

# "Deeply troubling": Arizona AG investigating Trump over possible Cheney death threat

The top prosecutor in Arizona is looking into whether Trump's remarks about Cheney qualify as a death threat

By **ALEX GALBRAITH**

PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 2, 2024 11:16AM (EDT)



Republican presidential nominee, former U.S. President Donald Trump, debates Democratic presidential nominee, U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris, for the first time during the presidential election campaign at The National Constitution Center on September 10, 2024 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. (Win McNamee/Getty Images)

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Donald Trump has spent years getting away with saying just about anything on a stage. His recent comments about former congresswoman Liz Cheney **facing "nine barrels shooting at her"** may have broken out of that familiar pattern, however. Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes is investigating whether Trump's statements at a Phoenix rally violated state laws against death threats.

The Democrat AG said Trump's remarks were "deeply troubling" in an interview with **local outlet 12News**.

"I have already asked my criminal division chief to start looking at that statement, analyzing it for whether it qualifies as a death threat under Arizona's laws," Mayes said.

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Trump was criticizing Cheney's reputation as a "war hawk" during his Thursday chat with Sean Hannity.

"The reason she couldn't stand me is that she always wanted to go to war with people. If it were up to her we'd be in 50 different countries," Trump **said**. "Let's see how she feels about it. You know, when the guns are trained on her face."

That comment has been denounced by Vice President **Kamala Harris** on Friday, who said it was another example of extreme rhetoric from the former president and an addition to his growing **"enemies list."**

In Arizona, Mayes said Trump's violent speech could only exacerbate the tensions in his swing state.

"It is the kind of thing that riles people up, and that makes our situation in Arizona and other states more dangerous," he said.

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**BREAKING**

# Trump Investigated By Arizona AG Over Gun Comments About Liz Cheney

**Antonio Pequeño IV** Forbes Staff

*Pequeño is a breaking news reporter who covers tech and more.*

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Nov 1, 2024, 03:55pm EDT

Updated Nov 1, 2024, 04:27pm EDT

**TOPLINE** Former President Donald Trump, who suggested Thursday that Former Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyo. should have guns “[trained on her face](#),” could potentially face legal consequences for his remarks, according to Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes’ office, which told Forbes it is looking into whether the comments violated Arizona law.



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Trump made the comments Thursday in Arizona. (Photo by Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images) GETTY IMAGES

#### KEY FACTS

- The attorney general's office confirmed with Forbes it is investigating Trump's comments after an [NBC affiliate station](#) in Arizona reported the former president's remarks are being investigated as a potential death threat.
- Trump, who has long been criticized by Cheney, a longtime Republican and the daughter of former Vice President Dick Cheney, called Liz a "[radical war hawk](#)" during an event with former Fox host Tucker Carlson, saying, "Let's see how [Cheney] feels about it, you know when the guns are trained on her face."
- Mayes told 12News during a taping of its "Sunday Square Off" segment she asked her criminal division chief to look into Trump's remarks.

- Mayes added she was not yet prepared to make the determination about whether or not the comment was in fact a death threat, though she noted ⓘ BETA is not helpful as Arizona prepares for Election day and tries “to make sure that we keep the peace at our polling places and in our state.”

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### CRUCIAL QUOTE

Cheney [responded to Trump’s comments](#) Friday morning and likened Trump to a dictator, saying the U.S. cannot be entrusted to “a petty, vindictive, cruel, unstable man who wants to be a tyrant.”

### KEY BACKGROUND

Cheney is one of Trump’s most outspoken critics. The former GOP lawmaker [threw her support behind](#) Vice President Kamala Harris in September “because of the danger that Donald Trump poses.” Her father, Dick, followed suit days later, [endorsing Harris](#) and saying U.S. citizens “have a duty to put our country above partisanship to defend our Constitution.” Cheney was one of two Republicans on the House Jan. 6 committee in charge of investigating the attack on the U.S. Capitol in 2021. She was also one of 10 House Republicans who voted to impeach Trump over the Jan. 6 riot.

### FURTHER READING

[Liz Cheney Slams ‘Dictator’ Trump After He Suggests There Should Be Guns ‘Trained On Her Face’ \(Forbes\)](#)

[Liz Cheney Says She’ll Vote For Kamala Harris—Citing ‘Danger’ Posed By Trump \(Forbes\)](#)

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Nov 1, 2024 - Politics & Policy

# Arizona AG to investigate Trump's Liz Cheney comment as potential death threat



Jessica Boehm, Ivana Saric



Democratic Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes says her office will investigate whether former President Trump broke the law when he suggested former U.S. Rep. Liz Cheney should face "[nine barrels](#)" at an Arizona rally on Thursday.

**Why it matters:** Trump's comment is the latest example of his [increasingly violent rhetoric](#) against his [political enemies](#) as his 2024 campaign winds down.

- Cheney, once among the [highest-ranking members](#) of the GOP, has long been one of Trump's fiercest critics.
- She [endorsed](#) Vice President Harris and campaigned for the Democrat over the last month.

**The latest:** During an interview with [12 News](#) on Friday, Mayes said she's directed her criminal division chief to analyze whether Trump's statements qualify as death threats under state law.

- "I'm not prepared now to say whether it was or it wasn't, but it is not helpful as we prepare for our election and as we try to make sure that we keep the peace at our polling places and in our state," she told the NBC affiliate.
- AG spokesperson Richie Taylor confirmed the AG's office is looking into the legality of Trump's comments.

**Flashback:** During an event in Glendale, Arizona moderated by former Fox News host [Tucker Carlson](#) on Thursday night, Trump [assailed Cheney](#) as "very dumb" and a "radical war hawk."

- "Let's put her with a rifle standing there with nine barrels shooting at her, okay? Let's see how she feels about it. You know, when the guns are trained on her face," Trump added.

- Trump said at the event that he was criticizing "war hawks sitting in Washington" while sending U.S. troops abroad.

**The other side:** Trump campaign spokesperson Karoline Leavitt said the former president was "100% correct that warmongers like Liz Cheney are very quick to start wars and send other Americans to fight them, rather than go into combat themselves."

- Leavitt condemned the backlash to Trump's comments, calling it an example of "fake media outrage" attempting "to interfere on behalf of Kamala Harris" in the 2024 election.



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ELECTIONS

# Arizona's top prosecutor investigating Trump's comments about Cheney as possible death threat

During his Glendale appearance, Trump suggested his Republican critic should face 'nine barrels shooting at her.'

Author: Brahm Resnik  
Published: 12:31 PM MDT November 1, 2024  
Updated: 5:09 PM MDT November 1, 2024



PHOENIX — Arizona's top prosecutor tells 12News she is investigating whether Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump violated state law by making a "death threat" against former GOP Rep. Liz Cheney during remarks Thursday night at an event in Glendale.



