



JASON GETZ/POOL TNS

In addition to concerns about due process, Superior Court Judge Scott McAfee has practical objections to holding a “mega-trial” for former President Donald Trump and all the co-defendants. “The Fulton County Courthouse simply contains no courtroom adequately large enough.”

Trump, 16 others won't face October 'mega-trial'

BY TAMAR HALLERMAN AND BILL RANKIN
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

ATLANTA — The Fulton County judge overseeing the sprawling election interference probe on Thursday split the case's 19 defendants into two groups, saving former President Donald Trump from going to trial in Georgia in October.

Superior Court Judge Scott McAfee ruled that 17 of the defendants would be split off — or severed, in legal parlance — from Kenneth Chesebro and Sidney Powell, who have demanded speedy trials and are set to be tried on Oct. 23.

In a seven-page order, McAfee said splitting off the 17 defendants who did not want a speedy trial was “simply a procedural and logistical inevitability.” He cited the five ongoing requests for federal removal, defense attorneys with scheduling conflicts this fall and parties who wanted more time to examine the state's voluminous discovery — evidence and other information which must be shared between the parties before trial.

“The precarious ability of the Court to safeguard each defendant's due process rights and ensure

adequate pretrial preparation on the current accelerated track weighs heavily, if not decisively, in favor of severance,” McAfee wrote.

The ruling is a blow to the Fulton District Attorney's office, which argued in favor of keeping all 19 defendants together. In a court filing earlier this week, DA Fani Willis said trying defendants in multiple groups would create a “logistical quagmire” for courthouse staff, witnesses and jurors and that judicial efficiency merited trying the group together.

McAfee, meanwhile, voiced concerns about the logistics of holding a “mega-trial.”

“The Fulton County Courthouse simply contains no courtroom adequately large enough to hold all 19 defendants, their multiple attorneys and support staff, the sheriff's deputies, court personnel, and the State's prosecutorial team. Relocating to another larger venue raises security concerns that cannot be rapidly addressed,” he said.

McAfee worried that holding a trial with such a large group of defendants would lead to a lengthy trial. (The DA's office has estimated the case will take roughly four months to try, excluding jury se-

lection, and that it plans to call some 150 witnesses.)

“Each additional defendant increases the length of opening and closing arguments, cross-examination, and the number of evidentiary objections,” he wrote. “Each additional defendant increases the risk that the trial must be paused due to the unexpected absence of a party or attorney.”

A month ago, a Fulton grand jury handed up the 41-count racketeering indictment, tied to Trump's attempt to hold onto power in Georgia and other swing states following the 2020 election.

The judge wrote that the “ripple effects” of a months-long, multi-defendant trial on the local criminal justice system must be considered, and added that “additional divisions of these 17 defendants may well be required” in the future. Roughly a dozen parties have filed motions to sever themselves from some or all of their other co-defendants, though McAfee did not rule on those requests.

For the remaining 17 defendants, McAfee issued a scheduling order setting Oct. 6 as the date initial discovery. All motions will be due Dec. 1.

NOTICE OF REFERENDUM

\$439,035,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BEAUFORT COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a referendum will be held in the School District of Beaufort County, South Carolina (the “School District”), on November 7, 2023, for the purpose of submitting to all persons qualified to vote in the School District, under the Constitution and laws of the State of South Carolina (the “State”), the following question:

Shall the Board of Education of the School District of Beaufort County, South Carolina (the “School District”) be empowered to issue, at one time or from time to time, general obligation bonds of the School District, in a principal amount of not exceeding \$439,035,000, the proceeds of which shall be used to finance the costs (including architectural, engineering, legal and related fees) of the following:

- Re-building and equipping Hilton Head Island High School including renovation, construction of additional space and demolition of a portion of existing facility;
- Constructing and equipping a new replacement school for Lady's Island Middle School on its current location including demolition of the existing facility;
- Constructing and equipping a new elementary school in Bluffton;
- Constructing and equipping a new early childhood center in Bluffton, including space for support services;
- Constructing and equipping additional space at the Riverview Charter School including a new gymnasium;
- Constructing and equipping Career and Technology Education Renovations and Additions
 - Beaufort High School – Renovations and Addition
 - Bluffton High School – Addition
 - May River High School – Renovations and Addition;
- Constructing and equipping a Technology and Warehouse Imaging Center;
- Constructing and equipping a kitchen to be used for the Right Choices Alternative Program and the District Educational Services Center;
- Constructing, acquiring and installing HVAC equipment at multiple school facilities;
- Acquiring and installing furniture at multiple school facilities;
- Constructing improvements to parking lots/driveways/sidewalks at multiple school facilities; and
- Constructing, acquiring, and installing additional safety and security enhancements at multiple school facilities?

If the voter wishes to vote in favor of the question, select “Yes, in favor of the question.” If the voter wishes to vote against the question, select “No, opposed to the question.”

