

TABLE OF CONTENTS:
SECRETARY OF STATE CANDIDATES AND TRUMP ELECTION DENIAL

Alabama	3
Caroleene Dobson.....	3
Arizona	4
Alex Kolodin.....	4
Gina Swoboda	7
California	9
Don Wagner.....	9
Georgia	9
Tim Fleming	10
Vernon Jones.....	10
Illinois	12
Diane Harris.....	12
Indiana.....	12
Diego Morales.....	12
Iowa.....	14
Paul Pate	14
Kansas	14
Pat Proctor	14
Ken Rahjes	15
Michigan.....	16
Anthony Forlini.....	16
Minnesota.....	17
Tad Jude	17
Wendy Philips	18
Nebraska.....	19
Scott Petersen	19
Nevada.....	20
Shirley Folkins-Roberts	20
Sharron Angle.....	20

Jim Marchant	21
Socorro Keenan.....	23
North Dakota	24
Michael Howe	24
Ohio.....	25
Robert Sprague	25
South Carolina	26
Mark Hammond	26
South Dakota	26
Monae Johnson	26
Wisconsin.....	27
Nathan Pollnow	27
General Commentary: Trump’s Election Denialism	28
Pressure Campaign	30
Fake Electors Scheme	32
Mike Pence	32
January 6th	33
Recommendation Of Criminal Charges	34
Impacts.....	35
Trump’s Administration Assured Him The Election Was Secure	36
Long History Of Election Denial	36

SECRETARY OF STATE CANDIDATES & TRUMP ELECTION DENIAL

In May 2026, Beehive Research compiled endorsements and statements of support from target GOP candidates for secretary of state regarding Donald Trump. Where applicable, Trump's endorsements of those candidates are also included.

This compilation also includes key actions, investigations, and findings related to Trump's efforts to overturn the 2020 election results and his role in the subsequent January 6 insurrection.

ALABAMA

Caroleene Dobson

Dobson said she would “advocate for President Trump’s commonsense election reforms” if elected to be secretary of state. “Dobson has pledged to replicate the Florida Election Crimes and Division model in Alabama, saying, ‘Alabama has some of the finest law enforcement officers and prosecutors in the nation. I want to enhance their ability to bring cases by having a dedicated team of election experts who can investigate voter fraud claims proactively on the ground.’ Dobson continued, ‘On the national level, I will advocate for President Trump’s commonsense election reforms. I will also leverage my legal experience to fight back against out-of-state activists who are constantly attempting to use the courts to undermine our election security measures.’” [1819 News, [6/26/25](#)]

In January 2026, Dobson said: “It’s been one year since President Trump’s historic return to the White House... Win after win, President Trump is just getting started!” In a January 2026 Facebook post, Dobson wrote, “It’s been one year since President Trump’s historic return to the White House. In record time, he has secured our border, signed the largest middle-class tax cuts in history, restored American strength on the world stage, and unleashed our economy. Win after win, President Trump is just getting started!” [Facebook, [1/20/26](#)]

Dobson: “No president has done more to put families first than President Trump.” “No president has done more to put families first than President Trump. Thank you, President Trump and Senator Britt, for working to protect and grow strong Alabama families.” [Facebook, [10/16/25](#)]

During 2024 Congressional campaign, Dobson told voters, “If you stand with me, I’ll stand tall with President Trump.” “Montgomery attorney Caroleene Dobson criticized her April 16 runoff opponent Dick Brewbaker for what she said were questionable votes he made while a state lawmaker on reducing sentences for habitual criminals and backing regulations against businesses, while not standing up strong enough to support former President Donald Trump on trade policy and other issues. [...] ‘We don’t need to send a retired career politician to Washington,’ Dobson, a political newcomer said. ‘If you stand with me, I’ll stand tall with President Trump. I’m the strong conservative with a backbone who can defeat the Democrats in November.’” [AL.com, 4/8/24]

Dobson: “President Trump is keeping his promise to Make America Great Again.” On June 5, 2025, Dobson posted on X: “President Trump is keeping his promise to Make America Great Again. He is securing the border, slashing prices at the pump and grocery store, and bringing American jobs back where they belong. Now, it’s time to put more money back in the pockets of hardworking Americans.” [X, @DobsonForAL, [6/5/25](#)]

Dobson praised Trump's executive order freezing federal grants to Harvard and urged conservative alumni to withhold donations and funding "until changes are made." In an op-ed, Dobson wrote, "While the cancer of antisemitism was allowed to metastasize at Harvard during the Biden administration, President Donald Trump took decisive steps to eradicate the disease upon taking office earlier this year. As a result of executive orders issued to end political, religious, and racial bias that exists on college campuses across the country, the Trump administration informed Harvard that it was freezing \$2.2 billion in federal grants until solid and concrete changes were implemented to meet the new requirements. [...] While I think President Trump's pressure campaign can begin to tame the Woke Wild West at Harvard and other colleges, we must begin fighting a two-front war with conservative alumni placing pressure from the inside by withholding financial contributions, capital campaign funding, and other gifts until changes are made." [Montgomery Advertiser, 5/25/25]

2024: Dobson praised Trump's economic and trade policies. "I am confident that every Alabamian who has suffered sticker shock in the grocery aisles and gas pumps under Biden would welcome a return to the robust economy that President Trump's policies created just four years ago". "Dobson, like Carl, praised Trump's economic and trade policies during his first term and blasted rising inflation that occurred after Biden was elected and following the pandemic. 'I am confident that every Alabamian who has suffered sticker shock in the grocery aisles and gas pumps under Biden would welcome a return to the robust economy that President Trump's policies created just four years ago,' she said." [AL.com, 7/22/24]

ARIZONA

Alex Kolodin

April 2026: Kolodin called it "the honor of my life to get a shoutout" from President Trump during a Turning Point rally in Phoenix. In an April 2026 Facebook post, Kolodin shared a video of Trump mentioning Kolodin during his speech at the 2026 Turning Point rally in Phoenix. In the video, Trump said, "We're thrilled to be joined today by many incredible Arizona leaders who will help achieve this victory... state Representative Alex Kolodin. Thank you. Thank you Alex." In his caption of the post, Kolodin wrote, "It was the honor of my life to get a shoutout from President @realDonaldTrump. I've been fighting for secure, transparent & lawful elections for years. This is the civil rights battle of our time. This November, we're going to restore trust for every voter, once & for all!" [Facebook, [4/18/26](#)]

- **Arizona Capitol Times: Trump gave a shoutout to Kolodin, along with Treasurer Kimberly Yee and Senate President Warren Petersen- but stopped short of endorsements.** "Senate President Warren Petersen hoped to get the nod over Rodney Glassman for the attorney general's race, while secretary of state hopeful Rep. Alex Kolodin sought a boost over Trump's past pick for chair of the Republican Party of Arizona, Gina Swoboda. Trump gave Petersen, Kolodin and Treasurer Kimberly Yee — who is hoping to unseat Superintendent Tom Horne — a shoutout during his remarks, but stopped short of throwing his full weight behind their campaigns. He spent roughly the same amount of time calling out professional athletes who were in attendance as he did local politicians." [Arizona Capitol Times, [4/17/26](#)]

March 2025: Kolodin refused to say whether Donald Trump was acting illegally by telling states they must demand proof of citizenship from all voters. "A state lawmaker who wants to be the state's chief elections officer refused to say Monday whether he believes President Trump is acting illegally in

telling states they have to demand proof of citizenship from all voters. In a news conference to announce his candidacy, Alexander Kolodin promised transparency if he is elected secretary of state in 2026. And he accused incumbent Democrat Adrian Fontes of ignoring election laws. But he would not address whether a federal law created by Congress, which allows for voting in federal elections without such proof, precludes what the president has ordered. Instead, he turned the issue into a criticism of Fontes for problems that resulted last election when questions were raised about who had, and had not, provided such citizenship proof. Kolodin, who said in his speech his campaign was about ‘rebuilding trust’ in the election system, also sidestepped a question about whether Republicans, who raised claims of election fraud in several past elections, were responsible for that lack of trust.” [Arizona Daily Star, [3/31/25](#)]

July 2024: Kolodin said Democrats could no longer talk about January 6 after “you literally tried to shoot our president.” “During an interview Wednesday with reporter Amy Goodman for left-leaning Democracy Now!, the first-term legislator let loose with the crazy at the Republican National Convention. Kolodin was expounding on his opinion of Nikki Haley (‘poison within the blood of the Republican Party’) when Goodman asked his opinion about what happened on Jan. 6, 2021, the day Trump supporters stormed the nation’s Capitol to try to stop certification of the 2020 presidential vote. That’s when he asked for whom she worked. ‘Ooooooh ...,’ he said, when she told him. ‘I think that you guys have lost your privileges to talk about Jan. 6th after you tried to assassinate our president. I’ll leave it at that,’ Kolodin said. ‘Excuse me?’ Goodman asked. ‘You guys. You Democrats have lost your privileges to go on and on and on – I know who Democracy Now! is – to go on and on and on and on about Jan. 6 when you literally tried to shoot our president, right?’ Kolodin replied. ‘First, you tried to throw him in jail. Then you called him a fascist. Then you literally tried to strip Secret Service protection from him and then you tried to use the deep state to kill the guy. So yeah, you’ve lost your privileges to talk about Jan. 6.’” [Laurie Roberts Column, Arizona Republic, [7/19/24](#)]

- **Kolodin suggested that the Biden administration attempted to assassinate Trump.** “Lest you think Kolodin has had second thoughts about his unhinged rant, think again. When Republican political strategist Tyler Montague called him out Thursday on social media, asking why he wouldn’t await facts before accusing Democrats of trying to murder the former and likely future president, Kolodin doubled down on the delirium. ‘C’mon man, you aren’t credulous enough to believe that a 20 year old with no training managed to get on the nearest roof to the President and point a rifle at him for two minutes right in the open without that being an inside job,’ Kolodin wrote. ‘I believe the government has enormous capacity for incompetence,’ Montague replied. ‘That’s the beginning and end of the story as far as government involvement goes. No freaking way that was a coordinated attempt. That’s crazy talk. It will be interesting to see if anyone worked him.’ Kolodin clapped back: ‘You’re telling me the same government that tried to kill Castro with an exploding cigar and also tried to send Trump to jail right before the general election wouldn’t *dare* try to take a crack at him? I find that implausible.’” [Laurie Roberts Column, Arizona Republic, [7/19/24](#)]

March 2025: Kolodin refused to say whether Joe Biden won Arizona in 2020. “And Kolodin on Monday also would not answer questions about whether he believes that Joe Biden won the vote in Arizona in 2020 despite the official tally showing the Democrat outpolled Trump by more than 10,000 votes.” [Arizona Mirror, [3/31/25](#)]

- **December 2023: Kolodin was sanctioned by the State Bar of Arizona for his role in lawsuits challenging the 2020 election.** “A GOP legislator was admonished by the State Bar of Arizona and placed on probation last week for his role in lawsuits challenging the 2020 election,

including the infamous ‘kraken’ lawsuit that made implausible and evidence-free claims of massive election fraud. State Rep. Alexander Kolodin was also disciplined for representing two Republican legislators and a GOP congressman in a defamation lawsuit filed against a Democratic lawmaker that was tossed out of court after a judge ruled it was ‘primarily (filed) for purposes of harassment.’ Kolodin entered into a settlement with the Bar on Nov. 6. The Scottsdale Republican accepted the admonition and 18 months of probation, agreed to pay around \$2,700 in court costs and must complete several continuing legal education courses focused on attorney ethics. An Arizona Supreme Court disciplinary panel found that Kolodin ‘violated his duty to the legal profession, the legal system, and the public’ by bringing cases that were backed by no evidence, misrepresented Arizona law and sought relief that would be illegal. In a statement to the Arizona Mirror, Kolodin claimed the Bar disciplinary process was being abused by ‘radical left wing activists’ who filed three separate complaints against him. ‘It is unfortunate that the bar’s effort to keep lawyers honest is being gamed by political operatives,’ he said. ‘I was happy to have the opportunity to protect my team and allow them to put this matter in the rear view mirror.’” [Arizona Mirror, [12/14/23](#)]

- **November 2020: Kolodin filed a lawsuit seeking to block Biden’s victory in Arizona.** “With the tally of votes showing Joe Biden still winning in Arizona, the state Republican Party and its allies are trying last-minute legal tactics to keep that from happening. The two new lawsuits are the best — and perhaps only — chance that the president has to getting close to that margin and taking the state’s 11 electoral votes. [...] In a separate lawsuit, attorney Alexander Kolodin charges that Maricopa County — and presumably all others — have no specific way to determine whether a given voter’s choices were properly counted. That goes to the question of what happens when a ballot is not automatically accepted and read by tabulating machines at polling places, whether because of problems with the equipment or other issues. These are set aside for hand review at county offices. Kolodin charges that one of the women he represents — the same who brought the never-proven claim about how the use of Sharpies and bleed-through on ballots was affecting the count — never had her vote counted at all. He said his other client, whose ballot had to go through separate review, was denied the right have her vote ‘counted via a fully automated and perfect process,’ as were others in a similar situation.” [Arizona Daily Star, [11/13/20](#)]
- **July 2022: Kolodin touted his role as co-counsel with Sidney Powell in 2020 litigation challenging the election outcome.** In a July 2022 post, Kolodin wrote, “The gloves are off! Either my opponent supports gun control or else he is a liar. Either way, he has no place in District 3. It has recently come to my attention that my opponent has been going around saying I’m a Never Trumper. Short answer: I was co-counsel with Sidney Powell and represented the President’s electors in the 2020 litigation. Give me a f*****g break. Longer answer: The Facebook post that supposedly proves this is from February 28, 2018. Those of us who were in the trenches in 2018 will remember that on that day, President Trump briefly came out in favor of red flag laws and an ‘assault weapons’ ban. His staunchest supporters, myself included, raised our voices, in unison, in opposition to this action which was so out of character for such a great president. President Trump heard our voices, reversed his position, and got our backs. And in 2020, I had the chance to get his back by standing up for the President and the rule of law in court, over and over again, at the risk of my career, my business, and my family’s safety. My cowardly opponent meanwhile, AWOL in 2020. Now he can only stand and snipe at men who possess a courage he lacks. Despicable.” [Facebook, [6/2/22](#)]

