



COUP II:

***DONALD TRUMP AND MAGA REPUBLICANS
ARE PLANNING TO TRASH OUR DEMOCRACY
IF THEY LOSE. AGAIN.***

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Coup II: Donald Trump and MAGA Republicans Are Planning to Trash Our Democracy if They Lose. Again.

Before, during, and after the 2020 presidential election, Donald Trump and MAGA Republicans pushed the Big Lie that the election was not conducted freely or fairly. After refusing to accept the election results, they spread lies and conspiracy theories relentlessly to sow doubt in the democratic process, which eventually culminated in the violent attack on the Capitol and the effort to overturn the will of the American people on January 6, 2021. Trump and his MAGA allies attempted to seize power by subverting our democracy in illegal and violent ways.

Make no mistake – they are now doubling down on these efforts. MAGA Republicans are planning in broad daylight their second attempted coup, and our democracy and freedoms are at stake. The second attempted coup is already underway, following the very same tactics and with even more authoritarian and lawless rhetoric.

The MAGA Republican Steps to Coup 2.0:

Step 1: Trump and His MAGA Allies Are Already Refusing To Commit To Accept Results of The Election

Step 2: Trump and MAGA Republicans Continue To Push The Big Lie That Trump Won In 2020

Step 3: Trump and MAGA Republicans Are Already Seeding Doubts About Integrity of 2024

Step 4: The MAGA Supreme Court Will Not Stop Coup 2.0

Step 1: Trump and His MAGA Allies Are Already Refusing To Commit To Accept Results of The Election

Refusing to commit to accepting election results was the first step in Donald Trump’s election denier playbook that led to the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol complex on January 6, 2021. Now, refusing to accept free and fair election results is a clear litmus test for any Republican running to secure MAGA support. [Trump](#) himself, his running mate, and MAGA Republicans in general are already refusing to commit to accepting election results months ahead of the 2024 presidential election.

Trump’s Running Mate Senator J.D. Vance (R-OH) Said He Would Only Accept the Election Results If He Thinks It’s A Free and Fair Election. During a CNN interview before he was selected as Trump’s running mate, Vance told reporters, “I think that Donald Trump will be the victor. And if it’s a free and fair election, Dana, I think every Republican will enthusiastically accept the results. And again, I think those results will show that Donald Trump has been elected president, reelected president. I think that this question though, it’s interesting, Dana. Because we have to be willing, as Democrats did in 2000, as Democrats have done in the past, and certainly as Republicans did in 2020, is if you think there were problems, you have to be willing to pursue those problems and try to prosecute your case. And certainly, if we have a free and fair election, I’ll accept the results.” [CNN, ‘State of the Union’, 5/12/24, [VIDEO](#)]

- **Vance Would Have Supported Fake Elector Slates If He Was Vice President In 2020.** During an ABC interview before he was selected as Trump’s running mate, Vance [said](#), “If I had been vice president, I would have told the states, like Pennsylvania, Georgia, and so many others, that we needed to have multiple slates of electors and I think the US Congress should have fought over it from there. That is the legitimate way to deal with an election that a lot of folks, including me, think had a lot of problems in 2020. I think that’s what we should have done.” Republican and former Rep. Liz Cheney (R-WY) even [said](#) “Vance has pledged he would do what Mike Pence wouldn’t - overturn an election and illegally seize power.”

Top Republican Officials Are Refusing To Commit To Accepting Election Results.

With Trump himself already refusing to accept the 2024 presidential election results [unless](#) he thinks “everything’s honest,” top Republican officials are following his lead, breaking with democratic norms and refusing to commit to honoring the outcome unconditionally.

- **Senator Tim Scott (R-SC) Refused To Say He Would Unconditionally Accept The Election Results: “The 47th President Will Be Donald Trump.”** When asked whether he would accept the results of the 2024 presidential election regardless of the outcome, Scott responded, “At the end of the day, the 47th president of the United

States will be President Donald Trump,” explicitly declining to answer simply “yes” or “no.” [NBC News, ‘Meet the Press’, 5/5/24, [VIDEO](#)]