**VERSIÓN EN ESPAÑOL:** [Fiscal de Arizona investiga comentarios de Trump sobre Cheney como posible amenaza de muerte](#)

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"I have already asked my criminal division chief to start looking at that statement, analyzing it for whether it qualifies as a death threat under Arizona's laws," Attorney General Mayes, a first-term Democrat, said during Friday's taping of "Sunday Square Off."

"I'm not prepared now to say whether it was or it wasn't, but it is not helpful as we prepare for our election and as we try to make sure that we keep the peace at our polling places and in our state."

Trump was interviewed Thursday night by former Fox TV host Tucker Carlson at an arena event in Glendale.

Here's what Trump said:

"She's a radical war hawk. Let's put her with a rifle standing there with nine barrels shooting at her, OK? Let's see how she feels about it, you know, when the guns are trained on her face."

The "nine barrels" comment has been interpreted as suggesting Cheney could face a firing squad.

"This is how dictators destroy free nations," Cheney said Friday in a statement on social media. "They threaten those who speak against them with death. We cannot entrust our country and our freedom to a petty, vindictive, cruel, unstable man who wants to be a tyrant."

Under Arizona law, threatening or intimidating a person is illegal. It can be charged as a Class 1 misdemeanor or Class 6 felony.

Trump campaign spokeswoman Karoline Leavitt responded: "This is just a desperate attempt to help out Kamala Harris' failing campaign."





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## CAMPAIGN

# Arizona attorney general investigating Trump's rifle comments about Cheney

BY ASHLEIGH FIELDS - 11/01/24 5:49 PM ET



Ross D. Franklin, Associated Press file

*Kris Mayes, smiles before a debate on Sept. 28, 2022.*

The Arizona attorney general's office said it is investigating former President Trump's comments about former Rep. [Liz Cheney \(R-Wyo.\)](#) as [a death threat under state laws](#), in a statement to The Hill.

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“I’m not prepared now to say whether it was or it wasn’t, but it is not helpful as we prepare for our election and as we try to make sure that we keep the peace at our polling places and in our state,” the Democrat said during a taping of “Sunday Square Off.”

In Arizona, intimidating statements or threats can warrant a Class 1 misdemeanor or Class 6 felony, which can result in up to four months to two years in prison. Cheney also equated the former president’s comments to a death threat on Friday in a post on [social platform X](#).

“This is how dictators destroy free nations,” she wrote. “They threaten those who speak against them with death.”

Trump criticized Cheney’s foreign policy in a fireside chat with former Fox News host Tucker Carlson.

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“She’s a radical war hawk. Let’s put her with a rifle standing there with nine barrels shooting at her, OK. Let’s see how she feels about it, you know, when the guns are trained on her face,” he said. “You know, they’re all war hawks when they’re sitting in Washington in a nice building saying, ‘oh, gee, we’ll, let’s send — let’s send 10,000 troops right into the mouth of the enemy,’” the Republican nominee stated.

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Within hours, his comments gained scrutiny from leaders in both parties and his opponent Vice President Harris, who said the remarks should be “disqualifying.”

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president of the United States who uses that kind of violent rhetoric is clearly disqualified and unqualified to be president.”

The Trump campaign tried to divert criticism by [clarifying Trump’s statements](#) and labeling it another attack from the Democratic candidate.

“This is just a desperate attempt to help out Kamala Harris’ failing campaign,” Trump’s national press secretary [Karoline Leavitt](#) told The Hill.

**TAGS** 2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION ARIZONA ARIZONA ATTORNEY GENERAL  
DONALD TRUMP KAMALA HARRIS KAROLINE LEAVITT LIZ CHENEY TRUMP CHENEY  
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2024 ELECTION

# Arizona attorney general's office probing Trump's violent comments about Liz Cheney

At an event Thursday night, Trump said the former congresswoman wouldn't be a "war hawk" if guns were "trained on her face."

Harris slams Trump comments that Cheney would not be a 'war hawk' if she were sent to frontlines

02:29

00:21 / 02:29

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Nov. 1, 2024, 12:39 PM MST

**By Alex Tabet, Rebecca Shabad and Dareh Gregorian**

Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes said Friday that her office is investigating whether [former President Donald Trump's violent remarks about former GOP Rep. Liz Cheney](#) broke the law.



“I have already asked my criminal division chief to start looking at that statement, analyzing it for whether it qualifies as a death threat under Arizona’s laws,” Mayes, a Democrat, said during a taping of “Sunday Square Off” on 12NEWS in Phoenix.

“I’m not prepared now to say whether it was or it wasn’t, but it is not helpful as we prepare for our election and as we try to make sure that we keep the peace at our polling places and in our state,” Mayes told the NBC affiliate.

A spokesman for the attorney general's office, Richie Taylor, confirmed to NBC News the office is "looking into" whether Trump's remarks violated Arizona law. NBC News reached out to the Trump campaign for comment.

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At an event in Arizona with Tucker Carlson on Thursday, Trump suggested that Cheney wouldn't be such a "war hawk" if she had guns "trained on her face."

“She’s a radical war hawk. Let’s put her with a rifle standing there with nine barrels shooting at her,” Trump said. “Okay, let’s see how she feels about it. You know when the guns are trained on her face – you know, they’re all war hawks when they’re sitting in Washington in a nice building.”

[In a post on his Truth Social](#) account Friday afternoon, Trump said that Cheney “wouldn’t have ‘the guts’ to fight herself. It’s easy for her to talk, sitting far from where the death scenes take place, but put a gun in her hand, and let her go fight, and she’ll say, ‘No thanks!’” In remarks to

reporters later Friday, Trump defended his comments on Cheney, calling her a war hawk again and saying that “she kills people”

Earlier in the day, Trump campaign spokesperson Karoline Leavitt said that Trump was "100% correct that warmongers like Liz Cheney are very quick to start wars and send other Americans to fight them, rather than go into combat themselves."

Trump has [escalated his violent rhetoric on the campaign trail](#) in the last month. He's called Democrats and his opponents the "enemy from within" and has vowed to use the U.S. military against American citizens. He has also said during the 2024 race that [he might jail his political opponents](#).

#### Harris condemns Trump's 'violent rhetoric' about Liz Cheney

03:25



Vice President Kamala Harris said Friday that former President Trump’s remarks on Cheney should be “disqualifying.”

“He has increased his violent rhetoric, Donald Trump has, about political opponents and in great detail, in great detail suggested rifles should be trained on former Rep. Liz Cheney,” Harris told reporters after landing near Madison, Wisconsin.



“This must be disqualifying. Anyone who wants to be president of the United States, who uses that kind of violent rhetoric, is clearly disqualified and unqualified to be president,” she added.

Harris said that Trump is “permanently out for revenge” and he’s “increasingly unstable and unhinged.” “His enemy’s list has grown longer, his rhetoric has grown more extreme, and he is even less focused than before on the needs and the concerns and the challenges facing the American people,” she said.

