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TRUMP GUILTY!

■ He's dramatically convicted on all 34 charges in Stormy Daniels pay-off case

■ Ex-President calls historic verdict 'a disgrace' as he faces up to 4 years' jail

DONALD Trump last night became the first former US President to be convicted of criminal charges.

The presumptive Republican presidential candidate is facing up to four years in jail after being found guilty

From **Daniel Bates** in New York

on all counts in his historic hush-money trial.

Trump was convicted of falsifying business records relating to a \$130,000 (£100,000) payment to porn star Stormy Daniels days before the 2016 election.

The former President, who is

set to take on Joe Biden on November 5, shook his head as the verdict was read. He was convicted on all 34 counts, which were read out one by one by the jury foreman, who stood up and said 'guilty' into a microphone.

After five weeks of evidence, the jury in New York took just under ten hours to reach a

Turn to Page 2



Stony-faced: Donald Trump in court yesterday

Weather

Go to: [dailymail.co.uk/weather](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/weather) for UK and world 5 day forecast

15 (59°F)

Aberdeen

20 (68°F)

Glasgow

14 (57°F)

Belfast

17 (63°F)

Newcastle

19 (66°F)

Manchester

19 (66°F)

Birmingham

15 (59°F)

Cardiff

19 (66°F)

London

16 (61°F)

Plymouth

°F

°C

100

40

80

30

60

10

40

0

20

-10

0

-20

-30

Summary: Mostly dry

UK TODAY: A bright or sunny day for the north and west of the UK and feeling pleasant. Cloudier for eastern parts of England with the chance of some drizzly rain at times. Light northerly winds. Max 16c.

Today's weather

	9am	12noon	3pm	6pm	9pm
London	13c	14c	16c	16c	15c
Plymouth	13c	14c	17c	19c	15c
Cardiff	15c	17c	18c	18c	16c
B'ham	13c	14c	15c	16c	13c
M'chester	14c	16c	18c	18c	14c
Newcastle	12c	14c	15c	14c	11c
Glasgow	14c	17c	19c	19c	15c
Aberdeen	12c	15c	16c	15c	13c
Belfast	12c	14c	16c	15c	12c

5 day forecast

	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
London	19c	22c	20c	21c	21c
Plymouth	20c	21c	20c	20c	19c
Cardiff	20c	22c	20c	19c	19c
B'ham	18c	20c	18c	19c	18c
M'chester	18c	18c	17c	16c	16c
Newcastle	16c	19c	19c	18c	16c
Glasgow	18c	16c	16c	15c	15c
Aberdeen	17c	20c	18c	16c	14c
Belfast	17c	18c	17c	16c	15c

Europe forecast

	today	c	f	tomorrow	c	f
Amsterdam	rain	19	66	showers	18	64
Brussels	showers	17	63	rain	16	61
Frankfurt	rain	18	64	showers	18	64

