

## Trump Threatens Stadium Deal Over Team Name Reversion Push

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President Donald Trump has escalated a high-profile campaign urging two major U.S. sports franchises to revert to their former names, threatening to block a Washington Commanders stadium deal as leverage.

In Washington, D.C., Trump publicly warned that he may oppose the construction of a new stadium for the National Football League (NFL)'s Washington Commanders unless the team restores its previous name, the Redskins. He argued that the franchise would be “much more valuable” under its former branding. This statement comes despite a federal land transfer to the D.C. government in January, which cleared the path for redeveloping the former Robert F. Kennedy (RFK) Stadium site. Team owner Josh Harris has reaffirmed that the Commanders have no intention of reversing the name change.

Trump also called on Major League Baseball (MLB)'s Cleveland Guardians to return to their former identity as the Cleveland Indians. He framed the name changes as matters of preserving tradition and suggested that restoring the Cleveland team's former name could have political benefits, particularly in battleground states like Ohio. However, Cleveland's leadership, like Washington's, stated it has no plans to revisit the branding shift.

Both franchises abandoned their previous names in 2020 amid mounting pressure from sponsors, activists, and Native American organizations. These decisions were part of a broader reckoning in the U.S. over racial and cultural representation, with critics of the old names citing their offensive and derogatory connotations. While the rebranding was praised by many as a step forward, it also sparked backlash from fans and political figures who viewed the change as excessive and unnecessary.

Trump's latest remarks align with his broader messaging against political correctness and cultural revisionism. By threatening to leverage federal influence—even if largely symbolic, he underscores a commitment to opposing what he sees as left-leaning overreach in American culture. His

message resonates with conservative voters who argue that the renaming of teams represents the erasure of heritage rather than progress.

Despite the renewed pressure, both teams have made it clear they are moving forward with their current identities. The organizations point to long-term marketing strategies and evolving social standards as the basis for their decisions.

As Trump continues to blend politics and cultural commentary, the issue highlights the complex intersection of tradition, corporate branding, and federal influence. Whether symbolic or practical, the former president's stance ensures the debate over America's team names will remain politically charged in the run-up to the next election cycle.