Asked to comment on Harris' remarks, Leavitt reiterated his statement from earlier in the day.

NBC News reached out to the Trump campaign for comment on the Arizona investigation.



Alex Tabet

Alex Tabet is a 2024 NBC News campaign embed.



Rebecca Shabad

Rebecca Shabad is a politics reporter for NBC News based in Washington.



Dareh Gregorian

Dareh Gregorian is a politics reporter for NBC News.

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Annemarie Bonner contributed.

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**From:** [AZCentral.com](https://www.azcentral.com)  
**To:** [MediaRequests](#)  
**Subject:** AZ Briefing: Weekend freeway closures around Phoenix  
**Date:** Saturday, November 2, 2024 7:02:33 AM

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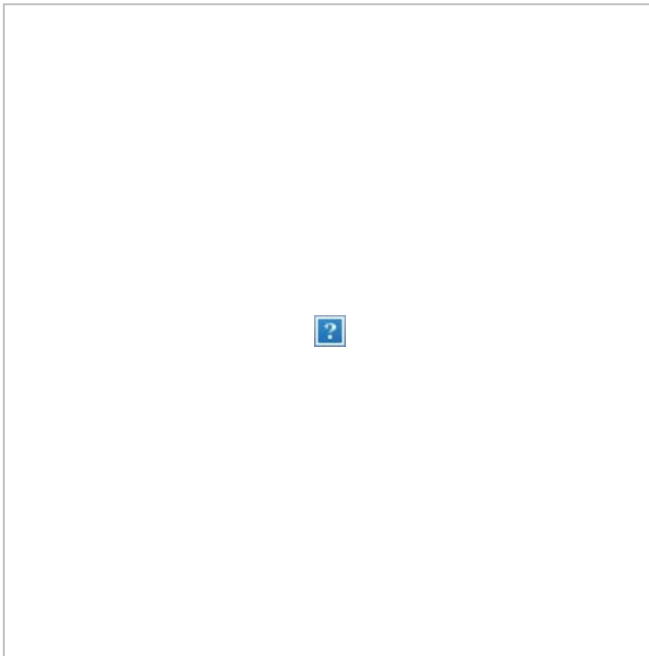


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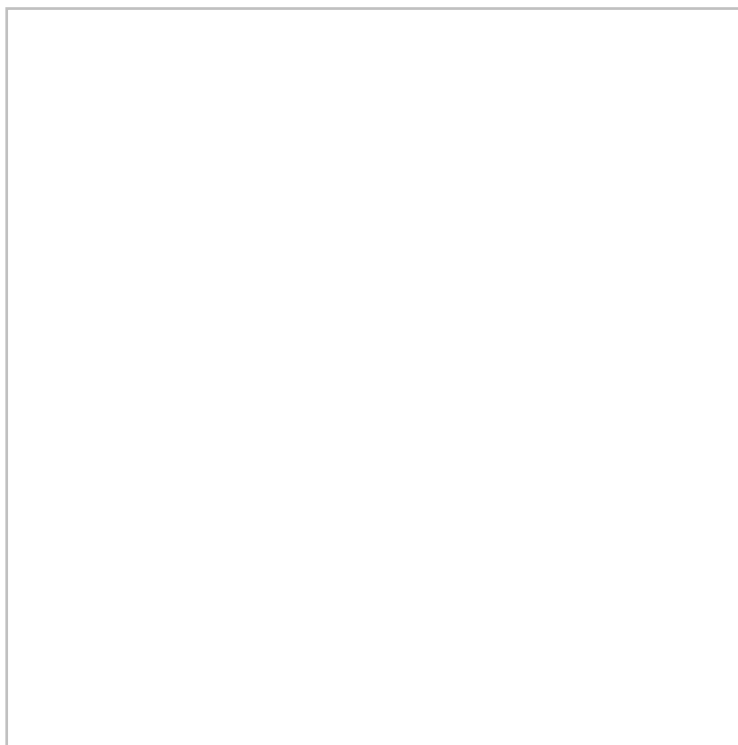
*YOUR MORNING NEWS ROUNDUP*

**Sat Nov 2 2024**

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Good morning, Arizona. Here's what our reporters are working on and what you should know about what's happening across the state before you start your day.

The Arizona Department of Transportation has **closures and restrictions planned for multiple freeways** around the Phoenix area this weekend.

Plan ahead this post-Halloween weekend and check out all the freeway [closures and detours along U.S. 60, Interstate 17, Loop 202 and Interstate 10](#).

## Other big stories

**Seventeen people** have applied for a **seat on the Arizona Supreme Court** that, for the **first time in nearly two decades**, [will be filled by a Democratic governor](#).

An **Arizona-based voter registration firm** is **under investigation** in Pennsylvania. [The firm is run by Francisco Heredia, a Mesa City Council member.](#)

**Attorney General Kris Mayes' office is analyzing** whether **Donald Trump's "nine barrels" comments about Liz Cheney** ["qualifies as a death threat under Arizona's laws."](#)

Did you pay attention to the **top headlines in Arizona** this week? **Test your knowledge** with azcentral.com's [news quiz for Nov. 2.](#)

Today, you can expect it to be delightful with some high clouds, sun and a high near 79 degrees. Expect it to be mostly cloudy with evening showers and a low near 57 degrees. [Get the full forecast here.](#)

## **Tempe firefighters rescue stranded husky**

tempe fire milo rescue 4.jpg

Tempe Fire and Medical rescued a dog who was stranded on a ledge on Nov. 1, 2024.

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**Milo the husky** found himself on higher ground without a safe way down. A [Tempe fire crew had to step in and save him](#).

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## Today in history

*Here are just some of the events on this date in the past.*

- On this day in **1948**: Contrary to the banner headline the next day in the Chicago Tribune declaring "DEWEY DEFEATS TRUMAN," President Harry Truman turned

back the challenge of New York Gov. Thomas Dewey to win reelection. Many polls and political experts had predicted Truman could not win, but he finished with 303 electoral votes to Dewey's 189 and 39 for South Carolina Gov. Strom Thurmond.

- In **1959**: Former contestant on the quiz show "Twenty-One," Charles Van Doren recanted previous testimony to a grand jury and admitted to Congress he had received questions and answers ahead of time, as well as instructions to make the contest more dramatic and entertaining. Van Doren's "winnings" on the show totaled \$129,000.
- In **1983**: President Ronald Reagan signed a bill making Martin Luther King Jr. Day a federal holiday, commemorating the life and contributions of the civil rights leader on the third Monday of January, beginning in 1986. U.S. Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., began proposing a federal holiday in 1968, just four days after King's assassination.
- In **1986**: During the Lebanon hostage crisis, American David Jacobsen, who had been held hostage in Beirut for 17 months, was released. The crisis ran into the early 1990s and the last of 25 American hostages, Terry Anderson, who was taken hostage in 1985, was not released until December 1991.
- In **1988**: Cornell University graduate student Robert Morris unleashed one of the first internet "worms," or viruses, overwhelming the processing abilities of some machines and leading to a felony conviction for Morris.
- In **2000**: The first long-term residents of the International Space Station arrived by Russian Soyuz capsule, a three-person crew who were aboard the station until March 19, 2001, getting the station up and running and prepared for future missions.