Around the world yesterday

	weather	c	f		weather	c	f		weather	c	f
Algiers	Sunny	33	91	Florence	Showers	24	75	New Delhi	Sunny	42	08
Amsterdam	Cloudy	16	61	Geneva	Thunder	18	64	New York	Fair	22	72
Athens	Sunny	26	79	Gibraltar	Sunny	21	70	Nice	Sunny	23	73
Auckland	Fair	15	59	Guernsey	Fair	15	59	Oslo	Thunder	17	63
Bahrain	Sunny	45	113	Helsinki	Sunny	25	77	Palma	Sunny	26	79
Barcelona	Sunny	23	73	Hong Kong	Showers	26	79	Paris	Showers	16	61
Basra	Sunny	46	115	Innsbruck	Showers	21	70	Perth	Thunder	16	61
Beijing	Sunny	30	86	Istanbul	Sunny	23	73	Prague	Rain	16	61
Belm	Sunny	24	75	Jersey	Fair	15	59	Rhodes	Sunny	24	75
Belfast	Fair	15	59	Larnaca	Sunny	27	81	Riga	Sunny	26	79
Belgrade	Rain	25	77	Las Palmas	Sunny	25	77	Rome	Fair	24	75
Berlin	Thunder	20	68	Lisbon	Sunny	28	82	Singapore	Thunder	28	82
Blarritz	Drizzle	16	61	London	Thunder	14	57	Stockholm	Sunny	23	73
Brisbane	Fair	22	72	Los Angeles	Sunny	19	66	Strasbourg	Showers	19	66
Brussels	Cloudy	17	63	Luxor	Sunny	35	95	Sydney	Sunny	23	73
Bucharest	Fair	22	72	Madrid	Sunny	31	88	Tangier	Sunny	30	86
Budapest	Fair	24	75	Malaga	Sunny	24	75	Tel Aviv	Sunny	26	79
Cairo	Sunny	28	82	Malta	Sunny	25	77	Tenerife	Fair	25	77
Cape Town	Thunder	17	63	Melbourne	Fair	19	66	Tokyo	Fair	27	81
Casablanca	Fair	24	75	Mexico City	Showers	25	77	Toronto	Fair	18	64
Copenhagen	Rain	18	64	Miami	Fair	21	70	Tunis	Sunny	29	84
Corfu	Sunny	23	73	Millan	Showers	21	70	Vancouver	Fair	13	55
Dubai	Sunny	38	100	Montreal	Fair	18	64	Venice	Thunder	18	64
Dublin	Showers	14	57	Moscow	Fair	26	79	Vienna	Sunny	23	73
Dubrovnik	Fair	22	72	Mumbai	Fair	34	93	Warsaw	Showers	25	77
Faro	Sunny	27	81	Nairobi	Fair	23	73	Wellington	Sunny	13	55

Moon and Sun
MOON rises: 2.55am, sets: 1.25pm
Sun rises: London: 4.49am, sets: 9.07pm
Manchester rises: 4.47am, sets: 9.27pm
HIGH TIDE: London Bridge: 8.49pm
Liverpool: 6.29pm

Extremes (24 hrs to 6pm y/day)
Warmest: Pershore, Worcestershire, 26c (68f)
Coldest: Tyndrum, Stirlingshire, 6c (43f)
Wettest: Fylingdales, North Yorkshire, 0.70ins.
Sunniest: Three, Argyll and Bute, 9.4hrs.

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Even now he can STILL be President

Continued from Page One

unanimous verdict, which could affect the presidential vote after polls showed voters could punish Trump.

The verdict brings to an end an extraordinary case which was the first time a former President had been put on trial.

Trump was forced to be at the Manhattan Criminal Court every day, so he turned the courthouse into a circus where he railed against the proceedings from the hallway outside the 15th-floor courtroom.

It is unclear how much time the 77-year-old would serve in prison because of his age. He doesn't have a criminal record and the offences are Class E felonies, the lowest possible.

Trump has vowed to appeal, meaning any sentence will almost certainly not be served before the election in November. He can still become President as the US Constitution does not bar convicts from running for the White House.

Trump was charged with 34 counts of falsifying business records, a minor crime under New York state law.

To boost it up to a felony, a more serious charge, prosecutors claimed that the underlying crime was to influence the 2016 election. Prosecutors said in their opening statement that it was 'election fraud, pure and simple'.

The intention was to 'corrupt' the 2016 vote by hiding stories about Trump's affairs out of fear it would destroy his standing with female voters.

Trump's lawyer Todd Blanche said there was 'nothing illegal' about trying to influence an election, telling the jury: 'It's called democracy.'

Over four weeks with 22 wit-

Trump has three more trials to go

LAST night's verdict was just the first in four criminal trials Donald Trump faces.

Two are related to efforts to overturn his defeat in the 2020 presidential election and another over stashing secret government documents at his home in Florida.

However, all have been bogged down in legal squabbling that could prevent them reaching a jury before the November 5 election.

Trump has denied wrongdoing and claims the cases are part of a Democratic-led effort to damage his campaign.

The next major legal development will likely be the US Supreme Court's ruling, expected by the end of June, on his claim of immunity in the election subversion case.

