

The Plot to Steal the 2024 Election, Donald Trump's Grand Plan to Subvert American Democracy

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Research Question: Could Donald Trump successfully overturn the results of the 2024 election if he lost and how could state legislatures provide assistance for him to succeed? What possible safety measures can be used to save American democracy from further democratic backsliding?

On January 6, 2021, thousands of Trump supporters stormed the U.S Capitol in Washington D.C as a last-ditch effort to overturn the certification of the 2020 election, believing the 2020 presidential election was stolen from President Donald Trump due to the electoral victory of Joe Biden being seen as illegitimate from allegations of electoral fraud. The event was a watershed moment in American history, showcasing an example of the growing concerns emerging from democratic backsliding as Trump and his team attempted to overturn the 2020 election by committing acts of electoral subversion. Election subversion meaning to gain political power by winning elections through undemocratic means while democratic backsliding signifies actions taken with the main purpose of weakening democratic institutions. Although there has been consensus from the political establishment the threat of Trump attempting to subvert American democracy has since concluded, the threat is still present and I intend to explain how. (Simon 2023; Lowenstein and Postal 2022).

It is important to recognize the rising threat of democratic backsliding in the United States and how it is connected to the rise of American authoritarianism. The urgency becomes more apparent due to the rise of President Trump and the successful implementation of Trumpism in the mainstream political landscape in the United States as his rhetoric and actions from the 2020 election has brought concern for the stability of American democracy in the 2024 election going forward (Ludwig 2023; Simon 2023). Trumpism is a populist far-right ideology based on christian nationalism, white grievances, conspiracy theories, and a desiring for the United States to transition away from a democracy into an authoritarian state. Although there has been slight reassurance from the political elite since about the assumed strong democratic institutions encompassing the American government, the unfortunate truth is these institutions have shown themselves to be weakened and are at greater risk to be overturned once again by a more successful attempt from Trump as a contingency if he lost the 2024 election. One measure that can be taken can come from election deniers taking important positions in various state legislatures in key swing states across the country to engage in election subversion in the 2024 election (Ludwig 2023). Further efforts have also been made in states such as Georgia, Wisconsin, and North Carolina to establish more control in election policy allowing greater election subversion such as sending in their own electors if they disagree with the official results of the election (Roth 2023). The layout of greater state autonomy in election planning has been set by measures such as *Vieth v. Jubelirer* (2004) where the Supreme Court ruled that political gerrymandering cannot be challenged through Judicial means which shows how the foundation to erode the presence of democratic institutions in the United States has been present for some time and will become more apparent as everything comes into place from analyzing the 2024 election in hindsight. All that is stemming from the work of Trump and his team alongside

greater assistance found in the Republican Party as another step in the effort to overturn American democracy if nothing done about their efforts (McGann, Smith, Latner and Keena 2016; Lowenstein and Postel 2022; Simon 2023).

Throughout the 2024 election, the threat of political violence and instability in part due to planned efforts of election subversion began to rise as it posed more of a threat to the American democratic process each year (Clapman 2023). Even more difficult is determining how successful the election redistricting efforts from state legislatures were around the 2024 election and how much voter suppression will occur in these states because of it (Keena, Latner, McGann and Smith 2021). Information like this should be treated as very concerning for the purpose of maintaining American democracy, especially as methods meant to circumvent American democracy itself are currently being enacted in state legislatures in key swing states across the country and once proven to be successful, there is no turning back as it can set a precedent that jeopardizes the future of American democracy. In this paper, I plan to look into a potential game plan likely to be used by figures such as Donald Trump and other members of the Republican Party on how to subvert American democracy to win the 2024 election in the scenario he lost by utilizing the legislative policies of state legislatures in key swing states to do so. A great way to prove a point is that the institutions behind American democracy are not as stable as previously thought and as a result, there needs to be a push to have them strengthened to save American democracy from greater ruin to occur in the near future. Research made about this type of subject matter has been limited due to the context being recent yet it is an emerging field that I would like to contribute towards through this study due to its relevant nature providing potential interest within this field of analysis. I hope the analysis and the findings coming with this can contribute

to this new field of research especially as a valuable contribution to consider within said field as it continues on into American elections in the near future.