## TOP STORIES

### Valley teacher arrested in child sex trafficking

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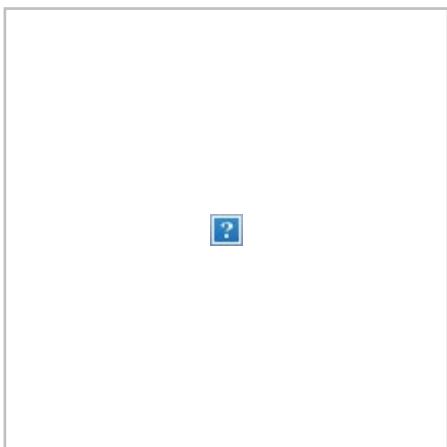


Domenik Brewer was a permanent substitute teacher at West Point High School and also served as a coach for the Phoenix Suns Youth Basketball program.

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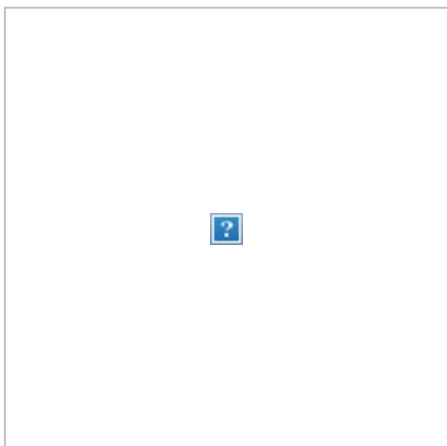




## **Upscale Scottsdale restaurant to close. What we know**

The hotel near Scottsdale Fashion Square is making big changes, including closing a fine dining restaurant. Here's what we know and what's next.

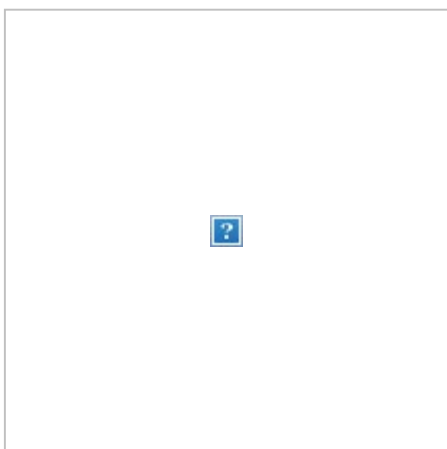
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## **Trump evokes threatening image of Liz Cheney**

Speaking of the former Wyoming congresswoman, Trump said, "Let's put her with a rifle standing there with nine barrels shooting at her."

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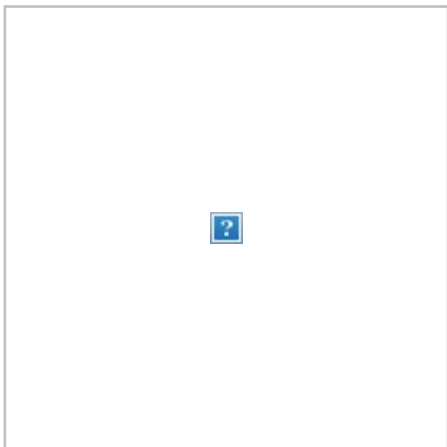


## **Pima County canceled about 4,000 early ballot requests**

The Pima County Recorder's Office closed its early ballot request portal on Oct. 19, canceling about 4,000 ballot requests.

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## **Snow expected in Flagstaff through Monday**



As spooky season comes to a close this weekend, areas above 7,000 feet will receive a few inches of snow.

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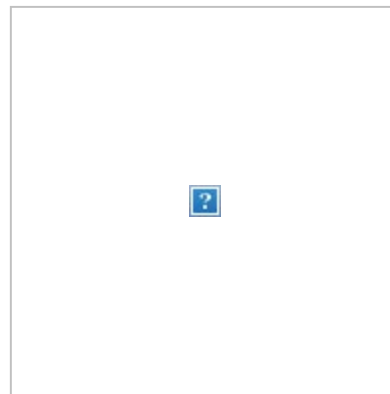


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**Cc:** [MediaRequests](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Fox News inquiry  
**Date:** Friday, November 1, 2024 2:24:37 PM

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Hi Brie,

The Arizona Attorney General's Office is looking into whether Donald Trump's comments about Liz Cheney violated Arizona law. The office has no additional comments to make at this time.

Thanks,

Richie Taylor  
Communications Director

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**From:** AGInfo <AGInfo@azag.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 1, 2024 2:24 PM  
**To:** Taylor, Richie <Richie.Taylor@azag.gov>  
**Cc:** MediaRequests <MediaRequests@azag.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Fox News inquiry

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**From:** Stimson, Brie <[Brie.Stimson@FOX.COM](mailto:Brie.Stimson@FOX.COM)>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 1, 2024 2:14 PM  
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**Subject:** Fox News inquiry

Hi,

I'm a Fox News Digital report - is there a better media email? - reaching out for any further comment on AG Kris Mayes saying her office is investigating Trump's Liz Cheney comments as a possible death threat?

Thank you,  
Brie Stimson  
<https://www.12news.com/article/news/politics/elections/arizona-top-prosecutor-kris-investigating-trumps-comments-about-cheney-possible-death-threat/75-91f8b734-06eb-4aeb-a633-89be0df7c4c4>

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## ARIZONA

# AZ attorney general ends probe on Trump's '9 barrels' comment on Liz Cheney



**Stacey Barchenger**

Arizona Republic

Published 6:12 p.m. MT Nov. 12, 2024

Arizona prosecutors have ended their brief probe of comments Donald Trump made before the election wondering about how former U.S. Rep. Liz Cheney of Wyoming would feel if guns were "trained on her face."

Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes, a Democrat, said Tuesday that her office's investigation determined the comment would not meet the legal standard to be considered a threat, in part because of First Amendment protections for political speech.

But Mayes herself still considers them akin to threats.

"They were disgusting statements," Mayes said. "They were way over the top, and they were threatening in nature. That is not what we want in our presidential candidates."

Mayes met with reporters at her Phoenix office to discuss her plans for the upcoming year, when the second half of her term will overlap with Republican President-elect Trump's second term. Mayes was elected in 2022 and is likely to run for another four-year term as attorney general in 2026.

