

https://dailyjournalonline.com/news/national/govt-and-politics/this-isnt-the-end-of-foxs-legal-headaches-heres-whats-next/article_49a63a30-eeae-5fc2-8595-b37ae8769545.html

SPOTLIGHT

This isn't the end of Fox's legal headaches. Here's what's next

By Marshall Cohen, CNN

Apr 19, 2023

Dominion Voting Systems' **blockbuster defamation case** against Fox News is over after the right-wing network cuts a check for a staggering \$787 million, but there's still an avalanche of pending lawsuits that are seeking accountability from the right-wing figures who championed false claims about the 2020 election.

After more than two years of legal wrangling, Fox reached a **last-second settlement** with Dominion on Tuesday as the case raced toward opening statements, agreeing to the biggest publicly known defamation payout by a US media company in history.

More lawsuits — and perhaps more settlements — might be coming. Here's a breakdown of the related litigation that's still pending.

People are also reading...

- 1 **City council holds lengthy public meeting**
 - 2 **Laubinger to run for 117th District state rep post**
 - 3 **Farmington man dead after Thursday accident**
 - 4 **Amateur photographer records last days of barn at Harrington Farm**
-



Fox News reached a last-second settlement with Dominion Voting Systems on Tuesday.

Andrew Kelly/Reuters

What's next for Fox?

In some ways, this isn't the end of Fox News' legal headaches. It's only halftime.

While the right-wing network will avoid having to apologize or issuing an on-air retraction over the false Dominion claims that infected its air, Fox is still facing another major defamation lawsuit stemming from many of the same lies that were at the heart of the Dominion case.

Smartmatic, another voting technology company, sued Fox for defamation following the 2020 election and is seeking \$2.7 billion in damages from Fox and other defendants.

That lawsuit was filed in New York state courts, and a trial isn't expected anytime soon.

"Dominion's litigation exposed some of the misconduct and damage caused by Fox's disinformation campaign," Smartmatic lawyer Erik Connolly said in a statement after the settlement. "Smartmatic will expose the rest. Smartmatic remains committed to clearing its name, recouping the significant damage done to the company, and holding Fox accountable for undermining democracy."

After that lawsuit was filed in February 2021, a Fox spokesperson said, "We are proud of our 2020 election coverage and will vigorously defend this meritless lawsuit in court." The network denies any wrongdoing.

What's next for Dominion?

Dominion still has a **bevy of pending lawsuits** against 2020 election deniers.

They're suing right-wing TV networks Newsmax and OAN, which went even further than Fox News in their promotion of unhinged and debunked conspiracy theories about supposed election-rigging.

Newsmax said Dominion's case against it is different than its case against Fox.



Fox, Dominion reach \$787M settlement over election claims

By DAVID BAUDER, RANDALL CHASE and GEOFF MULVIHILL - Associated Press

"Newsmax believes that the facts at issue in Dominion's case against it are materially different from those that may have driven Fox to settle and no conclusion about Newsmax should be drawn from that settlement," a company spokesperson told CNN. "Newsmax stands by its coverage and analysis of the 2020 election and will continue to vigorously defend against the claim."

The voting technology company also has ongoing lawsuits against former President Donald Trump's allies, Rudy Giuliani, Sidney Powell and Mike Lindell, who were at the tip of the spear of concocting and spreading the lie that the election was stolen from Trump.

All of these people and companies deny wrongdoing and are fighting the lawsuits in court.

During their post-settlement victory lap Tuesday, Dominion's lawyers said the outcome in the Fox case gave them new momentum in their other cases. That's because Delaware Superior Court Judge Eric Davis issued a series of pretrial rulings in Dominion's favor, rejecting Fox's key First Amendment defenses.

"All of those decisions will have a huge bearing on those lawsuits as they play out," Dominion lawyer Davida Brook told CNN Tuesday night.

Dominion lawyer Justin Nelson added in a CNN interview that the Fox News settlement "sends a message to the other seven lawsuits that accountability is coming."



Hot Off The Wire

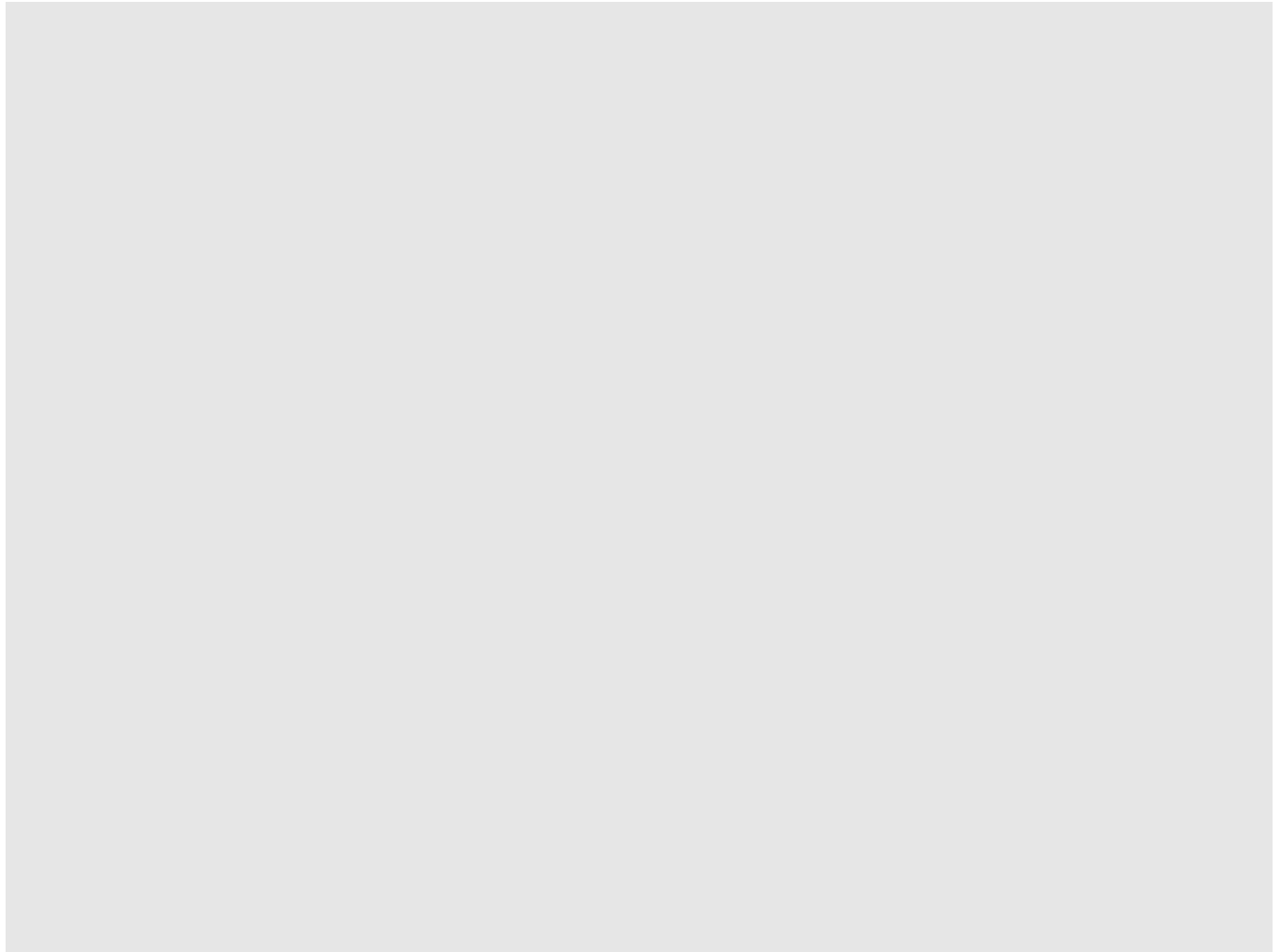
Fox, Dominion reach \$787M settlement over elect

