

# The Philadelphia Inquirer

ALWAYS ASKING. ALWAYS PHILLY.

## Trump commutes Johnny Doc’s sentence

**Former labor leader John Dougherty came home Friday, having served less than two years of his six-year prison term.**

By Chris Palmer  
Staff Writer

Johnny Doc is free. Convicted former Philadelphia labor leader John Dougherty was released Friday afternoon from a federal penitentiary in Lewisburg,

his lawyer said, capping a surprise outcome that was the result of President Donald Trump’s decision to commute the remainder of Dougherty’s six-year prison term. Dougherty’s lawyer, George Bochetto, said he was released around 3 p.m. Dougherty — widely known as Johnny Doc — had served less than two years of that sentence, which came after he was convicted in two high-profile trials: The first in which he was found guilty of bribing former Philadelphia City Councilmember Bobby Henon, the second over his participation in an

embezzlement scheme that cost his union nearly \$600,000. For much of the past year, Dougherty had been petitioning U.S. District Judge Jeffrey L. Schmehl to release him on house arrest so he could provide care for his gravely ill wife. But Schmehl had repeatedly denied those efforts. Trump’s decision to commute Dougherty’s sentence instead will result in a more sweeping form of relief: His conviction will remain intact, but he will not be subject to any monitoring or house arrest, and he will no longer have to pay about \$1.6 million in restitution

to the union he was convicted of defrauding. Bochetto called Trump’s decision “a magnificent gesture of compassion.” And he said it came after he’d been in regular communication with White House staff members about the dire and longstanding health challenges faced by Dougherty’s wife, Cecilia. A White House official said Friday that those circumstances figured into Trump’s decision — particularly because Dougherty’s father-in-law, who had been serving as the primary caretaker, died last year.

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**John Dougherty in 2024.** His lawyer petitioned to have him freed to care for his wife, Cecilia. Steven M. Falk / Staff Photographer



**Defendant Lindsay Clancy and attorney Kevin Reddington listen to Judge William Sullivan declare a mistrial Friday in Clancy’s murder trial in Plymouth, Mass.** Greg Derr / Patriot Ledger, Pool

## Judge declares mistrial after pause in Lindsay Clancy child killings case

**The proceedings took a dramatic turn when the judge halted his decision to give the defense an hour to appeal.**

By Leah Willingham and Mike Casey  
Associated Press

PLYMOUTH, Mass. — A judge in the Lindsay Clancy murder trial declared a mistrial Friday after jurors failed to reach a verdict in a case that sharply divided many

Americans over whether the Massachusetts woman should be held criminally responsible for killing her three young children. The trial generated intense interest for more than a month, drawing attention to issues around maternal mental health after childbirth. Clancy, a 36-year-old former labor and delivery nurse, never disputed that she killed the children. But her attorney said she had a rare condition called postpartum psychosis when she strangled her kids, the youngest just 8 months old, then tried to take her own life in 2023. Prosecutors said Clancy knew what she was doing.

Friday’s mistrial, on the seventh day of deliberations, leaves the case unresolved. In the end, the decision seemed to surprise no one in the courtroom. Neither Clancy nor her family showed any emotion as the judge announced the trial was ending without a resolution. Her parents and her sister were escorted by state police from the back of the courthouse, saying nothing to reporters. Her ex-husband Patrick Clancy, the trial’s first witness, has said in past interviews that he forgives her and believes her actions were the result of mental illness. The prosecutor who originally

decided to charge Clancy said there would not be an immediate decision about a second trial. He said public opinion would not influence any decision. “This was and has always been about getting justice for those three little babies,” said Plymouth County District Attorney Timothy Cruz. “This case is not about the health-care system, or about how women are treated in it, or what diagnoses there are.” He pointed out that the two trial prosecutors were “both mothers themselves.” The deliberations took a

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## Pa. deaths still not included in CDC’s measles update

**The federal agency instead placed an asterisk where cases would be recorded.**

By Sarah Gantz  
Staff Writer

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s latest update Friday on the toll of measles outbreaks nationally continued to omit two measles-related deaths reported last week in Pennsylvania, extending an unusual standoff between federal and state health authorities. The agency instead placed an asterisk in a column where, if reported, the Pennsylvania deaths would be recorded as the first in the nation this year. A note below stated that “available information does not establish whether measles caused or contributed to the deaths or whether the individuals died from other causes while infected with measles.” The omission marked a clear departure from the agency’s normal operating procedure, as President Donald Trump’s administration and Democratic Gov. Josh Shapiro continue to clash over how the deaths were characterized. States report to the CDC cases and deaths for dozens of infectious diseases, such as hepatitis, influenza, and measles. The CDC has long compiled the data into reports that help epidemiologists monitor outbreaks and risk, and can inform lawmakers’ efforts to improve public health policy. In a rare break from that norm, Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. asked the CDC’s newly appointed director, Erica Schwartz, to omit the Pennsylvania deaths, according to Reuters. The move escalated a spat between Kennedy, a longtime anti-vaccine activist, and Shapiro,

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## Fetterman reportedly rejected CHOP’s concerns

**A news report details other meetings the senator dismissed, as a social account claiming to be former staffers calls it “the tip of the iceberg.”**

By Sam Janesch  
Staff Writer

U.S. Sen. John Fetterman privately rejected the concerns of leaders at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia who requested a meeting to

talk about vaccine policy and Medicaid cuts, speculating to an aide that they “just want free trips to DC,” according to a new report that sparked another wave of criticism aimed at the first-term senator. The report from The Wall Street Journal details several meetings or events that, while routine for many senators in Washington, Fetterman frequently tried to get out of, including the meeting with CHOP and a funeral for three York County police officers who were killed while on duty. Claims that Fetterman is not fully performing the role of a U.S. senator have plagued much of his nearly

four years in office. His former staffers have publicly and privately said he often cancels meetings at the last minute, including with constituent groups and Pennsylvania officials who would normally be considered allies. As he increasingly attacks his own party, the Pennsylvania Democrat has instead appeared regularly on conservative media. He’s prioritized meetings and events about Israel, whose war in Gaza had been a flashpoint in his break with former Democratic allies and supporters, and he does not make regular public appearances across the state he represents.

Among the new revelations in The Wall Street Journal story is an interaction the senator had with Yechiel Leiter, the Israel ambassador to the U.S. last year. After Fetterman said he wanted to craft a Senate resolution that would require his colleagues to vote on whether the war in Gaza was a genocide, Leiter suggested Fetterman instead write an op-ed about why he supported Israel. The Wall Street Journal reported. Leiter’s embassy later “sent over drafted points for Fetterman to consider,” but Fetterman’s staff withheld them from him out of concerns

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