She said Trump's election would not impact her office's prosecution of a 2020 election interference case that led to charges against several people in Trump's orbit. And she pledged to stand up to Trump should he implement any "unconstitutional" executive orders in office.

Mayes also foreshadowed that she would soon file at least one lawsuit aiming to use state public nuisance laws to stop pumping of unregulated groundwater in the state, a promise

that prompted scrutiny and an impeachment threat from Republican lawmakers earlier this year.

## **2020 election case 'not affected one bit by Donald Trump's reelection'**

"I have absolutely no intention of dropping the fake electors case," Mayes said. "A grand jury determined that 18 individuals violated multiple Arizona laws by engaging in a scheme to overthrow American democracy. Those are serious charges. They are state charges. And they are not affected one bit by Donald Trump's reelection to the presidency."

Multiple defense lawyers for people charged in the case have said that Trump's political fortunes signal Arizonans are tired of weaponization of prosecutors' offices, but their views have not swayed Mayes.

A majority of Arizona voters favoring Trump this year will not impact how Mayes' deputies approach plea deals or the ongoing investigation of efforts to thwart Joe Biden's 2020 win, Mayes said.

"We intend to stay the course, you know, and that is because there is nothing in my mind more important than protecting our democracy and upholding the rule of law," Mayes said. "And until the Legislature decides that fraud is no longer a crime, conspiracy is no longer a crime, forgery is no longer a crime, this case is going to go forward."

Mayes said she did not regret her office's decision to urge grand jurors not to indict Trump, noting that was something "anyone who says that I'm overreaching here should think about." At the time, and again on Tuesday, Mayes and her deputies said that was because of a federal prosecutor Jack Smith's investigation.

Smith is now taking steps to wind down the case, USA TODAY has reported, and a judge has put all deadlines on hold as a result.

## **Mayes seeks to preempt Trump orders**

Mayes thanked election workers and law enforcement, noting that "as usual, Arizona ran a free, fair, secure and successful election" this month. That was despite bomb threats that were made to 10 counties in the state, she said.

She then issued a warning to the incoming Trump administration.

"The president-elect has signaled his intention through Project 2025 to engage in what I think are a number of unconstitutional executive orders and proposed legislation," she said, stacking two three-ring binders onto a conference table. The binders held a printed copy of Project 2025, thick with "900 pages chock-full of unconstitutional provisions," she said.

Project 2025 is a vast policy tome from the conservative think tank the Heritage Foundation. Most of its authors have ties to Trump, but he has tried to distance himself from it saying in September he had never read the plan. Though Heritage has created similar plans over the last four decades, Democrats tried to use its proposals against Trump and keep him from the White House.

Mayes echoed that campaign sentiment on Tuesday, though she acknowledged any executive orders based on Project 2025 were hypothetical. The New York Times reported Trump's incoming chief of staff told donors that he was planning executive orders on the first day of his administration, as is common for presidents, but did not detail specific policy aims.

She would stand in the way of any attempts to revive the Comstock Act, which she said could prevent abortion pills and "maybe even contraception" from reaching Arizona. The 1873 act bans mailing of obscene material and articles used to provide abortion, according to the health policy organization KFF. She said she would fight any effort to "attack" the federal program Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA.

"It's my job to uphold both the Arizona and the federal Constitution," Mayes said. "And I will do that. I do not believe that in electing Donald Trump, Arizona voters voted to shred the U.S. and Arizona constitutions. And if Donald Trump tries to do that, he will have to go through me first."

Former President Barack Obama, a Democrat, created the DACA program via executive order in 2012, allowing migrant children to avoid deportation. Asked why a new president couldn't rescind that order using the same executive authority, Mayes in part offered a policy argument.

"I think there were constitutional underpinnings for DACA," she said. "Second, I would say that DACA has essentially become an overwhelmingly supported provision."

The Trump campaign did not respond to two requests for comment Tuesday.

Mayes said she hoped Trump would change course on a bipartisan immigration bill he opposed and that congressional Republicans killed last year, and that he would staff up the



U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration to help police drug trafficking at Arizona's southern border with Mexico.

Mayes, who campaigned alongside Democratic nominee Vice President Kamala Harris, said her office had been reviewing Project 2025 for months. Though she thought Harris would win, her office was preparing for any election result.

She was "hoping for the best and planning for the worst," Mayes said.

**Election 2024:** See Arizona election results

## **Mayes will end probe of Trump's comments on Cheney**

Trump's pre-election blitz included an Oct. 31 stop in Glendale with the former newsman and conservative pundit Tucker Carlson.

Trump said that Cheney, an outspoken critic, was a warhawk who would send Americans to war. Trump said at the event: "Let's put her with a rifle standing there with nine barrels shooting at her. OK? Let's see how she feels about it. You know, when the guns are trained on her face."

Cheney said in a post on social media that the comment was an example of "how dictators destroy free nations. They threaten those who speak against them with death."

Mayes said she believed the comment was a threat that "very likely may" have been an effort to intimidate Cheney. But based on U.S. Supreme Court precedent, Mayes said her investigation showed there was "no reasonable likelihood that we could obtain a conviction for Trump's statements."

"We think it's equally likely a reasonable person could conclude Trump was discussing war, and Liz Cheney not wanting to go to war," Mayes said.

## **Mayes to sue over land leases and groundwater use**

While Mayes may dedicate some of her office's resources to standing up to Trump, if need be, she is also eyeing plans that could meet opposition from larger Republican majorities in the Arizona Legislature.

Mayes hinted that she will in the next couple of weeks make good on her promise to use state nuisance law as a tool to prevent unregulated use of groundwater. She used the law trying to

stop a mine in Chino Valley last year, but the land was sold before her case could progress.

She said Tuesday that the Saudi Arabian company Fondomonte's "checkerboard of private and state trust land leases ... will be the target of our nuisance lawsuit."

Democratic Gov. Katie Hobbs canceled or allowed to expire some but not all of the company's leases on state land. Canceling leases early without cause can mean financial penalties to the state. Mayes said she believed Hobbs should have canceled the other leases, even if it meant a financial cost.

The Arizona Republic previously reported how Fondomonte and other companies lease state trust land for below-market rates in areas where groundwater is unregulated, meaning they can use unlimited amounts for farming.

Mayes is also taking aim at a Minnesota-based dairy company that some critics say is transforming life for residents in rural southeastern Arizona and depleting groundwater, impacting nearby wells.

"I was dead serious when I talked about using nuisance (law) to stop the Saudis from de-watering our aquifers," she said. "And I'm deadly serious about using nuisance law to stop the Riverview Dairy from destroying the economy of Cochise County. So watch this space."

Mayes faulted the Legislature for not doing more to reform groundwater management laws.

"I'm going to do everything I can to protect our rural aquifers," she said, "but we need the Legislature to get off its butt and help."