00:00 / 12:25

Listen now and subscribe: [Apple Podcasts](#) | [Google Podcasts](#) | [Spotify](#) | [RSS Feed](#) | [Omny Studio](#)

Presidential scandals in pictures

Presidential scandals in pictures



Scandals have come hand-in-hand with politics for as long as America has been electing presidents: even George Washington was criticized for overspending, refusing to hand over detailed documents for investigation, and even **neglecting to return library books**.

Hardly any of President Biden's 45 predecessors have been able to escape some level of public disapproval, though some are more notorious in that regard than others. In particular, presidential elections are rife with misconduct, as candidates steal documents, wiretap, work with unscrupulous partners, and discredit opponents to secure their nominations.

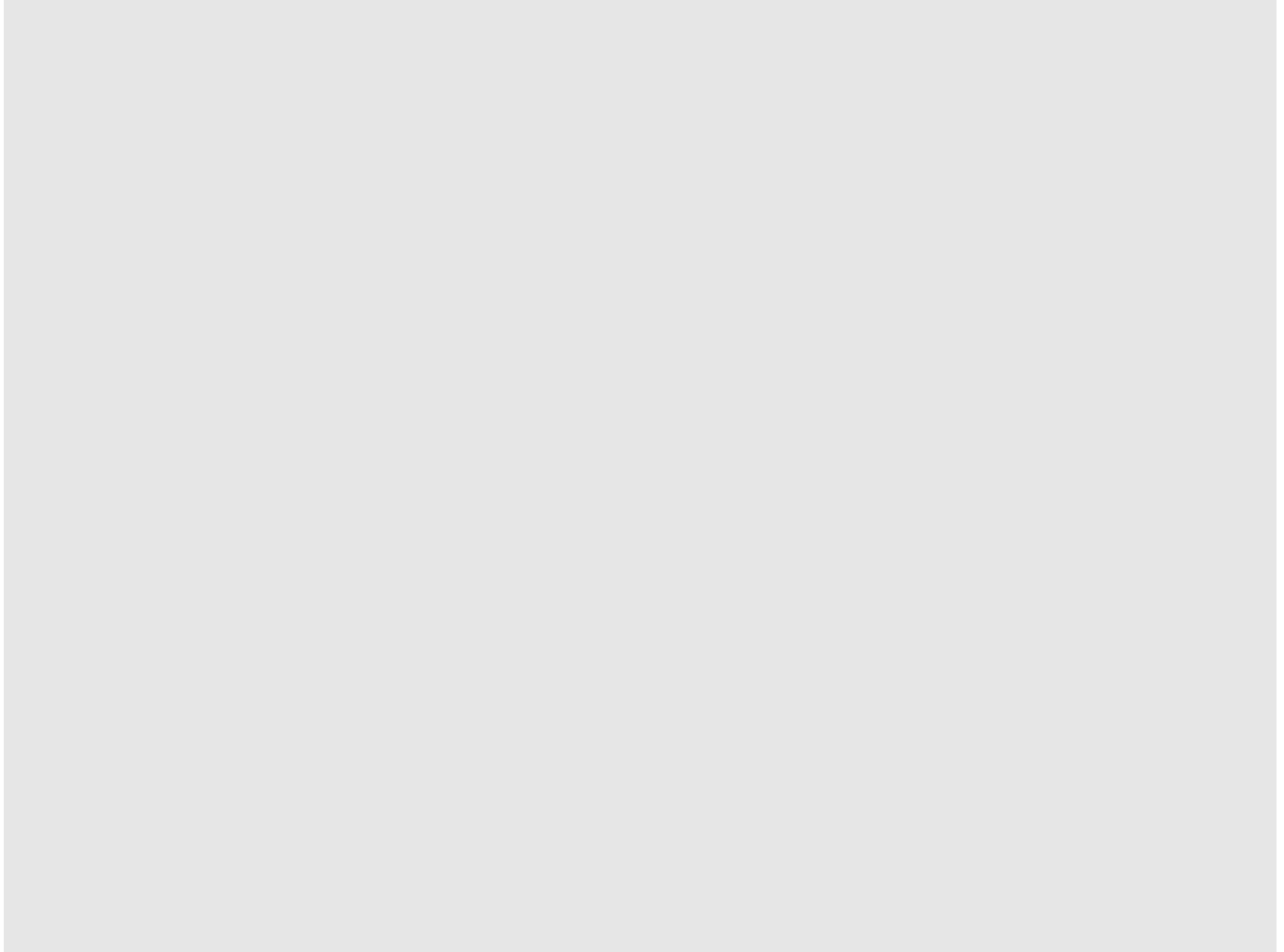
The public has repeatedly witnessed bribery, sex scandals, espionage, and theft throughout the years—as John F. Kennedy, Bill Clinton, Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan, and even Jimmy Carter can regretfully attest. Many presidential scandals have only come to light thanks to dutiful and oftentimes courageous whistleblowing from reporters and government officials.

Today's era has seen record-breaking scandals: Donald Trump is the only president to be impeached twice and to be impeached after leaving office. Although he was charged while still in office, the trial didn't begin until after Biden had replaced him.

Stacker compiled a collection of 10 images showcasing presidential scandals through the decades. Whether as far back as 1865 or as recent as 2021, the commander in chief's tendency for dubious ethics remains an American tradition.

