Special prosecutor appointed after questionable names appear on ballot petition

Well, these are the petitions we are examining, you've probably been asked to sign one before candidates set up at events or go door to door. All part of a drive to get enough valid signatures to get on the ballot. Our investigation shows some of these signatures were not signed by the actual people they claim to be.

Richard Cake's name and signature are found here on a petition of qualified voters wanting to get Sean Brown on the ballot. It is dated June 9th, 2018. The Virginia Beach man was married to Bet Cake for 12 years. It was a shock. We say it was because cake died in April. So how then could a dead man have signed this document on June 9th? Two months after he passed away, BÊTE wants to know the same thing.

It's totally different. It can't possibly be in Britain by the same person.

She says she signed an affidavit as part of an investigation into what happened here.

I'm personally hurt and I'm very frustrated that my beloved husband would have had his name used that way moving down the document.

This entry shows Eileen Eadie as a qualified voter in Virginia, signing on June 9th to get Brown on the ballot. We escaped with Eadie at her current address in Las Vegas.

I thought that's impossible. I can't have signed any position on June 9th. I was living here in Las Vegas and running for school board.

So I most definitely didn't live in Virginia. It's E.D. Nevada. Voting record from the secretary of state's office shows she's voted there since 2014. We asked her to write and sign her name. This is what she sent us compared to what's on the petition. There's no way I signed that petition. Both signatures in question were collected by one of Scott Taylor's campaign staffers.

There are some people who have said that this because it's one of your staffers. This is your attempt to influence the election and get support for the Democratic challenger to shine around.

They can say that all they want. But if somebody wants to volunteer to get someone on the ballot, it's not up to me to say yes or no.

So what would you say to the widow who said that it was really hurtful to see her dead husband's name?

No idea how her name, that name got. I have no idea how it got there. Like I said, I've done this thousands of times. I feel sorry for her. But she's now having to deal with this. But they're there. I've gotten tens of thousands of signatures over the years. I don't know who actually signs of it. They're right or wrong.
Ultimately, it is up to the state to verify the signatures.

We have asked the state board of elections for more information. It is important to note each signature collector has to sign an affidavit swearing he or she witnessed each person actually sign the petition. Falsely signing that document is a felony. Coming up on 13 news now at 6:00. Our political analyst weighs in on this controversy. Laura Geller, 13 news now.

Special prosecutor to investigate potential election violations involving Scott Taylor campaign

Also tonight, a bombshell in a race for Congress in Hampton Roads. Congressman Scott Taylor has fired a campaign staffer. It all comes after some questionable signatures were found on petitions for one of Taylor’s opponents. The whole controversy is now headed for an investigation. Sit on your sides. Anti Fox broke the new developments on Twitter this afternoon, Andy.

So, Tom and Anita, why would Scott Taylor’s campaign gather signatures to be on the ballot in November for one of his opponents? The answer could be Taylor is benefited by an independent candidate who could help split the Democratic vote against him. That lays the groundwork for what has happened next.

Richard Kate died April six. So it’s really hard explaining how his signature ends up on a petition. Two months later, on June 9th for independent congressional candidate Sean Brown Cakes, widow Bette told us she was devastated when she realized someone forged his signature below. His name is Dore’s Harris, who claims her name was forged to a Miss Harris. Did you sign that?

Is that your signature? It isn't my signature now.

Harris points to the forged name on the left and how she would have signed it had she signed it. I don't even write my first name. You just do D. Harris. Yeah. I never write my first name. Bullo. Her name is Anne Cholangitis. My first name is misspelled.

The forged name is on the left with an E at the end of. And here is how cholangitis would sign her name and nowy deceitful. It is very deceitful. We went looking for the Congressman Scott Taylor staffer who signed her name that she gathered and legally witnessed all the signatures on the petition. No one was home, but we did find her boss, Scott Taylor.

