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Given article text here CHARLESTON, W.Va. A crowd of supporters turned out to celebrate the inauguration of new Governor Patrick Morrisey on Monday. The event featured a procession down Kanawha Boulevard with over 20 high school marching bands, as well as several community organisations and bands from Marshall University and West Virginia University. Military personnel were also involved in the parade, including Air Force Technical Sergeant Tyler Mullins who said it was a historic occasion for him and his colleagues.Many spectators, such as Kevin Grose, were proud of their children's participation in the event, which was a first for them. Grose expressed hope that Morrisey would build on the achievements of his predecessor and keep West Virginia strong.As the parade passed by, attendees like Anne Warner were filled with optimism about the future. The weather had also improved significantly from the previous day, providing relief after weeks of cold temperatures.After the parade, Morrisey's inauguration celebration continued at the Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center with a concert, dinner, and fireworks.Gov-elect Morrisey fills 15 positions in office, encouraging out-of-state applicants.Morrisey announces first 15 staff members, including those from out of state. Gov-elect Morrisey is looking for qualified candidates to fill 15 positions in his office. As of Thursday, more than 700 resumes have been received.Morrisey says he's open to hiring people from anywhere who are the best fit for the job. He wants to send a message that West Virginia is willing to attract top talent nationwide.Morrisey emphasizes the importance of team goals for the state, which include making it a family-friendly place with abundant opportunities for youth and education.visual storytelling? Our experts explain how.Learn MoreThe Motorsport Images Collections captures events from 1895 to today's most recent coverage.Discover The Collection Patrick Morrisey, Attorney General since 2011, will end his tenure on Monday and become West Virginia's new Governor. On the same day, he will be sworn in by 11 a.m. at an event broadcast live by West Virginia Public Broadcasting. After winning the Republican nomination for Governor during the May primary, Patrick Morrisey has now secured the seat. As his current term as Attorney General comes to a close, Morrisey's campaign swing through Morgantown last Friday highlighted his efforts in seeking the governor's office. A recent report revealed that Senator-elect Jim Justice's departure for Capitol Hill and Governor-elect Patrick Morrisey's delayed swearing-in ceremony on January 13th will create an unusual situation where the seat remains vacant for 10 days. In this instance, Senate President Craig Blair is expected to fill in due to West Virginia lacking a Lieutenant Governor position. However, another challenge arises as Blair lost his Senate primary and is set to be replaced by the new Legislature when it convenes on January 8th. The 32 Republican majority members will determine who fills in until Morrisey takes office on January 13th. According to Gov. Justice's November briefing, he implied that a four-governor situation may arise due to the complexities of this transition process. Despite this, his administration is working towards a smooth handover to Patrick Morrisey on the designated date.website wvnews.com/itinerary shows free events like Faith-Based Breakfast at The Culture Center (registration required) and Inaugural Parade on Kanawha Boulevard. Ticketed events include Celebration Concert featuring Shenandoah and The Marshall Tucker Band (\$10 ticket), Inaugural Dinner (\$100 all-inclusive ticket), and Inaugural Ball (\$100 all-inclusive ticket). Gov. Jim Justice expressed support for Morrisey, who will inherit a state budget affected by recent tax cuts. Morrisey emphasized safety as a priority for the inauguration, saying "Were going to do everything possible to make sure that people feel comfortable and safe on inauguration day." The swearing-in ceremony was streamed on wvpublic.org and aired on the West Virginia channel at 11 a.m. Monday, January 13. In his inauguration address, Morrisey called for unity and said it's time to put aside differences. He outlined strategies to make West Virginia more competitive economically by simplifying the tax code and reducing state income tax. He also emphasized coal and natural gas will thrive under his watch, saying "We are Americas energy state." Morrisey talked about expanding education opportunities, including the Hope Scholarship, STEM education, and vo-tech programs. He vowed to root out waste in state government, saying West Virginians work hard to see their resources not squandered on inefficiency.Patrick Morrisey elected as West Virginia's new governor, succeeding Jim JusticeAs a registered nurse, Morrisey was an accomplished athlete and academician, graduating from St. Thomas Aquinas High School and Bishop George Ahr High School in 1985 before earning his Bachelor's degree in history and political science from Rutgers University in 1989. He then pursued law studies at Rutgers School of Law-Newark, receiving his juris doctorate in 1992.Morrisey's early involvement in Republican politics began with a stint on George Bush's presidential campaign in 1988 and Cary Edwards' gubernatorial campaign in 1989. He later served as press secretary for Christine Todd Whitman's U.S. Senate campaign in 1990. Following his graduation from Rutgers, Morrisey opened a private law firm in Westfield, New Jersey, and practiced healthcare, election, regulatory, and communications law at Arent Fox, a national white-shoe law and lobbying firm, from 1995 to 1999.Morrisey then served as deputy staff director and chief health counsel for the United States House Committee on Energy and Commerce from 1999 to 2004. During this time, he played