*Reach reporter Stacey Barchenger at [stacey.barchenger@arizonarepublic.com](mailto:stacey.barchenger@arizonarepublic.com) or 480-416-5669.*

**From:** [Oppenheim, Oren](#)  
**To:** [Taylor, Richie](#)  
**Cc:** [MediaRequests](#); [Kim, Soorin](#); [Ibssa, Lalee](#); [Walsh, Kelsey](#); [Demissie, Hannah R.](#)  
**Subject:** Re: ABC News - Attorney General comments on death threat investigation  
**Date:** Friday, November 1, 2024 12:21:51 PM

---

Thank you!

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**From:** Taylor, Richie <Richie.Taylor@azag.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 1, 2024 3:15 PM  
**To:** Oppenheim, Oren <Oren.Oppenheim@abc.com>  
**Cc:** MediaRequests <MediaRequests@azag.gov>; Kim, Soorin <Soorin.Kim@abc.com>; Ibssa, Lalee <Lalee.Ibssa@abc.com>; Walsh, Kelsey <Kelsey.Walsh@abc.com>; Demissie, Hannah R. <Hannah.R.Demissie@abc.com>  
**Subject:** RE: ABC News - Attorney General comments on death threat investigation

**This Message is From an External Sender**

Caution: Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Here is a statement attributable the office:

The Arizona Attorney General's Office is looking into whether Donald Trump's comments about Liz Cheney violated Arizona law. The office has no additional comments to make at this time.

Thanks,

Richie Taylor  
Communications Director

---

**From:** Oppenheim, Oren <Oren.Oppenheim@abc.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 1, 2024 12:15 PM  
**To:** Taylor, Richie <Richie.Taylor@azag.gov>  
**Cc:** MediaRequests <MediaRequests@azag.gov>; Kim, Soorin <Soorin.Kim@abc.com>; Ibssa, Lalee <Lalee.Ibssa@abc.com>; Walsh, Kelsey <Kelsey.Walsh@abc.com>; Demissie, Hannah R. <Hannah.R.Demissie@abc.com>  
**Subject:** ABC News - Attorney General comments on death threat investigation

Good afternoon,  
I hope you're doing well! I'm a political reporter with ABC News (national). I saw Attorney General Mayes' [comments to KPNX](#) about investigating Trump's comments as a potential death threat — I was wondering if the office or Mayes will have any statements or anything further to share about this?

Thank you,  
Oren Oppenheim

**Oren Oppenheim**

ABC News Political Unit

[Oren.Oppenheim@abc.com](mailto:Oren.Oppenheim@abc.com)

Cell: (201) 956-7066

Twitter: [@OrenOppenheim](https://twitter.com/OrenOppenheim)

**From:** [Taylor, Richie](#)  
**To:** ["Coan, Evan"; MediaRequests](#)  
**Cc:** [@CND National Outreach; Martinez, Joelle](#)  
**Subject:** RE: CBS News - Trump Comments about Cheney  
**Date:** Friday, November 1, 2024 12:44:07 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

The Arizona Attorney General's Office is looking into whether Donald Trump's comments about Liz Cheney violated Arizona law. The office has no additional comments to make at this time.

Thanks,

Richie Taylor  
Communications Director

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**From:** Coan, Evan <CoanE@cbsnews.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 1, 2024 12:43 PM  
**To:** MediaRequests <MediaRequests@azag.gov>  
**Cc:** @CND National Outreach <CNDNationalOutreach@viacom.com>; Martinez, Joelle <martinezj@cbsnews.com>  
**Subject:** CBS News - Trump Comments about Cheney

AZ AG,

Reaching out from CBS News. NBC is reporting that AG Mayes is investigating whether Donald Trump violated state law by making a "death threat" against Liz Cheney during remarks on Thursday. Can you confirm, comment?

<https://www.12news.com/article/news/politics/elections/arizona-top-prosecutor-kris-investigating-trumps-comments-about-cheney-possible-death-threat/75-91f8b734-06eb-4aeb-a633-89be0df7c4c4>

+please reply all+

Evan Coan  
Assignment Editor  
CBS News National Desk  
(646) 315-3549



**From:** [Taylor, Richie](#)  
**To:** ["Stracqualursi, Veronica"; MediaRequests](#)  
**Subject:** RE: CNN reaching out- Investigating Trump's comments  
**Date:** Friday, November 1, 2024 1:11:44 PM

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The Arizona Attorney General's Office is looking into whether Donald Trump's comments about Liz Cheney violated Arizona law. The office has no additional comments to make at this time.

Thanks,

Richie Taylor  
Communications Director

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**From:** Stracqualursi, Veronica <Veronica.Stracqualursi@cnn.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 1, 2024 1:11 PM  
**To:** MediaRequests <MediaRequests@azag.gov>  
**Subject:** CNN reaching out- Investigating Trump's comments

Hello,

Hope you're doing well! Are you able to please confirm the Attorney General's office is investigating former President Donald Trump's comments last night about Rep. Liz Cheney as a death threat under state law? Any additional comment?

Thank you!  
Veronica

--

Veronica Stracqualursi  
CNN Campaign Producer  
202-384-3085

**From:** [Taylor, Richie](#)  
**To:** ["Shawn Thompson"; MediaRequests](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Donal Trump Liz Cheney comment  
**Date:** Friday, November 1, 2024 12:03:40 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

Here is a statement attributable the office:

The Arizona Attorney General's Office is looking into whether Donald Trump's comments about Liz Cheney violated Arizona law. The office has no additional comments to make at this time.

Thanks,

Richie Taylor  
Communications Director

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**From:** Shawn Thompson <Shawn.Thompson@azfamily.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 1, 2024 12:02 PM  
**To:** MediaRequests <MediaRequests@azag.gov>  
**Subject:** Donal Trump Liz Cheney comment

Good Afternoon,

Is AG Mayes investigating a threatening remark former President Donald Trump made about Liz Cheney last night during the event with Tucker Carlson in Glendale?

Thanks,

**Shawn Thompson**  
**Assignment Editor**

**D:** 602-207-3443

**C:** 602-763-7807

**E:** [shawn.thompson@azfamily.com](mailto:shawn.thompson@azfamily.com)



**From:** [Taylor, Richie](#)  
**To:** ["Pequeno, Antonio"](#)  
**Cc:** [MediaRequests](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Forbes Breaking News Inquiry  
**Date:** Friday, November 1, 2024 12:17:57 PM

---

Here is a statement attributable the office:

The Arizona Attorney General's Office is looking into whether Donald Trump's comments about Liz Cheney violated Arizona law. The office has no additional comments to make at this time.

Thanks,

Richie Taylor  
Communications Director

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**From:** Pequeno, Antonio <apecueno@forbes.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 1, 2024 12:17 PM  
**To:** Taylor, Richie <Richie.Taylor@azag.gov>  
**Cc:** MediaRequests <MediaRequests@azag.gov>  
**Subject:** Forbes Breaking News Inquiry

Hello,

Antonio here with Forbes' breaking news desk. Hope all is well.