We learned about the inconsistencies with the signatures. Like everybody else did. We were up in Washington when this happened. So, you know, I don’t know anything about how I got there. But I think people need to cooperate with the special prosecutor and as well.

Also on the petition. Eileen Eady, who actually lives in Las Vegas, Taylor has already terminated his campaign manager.
I'm still looking into everything, but there is someone who is no longer on our campaign that I imagine when I dig a little bit, there might be something more to it.

Now, to be fair, Congressman Taylor told us he had actually terminated the campaign manager before the petition discrepancies came to light. A source also confirms there could be several names disqualified from Brown's petition for candidacy. We do not know tonight how or if that will impact her campaign in the NEWSROOM. Andy Fox, 10 on your side.

Rep. Scott Taylor drops out of debate against Democratic opponent Elaine Luria

Back here at home, Congressman Scott Taylor announced he is dropping out of BW HRO sponsored debate this fall with Democrat Elaine Loria.

Taylor and Lorie are both running for the 2nd Congressional District. Taylor says he's unhappy with the station's coverage of an effort by paid Taylor staffers to get independent candidate Sean Brown on the ballot.

So in a statement, Taylor said of the debate, quote, Debbie HRO was alerted in writing and with evidence that their employee, who has written and in part is helping to organize the debate, is a rabid anti Scot Taylor attacker online and even called Trump supporters themeless imbeciles. And quote, A13 is now investigation has uncovered that some of the signatures collected by Taylor staffers appear to be forged. Some signatures are of people who have passed away. And Democrat Elaine Loria spoke with us about those questionable signatures.

I'm out campaigning, knocking thousands of doors, talking to voters, and we're talking about issues that are important to people across the second district. So I'm really not concerned if there's two other three people on the ballot. I think that our message will carry weight.

Yesterday, the Virginia Democratic Party filed a lawsuit to try and get Sean Brown off the ballot. Over those petition signatures. So Brown's attorney released a statement critical of the effort saying, quote, to try to remove her now after having been certified is further proof of the lack of commitment by the Democratic Party to our representative democracy born here in Virginia in quote.

Staff worker in Scott Taylor's campaign indicted for election fraud

It's an investigation we've been following for the better part of a year now, indictments been against someone in former Congressman Scott Taylor's campaign. And a warning that more charges could be on the way. That is our top story for this Monday night. Thanks for staying up. I'm David.

And I'm Nicole Vivus. They were questions that brought attention to not one, but two second district congressional campaigns. How did forged signatures end up on petitions for Sean Brown? And did Scott Taylor have anything to do with it? We know at least one person is facing charges, former Taylor staffer Lauren Creekmore. She's accused of election fraud. As for the former congressman, the investigation revealed there is no indication Taylor was involved.
The investigation isn't over yet. She knew hers following the story. Tonight.

Months before the November 2018 elections, a judge ruled that former Second District congressional candidate Sean Brown's name had to be removed from the ballot because of fake signatures, some from people who are dead. Those signatures were gathered by Scott Taylor, staffers for Sean Brown.

I'm personally hurt and I'm very frustrated that my beloved husband would have had his name used that way.

Ben Cake spoke to 30 News Now last August when her late husband, Richard Storey kicks signature appeared on a petition gathered by someone on Taylor's campaign. On Monday, special prosecutor Donald as Caldwell, who was assigned to investigate the case, indicted former Taylor staffer Lauren Creekmore for election fraud.

What really caught my attention was when it was somebody who two people who had deceased been deceased, who supposedly signed their voter registration forms. That suggested to me that there was some criminal behavior going on.

Political analyst Quinn Kids says that's where the law was broken. Forging the signatures, gathering signatures for an opposing candidate, however, is not illegal.

The one candidate feels like he may be at risk of losing. So let's find a third candidate to run to sort of split the opposition vote. That's that. That may or may not sit well on the part of people. But it's not illegal.