- **Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) Said He Would Not Accept The Election Results Unconditionally.** When asked if he would commit to accepting the 2024 presidential election results, Rubio responded: “No matter what happens? No. If it’s an unfair election, I think it’s going to be contested ... by either side.” [NBC News, ‘Meet the Press’, 5/19/24, [VIDEO](#)]
- **Senator Ron Johnson (R-WI) Refused To Unconditionally Accept The Election Results: “That’s An Impossible Hypothetical To Answer.”** “We have to see exactly what happens. Yeah, that’s an impossible hypothetical to answer. If there are all kinds of abuses, we might have to start questioning those abuses, might have to investigate them. I certainly want to (accept the results). [The Capital Times, [5/19/24](#)]
- **House GOP Conference Chair Elise Stefanik (R-NY) Refused To Accept The Election Results Unless She Thinks They’re “Constitutional.** Stefanik told reporters that she would only accept the election results if “constitutional,” just after saying that the 2020 election was not. [Axios, [5/12/24](#)]
 - **Stefanik Would Not Have Certified The 2020 Election Results.** “I would not have done what Mike Pence did. I don’t think that was the right approach.” [CNN, ‘The Source’, 2/12/24, [VIDEO](#)]
- **Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) Said He Would Only Accept The Election Results If He Thought There Was “No Massive Cheating.”** “Yeah, I’ll accept them if I think, you know, there’s no massive cheating.” [NBC News, ‘Meet the Press’, 5/12/24, [VIDEO](#)]
- **Rep. Byron Donalds (R-FL) Suggested He Would Decline To Certify Election Results As Vice President.** When asked if he would certify the election results as Vice President in 2028, Donalds responded, “If you have state officials who are violating the election law in their states...then no, I would not.” [Axios, [3/7/24](#)]
- **Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX): It “Would Be Absurd” To Accept The Results of The Election Unconditionally.** When asked whether he would accept the results of the 2024 election regardless of the outcome, Cruz responded, “I think that’s actually a ridiculous question. So you’re asking, ‘Will you promise, no matter what, to agree an election is legitimate regardless of what happens?’, and that would be an absurd thing to claim. Like, we have an entire election law system: that people challenge elections,

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elections get overturned, voter fraud gets proven. That happens all the time.” [CNN, ‘The Source’, 5/23/24, [VIDEO](#)]

Step 2: Trump and MAGA Republicans Continue To Push The Big Lie That Trump Won In 2020

Throughout the 2020 election cycle, MAGA Republicans pushed the Big Lie that culminated in the Capitol insurrection on January 6th. But it didn't end there and then – MAGA Republicans continue to amplify the criminal conspiracy at their heart of January 6th to this day, baselessly insisting that Donald Trump won the 2020 election and fraudulently rewriting the history of the Capitol insurrection.

Trump's Running Mate J.D. Vance Has Always Embraced The Big Lie. Ever since he was endorsed by Trump in 2022, Vance has [embraced](#) the false conspiracy theory that the 2020 election was stolen. Vance has claimed that there was [massive fraud](#) in the 2020 presidential election, including in Ohio, a state that Trump won by nearly 10 points. “There were certainly people voting illegally on a large-scale basis,” Vance claimed. Asked about the supposed massive fraud in Ohio, Vance said: “I think it's probably true that Trump won by a larger margin in Ohio.” Asked by Spectrum News if he felt the election was “stolen,” Vance said, “Yeah, I do. I mean, look, I think the fundamental problem is we had a massive effort to shift the election by very powerful people in this country. I don't care whether you say it's rigged, whether you say it's stolen, like I'll say what I'm going to say about it.” In an [op-ed](#) published with Arizona Senate candidate and fellow election conspiracy theorist Blake Masters, Vance called for more “audits” of the 2020 election and accused “oligarchs” and Democratic groups of doing “everything they could to steal an election.” He's also [echoed](#) “Deep State” conspiracy theories about Trump.

- **Vance Still Refuses To Call January 6 An Insurrection.** Like Trump, Vance has worked to rewrite the history of January 6 and rehabilitate those who attempted to overturn a free and fair election. Vance [said](#) that calling the January 6 attack on the Capitol an “insurrection” is the “dumbest thing in the world.”
- **Vance Called The QAnon Shaman, A Famous January 6 Insurrectionist, A “Fun Guy To Have A Beer With.”** In 2023, during a speech Vance openly embraced infamous January 6 participant Jacob Chansley, better known as the ‘QAnon Shaman’. He is a [well-known](#) conspiracy theorist in [far-right circles](#). On January 6, Chansley stormed the Capitol [wearing](#) animal horns and face paint and was later [charged](#) with over three years of prison time. Vance suggested he should've gotten a shorter prison sentence, [telling](#) a MAGA crowd: “He looked like he'd be a fun guy to have a beer with.”
- **Vance Wrote The Forward To A Book Praising January 6 Insurrectionists.** As Mother Jones [reported](#), “Vance endorsed a new book co-written by a far-right conspiracy-monger that calls progressives “unhumans” and claims they are waging an ‘Irregular Communist Revolution’ against American civilization. [...] Vance apparently found this Manichean view worthy of his endorsement, and he provided a blurb that