- December 2020: Kolodin filed a lawsuit with Sidney Powell seeking to block certification of Biden's win in Arizona.** “The legal team led by attorney Sidney Powell plans to appeal the dismissal of an Arizona election lawsuit by an Obama-appointed federal judge on Dec. 9. Powell's Arizona co-counsel Alex Kolodin told The Epoch Times in an interview that his team plans to fast-track the case to the Supreme Court and will file a petition for ap - peal in the coming days. [...] Kolodin told The Epoch Times that the chairwoman of the Arizona Republican Party granted his team approval to appeal the case to the Supreme Court, and that they plan to soon file a petition for a writ of certiorari asking for the case to be heard. A petition for a writ of certiorari is a document that a losing party files with the Supreme Court asking it to review the lower court's decision on its merits. The provision would request from the Supreme Court an emergency transfer and would allow the case to be heard without waiting for a decision from the U.S. Courts of Appeals. The Supreme Court is usually not under any obligation to hear such cases unless the case could have national significance, might harmonize conflicting decisions in the federal Circuit courts, or could have precedential value. ‘I thought she [Humetewa] took the case very seriously. She treated it very professionally, and she was very fair, but I disagree with her decision,’ Kolodin said. ‘My clients disagree with her decision, and we've always known that this will ultimately be decided in the U.S. Supreme Court.’ Kolodin also suggested that based on his experience in the field, he isn't surprised by Humetewa's decision to dismiss the case. ‘I've been doing election law for many years, and I would say ... when it's a really tough case like this, the lower court judge always ducks, right? The lower court judge never wants to be the person responsible for changing an election,’ he said. ‘We're ready to fight on and ready to take this fight to the very finish, and that's the U.S. Supreme Court.’” [Epoch Times, [12/10/20](#)]
- June 2022: Kolodin criticized the Department of Justice investigation of fake electors in the 2020 election.** “In the past two days, according to several people familiar with the matter, at least nine people in four different states have received subpoenas in connection with the fake-electors investigation. They were largely those who agreed to be electors for Mr. Trump themselves or were aides to Mr. Trump's campaign in states where the plan was carried out. Among those who received subpoenas were Kelli Ward, the chairwoman of the Arizona Republican Party, and her husband, Michael, both of whom served as electors on Mr. Trump's purported slate in the state, according to a person familiar with the matter. Along with the Wards, subpoenas were issued to two other pro-Trump electors in Arizona, Nancy Cottle and Loraine B. Pellegrino, the person said. Their lawyer, Alexander Kolodin, attacked the Justice Department's fake elector inquiry. ‘This is an investigation based on allegations that our clients engaged in core First Amendment activity — petitioning Congress about grievances,’ Mr. Kolodin said.” [New York Times, [6/23/22](#)]

In June 2020 Facebook post, Kolodin wrote, “I am proud to call you my president, and I am grateful to support you as a member of the Trump Victory Finance Committee!” In a June 2020 Facebook post, Kolodin wrote, “Happy birthday President Trump! I am proud to call you my president, and I am grateful to support you as a member of the Trump Victory Finance Committee!” [Facebook, posted 6/14/20]

Gina Swoboda

Swoboda was the Trump campaign's director of operations on election day in 2020. “The other candidate, the former chair of the Arizona Republican party, Gina Swoboda, was the Trump campaign's

director of operations on election day in 2020. She claimed in a lawsuit that was dismissed for lack of evidence that more than 1 million ineligible voters may have been on the rolls.” [The Guardian, [5/3/26](#)]

Steve Bannon’s WarRoom: Swoboda “a staunch supporter of the Trump Revolution and the America First movement”. “Gina Swoboda, Chairwoman of the Arizona Republicans, appeared on Tuesday’s WarRoom and delivered a no-holds-barred critique of establishment Republicans, who she claims have betrayed the party’s core values for decades. Swoboda, a staunch supporter of the Trump Revolution and the America First movement, made it clear that the time has come to reclaim the GOP from what she calls ‘pretend Republicans’ who have been grifting off the party.” [War Room, [8/13/24](#)]

KJZZ: Swoboda was a “Trump loyalist, GOP activist and sometimes election questioner”. “She’s a former elections official, an activist who then ushered the state party to major wins up and down the ballot in the 2024 elections, including a decisive Trump win here. But Swoboda, a Trump loyalist, GOP activist and sometimes election questioner, has not always been a Republican. In fact, she embodies the political horse you were seeing come up so often in politics today. She grew up a Democrat and has bounced between supporting Clinton to the Tea Party, even to liking what Bernie Sanders has had to say at one point, until Trump entered the picture.” [KJZZ, [3/27/25](#)]

January 2026: Before announcing her campaign for secretary of state, Swoboda was a candidate for AZ’s 1st Congressional district and received Trump’s endorsement. President Trump shook up the Republican primary for the highly competitive 1st Congressional District with dual endorsements to Gina Swoboda and Jay Feely. Why it matters: Several high-profile candidates are vying for the GOP nomination in the open Phoenix and Scottsdale-based swing district, which could help determine which party wins control of the U.S. House in November. State of play: Trump announced the dual endorsement on Truth Social on Tuesday, calling Feely and Swoboda ‘Highly Respected America First Patriots.’ ‘Both fierce advocates of Make America Great Again, Jay and Gina have been with us from the very beginning, and either one would be an incredible Representative,’ Trump said.” [Axios, [1/6/26](#)]

- **Arizona Republic: “It wasn’t immediately clear whether Trump would continue to endorse Swoboda after she switched races.”** “It wasn’t immediately clear whether Trump would continue to endorse Swoboda after she switched races. Swoboda and her political adviser didn’t immediately return requests for comment. The announcement continues an uncertain trajectory for Swoboda, an elections activist whose time at the helm of the state GOP was marked by Republican electoral victories and clashes with the conservative heavyweight group Turning Point and some other grassroots activists.” [Arizona Republic, [2/13/26](#)]
- **Swoboda: “I’m running as Gina with no endorsement because I think that’s what the people of Arizona want”.** “Swoboda announced last October that she would seek the Republican Party’s nomination in Arizona’s 1st Congressional District, which was left open after current Rep. David Schweikert announced he was running for governor. Now, four months later, she’s pivoting to run for secretary of state. While she had President Donald Trump’s endorsement in the Congressional race, she will reportedly be without it in the secretary of state race. ‘I’m running as Gina with no endorsement because I think that’s what the people of Arizona want,’ she told Arizona’s Family.” [AZ Family, [2/13/26](#)]

2024: Swoboda was endorsed by Trump to run for chair of the AZ Republican Party. “Gina Swoboda is one of the political stories that helps to define the Trump era in Arizona. She was a political

newcomer when she was endorsed by President Donald Trump to run for chair of the Arizona Republican Party in early 2024.” [KJZZ, [3/27/25](#)]

- **“Boosted by a successful 2024 election, Arizona Republican Party Chairwoman Gina Swoboda won the endorsement of President Donald Trump for her run for re-election”.** “Boosted by a successful 2024 election, Arizona Republican Party Chairwoman Gina Swoboda won the endorsement of President Donald Trump for her run for re-election at the Party’s Convention in January. The President made his endorsement clear at Turning Point Action’s AMFEST in Phoenix on Sunday. The news was greeted positively by Republicans across the state who were glad to be back to the party’s winning ways.” [Arizona Daily Independent, [12/22/24](#)]

CALIFORNIA

Don Wagner

Wagner: “Democrats insist Donald Trump threatens American democracy. They fashion themselves as its protectors. Nonsense. It is the Democrat leadership which fears democracy and has threaten it repeatedly over the last few years.” In a July 2024 op-ed, Wagner wrote, “Democrats insist Donald Trump threatens American democracy. They fashion themselves as its protectors. Nonsense. It is the Democrat leadership which fears democracy and has threaten it repeatedly over the last few years. An obviously diminished Joe Biden uses the alleged existential threat of Trump to style himself as democracy’s indispensable man, justifying him remaining in the Presidential race. Meanwhile, some Democrats are now talking of trying to remove Biden from the ballot after he won every state’s primary election and locked up enough delegates for the nomination. So much for respecting democracy. Hypocritically, they still talk about Trump. So how then does Trump supposedly threaten democracy? By getting elected they answer. Biden and the lesser Democratic leadership “protect” democracy by not letting people vote for one of the two major party candidates. [...] So no, Donald Trump is not a threat to democracy. Our Republic will survive. It hopefully also survives the gaslighting about democracy from Democratic leadership shilling for a president too feeble for the job.” [California Globe, [7/11/24](#)]

- **In a 2024 op-ed, Wagner said January 6 was “hardly” an assault on Democracy by Trump... “January 6 amounted to an absurd, out of control riot on federal property led by absurd people.”** In a July 2024 op-ed, Wagner wrote, “But what about January 6 and Trump’s assault on democracy that day? Surely, that shows Trump’s a threat. Hardly. January 6 amounted to an absurd, out of control riot on federal property led by absurd people. A few of those same people periodically showed up here in Orange County at our Board of Supervisors meetings to yell into the microphone. They are not a serious people, much less a serious threat to democracy. In no event did they come close to overthrowing the United States of America. Speaker Pelosi apparently rejected President Trump’s offer to send in the National Guard during this alleged grave threat to our Nation. Only one person, an unarmed protester, died in the melee. No doubt Capitol Police, had the threat been an actual coup, would have responded with considerably more force. The January 6 rioters would stand no chance against the US military.” [California Globe, [7/11/24](#)]

GEORGIA

Tim Fleming

Atlanta Journal Constitution: “As a supporter of President Donald Trump, Fleming is positioning himself as a conservative candidate to replace outgoing Republican Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger...” “As a supporter of President Donald Trump, Fleming is positioning himself as a conservative candidate to replace outgoing Republican Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger, who refused the president’s request to ‘find’ votes after the 2020 election.” [Atlanta Journal Constitution, [7/3/25](#)]

- **2025: Fleming met with “Team Trump” at the White House, where Georgia’s secretary of state race was discussed.** “Met with Team Trump today at the White House to talk about 2026 and the future of Georgia. I appreciate their time and interest in discussing the race for Secretary of State. Big things ahead!” [Facebook, posted [7/7/25](#)]
- **2025: Fleming attended Trump’s inaugural ball.** In January 2025, Fleming posted photos from Trump’s inaugural ball and wrote, “We had a great time celebrating President Trump at the Liberty Ball on Monday night”. [Facebook, posted [1/22/25](#)]

Associated Press: Fleming said there were “irregularities” in the 2020 election... “a buzz word among Republicans who stop short of echoing Trump without refuting him.” “Fleming, who worked under Kemp when the governor was secretary of state, has said there were ‘irregularities’ in the 2020 election — a buzz word among Republicans who stop short of echoing Trump without refuting him. But Fleming said he believes the state has made great strides since then in improving elections and said he wants to focus on future elections.” [Associated Press, [5/21/26](#)]

January 2026: Fleming said America was “yet again safer” thanks to Trump’s decision to extricate Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro. “Thanks to the continued leadership of President Donald J. Trump, America is yet again safer thanks to his decisive action - and impressive operation - to extricate Venezuelan dictator and narcoterrorist Nicolas Maduro to face the full force of American justice. Our country and families are safer today without Maduro - who was illegally in power through a stolen election - pushing deadly drugs and illegal, violent criminals across our border. Thanks to President Trump, our military, and law enforcement for the strong efforts to keep us safe.” [Facebook, [1/4/26](#)]

Vernon Jones

Jones touted his alliance with Donald Trump in his campaign announcement, saying he’ll stand “shoulder-to-shoulder with President Trump in the fight for election integrity.” “Jones touted his alliance with Trump in his Monday announcement, saying that he’ll stand “shoulder-to-shoulder with President Trump in the fight for election integrity.” Jones said in a press release that he’ll “make Georgia the model for American First election integrity” as he campaigns across the state. “I never wavered, and I never will. My loyalty is to the people of Georgia and to President Trump’s America First movement,” Jones said in a press release.” [Georgia Recorder, [10/13/25](#)]

- **Jones: “My loyalty is to the people of Georgia and to President Trump’s America First movement.”** “Jones touted his alliance with Trump in his Monday announcement, saying that he’ll stand “shoulder-to-shoulder with President Trump in the fight for election integrity.” Jones said in a press release that he’ll “make Georgia the model for American First election integrity”

as he campaigns across the state. “I never wavered, and I never will. My loyalty is to the people of Georgia and to President Trump's America First movement,” Jones said in a press release.” [Georgia Recorder, [10/13/25](#)]

- **Fox News: Jones “campaigned as a staunch supporter of the president and emerged as a fierce critic of the state’s election system.”** “Jones, a former Democratic state lawmaker turned Trump ally, campaigned as a staunch supporter of the president and emerged as a fierce critic of the state’s election system.” [Fox News, [5/20/26](#)]

Jones supported Trump’s claims that the 2020 election was “rigged.” “Jones underwent a political transformation from Democrat to outspoken conservative who supported Trump’s claims that the 2020 election was ‘rigged.’ He declined to seek reelection to the state House in 2020.” [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 10/14/25]