The special prosecutor's findings back that it says in a meeting in Taylor's Washington, D.C. office last summer, a decision was reached to circulate a petition on Brown's behalf. That in itself is not illegal. Caldwell says Taylor cooperating with the investigation, and it did not appear there was a directive to circulate the petitions in violation of the law. In a tweet, Taylor reiterated what he has been saying since the allegations came to light that he is innocent. Quote, I knew nothing about any illegal actions that transpired. Further, it is entirely appropriate to hold those accountable for their actions in this matter.

China is following this story from the NEWSROOM tonight. And does Quintin kids think that this indictment will impact any future races, say, in the Second District?

Well, David, Quentin Kidd did tell me he thinks that for any future candidates, not just here locally, but statewide. This sends a message that campaigns need to be ran legally and they need to be ran clean. So in the future, if anything like this would happen again, he thinks there will be a lot of scrutiny surrounding election fraud.

To know. Thank you.
So you may be asking, where is Sean Brown in all of this? Well, she's in prison on unrelated charges. Brown was convicted of fraud late last year and she maintains her innocence.

13 News Now, 5/6/2019
Special prosecutor presenting two indictments for election fraud in Second Congressional District

New information tonight in the scandal surrounding a congressional election in Hampton Roads. A member of former Congressman Scott Taylor's staff is being indicted for election fraud related to petitions. They get an independent candidate on the second district ballot. Thirty days now. Investigative reporter Evan Wolfson is here with a closer look at these new developments.

Virginia Beach circuit court documents show former Scott Taylor staffer Lauren Creekmore is indicted on two charges of election fraud. Special prosecutor Don Caldwell says it's clear that people violated Virginia law in trying to gather petition signatures for candidate Sean Brown. For background, Brown decided to run as an independent candidate for the Second District seat. Political analysts said her candidacy could have split the Democratic vote away from Democrat Elaine Luria. Caldwell's report says the decision was made in Scott Taylor's D.C. office to instruct Taylor's Virginia Beach campaign team to collect signatures for Brown. But Caldwell says this decision was not illegal. And it does doesn't appear Taylor directed his staffers to do anything illegal. In a statement just released, former Representative Taylor writes, The special prosecutors released makes it, quote, concretely clear that he knew nothing about any illegal actions that transpired. Taylor writes, It is entirely appropriate to hold individuals accountable. Caldwell writes that he believes the current indictments for election fraud are supported by proof beyond a reasonable doubt. But that is up for a judge and a jury to decide. And this investigation is still open. Caldwell notes in the NEWSROOM. Evan Watson, 30 news now.

WAVY 10, 5/6/2019
Former Taylor staffer indicted on two counts of election fraud

Now, some developing political news happening. We are waiting for a staff member of former Congressman Scott Taylor's reelection campaign to turn herself into law enforcement because today a Virginia Beach grand jury indicted Lauren Creekmore on two counts of election fraud.

It all relates to the case of those forged signatures attempting to get Sean Brown on the ballot last fall. Then on your science, Brett Hall tonight is getting reaction from all sides, including the former congressman who calls today's move complete vindication.

Yeah, this all happening today after the investigation originally started back in August of last year. So this was a long time coming in in a three page press release today from the special prosecutor. He goes on to say that, quote, What actually happened within the campaign headquarters is still a subject of the investigation with the signatures.

Members of former Congressman Scott Taylor's campaign did break the law in an attempt to get independent candidate Sean Brown on the ballot in 2018. That really is the bottom line from Roanoke. Commonwealth Attorney Dunned Caldwell, who is special counsel, presented the two count indictment today. Staff member Lauren Creekmore, now indicted for election fraud. Her name appears
on several petitions submitted that were intended to put independent candidate Sean Brown on the ballot for a second congressional seat, which would have made it a three way race and possibly worked in Taylor's favor. However, the special prosecutor alleges Virginia law was broken as some of those petitions contain forgery. For instance, this one appears to show the signature of state delegate Barry Knight. However, when reached by a 10 on your side team member by phone today, Knight confirms he never signed that document. Back to our conversation with Taylor in August.

