



Arizona State is one of the toughest teams left for Tech

SPORTS, 1B

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ANALYSIS



President Donald Trump shows a pardon he signed for businessman Devon Archer, a former business partner of Hunter Biden, in 2025. Trump's second-term clemency has saved convicted defendants nearly \$1.7 billion in forgiven financial obligations, according to House Democrats. MANDEL NGAN/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Trump clemency erases \$1.7 billion in penalties

White-collar criminals dodge fines, restitution

Caren Morrison
Georgia State University
THE CONVERSATION

President Donald Trump loves a good pardon. His generosity is so well known, in fact, that an industry of lobbyists, lawyers and other insiders has reportedly sprung up to facilitate clemency for wealthy criminals. Clemency, meaning mercy or leniency, lets the president reduce the punishment for, or even forgive, federal crimes. For defendants hoping to avoid jail and walk away from millions of dollars in financial sanctions, paying, say, \$600,000 to a lobbying firm to influence the president may seem like a good investment. House Democrats recently reported that Trump's second-term clemency – which includes both pardons, which wipe away every part of a conviction, and commutations, which typically leave convictions intact but shorten a person's sentence – has saved convicted defendants nearly \$1.7 billion in forgiven financial obligations. Some of that amount – about \$700



The U.S. Constitution grants the president nearly unbounded power to pardon whomever he likes, whenever he likes and for whatever reason he likes. BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES FILE

million – had not yet been officially imposed by courts because the clemency came through so quickly. Much of the remaining \$1 billion had been ordered as restitution, meant to repay victims' losses. As a legal scholar researching the evolution of modern presidential clemency, I have reviewed every individual pardon and commutation granted by

U.S. presidents since 1989, spanning seven administrations, from George H.W. Bush to Trump's second term. I have found that while other presidents have canceled tens of millions of dollars' worth of restitution and fines, none of them have come anywhere near the billion-dollar mark – until

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JP shares claim against Judge on social media

Gabriel Monte
Lubbock Avalanche-Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

A Lubbock County Justice of the Peace has claimed on an online and social media outlet that Lubbock County Judge Curtis Parrish made unwanted

sexual contact with her. A video of Susan Rowley, who presides as Justice of the Peace of Precinct 2, was posted Sunday on the Lubbock Lampoon Facebook page during which she recounted what she called an encounter with Parrish. Parrish, who described Rowley's

allegation as "preposterous," declined to comment. In the video, Rowley said she met with Parrish alone in his office to confide in him about personal tragedies with which she was dealing and hoped

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ELECTIONS 2026
GOVERNOR

New poll shows the Texas tight race

Mateo Rosiles
USA TODAY NETWORK – TEXAS

The Texas governor's race has flipped days before early voting begins. A new ReconMR Oct. 13 poll shows Gov. Greg Abbott has edged ahead of Democrat Gina Hinojosa after trailing her by four points in a September ReconMR poll. "In an unusual predicament for the three-term governor, Abbott enters the final weeks of the campaign locked in the tightest of battles with Hinojosa, leading her by a single point, 48-47%," said Lindsey Hendren, a senior research analyst at ReconMR. "The race remains much more competitive than many anticipated earlier this year, or even just a few months ago." Here is a closer look at the poll and other recent October polls.

Greg Abbott, Gina Hinojosa statistically tied in Texas governor's race

The ReconMR Texas Poll surveyed 617 Texas likely voters and has an overall margin of error of 4.4 percentage points. The poll found that both candidates hold their partisan bases, with Abbott leading Republicans 92% to 5% and Hinojosa leading Democrats 94% to 2%. Hinojosa leads likely independents 57% to 34%. "So while Hinojosa has work to do in

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