

FBI raids home of Contra Costa political power player

The agency made a surprise visit Thursday to the Concord home of Mary Jo Rossi, an influential political consultant



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UPDATED: March 20, 2025 at 6:27 AM PDT

A correction to an earlier version of this article has been appended to the end of the article.

CONCORD — The FBI raided the home of the influential and often-victorious political consultant Mary Jo Rossi, drawing immediate speculation as to which — if any — of her many friends in politics might also be involved in the criminal probe.

RELATED: [FBI raid: Who is Mary Jo Rossi, the prolific Contra Costa County consultant visited by the feds?](#)

The raid by federal agents took place Thursday at Rossi's home on Thornwood Drive, in a quiet suburban neighborhood of Concord.

An FBI spokeswoman would confirm only that the agency served a search warrant there, not what they seized or why, stating that it was part of an "ongoing investigation." No other related raids were conducted Thursday, FBI spokeswoman Cameron Polan said.

"I can't say anything else at this time," Polan said.

Rossi could not be reached for comment.

Rossi is prolific in Contra Costa politics and has a reputation of making winners out of candidates, even if it means drawing controversy for using aggressive tactics in the process.

Her work on campaigns is unapologetically fierce, often involving attack mailers and cutting press statements, though the well-connected political insider is also known for her frequent lunches and longstanding friendships with local elected leaders.

Over a four-decade career, she developed a penchant for representing controversial figures, such as former [District Attorney Mark Peterson](#), [ex-Clerk-Recorder and Registrar of Voters Joe Canciamilla](#) and a homebuilder owned by Albert Seeno III, whose [efforts to build housing](#) in Concord has been [protested by environmentalists](#).

She's served in high-ranking consulting roles for several elected officials, including Supervisor Candace Andersen, former Supervisor Federal Glover, Sheriff David Livingston, state Sen. Tim Grayson, D-Antioch, and worked for former San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown when he was a state assemblymember.

More recently, she ran a campaign on behalf of the Contra Costa sheriffs' association to help elect Mike Barbanica to the county board of supervisors. The association spent about \$1 million to support Barbanica and oppose Shanelle Scales-Preston, who ultimately won the November 2024 election.

She has also consulted for a major garbage-handling company, Mt. Diablo Resource Recovery, which is operated by the influential Garaventa family of Contra Costa.

In January, Rossi appeared to have distanced herself from the Garaventas' business, alleging in emails to reporters and state Assemblymember Ana Marie Avila Farias, D-Concord, that misconduct by the company's officials had gone ignored.

"She has not worked for the company since 2018," Kish Rajan, the CEO of Mt. Diablo Resource Recovery, said in an interview. "The company has not been contacted by anyone with regard to Mary Jo Rossi and whatever activities may have led to this development today."

Still, a handful of current and former elected officials in the region hadn't heard anything about the FBI raid when reached Friday for comment.

The raid comes at a time when the FBI appears to be combing through neighboring Alameda County politics for potential corruption involving waste management.

A series of federal raids last year resulted in a [bribery and money laundering case against Oakland's former mayor, Sheng Thao](#), her longtime partner Andre Jones, and the father-and-son duo who own California Waste Solutions, David and Andy Duong.

The Oakland case appears to be sprawling, with an [FBI raid and subpoenas in San Leandro](#) suggesting the agency is probing the Duong family's connections with city government there. Agents raided the home of a San Leandro city councilman in January.

The feds' interest in the garbage business has some parallels with Rossi's previous ties to Mt. Diablo Resource Recovery, but Rajan, its CEO, said in an interview he "cannot possibly see any connection between what has happened at her house and our company."

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Correction: March 18, 2025: A previous version of this story incorrectly reported that Mary Jo Rossi represented the Seeno family of land developers. She previously represented Albert Seeno III, but has not worked for Albert Seeno Jr. or Tom Seeno.

