

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 179

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 6, 2025

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JOHN DIMAIO

District 23 (Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren)

Assemblyman CHRISTOPHER P. DEPHILLIPS

District 40 (Bergen, Essex and Passaic)

Assemblyman ANTWAN L. MCCLELLAN

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblymen Bergen, Peterson and Kanitra

SYNOPSIS

Adopts articles of impeachment concerning Matthew Platkin, Attorney General.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/17/2025)

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** adopting articles of impeachment in
2 the matter of Matthew Platkin, providing for the presentation of
3 articles to the Senate, and impeaching Matthew Platkin.
4

5 **WHEREAS**, Matthew Platkin has repeatedly demonstrated his inability
6 to perform his duties as Attorney General and has violated the
7 public trust; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Pursuant to statutory authority, one of Matthew Platkin's
9 responsibilities is to direct and supervise the Division of Criminal
10 Justice. In addition, pursuant to an Attorney General Law
11 Enforcement Directive, the Office of Public Integrity and
12 Accountability (OPIA) operates under the supervision of an
13 Executive Director who is appointed by and operates under the
14 authority and direct supervision of the Attorney General. As a
15 result, Matthew Platkin is responsible for the conduct of the
16 Division of Criminal Justice and OPIA; and

17 **WHEREAS**, In 1999, a consent decree was entered into by the State
18 and the United States Justice Department following an investigation
19 into the profiling of minority drivers on the State's highways by the
20 State Police. The consent decree provided for federal oversight and
21 monitoring of the State Police. In 2009, after 10 years of federal
22 oversight, the court dissolved the consent decree; and

23 **WHEREAS**, Over that period of time, the State Police made significant
24 reforms in the management and training of State Troopers,
25 justifying the termination of the consent decree; and

26 **WHEREAS**, In 2009, the reforms implemented by the State Police to
27 end racial profiling were codified into law, with the State required
28 to continue its oversight and monitoring of the State Police; and

29 **WHEREAS**, Despite the significant reforms in the State Police, OPIA
30 directed an independent study to be completed for the purpose of
31 conducting an analysis of traffic stops made by the State Police; and

32 **WHEREAS**, Despite data demonstrating compliance with legal
33 obligations by the State Police, the study claims that the State
34 Police continue to engage in targeted traffic stops of minorities.
35 The decision by OPIA to accept the results of the study rather than
36 rely on decades of data and analysis created by the Office of the
37 Attorney General's own internal oversight unjustifiably discredits
38 the State Police, erodes public confidence in the State Police, and
39 violates the public trust; and

40 **WHEREAS**, Further, certain disciplinary and criminal matters involving
41 State Troopers are referred to either the Division of Criminal
42 Justice for legal review or OPIA for criminal investigation; and

43 **WHEREAS**, Currently, there remains a large number of unresolved
44 cases that were referred to these entities, with 28 percent of these
45 cases pending for more than one year. The ongoing delays in
46 processing these cases affect a large number of State Troopers, as
47 troopers that have administrative matters pending are ineligible for
48 promotions and other career advancement; and

1 **WHEREAS**, By not resolving these cases in a timely manner, there are
2 significant violations of State Troopers' due process rights; and
3 **WHEREAS**, In addition, it has been reported that Matthew Platkin has
4 failed to address other significant issues within OPIA. As reported,
5 the following cases demonstrate the recent failures of OPIA, which
6 operates under the supervision of Matthew Platkin: in 2024, a judge
7 dismissed charges filed by OPIA against Paterson police officer
8 Jerry Moravek, as prosecutors found new evidence that was not
9 presented to the Grand Jury; in 2022, a judge, upon petition by the
10 Attorney General's Office, dismissed charges against correctional
11 police officer Ruben Morales due to errors during the interrogation;
12 in 2022, a judge dismissed an indictment filed by OPIA against
13 Saddle Brook Police Chief Robert Kugler, finding that the office's
14 prosecutors withheld exculpatory evidence from the defense; and in
15 2022, a judge ordered a new trial for Lakewood Rabbi Osher
16 Eisemann, who the office accused of misappropriating funds at a
17 school he founded for specials-needs children, as the judge found
18 that the office's prosecutors withheld exculpatory evidence from
19 the defense and in 2024 the indictment against Osher Eisemann was
20 dismissed; and
21 **WHEREAS**, According to news reports, there have been allegations that
22 OPIA has acted unethically and that Matthew Plaktin has used the
23 office to generate favorable headlines rather than requiring OPIA to
24 base investigations on facts; and
25 **WHEREAS**, In 2024, Matthew Platkin brought charges against George
26 Norcross and five others, with news outlets reporting the indictment
27 alleged a plot that used power over government officials in order to
28 craft legislation that would aid them in obtaining property and
29 property rights along the Camden waterfront "through coercion,
30 extortion, and other criminal acts"; and
31 **WHEREAS**, In February 2025, a judge dismissed the indictments
32 against George Norcross and his five co-defendants, finding that the
33 factual allegations in the indictments do not constitute extortion or
34 criminal coercion as a matter of law; and
35 **WHEREAS**, According to news reports, there have been allegations by
36 the attorneys for the defendants that the lawsuit initiated by
37 Matthew Platkin was the product of political ambition, and one of
38 the defendant's attorneys called it a corrupt investigation; and
39 **WHEREAS**, Further, based upon new reports, there have been
40 additional claims by an attorney for George Norcross that Matthew
41 Platkin's tenure as the Attorney General of New Jersey will prove
42 to be an epic failure, calling Matthew Platkin a "politician
43 masquerading as a law enforcement officer"; and
44 **WHEREAS**, As a result of his own political ambition, Matthew Platkin
45 has used the Office of the Attorney General to target individuals he
46 disagrees with politically, which has done professional and
47 financial damage to these individuals and their families and has
48 caused further damage to the reputation of the office; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Additionally, this case has forced New Jersey taxpayers to
2 be responsible for paying for the cost of the office’s incompetence,
3 and taxpayers deserve leadership without bias; and

