

Scott Taylor's campaign committed "out and out fraud" with "intent to defraud the Commonwealth" to try and win an election. So far one of his staffers have already pleaded guilty, another one goes to court in September and Taylor himself has not been exonerated as the investigation remains open.

**Richmond Circuit Court Judge Found "Out And Out Fraud" In The Effort By Taylor's Campaign To Help Independent Shaun Brown Get On The Ballot "As A Spoiler" To The Election.** "In a ruling with potentially serious ramifications for the re-election campaign of Rep. Scott Taylor, R-2nd, a judge on Wednesday found 'out-and-out fraud' in signatures Taylor's campaign staff gathered to help get an independent spoiler candidate on the ballot. A Richmond Circuit Court judge on Wednesday ruled that independent Shaun Brown should be removed from the 2nd District congressional ballot, finding 'out and out fraud' in the effort to gather her signatures. At least four staffers for the re-election campaign of Rep. Scott Taylor, R-2nd, helped gather signatures to get Brown on the ballot as an independent." [Richmond Times-Dispatch, [9/5/18](#)]

**WTKR: "Rupe Wrote That Each Petition Circulated By The Staffers 'Was Done So With The Intent To Defraud The Commonwealth And Its Election Officials.'" "Taylor's staffers collected 600 signatures to help get Brown on the ballot, according to the written opinion. Rupe wrote that each petition circulated by the staffers 'was done so with the intent to defraud the Commonwealth and its election officials.' Separately from the lawsuit, a special prosecutor is investigating whether Taylor's staff did anything illegal." [WTKR, [9/6/18](#)]**

**Former Taylor Staffer Lauren Creekmore Peabody Pleaded Guilty To "Willful Neglect Of Election Duty" In Petition Case.** "A staffer who worked on former Congressman Scott Taylor's 2018 re-election campaign has pleaded guilty to 'willful neglect of election duty' over improperly gathered petition signatures. Taylor was the incumbent Republican who lost the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District seat to Democrat Elaine Luria in 2018. Questions arose about efforts of Taylor's campaign to get independent candidate Shaun Brown on the ballot. An investigation resulted in one of Taylor's staffers, Lauren Creekmore Peabody, being charged with election fraud." [13 News Now, [3/3/20](#)]

**Taylor Staffer Roberta Marciano Was Indicted For "Two Counts Of False Statements On Campaign Documents."** "Another former Scott Taylor staffer has been indicted by a Virginia Beach grand jury. 10 On Your Side's Jason Marks reports that Roberta Marciano is now facing two counts of false statements on campaign documents which date back to the 2018 elections. Earlier this month, ex-campaign staffer Lauren Peabody, formerly Lauren Creekmore, pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of woeful neglect of election duties in the case. Peabody was given 12 months, all suspended, and a \$1,000 fine. She was originally indicted on two felony election fraud charges, but those were reduced to two woeful neglect misdemeanors. One of those charges was withdrawn." [WAVY 10, [3/16/20](#)]

**Marciano's Court Date Was Set For September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020.** [Virginia Courts Case Information, Virginia Beach Circuit- Criminal Division, Case Number CR20000530-00]

**In March 2020, When Taylor Claimed He Had Been Exonerated, The Roanoke Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney John Beamer Said: "Those Are His Words. We Did Not Say That. I'd Refer Back To Our Previous Statement."** "The Roanoke Assitant Commonwealth's Attorney, John Beamer, was in court Tuesday as part of the prosecution. According to Beamer, the investigation into the Taylor campaign petition scandal remains ongoing and that we're 'likely to see more' indictments and legal action come. Taylor has previously said that he has been exonerated by the investigation, but Beamer

cautioned, 'Those are his words. We did not say that. I'd refer back to our previous statement.'" [13 News Now, [3/3/20](#)]

**The Previous Statement Said The Petition Case Was "Still A Subject Of Investigation."** "While Caldwell released some information on Monday, he says the investigation is continuing. He says Taylor has cooperated in the investigation, but other key individuals have not. 'At this point in time, what actually happened within the campaign headquarters is still a subject of investigation due primarily to the lack of cooperation of key individuals with the [Virginia State Police] investigator,' he wrote." [WTKR, [5/6/19](#)]