[00:01:39] We learned about the inconsistencies with the signatures like everybody else did. We were up in Washington when this happened. So, you know, I don’t know anything about how I got there.

[00:01:46] Congressman Scott Taylor has maintained he was out of the loop on any illegal activity. In a statement today, he says it is entirely appropriate to hold those accountable for their actions in this matter.

[00:01:55] Ten on your side was unable to reach Creekmore to get her side of the story.

[00:02:01] Now, again, this investigation is ongoing because, quote, lack of cooperation of key individuals within with the Virginia state police investigator. Now, we also want to let you know that if this woman is convicted, she could face up to 10 years behind bars. For more reaction and that statement from Taylor and now Congresswoman Elaine Luria. You can log on now to wavy dot com. Brett Alltel on your side.

WAVY 10, 5/6/2019
Former Taylor staffer facing indictments identified
[00:00:00] Formations. It's more about that breaking political news. Last year's election fraud investigation in Virginia Beach is what we’re talking about here. The race involved Congressman Scott Taylor and Sean Brown and the second district. A special outside prosecutor from Roanoke presented two indictments of election fraud against a woman who worked for Taylor’s campaign. We’ve learned her name is Lauren Creekmore.

[00:00:21] Now, the prosecutor's report concluded a crime was committed between June 1st and June 18th of twenty eighteen. This comes after Democrats accused members of Republican incumbent Scott Taylor staff of forging signatures to help get Brown on the ballot. It was allegedly an attempt to split the Democratic vote. Taylor just sent us a statement saying he never knew anything about any illegal actions involving forged signatures and that these findings vindicate his name. Keep it here for updates on air and online.

WAVY 10, 5/7/2019
Ex-Congressman Scott Taylor calls former staffer accused of election fraud a 'good person'
[00:00:00] Only on 10, former Congressman Scott Taylor is talking to 10 on your side about what of his ex campaign staffers who is now indicted on election fraud charges. We brought this to you as breaking news yesterday here at 4:00. We just checked a few minutes ago. And so far that staffer, Lauren Creekmore has not turned herself into authorities in Virginia Beach. Here’s more from Scott Taylor himself.
The unfortunate thing. You know, obviously, I'm a leader of my campaign. I'm responsible.

Congressman Scott Taylor admits he ordered the effort to put independent candidate Sean Brown on the ballot during a meeting with top staff members. He did not expect his campaign workers to break the law by forged signatures to get that done.

We made a tactical political decision, a credible one, I might add. But that was that was there. There was nothing there in that meeting, nothing was described. That would be illegal or wrong doing or hasn’t been done before by Democrats and Republicans.

Prosecutors claim Lauren Creekmore forged signatures, including one of delegate Barry Knight, who told investigators and us he did not sign this petition.

I know personally she’s a she’s a good person for sure. That being said, I can’t you know, if there’s any if there’s any wrongdoing, people have to be held accountable.

Taylor also says a special prosecutor found he did nothing wrong by helping Brown's campaign.

I was unaware of anything that would have been illegal. That is a simple procedure that campaigns do all the time. It baffles my mind that that that would even happen, quite frankly. So, you know, I haven't. Once I fired, as you know, I fired my consultant and the manager wasn't there.

Shaun Brown is currently serving a three year federal prison sentence for a conviction for defrauding the USDA summer food program service. Brown claims she did not get a fair trial and is trying to overturn her conviction. In response to the indictment against Creekmore, Congresswoman Elaine Lauria says she's focused on representing the second district with energy and integrity.

Former Scott Taylor campaign staffer pleads guilty in petition scandal

Well, now to breaking news this afternoon, we have learned that a former campaign staffer for Scott Taylor has pleaded guilty after she was indicted on two counts of election fraud. Thirteen news now. Evan Watson was in the courtroom as it all happened. Evan, what have you learned so far with this?