Research Method

To prepare for my thesis, I will be conducting an independent review of various academic journals accompanied by News articles that are related to the subject matter and presented in this analysis as an assessment on critical key swing states to see if there are any common patterns within these findings. In my spare time, I have conducted amateur research looking over any form of subject matter that is related to this important topic with the main difference being the official nature of this study rather than being used for the purpose of private recreation. I took a course from my faculty advisor during my freshman year about election law and the various consequences that measures such as gerrymandering can have subverting the democratic process in the United States especially during future elections. The data from this analysis will be used to further strengthen my point about the current weakened state of democratic institutions and how they can be at risk of further backsliding if proper action is not taken. I will also be relying on looking through various media sources to see if there are any points of evidence that pinpoints particular strategies used by Trump or his allies had in preparation to subvert the 2024 election in the scenario of a Trump lost instead of a Trump victory. This will be done as a way of gaining a larger understanding of the various ways that election subversion in the United States can be committed at either the federal and state level as a way to showcase the fragile state of the current institutions in American democracy.

Context

In the 2020 presidential election, President Trump repeatedly made claims that a stolen election was possible from mail-in ballots in the event of a Joe Biden victory despite election officials from his administration having stated that the 2020 election was the safest presidential election in American history. When Trump lost the election, he and his team led a legal campaign in swing states across the country insisting that the 2020 presidential election was stolen which backfired due to a lack of sufficient evidence needed to be presented which was notable since some of the judges overseeing these cases were appointed by Trump himself. The next step that Trump attempted to utilize was to have state electors from key swing states overturn the results of the 2020 election and replace them with fake electors instead who can declare Trump the winner which was almost successful though not many of the state officials complied with his plan to have it succeed (Lowenstein and Postel 2022). All of this culminated on January 6, 2021 when in the official certification of the 2020 election results declaring Joe Biden as the next U.S President was occurring, there was a major protest lead by Trump which ended with an insurrection on the U.S Capitol in a last ditch attempted assault on American democracy to overturn the results of the presidential election. Within the same day, Vice President Mike Pence was urged by President Trump to overturn the results of the certification of the presidential results from the electoral college as illegitimate and to replace the results with fake electors from key swing states that will make Trump the winner instead even though the Vice President has no constitutional authority to commit such an act without starting a major constitutional crisis that could potentially destabilize the entire country (Lowenstein and Postel 2022; Roth 2023).

Although there was a successful transfer of power in the aftermath of January 6, leading to the political establishment originally believing Trump is no longer a threat to American democracy. Trump and by extension the MAGA faction in the Republican Party have become increasingly authoritarian in terms of their policy positions alongside their rhetoric especially when it comes to the discussion of a potential overturn of American democracy. Though there is the common narrative from the political establishment that the threat of Trump and his political supporters posed towards American democracy have been exaggerated, the work done by the Republican Party so far when it comes to the subject of Trump has shown to provide a different perspective. In the aftermath of January 6, various high ranking officials in the Republican Party in both the halls of Congress along in numerous state legislatures across the country have either refused or retracted any condemnations of Trump's actions on attempting to overturn the results of the 2020 election and have continued to either promote his rhetoric alongside his actions instead as the wider base of the Republican Party begins to further cement their loyalty to him (Roth 2023). The reality is that Trump is and should be considered as a threat to American democracy especially as there were fears of the 2024 presidential election to be a continuation of the 2020 election had Trump lost and includes the potential political chaos that may emerge in a more heightened polarized environment, the kind which Trump alongside his team are willing to exploit if it means certain victory for him regardless of legality (Lowenstein and Postel 2022). Trump has previously attempted to subvert the results of the 2020 election and he along with his supporters have shown intent to do it again which if successful, could mean the potential end to the American democratic process especially as he has shown himself to be an admirer of authoritarianism which also includes wishing for the United States to become an authoritarian state as evidenced by the rhetoric that he has used on various rallies during his 2024 presidential

campaign (Roth 2023; Lowenstein and Postel 2022; Simon 2023). Even though Trump won the 2024 election, the plans devised in the contingency of his lost cannot be ignored and must be considered to the threat of American democracy.

