	\$1,001 - \$15,000	None	None (or less than \$201)

Small Cap Value Portfolio	Mutual Fund				
DFSCX - Dfa U.S. Micro Cap Portfolio	Mutual Funds Mutual Fund	Self	\$100,001 - \$250,000	None	None (or less than \$201)
DFEVX - Dfa Emerging Markets Value Portfolio	Mutual Funds Mutual Fund	Self	\$1,001 - \$15,000	None	None (or less than \$201)
DFISX - Dfa International Small Company Portfolio	Mutual Funds Mutual Fund	Self	\$50,001 - \$100,000	None	None (or less than \$201)
DFEMX - Dfa Emerging Markets Portfolio I	Mutual Funds Mutual Fund	Self	\$15,001 - \$50,000	None	None (or less than \$201)
DFSVX - Dfa U.S. Small Cap Value Portfolio	Mutual Funds Mutual Fund	Self	\$100,001 - \$250,000	None	None (or less than \$201)
DFREX - Dfa Real Estate Securities Portfolio	Mutual Funds Mutual Fund	Self	\$100,001 - \$250,000	None	None (or less than \$201)
DFIVX - Dfa International Value Portfolio	Mutual Funds Mutual Fund	Self	\$15,001 - \$50,000	None	None (or less than \$201)
DISVX - Dfa	Mutual	Self	\$1,001 -	None	None (or less

International Small Cap Value Portfolio	Funds Mutual Fund		\$15,000		than \$201)
DFUSX - Dfa US Large Company Portfolio	Mutual Funds Mutual Fund	Spouse	\$15,001 - \$50,000	None	None (or less than \$201)
DFEMX - Dfa Emerging Markets Portfolio I	Mutual Funds Mutual Fund	Spouse	\$1,001 - \$15,000	None	None (or less than \$201)
DFUSX - Dfa US Large Company Portfolio	Mutual Funds Mutual Fund	Self	\$250,001 - \$500,000	None	None (or less than \$201)
GEQZX - Guidestone Funds Equity Index Fund - Investor Cl	Mutual Funds Mutual Fund	Spouse	\$100,001 - \$250,000	None	None (or less than \$201)
GGEZX - Guidestone Funds Growth Equity Fund - Investor C	Mutual Funds Mutual Fund	Spouse	\$100,001 - \$250,000	None	None (or less than \$201)
GVEZX - Guidestone Funds Value Equity Fund - Investor Cl	Mutual Funds Mutual Fund	Spouse	\$100,001 - \$250,000	None	None (or less than \$201)
GSCZX - Guidestone Funds Small Cap Equity Fund - Investo	Mutual Funds Mutual Fund	Spouse	\$100,001 - \$250,000	None	None (or less than \$201)

VIIIIX - Vanguard Institutional Index Fund Institutional	Mutual Funds Mutual Fund	Self	\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	None	None (or less than \$201)
VPMCX - Vanguard Primecap Fund	Mutual Funds Mutual Fund	Joint	None (or less than \$1,001)	None	None (or less than \$201)
VPMCX - Vanguard Primecap Fund	Mutual Funds Mutual Fund	Self	\$100,001 - \$250,000	None	None (or less than \$201)
VPMCX - Vanguard Primecap Fund	Mutual Funds Mutual Fund	Self	None (or less than \$1,001)	None	None (or less than \$201)
VTSEX - Vanguard Total Stock Market Index Fd Admiral Shs	Mutual Funds Mutual Fund	Self	\$250,001 - \$500,000	None	None (or less than \$201)
VTSEX - Vanguard Total Stock Market Index Fd Admiral Shs	Mutual Funds Mutual Fund	Spouse	\$50,001 - \$100,000	None	None (or less than \$201)
VITAX - Vanguard Information Technology Index Fund Admir	Mutual Funds Mutual Fund	Self	\$250,001 - \$500,000	None	None (or less than \$201)
VMFXX - Vanguard Federal Money Market Fund	Mutual Funds Mutual Fund	Self	None (or less than \$1,001)	None	None (or less than \$201)

Total:	\$4,374,042 - \$12,715,005		\$106,204 - \$1,027,746
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[2025 Candidate Report (Amendment 1), filed [11/24/2025](#)]

Paxton Reported Liabilities Between \$1,565,007 And \$6,250,000

Paxton Reported Liabilities Between \$1,565,007 And \$6,250,000, All Of Which Were Mortgages On Properties In Texas And Other States.