Lauren Peabody pled guilty to willful neglect of election duty. She'll pay 1000 dollar fine and court costs a jail sentence of 12 months was suspended based upon a year of good behavior in court. A judge dismissed one of the counts of election fraud and reduced the other to a misdemeanor. Peabody cried after the guilty plea. She admits she signed off on petition signatures that she didn't witness. The Scott Taylor campaign had been gathering signatures for potential Democratic candidate Sean Brown. Court documents say the Taylor campaign was trying to split the Democratic ticket and take votes away
from Challenger and now Representative Elaine Luria. Peabody’s attorney John Fletcher read a statement after the plea saying that Peabody didn’t realize she signed off on petitions. She didn’t circulate.

MSP body had no involvement whatsoever with the forging of voter signatures and has never been accused of that. She was charged with willfully making a false statement on two voter petitions where she stated she witnessed certain legitimate signatures, which were, in fact collected by another volunteer.

The Scott Taylor campaign. The investigation is still ongoing into that petition's scandal for the Scott Taylor campaign. And the prosecuting attorney today out of Roanoke said that with that investigation pending, there was likely to be more in terms of indictments and litigation. Reporting here live in Virginia Beach, Ivan Watson. Thirteen news now.

13 News Now, 3/3/2020
Ex-Scott Taylor staffer pleads guilty in election fraud case

Lauren Peabody, formerly Lauren Creekmore, was in court this morning. She was originally charged with two election fraud felonies, 10 on your side. Jason Marks just got out of the courtroom. He joins us live now. And Jason, those felonies were reduced to misdemeanors.

Yeah. As you mentioned, came into court today. Lauren Peabody was facing two felony charges, but decided she ended up pleading guilty to one misdemeanor charge of willful neglect on election duties. What does that mean? I’ll explain. But first, let me give you some background here. According to prosecutors, Peabody was working for Congressman Scott Taylor’s reelection campaign back in 2018. Taylor was running, as you remember, against. Now Congresswoman Elaine Luria. Then Sean Brown decided that she was going to jump into the race and make it a three person race. According to prosecutors, Taylor met with staffers and decided to help Brown qualify for the ballot by using his staffers to get signatures. Peabody was one of those staffers.

Peabody was then charged with signing off on two petitions that she didn’t actually get signatures for her plea today to a misdemeanor, which does not involve fraud, dishonesty or corrupt conduct, is a fair resolution of this matter as it pertains to Miss Peabody. And she livor to getting on with her life and putting this very frightening experience behind her.

So quickly, let me explain what Peabody did here, when someone is running for an office. They have to get petitions. That means they have to go door to door and get voters to sign off on these petitions, allowing enough signatures so they can get on the ballot. Sean Brown entered the race. Scott Taylor said that he was going to have his staffers go around and get petitions to sign off for Sean Brown, get voters. Now, Lorne Peabody then was supposed to sign off on those petitions, but what she did is she signed off on petitions that she didn’t actually get signatures for. She did get twelve months in jail. All that time was suspended. She also got one thousand dollar fine. Prosecutors tell me that this
investigation is far from over and we could expect more indictments to come. I asked about Scott Taylor. Prosecutors say that they could not rule him out at this point, but they would not say who those indictments that are coming up for. I did reach out to Scott Taylor about this, and he tells me that his statement is the same as it always has been. He’s done nothing wrong and that he has not even been investigated and anything to do with this case. We’ll have much more on this story coming up. Starting on WAVY News, 10 minute four for now. That’s the latest here, Virginia Beach. Jason Marks, 10 on your side.

WAVY 10, 3/3/2020
Ex-Scott Taylor staffer pleads guilty in election fraud case
[00:00:00] Voters on this Super Tuesday are looking ahead into the 2020 presidential election, but it was a twenty eighteen election that was front and center in a Virginia Beach court. A campaign staffer for former Congressman Scott Taylor, Lauren P. Body, pleaded guilty to neglect of election duty. Then he decided Jason Marks spoke with her attorney, Jason.

