

Atty. Gen.

JUL 31 2023

CLERK OF THE COURT

THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS
COURT OF IMPEACHMENT

IN THE MATTER OF WARREN
KENNETH PAXTON, JR.

ATTORNEY GENERAL WARREN KENNETH PAXTON, JR.'S
MOTION TO DISMISS ARTICLES OF IMPEACHMENT (I-VII, IX-XX)

Impeachment invokes the Legislature’s awesome power to override the will of the people. In his writings on the United States Constitution, Justice Samuel Freeman Miller of the U.S. Supreme Court described impeachment as “the heaviest piece of artillery in the Congressional arsenal.” Samuel Freeman Miller, *Lectures on the Constitution of the United States* 217 (1891) (citing 1 James Bryce, *The American Commonwealth* 190 (1888)). “It is like a hundred-ton gun, which needs complex machinery to bring it into position, an enormous charge of powder to fire it, and a large mark to aim at.” *Id.* at 217. Unfortunately, in the impeachment of Attorney General Paxton, “the great State of Texas is pointing her heaviest artillery at something that does not even reach the magnitude of a snowbird.” State of Tex. Senate, Proc. of the High Ct. of Impeachment on the Trial of W.L. McGaughey, Land Comm’r, S. 23, Reg. Sess. at li-lij (1893).

The “wiser” course of action is to let the people decide whether to “effect the removal” of an officer at the voting booth. Miller, *Lectures on the Constitution of the United States* at 203. That is what occurred here: throughout the 2022 election season, both in the primary and general election, voters were subject to tens of millions of dollars in broadcast advertisements, dozens of newspaper articles, and countless speeches or appearances accusing Attorney General Paxton of the alleged misconduct underlying the Articles of Impeachment. In November 2022, Texas voters rendered their judgment by reelecting Attorney General Paxton to serve a third consecutive term. As a matter of both common sense and Texas law, that should be the end of the matter.

Unable to defeat the Attorney General at the polls, the House quickly filed Articles of Impeachment relying on misconduct that occurred, if at all, years before the Attorney General’s most recent election. Indeed, with only a single exception, the Articles allege nothing that Texas voters have not heard from the Attorney General’s political opponents for years. *See* Exhibit A. This Court has never convicted an impeached official based solely on House allegations that

occurred before an elected official's most recent election when they were publicly known at that time. This rule, known as the "prior-term doctrine," is firmly rooted in Texas law, Texas Supreme Court decisions, and Texas impeachment precedents. The alleged acts underlying nineteen of the Articles took place before the Attorney General's most recent election and were highly publicized. Under the prior-term doctrine, they therefore cannot factually or legally form the basis for the Attorney General's removal. And by the House's admission, they did not. *See* H.R. Comm. on Gen. Investigating, Memorandum (May 26, 2023).

Articles I through VII and IX through XX violate Texas's prior-term doctrine and must be dismissed. Pursuant to Texas law and Senate Rules 5(b), 15(b), 16, and 26, this Court has the sole discretion to approve the dismissal of these Articles pretrial. *See* S. Journal, 88th Cong., 1st Sess. at 40-52 (2023). Article VIII, which regards a mediated settlement agreement in *Brickman v. Office of the Attorney General* in February 2023, is the only Article anchored in post-election facts, and it fails for separate reasons to be addressed elsewhere.

I. THE PRIOR-TERM DOCTRINE APPLIES TO THIS IMPEACHMENT.

Under the Texas Constitution, the House may impeach an elected State officer, and the Senate may convict him with a two-thirds vote. *See* Tex. Const. art. XV, §§ 1 & 2. The prior-term doctrine prevents conviction or removal of an impeached official when the facts underlying the House's allegations turn on conduct that occurred, if at all, before the officer's most recent election, and those allegations were public before voters cast their ballots. *See Matter of Carrillo*, 542 S.W.2d 105, 110 (Tex. 1976) (citing *In re Brown*, 512 S.W.2d 317 (1974)). Chapter 665 of the Texas Government Code expressly provides that "[a]n officer in this [S]tate may not be removed from office for an act the officer may have committed before the officer's election to office." Tex.

