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Trump administration profile: Pam Bondi

By Emma Rose Brown | December 20, 2024 3:33 pm



Attorney general nominee Pam Bondi walks through the Russell Senate Office Building on Dec. 2.

(Photo by Andrew Harnik/Getty Images)

President-elect Donald Trump nominated Pamela J. Bondi to lead the Department of Justice on Nov. 21, just hours after Trump's original pick, former Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-Fla.), **withdrew his name from consideration** over alleged sex crimes and drug-related misconduct.

Who is she? Bondi, a corporate lobbyist and former two-term attorney general of Florida, is a longtime Trump loyalist who served on his first impeachment team.

She **falsely claimed he won Pennsylvania** in 2020, and she stumped for Trump in late 2024.

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Follow the money:

- In 2013, the Trump Foundation made an **illegal donation** to a political group supporting Bondi's attorney general reelection campaign in Florida. At the time, Bondi was considering whether to investigate Trump University for alleged fraud. Her office decided not to take up the case and in 2016 the Trump Foundation paid a \$2,500 **fine to the IRS** for the donation.
- During her two campaigns for state attorney general, Bondi **received the majority of her funding** from the Florida Republican Party, totaling \$3 million, including public matching funds. The next largest source of donations — nearly \$600,000 — came from the finance, business, and real estate sector.

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The revolving door: In 2019, after finishing her second term as Florida attorney general, Bondi joined the lobbying firm Ballard Partners, **founded** by major Trump donor Brian Ballard. She has **lobbied** for clients including **Amazon, Uber** and private prison giant **GEO Group**. During the 2024 election cycle, **Ballard raised** over \$50 million for Trump-related committees and **personally contributed** \$250,000. **GEO Group** donated \$1 million to the pro-Trump super PAC Make America Great Again.



Why does it matter?

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- Trump and some of his allies have **pledged** to prosecute the president-elect's political enemies. Former DOJ prosecutor Ankush Khardori told The Hill that Trump will virtually be able to "direct his attorney general to do pretty much anything he wants without there being any real oversight or scrutiny." Bondi has previously **vowed to prosecute** those involved in Trump's indictment, telling **Fox News** in 2023, "The Department of Justice, the prosecutors will be prosecuted, the bad ones."
- Bondi's brother, Brad Bondi, was previously listed **as an attorney** for Elon Musk's company Tesla during an SEC investigation alleging Musk misled investors. As attorney general, Pam Bondi will be in a position to end the **ongoing Justice Department investigation** into Tesla related to another alleged case of securities fraud. Musk, who **poured \$260 million into Trump's campaign**, has become a close confidant of the president-elect.

This article is part of a series examining the role political money has played in the careers of President-elect Donald Trump's nominees for executive branch positions.

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