



The Art Of The Steal: Trump And Congressional Republicans Can't Stop Failing In Their Attempt To Steal An Election

President Donald Trump spent the lead up to the election spreading fear and misinformation about state efforts to protect the right to vote during a global pandemic. Since the election, he has refused to concede and launched a false, dangerous campaign to overturn the results, disenfranchise millions of Americans, and undermine President-elect Joe Biden's decisive victory.

Below is a list of failed attacks Donald Trump, his allies, and Congressional Republicans have made on the integrity of our elections, hardworking election administrators, and our democracy.

FAIL #1 - President Trump and his campaign launch a public misinformation tour to undermine the results of the election - with disastrous results:

- The day after the election, Trump boasted that his personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, would be hosting a "big press conference" on the campaign's false allegations of voter fraud at the Four Seasons Hotel...but, instead, [the campaign booked Four Seasons Total Landscaping](#), leading to Giuliani spewing nonsense in a parking lot between a sex shop and a crematorium in Philadelphia.
- Roughly a week later, the legal team heading up Trump's effort to usurp the election managed to book the right location for [another bizarre press conference](#), but, otherwise, not much else went right. As Giuliani peddled conspiracy theories and a litany of false claims, what appeared to be [sweaty hair dye started melting down Guillani's face](#).
- Not to be outdone, Trump later stood behind the presidential lectern in the Diplomatic Reception Room to give an [astonishing 46-minute video rant](#) filled with baseless allegations of voter fraud and outright falsehoods.
- Struggling to break through, Trump and his "brain trust" met to [consider a series of far-flung moves](#), including making conspiracy theorist Sidney Powell a special counsel to probe voter fraud, imposing martial law to deploy the military, and urging top Department of Homeland Security official Ken Cuccinelli to confiscate voting machines.

FAIL #2 - Trump and his congressional lackeys attempt to pressure GOP officials to ignore the will of their constituents, but are outright rebuked:

- Trump fired Christopher Krebs, [the nation's top election security official](#), after he refuted the president's unsubstantiated claims of electoral fraud and vouched for the integrity of the vote. Krebs has [continued to speak out against Trump's efforts](#), and has been joined by numerous other federal security officials who have made clear that the 2020 election was the "[most secure in American history](#)."
- Trump [launched campaigns to pressure GOP elected officials](#) to support his baseless claims of a rigged election, [personally talking to at least 31 state and local officials and Republican party leaders from battleground states](#) to try to get them to reverse his losses in those states. As part of his efforts, Trump [invited leaders of the Republican-led Michigan state legislature to visit the White House](#), and [reached out to Republican canvassing board members in Detroit](#) to block certification of the results.
- Trump continued his unlawful pressure campaign into 2021, when a tape of his call with Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger revealed [Trump pressured Raffensperger to "find" enough votes](#) to put him ahead of Biden. The call prompted immediate scrutiny from legal experts, who said it [likely violated federal and state laws](#) against soliciting election fraud. After that call, [Trump phoned into a Zoom call with legislators](#) from various other battleground states to talk about allegations of voter fraud.
- Trump's efforts [were met with defeat](#) in [every state](#) as recounts and audits - including [those led by Republican state officials](#) - all certified Biden as the winner. Further, only a [modest number of complaints of voter fraud in swing states merited an investigation](#), and only a handful resulted in criminal charges alleging wrongdoing.
- Trump was not alone in his nefarious persuasion efforts. Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) [contacted election officials](#) in a trio of battleground states that Trump lost to Biden, with Georgia's secretary of state accusing Graham of urging him to throw out legal ballots.
- Arizona Reps. Paul Gosar, Andy Biggs and David Schweikert [signed a letter urging the state's largest county, Maricopa, to delay certification of the presidential election results](#) until an audit is conducted. The Maricopa County board of supervisors rejected their request and certified the results on Nov. 20. Meanwhile, the chair of the Arizona Republican Party, Kelli Ward, [told the state's Republican governor to shut up because he stood up for the integrity of Arizona's election](#), which Biden won.
- The chair of the Georgia Republican Party and the state's two Republican U.S. senators [attacked the state's Republican secretary of state](#) for upholding the state's election results, while Trump tore into Republican Gov. Brian Kemp because he would not call a special legislative session to overturn the will of Georgia voters.
- In Michigan, the state Republican Party chair, Laura Cox, supported Trump's campaign [as it failed to press Republican lawmakers to override the popular vote in her state](#).