Gov't Code § 665.081. This provision contains no limiting clause, and it creates an unambiguous and self-imposed limitation to the Legislature's power to remove an officer through impeachment.

As section 665.081's plain text and prior practice both indicate, the prior-term doctrine applies to all acts before *any* officer's *most recent* election—not merely certain officers, and not merely his first. This Court illustrated that point when it applied the prior-term doctrine in 1887 in the removal proceedings of Judge Frank Willis. *See* State of Tex. Senate, Spec. Comm., App'x Rec. of the Investigation of Frank Willis, Judge, S. 20, Reg. Sess. at 4-6 (1887). During Judge Willis's Senate trial, his counsel argued that the charges should be dismissed because “if any such matters and things ever occurred . . . they were of date anterior to his said reelection,” and the public knowingly reelected the judge despite the pending allegations. *Id.* at 6. Counsel explained:

[T]hese people (his peers), the sovereigns of his district, with full knowledge of the same, have passed upon said charges at the polls, approved the conduct of respondent and vindicated his official character, and said reelection is in law and in fact a condonation and verdict of not guilty, and to remove [Judge Willis] from office for actions that occurred prior to his said reelection would be to deprive the people of his district of their choice in franchise and of their constitutional right to elect their own officers.

Id. The voters rejected the House's claims at the ballot box just six months prior, when Judge Willis had been most recently reelected. And after applying the prior-term doctrine, this Court acquitted him. *See* S. Journal, 20th Cong., Reg. Sess. at 684 (1887). As Senator MacManus explained his vote to acquit, the “respondent had been reelected before any prosecution against him for the alleged offenses had been commenced, and he now holds office by virtue of an election and under a different commission from those under which he acted at the date of the alleged offenses.” *Id.*

Nor, contrary to the out-of-court assertions of several House Managers,¹ is the doctrine limited to removals outside the constitutional impeachment process. This Court has consistently applied the prior-term doctrine to constitutional officials impeached using constitutional processes. During the 1893 impeachment of Land Commissioner Colonel W.L. McGaughey, this Court expressly held that “[b]ecause it affirmatively appear[ed] on the face” of the articles that certain allegations occurred on “a day and time prior to the commencement of [Commissioner McGaughey’s] present term of office . . . they constitute no grounds for his impeachment and removal from the office he now holds.” State of Tex. Senate, Rec. of the High Ct. of Impeachment on the Trial of W.L. McGaughey, Land Comm’r, S. 23, Reg. Sess. at 9 (1893). The Court sustained Commissioner McGaughey’s demurrers, with ten of twenty-seven Senators—enough to have prevented conviction—signing a statement that they voted to sustain “for the reason that under our view of the law the respondent can not be impeached under these [prior-term] charges.” *Id.* Nineteen Senators voted to acquit on every article. *Id.* at 169-78.

During his 1917 impeachment, Governor James E. Ferguson unsuccessfully raised the prior-term doctrine in response to four of the twenty-one articles of impeachment. *See* State of Tex. Senate, Rec. of Proc. of the High Ct. of Impeachment on the Trial of Hon. James E. Ferguson, Governor, S. 35, 2nd & 3rd Sess. at 17, 27 (1917). His defense failed, but for reasons not at issue here. First, those four articles addressed the Governor’s ongoing misuse of public funds, continued failure to repay his indebtedness to the State, and personal profit from misappropriated State money during both his prior and then-current terms. *See id.* at 767-69, 779-81. Second, the House committee appointed to investigate the charges against the Governor expressly indicated it made

¹ *See, e.g.,* @BriscoeCain, Twitter (July 25, 2023, 10:17 PM), <https://twitter.com/BriscoeCain/status/1684040211297075202>.