- **2021: Jones spoke at the Save America Rally, which preceded the deadly attack by Trump supporters on the U.S. Capitol.** “Jones endorsed Trump’s re-election bid, spoke at the Republican National Convention, and publicly embraced the falsehood that the 2020 presidential election was stolen from Trump. Jones used a speech at the Save America Rally in Washington on Jan. 6, the event that preceded the deadly attack by Trump supporters on the U.S. Capitol, to announce his party switch.” [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, [5/14/21](#)]
- **At an April 2026 debate, Jones said: “I stand with those who believe that there was election fraud...As a matter of fact, I was the first and the only one on this panel that stood with the first ‘Stop the Steal’ rally all the way up to Washington D.C.”** “Jones, a former Democratic state representative turned Trump supporter who has cast doubts on the 2020 election results, argued that a switch to paper ballots was needed for the upcoming midterm elections. [...] ‘I stand with those who believe that there was election fraud,’ he said. ‘As a matter of fact, I was the first and the only one on this panel that stood with the first ‘Stop the Steal’ rally all the way up to Washington D.C.’” [Georgia Recorder, [4/29/26](#)]
- **Jones built his 2022 campaign for governor around Trump’s falsehoods that Georgia’s election was stolen, promising an audit of the 2020 presidential election.** “He built his campaign for governor around Trump's falsehoods that Georgia's election was stolen, with Jones promising an audit of the 2020 presidential election and to replace Georgia's electronic voting system, often calling the election the ‘dead cat on the end of the line.’” [Associated Press, [10/16/25](#)]

Atlanta Journal Constitution: Jones called himself the “Black Donald Trump.” “Jones, who called himself the ‘Black Donald Trump,’ has called for prosecutions of Democrats and defended Trump and his allies when they were charged with crimes.” [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 10/14/25]

Jones defended Trump and allies when they were charged with crimes and has called for prosecutions of Democrats. “Jones, who called himself the ‘Black Donald Trump,’ has called for prosecutions of Democrats and defended Trump and his allies when they were charged with crimes.” [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 10/14/25]

Jones was a Democrat until switching to the Republican Party in 2021 and endorsing Donald Trump for re-election. “Jones served in the state House of Representatives from 1993 to 2001 and

again from 2017 to 2021. He was also DeKalb CEO from 2001 to 2009. Jones began his political career as a Democrat but switched to the Republican Party in 2021 after endorsing Donald Trump for re-election and speaking at the 2020 Republican National Convention. He has also made unsuccessful runs for the U.S. Senate and House, and DeKalb County sheriff. Most recently, Jones lost to Mike Collins in 2022 in the Republican 10th congressional district primary. Jones had been endorsed by Trump, who was out of the White House at the time. Collins is now running for U.S. Senate, seeking to have a chance to square off against Democratic incumbent Jon Ossoff in next year's midterms.” [Decaturish.com, 10/13/25]

ILLINOIS

Diane Harris

January 2025: Harris recalled attending Trump’s 2017 inauguration and said, “. Blessings come in many different ways! God Bless the 2025 Inauguration, Donald J. Trump, 47th President, and God Bless the USA!” In a January 2025 Facebook post, Harris wrote, “Being there at the inauguration in 2017 was an honor; yes, it was outside and cold. I’m just as happy to watch from the comfort of my own home this time. Blessings come in many different ways! God Bless the 2025 Inauguration, Donald J. Trump, 47th President, and God Bless the USA!us Great is thy faithfulness!” [Facebook, [1/20/25](#)]

In a November 2020, Facebook post, Harris wrote “Four More Years!” In a November 2020 post, Harris wrote, “Yesterday while taking care of business near Schaumburg, I ran into a strong Trump Rally. Four More Years!” [Facebook, [11/2/20](#)]

November 2016: Harris celebrated Trump’s election win... “Hallelujah! Congratulations, President Elect Donald J. Trump.” In a November 2016 Facebook post, Harris wrote, “Good Morning, When I fell asleep at 8:30pm last night, my choice for President was leading and when I awakened at 4am, my choice was elected as the new President. Hallelujah! Congratulations, President Elect Donald J. Trump. Let me share with my FBF as to why he was my choice. It would be great if This were live but I don't want to forget what to say. Anyway the fact that he's a father with loving children, he has a wife, which tells me his rudeness against women and low talk was in the past; God forgives. He's a billionaire businessman who has built an empire which includes his family, who loves to build and will put up a wall that will be the start of controlling our illegal immigration issues, sets high goals and will not stop until he achieves them like wanting to make America great again.” [Facebook, [11/9/16](#)]

INDIANA

Diego Morales

Morales assisted Trump Administration with executive order on elections. “Indiana Secretary of State Diego Morales is touting his recent participation in discussions for implementing President Donald Trump’s executive order on elections and the opportunity he had to thank the president for signing the order, even as 19 states have asked a federal district court to block the directive, calling it ‘unconstitutional, antidemocratic, and un-American.’” [Daily Journal, 4/22/25]

Morales was endorsed by America First Secretary Of State Coalition. “Morales was among the otherwise unsuccessful candidates associated with the America First Secretary of State Coalition, which

called for large-scale changes to elections with candidates aligned with Trump's views. The group supported losing candidates in several battleground states." [Indiana Public Media, [2/6/23](#)]

Morales called 2020 election a "scam." "In clear contrast to Sullivan, let me make my own position on 2020 crystal clear. The 2020 election was flawed and the outcome is questionable. There are three main components to the scam that was perpetrated upon the citizens of Indiana, and against all Americans." [Hoosier State Today, [3/8/22](#)]

Morales said there were "valid reasons to doubt the official vote tallies in key states." "We have valid reasons to doubt the official vote tallies in key states, for reasons I will explain below. If you agree with me that the Nov 3rd, 2020 vote was tainted, you are hardly alone. According to even CNN, their polling shows that a majority of Republicans share that doubt." [Hoosier State Today, [3/8/22](#)]

Morales: "I stand with Indiana's U.S. Senators and President Donald J. Trump urging swift passage of the SAVE America Act." In March 2026, Morales posted on Facebook: "Indiana is leading the way on election integrity. I stand with Indiana's U.S. Senators and President Donald J. Trump urging swift passage of the SAVE America Act. Let's protect our elections and put American voters first." [Facebook, [3/19/26](#)]

February 2026: Morales said, "Grateful to have President Donald J. Trump guiding our country and for always putting America first." In February 2026, Morales posted on Facebook: "On Presidents' Day, we honor the leaders who have shaped our nation. Grateful to have President Donald J. Trump guiding our country and for always putting America first. God Bless America and God Bless our President." [Facebook, [2/16/26](#)]

May 2026: Morales touted attending meetings at the White House and said he was working alongside Trump and his team. In May 2026, Morales posted on Facebook: "A productive morning of meetings at the White House, working alongside President Donald J. Trump and his team. Always honored to represent Indiana in DC. Now gearing up to celebrate our IU Football National Champs!" [Facebook, [5/11/26](#)]

Morales: "In just 100 days, President Donald J. Trump has taken bold steps to restore America. From strengthening election integrity to decisive immigration enforcement, his leadership is delivering results. I commend his commitment to putting America — and Hoosiers — first." In an April 2025 Facebook post, Morales wrote, "In just 100 days, President Donald J. Trump has taken bold steps to restore America. From strengthening election integrity to decisive immigration enforcement, his leadership is delivering results. I commend his commitment to putting America — and Hoosiers — first." [Facebook, [4/29/25](#)]

April 2025: Morales said he supported Trump's election integrity executive order. "Indiana Secretary of State Diego Morales supports President Trump's recent Executive Order aimed at protecting the integrity of American elections and ensuring that only U.S. citizens are allowed to vote. 'One of our biggest accomplishments since taking office has been our efforts to finally ask for proof of citizenship when individuals try to register to vote. During my time in office, I've heard numerous concerns about non-citizens being registered to vote—either through the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) or during various voter registration drives. We are determined to ensure this does not happen in Indiana, and non-citizens will not end up on our voter rolls,' said Diego Morales, Indiana Secretary of State." [Press release, Diego for Indiana, [4/3/25](#)]

IOWA

Paul Pate

May 2026: Pate’s office shared Iowa voter registration data requested by the U.S. Department of Justice. “Iowa has shared voter registration data — including sensitive personal information — with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Secretary of State Paul Pate announced Tuesday. Pate said he provided the information to the DOJ because the state must comply with federal law. ‘We are legally obligated to comply with the request, but we do not take the obligation to turn this information over lightly,’ Pate said in a statement. ‘The Department of Justice has assured us that the data will be protected appropriately under federal law, and we expect them to uphold that promise.’ [...] Pate said in a March 5 letter to the DOJ that he would not sign an agreement promising to cancel the voter registration of Iowans deemed ineligible by federal officials, citing potential conflicts with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993.” [Iowa Public Radio, [5/5/26](#)]

December 2024: Pate said it was an “honor” to preside over Iowa’s six presidential electors as they cast their votes for Trump and Vance. In a December 2024 Facebook post, Pate wrote, “Iowa’s six presidential electors officially cast their votes today for Donald J. Trump and J.D. Vance for President and Vice President. It was an honor to preside over today’s meeting alongside Governor Kim Reynolds. This foundational step in our democracy reflects the will of Iowans and ensures every voice matters and every vote counts. The votes will now be sent to Congress as part of the official election record.” [Facebook, [12/17/24](#)]

Pate believed Biden won the 2020 election. “Pate told the Register he believes President Joe Biden won the 2020 election. ‘The last thing I want to see happen is not believing that the person who won is the winner, because (if) that happens, our democracy has crashed,’ Pate said.” [Des Moines Register, [9/12/22](#)]

Associated Press: Pate “contradicted Trump’s references to widespread fraud” in 2020. “Republican Secretary of State Paul Pate, who contradicted Trump’s references to widespread voter fraud last fall and expanded mail-in voting during the pandemic, did not oppose the new law, but he offered no ringing endorsement either after a Latino advocacy group sued Tuesday to stop it from taking effect. ‘My office will continue providing resources to help every eligible Iowan be a voter and understand any changes in election law,’ Pate said. ‘Our goal has always been to make it easy to vote, but hard to cheat.’” [Associated Press, 3/13/21]

2016: Trump spoke at a fundraiser for Pate in Cedar Rapids. PHOTO: “Donald Trump speaks at a fundraiser for Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate at the Cedar Rapids Country Club in Cedar Rapids on Wednesday, Apr. 29, 2015.” [The Gazette, [5/22/16](#)]

KANSAS

Pat Proctor

Proctor: “Kansans overwhelmingly voted for President Donald Trump and his America First agenda. So did I!” In an X post, Proctor wrote, “Kansans overwhelmingly voted for President Donald Trump and his America First agenda. So did I! If Republicans don’t retain control of Congress, that

entire agenda is going to screech to a halt, and America will be subjected to two years of gridlock and impeachments. #ksleg” [X, @RealPatProctor, [12/27/25](#)]

January 2025: Proctor celebrated Trump’s swearing in. “Make America Great Again!” In a January 2025 Facebook post, Proctor wrote, “An amazing morning with the Johnson County Republican Party, watching Donald J. Trump be sworn in as the 47th President of the United States. Make America Great Again!” [Facebook, [1/20/25](#)]

August 2025: Proctor said Trump’s Executive Order on Election Integrity was “a great roadmap on how to restore confidence in our elections across our nation.” “Thank you, @realDonaldTrump for never giving up the fight for free & fair elections! The President's Executive Order is a great roadmap on how to restore confidence in our elections across our nation. I am the only candidate in this race that has a proven record of fighting for & implementing the President's Executive Order on Election Integrity. As Chair of the House Elections Committee, I led the override of the Governor's veto of SB4 to repeal the so-called ‘three-day grace period’, making Election Day once again Election Day in Kansas. As a member of the Board of Advisors to the US Election Assistance Commission (@EACgov), I fought for the implementation of the President's directives on proof of citizenship & voting machines. As your next Secretary of State, I will never stop fighting to Make Elections Great Again! #ksleg” [X, RealPatProctor, [8/18/25](#)]

Proctor: “As a member of the Board of Advisors to the US Election Assistance Commission, I fought for the implementation of the President's directives on proof of citizenship & voting machines.” “Thank you, @realDonaldTrump for never giving up the fight for free & fair elections! The President's Executive Order is a great roadmap on how to restore confidence in our elections across our nation. I am the only candidate in this race that has a proven record of fighting for & implementing the President's Executive Order on Election Integrity. As Chair of the House Elections Committee, I led the override of the Governor's veto of SB4 to repeal the so-called ‘three-day grace period’, making Election Day once again Election Day in Kansas. As a member of the Board of Advisors to the US Election Assistance Commission (@EACgov), I fought for the implementation of the President's directives on proof of citizenship & voting machines. As your next Secretary of State, I will never stop fighting to Make Elections Great Again! #ksleg” [X, RealPatProctor, [8/18/25](#)]

Kansas Reflector: Proctor was among the Kansas Legislature’s advocates for election reform bills associated with Trump’s election denial claims. “Proctor has been among the Legislature’s advocates for election reform bills associated with President Donald Trump’s unproven assertion his 2020 loss to Democrat Joe Biden was fraudulent. Schwab has generally welcomed modernization of state election law, but maintained Kansas elections were fair and secure.” [Kansas Reflector, [4/4/25](#)]

- **Proctor: “Joe Biden: ‘It's important the American people understand what truly happened [on January 6].’ I agree! Like, who shot Ashli Babbitt? And how many FBI agents were in the crowd and when did they know there would be a riot?”** [X, RealPatProctor, [6/10/22](#)]

Ken Rahjes

Kansas City Star: Rahjes “stressed his support for Trump in an interview” but questioned federal intervention in elections. “Rep. Ken Rahjes, an Agra Republican who’s challenging Proctor in the primary, stressed his support for Trump in an interview. But he pointed out that any federal intervention in elections could set a precedent for future administrations. ‘What happens in the day when Donald

Trump is not president? Then what happens?’ Rahjes said. But any top-down election security proposal deserves careful consideration, he said. ‘The president has his ideas, and rightly so,’ Rahjes said. ‘There’s a lot of questions I think still to be asked.’” [Kansas City Star, [2/6/26](#)]