Posobiec and Lisee have used to peddle their volume. [...] Vance's thumbs-up to Unhumans is an indicator of how deep his roots are within the conspiratorial alt-right." The book also spreads conspiracy theories about the January 6 insurrection, describing it as a "lawfare trap" that was supposedly peaceful until guards "fired on the peaceful crowd with nonlethal munitions and flash-bangs." They wrote that the "insurrection hoax was used to begin a purge of Trump supporters from the military and

Top MAGA Republicans Continue To Say That Trump Won In 2020. MAGA House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) said he has "[no regrets](#)" about voting against certifying the 2020 election on January 6th, telling a reporter, "I would do the exact same thing today if the circumstances were presented." In the Senate, John Cornyn (R-TX), a top Republican vying to replace Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY) as the chamber's GOP leader, [continues](#) to rail against unidentified "irregularities" without any evidence, telling reporters, "I'll inspect the final judgment of the court if there's any kind of contest...I think it's still an issue." In addition, the Republican National Committee [selected](#) at least 17 people who submitted themselves as fake electors for Trump in 2020, including several who are facing criminal prosecution, as delegates for the 2024 GOP convention.

Trump and MAGA Republicans Are Rewriting the History Of January 6th To Downplay Threats To Democracy. Trump and MAGA Republicans are desperate to downplay the single greatest threat to our democracy in recent history: the Capitol insurrection on January 6th. Ever since, Republicans have been [rewriting](#) the history of the violent insurrection.

- After winning control of the House of Representatives, MAGA Republicans in the House [visited](#) Jan. 6 defendants in a D.C. jail, expressing solidarity with their cause. Far-right Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA) even called them "[political prisoners](#)."
- Trump has called insurrectionists "[great people](#)," praising the rioters as having "spirit and faith and love, there was such love at that rally," and painting them as [martyrs](#). He has labeled Jan. 6 defendants "[hostages](#)," [released](#) a tribute song with a "J6 Prison Choir," and [saluted](#) their cause at campaign events, promising he will "very, very seriously" consider [pardoning](#) Jan. 6-related charges.
- MAGA House Republicans introduced a [resolution](#) sponsored by 65 House Republicans – [around 30 percent](#) of the House GOP caucus – declaring that Trump [supposedly](#) "did not engage in insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or give aid or comfort to the enemies thereof."
- Republicans have refused to hold accountable the violent insurrectionists who stormed the Capitol and are [elevating](#) the very insurrectionists directly involved in the riot.

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- An insurrectionist won a seat on the Republican National Committee just a few weeks ago.
- House GOP leadership recently [elevated](#) Rep. Scott Perry – currently [under FBI investigation](#) for his role in January 6th – to a position on the House Intelligence Committee, which has [oversight powers](#) over the FBI, within the past few weeks alone.

Step 3: Trump and MAGA Republicans Are Already Seeding Doubts About Integrity of 2024

MAGA Republican election denialism has only gotten worse since 2020. According to States United Democracy Center, [170 election deniers](#) are currently serving as members of Congress — a whopping 64 percent of Congressional Republicans. In the 2022 midterm elections, Trump surrogates and Republicans across the country created an extensive network of election-denying lawyers and poll watchers, chiefly operating in key states like Arizona, Nevada, Wisconsin, Georgia, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania. They [pushed](#) for laws making it harder to vote. They engaged in [voter intimidation tactics](#), staking out ballot drop boxes and [challenging](#) hundreds of thousands of voter registrations. They targeted election officials in low-profile positions, inciting threats and harassment against local governments.

And now, Republicans are [doing it all again](#) in 2024.