a key role in the passage of landmark legislation including the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness Response Act and the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act.In 2000, Morrisey ran for the United States House of Representatives in New Jersey's 7th congressional district, receiving 9% of the vote in the Republican primary. He faced strong opposition from anti-abortion groups due to his stance on abortion with exceptions.From 2004 to 2012, Morrisey worked as a lawyer in Washington D.C., serving as a partner at Sidley Austin and King & Spalding before joining the corporate law firm. As a lobbyist, he gained recognition for his expertise in health and drug-related regulations and legislation, earning \$250,000 from a pharmaceutical trade group funded by opioid distributors.In 2012, Morrisey ran for Attorney General of West Virginia against incumbent Darrell McGraw, ultimately defeating him and becoming the state's first Republican attorney general since 1933. As attorney general, he sued the Drug Enforcement Administration to release data on opioid sales and negotiated with the Trump administration to reconsider the aggregate quota system.Morrisey also played a key role in the American Farm Bureau Federation v. EPA case, where the United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania held that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) had authority under the Clean Water Act to impose total maximum daily load standards for pollutants. This decision contradicted Morrisey's argument that the EPA's actions were an infringement on states' rights.In Mingo Logan Coal Company v. EPA, the Supreme Court of the United States denied Morrisey's petition, upholding the EPA's authority to regulate coal mining activities under the Clean Water Act.The US Supreme Court had previously examined various challenges to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) regulations and rules under the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act. In a series of rulings starting from April 15, 2014, the Court generally upheld the EPA's authority in setting emissions standards for power plants and its interpretation of the Good Neighbor Provision for reducing cross-state air pollution. The Court also dismissed several challenges to the EPA's rule-making process, including arguments that it exceeded its authority or usurped state powers. Specifically, on April 29, 2014, in EPA v. EME Homer City Generation, the Supreme Court upheld the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule as a cost-effective allocation of emission reductions among states. On June 23, 2014, in Utility Air Regulatory Group v. EPA, the Court held that the EPA reasonably interpreted the Clean Air Act to require sources emitting greenhouse gases to comply with Best Available Control Technology (BACT) standards. The Court also rejected arguments that the EPA had violated the US Constitution or Clean Air Act by creating greenhouse gas regulations. In other cases, such as National Mining v. EPA on July 11, 2014, and West Virginia et al. v. EPA on July 31, 2014, the courts generally upheld the EPA's authority to enact procedures for reviewing mountaintop mining permits under the Clean Water Act, dismissing challenges that it was attempting to take responsibilities reserved for states or other federal agencies. These decisions collectively reinforced the EPA's role in setting environmental regulations and its interpretation of statutory authority under federal law.The West Virginia Attorney General's office has been actively challenging various federal regulations, including a settlement between the EPA and 11 states over greenhouse gas emissions standards. The dispute began in March 2011 when the attorney general questioned the EPA's authority under the Clean Air Act to direct states to establish performance standards for existing sources of air pollutants. This challenge was denied by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit on June 9, 2015, with the court stating it only has authority over final agency rules, not proposals.The attorney general's office continued its challenge against the EPA in August 2014 when they filed a lawsuit alongside 11 other states against the proposal to regulate coal-fired power plants as part of President Barack Obama's climate change mitigation plan. This led to a historic stay in the Supreme Court in 2016. In addition, the attorney general challenged regulatory changes associated with the Affordable Care Act (ACA), filing State of West Virginia v. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in 2014. However, both this suit and later appeals were dismissed by the courts.West Virginia also filed a suit against the EPA's draft Clean Power Plan rule in August 2014, which was rejected as premature on June 9, 2015, because it was a draft rule not yet finalized. A separate motion for expedition of hearing was denied on October 21, 2014. The dispute over the Clean Power Plan continued with various petitions and court actions by different states and parties involved in the regulation of greenhouse gas emissions from power plants.West Virginia v EPA et al (Clean Power Plan) lawsuit, and other gun control cases.According to Morrisey and other state attorneys general, New York's prohibitions on assault weapons and large-capacity magazines don't infringe upon Second Amendment rights.[78] This stance contrasts with their previous claims that such restrictions would burden the fundamental right to bear arms.[79] Morrisey's arguments were rejected by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, which stated that "assault weapons can be more dangerous in aggregate" due to their ability to fire more shots quickly, often being used in mass shootings.[82]In another case, Peruta v. County of San Diego, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the Second Amendment doesn't guarantee a right for civilians to carry concealed firearms in public.