MICHIGAN

Anthony Forlini

Forlini said he actively supported and voted for Trump all three times. In a March 2026 Facebook post, Forlini wrote, “As someone who actively supported and voted for President Donald J. Trump in 2016 (and 2020, and 2024), you can imagine how excited I was to get to visit the White House during his first term in office. And to top the trip off, he took the time for a very special keepsake that I brought home to my granddaughter which she will be able to treasure forever. Please enjoy the attached [video](#) that was produced during my 2020 Macomb County Clerk’s campaign. We considered redoing it but it really sums up a very, very memorable day perfectly!” [Facebook, posted [3/23/26](#)]

Columnist M.L. Elrick: “... Forlini did seem to try a MAGA hat on for size by raising questions about whether people who were not citizens are registered to vote.” Columnist M.L. Elrick wrote, “After deciding to run for Secretary of State, Forlini did seem to try a MAGA hat on for size by raising questions about whether people who were not citizens are registered to vote. But Forlini also has a track record of asking authorities to investigate potential wrongdoing - regardless of party affiliation - and resisting the temptation to lend credence to crackpot conspiracy theories.” [Detroit Free Press, [3/30/26](#)]

February 2026: Forlini praised Trump’s State of the Union speech. “President Trump did great and laid out a lot of accomplishments and a great vision for the USA going forward.” In a February 2026 Facebook post, Forlini wrote, “It was great to visit with the Calhoun County GOP last night at their monthly meeting, and then watch the President’s State of the Union with them. Well done Mr. President! President Trump did great and laid out a lot of accomplishments and a great vision for the USA going forward.” [Facebook, Posted [2/25/26](#)]

January 2026: Forlini joined President Trump at an event hosted by the Detroit Economic Club. “President Trump reviewed accomplishments through the first year of his current term and previewed plans to strengthen America even more going forward, and I share his optimism!” In a January 2026 Facebook post, Forlini wrote, “It was great to join President Donald J. Trump today in Detroit for an update hosted by the Detroit Economic Club. President Trump reviewed accomplishments through the first year of his current term and previewed plans to strengthen America even more going forward, and I share his optimism!” [Facebook, Posted [1/13/26](#)]

2023: Forlini called Donald Trump’s indictment in New York a case of “selective justice.” “History that was made in New York City Tuesday as Donald Trump became the first current or former president to ever be indicted reverberated with his Republican backers in Macomb County. [...] Macomb County Clerk/Register of Deeds Anthony Forlini, a Harrison Township Republican, said the case against Trump appears to be ‘selective justice.’ He contrasted it with 2016 Trump opponent Hilary Clinton, who during her tenure as U.S. Secretary of State drew criticism for using a private server for official public communications instead of email accounts maintained on a federal server. ‘I would hope they hold everyone accountable, but this appears to be selective justice, which I believe this is. When you have a former secretary of state who deletes 30,000 emails who has a private email server and she is allowed to merely pay a fine, that, to me, is selective justice,’ he said. He blames the rise of social media nudging

journalism aside when it comes to large sections of the public accept politically slanted versions of a story. Donald Trump pleads not guilty to 34 felony counts in historic indictment ‘I’ve seen some things hushed up,’ he said. ‘You had Trump’s home in Florida raided for supposed classified documents. But when (President Joe) Biden does the same thing, you get dead silence. If it’s wrong, it should be wrong regardless of what party you belong to.’” [Macomb Daily, 4/4/23]

In 2020 video, Forlini recounted story of Trump signing a “Future President” infant onesie for Forlini’s granddaughter, who had just been born that day. Forlini later framed it. In a YouTube video, Forlini recalled preparing for a trip to the White House around the same time that his daughter was due to give birth to his grandchild. Forlini said he picked up an infant onesie from a gift shop and got President Trump to sign it. Forlini stated, “During the signing of the hat, I said ‘Mr. President, if you could do me a huge favor, my first granddaughter was born just this afternoon and here I am at the White House.’ Well, he signed it. He signed it, he laughed, he chuckled, thought it was a great story.” Forlini then holds up a frame with the onesie and a photo of Trump signing it. Forlini said, “I had this framed and this is a picture of the president signing the onesie, the onesie itself, and little Isabella [sp] with the onesie laying on top of her. As a matter of fact, I wouldn’t even let her put that on. I was afraid she’d throw up on it and I didn’t want that to happen... One day when she’s grown up, I’m going to give this to her as a little memento of her first day and the president signing this on her birthdate.” [YouTube, posted [6/23/20](#)]

MINNESOTA

Tad Jude

Jude said he voted for President Trump twice and believed the economy was stronger and the court system more politically balanced under Trump. “Jude said he voted for former President Donald Trump twice and will support whoever is on the Republican ticket this fall. The economy was stronger under Trump, he said, and the court system became more politically balanced.” [Star Tribune, [2/21/24](#)]

- **Jude said Trump was “for working people” and for people “who weren’t heard in Washington.”** “While Congressman Dean Phillips is running for president due to Joe Biden’s age, Jude said he will support Donald Trump despite his age and legal issues. “I voted for Donald Trump in 2016, 2020. I believe he’s both for working people, for people who weren’t heard in Washington,” he said.” [KTSP.com, [2/23/24](#)]
- **2024-2025: Jude was a member of Congressional nominating committee that recommended candidates to Trump for vacancies in Minnesota.** “Today, Congressman Tom Emmer (MN-06), along with Congressman Pete Stauber (MN-08), Congresswoman Michelle Fischbach (MN-07), and Congressman Brad Finstad (MN-01) announced that a nominations committee will reconvene to interview and recommend candidates to President Trump for the United States district judge of the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota. [...] In November 2024, Congressman Emmer led the Minnesota Republican delegation in forming a nominations committee to assist in making recommendations to President Trump for U.S. Attorney, U.S. Marshal, and other vacancies that may arise in Minnesota. [...] Returning Committee members include: [...] Tad Jude, former judge in Minnesota’s Tenth Judicial District” [Press release, Office of Congresswoman Michelle Fischbach, [11/20/25](#)]

Jude called the January 6 Capitol riot a “very sad day” and said any attacks on law enforcement that day “had to be prosecuted”. “But Jude called the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the U.S. Capitol a ‘very sad day’ and said he believes any attacks on law enforcement that day ‘had to be prosecuted.’ Asked if he believes Trump’s baseless claim that the 2020 election was illegitimate, Jude said: ‘Joe Biden is president, and I accept him as president.’” [Star Tribune, [2/21/24](#)]

Wendy Phillips

November 2024: Phillips was photographed dancing with a paper cut-out of Trump during the Olmsted County GOP’s election watch party. “Brenda Hiniker, Olmsted County GOP executive committee member, left, and Wendy Phillips, Olmsted County GOP Chair, dance with a paper cut-out of Republican presidential nominee and former U.S. President Donald Trump during the Olmsted County GOP’s Election Watch Party on Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2024, at Willow Creek Golf & Event Center in Rochester.” [Post-Bulletin, [11/9/24](#)]

2024: After the Trump assassination attempt, Phillips said the Secret Service needed to reveal the truth to the public on how the attempt was possible. “Regarding the assassination attempt on Former President Donald Trump, both party chairs expressed gratitude that he is well. Swanson stated there is no place for political violence in this country. Phillips shared the Secret Service needs to let the truth out to the public immediately on how the attempt was possible.” [KTTC, [7/22/24](#)]

2023: Following Trump’s not guilty plea over the mishandling of classified documents, Phillips suggested she believed he was innocent until proven guilty. “Tuesday, President Donald Trump pleaded not guilty to dozens of felony counts accusing him of hoarding classified documents and refusing government demands to give them back. Local organizations responded to the news. ‘This indictment carries the presumption of innocence or innocence until proven guilty, and that is following a most basic requirement of our Constitution and the process of a fair trial,’ said Olmsted County GOP Chair Wendy Phillips in a statement. ‘I believe in our Constitution and our judicial system, and I look forward to justice being served through that system.’” [KTTC, [6/14/23](#)]

2022: Phillips called Minnesota “Mega MAGA”. In a May 2022 Facebook post, Phillips exclaimed, “Minnesota MEGA MAGA!” [Facebook, 5/16/22]

2021-2022: Phillips was a member of the Olmsted County Election Integrity Committee. According to her campaign website, from 2021- 2022, Phillips was a member of the Olmsted County Election Integrity Committee. [Wendy Phillips For MN SOS, accessed [1/26/26](#)]

- **MPR News: Olmsted County Election Integrity part of a widespread movement led by Cleta Mitchell that falsely claimed the 2020 election results didn’t add up.** “Olmsted County Election Integrity is part of a widespread effort across the country by people who doubt the legitimacy of the 2020 elections and who’ve pushed hard in this election cycle to recruit and install poll workers who share their beliefs. Nationally, the movement is led by Cleta Mitchell, a former attorney for former President Donald Trump who was on the infamous phone call where Trump pressured Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger to find him 11,000 votes. [...] Roger Mueller, chair of Olmsted County Election Integrity, said his organization has done nothing wrong and argues the government is acting like it has something to hide. [...] The county says it has provided details and data to Mueller’s group, which has falsely claimed that the county’s 2020 election results didn’t add up.” [MPR News, [11/4/22](#)]

2022: Phillips posted a meme on Facebook that said: “Never forget Democrats cheered rioters for 8 months before they were ‘outraged’ by January 6th”. In June 2022, Phillips posted a meme on Facebook that stated: “Never forget Democrats cheered rioters for 8 months before they were ‘outraged’ by January 6th”. [Facebook, [6/21/22](#)]

2022: Phillips said conspiracy film “2000 Mules” showed “undeniable” proof that the 2020 election was stolen. In May 2022, Phillips shared a post from then- State Rep. Erik Mortensen that stated, “Watch 2000 Mules” and claimed it showed “Undeniable proof of how the 2020 election was stolen. #TheBigTruth”. Phillips added, “I watched it and I agree with Representative Erik Mortensen... the proof is undeniable! #2000Mules”. [Facebook, [5/10/22](#)]

2022: Phillips called the 2020 election “questionable”. On her 2022 campaign website, Phillips stated: “In May of 2020, during the first Covid lockdown, my husband and I moved to Minnesota to care for his elderly parents. As I surveyed the political landscape of Minnesota I quickly came to understand that this state is only a couple of steps behind California's disastrous progressive agenda. As Covid restrictions continued, the questionable 2020 election and events of January 6 unfolded. As I watched I became exceedingly distressed by the government’s ever-increasing infringement on our liberties and our elected officials’ failure to represent us.” [Wendy for House, accessed 1/26/26 (Archived [5/27/22](#))]

May 2022: Phillips posted photo with prominent election denier Mike Lindell and thanked him for his “efforts to save our country”. In May 2022, Phillips shared a photo with MyPillow CEO Mike Lindell. In a caption, Phillips wrote, “Thank you, Mike Lindell, for your love of our Constitution and your efforts to save our country”. [Facebook, [5/14/22](#)]

NEBRASKA

Scott Petersen

Petersen: “This is what I voted for. We have a President that is truly working for the people. And, we pray that as more Americans join him, we can begin to heal our nation”. In a February 2026 post, Petersen shared a Gateway Pundit [article](#) about Trump’s State of the Union address and Petersen added, “This is what I voted for. We have a President that is truly working for the people. And, we pray that as more Americans join him, we can begin to heal our nation...” [Facebook, [2/28/26](#)]

May 2026: Petersen hoped to unify the Republican party and become a “true MAGA state”. “Petersen said in his interview with Bannon that this win will go a long way in bringing the Republican party together. He hopes to unify the Republican party, aligning his work with President Trump’s goals. ‘It’s time to bring the party together and now we are going to be a true MAGA state, because we are, except our elected officials haven’t come along as much as I thought they should have,’ Petersen said.” [Nebraska Public Media, [5/13/26](#)]

December 2020: Petersen celebrated Texas’s lawsuit challenging the election results. In a December 2020 Facebook post, Petersen wrote, “Go Texas! Nebraska and Iowa should join the lawsuit...” In the post, Petersen also shared an article on Texas’ 2020 lawsuit challenging the election results in Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. [Facebook, [12/8/20](#)]

January 6, 2021: Petersen shared a video from Trump’s rally preceding the Capitol riot and said, “What and amazing number of flags and unbelievable support for President Trump!” In a January 6, 2021 Facebook post, Petersen shared a video from Trump’s January 6 rally and wrote, “... Thanks for sharing. What and amazing number of flags and unbelievable support for President Trump!” [Facebook, [1/6/21](#)]

NEVADA

Shirley Folkins-Roberts

Nevada Current: Folkins-Roberts “hasn’t responded to numerous questions about President Donald Trump’s recent attempts to override state election procedure or if she agreed with unsubstantiated claims of voter fraud in recent elections.” “Shirley Folkins-Roberts, the perceived frontrunner in the Republican primary for Nevada Secretary of State, has outraised her primary opponents and has been backed by Republican Gov. Joe Lombardo. She hasn’t responded to numerous questions about President Donald Trump’s recent attempts to override state election procedure or if she agreed with unsubstantiated claims of voter fraud in recent elections.” [Nevada Current, [4/21/26](#)]

- **Nevada Current: “Neither the candidate nor her campaign responded to, or even acknowledged, questions about her quest to be Nevada’s top elections official.”** “Nevada Current emailed a list of questions to Folkins-Roberts to ask about her top priorities if elected and if there are state election procedures or regulations she would seek to change. Trump signed an executive order this month that seeks to create a national list of all the voting-age citizens in each state and directs the U.S. Postal Service to control which voters automatically receive mail-in ballots — and which voters don’t — and withhold federal funds from states and localities that don’t comply. Nevada Attorney General Aaron Ford, along with Aguilar, announced last week he was suing Trump, declaring the executive order another attempt by Trump to disrupt the state’s existing election procedures and undermine the electorate’s faith in the process. Would Folkins-Roberts have proceeded differently? Neither the candidate nor her campaign responded to, or even acknowledged, questions about her quest to be Nevada’s top elections official.” [Nevada Current, [4/21/26](#)]

