

FBI's Final Decision on Hillary Clinton Emails Will Rile Trump Fans

The FBI said on Sunday it stood by its earlier recommendation that no criminal charges were warranted against Democrat Hillary Clinton for using a private email server for government work, lifting a cloud over her presidential campaign two days before the U.S. election.

FBI Director James Comey made the announcement in a letter to Congress, saying the agency had worked "around the clock" to complete its review of newly discovered emails and found no reason to change its July finding.

"During that process, we reviewed all of the communications that were to or from Hillary Clinton while she was secretary of state," Comey said. "We have not changed our conclusions expressed in July."

A law enforcement source told Reuters the conclusion closes for now the FBI probe of Clinton's email practices.

Comey informed Congress of the newly discovered emails more than a week ago, throwing the race for the White House into turmoil and eroding Clinton's lead over Republican candidate Donald Trump in the final stretch before Tuesday's vote.

"We're glad this issue is resolved but for the record, this could easily have been learned before 1st letter was sent," Clinton spokesman Brian Fallon wrote on Twitter.

Republicans, however, did not ease up on their criticism of Clinton.

"She simply believes she's above the law and always plays

by her own rules,” House of Representatives Speaker Paul Ryan said in a statement, arguing that Clinton’s use of a private email server “compromised our national security.”

REPUBLICANS RENEW CRITICISM

The latest emails were discovered as part of a separate probe of former Democratic U.S. Representative Anthony Weiner, the estranged husband of Clinton aide Huma Abedin. Weiner is the target of an FBI investigation into illicit text messages he is alleged to have sent to a 15-year-old girl in North Carolina.

Federal investigators got a warrant a week ago to examine the emails to see if they were related to the probe into Clinton’s private server. Democrats reacted angrily to Comey’s intrusion into the race and demanded quick action in examining the emails.

“I am very grateful to the professionals at the FBI for doing an extraordinary amount of high-quality work in a short period of time,” Comey said on Sunday.

Trump, who has hammered Clinton over the issue, arguing it was proof she is corrupt and untrustworthy, did not mention the decision at a rally in Minneapolis right after it was announced.

Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Preibus said that while the probe had not led to criminal charges, it produced evidence that Clinton broke the law and “repeatedly lied to the American people about her reckless conduct.”

News of the renewed probe hurt Clinton’s poll numbers, with Trump cutting into her once formidable lead.

The latest Reuters/Ipsos poll shows Clinton with a 5 percentage point lead over the New York businessman in

the national survey-44 percent to 39 percent support-while races in the swing states of Florida and North Carolina have shifted from favoring Clinton to being too close to call.

The Reuters/Ipsos States of the Nation project estimates that Clinton has a 90 percent chance of winning the election.

The U.S. dollar, which dipped to a more than one-month low against the safe-haven Swiss franc on Friday on increasing uncertainty about the White House race, jumped in Asian trading after the FBI's latest announcement, gaining about 1 percent against the yen.

Global financial markets last week slipped as polls showed the presidential race tightening. Weakness in oil prices raised concerns about low inflation and pushed U.S. Treasury prices higher.

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