

Matt Gaetz Backs Out of Attorney General Nomination Following Allegations

Former Rep. Matt Gaetz has withdrawn his bid for U.S. Attorney General after being nominated for the post by President-elect Trump.

Republican senators, whose duty involves confirming presidential nominees, had been raising questions about the nominee after a series of allegations.

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“While the momentum was strong, it is clear that my confirmation was unfairly becoming a distraction to the critical work of the Trump/Vance Transition,” Gaetz said in a statement. “There is no time to waste on a needlessly protracted Washington scuffle, thus I’ll be withdrawing my name from consideration to serve as Attorney General. Trump’s DOJ must be in place and ready on Day 1.”

Trump said in a social media post, “I greatly appreciate the recent efforts of Matt Gaetz in seeking approval to be Attorney General. He was doing very well but, at the same time, did not want to be a distraction for the Administration, for which he has much respect. Matt has a wonderful future, and I look forward to watching all of the great things he will do!”

I had excellent meetings with Senators yesterday. I appreciate their thoughtful feedback – and the incredible support of so many. While the momentum was strong, it is clear that my confirmation was unfairly becoming a distraction to the critical work of the Trump/Vance...

– Matt Gaetz (@mattgaetz) November 21, 2024

The House Ethics Committee had conducted an investigation into sexual allegations against Gaetz. However, the committee did not release a report because Gaetz is no longer a member of Congress after he resigned to pursue the attorney general position.

An attorney for two women says they told the Ethics Committee that Gaetz paid them for sex, and one of them alleged she saw Gaetz having sex with a 17-year-old minor. More recently, new allegations surfaced involving 27 Venmo payments from Gaetz to the women. Their attorney said some of that money was for sex.

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Gaetz denied all charges and he noted that a Justice Department investigation resulted in no charges against him.

GOP senators had said all the details would be investigated at the confirmation hearings. Senator Thom Tillis (R-NC) said, "The reality is all that information is going to be on display at the hearing. Think Brett Kavanaugh."

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