Plan For 2024 Election

As the 2024 presidential election passed, it has become even more apparent Trump and his team had intentions to once again subvert the results as the previous election back in 2020 yet he had more of a greater chance than last time. The reason being is his grip in the Republican Party when it comes to making sure that key election players in swing states across the country are Trump loyalists who are more willing and likely to carry out his work (Lowenstein and Postel 2022; Simon 2023). The plan as last time would be a highly intrinsic one, the kind that would require extensive planning and organization from multiple parties along with the compliance from each of these parties in order to guarantee its success compared to the last time it was enacted. (Roth 2023; Lowenstein and Postel 2022). That plan being the subversion of the 2024 presidential election in the case of a Trump election lost which would mainly consist of having state legislatures sending in fake electors throughout key swing states across the country that would be used to make sure Trump has secured an electoral victory even it subverts the entire American democratic process in a way it cannot recover. The reason why this would be considered to be the plan Trump along with his team would attempt to utilize in this election is because this was the plan that Trump tried to use during the last election and was very close to being successful in its implementation as Trump took advantage from the brief period of political chaos to create a window of opportunity that was attempted to be used that could have made this

plan work all along that could have made this happen (Roth 2023; Lowenstein and Postal 2022; Simon 2023). Voter suppression efforts from these contingencies in key battleground states contributed to his victory.

Such as the fate of American democracy under immense pressure brought about by institutions that have failed to account for the recent attacks made by Trump and his team during the 2020 presidential election. Though it should be noted that this would only consist of one part of his plan and so that the much greater agenda would more likely rely on various parts working in near unison that will ensure a Trump victory whether through democratic or non-democratic means especially since the potential chaos emerging from a hotly contested 2024 presidential election in the scenario of his lost would only make the plan more likely to succeed due to the intense confusion that would have bought Trump's team more time to avoid detection (Lowenstein and Postal 2022; Roth 2023; Simon 2023). Other measures that will be used with the needed collaboration of sympathetic state legislatures in key swing states across the country would consist of gerrymandering, incentivizing the call for greater voter intimidation from their base, reducing polling locations in areas with demographics who are more likely to lean Democrat, restricting mail-in ballots, and all of which and more have previously been done one way or another in past elections. A lot has happened since 2020 meaning that there has been plenty of time for Trump, his team, and allies to better prepare to make sure that they get it right this time (Roth 2023; Ludwig 2023; Homer 2023; Lowenstein and Postal 2022). It is important to see what would happened to check how unstable the democratic institutions within this country have been over the past few years.

Policies Already Enacted by State Legislatures

When it comes to the various ways that state legislatures who are more sympathetic to Trump's cause, there are measures in their playbook that they can utilize. The first move to consider is the option of Gerrymandering, where state legislators can divide up congressional districts to make sure that candidates from their own party are more likely to win in their elections which also has the effect of being able to gain an increasing amount of control in electoral bodies (McGann 2016; Keena 2021; Rachel 2023; Roth 2023). The tactic of gerrymandering has already been used by state legislatures across the country for decades but its usage within its desecration of the democratic process has been discussed more in recent years especially when it comes to its usage in Republican-led state legislatures in various states across the country particularly in key swing states where presidential elections are called. This has become even more apparent in recent years as it has been used as a favored tactic of voter suppression by mostly Republican lawmakers to help them stay in power which in turn has been seen to extend itself to be useful within presidential elections. Various swing states across the country have been controlled by Republican state legislatures and many of their congressional district maps have been altered by gerrymandering sometimes to an excessive degree (Keena 2021; McGann 2016; Rachel 2023; Roth 2023). This is how they secure victory.

Alongside the practice of Gerrymandering, additional tactics have been previously used along with having the potential to be used again which might possibly include limiting the number of voting centers in areas whose demographics largely consisted of people of color, restricting the accessibility of voting-by mail ballots, and increasing the usage of certain rhetoric from political

leaders to send among their following voter base with the greater intentions of encouraging voter intimidation in the hopes to scare off potential voters from the polls on Election Day (Lowenstein and Postal 2022; Simon 2023; Roth 2023; Rachel 2023). Tactics utilized for decades but now have seen an increase by its usage especially in the immediate aftermath of the 2020 presidential election where it was encouraged by President Trump, his team and political allies in their hope to overturn the American democratic process through the addition of having political chaos introduced into the fray. Though it should be acknowledged the authority over the electoral process does vary by state which can lead into a lot of interesting variation regarding how each of these tactics are played out during election season (Simon 2023; McGann and Anthony 2016, Keena 2021; Roth 2023). In the aftermath of the 2020 election, various changes have been made to election laws in key swing states across the country especially in those with Republican-controlled state legislatures as a sign showing the immense control Trump has over the Republican party even after his loss (Allen 2023; Ludwig 2023; Roth 2023; Rachel 2023). This has contributed to the chaos of the 2024 election.