[83] This decision countered Morrisey's assertions about New York's semi-automatic firearm ban being unconstitutional.Later, Morrisey led a coalition of 21 states urging the Supreme Court to review and potentially strike down Maryland's weapons ban. The coalition claimed that this ban infringed upon law-abiding gun owners' rights. If successful, it would establish precedent for similar laws in several other states, including West Virginia.In January 2017, Morrisey expressed support for Judge Neil Gorsuch's nomination to the Supreme Court, citing concerns over the court's impact on West Virginia residents. In a separate instance, Morrisey signed an amicus brief seeking to overturn election results in four states where Joe Biden won, led by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton.Paxton's lawsuit seeking to overturn election results was met with skepticism. Justice, a Trump supporter, encouraged Morrisey to join the effort, stating that the attorney general would make the right decision. Secretary of State Warner viewed the Texas lawsuit as a "novel approach" and supported letting the courts decide. The 17 state attorneys general claimed unconstitutional actions in four states' presidential ballot tallies, despite being rejected by other courts. In Texas v. Pennsylvania, Paxton sought to invalidate electoral votes, allowing Trump to be declared the winner. However, there was no evidence of consequential illegal voting. Critics sharply condemned the suit's merit, calling it "the dumbest case" and a "PR stunt". The Supreme Court swiftly rejected the suit.Morrisey, a staunch conservative, opposed abortion and supported North Carolina's 20-week abortion ban. He investigated Planned Parenthood's activities in West Virginia and was endorsed by West Virginians for Life. Morrisey has pledged to make West Virginia more economically competitive by cutting the state income tax. He defended laws creating a school voucher-esque program and promoted civics education, vowing to eliminate what he called "the woke virus" from schools.A joint effort between law enforcement and faith leaders aimed to combat opioid abuse. Morrisey also focused on replacing opioids with non-narcotics as first treatments for pain management. He requested West Virginia lawmakers consider an "anti-retaliation" program to eliminate negative consequences faced by prescribers who refuse to issue opioid medications, which was passed in 2018. Morrisey supported President Trump's declaration of the opioid crisis as a national emergency.Morrisey led a coalition of state attorneys general defending the right of states to prohibit sanctuary cities within their borders. A unanimous federal appeals court decision ruled in favor of the states. He received high ratings from gun rights groups and secured reciprocity agreements with other states, allowing concealed carry licenses to be valid across state lines.Morrisey advocated for a law prohibiting transgender athletes from competing in West Virginia and defended it in court as attorney general. He plans to ask the US Supreme Court to review rulings that found the state's refusal to cover certain healthcare for transgender people discriminatory.In 2017, Morrisey joined other Republican attorneys general in threatening to litigate if the Trump administration did not terminate the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy. President Trump eventually rescinded DACA and delayed implementation for six months. Morrisey praised Trump's decision, calling it a "courageous" move.Morrisey criticized Democratic opponents for supporting the "Keep Families Together Act" while running for the US Senate in 2018. He also faced questions about his ties to Cardinal Health, campaign funds, and ongoing lawsuit against the company. After recusing himself from the suit, Morrisey met privately with company representatives several times. The company eventually settled a \$20 million fine for violating consumer protection laws.In 2016, Morrisey ended a lawsuit against Miami-Luken, a drug firm that sold excessive opioids to small towns across West Virginia. The company paid \$2.5 million in settlement. Morrisey inherited the lawsuit after ousting longtime Attorney General Darrell McGraw and was involved with the case due to his previous lobbying work for Miami-Luken and other drug distributors.As governor of West Virginia, Morrisey has made several notable moves. He issued an executive order allowing families to seek religious exemptions from school vaccine requirements and terminated all DEI initiatives by state-run institutions, citing the need to "stomp out woke" and protect citizens from racial and gender discrimination. In a surprise move, he joined a coalition of 50 state and territorial attorneys general in pushing Congress to pass legislation combating sex trafficking. Morrisey also announced his candidacy for governor in the 2024 election and won against State Delegate Moore Capito in the Republican primary and Democratic nominee Stephen T. Williams in the general election.Patrick Morrisey is a Republican politician who has held various offices including Attorney General of West Virginia and US Senate candidate. He was born in Edison, New Jersey, and graduated from Bishop Ahr/St. Thomas Aquinas High School. His wife, Denise Henry Morrissey, is a founding partner at the lobbying firm Capitol Counsel.Attorney General Patrick Morrisey of West Virginia has faced criticism over his past work as a lobbyist for pharmaceutical companies and his involvement in cases that benefited big businesses. In 2012, he announced his candidacy for Attorney General, citing his experience in challenging environmental regulations. He won the election and began to focus on issues related to energy production.Morrisey's office has been involved in several high-profile lawsuits against the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), including cases related to greenhouse gas emissions from power plants and coal mining regulations. In 2014, he led a group of attorneys general in filing briefs with the US Supreme Court arguing that EPA regulations were overreaching.Critics have accused Morrisey of using his position as Attorney General to advance the interests of big businesses, particularly in the energy sector. Some have questioned his involvement in cases related to pharmaceutical companies and other industries.Despite these criticisms, Morrisey has maintained a strong reputation among some business groups and Republican leaders, who see him as a champion of state sovereignty and limited government intervention. However, his past work as a lobbyist has raised questions about his independence and impartiality in office.