EXPLORVIA

The election, the attack and the money

Prepared 2026-09-12

The certified Electoral College result was 306 votes for Joe Biden and 232 for Donald Trump. Court records, public statements, congressional votes and financial disclosures document the challenges to the result and events surrounding January 6.

The certified result

The National Archives records the certified Electoral College result as 306 votes for Joe Biden and 232 for Donald Trump. Georgia's November 19, 2020 announcement said its statewide manual tally confirmed the winner and identified county reporting mistakes.

Sources: National Archives, 2020 Electoral College Results, Georgia Secretary of State, statewide manual audit announcement, November 19, 2020

The cited reporting describes Bruce Bartman pleading guilty to voting in his deceased mother's name for Trump.

Sources: Reporting on Bruce Bartman guilty plea and sentence

Court decisions

In Trump campaign v. Boockvar, appeal 20-3371, the Third Circuit's November 27, 2020 opinion stated that the operative case did not plead fraud. The court rejected the attempted amendment and statewide injunction concerning observation and ballot-curing treatment.

Sources: Third Circuit No. 20-3371, November 27, 2020

In Trump v. Wisconsin Elections Commission, appeal 20-3414, the Seventh Circuit's December 24, 2020 decision rejected a challenge to absentee-voting administration under the Electors Clause and addressed delay.

Sources: Seventh Circuit No. 20-3414, December 24, 2020

In Texas v. Pennsylvania, docket 22O155, the Supreme Court denied leave to file on December 11, 2020 for lack of standing. Alito and Thomas said they would allow filing but would not grant other relief.

Sources: Supreme Court docket 22O155

In Ward v. Jackson, CV2020-015285, the court reviewed signatures and duplicated ballots and rejected the election contest. The selected decision summaries appear below.

Sources: Ward v. Jackson

Statements, advice and electoral-certificate planning

Chapter 1 of the House committee report identifies campaign professionals, including Bill Stepien, who disputed public fraud allegations. The committee cites testimony and communications recording those exchanges.

Sources: January 6 Select Committee report, chapter 1

New York's July 2, 2024 disciplinary opinion in proceeding 2021-00506 sustained 16 charges against Rudy Giuliani and imposed disbarment. The opinion records knowing-falsehood findings and rejection of good-faith defenses; four charges were not sustained.

Sources: New York disbarment opinion, July 2, 2024, No. 2021-00506

Chapter 4 describes Jeffrey Clark's proposal to use Justice Department authority in election challenges and Scott Perry's role connecting Clark with the White House. Jeffrey Rosen and Richard Donoghue disputed the fraud premise.

Sources: January 6 Select Committee report, chapter 4

Chapter 3 describes roles for John Eastman, Kenneth Chesebro, Giuliani, Mark Meadows and Ronna McDaniel in electoral-certificate planning and pressure on the electoral count. McDaniel described assistance framed as contingent on successful litigation.

Sources: January 6 Select Committee report, chapter 3

Chapter 5 records Pence's refusal to accept the proposed unilateral rejection of electoral votes, Eastman's proposal and advice from Pence counsel Greg Jacob.

Sources: January 6 Select Committee report, chapter 5

Public invitations and event times

The archived December 19, 2020 post invited attendance in Washington on January 6. The December 27 post repeated the invitation. On January 3, Trump retweeted a post about peaceful protests and body cameras, announced his attendance and retweeted Amy Kremer's Ellipse announcement. On January 5, he announced an 11 a.m. Ellipse speech for the following day.

Sources: Archived Trump tweets: december-19-2020, Archived Trump tweets: december-27-2020, Archived Trump tweets: january-3-2021, Archived Trump tweets: january-5-2021

The committee timeline places the speech's start around noon, the first outer-perimeter breach around 12:53 p.m. and the speech's end around 1:10 p.m. Times are Eastern Standard Time.

Sources: January 6 Select Committee report, chapter 7, January 6 Select Committee report, chapter 8

The committee reports a December 22 message from Kelly Meggs referring to Trump's invitation, describing the event as a call to make it wild and urging travel. The same chapter records organizing before the invitation.