Paxton Candidate Personal Financial Disclosure Liabilities						
Incurred	Debtor	Type	Points	Rate (Term)	Amount	Creditor
2015	Joint	Mortgage	None	3.25% (15)	\$50,001 - \$100,000	Mr. Cooper Mortgage Co Coppell, TX
2016	Joint	Mortgage	None	3.2% (15)	\$50,001 - \$100,000	PNC Bank Pittsburgh, PA
2018	Self	Mortgage	None	2.875% (15)	\$250,001 - \$500,000	Stifel Bank St. Louis, MO
2021	Self	Mortgage	None	2.875% (15)	\$100,001 - \$250,000	Stifel Bank St. Louis, MO
2022	Self	Mortgage	None	3.25% (30)	\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	Stifel Bank St. Louis, MO
2023	Self	Mortgage	None	2.875% (15)	\$100,001 - \$250,000	Stifel Bank St. Louis, MO
2008	Joint	Mortgage	None	6.03% (15)	\$15,001 - \$50,000	Independent Bank Ionia, MI
Total:					\$1,565,007 - \$6,250,000	

[2025 Candidate Report (Amendment 1), filed [11/24/2025](#)]

Paxton Reported 4 Outside Positions During The Reporting Period, Including His Private Practice Law Firm, A Holding Company, And A Real Estate Partnership

Paxton Reported 4 Outside Positions During The Reporting Period, Including His Private Practice Law Firm, A Holding Company, And A Real Estate Partnership.

Paxton Candidate Personal Financial Disclosure Outside Positions			
Position Dates	Position Held	Entity	Entity Type
Jan 2015 to present	Other (Texas Attorney General)	State of Texas Austin, TX	Other (State of Texas)
Jan 2011 to present	Officer	W. Kenneth Paxton Jr PLLC McKinney, TX	Other (Professional Limited Liability Company)
Jan 2008 to present	Officer	RSKA Holdings LLC McKinney, TX	Company
Jan 2008 to present	Partner	Premier Vertical Properties LP McKinney, TX	Other (Limited Partnership)

[2025 Candidate Report (Amendment 1), filed [11/24/2025](#)]

Criminal and Traffic Violation Record

According to Nexis Public Records, As Of May 2026, Paxton Is Not Associated With Any Other Criminal Or Traffic Violations. [Nexis Person Report, accessed 5/15/26]

Note: This section does not include the securities fraud charges, which he resolved through a pretrial diversion agreement.

Bankruptcy, Judgment & Liens

According to Nexis Public Records, As Of May 2026, Paxton Is Not Associated With Any Bankruptcies, Judgments, Or Liens. [Nexis Person Report, accessed 5/15/26]

Further Research

- Campaign finance reports
- Personal political donations
- Texas Senate and House career voting record
- Tenure as Texas Attorney General
- Litigation filed and defended by the Office of the Attorney General, including case outcomes and outside-counsel fee arrangements

- Impeachment trial exhibits and witness testimony
- Outreach to former Office of the Attorney General officials and staff
- Public records searches, including property, voting, and personal financial disclosure records
- Travel disclosures and gifts
- The unsealed divorce case file
- Media and clips searches, including the Robert Roberson death penalty case, COVID-19 vaccine and mask litigation, and school prayer and Ten Commandments litigation
- Social media accounts
- Video and audio interviews
- Debate performances and public statements ahead of the March 2026 primary
- Endorsements
- Lobbying contacts and revolving-door relationships
- Nonprofit and PAC affiliations
- Family members' business and lobbying activity
- Texas Bar records and judicial conduct during AG tenure
- Opposition messaging and contrast research from the Cornyn campaign and allied PACs

Important Note

This memo is preliminary research, and further research may be necessary on Ken Paxton.