The Nevada Independent: “Folkins-Roberts is the only candidate in the race who does not believe in widespread voter fraud.” “Folkins-Roberts is the only candidate in the race who does not believe in widespread voter fraud. ‘I don’t know that security is the issue. I think there’s confusion, there’s lack of confidence,’ she said. ‘I am not alleging fraud in any way, shape or form.’ That couldn’t be more different from her opponents.” [The Nevada Independent, [5/6/26](#)]

Sharron Angle

Angle: “I am running to be a key partner in implementing Voter I.D. and securing the integrity of our elections with President Trump and Governor Lombardo at the state level to Make America Great Again.” In her campaign newsletter, the Angle Examiner, Angle wrote, “America is on the verge of the greatest comeback our country has ever seen. I am running to be a key partner in implementing Voter I.D. and securing the integrity of our elections with President Trump and Governor Lombardo at the state level to Make America Great Again.” [Angle Examiner, [3/7/25](#)]

2026: Angle said she supported Trump's executive order on election integrity while Secretary Aguilar filed lawsuits to stop it. "Sharron Angle Will File For Nevada Secretary Of State: 'We have a unique opportunity in Nevada to change the direction of our state. Nevada needs Voter ID, and we need someone with experience to implement Voter ID as Secretary of State without conditions or qualifications, which is why I've been running since December 2024. Nevada needs the SAVE Act and both our Nevada Senators should be supporting it. I've been working to support President Trump's Executive Order on Election Integrity, while Nevada's current Secretary of State Cisco Aguilar files lawsuits to stop it. These are the important goals I will be working towards throughout this campaign,' said Mrs. Angle." [Friends of Sharron Angle, Press release, [3/2/26](#)]

2025: Angle supported Trump's executive order establishing proof of citizenship measures. "Trump's executive order did not change the legal requirements of NVRA or HAVA but it promoted transparency to prevent fraud. Executive Order 14248 reflects a sweeping vision of election integrity focused on tighter eligibility controls and enforcement. It leans heavily on enforcing list maintenance (consistent with NVRA and HAVA) and amplifies voter verification, especially around citizenship. Nevada needs a Secretary of State who will implement and enforce the provisions of this Executive Order in Nevada. I will do exactly that, and that's why I'm running for Nevada Secretary of State." [Angle Examiner, [10/29/25](#)]

NBC News: Angle was part of a group that sued to block the state from certifying the 2020 election, citing allegations of widespread voter fraud. "Angle, a former member of the state Assembly who has run unsuccessfully for statewide office multiple times, was part of a group in Nevada that [sued to block the certification](#) of Biden's 2020 election win in the state, citing allegations of widespread voter fraud." [NBC News, [2/8/26](#)]

Columnist Steve Sebelius: "Long before Donald Trump claimed the election was going to be rigged in 2016 ... former Nevada Assemblywoman Sharron Angle was setting the trend." Columnist Steve Sebelius wrote, "Long before Donald Trump claimed the election was going to be rigged in 2016 (before he won said rigged election), former Nevada Assemblywoman Sharron Angle was setting the trend. The Reno Republican gave up her seat in the Nevada Assembly in 2006 to make a bid for Congress in the 2nd District, running against former Nevada Secretary of State (and future U.S. Sen.) Dean Heller in the GOP primary. Angle lost, albeit narrowly (just 421 votes separated her and Heller). She claimed problems at Washoe County polling places disenfranchised her voters and demanded a new election be held. A lawsuit over the allegations was dismissed." [Las Vegas Review Journal, 7/10/22]

Jim Marchant

Nevada Current: "Although an ardent Trump supporter and, like Trump, an inveterate election denier, Marchant said he doesn't agree with Trump's executive order seeking to change Nevada's election system." "Although an ardent Trump supporter and, like Trump, an inveterate election denier, Marchant said he doesn't agree with Trump's executive order seeking to change Nevada's election system. 'I understand what he is trying to do,' Marchant said. But, he added, 'I am a state's rights guy. I don't think the federal government should have a say of what we do here. It should be up to the states. We do have a problem with our election system. We have to clean that up. I don't want to have a federal law or Constitutional amendment or government change the Constitution to fix this.' Though he disagreed with the order, he said he wouldn't have sued." [Nevada Current, [4/21/26](#)]

The Nevada Independent: Marchant “frequents Trump’s Mar-a-Lago resort”. “Each of the major primary candidates claimed a Trump connection Brown volunteered on his 2020 campaign, dermatologist Jeff Gunter served as his ambassador to Iceland and former Assemblyman Jim Marchant, who frequents Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort, was endorsed by Trump in his 2022 bid for secretary of state.” [The Nevada Independent, 6/10/24]

Roll Call: Marchant endorsed Trump’s 2024 presidential bid. “Several other names also appear on the GOP primary ballot, the most notable being perennial candidate Jim Marchant, who previously ran for Congress and for secretary of state and is known for his denial of election results. Brown, Gunter and Marchant all endorsed Trump’s 2024 presidential bid.” [Roll Call, 5/28/24]

In 2022, Trump endorsed Marchant for Secretary of State. “Former President Donald Trump has endorsed Jim Marchant for Nevada Secretary of State. The former assemblyman had this to say of his endorsement: ‘President Trump has fought tirelessly for America’s prosperity with the business expertise that built his entrepreneurial empire, and his leadership attained incredible achievements for our nation despite being attacked non-stop by the D.C. swamp. The same D.C. swamp knows that I will also fight tenaciously to protect Nevadans from corruption, and they have been engaged in an all-out assault to stop me. I am deeply honored to receive this endorsement from President Trump. President Trump understands that my background as an internet pioneer, successful businessman, advocate for Constitutional rights, and proven servant leader as a former Nevada Assemblyman uniquely qualify me as the best option for the next Secretary of State...’” [KOLO, [10/13/22](#)]

- **2020: Trump: “Jim Is a Great Guy...Hopefully, He’s Going to Win...”** [CQ, 9/12/20]

January 2022: Marchant said he was approached by Trump allies to run for secretary of state and was encouraged to organize a slate of like-minded candidates. “Mr. Marchant said in an interview with The New York Times in January that he had been approached by Mr. Trump’s allies to run for secretary of state and had been encouraged to organize a national slate of like-minded candidates.” [The New York Times, [11/12/22](#)]

The New York Times: Marchant “helped organize a national ‘America First’ slate of secretary of state candidates, a group of right-wing election deniers whose campaigns centered on re-litigating baseless voter fraud claims.” “During last year’s midterm elections, Mr. Marchant helped organize a national ‘America First’ slate of secretary of state candidates, a group of right-wing election deniers whose campaigns centered on re-litigating baseless voter fraud claims. All but one of the candidates were rejected by voters. The once-obscure election oversight post has taken on heightened significance since the 2020 election. In Mr. Marchant’s race, he did not appear to concede.” [The New York Times, [5/3/23](#)]

Nevada Current: Marchant “garnered national attention for his full-throated commitment to Trump and false narratives surrounding election integrity.” “Jim Marchant, one of the first to throw his hat into the race, has garnered national attention for his full-throated commitment to Trump and false narratives surrounding election integrity. The former Nevada assemblyman and failed congressional candidate was among a handful of Republicans who cried fraud after the 2020 election. Marchant sued Cegavske in her role as secretary of state, as well as Clark County Registrar of Voters Joe Gloria, in an attempt to overturn his 5-point loss to Democratic U.S. Rep. Steven Horsford. The case was thrown out.”

Las Vegas Review Journal: “Marchant has been a prominent election denier since 2020... He stood alongside six Nevada Republicans in December 2020 who signed fake electoral certificates claiming Trump won Nevada”. “Marchant has been a prominent election denier since 2020 when he lost his bid for Nevada’s 4th Congressional District against Democratic Rep. Steven Horsford, claiming that like President Donald Trump, he was also a ‘victim of election fraud.’ He stood alongside six Nevada Republicans in December 2020 who signed fake electoral certificates claiming Trump won Nevada, although he lost to Biden by about 30,000 votes. In 2021 Marchant organized the America First Secretary of State Coalition with a goal to elect ‘America First’ secretaries of state to ‘achieve voter integrity and counter and reverse electoral fraud.’” [Las Vegas Review Journal, 4/23/25]

2022: Marchant said he would not have certified Biden’s 2020 win and would consider sending “alternate electors” to Congress in 2024. “Marchant has proudly owned the fact that he is a part of a coalition of Trump loyalists who are running for secretary of state. He’s said he would not have certified Biden’s win in 2020 and would consider sending “alternate electors” to Congress in 2024.” [Nevada Current, [4/13/22](#)]

2020: Marchant Filed Lawsuit Asking Judge to Force County Commission to Order New Election for All Races in Clark County, Or Alternatively to Order Special Elections Specifically in Race He Lost. “Two nearly identical lawsuits were also filed Monday by Republican Congressional candidate Jim Marchant and State Senate candidate April Becker, both of whom are represented by attorney Craig Mueller. The lawsuits claim that the use of an Agilis signature verification machine violated the state law, an argument that Republicans have tried and failed to make in other recent lawsuits... The lawsuits are asking judges to force the county commission to order a new election for all races in Clark County, or alternatively to order special elections specifically in the races that Marchant and Becker lost.” [Las Vegas Review Journal, 11/18/20]

- **Longshot Lawsuit Tossed by Judge.** “Failed GOP congressional candidate Jim Marchant lost in court on Friday in his longshot bid at a Clark County re-do election. Endorsed by fellow disappointed candidate Donald Trump, failed Republican contender Jim Marchant lost his congressional election convincingly this cycle to his Democratic rival Steven Horsford by more than five points and 16,000 votes for Nevada’s District 4. Marchant lost again on Friday—this time in court. His legal team left a Clark County judge befuddled as to why they alleged massive shenanigans in Nevada’s voting systems but sought a re-vote only in the Democratic stronghold of a typically red state.” [Newstex Blogs, 11/20/20]

Socorro Keenan

Keenan did not believe the 2020 election in Nevada was fair and claimed she experienced problems when voting. Keenan also pointed to debunked “2000 Mules” documentary. “Keenan does not think the 2020 election in Nevada was free and fair, saying she experienced a problem when she was voting. She had to sign an electronic machine with a sponge three times because her signature wasn't recognized, she said. Keenan also tried to call in to see if her vote was counted at the Secretary of State's office, but there was no one to talk to. She also pointed to the ‘2000 Mules’ documentary, which, according to its synopsis ‘exposes widespread, coordinated voter fraud in the 2020 election.’ Multiple news outlets, including Reuters, fact checked the documentary and ‘did not find any concrete evidence definitively showing proof of fraud.’ ‘Our process is a mess,’ Keenan said. ‘It's an easy thing to figure out and fix. We need to get it done right this time. People are upset and they don't trust anymore.’” [Las Vegas Sun, [6/9/22](#)]

April 2026: At a Trump event in Las Vegas, Keenan told a reporter that she believed Secretary Aguilar should lose his license for filing a lawsuit against Trump’s elections executive order.

“Keenan did not respond to requests for an interview. But in a brief exchange with a Current reporter at Trump’s Las Vegas event last week, Keenan said she believed Aguilar should “lose his (attorney’s) license” for filing a lawsuit against Trump’s efforts to assert control over Nevada election procedures. That suit is being filed by the state attorney general’s office on behalf of the secretary of state’s office, and not by Aguilar.” [Nevada Current, [4/21/26](#)]

NORTH DAKOTA

Michael Howe

July 2025: Howe’s office said it was “thankful for the partnership with the Trump Administration to continue to ensure only qualified North Dakota electors are participating in our elections.” In July 2025, the North Dakota Secretary of State’s office posted on Facebook: “Secretary Howe joined several of his colleagues from across the country at the White House on Tuesday. We are thankful for the partnership with the Trump Administration to continue to ensure only qualified North Dakota electors are participating in our elections.” [Facebook, [7/30/25](#)]

May 2025: Howe touted “aligning North Dakota law with President Trump’s executive order that absentee ballots must arrive by the time the polls close on election night.” In an op-ed, Howe wrote, “As North Dakota’s chief election official, election integrity is non-negotiable. It is the foundation of the Democratic process and essential to the legitimacy of government. Our approach to the 69th Legislative Session in evaluating proposed legislation was ‘does it make it easier to vote and harder to cheat?’ With our office’s support the Legislature passed and Gov. Kelly Armstrong signed numerous policies that continue to make North Dakota a national leader in election integrity. Commonsense reforms included a more robust post-election audit, prohibiting unorthodox voting methods like ranked choice and approval voting, not allowing political subdivisions to hire third parties to administer a public election, creating uniform election processes across the state, and aligning North Dakota law with President Trump’s executive order that absentee ballots must arrive by the time the polls close on election night. This change now mirrors our neighboring rural states of South Dakota, Montana and even Minnesota.” [The Bismarck Tribune, 5/28/25]

December 2024: Howe praised Trump for working to “get rolling” on day one. In a December 2024 interview, Howe said, “In talking with Governor Burgum just the other day, where President Trump is now in 2024 versus where he was in 2016 in the preparations for taking office and how far along they are with cabinet selections and on the way to the confirmation process- they’re so far ahead of the game that President Trump on January 20th- he doesn’t want ‘hey, let me get my feet underneath me’. Day one he wants to get rolling and I’d say that’s why the public, this country, and the voters of this country had such a strong mandate. They want to see results on day one and I’m looking forward to that.” [Open Range, BEK TV+, [12/16/24](#)]

2022: Howe said he believed Joe Biden won 2020 in a fair election. “Howe, who said he believes Joe Biden won the presidency in a fair election, wants to strengthen public confidence in the elections system by ‘opening the blinds’ and providing more transparency into how votes are counted. Howe, who lives in West Fargo, represents District 22 in the North Dakota House. Elected in 2016 and 2020, he

serves on the House Appropriations Committee and also is involved in his family's seed business northeast of Casselton." [Bismarck Tribune, 10/28/22]

