

# Tim Walz Was Brought Down by a Scandal Hiding in Plain Sight

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Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz said on Monday that he was dropping his re-election bid. Stephen  
Maturen/Getty Images

The welfare-fraud scandal that led Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz to abandon his 2026 re-election bid was hiding in plain sight when he was vetted for the 2024 Democratic presidential ticket as former Vice President Kamala Harris's running mate.

The scope of the theft has grown since then, but there were ample warning signs. Federal prosecutors had already charged roughly 70 people with defrauding programs meant to fund children's meals during the pandemic. A nonpartisan legislative auditor had delivered a report saying the state had "failed to act on warning signs" and was "ill-prepared to respond."