“no finding as to whether these facts were unknown or concealed from the public at the time James E. Ferguson was elected Governor in 1914 and 1916, *because no evidence was introduced upon that question.*” *Id.* at 695 (emphasis added). And finally, the House Managers argued that the Governor knowingly and continuously concealed the source of the financial transactions even throughout his impeachment proceedings. *Id.* at 704. None of these circumstances exist here: nineteen of the Articles occurred, if at all, entirely before the Attorney General’s most recent election; counsel has introduced extensive evidence showing the allegations were known to the public beforehand, *see* Exhibit A; and the House does not charge Attorney General Paxton with continuing to conceal any ongoing misconduct. Most significantly, however, neither the Managers nor the Court in the Ferguson impeachment suggested that the prior-term doctrine did not apply by virtue of the Governor’s status as a constitutional officer, or because the Legislature had invoked the constitutional impeachment process.

The Court explained the prior-term doctrine’s mechanics in 1931, during Judge J.B. Price’s impeachment. Judge Price’s counsel argued that the House’s claims failed because they “refer[red] to action by him prior to his election as district judge for the term for which he now holds, and cannot therefore be the subject matter of impeachment.” S. Journal Supp., 42nd Cong., 2nd Sess. at 283-89, 290, 335 (1931). As counsel recognized, “[t]he proceedings in the address for the removal of [Judge Willis] establishe[d] the precedent in this State that an officer will not be removed by address or impeachment for offenses committed prior to his election for the term which he is serving at the time the articles of impeachment are preferred or the address is presented.” *Id.* at 335. Likewise, the “precedent in the impeachment proceedings” of Commissioner McGaughey proved “the proposition that an officer is not subject to impeachment for offenses committed prior to the term of office he is serving at the time his removal is sought

for such prior offenses.” *Id.* The Court agreed with counsel and sustained demurrers to multiple articles covering Judge Price’s public conduct prior to his re-election, dismissing those charges outright. *Id.* at 429-31. As this Court has explained it, the prior-term doctrine is clear: if articles of impeachment rely on “offenses committed prior to his election for the term which he is serving at the time the articles of impeachment are preferred,” *id.* at 335, the doctrine bars prosecution or removal of the impeached officer.

By 1975, when Judge O.P. Carrillo faced concurrent impeachment and removal proceedings by Congress and the Texas Supreme Court, the prior-term doctrine was a well-established part of Texas impeachment precedent. *See* State of Tex. Senate, Rec. of Proc. Of the High Ct. of Impeachment on the Trial of O.P. Carrillo, Judge, S. 64, Reg. Sess. (1975) (“Carrillo Impeachment Proceedings”); *Matter of Carrillo*, 542 S.W.2d 105 (Tex. 1976). Before the Senate, Judge Carrillo’s counsel argued that alleged acts forming the basis of the articles of impeachment “occurred prior to the Respondent’s election to office,” and were therefore statutorily inadequate grounds for removal. Carrillo Impeachment Proceedings at 160. Counsel offered a continuing objection to “any inquiry preceding [the judge’s election]” because those allegations “would be irrelevant and immaterial under the prior term doctrine.” *Id.* at 473. As counsel explained, the “rationale for the [prior-term] statute is that the public is the ultimate arbiter of what constitutes improper conduct by state officials.” *Id.* at 160.

While evaluating Judge Carrillo’s concurrent removal, the Texas Supreme Court explained that the “spirit” of the statutory prior-term language applies so long as the alleged misconduct is “a matter of public record or otherwise known to the electors” before the most recent election. *Carrillo*, 542 S.W.2d at 110 (citing *In re Laughlin*, 265 S.W.2d 805, 808 (1954)); *see also Reeves v. State*, 267 S.W. 666 (1924). Echoing this Court’s “sound rationale” for the doctrine, the Supreme

Court explained “that the public, as the ultimate judge and jury in a democratic society,” can choose to elect their preferred candidate despite allegations of misconduct, “if the public knows about such misconduct prior to the election.” *Carrillo*, 542 S.W.2d at 110 (citing *In re Brown*, 512 S.W.2d 317 (1974)). The public must know enough “to cast public discredit” upon the office or institution. *Id.* In Judge Carrillo’s case, there was “no evidence whatever that the misconduct of Judge Carrillo was known to the public prior to his election.” *Carrillo*, 542 S.W.2d at 111. But here, there is no question whether the allegations were publicly known, *see* Exhibit A, and the Articles are barred both by a textualist reading of section 665.081 and the Texas Supreme Court’s application of it.

