# Donald Trump convicted for falsifying business records: First criminal conviction of a US ex-president



**Donald Trump Convicted for Falsifying Business Records**

Former President Donald Trump has been convicted on 34 counts of falsifying business records by a Manhattan jury, marking the first criminal conviction of a U.S. ex-president. The charges relate to a hush money payment to adult film star Stormy Daniels during the 2016 presidential campaign, intended to conceal their alleged affair. Trump's conviction has significant implications for his political future and the upcoming 2024 presidential election.

Following the verdict, Trump delivered a 33-minute speech at Trump Tower, criticizing those involved in the case, including Judge Juan Merchan and his former lawyer, Michael Cohen. Trump also claimed without evidence that President Joe Biden orchestrated the legal proceedings against him.

Despite the conviction, Trump maintains strong support from his base, evidenced by a surge in campaign donations post-verdict. He is expected to appeal the decision, with sentencing set for July 11, a few days before the Republican National Convention. Trump's legal team argues that the trial's venue and the judge were unfair, and they are preparing to challenge these points in the appellate court.

Congressman Dean Phillips, a Democrat from Minnesota, has called on New York Governor Kathy Hochul to pardon Trump, citing the divisive impact of the case. However, Hochul has reaffirmed the principle that no one is above the law, showing little indication of considering a pardon.

Trump's conviction has become a focal point for both Democrats and Republicans. Democratic candidates are using the verdict to question their Republican opponents' judgment, while GOP leaders have criticized the judicial system, framing the conviction as politically motivated. The upcoming election will test the impact of Trump's legal issues on his political viability and voter support.

The legal process, including potential appeals, is expected to extend beyond the 2024 election, continuing to influence the political landscape. Trump's conviction, his response, and his supporters' reactions highlight the deep partisan divide in American politics.