Trump Told Supporters “You Won’t Have To Vote Anymore” In Four Years If They Reelect Him. Trump is already saying the quiet part out loud about his intentions in 2024. During a Florida event with right-wing group Turning Point Action, he [told](#) an audience: “You have to get out and vote. You won’t have to do it anymore. Four years, it will be fixed, it will be fine. You won’t have to vote anymore... In four years, you won’t have to vote again.” Just one day earlier, Trump had already [insinuated](#) that he would seize power and undermine our democracy on Fox News, telling a panel, “My instruction -- we don't need the votes. I have so many votes.”

Trump Has Already Accused Democrats of A Stolen Election More Than 500 Times Throughout the 2024 Election Cycle. Trump and MAGA Republicans never stopped pushing the Big Lie. Trump has continued to stand behind the very falsehoods that formed the basis of his criminal conspiracy to overturn the 2020 election. As of May, Trump has falsely accused Democrats of “trying to ‘rig,’ ‘cheat,’ ‘steal’ or otherwise ‘influence’ the next election – or of having done so in 2020” [more than 500 times](#) during the 2024 election cycle. By sowing doubt in the legitimacy of the results before the election even takes place, Trump and his allies are laying the groundwork to attack and reject any outcome in which he is not victorious. This is all part of Trump’s “heads I win, tails you cheated” approach to the election.

Trump’s Running Mate: Democrats Are Preemptively Stealing The 2024 Election. Even before he was selected as Trump’s running mate, Sen. J.D. Vance was posting conspiracy theories about the 2024 presidential election, [writing](#), “Biden is attacking his most likely 2024 opponent. He’s using the justice system to preemptively steal the 2024 election. This is what’s happening, plain and simple.”

Republicans Are Pushing The Big Lie AGAIN Ahead of the Election. Like Trump, top Republicans in Congress are [pushing](#) the Big Lie again in 2024, repeating Trump’s lies about a stolen election. As noted above, [170 election deniers](#) are currently serving as members of

Congress, and MAGA Republicans are already trying to block election results they disagree with during the primaries. MAGA [election-denying](#) incumbent Rep. Bob Good (R-VA), for example, [tried to block certification](#) of his GOP primary after his right-wing challenger received more votes.

Trump and MAGA Republicans Are Preemptively Pushing New Election

Conspiracy Theories To Undermine Its Legitimacy. After the 2020 election, courts, policymakers, and commentators alike called out the dangerous MAGA efforts to delegitimize the election. Rather than reverting to the nation’s more-than-200-year history of norms and laws that have governed the peaceful transfer of power, Republicans are now doubling and tripling down on even more lies and more extreme conspiracy theories. This cycle, Republicans are pushing a whole new set of lies and conspiracy theories designed to sow doubt in the legitimacy of the 2024 election before it even takes place.

- For months, former President Trump and his MAGA Republican allies have been [pushing a widely debunked lie](#) characterized as “far-right rhetoric detached from reality” about non-citizens voting in federal elections.
- Now, Trump’s closest allies in Congress are [moving legislation](#) to bar non-citizens from voting in federal elections – even though it is already illegal, and there is absolutely no evidence that non-citizens have voted in federal races.
- They are also pushing other conspiracy theories about local election reforms, with MAGA Republicans pushing states to [ban ranked-choice voting](#), claiming the system “disenfranchises voters.”
- They have also [relentlessly attacked](#) the Election Registration Information Center (ERIC), a system many states use to [coordinate](#) the accuracy of voter rolls, particularly when voters move across state lines.

Trump, MAGA Republicans, and His Nepotism-Led RNC Chair Are Already Hiring Lawyers And Poll Watchers To Challenge Election Results.

Five months before the election, the Republican National Committee – [led by Trump’s daughter-in-law](#) – has [reportedly](#) already begun assembling lawyers and volunteers to prepare for lawsuits challenging the election results, installing 13 state directors of so-called election integrity to host training sessions with state and county party officials in key swing states, including Pennsylvania, Arizona, and Wisconsin, and contracting with 13 in-state counsels to help identify local litigation opportunities. Trump has built a [sprawling network](#) and recently released [plans](#) to jointly [hire and deploy](#) 100,000 poll watchers and observers at election precincts – in addition to [targeting](#) voter rolls. Republicans deployed a similar network in 2022, and experts have [expressed serious concerns](#) in the past that MAGA poll watchers could erode trust and undermine faith in the electoral process by spreading disinformation or violating local regulations.