**Background**In August 2014, West Virginia filed a lawsuit against the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) over new coal rules.**Previous Lawsuits**There were earlier lawsuits related to the EPA's actions in 2007 and 2011.**Coal Industry Lawsuit**On August 1, 2014, 12 states, including West Virginia, sued the EPA over its Clean Power Plan, which aimed to reduce carbon emissions from power plants. The plan was a major part of President Obama's climate change initiative.**Ruling and Appeals**The DC Circuit Court initially rejected the lawsuit in June 2015, but the plaintiffs appealed. In September 2015, the court denied an emergency stay, which would have temporarily blocked the Clean Power Plan.**Subsequent Developments**In July 2016, a US appeals court upheld the EPA's authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from power plants.**Key Dates and Sources** August 1, 2014: West Virginia files suit against EPA over coal rules.* June 2, 2014: The EPA releases its draft Clean Power Plan.* July 30, 2014: West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey sues the White House over Obamacare.Sources include news articles from The New York Times, Business Insider, and Associated Press, as well as court documents and official websites.In August 2015, West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey filed an emergency petition with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to halt the Clean Power Plan, a rule aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions from power plants. The plan was announced by the EPA on August 3, 2015, and was met with opposition from several states, including West Virginia.The case, known as West Virginia et al. v. EPA, went before the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in January 2016, where a stay motion was denied. However, in February 2016, the US Supreme Court granted a stay of the Clean Power Plan, effectively putting the rule on hold.The opposition to the Clean Power Plan was not limited to West Virginia, with several other states also filing lawsuits and petitions to block or modify the rule. In March 2016, New York and 19 other states supported the Clean Power Plan, while in April 2016, a court case involving a challenge to a similar rule on gun regulations was decided by the Supreme Court.The state of West Virginia had previously been involved in several high-profile cases related to gun rights and second amendment issues, including Kachalsky v. Cacace and Abramski v. United States of America.A collection of dates and references highlighting various legal proceedings and political developments. Notable events include the Friedman v. City of Highland Park case in 2015 and Peruta v. County of San Diego in 2016, both related to gun rights. In 2020, Texas filed a lawsuit with the Supreme Court challenging election results, which was met with criticism from attorneys general in battleground states. The suit was ultimately rejected by the Supreme Court. Additionally, there are mentions of West Virginia's conservative shift under Governor Patrick Morrisey and his office's defense of North Carolina's abortion law.West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey has been involved in various political and social issues throughout his career. He has been a strong supporter of right-to-life causes and has worked to block abortion clinics in the state. However, some critics have accused him of having conflicts of interest due to his close ties with pharmaceutical companies.Morrisey has also taken a hardline stance on immigration, supporting President Trump's decision to rescind DACA and urging Congress to repeal the program. He has been endorsed by the National Rifle Association for his pro-gun views. In 2016, Morrisey announced his candidacy for U.S. Senate, citing his commitment to tackling the opioid epidemic in West Virginia. As Attorney General, he had previously taken steps to combat addiction, including launching a public awareness campaign and working with local law enforcement to reduce opioid trafficking.Despite some criticisms of his handling of opioid-related issues, Morrisey has also received praise for his efforts to address the crisis. He has worked closely with faith leaders and other stakeholders to develop comprehensive approaches to addressing the epidemic.Morrisey's views on gun control are also notable, as he has been a strong supporter of Second Amendment rights. He has been endorsed by the NRA for his pro-gun stance.Overall, Morrisey's political record reflects a commitment to conservative values and a focus on issues related to family, public safety, and national security.Patrick Morrisey was a Republican nominee for governor in West Virginia, having won the primary against Shelley Moore Capito. He has held various political positions, including Attorney General of West Virginia from 2013 to 2025 and Governor of West Virginia since 2025. Morrisey previously ran for U.S. Senator in 2018 and lost to Jim Justice.JD Vance as Vice President of the United States

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