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## — News From The States —

# EVENING WRAP



By [Kate Queram](#)

Would you like to read about some men\* being exhausting? *Of course not.* That is a terrible introduction! But it's the only one I have, because the men have exhausted me too thoroughly.

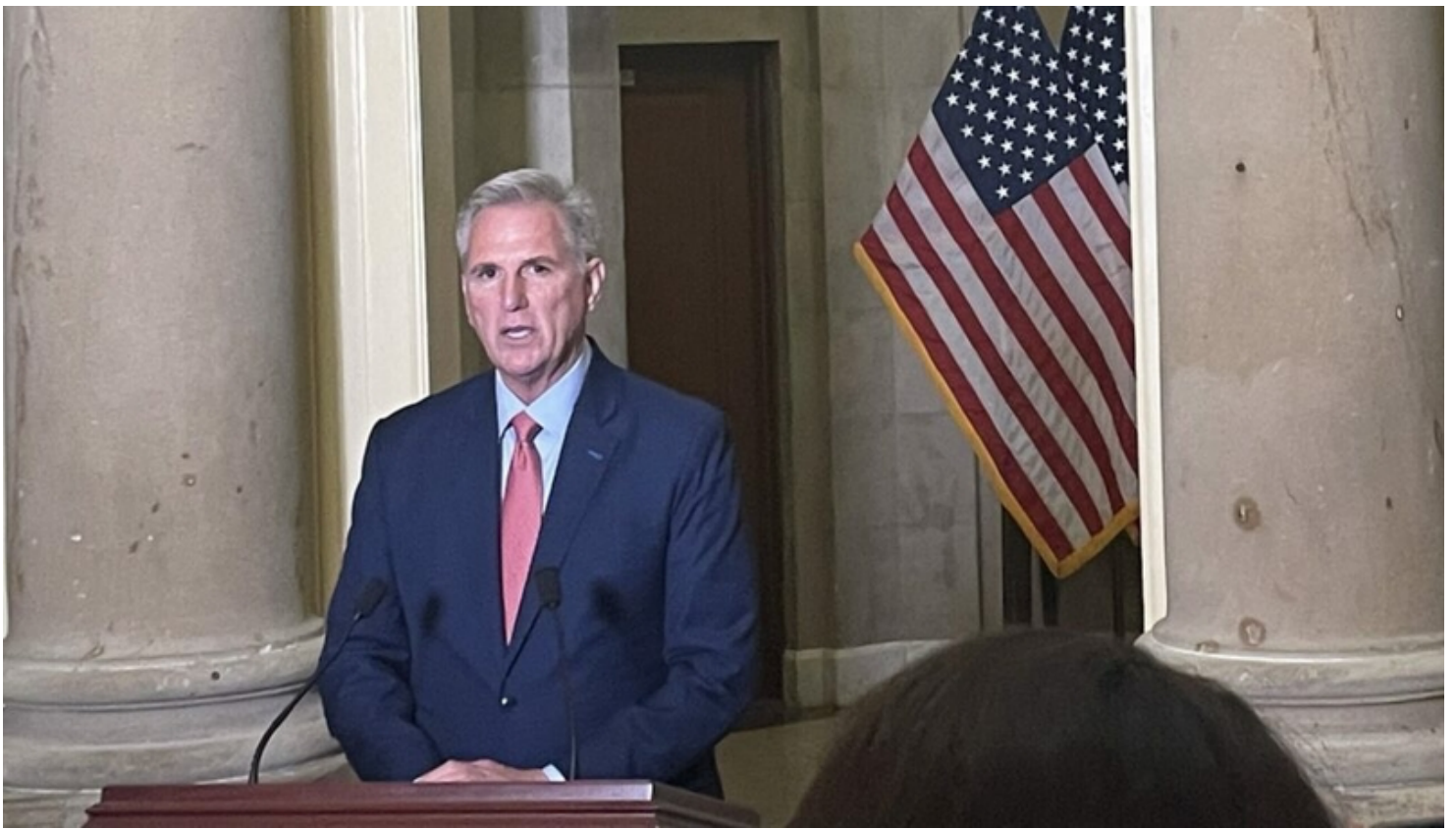
*\*feat. a brief appearance by the equally exhausting Marjorie Taylor Greene*



### The Big Takeaway

U.S. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy on Tuesday confirmed that he'd directed several House committees to open a formal impeachment inquiry into President Joe Biden, once again bowing to the far-right faction [to which he traded his soul](#) in exchange for [becoming speaker](#). The probe will focus on unfounded allegations that Biden profited from his son Hunter's business dealings during the Obama administration, among other fanciful claims, [our D.C. bureau reported](#).

"These allegations paint a picture — a picture of corruption," McCarthy, a California Republican, told reporters at a Capitol press conference. "This logical next step will give our committees the full power to gather all the facts and answers for the American public."