Sources: January 6 Select Committee report, chapter 6

January 6 communications and subsequent proceedings

The committee timeline records Trump's criticism of Pence at 2:24 p.m., a peaceful message at 2:38 p.m., another nonviolence message at 3:13 p.m. and the go-home video at 4:17 p.m. It also records messages from allies and family requesting stronger intervention.

Sources: January 6 Select Committee report, chapter 7

Contemporary reporting records May 2023 seditious-conspiracy convictions for Enrique Tarrio, Ethan Nordean, Joseph Biggs and Zachary Rehl. Dominic Pezzola was acquitted of that charge and convicted of other offenses.

Sources: The Guardian, reporting on Proud Boys verdicts, May 4, 2023

The January 20, 2025 proclamation commuted 14 named defendants' sentences, pardoned other covered convicted defendants and directed dismissal of pending covered indictments.

Sources: January 20, 2025 January 6 clemency proclamation

The speech transcript

The preserved AP transcript reproduced by NPR includes “peacefully and patriotically make your voices heard” and, later, “We fight like hell.” The stored speech paragraphs contain 14 occurrences of “fight,” four of “fighting,” two of “fights” and one of “peacefully.” The count includes Trump’s speech text and excludes audience speech and introductory editorial text.

Sources: Trump Ellipse speech, January 6, 2021; AP transcript reproduced by NPR

Money before January 6

The Washington Post reported $300,000 from Julie Fancelli to Women for America First on December 29, 2020. Separate reporting described approximately $150,000 to the Rule of Law Defense Fund. Guilfoyle disputed the reported fundraising account through counsel.

Sources: Washington Post: Fancelli contributions, Vanity Fair: reporting on rally fundraising

The robocall transcript identifies RLDF as payer and authorizer and advertises an Ellipse gathering followed by a 1 p.m. march to the Capitol. RAGA denied involvement in organizing the event and condemned violence.

Sources: Documented: RLDF robocall and responses, RLDF robocall audio hosting

The committee described a planned mobilization budget of approximately $3 million coordinated by Caroline Wren with Fancelli. Listed components included $500,000 for Tea Party Express buses and advertising and $500,000 for Women for America First and Alex Jones organizational efforts.

Sources: January 6 Select Committee report, chapter 6

Public support appeals afterward

Defending the Republic’s message signed Sidney describes assistance to lawyers representing January 6 defendants and cites legal representation and treatment in custody as its rationale. The message denies involvement in the attack and says people who assaulted officers or damaged property should be held accountable. It also makes orchestration allegations.

Sources: Defending the Republic: message signed Sidney

Patriot Freedom Project solicits donations for legal resources, family support and advocacy. Its site claims a Trump endorsement and advertises an auction allocation for affected families. The linked giving form offers one-time, monthly and yearly payments.

Sources: Patriot Freedom Project donation appeals, Patriot Freedom Project linked giving form

Founder Cynthia Hughes describes a relative’s case as the impetus for her advocacy.

Sources: Patriot Freedom Project: founder account

Organizational financial records

The IRS-derived summaries for Defending the Republic, EIN 85-3930804, report annual contributions, revenue, expenses and net assets for fiscal years ending in November. The table below uses nominal dollars.

Sources: Defending the Republic: IRS-derived financial data

The 2021 summary flags a reported significant diversion of assets. Later summaries flag interested-party transactions.

Sources: Defending the Republic: IRS-derived financial data

The IRS-derived Hughes Advocacy Foundation record, EIN 87-2028907, lists Cynthia Hughes and, in the reviewed earlier years, Ed Martin. Its 2021-2023 financial extracts are retained in the database.

