



U.S. Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 13, 2025

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PRESS RELEASE

FORMER NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY CANDIDATE
CHARGED WITH WIRE FRAUD

Defendant Dao Yin Allegedly Reported Fake Campaign Donations to Defraud
New York State of \$162,800 in Public Matching Funds

Earlier today in federal court in Brooklyn, a criminal complaint was unsealed charging Dao Yin, a Queens resident and former 2024 New York State Assembly candidate, with wire fraud in connection with his scheme to defraud New York State's public campaign finance system by reporting false campaign contributions—including forged signatures of purported contributors—to secure matching funds. Yin was arrested today and is scheduled to be arraigned this afternoon before United States Magistrate Judge Vera M. Scanlon.

Joseph Nocella, Jr., United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York; Matthew R. Galeotti, Head of the Justice Department's Criminal Division; Christopher G. Raia, Assistant Director in Charge, New York Field Office (FBI); and Jocelyn E. Strauber, Commissioner, New York City Department of Investigation, announced the charges.

"As alleged, the defendant, a former candidate for public office, submitted forged campaign contribution cards from members of the very community he hoped to represent, to fraudulently obtain thousands of dollars in public matching funds that he was not entitled to receive," stated United States Attorney Nocella. "Today's arrest demonstrates that this Office will protect the integrity of elections and pursue candidates for elected office who violate campaign finance laws."

Mr. Nocella expressed his appreciation to the New York State Public Campaign Finance Board (PCFB) for its assistance.

"Through lies and deceit, the defendant allegedly stole over \$160,000 in taxpayer dollars to fund his campaign for elected office," stated Matthew R. Galeotti, Head of the

Department of Justice's Criminal Division. "Fraud and public corruption threaten the integrity of our elections and will not be tolerated. The Criminal Division remains committed to aggressively prosecuting frauds that undermine U.S. interests and waste public funds."

"Dao Yin allegedly fabricated support to be unlawfully awarded more than \$150,000 to further his election campaign. Yin also allegedly abused his position to defraud a matching funds program that could have been used to support other candidates for state office. The FBI remains committed to investigating any individual who implements deceitful tactics to find a seat in public office," stated FBI Assistant Director in Charge Raia.

"As charged, this former candidate for the New York State Assembly manipulated the campaign finance system through fraudulent campaign contributions in order to claim matching funds that he was not eligible to receive," stated DOI Commissioner Strauber. "DOI and our law enforcement partners in the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York and the FBI remain committed to protecting the integrity of the campaign finance system and public dollars."

The New York State Public Campaign Finance Program

The PCFB oversees and administers the New York State Public Campaign Finance Program (the Program), which provides candidates running for statewide or state legislative office the ability to qualify for and receive public matching funds based on small donations from residents in applicable districts.

To participate in the Program, a candidate must register an authorized committee with the PCFB, be in a covered election for a covered office, meet threshold requirements for the number of matchable contributions received, and total monetary contributions received, and adhere to all other program requirements such as making periodic disclosures to the PCFB. Contributions between \$5 and \$250 are generally eligible for public matching funds provided they meet certain criteria. For a State Assembly race, the candidate generally must have raised a minimum of \$6,000 in matchable contributions and have a minimum of 75 matchable donations. For cash contributions to qualify for matching funds, the candidate's authorized committee is required to submit contribution cards that, among other information, list each contributor's name, residential address, and date of contribution. The contribution card also must be signed by the contributor.

The Fraudulent Scheme

As alleged in the complaint, the defendant registered his campaign committee, Dao Yin for New York 2024 (the Committee), with the PCFB so that it could receive funds through the Program. The defendant served as the treasurer of the Committee.

To qualify for public matching funds, the defendant submitted fraudulent contribution cards through the Committee to the PCFB that listed the names and purported to bear the signatures of individuals he falsely claimed had donated to the Committee. By doing so, the defendant obtained approximately \$162,800 in public matching funds from the Program.

The charges in the complaint are allegations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. If convicted of all charges, the defendant faces a maximum sentence of 20 years' imprisonment.

The government's case is being handled by the Office's Public Integrity Section and the Public Integrity Section of the Justice Department's Criminal Division. Assistant United States Attorneys Andrew D. Grubin and Rebecca Schuman, along with Trial Attorney Lina Peng, are in charge of the prosecution with assistance from Paralegal Specialist Daniel Arakawa.

The Defendant:

DAO YIN
Age: 62
Flushing, NY

E.D.N.Y. Docket No. 25-MJ-208