- Yes, in favor of the question
- No, opposed to the question

Beginning Monday, October 23, 2023, the Board of Voter Registration and Elections of Beaufort County will be open for early voting from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday - Friday until November 3, 2023. (Closed Sundays and holidays)

There are four (4) Early Voting Centers in Beaufort County:

Board of Voter Registration and Elections of Beaufort County (Main office) 15 John Galt Rd Beaufort, SC 29906	Hilton Head Government Complex 539 William Hilton Pkwy Hilton Head Island, SC 29928
Bluffton Recreation Center - Gymnasium 61A Ulmer Rd Bluffton, SC 29910	St. Helena Branch Library 6355 Jonathan Francis Senior Rd St. Helena Island, SC 29920

The precincts or portions thereof within the School District and locations of the several polling places for such Referendum are as follows:

Precinct(s)	Polling Location	Precinct(s)	Polling Location
Beaufort 1, 2, & 3	Charles L Brown Activity Center 1001 Hamar Street	Hilton Head 2A	Indigo Pines 110 Gardner Dr.
Burton 1A	Burton Wells Recreation Center 1 Middleton Recreation Dr	Hilton Head 2B	Hilton Head Library 11 Beach City Rd.
Burton 1B & 3	Robert Smalls Leadership Academy 43 W.K. Alston Rd	Hilton Head 2C (ORIGINAL LOCATION)	Indigo Hall Facility (Indigo Run) 103 Berwick Dr.
Burton 1C & 1D	Joseph S. Shanklin Elementary School 121 Morrall Dr.	Hilton Head 3 (NEW LOCATION)	Palmetto Hall Golf Club 108 Fort Howell Dr.
Burton 2A & 2B	Community Bible Church 638 Parris Island Gateway	Hilton Head 4A, 4C & 5B	Plantation House 235 Seabrook Dr.
Burton 2C	Love House Ministries 423 Parris Island Gateway	Hilton Head 5A (TEMPORARY LOCATION)	Plantation House 235 Seabrook Dr.
Chechessee 1	Thomas C Barnwell Administrative Building 721 Okatie Hwy.	Hilton Head 4B	The Cypress Club 20 Lady Slipper Ln.
Chechessee 2 (TEMPORARY LOCATION)	Thomas C Barnwell Administrative Building 721 Okatie Hwy.	Hilton Head 4D	HH School for the Creative Arts – Blue Bldg. 10 Wilbourn Rd
Lady's Island 1A	Lady's Island Middle School 30 Cougar Drive	Hilton Head 6	Port Royal Beach House 45 South Port Royal Dr
Lady's Island 1B & 3B	Lady's Island Elementary School 73 Chowan Creek Bluff Rd.	Hilton Head 7A & 9B	Christ Lutheran Church 829 William Hilton Pkwy
Lady's Island 2A	Coosa Elementary School 45 Middle Rd.	Hilton Head 7B	Arts Center of Coastal Carolina 14 Shelter Cove Ln
Lady's Island 2B & 2C	David Smith Community Center 140 Coosaw River Dr.	Hilton Head 8 & 11	St. Luke's Church 50 Pope Ave
Lady's Island 3A & 3C	Tidal Creek Fellowship 290 Brickyard Point Rd.	Hilton Head 9A	TidePointe, A VI Community 700 TidePointe Way
Mossy Oaks 1A	Cornerstone Christian Church 2301 First Blvd.	Hilton Head 10	Grace Community Church 450 Spanish Wells Rd
Mossy Oaks 1B	Beaufort Middle School 2501 Mossy Oaks Rd.	Hilton Head 12 & 13	The Seabrook 300 Woodhaven Dr.
Mossy Oaks 2	Mossy Oaks Elementary School 2510 Mossy Oaks Rd.	Hilton Head 14, 15A, & 15B	Sea Pines Community Center 71 Lighthouse Rd.
Port Royal 1 & 2	Port Royal Town Hall 700 Paris Ave.	Belfair	Belfair Fitness & Sports 1 Union Ct.
Dale/Lobeco	James J. Davis Early Childhood Center 364 Keans Neck Rd	Bluffton 1A, 1B, & 1C	Bluffton Library 120 Palmetto Way
Seabrook 1	Beaufort County Public Works 120 Shanklin Rd.	Bluffton 1D, 2A, & 2E	Rotary Community Center 11 Recreation Ct.
Seabrook 2	Whale Branch Middle School 2009 Trask Pkwy.	Bluffton 2B (TEMPORARY LOCATION)	H.E. McCracken Middle School 250 H.E. McCracken Cir
Seabrook 3	Grays Hill Fire Department Station 82 14 Bruce K Smalls Dr	Bluffton 4B, 4C, & 4D	Buckwalter Recreation Center 905 Buckwalter Pkwy
Sheldon 1	Elijah Washington Medical Center 211 Paige Point Rd.	Bluffton 2C & 2D	Pritchardville Elementary 9447 Evan Way
Sheldon 2	Booker T. Washington Community Center 182 Booker T. Washington Cir.	Moss Creek	Moss Creek Bostwick Pavilion 341 Moss Creek Dr.
Saint Helena 1A	St. Helena Branch Library 6355 Jonathan Francis, Sr. Rd	Bluffton 3	Bluffton Recreation Center Gymnasium 61A Ulmer Rd.
Saint Helena 1B	Scott Community Center 242 Scott Hill Rd.	Bluffton 4A, 5A, & 5B	St. Gregory the Great Parish Life Center 32 Saint Gregory Dr
Saint Helena 1C	Dataw Isl. Club Community Center 43 Marina Dr.	Rose Hill	Colleton Plant Club House 1 Pavilion Point Dr.
Saint Helena 2A	St. Helena Elementary School 1025 Sea Island Pkwy.	Palmetto Bluff (NEW LOCATION)	Palmetto Bluff POA Meeting Rm 550 Old Palmetto Bluff Rd
Saint Helena 2B	Gloria Potts Community Center 130 Seaside Rd.	New River	Mill Creek Amenity Center – Okatie Room 140 Colvin Dr
Saint Helena 2C	Fripp Island Community Center 205 Tarpon Blvd.	Sandy Pointe	H.E. McCracken Middle School 250 H.E. McCracken Cir
Daufuskie	Jane Hamilton School 48 Ole Haig Point Rd.	Sun City 1, 2, 7, & 8	Pinckney Hall 114 Sun City Ln.
Hilton Head 1A & 5C	Hilton Head Presbyterian Church 235 William Hilton Pkwy	Sun City 3 & 4 (TEMPORARY LOCATION)	Magnolia Hall 118 Sun City Ln.
Hilton Head 1B	HH School for the Creative Arts – Blue Bldg. 10 Wilbourn Rd	Sun City 5 & 6	Magnolia Hall 118 Sun City Ln.

