



## [The Federal Bureau of Investigation \(FBI\) Searches Former President Trump's Mar-a-Lago Residence in Florida as Part of a Probe into the Alleged Mishandling of White House Records](#)

Earlier this week on Monday, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) executed a search warrant on former President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach, Florida. The raid was related to recovering government documents, including classified material, that Trump had taken from the White House when his term ended. These documents, apparently taken from the White House in 15 boxes, had long been called for by the National Archives but Trump had so far failed to meet their requests. He is alleged to have removed the documents as he was moving out of the White House. The National Archives passed the case along to the U.S. Department of Justice, and Trump was in his residence in New York when he was notified by his son Eric of the FBI search. The raid marks a significant escalation in the investigation into Trump's dealings in the White House and his debunked claims that the 2020 election results were fraudulent.

The raid itself was apparently lengthy and included a wide search. The agents broke open Trump's safe in their probe, with the former president declaring in a statement he released about the raid that it was unannounced and rife with "prosecutorial misconduct." He has continued to make these claims despite the FBI showing proof that they did go through the proper channels, including obtaining a warrant from a judge which requires the agents to prove they have reasonable suspicion of wrongdoing. Trump went on to say in his statement that these are "dark times for our nation" and that "nothing like this has ever happened to a President of the United States before." In fact, impartial observers have pointed out that if anything, the unprecedented nature of the raid into a former president's home serves to highlight the serious nature of the concerns regarding his actions.

Much of the Republican reaction has been to defend the former president. Certain Trump officials, as well as many elected Republicans, have been crying foul and calling for an investigation of the Department of Justice and U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland. House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy expressed in a tweet that the Justice Department "has reached an intolerable state of weaponized politicization" and said that if Republicans win control of the U.S. House of Representatives, they will investigate the department. There have also been calls among Republicans to defund the FBI.

If it is true that Trump has indeed stolen material from the White House, he would be in violation of the Presidential Records Act. Though this act lacks teeth, there are still laws that would inherently be broken if one was to be found to have violated it. Anyone who "willfully injures or commits any depredation against any property of the United States" or "willfully and unlawfully conceals, removes, mutilates, obliterates, or destroys" government documents can be prosecuted. Allegations of stealing classified documents from the White House is not the only thing that the former president is being investigated for. He is also being looked into for his role in inciting the January 6th, 2021 insurrection, among other ongoing probes against him.