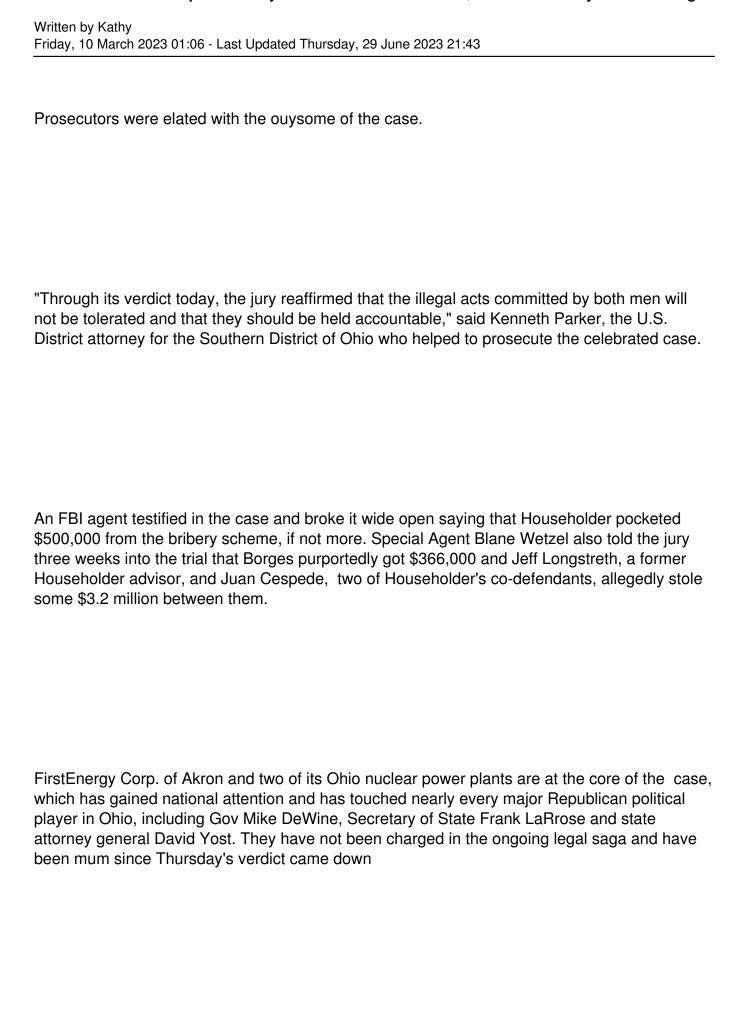


<u>Clevelandurbannews.com</u> and <u>Kathywraycolemanonlinnewsblog.com</u>

By Kathy Wray Coleman, associate publisher, editor in chief.

CINCINNATI, Ohio – Former Ohio House of Representatives speaker Larry Householder and lobbyist and former state Republican Party chairman Matt Borges were convicted on Thursday by a Cincinnati jury of their peers in what prosecutors say is a \$60 million bribery scheme involving House Bill 6, two nuclear power plants, and greedy right wing politicians and GOP businessmen, a bribery scheme orchestrated to pass a \$1.3 billion bailout of the two nuclear power plants.

Written by Kathy Friday, 10 March 2023 01:06 - Last Updated Thursday, 29 June 2023 21:43 The federal jury found the pair guilty of conspiracy to participate in a racketeering enterprise involving bribery and money laundering in Ohio's largest ever corruption case The verdict came after about 9-1/2 half hours of deliberations over the course of two days. The trial began on Jan 23, though indictments were issued some two and a half years ago. And while Householder, 63, took the stand to testify in his own defense Borges did not, after prosecutors made a fool of Householder during cross examination. Householder and Borges, 50, both face up to 20 years in prison and both have said that they plan to appeal. Neither showed any emotion when the jury verdict was read. Several other co-defendants await trial. While Borges' attorney has not commented publicly on the stinging verdict Householder's attorney was eager to comment and said that he and his client are currently reviewing his options. "We are incredibly disappointed in the verdict," Householder's attorney Steven Bradley said in a statement on Thursday.