*Yeah, this is definitely all logical.*

*(Photo by Ariana Figueroa/States Newsroom)*

**McCarthy did not detail the allegations** beyond describing them as “serious” and “credible” and worthy of “further investigation.” He delegated that task to a crack team that includes House Oversight Committee Chair James Comer (R-Ky.) and House Judiciary Committee Chair Jim Jordan (R-Ohio), who have already spent a year trying (and failing) to find a single shred of evidence [to corroborate their claims of corruption](#) within the Biden administration. On the one hand, they’re probably qualified for the job. On the other hand, what is possibly left to investigate? (Trick question. [The limit does not exist.](#))

The announcement, which allows McCarthy to inch forward on impeachment proceedings without a floor vote, was a clear attempt to appease a handful of MAGA lawmakers without alienating the rest of the House, which largely opposes the inquiry. In true McCarthy fashion, the announcement did neither of those things. Instead, far-right Republicans criticized it as a “baby step following [weeks of pressure](#)” that constituted a violation of the agreement McCarthy made with the caucus in exchange for their votes for speaker, while Democrats criticized the move as poorly timed political posturing that distracted from more pressing matters like “funding the federal government [so it doesn’t shut down in 18 days.](#)”

“We have 11 legislative days to pass 11 appropriations bills and avoid a shutdown. Yet Mr. McCarthy — on his first day back — is calling for an impeachment inquiry,” Rep. Madeleine Dean

of Pennsylvania, a member of the House Judiciary Committee, [said in a tweet](#). “This is not leadership. This is a mockery. Mr. McCarthy needs to lead his caucus — not the other way around.”



*Marjorie Taylor Greene gives that idea a big THUMBS DOWN.*

*(Photo by Win McNamee/Getty Images)*

**It’s not particularly popular among moderate Republicans, either** — where GOP lawmakers [have worried](#) that the push will distract from the party’s messaging on the economy, potentially giving Biden a boost as he heads into the thick of his reelection campaign. Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va) discouraged the attempt on Tuesday, telling CNN that she didn’t see “the glaring evidence that says we need to move forward.”

“We’ve got so many things we need to be focusing on,” she added.

**Laser-sharp focus was in short supply for noted pillow salesman Mike Lindell** during a series of legal depositions this spring, during which he yelled, swore, insulted lawyers, slammed legal documents on tables, answered phone calls and insisted on unscheduled breaks, according to transcripts and video excerpts submitted in court filings this month. At one point, he referred to

a plaintiff as a scumbag; at another, he left the deposition to appear on Steve Bannon's podcast, where he promoted his pillow company, [the Minnesota Reformer reported](#).

The depositions were conducted as part of a defamation lawsuit filed by Dr. Eric Coomer, former director of product strategy and security for Dominion Voting Systems, who accused Lindell of public and online defamation following Donald Trump's 2020 election loss. Lindell, a self-described cocaine-addict-turned-pillow-magnate, is also the subject of [a separate, \\$1.3 billion lawsuit](#) from Dominion related to his questionable decision to disseminate truckloads of conspiracy theories in the wake of that election, including allegations that the company rigged voting machines to favor Biden.



*In happier times, when a person could revel in saying whatever they wanted about anything without worrying about legal repercussions.*

*(Photo by Justin Sullivan/Getty Images)*

**The excerpts and transcripts from the depositions were submitted as evidence in court filings** from Coomer's lawyers, [who asked](#) a Colorado district court judge to force Lindell to appear at another deposition *and* foot the bill for the proceedings thus far as restitution for his "vulgar, threatening, loud, disrespectful" behavior. Lindell responded in a Friday filing that asked

the judge to dismiss the defamation claim entirely.

In one deposition, Lindell blasted Coomer's attorneys as criminals, liars, slime, and "disgusting" for proceeding with the "frivolous" lawsuit against him and his company, which he said "had nothing to do with anything." In another, he rejected the suggestion that his fear-mongering had boosted his company's portfolio — not possible, he said, because people no longer know him as "the MyPillow guy," but as an "election guy" and "a guy trying to save the country." Still, he took particular offense at one attorney's suggestion that his main product (pillows) were subpar.

"When you say lumpy pillows, now you're an a\*\*\*\*\*," Lindell told the attorney. "Now he's an a\*\*\*\*\*. He's an ambulance-chasing a\*\*\*\*\*."

The attorneys, he mused later, were clearly in need of his product (pillows).

"How do you guys sleep at night?" he asked them. "You obviously don't have a MyPillow. That's a fact."

**Former White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows** could probably also use some extra (non-lumpy) comfort as he awaits a decision on his request to move his election interference case from state court to federal jurisdiction. Attorneys for Meadows filed the appeal Monday, asking a circuit court judge for an expedited review just days after their original entreaty was rejected by U.S. District Court Judge Steve Jones, [per the Georgia Recorder](#).



