



Rising Democrat Star Resigns Office after Pleading Guilty to Theft and Admitting Affair

By [Onan Coca](#) March 7, 2018

Democrat leaders get caught up in so many corruption scandals that it can be hard to keep them all straight.

Just a few months ago, Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ) was able to somehow squirm his way off of federal prosecutors' hooks, in what had seemed to be an open and shut case of corruption. Sadly, prosecutors didn't get the job done and Menendez's case ended in a mistrial when the jurors simply could not agree on whether or not he was guilty. Some didn't seem to understand the difference between committing a crime and making a mistake:

Ralf Milner, a 59-year-old juror from Vernon, said he was not convinced Menendez was completely innocent, but said he voted to acquit on "99 percent" of the charges. "One was iffy. I was teeter-tottering," he said, referring to the charge that Menendez failed to report the gifts on his financial disclosure forms. "I can go home with a clear conscience and I can sleep at night. The decisions I made, I think, were the correct ones."

One juror who was willing to speak, but asked that his name not be used, said many jurors were uncertain about the charges that the senator failed to disclose gifts from longtime friend Salomon Melgen, a wealthy Florida ophthalmologist. "How many senators report or don't report gifts? Information like that would've been helpful," he said...

“I don’t think he was intentionally committing crimes, just going over a line that shouldn’t have been crossed,” he said. While Menendez was the most recent high profile case, he’s hardly alone among his Democrat colleagues.

Just this past week, two more Democrat leaders went down for corruption, and one of their failures could kill Democrat hopes for the future in the Volunteer State.

In Pennsylvania, Allentown mayor Ed Pawlowski was found guilty on several dozen counts of corruption. Allentown mayor Ed Pawlowski was found guilty Thursday of 47 counts of rigging city contracts for those who gave him money for political campaigns. He was found not guilty of seven counts.

Pawlowski’s six-week trial in federal court in Allentown, Pennsylvania, ended when jurors found the mayor guilty of charges he gave city contracts to law firms and businesses that gave him money for campaigns for governor and U.S. Senate. He retaliated against companies that refused to play along or didn’t give sufficiently, according to prosecutors. The prosecutors cheered the outcome: After the verdict, Assistant U.S. Attorney Anthony Wzorek told the Morning Call of Allentown that he and co-prosecutor Michelle Morgan were pleased with the outcome. “This type of behavior is not acceptable,” Wzorek told the newspaper. “If they don’t have it of their own mind to think this is unacceptable, we will be watching, and the FBI will be doing investigations and will root out corruption.”

Pawlowski was the architect behind a scheme to rig city contracts for legal, engineering, technology and construction work, aimed at boosting campaign funds for his statewide political ambitions, prosecutors said. Lawyer Scott Allinson, who was a co-defendant, was also convicted of bribing Pawlowski to obtain legal work for his firm. The jury “held Mayor Pawlowski accountable for selling his office to the highest bidder to fund his personal ambitions,” U.S. Attorney Louis D. Lappen said in a statement...

The mayor’s political consultants worked with the government and recorded hundreds of conversations with Pawlowski, many of which were played for the jurors. Several city workers and vendors who pleaded guilty testified against Pawlowski.

Meanwhile, down South in Tennessee, a rising star in the Democrat Party was burning out and killing her party’s hopes at the same time.

Nashville Mayor Megan Barry was forced to resign earlier this week, a little more than a month after news broke of an affair she was having with the married head of her security detail. In January, Barry publicly apologized for the nearly two-year affair with the married bodyguard.

“I accept full responsibility for the pain I have caused my family and his. I am so sorry to my husband Bruce, who has stood by me in my darkest moments and remains committed to our marriage, just as I am committed to repairing the damage I have done,” she said then. But she insisted to The Tennessean that she would not step down.

“I also must apologize to the people of Nashville who elected me to serve as your mayor,” she said in her statement at the time. “I knew my actions could cause damage to my office and the ones I loved, but I did it anyway. I must hold myself to the highest standard of which the voters deserve to expect. Please know that I’m disappointed in myself but also understand that I’m a human and that I made a mistake.”

Most of the mainstream media outlets are reporting on the resignation as though this were a simple matter of another politician caught in an affair, but the reality is much more complex than that. Here’s CNN’s headline in their coverage of the scandal:

How an affair with her bodyguard brought down Nashville’s mayor.

Sure, the scandal began with an illicit affair, but Barry wasn’t forced out of her job because of her sexual escapades. She was forced from the mayor’s office because she committed a felony in the process of engaging in her immoral behavior with a married man. From the Tennessean:

Nashville Mayor Megan Barry pleaded guilty Tuesday to felony theft of property over \$10,000 related to her affair with former police bodyguard Sgt. Rob Forrest, Jr. As part of a plea agreement, Barry agreed to resign as mayor and reimburse the city \$11,000 in restitution, and serve three years of probation.

Because Barry has already paid the full restitution and resigned, her probation will be unsupervised, according to a statement from the district attorney’s office. The District Attorney was obviously exercised by this case because he took the unusual step of appearing in court himself, and assuring the judge that if the mayor had not pled guilty and the case had gone to trial, the state had multiple witnesses ready to testify against Mayor Barry.

Taking the unusual step of appearing himself in court, instead of assigning a deputy, District Attorney Glenn Funk said that “had this case gone to trial, witnesses are available who would testify that in March 2016 and January 2018 Megan Barry caused over 10K but less than 60K in Metro Nashville city funds to be expended unlawfully on Mr. Robert Forrest.”

What did the D.A. mean when he said that Barry had “expended” city funds unlawfully on Mr. Forrest? Well, it seems that Forrest, who was Mayor Barry’s lover, was working a lot of overtime hours... even when the rest of the Mayor’s security detail was not. The District Attorney’s office also seemed to believe that they could prove that several of the trips that Mr. Forrest accompanied Mayor Barry on had more to do with romance than they did with city business.

Barry’s \$11,000 fine represents Forrest’s travel expenses while he accompanied her out of town on official city duties.

Barry and Forrest attended 10 city-funded trips by themselves without other mayor’s office staff present, including to conferences overseas in Paris and Greece and the two to Washington cited in the affidavit. Barry and Forrest are both married.

Forrest also earned \$173,843.13 in overtime from July 2015 through Jan. 15 of this year, according to city data, more than the amount earned by the four other police officers in Barry’s detail combined.

Forrest on Tuesday also pleaded guilty to theft on Tuesday. His \$45,000 fine, part of his plea deal, represents an “acceptable figure for his increase in hours and pay in contrast to other members of (the mayor’s) security detail,” according to the statement from the district attorney’s office.

But instead of reporting the realities of her crime, the media has covered the story like some sleazy tabloid affair.

For example, instead of asking locals how they feel about the fact that Barry and her lover defrauded the taxpayers of thousands of dollars, forcing the city to finance their affair, the media asked how they felt about her being forced to resign because of her affair.