

Attempts to overturn the 2020 United States presidential election

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Part of the [2020 United States presidential election](#)

The electoral map for the 2020 election. Blue denotes the 306 electoral votes for Biden, while red denotes the 232 electoral votes for Trump.

Date	November 11, 2020 ^[1] – January 7, 2021
Location	Pennsylvania , Georgia , Michigan , Wisconsin , Arizona , Nevada , New Mexico , and Washington, D.C.
Caused by	Trump's false claims of election and voter fraud ^{[2][3][4]}
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pressure Mike Pence to overturn the election in favor of Trump• Decertify Biden as the winner• Keep Trump in power as president
Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Big lie• Lawsuits• Trump fake electors plot• Conspiracy (according to federal indictment)• Racketeering (according to Georgia indictment)
Resulted in	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• January 6 United States Capitol attack (7 deaths)• Second impeachment of Donald Trump• Third indictment of Donald Trump• Fourth indictment of Donald Trump

Casualties

Death(s) 9

Charged [Donald Trump](#), [Mark Meadows](#), [Rudy Giuliani](#), [Jenna Ellis](#), [Sidney Powell](#), [January 6 rioters](#)

The **attempts to overturn the 2020 United States presidential election** was a political scheme made by then President [Donald Trump](#), who lost the [2020 U.S. presidential election](#) to his Democratic opponent [Joe Biden](#), the former U.S. vice president.

Trump did not accept his defeat and claimed the election was rigged and had voter fraud.^[5] This was an effort to overturn the election,^{[6][7][8]} with

support and assistance from [his campaign](#), proxies, political allies, and many of his supporters.

Many unsuccessful lawsuits were filed to change the election results in [Pennsylvania](#), [Georgia](#), [Nevada](#), [Arizona](#), [Wisconsin](#) and [Michigan](#). Efforts to change the election results caused the [2021 United States Capitol Riot](#), which was described as an attempted [coup d'état](#).^[9]

False claims

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

Trump at a [White House](#) press conference calling the 2020 election corrupt

Trump and his allies called the election a "[big lie](#)" based on false claims and conspiracy theories claiming that the election was stolen by rigged [voting machines](#), [electoral fraud](#) and an international [communist](#) conspiracy.^{[10][11]} Trump, [The Proud Boys](#) and [QAnon](#) spread fake information on social media saying the election was rigged and stolen.^[12]

These allegations were not proven and were tossed out by many state and federal judges, election officials, governors, and government agencies.^[13]^[14] On December 1, 2020, [U.S. Attorney General William Barr](#) said U.S. attorneys and [FBI](#) agents had investigated complaints and allegations of fraud, but found none of significance.^{[15][16][17]} [Director of National Intelligence John Ratcliffe](#) said no evidence had been found of other countries trying to hack the election.^[18] [Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency](#) Director [Chris Krebs](#) called the election "the most secure in American history", which caused Trump to fire him.^[19] Trump attorney [Joseph diGenova](#) wanted Krebs to be [executed](#).^{[20][21][22]}

Response

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Many elected [Republicans](#), including members of Congress and governors, did not want to say that Biden won the election fairly.^[23] Many of Trump's supporters would protest the election results by chanting "Stop the Steal".^[24] [Emily Murphy](#), the administrator of the [General Services Administration](#), delayed the start of the presidential transition until sixteen days after most media outlets had called Biden the winner.^{[25][26]} Former Trump [National Security Advisor Michael Flynn](#) wanted Trump to suspend the [United States Constitution](#), force [martial law](#), silence the press, and hold a new election under military supervision.^[27]

Attempts

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

Trump [called](#) Georgia Secretary of State [Brad Raffensperger](#) to "find" enough votes to win [Georgia's electoral college](#)

A small group of Trump supporters, including Trump's [chief of staff](#), [Mark Meadows](#) and several Republican lawmakers from the House Freedom Caucus, tried to keep Trump in power. They wanted state legislatures to force a Trump win and change the electoral vote certification at the Capitol for favor Trump.^[28] Trump and his allies wanted state officials to throw out legally cast ballots, challenge vote-certification processes, and overturn election results.^[29] In an early January 2021 phone call, he [wanted the Georgia secretary of state](#) to "find" the 11,780 votes needed to win his victory in the state.^[30] He also wanted Georgia Governor [Brian Kemp](#) to create a special session of the legislature to overturn Biden's victory in the state. He wanted the [Pennsylvania](#) state government to do the same.^[31] Trump asked 300 Republican state legislators to look for ways to reverse the election results in their states.^{[32][33][34]}