Trump and His Allies Are Scheming With Local Election Deniers To Contest The Election Results. Election deniers now [hold statewide office](#) in 19 states, and [untold numbers](#) serve as local elections officials. A recent study by Public Wise [found](#) that 334 public officials in 5 swing states have recently undermined or cast doubt on elections. Since November 2020, local Republican elections officials in [eight states](#) have refused to certify election results in at least 15 instances. Republicans have filed dozens of election-related lawsuits in 25 states during this election cycle already, including some seeking to prevent states from counting mail-in ballots postmarked by local deadlines but received after Election Day, successfully challenging election laws in [New York](#) and [Pennsylvania](#) earlier in the cycle and recently getting a favorable ruling from the Arizona state Supreme Court giving MAGA attorneys [more leeway](#) to push election-related cases.

- **Trump Surrogates In Georgia Are Paving The Way For Local MAGA Officials To Refuse To Certify Results With Which They Disagree.** In Georgia, the ‘America First Policy Institute’, led by Trump extremist Stephen Miller, recently [filed a lawsuit](#) seeking to empower an election denier serving on the Fulton County elections board to access detailed records of ballots and voting records as part of certifying election results, which would [pave the way](#) for election boards throughout Georgia to refuse to certify results. It should come as no surprise that Republicans are seeking to allow election deniers to access confidential voter data; in 2021, Trump surrogates [breached](#) voting machines in a rural Georgia county and explicitly discussed using the breached confidential voter data to “decertify” the election results in the state over text. The Trump Justice Department even [drafted](#) a never-issued executive order authorizing his administration to seize voting machines.
- **Trump Surrogates In Wisconsin Are Training Lawyers And Targeting Local Elections Officials.** In Wisconsin, the RNC’s local “election integrity” director has been [holding](#) regular training sessions for MAGA activists in preparation for the election and plans to deploy attorneys [dedicated](#) to challenging election results in the most Democratic parts of the state. For months, the Wisconsin GOP has been [filing complaints](#) against the state elections commission and elections officials in the most heavily Democratic areas of the state.

Step 4: The MAGA Supreme Court Will Not Stop Coup 2.0

Corrupt MAGA Justices on the Supreme Court Are Protecting Donald Trump. We can't count on the Supreme Court to stop Trump's second coup. Trump and his MAGA movement's first attempted coup came perilously close to succeeding, and with a conservative supermajority on the Supreme Court – and two Republican-appointed justices [supportive](#) of the January 6th insurrectionists – it is folly to have any confidence that the Supreme Court will stand in the way of another attempted coup by Donald Trump and his MAGA followers.

- **The MAGA Supreme Court Is Protecting Donald Trump From Criminal Liability.** In the wake of Trump's mounting criminal investigations and trials, he unleashed a [desperate lawsuit](#) claiming full immunity from criminal liability as a perk of being a former president. The judge overseeing the case rejected his claims of presidential immunity, and Special Counsel Smith immediately petitioned the Supreme Court to swiftly decide the case long before the election. Instead, the MAGA Supreme Court [declined](#) to hear the case, [waiting](#) on a panel of judges at the D.C. Court of Appeals to [unanimously](#) reject Trump's claims before taking up the case. The MAGA Supreme Court [purposefully delayed](#) the immunity case by over six months to protect Trump and stymie the process.
- **MAGA Corruption On The Supreme Court Threatens The Rule of Law.** Two Republican-appointed justices serving on the Supreme Court, Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito, have [faced allegations](#) of corruption and partisan engagement. Thomas has [accepted luxury travel](#) from high-dollar conservative donors, taking [undisclosed](#) all-expense-paid trips across the world while his wife, Ginni Thomas, works closely with MAGA Republicans and even [received compensation](#) for consulting work with conservative activists. Meanwhile, new reports found that the Alitos flew flags [featuring](#) far-right symbols at [multiple family homes](#) in the days after the January 6th [insurrection](#). Both justices have refused to recuse themselves from Trump's case claiming full immunity. Congressional Republicans have [stood behind](#) Supreme Court corruption, refusing to investigate further and downplaying ethics concerns, with Judiciary Chair Jim Jordan (R-OH) [declaring](#) "Democrats are manufacturing a scandal out of thin air," and Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) [stating](#), "this entire hoopla is greatly overstated."