2024 Layout of Key Swing States

When it comes to determining how Trump, his team, and his allies can utilize each of the key swing states needed to subvert the results of the 2024 presidential election, it is important to understand the functionalities of each electoral processes since there are certain differences between them on terms of election law depending on the state in question. Factors that would have come into play include the presence of Republican state legislatures and/or Republicans who are sympathetic to Trump in key positions on managing elections such as Governor,

Lieutenant Governor or Secretary of State as it can serve to be a very effective tool to conduct electoral subversion in time for the 2024 election cycle (McGann 2016; Kenna 2021; Simon 2023). The identified wing states for the 2024 election cycle mainly included the following states of Nevada, North Carolina, Arizona, Michigan, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Georgia and lastly the state of Florida. Most of which contain state legislatures that are predominantly Republican in nature along with having key state electoral positions to also be Republican which is a possible advantage Trump and his team can utilize. (Roth 2023; Rachel 2023; McGann 2016; Kenna 2021; Ludwig 2023). This is even more apparent considering that many of these state legislatures in various key swing states have also passed election laws meant to provide more options to conduct acts of possible election subversion in the near future to provide greater preparation (Allen 2023; Ludwig 2023; Rachel 2023; Roth 2023; Simon 2023). All Trump and his team needs now is to figure which state can call on first, which official to reach out so that the rest of the plan can go into effect as soon as it becomes apparent Trump would not win through legitimate means meaning illegitimate means are now an option to secure victory in this case (Ludwig 2023; Allen 2023; Simon 2023). A chance to take and on he would have taken in case he lost.

Some swing states are easier to reach out for the plan to be implemented than others but all of them each have a great possibility of being used effectively in Trump's grand plan overall. Due to the case by case basis nature regarding the election policy of each swing state, they will be further separated into their own selection while the much larger discussion will be placed here instead. This is greatly needed for the sake of establishing classification in this piece especially when looking at the structuring of each state at once. It would mainly be an examination of the

structuring of the state legislature, party layout, key figures in determining the layout of state election law, current election policies already being implemented regarding, and the past history of key election figures who have shown previous loyalty towards Trump's grand ambition to successfully subvert the American democratic process. These factors are necessary to see what potential outcomes would have come into play when it comes to the 2024 election season and how Trump's team can put these swing states into action into the much bigger picture of his plan in action (Allen 2023, Simon 2023). The plan that almost went into action yet may provide valuable insight why he won.

Nevada

The state of Nevada has mainly consisted of having a Republican Governor and Lieutenant Governor while also maintaining a Democratic controlled state legislature leaving a mixed set for the state to have especially for any possible election intervention in the near future by Trump's team. What makes matters a bit more complicated in election affairs is that the current Secretary of State of Nevada, Cisco Aguiar is a Democrat which leaves one less possible option to effectively utilize in the 2024 election cycle. For context. President Trump spent the 2022 midterms endorsing Republican candidates in various races across the country in the hopes of having potential key allies for him to utilize, especially in the swing states. During the 2022 midterm elections, President Trump endorsed two Senate Republican candidates in the state in the hopes that their victory might make the state easier to utilize for his plan in 2024 yet said plan never came through due to both Republican candidates losing within their own Senatorial races (Allen 2023). One noted victory coming from the 2022 midterm election in Florida would be the

Governor race as President Trump endorsed MAGA Republican candidate Joe Lombardo, a career police officer and sheriff, into the Governorship. However, not every candidate that Trump endorsed was able to succeed in their elections as one of his endorsed Senate candidates was unable to win the 2022 Senate midterm election which was won by a Democrat. Through his intervention, Trump was able to gain some allies into key political positions across the state of Nevada to do his bidding but not at the same capacity he needs in order to implement in other key swing states across the country for his plan to work more effectively (Rachel 2023, Roth 2023). Yet Donald Trump had won the state of Nevada during the 2024 election cycle.

