

## National News

# Death of US House member from California narrows already slim GOP majority

Jennifer Shutt  
States Newsroom

U.S. California Republican Rep. Doug LaMalfa has died and Indiana Republican Rep. Jim Baird was injured in a car accident, President Donald Trump said Tuesday.

Speaking to a meeting of House Republicans at the Kennedy Center, Trump said he wanted to express "our tremendous sorrow" following LaMalfa's death and said the congressman was "a fierce champion on California water issues."

"I also want to send our best wishes to Congressman Jim Baird and his wife, who are recovering from a car accident. They're going to be okay. But they had a pretty bad

accident," Trump said. "And we're praying they get out of that hospital very quickly. He's going to be fine. She's going to be fine. But it was a bad accident."

The cause of LaMalfa's death was not immediately clear on Tuesday morning. The Butte County Sheriff's Office wrote in a statement that they received a 911 call on Monday evening from LaMalfa's house about a medical emergency.

The congressman was taken to Enloe Hospital, where he died during an emergency surgery, according to the sheriff's office.

"In accordance with standard protocols, the Coroner's Unit of the Butte County Sheriff's Office is conducting an investigation to

determine the cause of death," the statement said. "A forensic pathologist is scheduled to conduct an autopsy as part of this investigation."

LaMalfa's death will reduce Republicans' already slim House majority, making it more complicated for leadership to pass legislation that's not bipartisan.

Georgia Republican Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene's resignation earlier this week, combined with LaMalfa's death, decreases the GOP majority to 219 seats.

Baird's absence until he recovers and can vote in person further erodes that to 218. And it could be narrowed even more by GOP

lawmakers missing votes for other reasons.

Democrats control 213 House seats, giving Republican leaders next to no margin for defections on partisan bills.

LaMalfa, 65, was first sworn in as a member of Congress in January 2013 and represented California's 1st Congressional District, which covers a large section of the northeastern corner of the state.

Baird, 80, has been a member of Congress for seven years, representing Indiana's 4th Congressional District constituents in the central and northwestern parts

\*Please see **Majority**,  
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## Sooner State

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responsible gun ownership, he said. The "party is not trying to go to the extreme and putting a bunch of bans on weapons, because that is an infringement," Webber-Neal said. "But we do believe in responsibility. We do believe that if you take the responsibility to purchase a firearm, you should also take the responsibility to be able to know how to use that firearm."

The party does support some of the state's recent tax cuts, but believes reform is needed, he said.

The group also supports increasing the minimum wage to make it livable, he said.

The party does not yet have an official position on LGBTQ+ rights, but has formed an affiliated caucus to create one.

Generally speaking, the Sooner State

Party does support LGBTQ+ rights, he said.

The Libertarian Party was the last to gain access to the ballot in 2016 and has retained that access, said Misha Mohr, a spokesperson for the Oklahoma State Election Board.

"There have been a number of groups that have attempted to get on the ballot over the years," she said.

Oklahoma law allows the formation

of new political parties if supporters can collect signatures from at least 3% of the registered voters who cast ballots during the previous gubernatorial election.

In order to continue to exist, a political party then must have a candidate receive at least 2.5% of total votes for a statewide elected office in one of the two preceding general elections, according to state law.

## Legals

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE  
CJ-2025-86

Notice is given that on the 10 day of February, 2026, at 10:00 A.M., at the Southeast Hill in the town of Custer, Custer County, Oklahoma, the Sheriff will offer for sale and sell, with appraisal, at public auction, to the highest and best bidder, all that certain real estate in Custer County, Oklahoma;

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Custer County Sheriff  
Custer County, Oklahoma

Telephone: (405) 842-7722  
Email: mail@baertimberlake.com

/s/Latasha Goodman  
Deputy

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