Trump's sentencing for last night's guilty verdict is due on July 11, just four days before the start of the Republican National Convention, where he will formally be nominated as the party's presidential candidate.

'Women will hate me'

nesses, the jury heard a vivid story about the sleazy underbelly of the 2016 Trump campaign and what prosecutors called the 'Trump Tower conspiracy'. It was said to have begun in August 2015 during a meeting in the former President's office in New York where David Pecker, former publisher of the National Enquirer tabloid newspaper, agreed to be the 'eyes and ears' of the campaign and flag up any negative stories.

The first of the 'catch and kill' operations involved the Enquirer paying \$30,000 (£24,000) hush money to a former Trump Tower doorman who claimed to have information about Trump fathering a love child with one of his housekeepers.

Next, in August 2016, was the \$150,000 (£118,000) the Enquirer paid to former Playmate Karen McDougal to keep

silent about her relationship with Trump in 2006 while his wife Melania, 54, was pregnant with Barron, now 18.

On October 7, 2016, a month before the election, the Washington Post released the infamous Access Hollywood tape

in which Trump was caught bragging about groping women's private parts. The jury heard that Trump ranted that 'women will hate me' but worse was potentially to come when he became aware that Ms Daniels was shopping her

story around. Public knowledge of her affair would have been 'catastrophic' for the campaign, Trump's former personal lawyer Michael Cohen, 57, testified.

After Ms Daniels' X-rated testimony, it was easy to see why. She told the court that she met Trump at a celebrity golf tournament in Lake Tahoe, Nevada, in July 2006 and he invited her for dinner at his hotel suite.

According to Ms Daniels, Trump wore silk pyjamas that reminded her of Playboy founder Hugh Hefner. When she told him he was being arrogant, he dared her to spank



Joy: A woman with an anti-Trump banner at court



Hush money: Trump with porn star Stormy Daniels



Guilty: Donald Trump outside the court after yesterday's verdict

him, which she did with a magazine with his face on the cover.

When Ms Daniels went to the bathroom, she emerged to find Trump lying on the bed in his boxers. She 'blackened out' and woke up to find Mr Trump having sex with her. He did not use a condom, she said.

There was laughter in court as Ms Daniels brushed off the idea that her story about Mr Trump was as fake as her porn scenes. She said: 'Wow. That's not how I'd put it. The sex in the films is very much real just like what happened to me in that room.'

She added: 'If that story wasn't true I would have written it to be a lot better.' Trump's lawyers denied he had sex with Ms Daniels.

The jury heard that the Enquirer refused to pay Ms Daniels the \$130,000 she was asking for as Trump had not paid the magazine back for the two previous deals.

Out of loyalty to Trump, Mr Cohen said, he paid it himself with a shell company. The jury heard that Trump agreed to pay Mr Cohen back and disguise the money as income: the \$130,000 would be doubled to \$260,000 (£200,000) to account for tax.

Combined with other payments and bonuses the money would be repaid in 12 monthly instalments of \$35,000 (£27,000) – payments which formed the basis of the 34 criminal charges.

Trump also faces three other criminal cases in Georgia, Washington and Florida for election interference and illegally retaining classified documents after leaving office. Only the Washington case, for Trump's role in the January 6, 2021, insurrection, seems possible to happen before November's election.

Trump denied all 34 charges. The judge has set sentencing for July 11.

He'll play this as a witch-hunt... don't bet against him coming out on top

DONALD Trump became the first ever former President of the United States to be convicted of a crime last night.

A unanimous New York jury found him guilty on all 34 counts of illegally trying to cover up a \$130,000 (£100,000) payment to porn star Stormy Daniels to stifle sex scandals that threatened to derail his 2016 presidential campaign only days before America went to the polls.

Paying the hush money was not in itself illegal but the prosecution successfully argued that it was designed to influence the outcome of the election – a violation of election laws and, argued the prosecutors, the underlying crime.

This is highly contentious territory which is why last night's guilty verdicts will be immediately appealed.

Guilty on 34 counts sounds worse than it is. It refers only to the number of instalments by which Trump arranged for his then lawyer and sleazy fixer, Michael Cohen, to be reimbursed for paying Ms Daniels. The prosecution argued convincingly that Trump and his people had covered up these repayments to hide their true purpose.

