

The NATIONAL INTEREST FOUNDATION

[Trump Campaign Files Multiple Lawsuits Contesting the 2020 Presidential Election Results](#)

Over the past week, the Trump campaign has filed a variety of lawsuits in several battleground states in an attempt to challenge the results of the 2020 presidential election. President-elect Biden was declared the winner on Saturday after surpassing the 270 electoral college votes needed to secure the presidency. In Pennsylvania, the state which clinched Biden's victory, Trump's team has pushed unfounded allegations of fraud regarding election officials' tabulation of legally cast ballots in the days following Election Day despite the fact that this was anticipated to take additional time due to the large number of mail-in ballots this year because of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. They have also pursued legal challenges in other states including Nevada, Arizona, Georgia, and Michigan, where the courts have denied the campaign's request to delay the certification of election results and debunked claims that Republican ballots were tampered with or improperly counted. Ultimately, the Trump campaign has failed to provide substantiated evidence to support their range of voting irregularity accusations, and simply put, legal analysts have likened their litigation efforts to "throwing everything at the wall to see if anything sticks." Free and fair elections are at the core of American democracy and therefore impartial observers lament Trump's desperate attempts to undermine the nation's faith in our electoral system.

Courts in the states where the array of lawsuits were filed have largely rejected Trump's challenges. Biden's margin of victory and leads over the president in all of these various places is in the tens of thousands, and as such, the courts have turned away many of the lawsuits for a lack of evidence regarding their claims of widespread electoral fraud that would affect these outcomes. Besides, in the state of Georgia, where Biden holds one of his slimmest margins to-date, election officials have already announced that they will conduct a recount to ensure the accuracy of their vote tabulations. President-elect Biden is also maintaining a narrow and similar-sized advantage in Arizona, but the chances for a recount there are slim because the state has a higher standard for triggering them – for this to happen the difference in the number of votes between the two candidates would have to be 0.1% or less which is unlikely considering that Biden leads by around 0.3% with the count nearly completely finished. A recount in other states like Wisconsin is possible as well, but again it is almost inconceivable that this would alter the outcome considering that Biden's lead is in the tens of thousands and historically, even in the best-case scenario, recounts only change the vote tallies by a few hundred votes – if any.

Even before Biden was projected to be the winner of the presidential election, the Trump team was already preparing the pursuit of lawsuits over the ballot counting process. The cases filed in the important aforementioned states of Pennsylvania, Nevada, Michigan, Arizona, and Georgia alleged a variety of improprieties including that Republican ballots were not properly tabulated, count observers didn't have enough access to monitor the proceedings, and that late-arriving mail-in ballots should not be counted (despite the fact that they were postmarked by the required deadline). Judges have swiftly dismissed most of these cases because of a clear lack of evidence to substantiate the allegations and in certain instances, even the questionable contentions have been proven to be untrue. In Pennsylvania for example, the postal worker whose claims of voter fraud were cited by the Trump campaign later recanted his statements when pressed by federal investigators. In Arizona, a Trump campaign lawsuit contesting the use of Sharpie markers in Election Day ballots was dismissed after officials there showed that doing so would not invalidate a ballot, and on the contrary, was used because the quick-dry ink helped ensure an accurate tabulation.

Election analysts have also pointed out the illogical nature of the Trump campaign's fraud allegations considering that Democrats lost a notable number of seats in the House of Representatives and also didn't perform as well as had been anticipated in critical Senate races across the country. In its totality, Election Day was actually a better than expected outcome for many Republicans running for office across the country and indicates that a significant portion of the party's electorate was willing to vote for down-ballot candidates but just not for Trump. Additionally, prognosticators had warned of what they called a "blue shift" after a "red mirage," meaning that in many states, Republican candidates would get out to initial leads in the vote tabulations before Democrats caught up and often times surpassed them. This came about because of the fact that Democratic voters were more likely to vote by mail due to the COVID-19 pandemic than their Republican counterparts – the latter of which were urged to cast their ballots in person by the president himself. Therefore, the shift in favor of the respective Democratic candidates – including Biden – that transpired in the days after Election Day can easily be justified by this phenomenon as opposed to any form of electoral fraud.

In the end, Biden's lead in the states where the Trump campaign has filed challenges is in the tens of thousands and thus highly unlikely to be impacted by lawsuits or recounts. Trump trails by a range of 10,000 to 150,000 votes in even these closest margin states like Georgia, Arizona, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Nevada, and Michigan, and has failed to present viable evidence to back his allegations in court.