Consistent with Texas law, Texas Supreme Court decisions, and this Court’s precedents, the prior-term doctrine squarely applies to this proceeding. Attorney General Paxton is an elected State officer subject to House impeachment and Senate conviction and removal under the Texas Constitution. His impeachment is statutorily controlled by Chapter 665, which includes section 665.081’s prior-term preclusions. The alleged facts underlying Articles I through VII and IX through XX occurred, if at all, prior to his election, and the allegations against him were highly publicized not only at that time, but for years prior. *See* Exhibit A. Indeed, the factual underpinnings for the Articles have been reported on for years and even served as the focal point of his opponents’ media campaigns during his most recent primary and general elections. *See id.* Texas voters elected Attorney General Paxton despite those public allegations—so they have the last word, and the prior-term doctrine bars the Attorney General’s removal.

II. BECAUSE THE PRIOR-TERM DOCTRINE APPLIES, ARTICLES I THROUGH VII AND IX THROUGH XX MUST BE DISMISSED.

It is undisputed that Articles I through VII and IX through XX, all preferred during the Attorney General’s term that began in January 2023, rely on allegations that occurred, if at all,

prior to his current term. And, to the extent the Supreme Court's notice requirement applies, each allegation was highly publicized to the electorate before voting. *See generally*, Exhibit A.

Article I concerns OAG's ongoing role investigating the Mitte Foundation, which has been a public matter since at least 2009 when then-Attorney General Abbott first investigated the Foundation for alleged illegal conduct. Attorney General Paxton's involvement in the most recent investigation was well publicized in OAG's 2020 litigation filings.

Article II states the Attorney General directed OAG employees to prepare a legal opinion regarding impending foreclosure sales on August 1, 2020, giving the public notice of the guidance at that time. Similarly, Articles III and IV claim Attorney General Paxton directed OAG employees to issue a decision related to public records requests made in late 2019, March 2020, and May 2020, and that the Attorney General allegedly improperly obtained access to information held by his office that had not been publicly disclosed from the March 2020 request. OAG ultimately concluded that the FBI report was subject to disclosure in July 2020.

Article V alleges Attorney General Paxton misused his authority by retaining an outside counsel, Brandon Cammack, in late August 2020.

Article VI alleges the Attorney General wrongfully terminated employees who reported various internal agency decisions to law enforcement authorities. The employees separated in fall of 2020, and a small number of those employees filed a lawsuit around that time.

Related Articles VII and XV allege Attorney General Paxton requested an internal agency investigation and report that contains false or misleading statements related to various events regarding Nate Paul's litigation referrals occurring between 2019 and 2020.

Articles IX and X allege the Attorney General received a bribe from Nate Paul, who allegedly employed Laura Olson at one of his corporate holdings in 2019 and assisted with renovations to the Attorney General's home in 2020.

Article XI alleges the Attorney General caused undue delay in a state securities case initiated in Collin County in July 2015, the relevant alleged delays occurring years before the 2022 election. Similarly, Article XII claims the Attorney General benefited from a lawsuit filed by one of his campaign donors at the same time as his then-pending securities case.

Article XIII alleges Attorney General Paxton made false statements to the State Securities Board in connection with a 2012 temporary lapse in his investment advisor registration. Similarly, Article XIV alleges the Attorney General failed to fully disclose his financial interests in his personal financial statements filed with the Texas Ethics Commission; these alleged lapses occurred between 2003 and 2011.