But doctoring book-keeping entries under New York law is only a minor crime, usually involving only a slap on the wrists. It was linking the payments to a breach of campaign



COMMENTARY By Andrew Neil

finance law which elevated the matter to proper criminality. Those salivating at the prospect of Trump now doing jail time with have to be patient. Sentencing will not take place until July 11, when Trump could face anything from probation to four years behind bars.

But even if the judge decides on jail, the guilty verdict will be appealed and Trump will remain free until the appeal process is concluded. This will take a long time – long enough to leave

could damage him among independent and moderate voters. But it will make no difference to his core vote.

Within minutes of the verdict Trump was already declaring it a 'rigged' trial and a 'disgrace'.

He will position himself as the victim of a political witch-hunt which he will claim was organised by a Democratic Justice Department, a Democratic judge, a Democratic prosecutor and a Democratic jury.

There have been enough oddities about the prosecution for this to have legs.

The judge in particular was regarded by many as unduly partisan, regularly overruling defence challenges. His judgments will be at the core of the appeal process. But for now and through to the election the law takes a back seat and politics takes over.

America will have to decide if Trump is, as his opponents and enemies will stigmatise him, a convicted criminal or someone seriously traduced by a politicised legal system that undermines the credibility of America's justice system.

Given the current sour mood in America, I would not rule out this rebounding to Donald Trump's advantage.

'This will make no difference to his core vote'

Trump free to campaign for President all the way through to polling day in November.

He will be sentenced four days before the Republican convention opens in Milwaukee, where Trump will be crowned the party's presidential candidate.

By that time President Joe Biden will have regularly referred to him as a 'convicted felon'. That

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★ AMERICA IN TURMOIL ★



BORIS: This was a mob-style hit job — and will make a Trump victory MORE likely

SEE PAGE NINE

Former President blasts his successor after bombshell guilty verdicts — but then Biden calls HIM ‘reckless and dangerous’

TRUMP RAGES AT BIDEN’S ‘FASCIST STATE’

DONALD Trump last night branded America a ‘fascist state’ after his criminal conviction.

The former President told

From **Daniel Bates** in New York

supporters, ‘if they can do this to me, they can do this to anyone’ as he vowed to ‘fight’ in a fiery speech.

Speaking in Trump Tower in

New York, he called the judge at his historic trial a ‘devil’, and said Joe Biden was behind his prosecution.

The US President hit back, saying the claims were ‘reckless’ and ‘dangerous’. Trump’s

Turn to Page 6



So what DOES Melania’s deafening silence mean?

SEE PAGE EIGHT

★★★★★

A country split in two: Trump's backers call for violence

From **Daniel Bates**
in New York

CHILLING posts from Donald Trump's supporters calling for murder last night stoked fears of violence in the wake of his criminal conviction.

In an echo of the January 2021 insurrection, which saw supporters of the former President march on the Capitol, one online message called for armed activists to 'go to Washington and hang everyone'.

Other Trump supporters said it was 'time to start capping [shooting] some Lefties' and suggested that 'somebody should take care of' the judge who presided over the case.

In a stark warning, veteran pollster Frank Luntz said that in 35 years he had never seen the country so 'polarised and so toxic'. He told Sky News: 'All this has done is divided America even further.

'We see no evidence in the focus groups that people are moving away from Donald Trump, no evidence they have moved towards him.'

Mr Luntz warned that undecided voters did not believe the former President should be given a custodial sentence, adding that some feared it would turn him into a 'martyr'. He added: 'They're afraid there will be riots in the street, there is real concern this case could bring a level of violence that we haven't seen ever in American democracy'.

Trump has been priming his supporters to reject the verdict since the beginning of the trial, which he has labelled 'rigged' and part of a 'witch-hunt' against him.

But the fury after the guilty verdict on Thursday shocked analysts who monitor far-Right websites. They were alarmed by posts on Trump's own Truth Social platform and two other websites

which backed him: Patriots.Win and the Gateway Pundit.

