

RESEARCH BACKUP

Just weeks before the 2024 election, instead of working with Democrats to stop Donald Trump from regaining the presidency, she attacked Kamala Harris and called her a fascist. Cori said she didn't know if she could vote for Harris against Trump. It's not the first time, in Congress Cori Bush repeatedly cast protest votes against Joe Biden's agenda - including infrastructure and jobs.

OCTOBER 2024: BUSH SAID SHE DIDN'T KNOW IF SHE COULD VOTE FOR KAMALA HARRIS, AND SAID, "I'M SEEING FASCISM RIGHT NOW" FROM BIDEN & HARRIS

October 2024: Cori Bush, When Asked If She Could "In Good Conscience Vote For Kamala Harris," Said: "I Don't Know."

Marc Lamont Hill: Just to be clear, if the election were today, could you, in good conscience, vote for Kamala Harris?

Cori Bush: I don't know. I don't know ... what I'm hearing is people say, well, we're talking about fighting fascism, we don't need the fascism that comes along with a Donald Trump presidency. But I feel like I'm seeing fascism right now, with a Joe Biden presidency and a Vice President Harris presidency.

[Al Jazeera YouTube, [10/18/24](#) (11:15)]

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CORI BUSH VOTED AGAINST THE 2021 INFRASTRUCTURE BILL, WHICH WOULD MODERNIZE AND UPDATE INFRASTRUCTURE AND CREATE GOOD-PAYING JOBS

November 5, 2021: Bush Voted Against The Infrastructure Bill, Which Passed 228-206. Bush was one of just 6 Democrats to vote NO. [HR 3684, Vote 369, [11/5/21](#)]

Bush Said She Voted Against The Infrastructure Bill "In The Interest Of Saving Lives." In a press release explaining her vote, she said, "Each and every one of my votes here in D.C. has been in the interest of saving lives. And tonight was no different. A vote in favor of the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act alone would have jeopardized our leverage to improve the livelihood of our health care workers, our children,

our caregivers, our seniors, and the future of our environment.” [Bush Press Release, Wayback Machine, [archived 7/1/22](#)]

November 15, 2021: President Biden Signed The Infrastructure Bill Into Law. [HR 3684, [11/15/21](#)]

The Infrastructure Bill Would “Create A Generation Of Good-Paying Union Jobs And Economic Growth.” “For decades, infrastructure in Missouri has suffered from a systemic lack of investment. In fact, the American Society of Civil Engineers gave Missouri a C- grade on its infrastructure report card. The historic Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will make life better for millions of Missouri residents, create a generation of good-paying union jobs and economic growth, and position the United States to win the 21st century.” [Biden White House Fact Sheet, Wayback Machine, [archived 12/18/21](#)]

The Infrastructure Bill’s Impact In Missouri:

- Repair and rebuild roads and bridges with a focus on climate change mitigation, resilience, equity, and safety for all users. Missouri would expect to receive \$6.5 billion for federal-aid highway apportioned programs and \$484 million for bridge replacement and repairs.
- Improve healthy, sustainable transportation options for millions of Americans. Missouri would expect to receive \$674 million to improve public transportation options across the state.
- Build a network of EV chargers to facilitate long-distance travel and provide convenient charging options. Missouri would expect to receive \$99 million over five years to support the expansion of an EV charging network in the state. Missouri can also apply for the \$2.5 billion in grant funding dedicated to EV charging in the bill.
- Help connect every American to reliable high-speed internet. Missouri will receive a minimum allocation of \$100 million to help provide broadband coverage across the state, including providing access to the at least 330,000 Missourians who currently lack it. Also, 1.6 million Missourians (26% of the state’s population) are eligible for a benefit for low-income families to afford internet access.
- Prepare more of our infrastructure for the impacts of climate change, cyber attacks, and extreme weather events. Missouri will expect to receive \$21 million over five years to protect against wildfires and \$19 million to protect against cyberattacks. The bill also makes a historic \$3.5 billion national investment in weatherization to reduce energy costs for families.
- Deliver clean drinking water to every American and eliminate the nation’s lead service lines and pipes. Missouri will expect to receive \$866 million over five years to improve water infrastructure across the state and ensure that clean, safe drinking water is a right in all communities.
- Improve our nation’s airports. Airports in Missouri will receive approximately \$246 million for infrastructure development for airports.