You may also like: Democratic Party history from the year you were born

Andrew Johnson (1865-1869): Impeached for violating the Tenure of Office Act



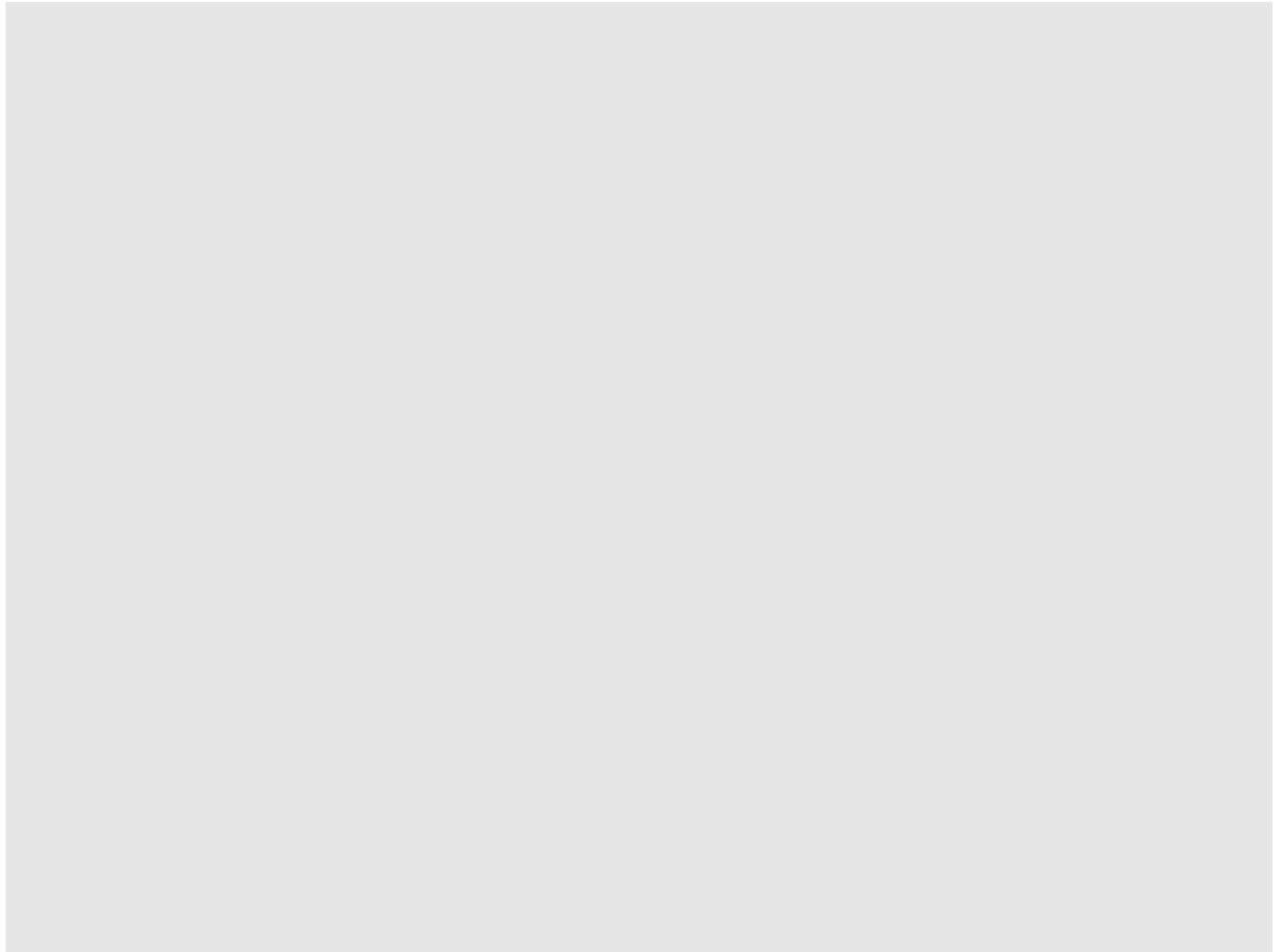
Andrew Johnson's impeachment resulted from years of tension between himself and Congress, which passed the Tenure of Office Act in 1867 after several attempts to impeach Johnson.

When Johnson fired Secretary of War Edwin Stanton without Senate approval—twice—the House of Representatives was finally able to charge him with "high crimes and misdemeanors" for unlawfully removing a Cabinet member.

Corbis via Getty Images

Harry S. Truman (1945-1953): Accused of corruption after a

Justice Department investigation of the IRS



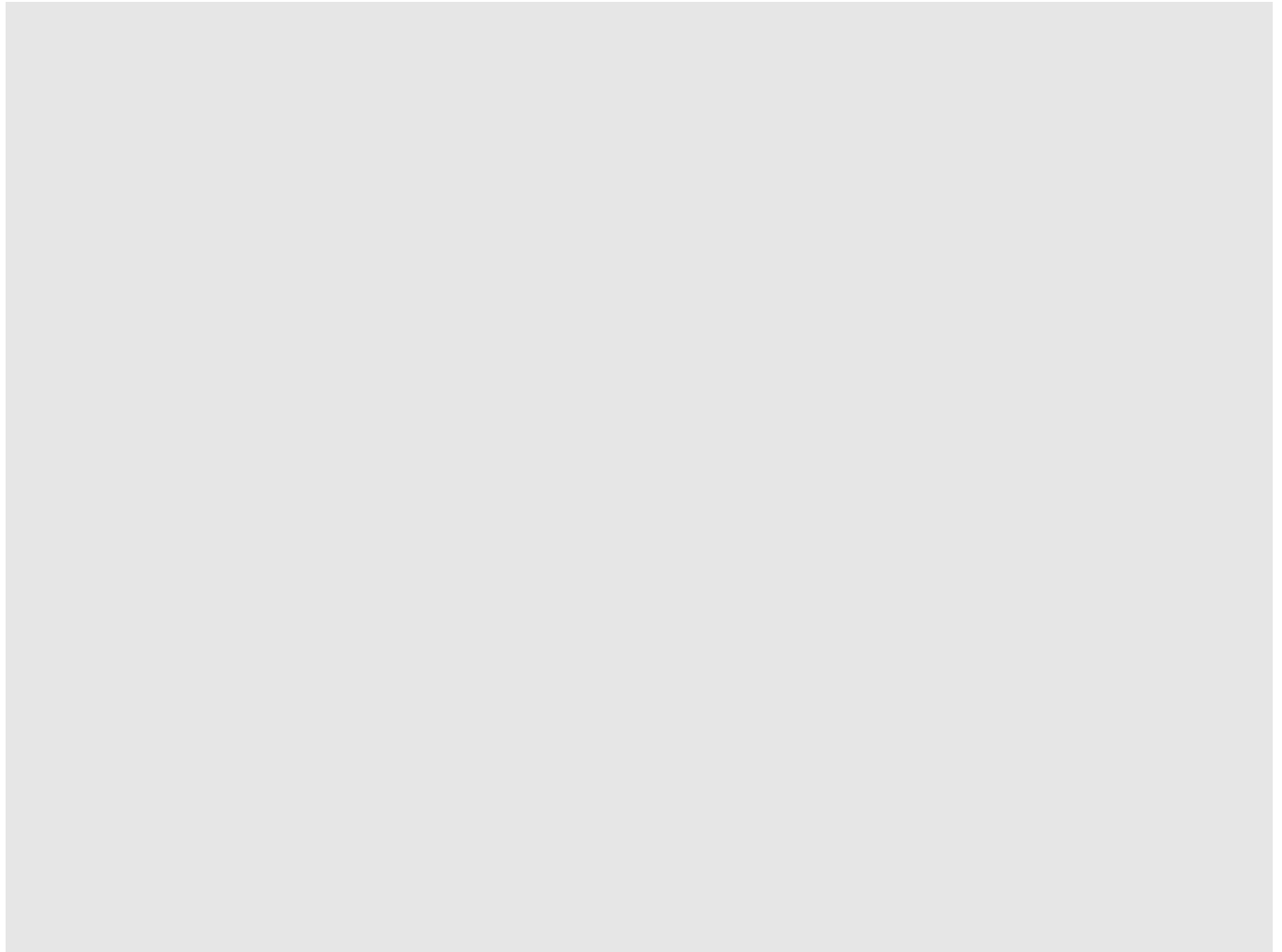
Harry Truman laid a blueprint Donald Trump would later follow in **firing a special prosecutor hired to investigate him.**

