

# Texans For Public Justice

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## Fact-Checking Perry's Spin Machine

### **Spin 1: A partisan witch hunt produced Perry's criminal charges. NOT TRUE.**

Over 36 years the Travis Co. Public Integrity Unit prosecuted [21 officials](#): 6 Republicans and 15 Democrats. At the time of Perry's \$7.5 million veto, the vast majority of that unit's case load targeted complex finance and insurance [fraud](#) cases—not politicians. Democratic Travis County District Attorney Rosemary Lehmborg's office *recused* itself from Perry's case for obvious reasons. After an Austin Democratic judge recused herself, the case went to Republican Judge Billy Ray Stubblefield, a Perry [appointee](#). Stubblefield assigned the case to San Antonio Republican Judge [Bert Richardson](#), a George W. Bush appointee. Richardson appointed special prosecutor [Michael McCrum](#), who served as a federal prosecutor under the first President Bush. Only Republican judges have touched this case.

### **Spin 2: The charges against Perry are frivolous. NOPE.**

Prosecutors do not pursue every criminal complaint received. A Republican judge believed this one had sufficient merit to appoint a special prosecutor. The prosecutor and members of the [grand jury](#) say there is compelling evidence. "These charges are very serious," Prosecutor McCrum [said](#). "There is evidence to support them, and there is nothing political about what happened in my investigation or the grand jury's deliberations."

### **Spin 3: The charges challenge Perry's veto powers. HARDLY.**

Texans for Public Justice (TPJ) filed its [complaint](#) *before* Perry vetoed state funding for the DA's office. Nobody questions Perry's veto powers. The charges allege that Perry broke the law by threatening an elected official to resign so he could appoint a replacement. "It's perfectly legal to veto something," *Dallas Morning News* reporter Wayne Slater [wrote](#). "And it's perfectly legal to demand that an elected official you don't like should resign. But it might be illegal to link the two."

### **Spin 4: Perry did not personally seek to oust DA Rosemary Lehmborg. A WHOPPER.**

Perry [said](#) in May that he did not initiate any efforts to oust Lehmborg nor did he personally make any phone calls toward that end. A Perry attorney also [claimed](#) there's no evidence that Perry threatened Lehmborg apart from the *American-Statesman* article that triggered TPJ's complaint. In fact, many [insiders](#) have discussed their roles in the affair before and [after](#) the veto. The *Statesman* confirmed that Perry personally [called](#) attorney Mindy Montford to see if she would step in if Lehmborg resigned. So Perry personally sought to replace Lehmborg with Montford, whom Travis County's Democratic voters rejected for that very same office in 2010.

### **Spin 5: Perry says the case is about drunken driving. WRONG AGAIN.**

Two other district attorneys arrested for [drunken driving](#) failed to draw Perry's wrath. Lehmborg pleaded guilty, served jail time, sought treatment and promised not to run for reelection. A legal case to drive her from office [failed](#). Perry targeted Lehmborg because she controlled the Public Integrity Unit, one of few remaining Texas powers in Democratic hands. Texas Republicans have sought to strip that power from Travis County for at least 10 years. Perry is accused of breaking the law in zealous pursuit of this prize.