Sources: Hughes Advocacy Foundation: IRS-derived financial data

Defending the Republic: annual IRS-derived figures; fiscal year ending November

Year	Contributions	Total revenue	Total expenses	Net assets
2021	$16,390,340	$16,397,192	$7,985,340	$8,411,852
2022	$1,192,541	$1,305,332	$4,538,898	$5,178,186
2023	$938,139	$1,129,202	$2,690,955	$3,616,433
2024	$3,623,663	$3,796,594	$4,447,908	$2,965,119

Later political committee spending

The January 6 committee's financial appendix reports later spending by Save America and MAGA PAC. The table identifies each reported payer, recipient, amount, period and description.

Sources: January 6 Select Committee final report

Amounts reported in the January 6 committee's financial appendix

Payer → recipient	Reported amount	Period and description
Save America → Event Strategies	More than $10.6 million	Later vendor spending; the vendor also staged the January 6 rally
Save America → legal consulting firms	More than $2.1 million	January 2021-June 2022; legal consulting
Save America → America First Policy Institute	$1 million	Organizational donation
Save America → Conservative Partnership Institute	$1 million	Organizational donation
Save America → Trump Hotel Collection and Mar-a-Lago	More than $327,000	Grouped property payments
MAGA PAC → 2M Document Management & Imaging	Almost $1 million	March-May 2021; committee described a recount-account purpose discrepancy involving COVID-subcommittee document work

Hutchinson, Passantino and legal representation

Hutchinson described concerns about her lawyer, Stefan Passantino, and support from Trump's circle. Passantino denied coaching falsehoods. Hutchinson's account also included his instruction not to lie.

Sources: Lawfare: Hutchinson account and Passantino response

The December 2024 Republican oversight report disputes the initial account and reports dismissal of ethics complaints.

Sources: House Administration Oversight Subcommittee, interim report, December 17, 2024

Agency findings and competing public accounts

DOJ OIG report 25-011 reported no evidence of undercover FBI employees in the protest crowds or at the Capitol. It identified 26 confidential sources in Washington: four entered the Capitol and 13 additional sources entered restricted grounds. The report said none was authorized to commit illegal acts or directed to encourage them. It also identified an intelligence-canvassing failure.

Sources: DOJ OIG report 25-011, December 2024

The House committee's records describe Pelosi seeking assistance during the attack. The cited White House account accuses Democratic leadership and criticizes the committee.

Sources: January 6 Select Committee report, chapter 7, White House, January 6 account, accessed September 10, 2026

The December 2024 Republican oversight report disputes accounts of National Guard delays, record preservation and testimony. It says agents and Anthony Ornato contradicted Hutchinson's motorcade account and makes accusations against Liz Cheney and investigators.

Sources: House Administration Oversight Subcommittee, interim report, December 17, 2024

Committee nominations and congressional votes

Pelosi rejected McCarthy's nominations of Jim Jordan and Jim Banks. She offered to accept Troy Nehls, Rodney Davis and Kelly Armstrong; McCarthy withdrew the slate. Jordan's election-strategy contacts appear in the committee report. Banks publicly criticized the committee. Nehls supported the Arizona and Pennsylvania objections; Davis and Armstrong opposed both.

Sources: January 6 Select Committee final report, House roll call 010, House roll call 011

The four roll-call files contain 1,060 voting records. Across the objections, 147 members supported at least one objection.

Sources: House roll call 010, House roll call 011, Senate roll call 00001, Senate roll call 00002

In Trump v. Thompson, 21A272, on January 19, 2022, Thomas alone noted that he would grant the requested stay of records release.

Sources: Trump v. Thompson, 21A272, January 19, 2022

Legal aftermath

Trump v. United States, 23-939, July 1, 2024, recognized absolute immunity for conduct within exclusive constitutional authority and at least presumptive immunity for other official acts, while excluding unofficial acts.

Sources: Trump v. United States, 23-939, July 1, 2024

Fischer v. United States, 23-5572, June 28, 2024, narrowed application of 18 USC 1512(c)(2) to conduct affecting the availability or integrity of evidence or other things used in an official proceeding.

