



PRESS RELEASE

Political Organizer and Former President of City Council of Atlantic City Sentenced to 24 Months for Submitting Fraudulent Mail-In Ballots

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

For Immediate Release

U.S. Attorney's Office, District of New Jersey

CAMDEN, N.J. – An Atlantic County, New Jersey, man was sentenced today to 24 months in prison for his role in the procurement, casting, and tabulation of fraudulent mail-in ballots submitted in connection with the general election held on November 8, 2022, U.S. Attorney Alina Habba announced.

Craig Callaway, 64, a former member and President of the City Council of Atlantic City and a political organizer who assisted campaigns for elected offices in New Jersey, previously pleaded guilty before Chief U.S. District Judge Renée Marie Bumb in Camden federal court to an Information charging him with depriving, defrauding, and attempting to deprive and defraud the residents of the State of New Jersey of a fair and impartially conducted election process by the fraudulent procurement, casting, and tabulation of ballots.

“Today’s sentence sends a clear message to those who seek to undermine New Jersey’s electoral process: that such conduct will

result in serious consequences. The sentence also reflects our Office's commitment to protecting free and fair elections, one of the bedrock principles of our democracy."

- U.S. Attorney Alina Habba

"The right to vote is a fundamental aspect of our democracy, one that the FBI and our law enforcement partners strive to protect. Craig Callaway's nefarious plot to hijack mail-in ballots resulted in his arrest and subsequent sentencing, and serves as a reminder to like-minded criminals, voter fraud will not be tolerated in New Jersey," said FBI Special Agent in Charge Stefanie Roddy.

According to the documents filed in this case and statements made in court:

Beginning in or about October 2022, approximately one month before the general election held on November 8, 2022 (the "2022 General Election"), Callaway and others who were working at Callaway's direction approached numerous individuals in Atlantic City, promising to pay them between approximately \$30 and \$50 to act as purported authorized messengers for voters who supposedly wished to vote by mail.

After receiving Vote-By-Mail Applications from Callaway or his subordinates, these purported messengers entered the Atlantic County Clerk's Office carrying anywhere from one to four completed Vote-By-Mail Applications. Inside the County Clerk's Office, as instructed by Callaway or his subordinates, these individuals provided County Clerk's Office personnel proof of identification and signed the Vote-By-Mail Applications in the authorized messenger portion before handing those signed applications to office personnel. Further as instructed by Callaway or his subordinates, these purported messengers waited while office personnel processed the applications and, if the applications were approved, provided to the purported messengers mail-in ballots for the voters listed on the applications.

Under New Jersey law, a messenger is required to deliver any mail-in ballot they received directly to the voter who requested the ballot and must certify that they would do so. However, after receiving mail-in ballots, these purported messengers left the County Clerk's Office and handed the ballots to Callaway or his subordinates, instead of delivering the ballots to the voters.

Many of the mail-in ballots collected by Callaway or his subordinates were ultimately cast in the names of voters who have confirmed that they did not vote in the 2022 General Election — either in-person or by submitting a mail-in ballot — and that they did not authorize Callaway, his subordinates, or anyone else, to cast ballots for them in the 2022 General Election. Many of these mail-in ballots were counted towards the 2022 General Election.

In addition to the prison term, Chief Judge Bumb sentenced Callaway to three years of supervised release.

U.S. Attorney Habba credited special agents of the FBI, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Stefanie Roddy; the FBI's Atlantic City Resident Agency's Public Corruption Task Force, including the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office, under the direction of Prosecutor William Reynolds; the Atlantic City Police Department, under the direction of Officer-in-Charge Chief James A. Sarkos; and the New Jersey State Police, under the direction of Superintendent Colonel Patrick J. Callahan; as well as special agents of the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General, Northeast Region, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Jonathan Mellone; the Department of Agriculture -Office of Inspector General, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Bethanne M. Dinkins; and the postal inspectors of the United States Postal Inspection Service, Philadelphia Division, under the direction of Inspector in Charge Christopher A. Nielsen, with the investigation leading to today's sentence.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney James H. Graham of the Special Prosecutions Division.

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Defense counsel: Megan J. Davies, Esq.

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Topic

VOTING AND ELECTIONS

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