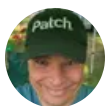


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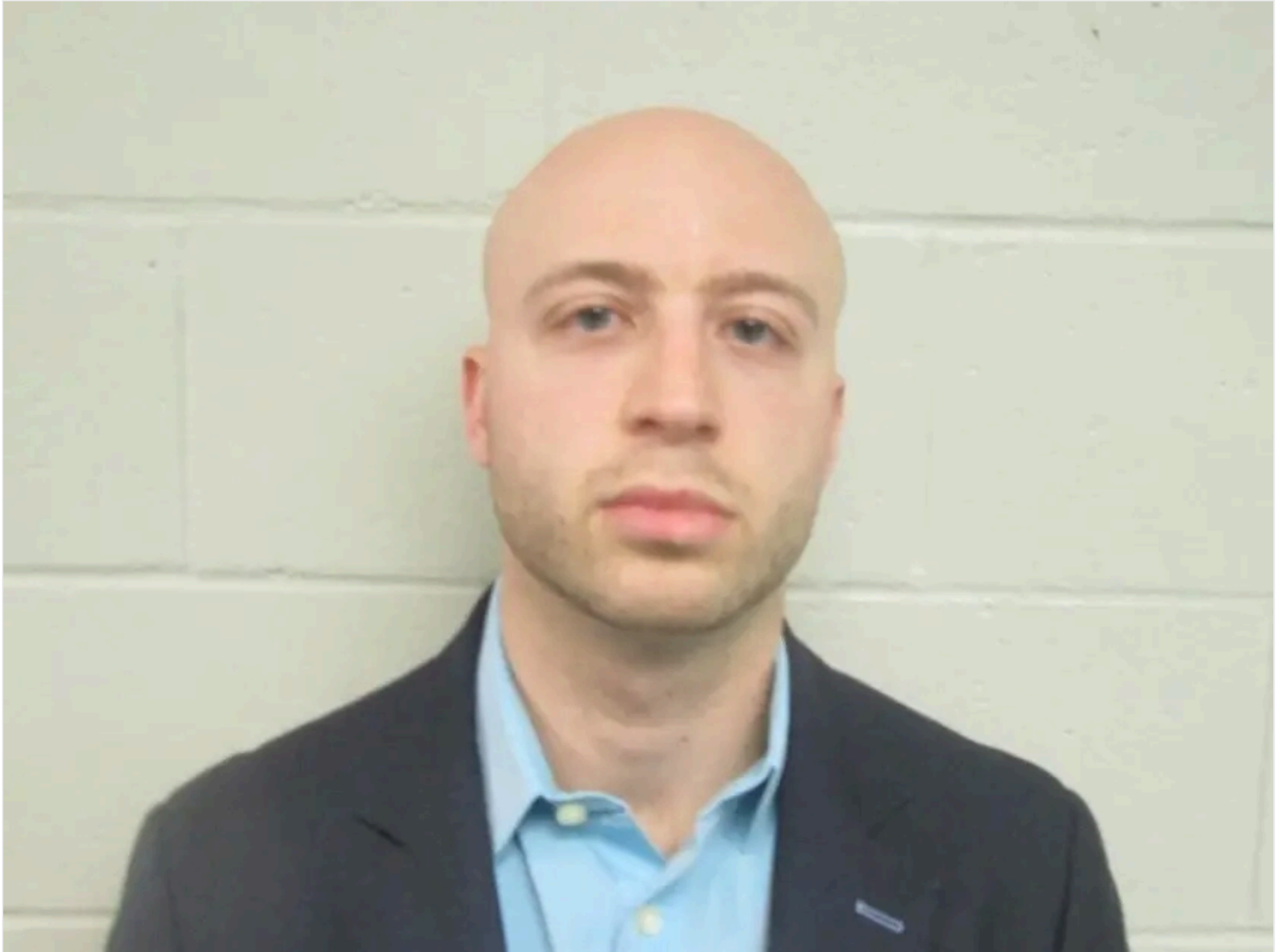
Former NH Rep. Candidate Accused Of Child Sexual Assault During 2022 Incident At Porcfest

Elliot "Alu" Axelman faces 7 counts of sexual and simple assault and false imprisonment in a Lancaster court in June after a 2022 incident.