When it comes to protections against potential election subversion, the state of Nevada has been very prepared due to the work done by their Secretary of State, Cisco Aguilar who has pushed to have multiple laws passed in the state legislature regarding mail-in ballots and also additional protections aimed for election workers against acts of political violence. This is especially important as there has been a rise of political threats aimed towards election workers after the 2020 election season causing multiple election officials to resign. Though there is the concern of gerrymandering considering election maps in Nevada are drawn by the state legislature, the state legislature currently is largely held by Democratic Party meaning any redrawn maps will be likely favor Democrats, crippling any chance of a Republican stronghold as seen in Nevada congressional delegation being majority Democrats along with both houses of the Nevada state legislature. In summary, when it comes to the effectiveness of Nevada as a critical battleground state for Trump's team to effectively utilize in his attempt to subvert the democratic process in the 2024 election, gaining the support of Nevada appears to be somewhat likely but to also proceed with caution in mind due to the tossup of party affiliation on various key positions

across the state for any current sympathizer in the state government to use without compromising the key Republican allies in power they already have. For Trump to succeed, he would have to rely on the assistance of his endorsed Governor at the helm alongside the Lt. Governor to bring massive change on electoral law that would make an electoral overturn more possible yet given the current circumstances already mentioned, this is unlikely to occur and Trump's team would have to seek other swing states instead (Margiott 2023). All of this in the contingency of Trump losing the state and needed to reclaim it.

Arizona

Arizona has been noted for being a critical swing state in recent elections especially as a valuable battleground state for the Trump team to gain, especially after he won the state during the election.. The current political layout of the state involves a Democratic Governor with no current position of Lieutenant Governor in the state government though at the state legislature both the State House and Senate are currently Republican-led. Every key position in the Arizona state legislature including the President of the Senate, President Pro Tempore, Speaker of the House, and Speaker Pro Tempore are all Republicans, providing a great asset that Trump's team used during the election. The congressional delegation for Arizona is majority Republican and for the two senators, there is only one Democrat and an independent though said independent already has a track record of aligning with the Republican Party and cooperated with them in the past. The Arizona Supreme Court has 7 Justices directly appointed by the Governor from a bipartisan commission as per the Arizona state constitution yet all Justices were appointed from Republican governors. The current Secretary of State of Arizona however is a Democrat and is a

more powerful position than found in other states because besides elections administration, the Arizona Secretary of State is also the direct successor to the Governor in their line of succession. Out of various candidates that Trump has endorsed during the 2022 midterms, only the congressional candidates were able to win their elections while those running for Governor, Senate, and a few key positions in the state legislature lost their elections. For Trump's team currently, while he does not have the support of certain key positions within the Arizona state government, he does have some support that they can effectively utilize more. (Walker 2024)

When it comes to seeing how successful Trump's team would be in overturning the election results of Arizona, it is important to see if there have been changes in election law that make subversion easier to implement in the state. Though unsuccessful, the state legislature had attempted to introduce numerous pieces of legislation that would have given the state legislature direct control over the results of a presidential election. The congressional redistricting is run by an independent bipartisan committee meaning the practice of gerrymandering is not present in the state. For the state of Arizona, it would be an excellent key state for Trump's team and his allies to utilize to subvert the results of the 2024 election though with some minor difficulty in terms of potential resistance from certain high-ranking members of the state government. The best case scenario for the state would be that in the case Trump loses Arizona during the 2024 presidential election, the majority Republican-led state legislature could potentially replace state electors and replace them with their own electors through the electoral college, ensuring Trump won the state through undemocratic means. A similar case has occurred back in the 2020 presidential election using fake electors though it was unsuccessful in its effectiveness, potential resistance may come from the Secretary of State or from the Governor's office who may attempt

to crack down on these measures. There is also the Arizona Supreme Court who can potentially overturn any ruling made by the state legislature to send in a delegation of fake electors to ensure a Trump victory for the state of Arizona in the case Trump loses the state in the election. It is best recommended for Trump and his allies to use Arizona as a reliable state for the plan to ensure his victory through undemocratic means is successful though take into account some minor risks that potentially may come into play if not careful. (Barchenger 2023; Walker 2024)

North Carolina

The state of North Carolina has been noted as a key swing state to either party to gain the influence of to win in a standard presidential race but when it comes to succeeding through undemocratic means, things start to get interesting. Another important state for the Trump campaign has won, the current political layout of the state consists of a Democratic Governor and also a Republican Lieutenant Governor with the North Carolina State Legislature holding a Republican majority in both houses. Meaning those who are currently serving the most prominent positions in the state legislature such as the President of the Senate & Lieutenant Governor, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives are all Republicans, a valuable asset for Trump's team to utilize later on. The congressional delegation for North Carolina is currently evenly split between 7 Republicans and 7 Democrats though both Senators from the state are also Republican, showcasing a rough mixture of both parties. The composition of the North Carolina Supreme Court is majority Republican with each of the justices being in the position by an electoral process. The current North Carolina Secretary of State is a Democrat leading to the lack of a critical ally for Trump's team to use for the state

but is a figure to look out for. An important factor to note leaning within Trump's favor is that most of the candidates who received his endorsement during the 2022 midterms have won their House and Senate races. While there are some important figures to monitor, Trump does appear to have a chance using the key swing state of North Carolina to his advantage for the plan in case he lost the 2024 presidential election. (Sozan 2023)