I'm reaching out to see if AG Mayes' office could confirm/comment on a 12 News report saying Mayes will investigate "whether Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump violated state law by making a 'death threat' against former GOP Rep. Liz Cheney during remarks Thursday night at an event in Glendale.

Is there an official statement incoming from Mayes' office on the matter? If so, would deeply appreciate being notified of its publication.

Thank you,

**Antonio Pequeño IV**  
*Forbes Breaking News Reporter*



**From:** [Davidson, John](#)  
**To:** [Taylor, Richie](#); [MediaRequests](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Fox - Cheney Threat  
**Date:** Friday, November 1, 2024 12:06:49 PM

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Thank you very much for this.

Please let us know if you get any more details or if the Attorney General will interview in the future.

JD

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**From:** Taylor, Richie <[Richie.Taylor@azag.gov](mailto:Richie.Taylor@azag.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 1, 2024 12:00 PM  
**To:** Davidson, John <[John.Davidson@FOX.COM](mailto:John.Davidson@FOX.COM)>; [MediaRequests](mailto:MediaRequests@azag.gov) <[MediaRequests@azag.gov](mailto:MediaRequests@azag.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Fox - Cheney Threat

Here is a statement attributable the office:

The Arizona Attorney General's Office is looking into whether Donald Trump's comments about Liz Cheney violated Arizona law. The office has no additional comments to make at this time.

Thanks,

Richie Taylor  
Communications Director

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**From:** Davidson, John <[John.Davidson@FOX.COM](mailto:John.Davidson@FOX.COM)>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 1, 2024 11:59 AM  
**To:** [MediaRequests](mailto:MediaRequests@azag.gov) <[MediaRequests@azag.gov](mailto:MediaRequests@azag.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fox - Cheney Threat

Hi from Fox 10. We're trying to confirm the Ch 12 report that the AG's office is looking into the comments Donald Trump made about Liz Cheney last night qualifying as a death threat.

Thank you.

John Davidson  
Assignment Manager  
Fox 10  
602-262-5109

[John.davidson@fox.com](mailto:John.davidson@fox.com)

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**From:** [Taylor, Richie](#)  
**To:** ["Nardos Mesmer"; MediaRequests](#)  
**Cc:** [NewsNation - Assignment Desk; Mike Viqueira](#)  
**Subject:** RE: INQUIRY: AG Kris Mayes Investigating Donald J. Trump  
**Date:** Friday, November 1, 2024 1:27:58 PM

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The Arizona Attorney General's Office is looking into whether Donald Trump's comments about Liz Cheney violated Arizona law. The office has no additional comments to make at this time.

Thanks,

Richie Taylor  
Communications Director

---

**From:** Nardos Mesmer <NMesmer@newsnationnow.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 1, 2024 1:26 PM  
**To:** Taylor, Richie <Richie.Taylor@azag.gov>; MediaRequests <MediaRequests@azag.gov>  
**Cc:** NewsNation - Assignment Desk <nndesk@newsnationnow.com>; Mike Viqueira <MViqueira@newsnationnow.com>  
**Subject:** INQUIRY: AG Kris Mayes Investigating Donald J. Trump

Good afternoon,

My name is Nardos Mesmer and I'm an assignment editor with NewsNation. I hope this email finds you well.

We're seeing Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes said her office is investigating whether former President Donald Trump's remarks about former Republican Liz Cheney qualifies as a death threat under Arizona's laws.

AG Mayes made the comment during "Sunday Square Off" on 12NEWS in Phoenix.

Can you confirm that the office is looking into Trump's remarks? Is there a statement available?

Kindly hit "reply all" when responding. I thank you in advance for your time and attention. I look forward to hearing from you.

**Ms. Nardos Mesmer**

Editor, Assignments

NewsNation - Washington Bureau



**From:** [John Gilliland](#)  
**To:** [Taylor, Richie](#); [MediaRequests](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Interview Request re: Trump Investigation  
**Date:** Monday, November 4, 2024 1:55:23 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

Ok, thank you.

---

**From:** Taylor, Richie <[Richie.Taylor@azag.gov](mailto:Richie.Taylor@azag.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 4, 2024 1:46 PM  
**To:** John Gilliland <[John.Gilliland@skyviewsat.com](mailto:John.Gilliland@skyviewsat.com)>; [MediaRequests](#) <[MediaRequests@azag.gov](mailto:MediaRequests@azag.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Interview Request re: Trump Investigation

Hi John,

We don't have any comments to make at this time.

Thanks ,

Richie Taylor  
Communications Director

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**From:** John Gilliland <[John.Gilliland@skyviewsat.com](mailto:John.Gilliland@skyviewsat.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 4, 2024 1:42 PM  
**To:** [MediaRequests](#) <[MediaRequests@azag.gov](mailto:MediaRequests@azag.gov)>; Taylor, Richie <[Richie.Taylor@azag.gov](mailto:Richie.Taylor@azag.gov)>  
**Subject:** Interview Request re: Trump Investigation

Good afternoon. Is anyone available to talk about the AG's investigation into Trump's comments about Liz Cheney last week? Have you all determined if they qualify as a death threat under AZ law? Please call me at 480-998-2037. Thanks!



John Gilliland  
Managing Editor, AZ & CA News Networks  
Studio: 480.998.2037 | Corp: 480.503.8700  
Cell: 480-577-7699  
Email: [john.gilliland@skyviewsat.com](mailto:john.gilliland@skyviewsat.com)  
[www.skyviewnetworks.com](http://www.skyviewnetworks.com)



**From:** [Taylor, Richie](#)  
**To:** ["Chris Perez"](#)  
**Cc:** [MediaRequests](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Media inquiry/confirmation (Trump/Liz Cheney comments)  
**Date:** Friday, November 1, 2024 2:59:36 PM

---

Hi Chris,

The Arizona Attorney General's Office is looking into whether Donald Trump's comments about Liz Cheney violated Arizona law. The office has no additional comments to make at this time.

Thanks,

Richie Taylor  
Communications Director

**From:** Chris Perez <chris.perez@lawandcrime.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 1, 2024 2:59 PM  
**To:** Taylor, Richie <Richie.Taylor@azag.gov>  
**Cc:** MediaRequests <MediaRequests@azag.gov>  
**Subject:** Media inquiry/confirmation (Trump/Liz Cheney comments)

Good afternoon,

Chris Perez here with the *Law&Crime* news network/news outlet.

Sorry to bother, just trying to get confirmation that AG Mayes is "looking into" the comment made by Donald Trump about Liz Cheney having rifles shot at her, as reported by AZFamily in this report below...

