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Washington Post: Trump campaign commissioned research that failed to prove 2020 election fraud claims

By Kaanita Iyer, Jamie Gangel and Zachary Cohen, CNN Published 7:44 PM EST, Sat February 11, 2023



Alex Brandon/AP

FILE - Former President Donald Trump speaks at a campaign event at the South Carolina Statehouse on Saturday, Jan. 28, 2023, in Columbia, S.C. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon, File)

(CNN) — A research firm commissioned by former President <u>Donald Trump</u>'s 2020 campaign team to prove his electoral fraud claims instead failed to substantiate his theories, the Washington Post reported Saturday.

The Rerkeley Research Group was commissioned to look into voting data from six states



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While some anomalies and "unusual data patterns" were found, the Post reported, they wouldn't have made a difference to President Joe Biden's victory.

The firm's findings also refuted some of Trump's voting conspiracies, including the identities of <u>dead people used to vote</u> and <u>Dominion voting systems</u> used to manipulate the outcome, the paper reported.

The research was conducted in the last weeks of 2020 and before the January 6 US Capitol attack, according to the Post. Two sources told CNN that the House January 6 committee looking into the role Trump played in inciting the insurrection did not know about the firm's work.

Trump has continued to repeat his election lies as he focuses on his 2024 White House bid.

CNN <u>previously reported</u> that following two years of advice from allies and advisers to stop exhaustively relitigating the 2020 election, his first rally late last month showed an attempted forward-driven message of what he would aim to accomplish with a second term.

The former president has often pushed back on that advice, arguing that his message is strong enough as it is, and one source close to him told CNN his proclivity for focusing on the 2020 election will be tough to break because he still regularly hears from members of his base who believe so-called election integrity is an important talking point as he seeks reelection.

Another adviser said that despite the defeat of several Trump-backed midterm candidates who denied the legitimacy of the 2020 election, Trump has said he does not believe their losses were tied to their election lies.

CNN's Gabby Orr, Kristen Holmes, Kaitlan Collins and Kate Sullivan contributed to this report.



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