

# ► Ruling reflects chaos in US judicial system: experts Colorado court disqualifies Trump from state's 2024 ballot

By Fan Anqi and Zhang Yuying

The Colorado Supreme Court's unprecedented ruling to declare former US president Donald Trump disqualified from holding the presidency reflects the chaotic judicial system of the US, as well as Democrats' determination to rule the GOP contender out.

However, the ruling has limited impact on Trump's support rate, and may even be used as a boost for his election race, experts said on Wednesday.

The 4-3 ruling came after the court found that Trump allegedly engaged in insurrection with his actions leading up to the storming of the US Capitol on January 6, 2021. The landmark decision marks the first time in history that the US Constitution's insurrection clause – Section 3 of the 14th Amendment – has been used to disqualify a presidential candidate, according to media reports.

Trump's attorneys promised to appeal immediately to the US Supreme

Court, which has the final say about constitutional matters.

The ruling by the Colorado court based on the insurrection clause is "chaotic and troublesome," as cases involving the application of the US Constitution are normally under the jurisdiction of federal law and should be decided by federal courts, not state courts like the Colorado Supreme Court, Lü Xiang, a research fellow at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said on Wednesday.

Therefore, Trump could appeal to the Supreme Court, arguing that the Colorado court does not have the authority to make such decisions, Lü noted.

What's more, even if the court has the right to enforce Section 3 of the 14th Amendment, the clause itself is still vague about whether it applies to the presidency, the expert said.

The case has grabbed significant attention in the US, as it sets the stage for the Supreme Court to examine whether Trump would be eligible to run for an-

other term as president, observers said.

US media reports analyzed that Trump does not need Colorado to win next year's presidential election, but the danger lies in that more courts and election officials will follow Colorado's lead.

Lü noted that this dramatic episode reflects the Democrats' determination to bring down Trump, whatever it takes.

Commenting on whether the decision of the Colorado court has impacted Trump's support rate, experts believe the impact would be quite small, and may even give him an advantage.

"The matter has room for interpretation in both the legal and political fronts, and Trump is likely to interpret it from a political perspective. This may further reinforce the perception among his supporters that he [Trump] is a victim, creating a sense of sympathy that strengthens their support for him," Li Haidong, a professor at the China Foreign Affairs University, told the Global Times.

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## US-led Red Sea coalition only 'band-aid solution'; Gaza cease-fire in urgent need

By GT staff reporters

As the world's shipping and trade might be further disrupted by attacks on ships along the main Red Sea shipping route, worries among multinational companies have grown.

Analysts said on Wednesday that the multinational coalition headed by the US to protect trade ships in the Red Sea is only a "band-aid solution," and that the situation can worsen unless there is a cease-fire agreement or a cooling-off period in the Gaza Strip.

On Tuesday, Yemen's Houthi rebels said the new US-led military coalition in the Red Sea would not stop their attacks on Israel-bound commercial ships. Houthi spokesperson Mohammed Abdulsalam said in a statement carried by the Houthi-controlled Saba news agency that their naval operations aim at supporting the Palestinian people and are not "a show of force or a challenge to anyone."

The 10-nation coalition led by the US to escort ships transiting the Red Sea is to deter the Houthi militia, but it is only a short-term measure that cannot solve the issue at the root, Ding Long, a professor with the Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University, told the Global Times.

Ding said on Wednesday that the root cause of a series of problems in the Middle East, including security issues in the Red Sea, lies in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. If there is no cease-fire, and if the Palestinian-Israeli issue cannot be completely resolved, these spillover effects will continue to expand.

US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said Tuesday that the US would welcome China playing "a constructive role" in trying to prevent attacks from taking place.

But Chinese analysts said China is not the only nation affected by the Red Sea shipping issue. Other nations and the global community are all involved and are influenced by this problem and the Palestinian-Israeli issue. They urged the US not to attempt to shift focus by pressuring China.

They also noted the US should exert more pressure in Israel to push for a cease-fire in Gaza.

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## ► New Kuwait leader



**Kuwait's new emir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (right) salutes as he swears in before lawmakers at the country's 17th ruler, at the Kuwaiti parliament, on December 20, 2023 in Kuwait City.**  
Photo: VCG

## Remarks of Japan's new envoy hint 'no compromise' on questions of principle

By Zhang Changyue

As the new Japanese Ambassador to China Kenji Kanasugi talked about the Fukushima nuclear-contaminated wastewater, the Diaoyu Islands and the detained Japanese nationals upon his arrival at the Japanese Embassy in Beijing on Tuesday, experts said on Wednesday Kanasugi's remarks hint that Japan is unlikely to make compromises on those issues, but it will keep some dialogue channels open in

order to prevent risks that Tokyo could lose control of vis-à-vis its relations with China, and that Japan will explore the potential for cooperation in mutually beneficial areas.

"There are various possibilities for cooperation, as well as numerous challenges and concerns between Japan and China. In such circumstances, I believe it is my responsibility to engage in dialogue on unsettled issues and cooperation on common subjects to implement the Japanese

government's relevant policy," Kanasugi said, according to the Japanese ambassador's inaugural address published on the website of the Embassy of Japan in China on Tuesday.

Kanasugi's remarks show that whether the new ambassador is a member of the "China school" or not, there is actually no fundamental difference between them in terms of maintaining Japan's basic diplomatic policies, principles, and interests, Da Zhigang, director of the Institute of North-

east Asian Studies at Heilongjiang Provincial Academy of Social Sciences, said on Wednesday.

Da said that what Kanasugi said at the press conference delivered a signal that Japan will tenaciously negotiate with China over strategic issues, and that it will coordinate with the US-led Western bloc to contain China in general, while stabilizing bilateral relations to prevent them from going out of control.

Liu Jiangyong, a professor at Institute of Modern International

Relations at Tsinghua University, noted that Kanasugi's pushy and sharp words just after he arrived in Beijing reflect that he does not have much experience dealing with China, but that he needs to learn to correctly fulfill his duty to reach the "mutually beneficial" relations agreed upon by the two countries' heads of state in November in San Francisco.

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