

Supreme Court Issues Ruling Impacting Trump Jan. 6 Case

The U.S. Supreme Court has released its decision regarding presidential immunity in the case involving President Trump's actions on Jan. 6, 2020.

The court did issue some major rulings about immunity but chose not to issue a direct ruling in Trump's specific case at this time, kicking it back down to the lower courts. The high court said the lower courts simply hadn't finished the job.

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That move will extend the delay in special counsel Jack Smith's criminal case against Trump, essentially ending prospects that he could be tried before the November election.

Chief Justice John Roberts explained why the high court was sending the case back, writing, "The lower courts rendered their decisions on a highly expedited basis" and "did not analyze the conduct alleged in the indictment to decide which of it should be categorized as official and which unofficial," according to analysts at SCOTUSblog.

Historic Ruling on Presidential Immunity

The Supreme Court did make several statements about immunity before it ordered lower courts to figure out how to apply the decision to Trump's case.

In a historic ruling, the justices declared that former presidents have absolute immunity from prosecution for their official acts based on core constitutional powers. But they also declared, "There is no immunity for unofficial acts."

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Former President Donald Trump has claimed that he acted in his official duties as president during the events of January 6, and should be immune from prosecution.

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