Sources: Fischer v. United States, 23-5572, June 28, 2024

The cited AP reporting describes the federal election prosecution ending without trial after Trump's 2024 reelection under the Justice Department's position against prosecuting a sitting president.

Sources: Associated Press, reporting on prosecution aftermath, July 13, 2025

Selected court-decision summaries

Bowyer v. Ducey

Jurisdiction: AZ

Docket: 2:20-cv-02321

Decision date: 2020-12-09

Parties: Republican elector plaintiffs; not Trump personally

Claim: Election outcome challenged using machine manipulation and illegal-vote allegations.

Court record: Court addressed affidavits and statistical allegations, including vote-reporting spikes; found speculative inferences and evidentiary deficiencies.

Decision: Emergency relief rejected; jurisdiction, delay and pleading/evidentiary deficiencies are distinct grounds.

Legal basis: Article III standing; laches; Rule 9(b); requested equitable relief.

Sources: Bowyer v. Ducey

Ward v. Jackson

Jurisdiction: AZ

Docket: CV2020-015285

Decision date: 2020-12-04

Parties: Kelli Ward, Republican elector/party leader

Claim: Contest sought to overturn Arizona presidential result based on signatures and ballot duplication.

Court record: The court reported inspection of 100 signature envelopes and 1,626 duplicate ballots. It reported nine duplication errors and found no forgery, intentional fraud or error sufficient to change the result.

Decision: The court rejected the election contest after reviewing the evidence.

Legal basis: Arizona election-contest law and burden to establish grounds for relief.

Sources: Ward v. Jackson

In re Enforcement of Election Laws (Chatham)

Jurisdiction: GA

Docket: SPCV20-00982

Decision date: 2020-11-05

Parties: Trump campaign and Georgia Republican Party

Claim: 53 ballots allegedly received after the deadline were mixed with timely ballots.

Court record: The court found that witness observations did not show that the questioned ballots arrived after the statutory deadline.

Decision: The court denied relief after a hearing.

Legal basis: Georgia receipt deadline and evidentiary burden.

Sources: In re: Enforcement of Election Laws

Wood v. Raffensperger (federal)

Jurisdiction: GA

Docket: 1:20-cv-04651

Decision date: 2020-11-19

Parties: L. Lin Wood as voter/plaintiff

Claim: Georgia signature-verification settlement and election procedures allegedly unlawful.

Court record: The court considered a legal and constitutional challenge to election procedures.

Decision: Preliminary relief denied; standing, delay and legal merits addressed.

Legal basis: Article III standing; laches; equal protection; election procedure.

Sources: Wood v. Raffensperger

Pearson v. Kemp

Jurisdiction: GA

Docket: 1:20-cv-04809

Decision date: 2020-12-04

Parties: Republican elector plaintiffs

Claim: Broad machine and election-fraud allegations accompanied requests to preserve voting machines and block certification.

Court record: The appellate decision concerns an interlocutory appeal and procedural jurisdiction.

Decision: The Eleventh Circuit dismissed the interlocutory appeal for lack of jurisdiction.

Legal basis: Appellate jurisdiction and interlocutory review.

Sources: Pearson v. Kemp

Boland v. Raffensperger

Jurisdiction: GA

Docket: 2020CV343018

Decision date: 2020-12-08

Parties: John Boland, voter plaintiff

Claim: Georgia presidential election contest.

Court record: The reviewed ruling concerned proper parties, service and statutory contest requirements.

Decision: Dismissed on procedural grounds.

Legal basis: Georgia election-contest procedure.

Sources: Boland v. Raffensperger

Trump v. Raffensperger

Jurisdiction: GA

Docket: 2020CV343255

Decision date: 2020-12-12

Parties: Donald Trump as plaintiff

Claim: Trump sought expedited Georgia Supreme Court intervention in his state election contest.

Court record: No final trial judgment was before the Supreme Court in the reviewed application.

Decision: The court denied the emergency application in S21M0561.

Legal basis: Appellate jurisdiction and extraordinary relief.