One said: 'Bad stuff happens to judges in their driveways.'

On messaging app Telegram, a user said that 'all involved' should

be hanged and called for a military tribunal for the judge and prosecutors. On Patriots.Win, a user wrote: 'Someone in NY with nothing to lose needs to take care of (Judge Juan) Merchan. Hopefully he gets met with illegals

(migrants) with a machete.'

Another user said: 'Trump should already know he has an army willing to fight and die for him if he says the words... I'll take

up arms if he asks.' Jacob Ware, a co-author of the book, God, Guns, and Sedition: Far-Right Terrorism in America, said the violent language used by Trump's followers was testament to the former Pres-

Continued from Page One

comments came after Thursday's verdict sent shockwaves around the world.

His campaign officials, who immediately attached news of the conviction to a fund-raising message, said they raked in \$35million (£27.5million) in donations in ten hours.

At the court in New York, Trump was found guilty of all 34 counts of falsifying business records after a six-week trial.

The case related to a \$130,000 (£102,000) hush-money payment to porn star Stormy Daniels in the weeks before the 2016 election. Trump will be sentenced on July 11 and faces up to four years in jail.

Outside Trump Tower, a small group of protesters waved signs which said 'Guilty'

and 'Loser!'. Inside, Trump, who was not joined by his wife Melania, stood in front of a row of American flags.

He said 'we will be appealing this scam' because there was 'no crime here'.

Trump added: 'We're going to fight. I'm doing something for our constitution. It's very important. It's far beyond me. This is bigger than Trump, my presidency. The people understand it. November 5 (election day) is going to be the most important day in the history of our country'.

Trump remains under a gag order and cannot comment on the court staff, the judge's family, the witnesses or the jury. If he does, he could be found in contempt for an 11th time – he has already been fined \$10,000 (£7,850). But he appeared not to hold any-

thing back as he branded Michael Cohen, the star prosecution witness, a 'sleazebag'.

Trump also took aim at Judge Juan Merchan, saying: 'You saw what happened to some of the witnesses that were on our side.

'We will be appealing this scam'

They were literally crucified by this man, who looks like an angel, but he's really a devil.'

Referencing the gag order – which he dismissed as 'nasty' – he added: 'I say that knowing it's dangerous for me to say that but I'm willing to do whatever I have to do to save our country and our constitution.'

Trump also attacked Mr Biden as 'a man who can't put two sentences together' and the 'dumbest President' in the history of the country, and claimed that he was behind the prosecution.

He said: 'It was all done by Biden and his people', adding that it was more likely Mr Biden's people as 'I don't know if Biden knows too much about it – I don't know if he knows much about anything'.

President Biden dismissed his predecessor's claims, saying: 'It's irresponsible for anyone to say this was rigged, just because they don't like the verdict.'

'Our justice system has endured for nearly 250 years. And it literally is a cornerstone of America. The justice system should be respected and we should never allow any-

one to tear it down. It's as simple as that.' Despite becoming the first former US President to be convicted in a court of law, Trump's campaign shows no sign of slowing down.

A post on his fundraising website features a large image of Trump's mugshot, which was taken in Atlanta after he surrendered in a separate criminal case he is facing, and calls him a 'political prisoner'. In the hours after the verdict, the website crashed because so many people tried to log on.

Ahead of Trump's speech, his lawyer Todd Blanche vowed he would appeal. He said: 'Our system of justice isn't supposed to be a system where every person that walks in the courtroom knows about the case.'

After the verdict, The New Yorker maga-

zine released a special cover showing Trump's small hands, a physical feature he has long been mocked for, in large handcuffs. It was greeted with glee by Democratic-leaning celebrities and politicians.

Robert De Niro, who mocked Trump outside the courthouse on Wednesday, said that 'justice had been served'.

Mr Cohen, Trump's former personal lawyer turned antagonist, said he was 'relieved' at the verdict.

He added: 'It's accountability – it's exactly what America needs right now.'

