

ABC News Special

06/29/26

10:26:53 a.m.

2 minutes and 58 seconds

KYRA PHILLIPS: The Supreme Court also issuing a major ruling on presidential power. Devin, I want to start with you. Clearly giving the President much more control here.

DEVIN DWYER: Yeah. A loss on mail ballots, Kyra. But a big win for President Trump and the power of the presidency. In a landmark decision that was written by Chief Justice John Roberts, 6-to-3 decision here upholding the President's ability in this specific case, to fire a Democratic member of the Federal Trade Commission simply because he didn't like her view on policies. Congress created that agency to be insulated from politics, only allowing people to be fired for cause. But what the Supreme Court said today is that violates the separation of powers under the Constitution. And in effect, that has now limited the ability of Congress to create independent, bipartisan agencies across our government. This will transform the federal government and eliminate a lot of those agencies that have both Republicans and Democrats on them. The agencies will still be there, of course, but now a president will be able to pack them with members he chooses because, as John Roberts said, they carry out executive functions at the same time, Kyra, another major decision came down in a similar vein, this one on President Trump's request to fire a member of the Federal Reserve. Unprecedented, never attempted before. And what the Supreme Court said is the Fed is different. It rejected President Trump's attempt, at least for now, to remove a Democratic appointee, Lisa Cook, from the Fed. He's alleged that she committed mortgage fraud. He said that constitutes cause for her removal. The Supreme Court, in a decision by Justice John Roberts, said that isn't clear in this case, but for now, she can stay on the job. The Fed is different. It's unique. It did leave open the door, Kyra, to the possibility that she could be removed at some point, but the litigation will now drag on to determine whether she's met the bar for cause and what the facts are in her case, Kyra.

PHILLIPS: And Rachel, clearly, this is going to give President Trump the ability to dismantle other agencies.

RACHEL SCOTT: Pendants [sic] on federal agencies that could potentially be at risk here and most likely be going away. But as it pertains to the Federal Reserve, this was a consequential ruling when we're talking about the independence of the Fed, which is something over on Capitol Hill, both Democrats and Republicans sounded the alarm about as President Trump tried to reshape the Federal Board of Governors and pushed out Lisa Cook. And so, this ruling ultimately, the Supreme Court ultimately rejecting that push by President Trump. This is going to uphold the independence of the Fed and at least keep politicization away from it for now, Kyra.

PHILLIPS: Sarah, quickly, what do you make of the split decisions here?

SARAH ISGUR: A more powerful president over a weaker presidency. As the court pushes more on to Congress, they are also going to ensure the president is accountable politically over everyone in the executive branch team.