After the Justice Department found evidence of corrupt dealings within the IRS, Truman appointed prosecutor Newbold Morris to conduct a full investigation, but **dismissed him two months later** after key individuals refused to hand over details about their activities.

Fotosearch // Getty Images

John F. Kennedy (1961-1963): Conducted multiple extramarital

affairs

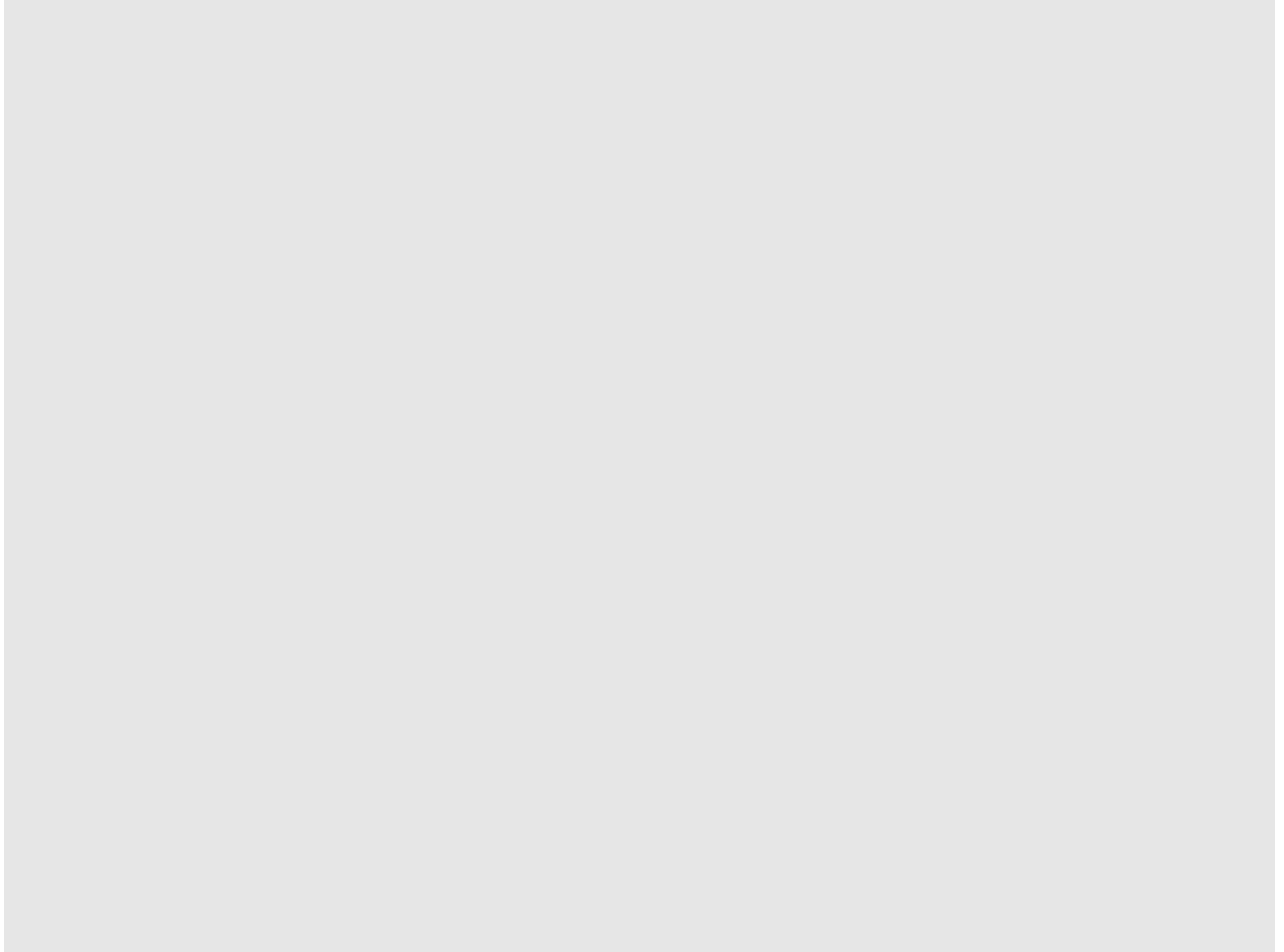


JFK's affairs were particularly scandalous because Kennedy was the first Catholic president to take office. Alongside his wife Jacqueline, an illustrious First Lady who also became a fashion icon at the time, his strong home life gave the impression of a seemingly upright American family in the White House.

However, during their 10-year marriage, Kennedy was routinely observed to be involved in extramarital affairs. Those known or speculated to have been involved with him include Marilyn Monroe, Marlene Dietrich, and even his wife's press secretary Pamela Turnure.