Articles XVI through XX are general, catchall provisions that allege Attorney General Paxton conspired—or attempted to conspire—to commit “acts described in one or more articles” and that he misused his office in various ways, each of which relate to alleged conduct discussed in earlier Articles that occurred, if at all, prior to 2020 and were known to the public at that time.

Aside from Article VIII, every Article must be dismissed under the prior-term doctrine. The allegations contained in each Article predate Attorney General Paxton's most recent election, and none of the alleged conduct was hidden or concealed from voters before that election. *See* Exhibit A. Indeed, every single Article has been the subject of a news story or political hit piece that Attorney General Paxton's opponents have spent years circulating for their own gain. *See id.* For this reason, the Court should dismiss Articles I through VII and IX through XX.

III. DISMISSAL PRESERVES THE PEOPLE’S WILL AND PREVENTS POLITICAL ABUSE OF THE LEGISLATURE’S IMPEACHMENT POWER.

The prior-term doctrine provides a necessary safeguard to the Legislature’s awesome impeachment power by affirming the authority of “the public, as the ultimate judge and jury” to elect their preferred candidates. *Carrillo*, 542 S.W.2d at 110 (citing *In re Brown*, 512 S.W.2d 317 (1974)). Without this guiding principle, impeachment becomes a tool for political retaliation and abuse. The current proceeding reaffirms this age-old truth. After Judge Willis was acquitted in 1887, it was widely reported that his impeachment was not about the underlying allegations but was “instituted through jealousy and spite” and “prosecuted, not by law but by prejudice” of contemporary politicians. J. Evetts Haley, *The Grass Lease Fight and Attempted Impeachment of the First Panhandle Judge*, 38 *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* 1, 20-21 (July 1934). And when Commissioner McGaughey was acquitted in 1893, his impeachment came to be “viewed as political persecution.” Cortez A. M. Ewing, *The Impeachment of Colonel W.L. McGaughey (1893)*, 15 *Southwestern Social Science Quarterly* 52, 62 (June 1934).

Such behavior should not be rewarded. Texas voters elected Attorney General Paxton to office three consecutive times—most recently mere months before the House secretly began crafting these Articles of Impeachment. By dismissing Articles I through VII and IX through XX, this Court can reaffirm its commitment to the rule of law and precedent and its respect for the sovereign will of Texas’s voters.

IV. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, this Court should dismiss Articles I through VII and IX through XX.

Respectfully submitted.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This motion was served via email on the House Board of Managers' counsel, to wit: Rusty Hardin, rhardin@rustyhardin.com, and Dick DeGuerin, ddeguerin@aol.com, on July 31, 2023.

/s/ Judd E. Stone II
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EXHIBIT A

This Exhibit contains a chronological list of published articles and news stories reflecting the highly publicized nature of the allegations underlying each of the House's twenty Articles of Impeachment before the Attorney General's recent election. This list is not meant to be exhaustive.

Christy Hoppe, "Travis County DA passes on taking action against Atty Gen Ken Paxton," *The Dallas Morning News*, Jan. 29, 2015.

Christy Hoppe, "AG Paxton won't face securities case charges," *The Dallas Morning News*, Jan. 30, 2015.

Chuck Lindell and Jazmine Ulloa, "No charges for attorney general," *Austin American-Statesman*, Jan. 30, 2015.

Lauren McGaughy, "Travis DA ends Paxton inquiry ;Case referred elsewhere due to lack of venue;" *The Houston Chronicle*, Jan. 30, 2015.

Lauren McGaughy, "Travis DA refers AG probe elsewhere," *San Antonio Express-News*, Jan. 30, 2015.

"Huh? Who says the AG isn't political?" *San Antonio Express-News*, Feb. 1, 2015.

Ken Herman, "For these three, 'P' stands for persistent," *Austin American-Statesman*, Feb. 6, 2015.

"Why Ken Paxton is tying up a dead woman's estate," *Corpus Christi Caller-Times*, Feb. 20, 2015.