The polls will open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m. on November 7, 2023.

The last day a person may register to be eligible to vote in the Referendum will be as follows: Online registrations and registrations submitted by email or fax must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, October 8, 2023. Applications for registration to vote sent by mail must be postmarked no later than Tuesday, October 10, 2023. The deadline to appear in person to register to vote is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 6, 2023. The process of examining the return addressed envelopes containing absentee ballots will begin at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 5, 2023 in the Board of Voter Registration and Elections of Beaufort County, 15 John Galt Road, Beaufort, SC 29906.

The Board of Canvassers shall hold a hearing on ballots challenged in the Referendum on Thursday, November 9, 2023 at 10:00 a.m., in the Board of Voter Registration and Elections of Beaufort County, 15 John Galt Road, Beaufort, SC 29906.

US electric-vehicle sales reach breakthrough pace

BY TOM RANDALL
Bloomberg

Electric cars are smashing all kinds of records in the U.S.

Their share of new cars exceeded 7% for the first half of the year, speeding past a critical tipping point for mass adoption. In the past few months, all-time sales topped 3 million.

But perhaps the most impressive of all is reaching a record-hot pace of almost 1 million new EVs per year. In the previous 12 months through June, Americans bought 977,445 cars that run solely on electricity, according to a Bloomberg Green analysis.

It took 10 years for the U.S. to sell its first million fully electric vehicles, two years to reach the second million, and just over a year to reach the third. By the time the latest quarter's figures are tallied up over the next month, the country should be well on its way to a fourth.

Another way to look at the yearly pace of EV purchases is to use 12-month rolling sales, which reveal surprising progress. For this approach, each new calendar quarter shows the year of EV purchases leading up to that point. It smooths out sea-



TAEHOON KIM Bloomberg, file

A man uses a Tesla Supercharger station. In the previous 12 months through June, Americans bought 977,445 cars that run solely on electricity, according to a Bloomberg Green analysis.

sonal fluctuations that can disguise longer-term trends.

The only time 12-month EV sales have declined was a brief stretch beginning the third quarter of 2019. That's when Tesla temporarily exported a significant share of its American-made Model 3 inventory to kick off overseas sales. The period also coincided with the start of the pandemic.

The story of U.S. electric vehicle adoption has so far been the tale of two dominant actors: the state of California and Tesla. California was the first top-10 global auto market to reach the crucial EV tip-

ping point of 5% of new car sales. Tesla recently dethroned Toyota as the top-selling vehicle brand, electric or otherwise, in the state.

For EVs to become truly mainstream across the U.S., and for the Detroit auto industry to survive the transition, markets need to branch out. That's starting to happen geographically, with California losing some of its U.S. EV share to states like Texas, Florida, Washington and New Jersey. Tesla, however, is still very much in the driver's seat, responsible for 61% of EVs ever sold in the U.S.