

## A TIMELINE OF THE

# DEEPPFAKE SCANDAL

By Sydney Byerly, The Indiana Citizen

A series of events that began with an alleged viewing of an AI-generated video of a legislator's wife has sparked a grand jury investigation.

### April 9

Mental Health America hosted Hoosier Idol 2025, a dinner and talent show with proceeds supporting mental health awareness. At the event, someone in the crowd took a video of Rep. Craig Haggard's wife while she performed. The alleged video, later doctored by AI, has become part of a "scandal" in the Lt. Governor's office.

### April 12

Lt. Gov. Micah Beckwith travels to Purdue University to watch the now-late conservative influencer, Charlie Kirk speak. The same day, it is alleged that staff members in his office viewed a topless deepfake video of Rep. Craig Haggard's wife.

### Less than a week later

Former senior advisor to the Lt. Governor, Erin Sheridan, claims she addressed her concerns about the video with Chief of Staff Sherry Ellis. Multiple sources confirmed that this conversation occurred.

### August 2

News of the alleged viewing of the deepfake video was first reported by 24sight News.

### August 4

Lt. Governor Micah Beckwith, during a town hall in Terre Haute, says he has already conducted an internal investigation and found no evidence of the video's existence.

### August 6

Multiple news outlets reported that the Marion County Prosecutor's Office has begun an investigation into the matter.

### October 28

Multiple news outlets publish articles stating that the grand jury investigation has widened its scope to investigate the office for "ghost employment."

### October 31

Beckwith goes on Fort Wayne Morning News on WOWO and acknowledges the grand jury investigation. His comments confirm that the grand jury's inquiry extends beyond the alleged AI video to potential payroll and resource-use issues — matters he dismissed as politically motivated "fishing."



### CURRENT STATUS:

A Marion County grand jury continues to investigate allegations of ghost employment and misuse of state resources connected to Beckwith's office. Beckwith denies all wrongdoing.

Sources: WIBC, FOX59, IndyStar, The Indiana Capital Chronicle, WOWO Radio



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