

CBS Mornings

11/20/25

7:00:39 a.m. [TEASE]

9 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Stolen FEMA Funds]

TONY DOKOUPIL: A Florida congresswoman faces charges she stole millions from FEMA to support her political campaign.

ABBY DODGE [on CBS Miami, 11/19/25]: The congresswoman could face up to 53 years in prison.

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7:08:16 a.m.

1 minute and 33 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: FL Congresswoman Charged With Stealing FEMA Money]

GAYLE KING: The Justice Department has indicted a Florida congresswoman alleging that she stole millions from FEMA. Her name? She's a Democrat – Shelia Cherfilus-McCormick – is accused of taking \$5 million in agency funds to use for her political campaign. Scott Macfarlane has the story.

CONGRESSWOMAN SHELIA CHERFILUS MCCORMICK (D-FL): I'm Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick, Democrat for Congress.

SCOTT MACFARLANE: When Shelia Cherfilus-McCormick was running for a seat in the U.S. House in 2021, the Department of Justice says the Democrat stole \$5 million in Covid-19 disaster funds to support her congressional campaign. A federal grand jury indicted Cherfilus-McCormick and several co-defendants Wednesday. Prosecutors allege a healthcare company she ran with her brother was overpaid in \$5 million in FEMA funds for a vaccination staffing contract. They say the company received that in July 2021 and Cherfilus-McCormick used it for her campaign. The funds were routed through multiple accounts to disguise its source, they said. And a portion of the money was funneled to friends and family who donated to the campaign. It's the latest legal battle for Cherfilus-McCormick, who's already under investigation by the House Ethics Committee for campaign finance violations, including misreporting the source of a contribution. In a statement, Cherfilus-McCormick called the case a "sham indictment," insisting she is innocent. Cherfileus-McCormick faces the prospect of prison time if convicted. But, Gayle, we're still waiting to see the court filings submitted by the Department of Justice in the Southern District of Florida.

KING: To be continued. Scott, thank you very much.