Sources: Trump v. Raffensperger

Costantino v. City of Detroit

Jurisdiction: MI

Docket: 20-014780-AW

Decision date: 2020-11-13

Parties: Republican poll challengers

Claim: Detroit absentee processing, backdating and repeated counting allegations; sought injunction and audit.

Court record: Court evaluated affidavits, including Melissa Carone and Jessy Jacob, against election officials' explanations and found the allegations insufficiently credible or corroborated for requested relief.

Decision: The court denied a preliminary injunction.

Legal basis: Preliminary-injunction requirements; evidence credibility and irreparable harm.

Sources: Costantino v. City of Detroit

Donald J. Trump for President v. Benson (state)

Jurisdiction: MI

Docket: 20-000225-MZ

Decision date: 2020-11-06

Parties: Trump campaign

Claim: Campaign sought to halt Michigan counting over observer access and alleged backdating.

Court record: Jessy Connarn affidavit relayed an unnamed worker's statement; court treated this as inadmissible hearsay and found no adequate connection to Secretary Benson.

Decision: Emergency relief denied.

Legal basis: Hearsay; preliminary relief; authority of the named defendant.

Sources: Donald J. Trump for President, Inc. v. Benson

King v. Whitmer

Jurisdiction: MI

Docket: 2:20-cv-13134

Decision date: 2020-12-07

Parties: Republican elector plaintiffs

Claim: Michigan election result attacked with machine manipulation and voting irregularity allegations.

Court record: The court reviewed affidavits, statistical assertions and allegations and denied the requested emergency remedy.

Decision: The court denied emergency relief on threshold and evidentiary grounds.

Legal basis: Standing; laches; federalism; equitable relief.

Sources: King v. Whitmer

Stoddard v. City Election Commission of Detroit

Jurisdiction: MI

Docket: 20-014604-CZ

Decision date: 2020-11-06

Parties: Republican challengers

Claim: Detroit election access and processing challenged; sought emergency relief.

Court record: Court considered allegations and officials' responses and found insufficient evidence to justify intervention.

Decision: Requested preliminary relief denied.

Legal basis: Preliminary-injunction requirements.

Sources: Stoddard v. City Election Commission of the City of Detroit

Donald J. Trump for President v. Boockvar (middle district)

Jurisdiction: PA

Docket: 4:20-cv-02078

Decision date: 2020-11-27

Parties: Trump campaign

Claim: Unequal ballot-curing opportunities and observer access; requested relief affecting statewide certification.

Court record: The Third Circuit stated that the campaign did not plead a fraud claim in the operative case. It rejected the asserted equal-protection injury and request for statewide relief.

Decision: The appellate court affirmed denial of leave to amend and injunctive relief.

Legal basis: Equal protection; standing; pleading sufficiency; amendment and equitable remedy.

Sources: Third Circuit No. 20-3371, November 27, 2020

Trump v. Wisconsin Elections Commission

Jurisdiction: WI

Docket: 2:20-cv-01785

Decision date: 2020-12-24

Parties: Donald Trump as plaintiff

Claim: Wisconsin administration allegedly departed from legislative rules governing electors.

Court record: The challenge concerned absentee-voting procedures.

Decision: Seventh Circuit affirmed rejection; merits and unreasonable delay addressed.

Legal basis: Electors Clause; laches; state administration under state law.

Sources: Seventh Circuit No. 20-3414, December 24, 2020

Texas v. Pennsylvania

Jurisdiction: US

Docket: 22O155

Decision date: 2020-12-11

Parties: Texas plaintiff; Trump proposed intervenor

Claim: Texas sought to challenge four other states' presidential election administration; Trump sought intervention.

Court record: The Supreme Court considered the request for leave to file the case.

Decision: Leave to file denied for lack of Article III standing. Alito and Thomas would allow filing but expressly would not grant other relief and expressed no view on other issues.

Legal basis: Article III standing; original jurisdiction.