CORBIS/Corbis via Getty Images

Richard Nixon (1969-1974): Watergate

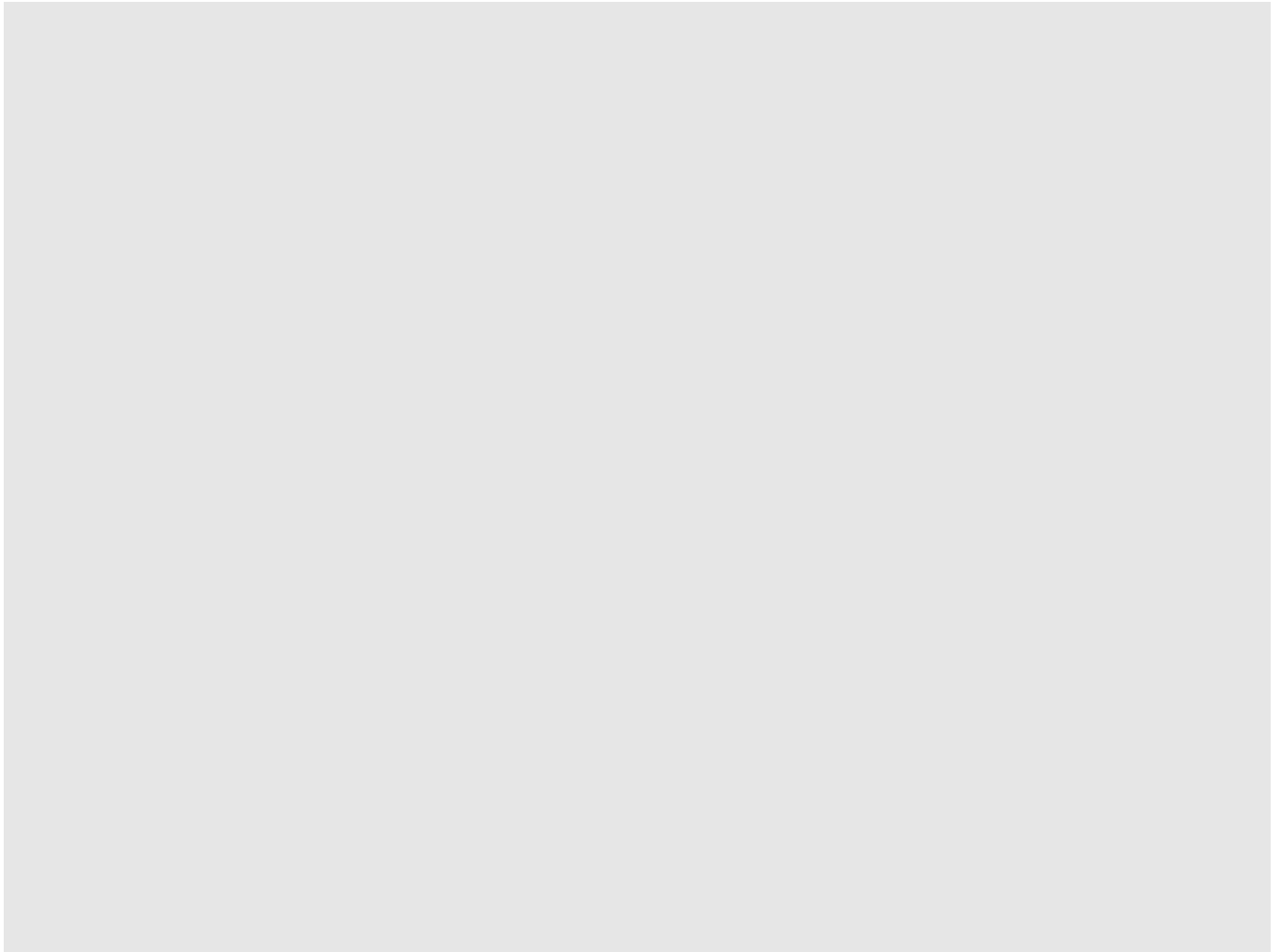


During the infamous Watergate scandal, burglars linked to Richard Nixon's campaign for reelection were caught attempting to wiretap and steal documents from the Democratic National Committee headquarters in the Watergate building in Washington D.C.

Although Nixon went to great lengths to cover up the plot, he was nonetheless found out and consequently became the only U.S. president to resign.

Bettmann // Getty Images

Jimmy Carter (1977-1981): Debategate



Ronald Reagan was the center of what became known as the "Debategate" controversy, although it occurred during Jimmy Carter's tenure.

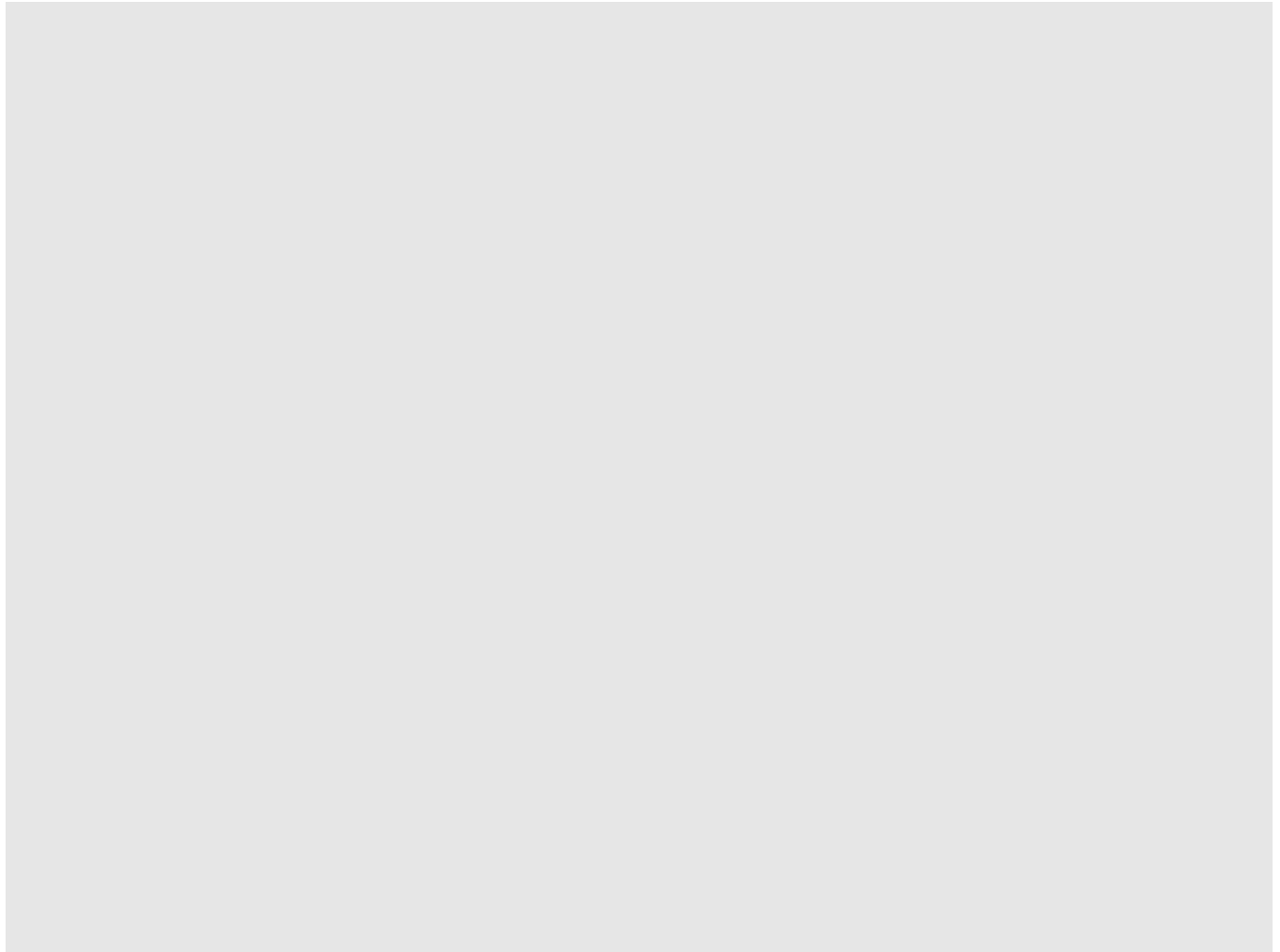
An alleged spy from then-candidate Reagan's campaign team stole a briefing book Carter was using to prepare for a 1980 presidential debate between the two, and Carter blamed his eventual defeat to Reagan on the theft for years.