4 **WHEREAS**, Further, in 2023, after an incident in Paterson concerning
5 an officer-involved shooting, Matthew Platkin directly superseded,
6 or conducted a takeover of, the entire Paterson Police Department,
7 without the consent of city officials. In December 2024, an
8 appellate court ruled that Matthew Platkin lacks the authority to
9 take control of a municipal police department without the consent
10 of city leaders; and

11 **WHEREAS**, As a result, Matthew Platkin exceeded his statutory
12 authority as Attorney General in superseding the Paterson Police
13 Department. Matthew Platkin filed an appeal with the Supreme
14 Court, which has agreed to review the appellate ruling and issued a
15 stay of the appellate court decision, leaving the Paterson Police
16 Department under State control at this time; and

17 **WHEREAS**, Additionally, it was reported that Matthew Platkin
18 unilaterally issued a letter indicating that the Attorney General’s
19 Office would not defend a State law in court proceedings that
20 allows for a controversial “party column design” on county primary
21 election ballots, with Matthew Platkin declaring that the law is
22 unconstitutional; and

23 **WHEREAS**, Based upon this conduct, Matthew Platkin failed to defend
24 State law in court proceedings and made a unilateral decision on the
25 constitutionality of State law, prompting Governor Murphy to issue
26 the following statement in response: “It is well-established that
27 Attorneys General have a general obligation to defend the
28 constitutionality of statutes, regardless of their own personal view”;
29 and

30 **WHEREAS**, In addition, it has been reported that Katie Brennan, a
31 volunteer on Governor Murphy’s 2017 campaign, indicated that she
32 told Matthew Platkin, who was Governor Murphy’s chief counsel at
33 the time, that one of the Governor’s campaign advisors sexually
34 assaulted her; however, Matthew Platkin failed to take any action
35 on her complaint, which a legislative committee later investigating
36 the matter labeled as one of several “sloppy” legal decisions; and

37 **WHEREAS**, According to news reports, Matthew Platkin also has been
38 condemned for providing certain legal advice to Governor Murphy
39 as the Governor’s former chief counsel, especially regarding
40 Governor Murphy’s controversial executive orders during the
41 pandemic; and

42 **WHEREAS**, The media has reported that there have also been
43 accusations that Matthew Platkin targeted pro-life pregnancy
44 centers due to the organization’s religious speech and pro-life views
45 by issuing an overbroad subpoena to one of these centers. As
46 reported, he aligned himself with Planned Parenthood’s pro-

1 abortion mission and enlisted its help to target pro-life pregnancy
2 centers; and

3 **WHEREAS**, The actions and inactions of Attorney General Matthew
4 Platkin are incompatible with the responsibilities and duties owed
5 to the public by the Attorney General; now, therefore,

6
7 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
8 *Jersey:*

9
10 1. The General Assembly, incorporating and adopting the
11 above recitations as if stated fully herein, determines that Attorney
12 General Matthew Platkin has engaged in a pattern and practice of
13 disregarding the responsibilities and duties owed to the public by
14 the Attorney General, and hereby adopts the following articles of
15 impeachment:

16
17 **I. Through his actions and inactions as Attorney**
18 **General, Matthew Platkin has failed to address ongoing**
19 **issues within the Division of Criminal Justice and the**
20 **Office of Public Integrity and Accountability.**

21
22 **II. As Attorney General, Matthew Platkin exceeded his**
23 **statutory authority and unlawfully superseded the**
24 **Paterson Police Department.**

25
26 **III. As Attorney General, Matthew Platkin has failed to**
27 **defend State law in court proceedings and made a**
28 **unilateral decision on the constitutionality of State law.**

29
30 **IV. As Attorney General, Matthew Platkin targeted**
31 **certain organizations based upon the political beliefs of**
32 **the organization, specifically pro-life pregnancy centers.**

33
34 **V. As Attorney General, Matthew Platkin has violated**
35 **the public trust and failed to perform the duties of his**
36 **office.**

37
38 2. In accordance with the New Jersey Constitution, Article VII,
39 Section III, paragraph 2, by a majority of all the members, the
40 General Assembly hereby impeaches Matthew Platkin.

41
42 3. The Speaker of the General Assembly shall appoint a
43 committee, of sufficient number, to act as managers for the purpose
44 of presenting these articles of impeachment to the Senate forthwith.

45
46 4. This resolution shall take effect upon its adoption by this
47 House.

STATEMENT

This Assembly Resolution adopts articles of impeachment in the matter of Matthew Platkin, Attorney General, provides for the presentation of articles to the Senate, and impeaches Matthew Platkin.

In light of his record of failing to address ongoing issues within the Division of Criminal Justice and the Office of Public Integrity and Accountability; exceeding his statutory authority and unlawfully superseding the Paterson Police Department; failing to defend State law in court proceedings and making a unilateral decision on the constitutionality of State law; targeting certain organizations based upon the political beliefs of the organization, specifically pro-life pregnancy centers; violating the public trust; and his overall failure to perform the duties of his office, it is altogether fitting and proper and within the public interest for the General Assembly to adopt articles of impeachment against Matthew Platkin, and present the articles to the New Jersey Senate in accordance with the New Jersey Constitution, Article VII, Section III, paragraph 2.