Sources: Supreme Court docket 22O155

Additional case inventory

Additional litigation entries in the saved collection

Case	Jurisdiction	Docket
Aguilera v. Fontes (first action)	AZ	CV2020-014083
Aguilera v. Fontes (second action)	AZ	CV2020-014562

Case	Jurisdiction	Docket
Arizona Republican Party v. Fontes	AZ	CV2020-014553
Burk v. Ducey	AZ	CV2020-01869
Stevenson v. Ducey	AZ	CV2020-096490
Donald J. Trump for President v. Hobbs	AZ	CV2020-014248
Brooks v. Mahoney	GA	4:20-cv-00281
Wood v. Raffensperger (state)	GA	2020CV342959
Still v. Raffensperger	GA	2020CV343711
Wood v. Raffensperger (runoff)	GA	1:20-cv-05155
Trump v. Kemp	GA	1:20-cv-05310
Favorito v. Cooney	GA	2020CV343938
Bailey v. Antrim County	MI	2020-9238-CZ
Bally v. Whitmer	MI	1:20-cv-01088
Donald J. Trump for President v. Benson (federal)	MI	1:20-cv-01083
Johnson v. Benson (state)	MI	162286
Johnson v. Benson (federal)	MI	1:20-cv-01098
Kraus v. Cegavske	NV	20 OC 00142 1B
Election Integrity Project of Nevada v. Nevada	NV	A-20-820510-C
Stokke v. Cegavske	NV	2:20-cv-02046
Becker v. Gloria	NV	A-20-824878-W
Law v. Whitmer	NV	20 OC 00163 1B
Donald J. Trump for President v. Cegavske	NV	2:20-cv-01445
Rodimer v. Gloria	NV	A-20-825130-W
Becker v. Cannizzaro	NV	A-20-825067-P
Marchant v. Gloria	NV	A-20-824884-W
Donald J. Trump for President v. Gloria	NV	A-20-824153-C
Donald J. Trump for President v. Boockvar (western district)	PA	2:20-cv-00966

Case	Jurisdiction	Docket
Republican Party of Pennsylvania v. Degraffenreid	PA	407 MD 2020; 133 MM 2020
Donald J. Trump for President v. Philadelphia Board (satellite offices)	PA	200902035
In re November 3, 2020 General Election (signature comparison)	PA	149 MM 2020
Bognet v. Secretary Commonwealth	PA	3:20-cv-00215
In re Canvassing Observation	PA	201107003; 30 EAP 2020
Hamm v. Boockvar	PA	600 MD 2020
Donald J. Trump for President v. Boockvar (ID deadline)	PA	602 MD 2020
Donald J. Trump for President v. Philadelphia Board (federal observers)	PA	2:20-cv-05533
Donald J. Trump for President v. Montgomery County Board	PA	2020-18680
Barnette v. Lawrence	PA	2:20-cv-05477
In re Canvass of Absentee and Mail-In Ballots (Bucks)	PA	20-05786-35
Pirkle v. Wolf	PA	4:20-cv-02088
In re Philadelphia absentee ballots (five consolidated appeals)	PA	201100874-201100878; 31-35 EAP 2020
In re Allegheny 2,349 ballots	PA	GD20-011654; 29 WAP 2020
In re Allegheny 270 provisional ballots	PA	GD20-011793; 338 WAL 2020
Kelly v. Commonwealth	PA	620 MD 2020; 68 MAP 2020
Metcalfe v. Wolf	PA	636 MD 2020
Langenhorst v. Pecore	WI	1:20-cv-01701
Wisconsin Voters Alliance v. Wisconsin Elections Commission	WI	2020AP1930-OA
Mueller v. Jacobs	WI	2020AP1958-OA
Feehan v. Wisconsin Elections Commission	WI	2:20-cv-01771
Trump v. Evers	WI	2020AP1971-OA
Trump v. Biden	WI	2020CV7092; 2020CV2514; 2020AP2038

The case inventory is recorded in the cited state case tables.

Sources: Lost, Not Stolen (July 2022), state case tables