<https://www.azfamily.com/2024/11/01/arizona-attorney-general-looking-into-trumps-comments-about-liz-cheney/>

Just looking for confirmation and a statement, if possible, which can be emailed here.

Feel free to call me at 769-216-4085 if that's easier for you.

Thanks!

**From:** [Taylor, Richie](#)  
**To:** ["Rachel Dobkin"; MediaRequests](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Request for comment  
**Date:** Friday, November 1, 2024 1:13:36 PM

---

The Arizona Attorney General's Office is looking into whether Donald Trump's comments about Liz Cheney violated Arizona law. The office has no additional comments to make at this time.

Thanks,

Richie Taylor  
Communications Director

---

**From:** Rachel Dobkin <r.dobkin@newsweek.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 1, 2024 1:13 PM  
**To:** MediaRequests <MediaRequests@azag.gov>; Taylor, Richie <Richie.Taylor@azag.gov>  
**Subject:** Request for comment

Hi,

I'm a reporter for Newsweek. Does the attorney general's office have any further comment on its investigation into Donald Trump's comments about Liz Cheney at a Glendale event Thursday night?

Thank you,

Rachel Dobkin | Weekend Reporter  
**NEWSWEEK**  
[r.dobkin@newsweek.com](mailto:r.dobkin@newsweek.com)  
[newsweek.com](https://www.newsweek.com)  
1 World Trade Center, Floor 72, New York, NY, 10007

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**From:** [Taylor, Richie](#)  
**To:** ["Ward, Jasper \(Reuters\)"](#)  
**Cc:** [MediaRequests](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Reuters request for comment  
**Date:** Friday, November 1, 2024 12:08:32 PM

---

Here is a statement attributable the office:

The Arizona Attorney General's Office is looking into whether Donald Trump's comments about Liz Cheney violated Arizona law. The office has no additional comments to make at this time.

Thanks,

Richie Taylor  
Communications Director

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**From:** Ward, Jasper (Reuters) <Jasper.Ward@thomsonreuters.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 1, 2024 12:08 PM  
**To:** Taylor, Richie <Richie.Taylor@azag.gov>  
**Cc:** MediaRequests <MediaRequests@azag.gov>  
**Subject:** Reuters request for comment

Hello,

NBC affiliate 12News is reporting that Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes said she is investigating whether former President Donald Trump violated state law by making a death threat against former Congresswoman Liz Cheney during remarks in Glendale. Can you provide a state from the attorney general on this?

Best regards,

.....

**Jasper Ward**  
Breaking News Correspondent  
Pronouns: she/her  
Email: [jasper.ward@thomsonreuters.com](mailto:jasper.ward@thomsonreuters.com)  
Mobile: +1 929 301 7852  
**Reuters News**

.....



**From:** [Taylor, Richie](#)  
**To:** ["Barbara Villa"; MediaRequests](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Trump Liz Cheney Comments  
**Date:** Friday, November 1, 2024 1:16:10 PM

---

Hi Barb,

The Arizona Attorney General's Office is looking into whether Donald Trump's comments about Liz Cheney violated Arizona law. The office has no additional comments to make at this time.

Thanks,

Richie Taylor  
Communications Director

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**From:** Barbara Villa <BVilla@skyviewsat.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 1, 2024 1:16 PM  
**To:** MediaRequests <MediaRequests@azag.gov>  
**Subject:** Trump Liz Cheney Comments

I understand A-G Mayes wants to investigate Trump's infamous comments last night in Glendale. Can we explore the issue without involving the finer details of what Mayes wants to look for?

I'm seeking a phone interview with someone in the office, or better yet, Mayes if possible. I can be reached at 602-254-5340. Thanks for your response.

Barbara Villa  
Senior News Correspondent  
Direct: 602-254-5340; Cell: 602-350-0388  
[www.skyviewnetworks.com](http://www.skyviewnetworks.com)



## ELECTIONS

# Donald Trump evokes threatening image of Liz Cheney in Arizona speech

**Ray Stern and Dan Nowicki** Arizona Republic

Published 10:37 a.m. MT Nov. 1, 2024 | Updated 6:05 p.m. MT Nov. 1, 2024

Former President Donald Trump created a new and threatening image when discussing former Rep. Liz Cheney during his conversation with former Fox News host Tucker Carlson.

Speaking of the Republican former member of Congress from Wyoming, who is a frequent critic, Trump said, "She's a radical war hawk. Let's put her with a rifle standing there with nine barrels shooting at her. OK? Let's see how she feels about it. You know, when the guns are trained on her face."

Trump made his remarks Thursday at a rally at the packed Desert Diamond Arena in Glendale.

Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes said Friday she was investigating the comments as a potentially prosecutable threat.

Trump campaign National Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt responded to Mayes' move as a "a desperate attempt to help out Kamala Harris' failing campaign."

The conversation touched on what Trump called Cheney's willingness to send U.S. troops into combat and the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol.

Cheney, the daughter of former Vice President Dick Cheney, was the vice chair of the committee investigating the Jan. 6 Capitol insurrection and has endorsed and campaigned for Vice President Kamala Harris in the presidential race.

Cheney responded on X: "This is how dictators destroy free nations. They threaten those who speak against them with death. We cannot entrust our country and our freedom to a petty, vindictive, cruel, unstable man who wants to be a tyrant."

Harris on Friday called Trump's comments "disqualifying" while praising Cheney as "a true patriot."

"Even worse, he has increased his violent rhetoric — Donald Trump has — about political opponents, and in great detail, in great detail, suggested rifles should be trained on former Representative Liz Cheney," Harris said. "This must be disqualifying. Anyone who wants to be president of the United States who uses that kind of violent rhetoric is clearly disqualified and unqualified to be president."

Trump "is increasingly ... someone who considers his political opponents the enemy, is permanently out for revenge, and is increasingly unstable and unhinged," Harris said.

Former Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, D-Ariz., who suffered a near-fatal gunshot wound to the head in a 2011 assassination attempt, also weighed in on X: "I was shot and nearly killed serving the people of Arizona. So I ask my fellow patriots to reject Trump's calls for violence and retribution."

For his part, Trump doubled down Friday on his comments, painting Cheney as a warmonger who would never actually go to war herself and calling her "a disgrace."

"She's a war hawk. She kills people. She wanted to, even in my administration, she was pushing that we go to war with everybody. And I said if you ever gave her a rifle and let her do the fighting, if you ever do that, she wouldn't be doing too well, I will tell you right now," Trump said while campaigning in Michigan. "She's a war hawk. She wants to go kill people unnecessarily and if she had to do it herself, if she had to face the consequences of battle, she wouldn't be doing it. So it's easy for her to talk. But she wouldn't be doing it. She's actually a disgrace."

Using language familiar to those who have attended or watched his rallies, he also disparaged the intellect of Harris, the character of Hillary Clinton, the 2016 Democratic nominee for president, and John Bolton, his former national security adviser.