Tom Whitehurst Jr., "Making Texas safe for the GOP," *Corpus Christi Caller-Times*, March 22, 2015.

Lauren McGaughy and Lise Olsen, "Watchdog wants stalled AG probe pursued; Case referred to Collin County DA, who says complaint must be refiled," *The Houston Chronicle*, March 31, 2015.

Lauren McGaughy and Lise Olsen, "Watchdog demands action on AG," *San Antonio Express-News*, March 31, 2015.

Christy Hoppe, "Group to refile AG case," *The Dallas Morning News*, April 1, 2015.

"Independent Prosecutor," *The Dallas Morning News*, April 3, 2015.

Lauren McGaughy, "Public Integrity Unit's fate up for debate; Inaction in Paxton case gives fodder to foes of bill that would send cases to officials' home-area prosecutors," *The Houston Chronicle*, April 4, 2015.

Lauren McGaughy, "Case shines light on SB 10's dilemma," *San Antonio Express-News*, April 5, 2015.

Mike Ward, "Compromise could get ethics bill moving again," *The Houston Chronicle*, April 8, 2015.

Michael E. Young, "Collin County DA asks Texas Rangers to investigate Texas AG Ken Paxton," *The Dallas Morning News*, April 9, 2015.

Mike Ward, "Senate OKs bill to move integrity unit; Measure would strip Travis DA's office of status as watchdog," *The Houston Chronicle*, April 9, 2015.

Lauren McGaughy, "Grand jury looking into Paxton case," *The Houston Chronicle*, April 9, 2015.

Lauren McGaughy, "Paxton probe files are sought," *San Antonio Express-News*, April 9, 2015.

Gromer Jefferies Jr. and Michael E. Young, "DA deflects Paxton case," *The Dallas Morning News*, April 10, 2015.

Chuck Lindell, "Texas Rangers to probe Paxton," *Austin American-Statesman*, April 10, 2015.

Lauren McGaughy, "Paxton case to get review; Collin County DA asks Rangers to conduct probe into violations," *The Houston Chronicle*, April 10, 2015.

Todd Robberson, "The big stall in Collin County on criminal probe of Attorney General Paxton," *The Dallas Morning News*, April 10, 2015.

"CITY | STATE; Rangers are asked to review Paxton's violations," *The Houston Chronicle*, April 10, 2015.

"Questions loom in Paxton ethics case," *Austin American-Statesman*, April 11, 2015.

"Collin County," *The Dallas Morning News*, April 12, 2015.

"It's a wrap: Editorials for the week of April 5-11," *Austin American Statesman*, April 12, 2015.

Gromer Jeffers Jr., "Fire put out by AG smolders again," *The Dallas Morning News*, April 14, 2015.

Gromer Jeffers Jr., "Paxton's assets put into trust," *The Dallas Morning News*, April 15, 2015.

"Stepping up on the soapbox," *The Dallas Morning News*, April 19, 2015.

Marty Schladen, "Texas house votes to move corrupt investigations to DPS," *El Paso Times*, April 20, 2015.

Robert T. Garrett, "House favors yanking corruption probes from Travis, adds provision affecting Paxton's case," *The Dallas Morning News*, April 20, 2015.

Robert T. Garrett, "Collin DA Willis recuses himself from Paxton securities-license probe," *The Dallas Morning News*, April 21, 2015.

Robert T. Garrett, "Corruption cases move to counties," *The Dallas Morning News*, April 21, 2015.

David Saleh Rauf, "House votes to dilute ethics watchdog's power," *The Houston Chronicle*, April 21, 2015.

David Saleh Rauf, "House OKs bill on graft," *San Antonio Express-News*, April 21, 2015.

Valerie Wigglesworth, "Two Houston attorneys appointed to Paxton case after Collin DA's recusal," *The Dallas Morning News*, April 22, 2015.

Valerie Wigglesworth, "2 named to oversee AG's case," *The Dallas Morning News*, April 23, 2015.