[Biden White House Fact Sheet, Wayback Machine, [archived 12/18/21](#)]

Cori Bush was caught paying her husband over \$100,000 in campaign funds for personal security, even though he was not licensed to provide security. Under the Biden administration, the Department of Justice launched a federal corruption investigation into misusing money for private security. Her husband was indicted by a grand jury and charged by federal law enforcement with stealing small-business relief funds.

CORI BUSH WAS CAUGHT PAYING HER HUSBAND OVER \$100,000 IN CAMPAIGN FUNDS FOR PERSONAL SECURITY, EVEN THOUGH HE WAS NOT LICENSED TO PROVIDE SECURITY

Cori Bush Had Paid Her Husband At Least \$135,000 For Security Services. “Rep. Cori Bush (D-MO) has continued payments to her husband for security services despite a Department of Justice investigation into the payments. Recent Federal Election Commission filings indicate Bush’s campaign paid her husband, Cortney Merritts, \$15,000 this year and has paid him \$135,000 since January 2022.” [Washington Examiner, [4/19/24](#)]

Merritts Provided Personal Security For Bush, But Did Not Have A Private Security License. “As a rank-and-file member of Congress I am not entitled to personal protection by the House, and instead have used campaign funds as permissible to retain security services,’ Bush said in a January statement confirming the DOJ inquiry into her campaign spending. ‘In accordance with all applicable laws and House rules, I retained my husband as part of my security team to provide security services because he has extensive experience in this area, and is able to provide the necessary services at or below a fair market rate,’ she added. Merritts does not have a private security license, but he did serve as an ‘air assault soldier in 101st Airborne,’ Bush said, along with saying Merritts has worked security for other companies.” [Washington Examiner, [4/19/24](#)]

Bush’s Husband “Did Not Have A Private Security License In St. Louis As Of February 2023 And Hasn’t Had One Since 2012.” “Merritts did not have a private security license in St. Louis as of February 2023 and hasn’t had one since 2012, Fox News reported.” [Washington Examiner, [4/19/24](#)]

St. Louis Police Dept. Said That Working Without A License “Subjects You To Arrest Or Booking.” “The St. Louis Police Department requires “all persons performing a security function” to be licensed. The department’s website also says that working “on an expired license or no license subjects you to arrest or booking.” Basic requirements include being 21 with no felony convictions or chemical dependency and holding U.S. citizenship.” [Washington Examiner, [4/19/24](#)]

UNDER THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION, THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE LAUNCHED A FEDERAL CORRUPTION INVESTIGATION INTO MISUSING MONEY FOR PRIVATE SECURITY

In 2024, During The Biden Administration, The Justice Department Began Investigating Cori Bush “For Her Campaign’s Spending On Security Services.” “The Justice Department is investigating Rep. Cori Bush, D-Mo.,

for her campaign's spending on security services, she confirmed in a statement Tuesday." [Associated Press, [1/30/24](#)]

BUSH'S HUSBAND WAS INDICTED BY A GRAND JURY AND CHARGED BY FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT WITH STEALING SMALL-BUSINESS RELIEF FUNDS

Merritts Was Indicted By A Grand Jury.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Holding a Criminal Term
Grand Jury Sworn in on March 13, 2025

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)	CRIMINAL NO.
)	
v.)	GRAND JURY ORIGINAL
)	
)	VIOLATIONS:
CORTNEY MERRITTS,)	COUNTS 1-2: 18 U.S.C. § 1343
)	(WIRE FRAUD)
)	
Defendant.)	FORFEITURE:
)	18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C),
)	18 U.S.C. § 982(a)(2), and
)	28 U.S.C. § 2461(c)

INDICTMENT

The Grand Jury charges that:

[Case 1:25-cr-00076-JMC, 3/20/25]

Merritts Was Charged By Federal Indictment With Two Counts Of Wire Fraud For Collecting More Than \$20,000 In SBA Funds In 2020 And 2021. "Cortney Merritts, 46, of St. Louis, Missouri, was charged today by federal indictment with two counts of wire fraud for allegedly filing fraudulent applications with the Small Business Administration in 2020 and 2021 that allowed him to collect more than \$20,000 in government funds under the Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program (EIDL) and Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)." [Dept. of Justice, [3/20/25](#)]

STL Public Radio Headline: "Feds Charge Cori Bush's Husband With Pandemic Relief Fraud." [STLPR, [3/20/25](#)]