You may also like: [The history of voting in the United States](#)

Bettmann // Getty Images

Ronald Reagan (1981-1989): Multiple investigations into

instances of bribery



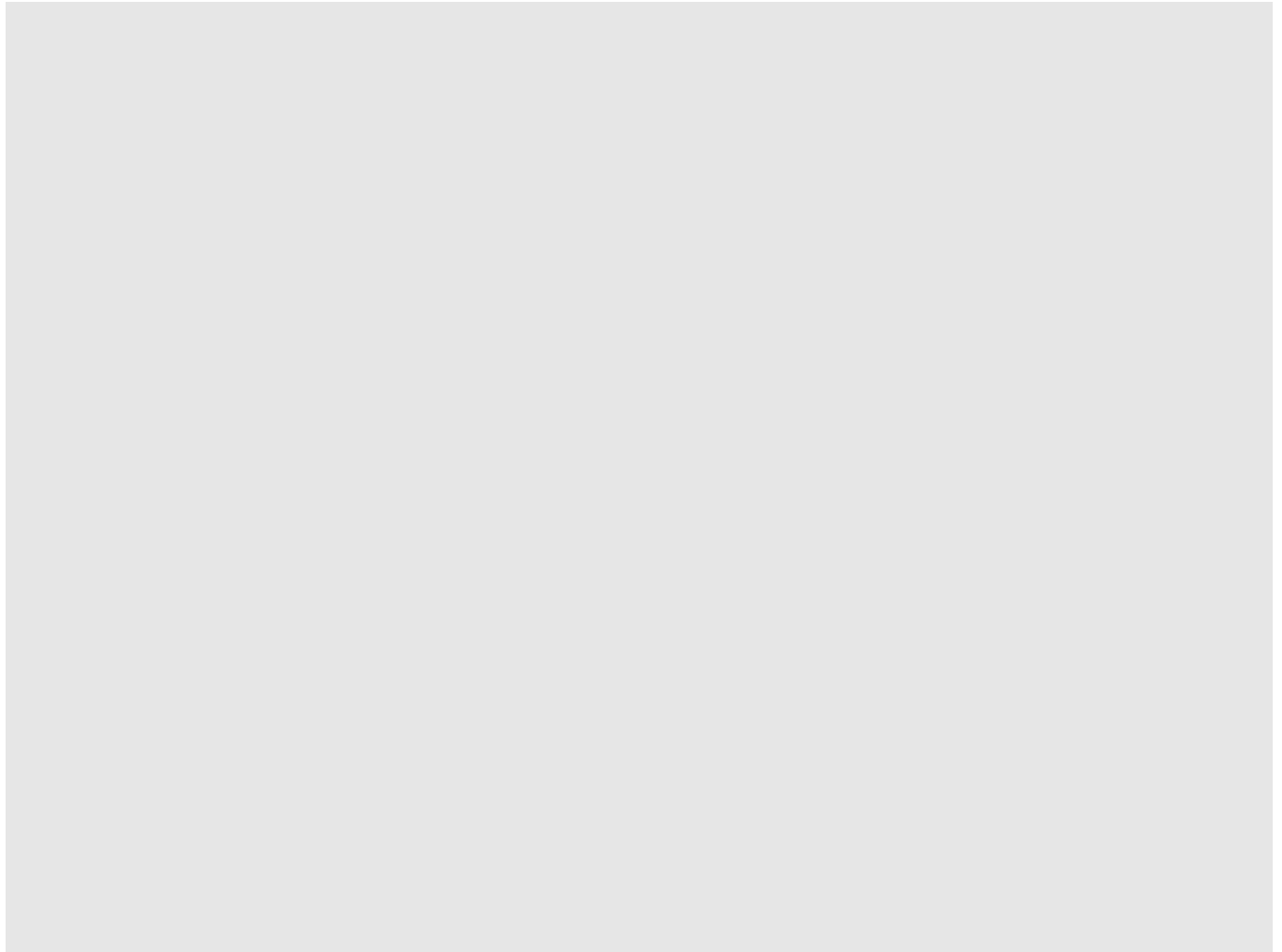
Reagan's administration experienced much controversy over bribery, the worst of which was the Iran-Contra affair, during which the president was found to have (unsuccessfully) sold weapons to Iran in an attempt to release six U.S. hostages.

Additionally, the FBI found high-level **officials within the Navy, Air Force, and Defense Department** to have accepted large bribes during Reagan's term.