Tony Schinella, Patch Staff 

Posted Wed, May 1, 2024 at 11:11 am ETUpdated Wed, May 1, 2024 at 11:16 am ET



Elliot “Alu” Axelman is accused of sexually assaulting and holding a girl against her will at the annual Porcupine Freedom Festival in June 2022. (Hooksett Police Department)

HOOKSETT, NH — An author, libertarian activist, and former Republican state representative candidate from Hooksett is facing sexual assault and other charges next month after being accused of assaulting a girl at the [Porcupine Freedom Festival](#), the annual [Free State Project](#) event in 2022.

[Elliot “Alu” Axelman](#), 31, of Heather Drive in Hooksett was charged by Lancaster police in August 2023 with false imprisonment, two counts of simple assault, and four counts of sexual assault, all misdemeanors. The charges stem from an incident at Porcfest in June 2022, an event he reportedly attended. The victim, a girl who was 14 at the time, was also at the event with her family.

According to complaints filed against Axelman, he was accused of “purposely (engaging) in sexual contact” with the girl “by touching her buttocks with his body, where such contact can reasonably be construed as being for the purpose of sexual arousal or gratification” and there was an age difference of more than five years between them. The filing also accused him of applying physical force by holding her and pulling her toward him while touching her buttocks and “having her body touch

his erect penis.” Axelman was also accused of kissing the child’s neck and holding her by her waist.

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[Porcfest](#), an event that has [been held for more than two decades in New Hampshire’s North Country](#), features speakers, camping, music, food, and parties, or, “all around liberty-loving good times” for “your whole family,” according to the event’s website.

After the charges were filed, an arrest warrant was issued against Axelman in September 2023, and he was released on \$5,000 bail. As a part of his bail, he was ordered to stay at least 1,000 feet away from the child, was not to be at the Roger’s Campground & Motel in Lancaster, [where Porcfest is held](#), and needed to refrain from excessive use of alcohol. His first attorney withdrew from the case in October 2023, and he was given a public defender in December 2023. In January, bail

conditions were amended, and motions were filed under seal in the case in April. In February, he requested \$200 from the court to pay for transcribing the victim's Child Advocacy Center interview.

Axelman, at Porcfest, according to its 2022 schedule, was lined up to speak about his book, "Presumed Guilty," as well as "legislative tricks" in another session. He also participated in an "all-star secession panel" and was scheduled to give a talk "answering the Top 10 secession questions." Some small L libertarian Republicans and large L Libertarians advocate having the state of New Hampshire leave the union or begin the process of leaving the union and becoming its own country. According to an InDepthNH story in January, Axelman testified before a legislative committee supporting a constitutional amendment to secede.

Axelman ran for state representative in the Merrimack 24 special election two years before the incident. He easily bested two other Republicans in the January 2020 primary with 61 percent of the vote.

In the general special election, though, his move to New Hampshire in 2017 from New York was a campaign issue, along with comments he previously made online — likening "democracy" to "gang rape," and reportedly saying, "The last thing I want

to be called is a ‘law-abiding citizen’.” In one post, [according to NH Journal](#), he wrote:

“2015: gay marriage is fine, but transgenders are mentally ill

2017: transgenders are the best kind of people, but pedophilia is definitely wrong

2019: pedophilia is totally acceptable, (what comes next?)”

Axelman [lost to Democrat Kathleen Martins](#) in the special general election in March 2020 by about 40 votes.

At the time, Democrats heralded Martins’ victory as a district President Donald Trump carried by 10 percent in 2016.

However, in November 2020, Martins placed fifth in a seven candidate field vying for four seats, losing by 170 votes. Hooksett was redistricted into a new seat, Merrimack District 10, with Dunbarton after the 2020 Census, again with four seats. Martins lost in November 2022 by more than 275 votes.

Axelman was also listed as an “anti–democracy extremist” by [Granite State Matters](#), a website created by former state Sen. [Jeanne Dietsch](#), a [former Democrat from Peterborough](#), to target [Free State Project members and liberty Republicans](#). According to the site, he was listed because he was a “speaker” at the [annual Liberty Forum conference](#). Axelman also endorsed [Vivek Ramaswamy in the 2024 Republican primary](#), according to a campaign press release.

A trial is set for June 3.

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