OHIO

Robert Sprague

April 2026: In campaign ad, Sprague said, "As Ohio's Secretary of State, I'll support President Trump,... I'll ditch the drop boxes, and I'll verify American citizenship for new voter registrations." "Ohio State Treasurer Robert Sprague has a new ad promising to eliminate ballot drop boxes if elected secretary of state. [The ad](#), which began airing statewide Wednesday, shows the Republican walking through an urban neighborhood reminiscent of the set of 'Sesame Street.' Instead of a garbage can and Oscar the Grouch, the ad shows a steel ballot drop box and a furry character who calls himself 'Lefty the Cheat.' 'As Ohio's Secretary of State, I'll support President Trump,' Sprague says, 'I'll ditch the drop boxes, and I'll verify American citizenship for new voter registrations.'" [Cleveland.com, [4/23/26](#)]

- **WVXU: "Sprague's ad takes so many liberties with the truth behind ballot boxes it is hard to know where to begin."** "Sprague's ad takes so many liberties with the truth behind ballot boxes it is hard to know where to begin. First, if there is one thing you will never see in Ohio, it is a ballot drop box on the street where you live. The real ballot drop boxes are on the property of Ohio's 88 county boards of elections. There are no Muppet-like creatures living inside them. Just ballots. Ohio law requires a bipartisan pair of board of elections workers to remove ballots from the drop boxes once a day and at 7:30 p.m. on an election day." [WVXU, [4/30/26](#)]
- **Ohio Capital Journal's Marilou Johanek: "Republicans eager to align with Trump then and now, like Sprague, have likewise fueled misinformation about drop boxes as a source of widespread election fraud."** In an op-ed, Marilou Johanek wrote, "Republicans eager to align with Trump then and now, like Sprague, have likewise fueled misinformation about drop boxes as a source of widespread election fraud. Never mind that after the 2020 election, states across the country told the Associated Press there were no cases of fraud, vandalism, or theft involving drop boxes that would have affected election outcomes." [Ohio Capital Journal, [5/1/26](#)]

Sprague: "I look forward to working in lockstep with the Trump administration to help secure our elections." In a February 2026 Facebook post, "Great meetings at the White House yesterday. I look forward to working in lockstep with the Trump administration to help secure our elections." [Facebook, [2/13/26](#)]

- **Sprague: "I'm looking forward to working with President Trump and the legislature to enact even stronger protections."** Robert Sprague tweeted, "Talking tough on election security isn't enough—action is. Last night in Erie County I laid out the plan: Voter ID. Clean voter rolls. Secure ballots. I'm looking forward to working with President Trump and the legislature to enact even stronger protections." [Twitter, [@RobertCSprague, 8/21/25](#)]
- **Sprague said as secretary of state, he would work "closely with the Trump Administration to obtain access to federal citizenship data to secure Ohio elections..."** According to Sprague's campaign website, "Article 1, Section V of the Ohio Constitution clearly states, 'Only

a citizen of the United States...is entitled to vote at all elections.’ Sprague will work closely with the Trump Administration to obtain access to federal citizenship data to secure Ohio elections by verifying an individual’s citizenship status up-front when they attempt to register to vote, and before they are placed on the official voter rolls.” [Sprague for Ohio, Election Security, accessed [5/25/25](#)]

- **Sprague would “Work with the Trump Administration to share critical federal data with the states, especially citizenship data from DHS.”** According to Sprague’s campaign website, “Next Steps: Work with the Trump Administration to share critical federal data with the states, especially citizenship data from DHS.” [Sprague for Ohio, Election Security, accessed [8/28/25](#)]

Sprague was a Trump delegate at the 2024 RNC Convention. “The stage is set for next week’s Republican National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. While the U.S. is still waiting to find out who former President Donald Trump will choose as his running mate, 79 Ohioans are bound for Wisconsin with a major task as they were selected as delegates. Ohio’s Treasurer Robert Sprague is one of the delegates who will be in attendance next week. ‘It’s the convention that’s going to nominate Donald Trump as our party’s candidate and the next president of the United States,’ said Robert Sprague, R-Ohio Treasurer. ‘It’s important to me personally, because you can see that the direction our country is going in is not good.’” [Spectrum News 1, [7/12/24](#)]

Sprague: “I love Donald Trump and ... the way that he puts Ohio working families first.”

“Sprague told Spectrum News by the end of next week, all of America will know who will be Trump’s vice-presidential pick. Ohio U.S. Senator JD Vance remains in the mix, and Sprague said he supports the idea of Vance being a potential running mate. ‘I love Donald Trump and what he the way that he puts Ohio working families first,’ Sprague said. ‘That’s why Ohioans love him. That’s what JD Vance does, is he puts working families first. And that’s why I think he would be a great vice president.’ Sprague was previously selected to serve as a delegate during COVID. However, the RNC ended up getting canceled during that time period. Sprague said it’s an honor he will be able to participate in conversations throughout the event as a delegate. Some of the topics could include inflation and even border control.” [Spectrum News 1, [7/12/24](#)]

SOUTH CAROLINA

Mark Hammond

2024: Hammond endorsed Trump. “When Trump attended the S.C. GOP Silver Elephant Gala in August, he rolled out the endorsement from House Speaker Murrell Smith. Smith traveled on Trump’s private jet when the former president flew to Columbia for the dinner. Right before his Summerville rally in September, Trump announced support from Attorney General Alan Wilson, Secretary of State Mark Hammond and House Majority Leader Davey Hiott and several more state lawmakers.” [The State, [2/7/24](#)]

SOUTH DAKOTA

Monae Johnson

2026: Johnson turned over state vote data to the Trump administration’s DOJ. “Secretary of State Monae Johnson sat down with KOTA Territory News last week to discuss why she agreed to turn over

South Dakota's voter rolls to the DOJ. 'I'm supporting any effort to make our voter rolls clean, and it didn't matter if it was a Democrat or a Republican president or The Department Of Justice, they have legal right to have that information that we have in our system,' said Johnson. Johnson says the state turned over the rolls to the department of Justice, but she declined to sign a memorandum of understanding as the state and federal government ultimately did not agree on terms. 'I did not sign a memorandum of understanding because when you do that then you're bound,' said Johnson." [KOTA TV, [1/21/26](#)]

AP: "She formed her candidacy around 'election integrity' in a nod to Republican fears that were instigated by...Trump's false claims that the 2020 election was stolen." "Last month, Republican candidate Monae Johnson beat out incumbent Secretary of State Steve Barnett for the GOP nomination. She formed her candidacy around 'election integrity' in a nod to Republican fears that were instigated by former President Donald Trump's false claims that the 2020 election was stolen. Seiler said he had been approached by moderate Republicans who suggested he run against Johnson, but added that several other Democrats have expressed interest in the nomination. 'Dumping Steve Barnett and basically nominating an election denier is going to have consequences' for the Republican Party, Seiler said. 'I think secretary of state will be a competitive race this time.'" [AP, 7/8/22]

- **2022: Johnson: "I don't think that's fair to peg me as an election denier when integrity and transparency is what everyone wants."** "Lately, I've been thinking the same description applies to something else: interviewing Monae Johnson about the 2020 presidential election Johnson is a Republican who will become South Dakota's top elections official if she wins the Nov. 8 race for secretary of state. She has dodged questions about the 2020 election in recent interviews, including with Keloland Media Group[4]and South Dakota Public Broadcasting[5], and she did the same with me prior to the launch of South Dakota Searchlight. I asked Johnson, 'Do you think the 2020 presidential election was fraudulent?' 'That I don't know,' she said. 'I'm thinking here in South Dakota, President Trump won the election. But President Biden, he's the one that won the nation, so he's our president now. And for me, I wasn't in office at the time. I wasn't even in the Secretary of State's Office. I want to move forward and bring that trust forward. The way to do that is more transparency.' I followed up with a similar question. 'Do you think the election was stolen from Donald Trump?' She paused before answering and then said, 'I'm going to leave that question up to those people that are actually in the fight for it.' I told her she could end up 'in the fight' if she wins and Trump runs for president in two years. 'Well, that would be going forward,' she said. 'So I don't want to dwell on the 2020 election. I want to move forward to this one. And I know that's what you all want, but I'm not going to answer it.' 'Why not?' I asked. 'Because then you guys will just peg me as an election denier,' Johnson said. 'So I want to move forward.' I asked her to clear the air. If she's being 'pegged' as an election denier, is that a fair characterization? 'No, I don't think that's fair to peg me as an election denier when integrity and transparency is what everyone wants,' she said. 'That's why I'm running.'" [Bluestem Prairie, 11/3/22]

WISCONSIN

Nathan Pollnow

Asked if there was validity to Trump's claim that the 2020 election was stolen, Pollnow said "I don't know for certain, but plenty of evidence does exist to render an investigation into what happened." In a 2021 Q&A, Pollnow was asked: "Do you think Trump's claim that 'the election was

stolen' has any validity?" Pollnow replied: "I don't know for certain, but plenty of evidence does exist to render an investigation into what happened. A thorough ballot count needs to happen. Also a few simple changes could be made to ensure less questions in the future." [Watertown Daily Times, [6/8/21](#)]

February 2026: Pollnow praised Trump's State of the Union address. "From highlighting our economic successes to thanking our American heroes, it was a wonderful speech about American exceptionalism as we celebrate the 250th anniversary of this great nation." In a February 2026 Facebook post, Pollnow wrote, "Donald J. Trump addressed the nation with class. From highlighting our economic successes to thanking our American heroes, it was a wonderful speech about American exceptionalism as we celebrate the 250th anniversary of this great nation." [Facebook, [2/24/26](#)]

GENERAL COMMENTARY: TRUMP'S ELECTION DENIALISM

Brennan Center: Trump was the "first president to try to overturn the results of a presidential election and used federal power to do so." "Among other things, President Trump tried to do this before. He was the first president to try to overturn the results of a presidential election and used federal power to do so. Institutions and key officials blocked him. These internal checks, however, are now gone, and many public officials will likely carry out the president's will." [Brennan Center for Justice, [8/3/25](#)]

Former White House aide Cassidy Hutchinson testified that Trump told his then-chief of staff, "I don't want people to know that we lost" and called the defeat "embarrassing." "Former President Trump told his then-chief of staff 'this is embarrassing,' and 'I don't want people to know that we lost,' after the Supreme Court ruled against him on a key case about the 2020 election, former White House aide Cassidy Hutchinson told the House select committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol riot. The Hutchinson's testimony was revealed Thursday in what might be the Jan. 6 committee's final public hearing." [The Hill, [10/13/22](#)]

POLITICO: The House January 6 Committee found that Trump was "been informed repeatedly that he lost the election and that his claims of fraud were unfounded — only to reject them and continue to mislead the American public." "Characterizing excerpts of nearly a dozen depositions from top aides to Trump and former Vice President Mike Pence, the committee described a president who had been informed repeatedly that he lost the election and that his claims of fraud were unfounded — only to reject them and continue to mislead the American public. He then pushed top advisers to continue strategizing ways to overturn the election results." [POLITICO, [3/2/22](#)]

POLITICO: Trump campaign adviser Jason Miller "described a blunt conversation with Trump in which campaign aides told him he had lost". "In 16 accompanying exhibits, the panel showcased testimony it received from key figures in Trump-world, including campaign adviser Jason Miller, White House communications aide Ben Williamson, Pence national security adviser Keith Kellogg, Pence counsel Greg Jacob and Pence chief of staff Marc Short. Top Justice Department officials also provided crucial testimony revealed by the panel Wednesday night, including Acting Attorney General Jeff Rosen and his top adviser, Richard Donoghue. [...] The panel says the evidence supports an 'inference' that Trump knew he had lost the election — Miller described a blunt conversation with Trump in which campaign aides told him he had lost — 'but the President nevertheless sought to use the Vice President to manipulate the results in his favor.' Miller told the committee that campaign aide Matt Oczkowski

told Trump in the Oval Office that ‘he was going to lose,’ citing county and state-level results that were being reported. But Miller said Trump refused to accept their assessment.” [POLITICO, [3/2/22](#)]

The Washington Post: Trump knew of “harebrained scheme” created by attorney John Eastman to overturn the election and give the presidency to Trump. “After Joe Biden won the 2020 election but before the results were certified, John Eastman, a former law professor at Chapman University’s School of Law and an active member of the Federalist Society, outlined a six-step scheme to overturn the election and hand the presidency back to Donald Trump. Eastman’s scheme, which was revealed this week, had no chance of succeeding — but the memo tells us much about Trump’s intentions and state of mind on Jan. 6, when a horde of his supporters stormed the Capitol to try to obstruct the constitutional process for confirming the election result. [...] The harebrained scheme outlined in Eastman’s memo would not have kept Trump in office, but it nonetheless has evidentiary value. Trump introduced Eastman at a rally near the White House as one of the most brilliant lawyers in the country.’ Trump also appeared to refer to the scheme outlined in Eastman’s memo (which was, of course, not yet available to the public) when he told the assembled crowd on Jan. 6 that Eastman ‘looked at this and he said, ‘What an absolute disgrace that this can be happening to our Constitution.’ And he looked at Mike Pence, and I hope Mike is going to do the right thing. I hope so. I hope so. Because if Mike Pence does the right thing, we win.’ As historian Heather Cox Richardson pointed out, the memo thus serves as evidence that Trump intended to subvert the election and have himself declared the winner.” [The Washington Post, [9/23/21](#)]