*“You just grant a stay. Like this: Stay.”*  
*(Photo by Drew Angerer/Getty Images)*

“Absent a stay, the state will continue seeking to try Meadows 42 days from now on Oct. 23,” Meadows’ lawyers wrote in the court motion. “If the state gets its way, Meadows could be forced to go to trial — and could be convicted and incarcerated — before the standard timeline for a federal appeal would play out.”

Meadows is one of 18 co-defendants identified by prosecutors in a sprawling criminal indictment stemming from Trump’s repeated attempts to overturn the 2020 election results in Georgia. His attorneys [argued in August](#) that his actions weren’t criminal and were carried out “during his tenure and as part of his service of Chief of Staff,” warranting either a dismissal or a move to federal court. But Jones [rejected those claims Friday](#), ruling that the evidence shows clearly that Meadows was working on [behalf of the Trump campaign](#), not the administration — a violation of the federal Hatch Act, [a mostly meaningless statute](#) that bans most federal executive branch employees from being involved in partisan political activities.

**Other co-defendants are expected to try similar moves**, including Trump himself, who is rumored to be considering [a comparable venue change](#) and has also sought to preemptively

block a D.C. federal judge from overseeing [a separate election interference case](#). District Judge Tanya Chutkan cannot be impartial, Trump’s lawyers argued, due to statements she made in other cases that asserted Trump’s guilt.

“Judge Chutkan has, in connection with other cases, suggested that President Trump should be prosecuted and imprisoned,” the court filing states. “Such statements, made before this case began and without due process, are inherently disqualifying. Although judge Chutkan may genuinely intend to give President Trump a fair trial — and may believe that she can do so — her public statements unavoidably taint those proceedings regardless of outcome.”

Who knows how that will play out. At the very least, it’s nice to know that Trump’s lawyers do, in fact, understand that public statements have consequences.

**See what I did there:** [In redistricting filing, Alabama says lower court order amounts to ‘racial stereotyping’](#) ... [Tuberville blockade of military nominees roils hearing for top Air Force official](#) ... [Lawmakers, public await promised replacement for controversial Arkansas FOIA legislation](#) ... [How energy-efficient rebates to help households became a political fight between DeSantis and feds](#) ... [Kentucky Supreme Court chief justice won’t run for re-election in 2024](#) ... [In effort to improve public policy, simulations put everyday people in policymakers’ shoes](#) ... [‘Threatened to slit my effing throat’: Election officials who have faced threats back reforms](#) ... [Nebraska Legislature hires outside lawyer to advise about work of inspectors general](#) ... [As Ohio Statehouse redistricting begins again, mixed opinions on whether things will change](#) ... [Control of the Pennsylvania House at stake as Allegheny County candidates get out the vote](#) ... [Pennsylvanian sworn in as the first woman to serve as U.S. Archivist](#) ... [Paxton trial updates: Former district attorney found Paxton donor’s claims about a conspiracy “ridiculous”](#) ... [Washington Gov. Jay Inslee won’t call special session to deal with controversy over legislative district map](#) ... [Wisconsin Supreme Court starts term with cases on adoption, religious exemptions to unemployment law](#)

## Caught Our Eye

“Gosh, I wish men were the ones making decisions about abortion,” thought no one, ever, and yet here we are, allowing the men to make decisions about abortions! Finally: A platform for men! Finally: We are great again! (Finally: I weep!)



*Behold: Three cowboy hats, four blue shirts and nary a uterus in sight.  
(Photo by John McCosh/Georgia Recorder)*

The national, male-driven crusade to end reproductive rights, laid out in infuriating detail [in this story from our national team](#), is led by luminaries like Wendell Shrock, a street preacher from Tennessee who doesn't believe in condoms ("we should leave the uterus to God," he says, while participating in a quest to ... not do that) and brings his 11 children to abortion protests, leaving his wife, Dawn, to care for them while he rails against the evils of modern health care. Dawn's never held a public job. His oldest son got married six years ago at the age of 18 and has had a child every year since. (I can't feel my face.) Anyway, it's in God's hands or whatever, a plan I assume is acceptable only because God is rumored to be a man.



## From The Newsrooms

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- [Drug decriminalization stumbled in Oregon. Other states are taking note.](#)



- [Biden, in Alaska speech commemorating Sept. 11 attacks, urges unity and defense of democracy](#)
- [Controversial Murfreesboro landfill loses court fight to expand](#)
- [The Fee Trap: Why Alabama's local governments can't shake fines and charges](#)

## One Last Thing

Aerosmith [postponed its farewell tour](#) after frontman Steven Tyler suffered a vocal injury, thereby proving the need for its farewell tour. Shows will resume at the end of January, because the band doesn't want [to miss a thing](#).

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1414 Raleigh Rd #127 | Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27517

[info@newsfromthestates.com](mailto:info@newsfromthestates.com)

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