[00:00:22] And Tom, we’re told this investigation is far from over.

[00:00:25] So far, only one person has been charged in this case, and that person was in front of a judge today.

[00:00:33] It’s been very difficult, as you can imagine, the stress that Lauren Peabody felt since being charged with two campaign felonies has lifted, and she looks forward to getting on with her life and putting this very frightening experience behind her.

[00:01:08] Peabody worked as a campaign staffer for Congressman Scott Taylor’s reelection bid in 2018. Taylor was running against Elaine Luria until Independent Shaw Brown decided to enter the race. At that point, prosecutors say Taylor decided to help get Brown on the ballot, which included having his staffers get signatures for Brown. But some of those signatures were not legitimate.

[00:01:08] Peabody had no involvement whatsoever with the forging of voter signatures and has never been accused of that, Peabody said.

[00:01:15] Her mistake was signing petitions that weren’t hers, meaning she wasn’t there when the signatures were gathered. State loss is the person who gathers the signatures has to sign off on the forms. She was charged with fraud, but those charges were reduced.

[00:01:29] Her plea today to a misdemeanor, which does not involve fraud, dishonesty or corrupt conduct, is a fair resolution of this matter as it pertains to Miss Peabody.

[00:01:41] Peabody was given 12 months in jail, but all that time was suspended. She will also have to pay a thousand dollar fine.
And prosecutors said after today’s hearing that more indictments are coming down. I reached out to Scott Taylor. He says he was not involved in this situation, nor has he been investigated. As the latest here live in Virginia Beach. Jason Marks, 10, on your side.

13 News Now, 6/23/2020
Scott Taylor wins GOP nomination; will get chance to take back his old seat in November
Virginia’s went to the polls today to decide who will run for the Republican Party this November.

Five seats were up for grabs today. One of the biggest races is for the second congressional district Republican Scott Taylor, who previously held the seat. We’ll go head to head with Democratic incumbent Elaine Lauria. In November, Taylor defeated two other GOP candidates tonight. Now he says his sights are set on reclaiming that Second District seat. He believes people are unimpressed with Luria’s performance.

Elaine Lauria is not at all who she says she was not who she campaigned, who she was. She’s exactly who we said she was. And so I think there’s a massive leadership deficit in this district. And we are looking to fill that. And I think that people are hungry to also do that.

Now, Congresswoman Loria, who unseated Taylor two years ago, says she’s ready to go up against him again. She also said voter enthusiasm for Taylor today was not very impressive.

You know, I think it shows that people really haven’t forgotten about the petition fraud scandal, the fact that he has a staffer who’s been convicted and other he’s indicted. He’s still under investigation. And it’s evidenced by the fact that 42 local elected officials endorse one of his opponents. So I really think it’s going to be an uphill challenge for him to coalesce all the Republicans behind him and get that enthusiasm off especially. And, you know, what we know is going to be a contentious election cycle nationally as well.

13 News Now, 8/19/2020
Scott Taylor discusses cease and desist letter
Scott Taylor is speaking out in his first public appearance since he said a cease and desist letter to his opponent, Congresswoman Elaine Luria.

Taylor maintained again today he’s not under investigation. It all centers around a 2018 petition signature forging investigation. Thirteen news now. Reporter Mike Gooding spoke to Taylor today.

I don’t see how this does them any good candidate Scott Taylor sent a cease and desist letter to his opponent, incumbent Congresswoman Elaine Loría. Taylor wants Loría to stop saying that he, Taylor, is still under investigation in the 2018 case of the forging of signatures, including those of dead people, onto campaign petitions. One Taylor campaign staffer from back then has pleaded guilty. Another has been indicted on background. Taylor today played a recording on his cell phone for reporters from a person who identified himself as being with the state police in which that person says Taylor is
not personally under investigation. But when 13 news now reached out to Roanoke, Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney John Beamer, whose office is supervising the prosecution to inform him that Taylor says he's not under investigation, Beamer told us that's not true. The entire campaign is under investigation. Taylor's response?