Shepard Sherbell/Corbis via Getty Images

Bill Clinton (1993-2001): Impeached for perjury and obstruction

of justice after an affair with Monica Lewinsky

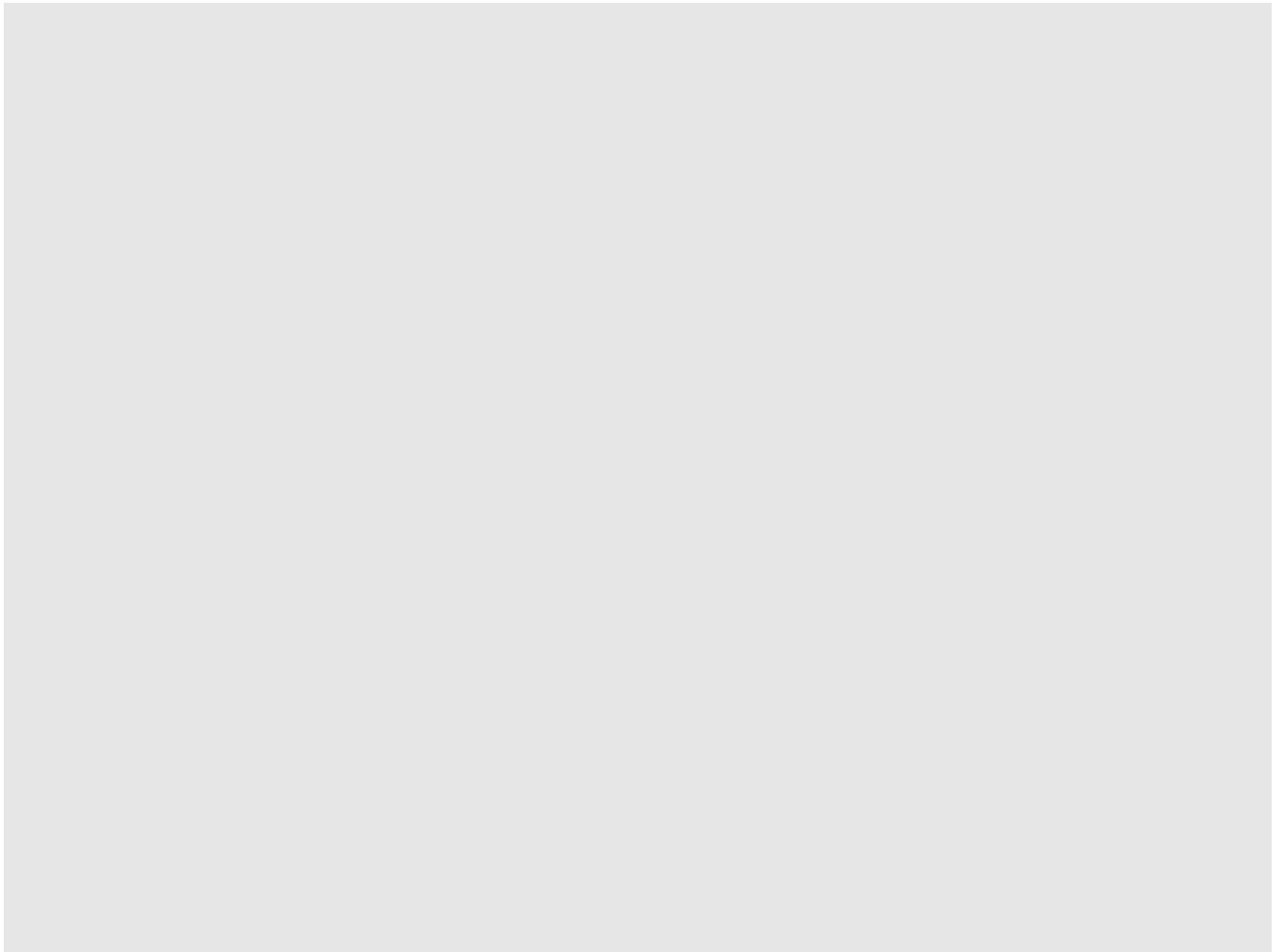


Having an affair with a 22-year-old intern was only the start of the scandal for Bill Clinton, who had already been rumored to have had several extramarital affairs by the time the Lewinsky scandal broke in 1998.

After Clinton publicly denied having sexual relations with Lewinsky, he was found to have perjured himself and was consequently impeached by the House of Representatives, although he was later acquitted.

Getty Images

George W. Bush (2001-2009): Lawyergate

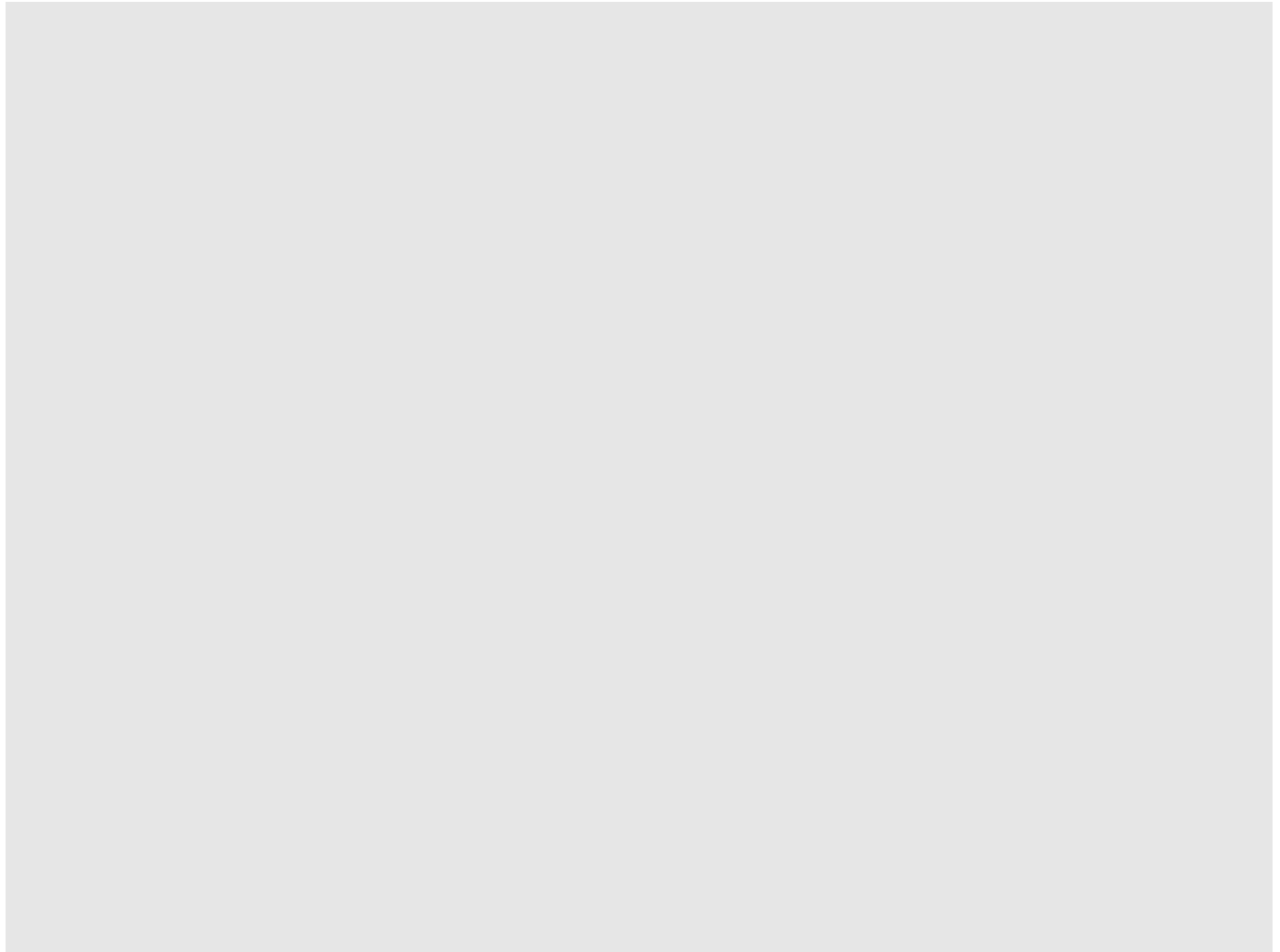


"Lawyergate" began when White House Counsel Alberto Gonzales and Justice Department worker Kyle Sampson began discussing replacing U.S. attorneys with "loyal Bushies" in early 2005. Ultimately, eight attorneys were fired without adequate justification, prompting public suspicion about whether the dismissals were legally permissible.