Tod Robberson, "Special prosecutors should add credibility to tainted investigation of Paxton," *The Dallas Morning News*, April 23, 2015.

Lauren McGaughey, "2 appointed special prosecutors in Paxton probe; Houston pair vow an impartial review in attorney general's security law case," *The Houston Chronicle*, April 23, 2015.

Gromer Jeffers Jr., "Allen Briefs," *The Dallas Morning News*, April 24, 2015.

"Hits and Misses," *The Dallas Morning News*, April 25, 2015.

"Collin County," *The Dallas Morning News*, April 26, 2015.

"Join Our Blog Debate," *The Dallas Morning News*, April 27, 2015.

EVA-MARIE AYALA, "Tough ethics bills may hit too close to home," *The Dallas Morning News*, April 28, 2015.

Gromer Jeffers Jr., "Attorney General Ken Paxton says little about Texas Rangers probe into securities violations," *The Dallas Morning News*, May 6, 2015.

Gromer Jeffers Jr., "Paxton says he hasn't spoken with Rangers about case," *The Dallas Morning News*, May 7, 2015.

Christy Hoppe, "Paxton referrals detailed," *The Dallas Morning News*, May 17, 2015.

Christy Hoppe, "State reviews Mowery deals," *The Dallas Morning News*, May 17, 2015.

Angela Fire, "Austin; Records: Paxton earned thousands from referrals," *Denton Record-Chronicle*, May 18, 2015.

Christy Hoppe, "Paxton didn't disclose fee earned for referral," *The Houston Chronicle*, May 18, 2015.

"Detailing Paxton's Deal," *The Dallas Morning News*, May 21, 2015.

Marty Schladen, "Texas Legislature passes controversial corruption measure," *El Paso Times*, May 30, 2015.

Tod Robberson, "Clock is ticking for possible indictment of Attorney General Ken Paxton," *The Dallas Morning News*, June 1, 2015.

Judy B. Beeman, "Letters to the Editor," *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, June 2, 2015.

Lauren McGaughy and Mike Ward, "State judge expands Paxton investigation; Special prosecutors looking into attorney general's case say they are 'going where the evidence took us,'" *The Houston Chronicle*, June 5, 2015.

Lauren McGaughy and Mike Ward, "Probe of AG's actions expands; More possible offenses investigated," *San Antonio Express-News*, June 5, 2015.

"Nation," *The Houston Chronicle*, June 5, 2015.

"EDITORIAL: Texas should keep Public Integrity Unit," *The Beaumont Enterprise*, June 14, 2015.

Gromer Jeffers Jr., "Investigation of Texas AG Ken Paxton ready for grand jury review," *The Dallas Morning News*, June 18, 2015.

Mike Ward, "Abbott signs bill to revise grand jury system," *The Houston Chronicle*, June 20, 2015.

Gromer Jeffers Jr., "BRIEFS," *The Dallas Morning News*, June 26, 2015.

Tanya Eiserer, "Legal woes deepen for AG Paxton," *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, July 1, 2015.

Gromer Jeffers Jr., "Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton calls the investigation against him a 'political hit-job,'" *The Dallas Morning News*, July 2, 2015.

Lauren McGaughy, "Prosecutor expects Paxton's indictment; Attorney cites 'substantial' evidence," *San Antonio Express-News*, July 2, 2015.

Lauren McGaughy, "Prosecutor: Paxton evidence strong; Fraud case against attorney general will be presented to grand jury soon," *The Houston Chronicle*, July 2, 2015.

“Texans deserve to know about Paxton,” Fort Worth Star-Telegram, July 2, 2015.

Gromer Jeffers Jr., “Paxton may be indicted,” The Dallas Morning News, July 2, 2015.

Tod Robberson, “Prosecuting Paxton: Time for attorney general to face, not flout, the law,” The Dallas Morning, July 2, 2015.

Gromer Jeffers Jr., “Paxton may be indicted,” The Dallas Morning News, July 2, 2015.