The New York Times: Trump’s campaign knowingly spread false claims about election equipment company Dominion Voting Systems. “Two weeks after the 2020 election, a team of lawyers closely allied with Donald J. Trump held a widely watched news conference at the Republican Party’s headquarters in Washington. At the event, they laid out a bizarre conspiracy theory claiming that a voting machine company had worked with an election software firm, the financier George Soros and Venezuela to steal the presidential contest from Mr. Trump. But there was a problem for the Trump team, according to court documents released on Monday evening. By the time the news conference occurred on Nov. 19, Mr. Trump’s campaign had already prepared an internal memo on many of the outlandish claims about the company, Dominion Voting Systems, and the separate software company, Smartmatic. The memo had determined that those allegations were untrue. The court papers, which were initially filed late last week as a motion in a defamation lawsuit brought against the campaign and others by a former Dominion employee, Eric Coomer, contain evidence that officials in the Trump campaign were aware early on that many of the claims against the companies were baseless. The documents also suggest that the campaign sat on its findings about Dominion even as Sidney Powell and other lawyers attacked the company in the conservative media and ultimately filed four federal lawsuits accusing it of a vast conspiracy to rig the election against Mr. Trump.” [The New York Times, [9/21/21](#)]

New York Times Editorial Board: “Mr. Trump’s unprecedented assault on the integrity of American democracy requires a criminal investigation.” “Mr. Trump’s unprecedented assault on the integrity of American democracy requires a criminal investigation. The disturbing details of his postelection misfeasance, meticulously assembled by the Jan. 6 committee, leave little doubt that Mr. Trump sought to subvert the Constitution and overturn the will of the American people. The president, defeated at the polls in 2020, tried to enlist federal law enforcement authorities, state officials and administrators of the nation’s electoral system in a furious effort to remain in power. When all else failed, he roused an armed mob that stormed the Capitol and threatened lawmakers. The Justice Department is reportedly examining Mr. Trump’s conduct, including his role in trying to overturn the election and in taking home classified documents. If Attorney General Merrick Garland and his staff

conclude that there is sufficient evidence to establish Mr. Trump's guilt on a serious charge in a court of law, then they must seek an indictment too." [Editorial Board, The New York Times, [8/26/22](#)]

Los Angeles Times Editorial Board: "Much has been said about Trump breaking norms as a politician and as a president. But this goes far beyond challenging the status quo or 'draining the swamp.' The sitting president of the United States, in an effort to undo the will of the American electorate, is complicit in the storming of the U.S. Capitol to halt the peaceful transfer of power. This is the predictable outcome of the grotesque charade being played not just by Trump but by Sens. Ted. Cruz (R-Texas), Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) and others who have aligned with Trump's blatantly false assertions of voting fraud. Attacking democratic institutions attacks democracy itself, and what the nation witnessed Wednesday in Washington is the power of the mob to destabilize even the most stable of democracies. The responsibility for this day of unconscionable attacks by Americans on the heart of our elective system belongs to Trump. But his enablers have much to answer for as well, and much to regret." [Editorial Board, Los Angeles Times, [1/6/21](#)]

National Review editors Rich Lowry and Ramesh Ponnuru: "All in all, it's the worst thing he's done in his presidency and the worst exit of a defeated president in U.S. history, an effort that is not less infamous for being incompetent and risible." In an op-ed, National Review editors Rich Lowry and Ramesh Ponnuru wrote, "It had long been obvious that if Trump lost the election, his exit would be graceless. [...] Yet Trump hasn't even managed to clear the low bar of realistic expectations for his post-election conduct. Even before the counting had ended, he declared himself the winner by a landslide. He spread rank disinformation on his Twitter account every day and pursued lawsuits that sought, based on the thinnest of justifications, to throw out millions of votes and invalidate state elections. He lobbied Republican officials to refuse to certify results and to award him the electors in states he lost, and failed only because the Republicans knew such acts would be a gross violation of the public trust at best and illegal at worst. All in all, it's the worst thing he's done in his presidency and the worst exit of a defeated president in U.S. history, an effort that is not less infamous for being incompetent and risible." [National Review, [12/17/20](#)]

PRESSURE CAMPAIGN

January 6 Committee's report concluded, "President Trump or his inner circle engaged in at least 200 apparent acts of public or private outreach, pressure, or condemnation, targeting either State legislators or State or local election administrators, to overturn State election results." "The House committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol released its full, final report late Thursday night. Below are our key takeaways. [...] We've known that Trump and his allies pressured lawmakers and officials far and wide to help overturn the election results in key states. But the report lays out the vast scale of this effort. It says, 'President Trump or his inner circle engaged in at least 200 apparent acts of public or private outreach, pressure, or condemnation, targeting either State legislators or State or local election administrators, to overturn State election results.' What qualifies as 'targeting' an official is, of course, subjective. But several officials indicate they felt the pressure. Then-Michigan state House Speaker Lee Chatfield (R) said he received between five and 10 phone calls from Trump after the election. Chatfield said he repeatedly informed Trump he had seen nothing that would overturn Trump's nearly three-point deficit in the state, and he and state Senate President Mike Shirkey (R) put out a statement saying as much after a meeting with Trump." [The Washington Post, [12/23/22](#)]

- **The Washington Post:** "The report details dozens of officials who were threatened, though not all were targeted by Trump personally." "The report details dozens of officials who

were threatened, though not all were targeted by Trump personally. The chairman of the Maricopa County, Ariz., board of supervisors, Clint Hickman (R), said ‘the threats never abated.’” [The Washington Post, [12/23/22](#)]

In December 2020, Trump told DOJ, “Just say that the election was corrupt + leave the rest to me and the R. Congressmen.” “Former President Donald Trump pressured acting Attorney General Jeffrey Rosen to declare that the election was corrupt in an attempt to help Republican members of Congress try to overturn the election result, according to notes of a December 2020 call Trump held with Rosen and acting deputy attorney general Richard Donoghue. During the December 27, 2020, call, Trump pressured Rosen and Donoghue to falsely declare the election ‘illegal’ and ‘corrupt’ even after the Justice Department had not uncovered evidence of widespread voter fraud. ‘Just say that the election was corrupt + leave the rest to me and the R. Congressmen,’ Trump said on the call, according to Donoghue’s notes. Donoghue’s contemporaneous notes were provided to the House Oversight Committee from call the Trump held with Rosen and Donoghue, who took over the top spots at DOJ in the final weeks of Trump’s presidency following the resignation of Attorney General William Barr.” [CNN, [7/31/21](#)]

January 2021: Trump pressured Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger to “find 11,780 votes” to overturn his loss. “... Trump alternately berated Raffensperger, tried to flatter him, begged him to act and threatened him with vague criminal consequences if the secretary of state refused to pursue his false claims”. “President Trump urged fellow Republican Brad Raffensperger, the Georgia secretary of state, to ‘find’ enough votes to overturn his defeat in an extraordinary one-hour phone call Saturday that legal scholars described as a flagrant abuse of power and a potential criminal act. The Washington Post obtained a recording of the conversation in which Trump alternately berated Raffensperger, tried to flatter him, begged him to act and threatened him with vague criminal consequences if the secretary of state refused to pursue his false claims, at one point warning that Raffensperger was taking ‘a big risk.’ [...] Throughout the call, Raffensperger and his office’s general counsel rejected Trump’s assertions, explaining that the president is relying on debunked conspiracy theories and that President-elect Joe Biden’s 11,779-vote victory in Georgia was fair and accurate. Trump dismissed their arguments. [...] At another point, Trump said: ‘So look. All I want to do is this. I just want to find 11,780 votes, which is one more than we have. Because we won the state.’ He later added: ‘So what are we going to do here, folks? I only need 11,000 votes. Fellas, I need 11,000 votes. Give me a break.’ The rambling and at times incoherent conversation offered a remarkable glimpse of how consumed and desperate the president remains about his loss, unwilling or unable to let the matter go and still asserting he can reverse the results in enough battleground states to remain in office.” [The Washington Post, [1/3/21](#)]

The Washington Post: Trump also “previously invited Michigan Republican state leaders to the White House, pressured Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp (R) in a call to try to replace that state’s electors and asked the speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to help reverse his loss in that state.” “Trump’s pressure campaign on Raffensperger is the latest example of his attempt to subvert the outcome of the Nov. 3 election through personal outreach to state Republican officials. He previously invited Michigan Republican state leaders to the White House, pressured Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp (R) in a call to try to replace that state’s electors and asked the speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to help reverse his loss in that state.” [The Washington Post, [1/3/21](#)]

New York Times: Trump and DOJ lawyer Jeffrey Clark plotted to oust Acting Attorney General Jeffrey Rosen in order to “wield the department’s power to force Georgia state lawmakers to

overturn its presidential election results.” “The Justice Department’s top leaders listened in stunned silence this month: One of their peers, they were told, had devised a plan with President Donald J. Trump to oust Jeffrey A. Rosen as acting attorney general and wield the department’s power to force Georgia state lawmakers to overturn its presidential election results. The unassuming lawyer who worked on the plan, Jeffrey Clark, had been devising ways to cast doubt on the election results and to bolster Mr. Trump’s continuing legal battles and the pressure on Georgia politicians. Because Mr. Rosen had refused the president’s entreaties to carry out those plans, Mr. Trump was about to decide whether to fire Mr. Rosen and replace him with Mr. Clark. The department officials, convened on a conference call, then asked each other: What will you do if Mr. Rosen is dismissed? The answer was unanimous. They would resign. Their informal pact ultimately helped persuade Mr. Trump to keep Mr. Rosen in place, calculating that a furor over mass resignations at the top of the Justice Department would eclipse any attention on his baseless accusations of voter fraud. Mr. Trump’s decision came only after Mr. Rosen and Mr. Clark made their competing cases to him in a bizarre White House meeting that two officials compared with an episode of Mr. Trump’s reality show ‘The Apprentice,’ albeit one that could prompt a constitutional crisis. The previously unknown chapter was the culmination of the president’s long-running effort to batter the Justice Department into advancing his personal agenda.” [The New York Times, [1/22/21](#)]

FAKE ELECTORS SCHEME

TIME: Trump “activated the Republican Party’s apparatus to build alternative groups of false electors” in multiple states. “The committee showed testimony that Trump himself activated the Republican Party’s apparatus to build alternative groups of false electors in those states. In video testimony, Ronna McDaniels, the chairwoman of the Republican National Committee, described Trump bringing Eastman onto a phone call so that Eastman could tell her that Trump needed the RNC to help assemble fake electors. ‘Essentially, he turned the call over to Mr. Eastman, who then proceeded to talk about the importance of the RNC helping the campaign gather these contingent electors in case any of the legal challenges that were ongoing changed the result of any of the states,’ McDaniels said. ‘My understanding is the campaign did take the lead and we just were helping them in that role.’ The panel also revealed new evidence that a staff member for one of Trump’s strongest allies in Congress, Senator Ron Johnson, Republican of Wisconsin, tried to submit a list of fake electors to Vice President Mike Pence before Pence presided over the congressional certification of the Electoral College.” [TIME, [6/21/22](#)]

MIKE PENCE

CNN: Trump pressured Pence to “ignore the Constitution to prevent certification” “Trump also pressured then-Vice President Mike Pence to ignore the Constitution to prevent certification, criticizing Pence on Twitter at the same time that rioters had forced the vice president and lawmakers to evacuate the House and Senate chambers. Both Rosen and Donoghue could end up testifying before Congress about their interactions with Trump after the election, after the Justice Department this week told the House Oversight and Senate Judiciary Committees it was not asserting executive privilege over DOJ officials’ January 6 communications with Trump.” [CNN, [7/31/21](#)]

Trump criticized Pence for not trying to block certification “Actually... Pence did have the right to change the outcome, and they now want to take that right away. Unfortunately, he didn’t exercise that power, he could have overturned the Election!” “Trump has criticized Pence for not trying to block the certification of the presidential vote. In a statement Sunday, Trump pointed to recent

efforts in Congress to strengthen the Electoral Count Act as proof that Pence could have acted unilaterally on Jan. 6. ‘Actually, what they are saying, is that Mike Pence did have the right to change the outcome, and they now want to take that right away. Unfortunately, he didn’t exercise that power, he could have overturned the Election!’ Trump said.” [NBC News, [2/4/22](#)]

CNBC: Trump defended Jan 6 rioters who chanted about hanging Pence. “Former President Donald Trump in an interview earlier this year defended Jan. 6 Capitol rioters who chanted about hanging his vice president, Mike Pence, arguing that the mob’s anger was warranted by what he called fraudulent ballots that elected President Joe Biden. Trump also said he was not worried about Pence during the siege of the Capitol, when the then-vice president and members of Congress hid in the complex as hundreds of Trump supporters swarmed through it.” [CNBC, [11/12/21](#)]

JANUARY 6TH

At a rally preceding the Capitol attack, Trump urged his supporters to march to the Capitol and protest the election results. “The mob violence began just as Trump was ending a rally of his supporters outside the White House, where he urged them to march to the Capitol and protest against the confirmation of Biden’s victory. During that rally, he called on Pence to reject certain states’ ballots. If Pence did not do so, Trump said, ‘It will be a sad day for the country.’” [CNBC, [11/12/21](#)]

- **The Washington Post: “Before the mob stormed the Capitol, Trump encouraged his supporters to ‘fight like hell’ to stop the certification of Joe Biden’s victory.”** “Critics have pointed to the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol as the clearest example of incendiary political rhetoric with violent, real-world consequences. Trump painted his Democratic opponents as illegitimate usurpers and urged supporters to come to Washington on Jan. 6 for a gathering that ‘will be wild.’ Before the mob stormed the Capitol, Trump encouraged his supporters to “fight like hell” to stop the certification of Joe Biden’s victory.” [The Washington Post, [5/25/26](#)]

