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'I've got seven months'



Senator Bill Cassidy with his wife Dr. Laura Cassidy by his side in Baton Rouge on May 16.

MICHAEL DEMOCKER / GETTY IMAGES

Cassidy discusses political future, Trump, endorsement

Greg Hilburn
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Louisiana U.S. Sen. Bill Cassidy said he has no regrets about his impeachment vote against President Donald Trump, despite it costing him his U.S. Senate seat.

"I voted for the Constitution," Cassidy said of his 2021 vote to impeach Trump for his role in the Jan. 6 Capitol riot. "I have no regrets whatsoever. When I lay my head on my pillow, I'm at peace with myself."

Trumped campaigned against Cassidy in the May 16 election, calling him disloyal and instead supporting Republican Congresswoman Julia Letlow, who finished first in the party primary with 45%.

Treasurer John Fleming finished second with 28% to make the runoff, while Cassidy finished at 23% and out of the money.

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Senator tells next move after recent loss

Presley Bo Tyler
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Louisiana Senator Bill Cassidy lost the Republican Primary election on May 16 to Trump-backed candidate Julia Letlow and MAGA-aligned State Treasurer John Fleming.

Cassidy told reporters during a conference call on May 19, following his loss on Saturday, that he will "absolutely not" be running for Louisiana governor in 2027 or for a U.S. House seat in the fall.

The Senator also said that "probably nothing" is in store for his political future, signaling the end of his career in politics.

When does Bill Cassidy leave office?

Cassidy has seven months left in office and will serve out the remainder of his term. "I've got seven months to be the best senator I can possibly be," he told reporters.

Despite not being reelected, sitting

senators retain their voting power and can continue to vote on all legislative issues and nominations for the remainder of their current term.

This means that, for the rest of his term, Cassidy can vote to finalize legislation and confirm, or deny, congressional nominees.

What did Bill Cassidy do in office? Why he lost MAGA's favor

Back in 2021, Cassidy voted to impeach President Trump for his role in the Jan. 6 Capitol Riot, resulting in Trump calling Cassidy disloyal and endorsing Republican Congresswoman Julia Letlow for Senate.

Cassidy told reporters that he has "no regrets whatsoever" regarding voting to impeach Trump. "I voted for the Constitution," said Cassidy.

Additionally, in Feb. 2025, Cassidy was considered the swing vote in RFK Jr. confirmation as Health and Human Services Secretary. Cassidy initially had reservation because of RFK Jr.'s

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Note to readers

We will not be printing a paper on Monday, May 25, but will be providing it to you via the eNewspaper. You can always find the latest news on our website, mobile app, newsletters and social media. Subscribers can access the eNewspaper by going to our website and clicking on eNewspaper in the black navigation bar.

Governor recall effort advances

Success is rare in history

Ian Robinson
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

As organizers push to recall Louisiana Gov. Jeff Landry, history shows successful gubernatorial recalls are very rare in the United States, with only two governors ever removed from office through the process.

The only successful gubernatorial recalls occurred more than 80 years apart, first in North Dakota, where voters removed Gov. Lynn Frazier in 1921, and later in California, where Gov. Gray Davis lost a 2003 recall election following voter frustration over the economy and state finances.

Other governors have faced recalls but ultimately stayed in office, including Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker in 2012, fueled by backlash over his union policies. California Gov. Gavin Newsome survived an attempt in 2021 driven by criticism of his handling of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Organizers of the petition to remove Landry filed May 4, accusing him of conducting "a pattern of actions and statements that undermine fair representation." They have a deadline of 180 days to secure about 500,000 signatures from Louisiana's 2.5 million active registered voters.

Pearson Cross, a Louisiana politics and elections expert, said he does not believe there is a single defining issue driving enough widespread anger among voters to fuel a successful recall

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Landry

State's first recorded hantavirus infection emerged in 1993

Ian Robinson
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

The first known case of hantavirus in Louisiana was documented in 1993, more than 30 years prior to the rare but dangerous disease causing an outbreak on a South Atlantic cruise ship in May, killing at least three passengers.

Following a deadly 1993 hantavirus outbreak throughout the Southwest, a Monroe pulmonologist suspected the

virus might have been responsible for the death of a 58-year-old Black man who was treated at E.A. Conway Hospital on June 16, 1993, documenting the state's earliest potential cases of the rare rodent-borne illness.

In an article published in December 1993, Dr. Kenneth J. Steier, a pulmonologist at E.A. Conway Hospital, now Ochsner LSU Health Monroe, wrote that he suspected the patient, a Louisiana bridge worker, contracted "a cousin" of the hantavirus strain and described the

experience as the "most puzzling case so far."

Steier said the patient first became ill on June 14, 1993, developing a headache and fever-like symptoms while cleaning fish before his condition rapidly deteriorated weakness, vomiting, chills and severe fatigue in the days that followed.

The patient died four days later as his condition worsened. Testing from the Center for Disease Control and

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Test tubes labeled "Hantavirus positive and negative" are held in this illustration taken May 7.

DADO RUVIC / REUTERS

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