Lance Murray, “Special prosecutor to seek felony charge against Texas AG Paxton in securities case,” Dallas Business Journal, July 2, 2015.

Chuck Lindell, “Grand jury will hear Paxton case,” Austin American-Statesman, July 3, 2015.

“AG decries case as ‘political hit job,’” The Dallas Morning News, July 3, 2015.

Chuck Lindell, “Grand jury will hear Paxton case,” Austin American-Statesman, July 3, 2015.

“AG decries case as ‘political hit job,’” The Dallas Morning News, July 3, 2015.

Gromer Jeffers Jr., “Aide: Paxton case a ‘hit job,’” The Dallas Morning News, July 3, 2015.

Patrick Svitek, “Paxton aide says AG is a target of a ‘political hit job,’” Fort Worth Star-Telegram, July 3, 2015.

Sophia Bollag, “Democratic lawyers pursuing legal action against Paxton,” Fort Worth Star-Telegram, July 3, 2015.

“Austin; AG spokesman says case is ‘political hit-job,’” Denton Record-Chronicle, July 3, 2015.

Lauren McGaughy, “Paxton aide alleges ‘political hit’; Spokesman assails prosecutors over effort to indict attorney general,” The Houston Chronicle, July 3, 2015.

“Hits and Misses,” The Dallas Morning News, July 4, 2015.

J. David McSwane, “Politics fills top jobs at AG office - Correction Appended,” Austin American-Statesman, July 5, 2015.

“EDITORIAL: Attorney general's shenanigans embarrass Texas,” The Beaumont Enterprise, July 7, 2015.

“What to do about mistaken choice of AG,” Corpus Christi Caller-Times, July 7, 2015.

Lauren McGaughy, “Texas AG is tied to firm that the feds probed,” San Antonio Express-News, July 8, 2015.

Lauren McGaughy, "Paxton linked to firm in probe; AG is an investor in company under SEC investigation," *The Houston Chronicle*, July 8, 2015.

"A nonpolitical appeal to reason," *Corpus Christi Caller-Times*, July 9, 2015.

Lauren McGaughy, "Paxton's ties grew to 28 from two; AG doesn't cut business interests," *San Antonio Express-News*, July 9, 2015.

Lauren McGaughy, "Paxton grows business ties despite vow," *The Houston Chronicle*, July 9, 2015.

Valerie Wigglesworth, "Grand jurors mistakenly ID'd," *The Dallas Morning News*, July 10, 2015.

"Have you heard? 5 STORIES FROM AROUND THE AREA," *The Dallas Morning News*, July 10, 2015.

"Collin County," *The Dallas Morning News*, July 12, 2015.

Kevin Cummings, "Collin County grand jury likely to hear Paxton case," *Plano Star Courier*, July 13, 2015.

J. David McSwane and Chuck Lindell, "Board held off Paxton charges," *Austin American-Statesman*, July 14, 2015.

Tod Robberson, "As Paxton's legal problems mount, he must keep AG's office out of it," *The Dallas Morning News*, July 15, 2015.

Julieta Chiquillo, "Tech firm in inquiry got city aid," *The Dallas Morning News*, July 16, 2015.

"Abbott should call on attorney general to vacate position," *San Angelo Standard-Times*, July 16, 2015.

Tom Benning, "Paxton reports healthy \$2.5M campaign balance despite legal issues," *The Dallas Morning News*, July 17, 2015.

"McKinney Briefs," *The Dallas Morning News*, July 17, 2015.

"BRIEFS," *The Dallas Morning News*, July 17, 2015.

"Paxton displays a lawless disrespect," *Mount Pleasant Daily Tribune*, July 17, 2015.

Julieta Chiquillo, "Collin County," *The Dallas Morning News*, July 19, 2015.

Tod Robberson, "JOIN OUR BLOG DEBATE," *The Dallas Morning News*, July 20, 2015.

"Sounding Off," *The Dallas Morning News*, July 24, 2015.

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