The Guardian: Trump was warned that some protesters were armed but he demanded metal detectors be removed so that more people could be let in. “Donald Trump knew members of the crowd at his rally near the White House on 6 January 2021 were armed, but demanded security apparatus be removed to allow them closer, and then instructed the crowd to march on the US Capitol, a witness told the January 6 committee. According to the witness, Cassidy Hutchinson, the president later attempted to assault an aide who refused his demand that he go to the Capitol too. Hutchinson, a former aide to Trump and his chief of staff, Mark Meadows, testified in person on Tuesday. She described how, backstage at the Ellipse shortly before his speech, Trump demanded supporters be allowed in, to fill the area to capacity as his remarks were shown on TV. The president was warned by a Secret Service official that protesters outside security magnetometers were carrying weapons. Trump said: ‘I don’t fucking care that they have weapons, they’re not here to hurt me. They’re not here to hurt me. Take the fucking mags away. Let my people in. They can march to the Capitol from here, let the people in and take the mags away.’ Liz Cheney, vice-chair of the January 6 committee, led questioning of Hutchinson.” [The Guardian, [6/28/22](#)]

The Washington Post: Former White House press secretary claimed Trump was “gleeful” as he watched the Capitol attack unfold. “Former White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham said that Trump was ‘gleeful’ as he watched the attack unfold, and he even cheered chants of ‘Hang Mike Pence!’ the committee reported. ‘Maybe our supporters have the right idea,’ Trump remarked to his aides,

according to Rep. Liz Cheney (R-Wyo.), vice chair of the Jan. 6 committee.” [The Washington Post, [6/29/22](#)]

The Washington Post: Staffers told the House January 6 Committee that they spent hours trying to convince Trump to denounce the riot. “Upon returning to the White House, the committee said, Trump was informed that the protests had turned violent. Staffers testified that they spent hours trying to get the president to denounce the riot, but he was mostly watching TV. He did not call the Justice, Defense or Homeland Security departments or other federal officials who could respond to the attack. He did request a list of senators to call, pressing them to further delay the certification of the election.” [The Washington Post, [6/29/22](#)]

- **The Washington Post: More than 20 prominent Republicans pleaded with Trump to denounce violence at the Capitol.** “CNN on Thursday published yet more details of the texts that former Trump White House chief of staff Mark Meadows provided to the House committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol before he stopped cooperating with it. The biggest takeaway: The GOP’s pleas to get Trump to call off the dogs that day — pleas that he resisted — were even more pronounced than we previously knew. We now know of more than 20 prominent Republicans who pleaded with then-President Donald Trump and Meadows for Trump to do more. We also now know more about precisely when the pleas arrived. [...] Among those lodging pleas: Trump’s own son, Donald Trump Jr.; three leading Trump-backing Fox News hosts, including Sean Hannity; multiple current and former White House and administration aides; and a dozen GOP members of Congress.” [The Washington Post, [6/03/22](#)]

January 2025: On his first day back in office, Trump pardoned, commuted or promised to dismiss the cases of more than 1,500 people charged for their roles in the Jan 6 attack. “Trump, on his first day back in office in January 2025, pardoned, commuted the prison sentences or vowed to dismiss the cases of all of the 1,500-plus people charged with crimes during the Capitol assault, including those convicted of attacking officers with makeshift weapons such as flagpoles, a hockey stick and crutch.” [Associated Press, [5/24/26](#)]

RECOMMENDATION OF CRIMINAL CHARGES

December 2022: House Select Committee on January 6 recommended criminal charges against Trump. “The House Select committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol recommended on Monday that the Justice Department pursue charges against Donald Trump for his role in attempting to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election. The vote marked the first time Congress has made this kind of referral for a former president. Members of the committee urged federal prosecutors to charge Trump with four crimes: inciting or assisting an insurrection, obstruction of an official proceeding of Congress, conspiracy to defraud the United States and conspiracy to make a false statement.” [The Washington Post, [12/19/22](#)]

NBC News: The House Committee investigating Jan 6 argued that “the President and members of his Campaign engaged in a criminal conspiracy to defraud the United States.” “The House committee investigating the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol argued in a new court filing that former President Donald Trump and members of his campaign were part of a conspiracy to overturn the 2020 election results. ‘The Select Committee ... has a good-faith basis for concluding that the President and members of his Campaign engaged in a criminal conspiracy to defraud the United States,’ the panel wrote in a legal brief filed Wednesday. The filing focuses largely on John Eastman, a Trump-allied

lawyer who wrote memos arguing that then-Vice President Mike Pence could overturn the election.” [NBC News, [3/2/22](#)]

IMPACTS

The Washington Post: More than a year after Trump’s 2020 loss, elections officials faced growing calls to investigate or decertify election results. “The ongoing attack on the vote is being driven in part by well-funded Trump associates...” “More than a year after Donald Trump lost the presidency, election officials across the country are facing a growing barrage of claims that the vote was not secure and demands to investigate or decertify the outcome, efforts that are eating up hundreds of hours of government time and spreading distrust in elections. The ongoing attack on the vote is being driven in part by well-funded Trump associates, who have gained audiences with top state officials and are pushing to inspect protected machines and urging them to conduct audits or sign on to a lawsuit seeking to overturn the 2020 results. And the campaign is being bolstered by grass-roots energy, as local residents who have absorbed baseless allegations of ballot fraud are now forcing election administrators to address the false claims.” [The Washington Post, [12/22/21](#)]

ABC News: Trump made election denialism “a central part of his campaigns and of Republican politics -- and also helped make it a motivating issue for other politicians, including those who once had criticized him for it.” “Trump himself, from the 2016 primary through today, has made election denialism a central part of his campaigns and of Republican politics -- and also helped make it a motivating issue for other politicians, including those who once had criticized him for it. And while ABC News/Ipsos polling this year showed a majority of Americans sharply disapproved of Trump's role in attacking the 2020 election, including a fifth of Republicans, that same survey also indicated a majority of Republicans believed he didn't really lose.” [ABC News, [9/8/22](#)]

Associated Press: Trump’s false claims about the 2020 election cast shadow over Georgia’s 2026 GOP runoffs. “For Donald Trump, it seems the 2020 presidential election is never over. That’s especially true in Georgia. The Republican president’s years of false claims that his defeat to Democrat Joe Biden was due to widespread fraud have shadowed many elections since in the presidential battleground. The issue is almost certain to play a role in a four-week runoff campaign as GOP voters choose nominees for governor, secretary of state and the U.S. Senate. Among the contenders: one of Trump’s alternate electors in his attempt to overturn Biden’s win in the state, a Trump acolyte who won his first congressional race while saying Trump won in 2020 and a secretary of state hopeful who echoes Trump’s conspiracy theories as he vies to become Georgia’s top elections official.” [Associated Press, [5/21/26](#)]

Wall Street Journal Editorial: “The 2026 midterms are coming... Yet the nation's MAGA minds are still looking back at 2020 and stretching to justify President Trump's delusion of a stolen election.” “The 2026 midterms are coming, and Republicans have work to do if they want to hold Congress. Yet the nation's MAGA minds are still looking back at 2020 and stretching to justify President Trump's delusion of a stolen election. The latest involves the embarrassing news that Fulton County, Ga., failed to have its poll workers sign many of the tabulator tapes for early voting. ‘I have not seen the tapes myself, but we do not dispute that the tapes were not signed,’ an attorney for Fulton County told the Georgia State Election Board during a December hearing. ‘It was a violation of the rule. Since 2020, again, we have new leadership, and a new building, and a new board, and new standard operating procedures, and since then the training has been enhanced.’ The admission rocketed around the MAGA-sphere as a claim that Georgia's results in 2020 included 315,000 illegally counted votes.

Mr. Trump lost the state by 11,779 overall, and Fulton County, which includes much of Atlanta, is a Democratic stronghold, where Joe Biden carried 73%. The refrain on the right is that the unsigned tapes somehow prove Mr. Trump has been correct about the election all along. [...] For 2020 the evidence says no. Even if Mr. Trump had won Georgia, he'd have lost the Electoral College to Mr. Biden by two states. Mr. Trump will never admit his 2020 claims were partisan nonsense. But Republicans who care about the future could do their man a favor by refusing to keep indulging them.” [Editorial Board, Wall Street Journal, [12/28/25](#)]

TRUMP’S ADMINISTRATION ASSURED HIM THE ELECTION WAS SECURE

Associated Press: Trump’s own administration said the 2020 election was the most secure ever.

“Trump himself continues to rail against the election in tweets and in interviews though his own administration has said the 2020 election was the most secure ever. He recently allowed his administration to begin the transition over to Biden, but he still refuses to admit he lost. The issues they’ve have pointed to are typical in every election: Problems with signatures, secrecy envelopes and postal marks on mail-in ballots, as well as the potential for a small number of ballots miscast or lost.” [Associated Press, [12/1/20](#)]

Attorney General William Barr said there was no evidence that widespread fraud impacted the 2020 election. “Attorney General William Barr said Tuesday that there was no evidence of widespread voter fraud in the 2020 election, defying President Donald Trump's ongoing efforts to reverse the results. ‘To date, we have not seen fraud on a scale that could have effected a different outcome in the election,’ Barr said in an interview with The Associated Press. Barr's comments are some of the sharpest rejections yet from a Cabinet member of Trump's false and baseless claims of a ‘rigged’ election. ‘There’s a growing tendency to use the criminal justice system as sort of a default fix-all, and people don’t like something they want the Department of Justice to come in and ‘investigate,’” Barr said. [...] Barr, who has been one of Trump's strongest allies in Washington, had repeated many of Trump's unfounded claims that mail-in voting during the coronavirus pandemic was especially vulnerable to fraud.” [NBC News, [12/1/20](#)]

2022: Rep. Liz Cheney claimed Trump’s cabinet members weighed invoking the 25th amendment to remove him from office after the Capitol attack by his supporters. “When Representative Liz Cheney asserted at the House Jan. 6 hearing on Thursday that Trump administration cabinet members weighed invoking the constitutional process to remove President Donald J. Trump from office after the attack on the Capitol by his supporters, she did not immediately provide details or evidence. But as the federal government convulsed in the hours and days after the deadly riot, a range of cabinet officials weighed their options, and consulted one another about how to steady the administration and ensure a peaceful transition to a new presidency. Mike Pompeo, the secretary of state at the time, and Steven Mnuchin, then the Treasury secretary, discussed the possibility of invoking the 25th Amendment, which would have required the vice president and the majority of the cabinet to agree that the president could no longer fulfill his duties to begin a complex process of removal from office. Their discussion was reported by Jonathan Karl of ABC News in his book ‘Betrayal,’ and described to The New York Times by a person briefed on the discussion.” [The New York Times, [6/10/22](#)]

LONG HISTORY OF ELECTION DENIAL

Axios: Trump’s began plating the “seeds of his voter fraud claims” well before the 2020 general election. “Donald Trump’s ‘big lie’ playbook — the collection of falsehoods alleging that the 2020

election was stolen through voting fraud — mirrors the tactics used by sophisticated spreaders of disinformation. The big picture: Research from the Harvard Kennedy School Shorenstein Center shows there's a typical cycle that people use to manipulate the media and spread disinformation. Trump's dissemination of false claims of a stolen election demonstrates how the cycle works. How it works: Disinformation spreaders typically start by planning their narratives early and seeding their lies online, where they can spread quickly, reaching people faster than critics can counter the disinformation. That's what happened when Trump planted the seeds of his voting fraud claims early — well before the general election — and spread them through interviews and social media. Information gatekeepers like journalists, TV networks and tech platforms then try to mitigate the problem, as they did by banning Trump's accounts after the Jan. 6 insurrection.” [Axios, [11/20/21](#)]

ABC News: “Trump has a long history of crying foul in contests he doesn’t win” ... in 2016, Trump claimed Sen. Ted Cruz committed fraud during the Iowa Caucus. “Trump has a long history of crying foul in contests he doesn’t win, including previously saying that the ‘Emmys are all politics’ after his reality TV show, ‘The Apprentice,’ never won an award. He also labeled then-President Barack Obama’s 2012 reelection ‘a total sham.’ He leaned on that same tactic in 2016 during the GOP primaries, including the Iowa and Colorado caucuses, which he lost to Cruz. ‘Based on the fraud committed by Senator Ted Cruz during the Iowa Caucus, either a new election should take place or Cruz results nullified,’ Trump tweeted that year without providing evidence.” [ABC News, [9/8/22](#)]

ABC News: After losing the 2016 popular vote to Hillary Clinton, Trump began making fraud claims more consistently. “Yet it was during and after the 2016 general election, in which he lost the popular vote to Clinton but won the Electoral College, that he began making claims of fraud more consistently. In the final weeks of the 2016 race, he refused to confirm whether he would accept a defeat. Afterward, he insisted he had only lost the popular vote through wrongdoing. ‘I won the popular vote if you deduct the millions of people who voted illegally,’ he said -- without any proof. Upon taking office, Trump set up a short-lived commission to investigate voter fraud, though evidence was never found.” [ABC News, [9/8/22](#)]

2018: Trump warned about voter fraud ahead of the 2018 midterms. “Trump also warned of voter fraud ahead of the 2018 midterms, when Democrats ultimately won back control of the House of Representatives. ‘Law Enforcement has been strongly notified to watch closely for any ILLEGAL VOTING which may take place in Tuesday’s Election (or Early Voting). Anyone caught will be subject to the Maximum Criminal Penalties allowed by law,’ he tweeted shortly before Election Day. At least one other notable Republican jumped on board in the days after that election, with now-Florida Sen. Rick Scott sounding the alarm -- while not offering evidence -- as votes were still being tabulated in his tight race with then-Democratic Sen. Bill Nelson, whom Scott ended up unseating.” [ABC News, [9/8/22](#)]

2020: Despite projections showing Biden winning, Trump tweeted, “I WON THIS ELECTION, BY A LOT!” “On Nov. 7, 2020, as news organizations correctly projected that Biden had defeated him, Trump tweeted the opposite: ‘I WON THIS ELECTION, BY A LOT!’ he claimed. In a statement, he vowed that ‘this election is far from over’ and promised to pursue legal challenges. (Ultimately no such court cases affected the 2020 race.) And in mid-December 2020, after the Electoral College had officially selected Biden as the next president, Trump continued to say the result should be overturned: ‘This Fake Election can no longer stand. Get moving Republicans,’ he tweeted.” [ABC News, [9/8/22](#)]