[00:01:17] One guy's political. One guy isn't. Who do you believe? The nonpolitical person who actually investigates or the political person?

[00:01:26] Christopher Newport University political analyst Quentin Kidd says it probably was a tactical mistake politically for Taylor to send the letter because by doing so, he has opened the door for more scrutiny of the signature issue.

[00:01:38] I just think it's a politically tenured thing to do. It's a mistake. He should have just ignored the, you know, the challenges that Deloria campaign was throwing out there. And he should have focused on the issues that he had been focusing on instead of this.

[00:01:54] Mike Gooding, 13 news now.

WAVY 10, 9/8/2020
Third former Scott Taylor staffer indicted on election fraud charges
[00:00:00] Breaking political news now, another member of Scott Taylor's former campaign has been indicted on election fraud charges. Heather Guido was indicted today in Virginia Beach.

[00:00:11] She's one of the staffers accused of falsifying signatures to a ballot when Taylor ran for Congress two years ago and lost to Elaine Loria. Taylor is now running for that seat again. Ten on your side received a statement from Taylor about this. And you'll hear that on WAVY News 10 at six thirty on Fox 43.

13 News Now, 9/8/2020
Third ex-Scott Taylor campaign staffer indicted
[00:00:00] Another former Scott Taylor campaign staffer is charged with election fraud. This is related to Taylor's failed reelection bid in 2018. Today, a grand jury issued a troop build up indictment for Heather Guillot. She is the third 2018 staffer to be charged in a petition signature scandal. Prosecutors say Taylor staffers used forged signatures to get a third candidate on the ballot in the second district. The idea was to pull Democratic support from Elaine Loria and increase Scott Taylor's chances of winning. It didn't work. Thirteen news now investigation found that some signatures on the petitions belonged to people who had died or moved out of the state. In a statement, Taylor's current campaign called the Ford signatures unethical decisions. Taylor would never condone or permit. Congresswoman Elaine Luria's camp also responded, saying prosecutors warn more charges were coming and that no one has been cleared in the investigation, including Taylor. Scott Taylor has been adamant that he is not under investigation.

13 News Now, 9/9/2020
Third ex-Scott Taylor campaign employee indicted, 'big deal' for congressional bid
A really big deal. That’s how one local political expert is reacting to the news about another former Scott Taylor campaign staffer being indicted for election fraud. Quentin Kidd says he expects incumbent Elaine Luria to keep on focusing on it. Mike Gooding has the latest.

Another former Scott Taylor campaign staffer is charged with election fraud.

They are most definitely not the kind of headlines any candidate wants with less than two months to go until the election.

Yeah, I think it’s a really big deal.

Christopher Newport University political science professor Quentin Kids says 2nd District challenger Scott Taylor can try to change the subject and talk about incumbency, land Loury as constituent service record. But in the end, the 2018 petition signature forgery scandal is the overriding issue in this campaign.

Scott Taylor has three former members of his of his of his 2018 campaign now indicted or have pled. And so it’s a big deal. This is a cloud that hangs over his campaign that he can’t get rid of.

A judge called it not fraud. Even before Tuesday’s indictment, the Luria campaign was hammering Taylor over the issue. Kid says he expects that strategy to continue.

Luria’s campaign could let the events unfold because they’re they’re not good for Scott Taylor. Or they could take those same events and press their case even harder, which is what it looks like they’re trying to do.

Taylor has maintained his innocence, stating that he had no prior knowledge that his staffers intended to break the law. In a statement yesterday, his campaign manager called the acts unethical decisions that Scott Taylor would never condone or permit. Mike Gooding, 13 news now