FAIL #3 - Trump and his allies learn that whining, false claims, and conspiracy theories do not make for good legal arguments:

- In a [remarkable show of near-unanimity across the nation's judiciary](#), Trump and his allies were absolutely demolished in post-election litigation. At least 86 judges — ranging from jurists serving at the lowest levels of state court systems to members of the United States Supreme Court — rejected at least one post-election lawsuit filed by Trump or his

supporters. The judges' decisions comprehensively dismantled the arguments advanced by Trump, with rulings including statements like "[voters, not lawyers, choose the president](#)," and "[this is simply not how the Constitution works](#)."

- Rep. Mike Kelly (R-Pa.) joined as a plaintiff in a lawsuit that argued that Pennsylvania's entire mail-in voting system was unconstitutional. The lawsuit was [rejected by various courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court](#), which quickly dismissed the case outright without comment or noted dissent.
- Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton - [who is under an FBI investigation for misusing his office to benefit a political donor](#) - asked the U.S. Supreme Court to review [another case contesting the election results](#) in Georgia, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Pennsylvania - all because they made it easier to vote during COVID-19. [Seventeen Republican Attorney Generals](#) and [nearly two-thirds of Republican U.S. Representatives](#), including House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, gave their seal of approval to Paxton and Trump's efforts to hack away at the roots of American democracy. Again, [the U.S. Supreme Court unceremoniously tossed out the case](#), with not a single justice indicating an endorsement of Republicans' arguments.
- U.S. Rep. Louie Gohmert (R-TX) and a group of 11 Arizona electors who favored Trump sued to allow Vice President Mike Pence to hand the election to Trump. The [lawsuit was thrown out at both a U.S. District Court and a U.S. Court of Appeals](#) - and even [Pence asked the judges to throw out the lawsuit](#).
- FEC Chairman Trey Trainor - [a longtime "mega advocate" for deregulating the campaign finance system and for dark money](#) - [floated baseless election fraud conspiracy theories](#) sourced entirely to a Trump attorney whose wild theories surrounding the 2020 elections have been [eviscerated by the courts](#).

FAIL #4 - After four years of doing nothing else, Congressional Republicans make clear their top priority is to continue their blind loyalty to Trump and his tyranny:

- A month after the election, [just 27 congressional Republicans were willing to acknowledge Joe Biden's unquestionable victory](#) over Trump. Two Republicans even considered Trump the winner despite all evidence showing otherwise, while another 220 GOP members of the House and Senate — about 88% of all Republicans serving in Congress — would simply not say who won the election, too afraid of the president to speak the truth.
- [Nearly 140 GOP Members of the House](#) and [a dozen Republican Senators](#) pledged to [challenge the Electoral College results from the floor](#). The move was [strongly condemned](#), including by many GOP Senators, while [the hypocrisy of the procedure](#) was made all too blatant when GOP House Members voted to affirm the legitimacy of the down-ballot election results in the very same states whose electoral votes they were planning to challenge.
- Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) held [a controversial hearing](#) on "Irregularities in the 2020 Election" [that was criticized by Senators of both parties](#).
- Senior Republicans on an inauguration committee [rejected a symbolic measure](#) that would have essentially affirmed Joe Biden as president-elect.

- Rep. Alex Mooney (R-W.Va.) [introduced a resolution](#) to condemn lawmakers who had called on Trump to concede, while Rep. Lance Gooden (R-TX) [spearheaded a letter](#) urging Trump to appoint a special counsel to investigate voter fraud allegations.

Fortunately, the vast majority of the public, legal system, and elected officials have refused to accept these dangerous claims that would lead to the largest vote nullification in American history. As documented in a [new report by the Brennan Center](#), this includes a long list of Republican government officials, judges, and elected leaders.

However, these attacks make clear that President-elect Joe Biden and the 117th Congress must prioritize the passage of legislation like the For the People Act (H.R. 1) and the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act (H.R. 4) to protect the right to vote and our democracy.