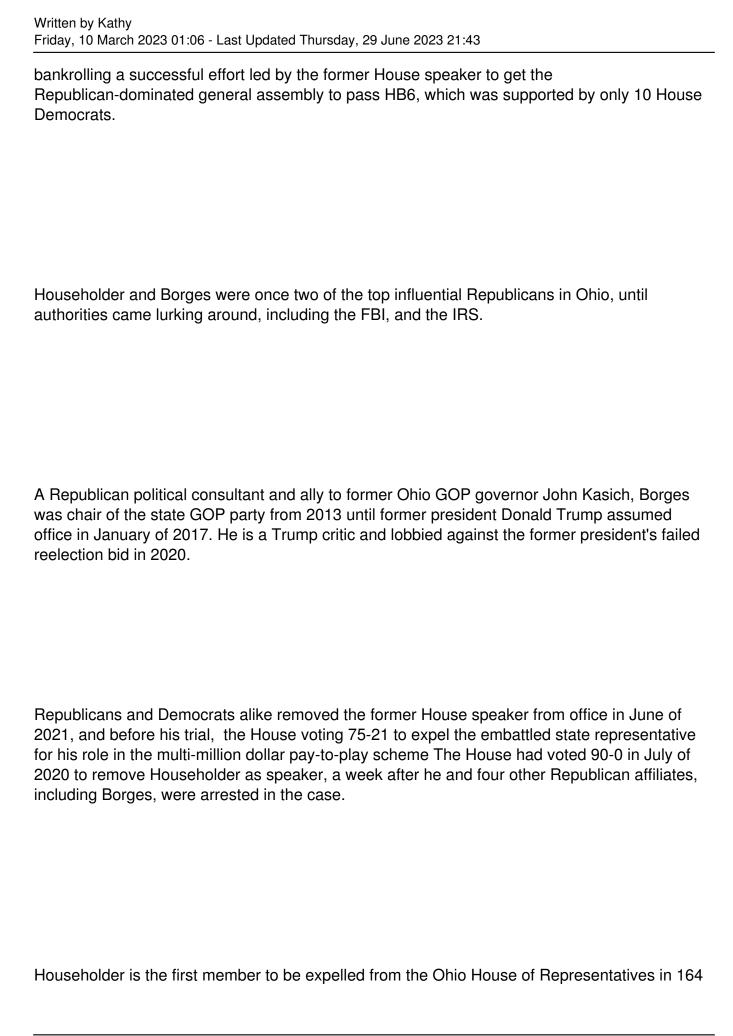
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Described in a damning complaint filed in federal district court by the U.S. district attorney's office, Householder and FirstEnergy Corp, and a host of others, stood or stand accused of scheming to steal taxpayer monies under the guise of a nuclear power plant bailout in one of the worst bribery schemes in Ohio history. At the center of the controversy is Householder's relationship with FirstEnergy Corp officials and a \$1.3 billion financial rescue legislation dubbed HB 6, a state law adopted in 2019 that added an additional fee to every electricity bill in the state That state electricity surcharge was to generate some \$150 million annually in payments for seven years to subsidize FirstEnergy's two failing Ohio nuclear plants (Perry and Davis-Besse) and was mired in public corruption, prosecutors say. State lawmakers repealed part of HB6 last March with support from the governor.

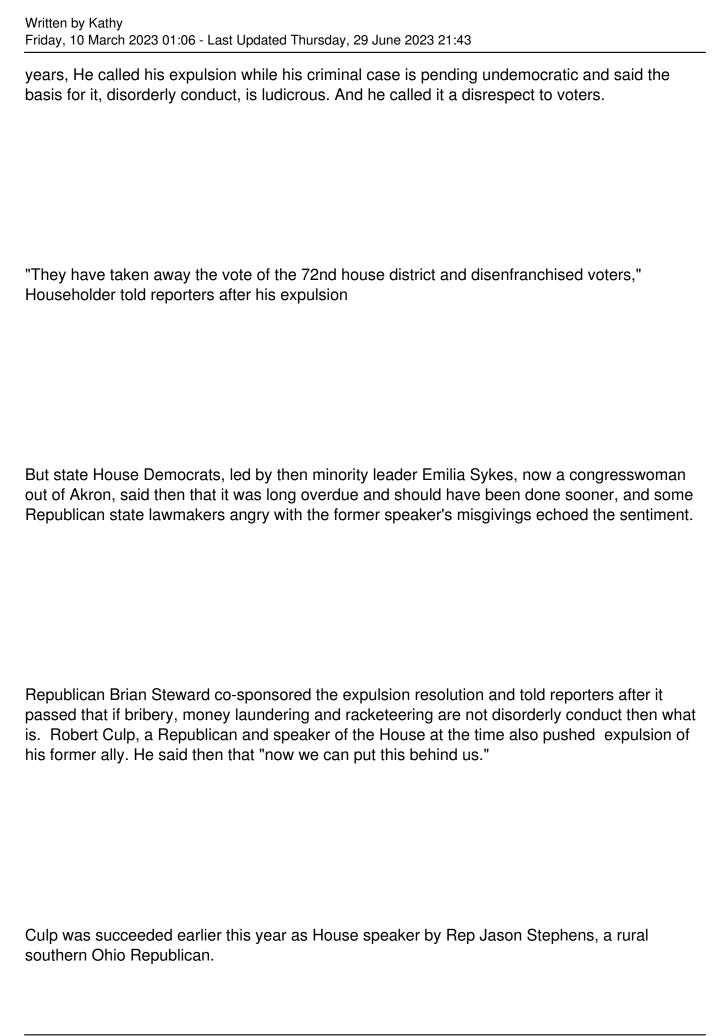
Householder stood accused of using some \$100,000 in bribery money, part of \$500,000 in illegal monies the FBI confiscated from his personal accounts, for costs on his home in Florida. His co-conspirators got hundreds of thousands of dollars too, if not millions. And FirstEnergy officials were obliged to fund the bribery scheme, according to the complaint.

David DeVillers, the former U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio and Parker's predecessor, called the case one of the worst misuses of Ohio tax-payer money in American history, and public corruption and money laundering of mass proportions. More than a dozen others, practically all of them Republican operatives, have also been arrested and charged in connection with the now infamous bailout fiasco.

FirstEnergy helped finance Householder's election in 2018, the complaint says, coupled with



## Former Ohio House Speaker Larry Householder convicted in \$60 million bribery scheme along with former



By Kathy Wray Coleman, associate publisher, editor in chief. Coleman trained for 17 years as a reporter with the Call and Post Newspaper in Cleveland Ohio and is an investigative and political reporter with a background in legal and scientific reporting. She is also a former 15-year public school biology teacher.

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We interviewed former president Barack Obama one-on-one when he was campaigning for president. As to the Obama interview.

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