Chip Somodevilla // Getty Images

Donald Trump (2017-2021): Impeached for abuse of power and obstruction of Congress after attempting to pressure Ukraine

into damaging Biden's reputation



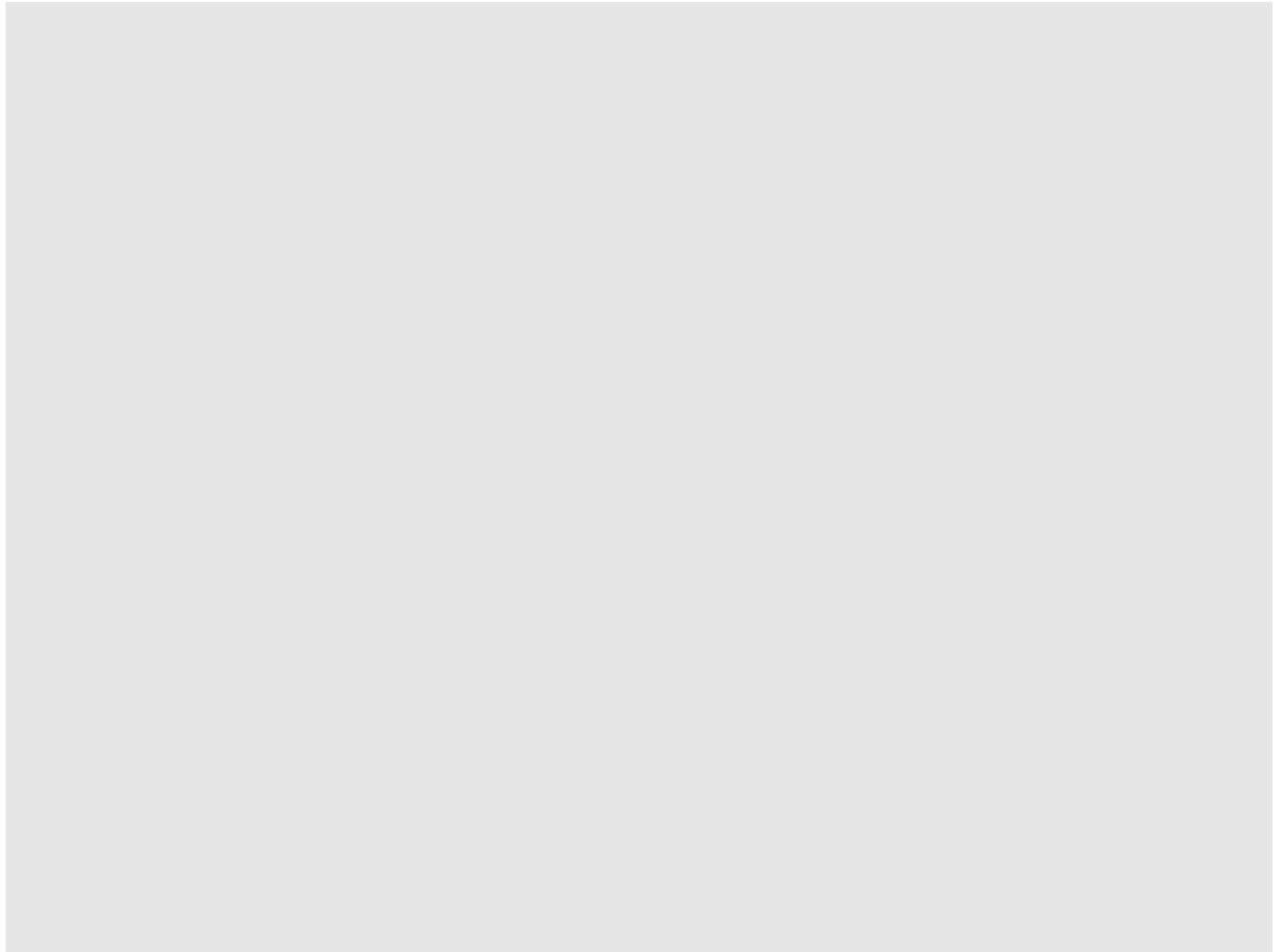
Donald Trump became the third president to be impeached after investigators found out he had called Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to ask for help interfering in the 2020 election. He **pressured Zelensky by withholding \$400 million in military aid** to the Ukrainian government.

Aside from it being illegal for Trump to withhold military aid without congressional approval, he had also requested that Ukraine **investigate Joe and Hunter Biden** to attempt to discredit Biden ahead of the presidential election.

Caroline Brehman/CQ-Roll Call, Inc via Getty Images

Donald Trump (2017-2021): Impeached for incitement of

insurrection after the Jan. 6 riots



Trump's second impeachment focused on allegations that the president had incited an insurrection following his loss in the 2020 election. After Biden's win, Trump made several public statements **falsely claiming** the election had been fraudulent. He encouraged his followers to fight back against the results, **leading to rioters storming the Capitol building on Jan. 6.**

You may also like: Every Supreme Court justice of the past 50 years

Al Drago-Pool // Getty Images

— *CNN's Oliver Darcy contributed to this report*



Cleveland: Wait Until You See These Grant Options (Search for Results)



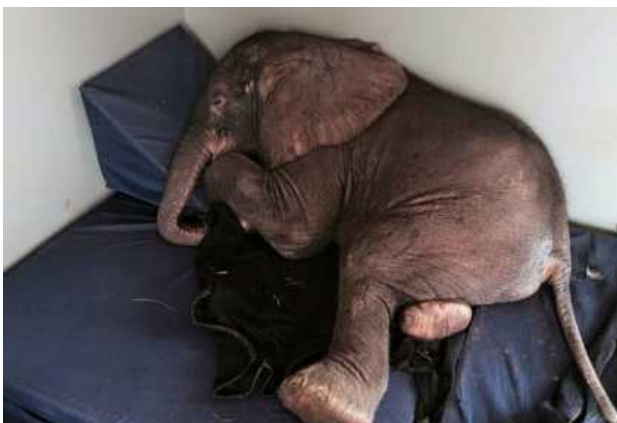
We Can Guess Your Education Level in 20 Questions



The Newest DNA Discovery Changes Native American History



The 20 Most Useless Planes Ever Made, Ranked in Order



Orphaned Baby Elephant Forges Unlikely Friendship



Plaque Psoriasis: Do You Know What Plaque Psoriasis Is?



Life in Medieval Castles Was Rough



If You Refuse to Do These Normal Activities, then You Might Be a Millennial



The 20 Most Miserable States for Retirement, Ranked in Order