Hillary Clinton, who Trump beat in the 2016 election, posted on Instagram a mug for sale with a cartoon of herself drinking a coffee and the caption: 'Turns out she was right about everything'. But the ver-

dict was met with fury and disbelief by Trump's supporters.

Billionaire Elon Musk, who is reportedly being lined up as an adviser for a second Trump administration, said 'great damage was done to the public's faith in the American legal system'.

Tucker Carlson, a far-Right media personality, posted online: 'This won't stop Trump. He'll win the election if he's not killed first.'

Trump's daughter Ivanka posted a photo on Instagram of herself and her father

ANDREW NEIL

PAGES 16-17



Hitting back: Donald Trump at Trump Tower in New York yesterday. Left: Protesters outside

ident's 'iron-clad ability to mobilise more extreme supporters to action, both at the ballot box and through violence'.

A snap poll by YouGov after the verdict found that 50 per cent of Americans agreed with the verdict, 30 per cent disagreed and 19 per cent were not sure.

But the results went sharply on party lines, with 86 per cent of

Democrats believing Trump was guilty, compared to just 15 per cent of Republicans.

On Capitol Hill, the reaction from Democrats was muted and anxious. Becca Balint, a Democrat from Vermont, said: 'I know many of us are concerned about the possibility of violence... We'd be foolish not to worry.'

But many Republican lawmak-

ers sided with the man who seems set to lead their party into the next presidential election.

Mike Johnson, the House Speaker, said: 'This is a purely political exercise. The people know this is wrong and the people are outraged.'

Mitch McConnell, the Senate Minority Leader, said the verdict would be overturned on appeal.

Can Trump run for the presidency?

Yes. The US Constitution does not bar criminals from running for the White House.

When is sentencing?

July 11 – four days before the Republican National Convention when Mr Trump will formally accept his party's nomination for the presidency.

Will he go to jail?

Judge Juan Merchan could jail Trump at sentencing or he could spare him prison time. The offences are the lowest-level felonies, class E, and Trump does not have a criminal history. His advanced age will also count in his benefit. But the judge may decide that the underlying crime of interfering in the 2016 election is serious enough to justify

Q&A

prison time. If so, it will likely be only a matter of months.

Can Trump appeal?

Yes, and he almost certainly will. That would mean any prison sentence would be likely put off until after he finishes his second term, should he win in November.

Will this cost him the election?

Polls showed that around 7 per cent of Trump's supporters would vote for Joe Biden if he were convicted. That could be enough to swing it to Mr Biden in such a close race, but those polls were before the verdict and therefore hypothetical.

It's a disgrace! Farage blasts pal's verdict

By **David Churchill**
Chief Political Correspondent

NIGEL Farage yesterday branded Donald Trump's conviction a 'disgrace' as he jumped to the former US President's defence.

A close ally of Trump, Mr Farage, pictured, said America's liberal Left had 'overplayed their hand' and the case was proof the country's judicial system had become too 'politicised'.

It comes after Trump, who could be re-elected as President in November, was convicted on all 34 counts of falsifying business records in his historic criminal trial involving hush-money payments.

'I think the whole thing is a disgrace – it has been from start to finish,' said Mr Farage, who is honorary president of Reform UK. 'I have been concerned about the American judicial system for many, many years. It seems politicised in ways ours isn't. Judges get elected on a ticket that says, "I am going to get Donald Trump", so you have to doubt the impartiality.'

'The point Trump made is that the district in which this was held, he got no more than 10 per

cent of the vote, so the likelihood is the jurors were all Democrats, likely not Trumpites.'

Speaking to GB News, he added: 'I think the [Joe] Biden administration and the US judicial system have massively overplayed their hand. It was interesting that within half an hour of the verdict, Trump's donation website crashed. Huge numbers of people going on to give money to his campaign. "The real key thing is what happens to those in the middle. My guess is, fair-minded Americans will feel this is not showing their country in a positive light and this is probably the biggest election boost he could have had.'

By contrast, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak dodged questions over the conviction, saying Trump's travels in the US were 'not my focus'.

Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer said he will work with Trump if both men are in power later this year.

He described the guilty verdict as an 'unprecedented situation'.