Lawsuits

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Trump wanted [Justice Department](#) leaders to challenge the election results and publicly state the election was corrupt.^{[35][36]} His legal team wanted a path to bring a case before the [United States Supreme Court](#), but none of the 63 lawsuits they filed were successful.^{[37][38][39][40]} Many of these lawyers hoped that the [Texas v. Pennsylvania](#) would work, but on December 11, 2020, the Supreme Court said they would not hear that case.^[41]

Possible military action

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After the failure of *Texas*, Trump thought about a military intervention, taking voting machines and another appeal to the Supreme Court, as well as challenging the congressional counting of the electoral votes on January 6, 2021.^{[42][43][44]}

Electoral college certification

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On January 6, 2021, the day of the electoral college certification, Trump supporters [attacked](#) the [United States Capitol](#) to overturn the election results

By December 30, 2020, many Republican members of the House and Senate said they would try to force both chambers to debate whether to certify the [Electoral College](#) results.^{[45][46][47]} [Mike Pence](#), who as [vice president](#) would be in charge over the proceedings. He supported this by saying on January 4, "I promise you, come this Wednesday, we will have our day in Congress." Trump and some supporters promoted a false "Pence card" theory that, even if Congress were to certify the results, the vice president would have the power to reject them.^{[48][49][50]}

On the day of the electoral certification, supporters of Trump, [attacked](#) the [United States Capitol](#) to try to overturn the election, with some calling it an attempted [coup d'état](#).^{[51][52]} One week later, [Trump was impeached a second time](#) for [incitement of insurrection](#) but was acquitted by the Senate. Depending on the findings of the [House Select Committee on the January 6 Attack](#), which is expected to release its report in 2022, the [U.S. Department of Justice](#) may decide to investigate whether Trump committed a crime.^[53]

Aftermath

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After the vote certification, some Republicans changed their opinion to say Biden won the election.^{[54][55]} However, some continued to support Trump's claims.^{[56][57][58]} As of April 2022, Trump has publicly continued to insist that the election was stolen.^[59] Although Trump has said he lost the election to a group of historians in mid-2021, saying, "We had a deal all set [until the election was lost and] the deal went away."^[60] Trump supporters continue attempts to overturn the results, pushing for state legislature resolutions and new lawsuits.^[61]

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Donald Trump

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- [45th](#) and [President-elect of the United States](#) (2017–2021; *since 2024*)

Presidency

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- [Endorsements](#)

[Books](#)

- [Trump: The Art of the Deal](#) (1987)
- [Trump: Surviving at the Top](#) (1990)
- [Trump: The Art of the Comeback](#) (1997)
- [The America We Deserve](#) (2000)
- [Trump: How to Get Rich](#) (2004)
- [The Way to the Top](#) (2004)
- [Trump 101](#) (2006)
- [Why We Want You to Be Rich](#) (2006)
- [Think Big and Kick Ass](#) (2007)
- [Time to Get Tough](#) (2011)
- [Midas Touch](#) (2011)
- [Crippled America](#) (2015)

[Speeches](#)

- [first inaugural address](#) (2017)
- [Joint session of Congress](#) (2017)
- [Riyadh summit](#) (2017)
- [Warsaw speech](#) (2017)
- [National Scout Jamboree](#) (2017)
- [State of the Union Address](#)
 - [2018](#)
 - [2019](#)
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- [Oval Office address](#)
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- [Farewell address](#) (2021)
- [CPAC](#) (2021)

Campaigns

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Legal affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-2020 election • Post-election ◦ Arizona ◦ Georgia ◦ Michigan ◦ Nevada ◦ Pennsylvania ◦ Wisconsin ◦ Texas v. Pennsylvania • Carroll v. Trump • Trump v. United States (2022) • State prosecution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Georgia ◦ New York • Federal prosecution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ classified documents case ◦ election obstruction case • Trump mug shot • Trump v. United States (2024)
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