Other factors that come into play when determining how successful would be Trump's plan to overturn democracy in North Carolina such as election law and will it make the act of election subversion easier or more difficult in the state. One major piece of legislation known as SB 749 strips that was passed recently strips power away from the Governor to provide direct appointments to state and county election boards across the state and gives that power to the state legislature instead. This has the effect of stripping power from the Governor and into the state legislature on electoral affairs. They originally continued on their effort by passing a series of legislation on requiring strict voter ID, repealing same-day voter registration, and also limited voting on Sundays though it was struck down by a federal court on the basis that it was illegally targeting black voters. Gerrymandering has been heavily present within the state, especially recently to the point where the State Supreme Court rejected a proposed congressional mapping from the state legislature for excessive gerrymandering. In response, the State Legislature appealed the decision to the U.S Supreme Court leading to the case of Moore v. Harper where the case used the Independent State Legislature Theory, the idea that the U.S constitution gives state legislature the constitutional responsibility to draw congressional districts and there should be no oversight from state courts nor state constitutions. The case was eventually overturned by the U.S Supreme Court but this shows how determined the North Carolina State Legislature was

in their goals of electoral subversion and why the state will prove to be an important front for Trump's team to effectively secure for the 2024 presidential election. When it comes to the state of North Carolina for Trump's plan, the state has proven itself to have a high chance of success to overturn the electoral results due to the immense amount of power coming from the state legislature regarding electoral affairs and their willingness to subvert democracy. Potential resistance may come from the Governor, Secretary of State, and democratic members of the State Legislature but given the newfound power by SB 749 alongside other legislation, any opposing intervention appears unlikely (Sforza, 2023). Yet the suppression on voting rights may explain why Trump had an advantage in the race.

Michigan

Another critical state that Trump's team took notice of is the state of Michigan due to being a contested state that is occurring there. The state government of Michigan was led by Democrats in the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of State positions with the Michigan State Senate being majority Democratic while the Michigan State Assembly is evenly split between both parties though all the major key positions in the state legislature are held by Democratic lawmakers within both houses. Both Senators are Democratic and the Michigan Congressional Delegation is majority Democrat showcasing a democratic stronghold at the federal level. The Justices in the Michigan Supreme Court are elected on a nonpartisan ballot though are endorsed by either party or appointed by the Governor in emergency cases resulting in the Michigan Supreme Court having a majority Democratic control. In the aftermath of the 2022 midterms, Trump's endorsing candidates for the positions of Governor, Attorney General, and Secretary of

State within the state of Michigan lost while the majority of his congressional endorsed candidates have been able to win their electoral seats. Though possible to gain, it was important for Trump's team to notice these important barriers to success for the plan to work given the factors provided (Cappelletti 2022). Yet Trump won the state during the election.

Other factors that come into play when determining how successful the state will be useful for Trump's team and his allies to use in their ploy include gerrymandering and current election law. Trump's previous plan to subvert the 2020 election in Michigan mainly focused on getting state officials to reject the official results of the 2020 presidential election though it previously failed. Michigan has shown improvement since the 2020 presidential election by passing a series of legislation meant to expand voter rights across the state recently. Redirecting in Michigan is determined by an Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission composed of 13 members who were all randomly selected from across the state though there have been minor controversies occasionally occurring within the redistricting process. With these reforms in mind especially in the aftermath of the 2020 election, the state of Michigan has strengthened its defense against the looming threat of Democratic subversion leaving the state to be in a difficult position for Trump's team to effectively utilize for their plan to work in the case Trump lost the race (Rothschild 2024). There were also issues regarding the situation at Gaza that has led to discontent from the Democrats, the incumbent party over these important matters that may have led to a Trump victory in the region. The same also applied to the vast Arab-American population in the region who have sympathies towards Palestine during the Gaza war, leading to Trump securing a victory in the state from a lack of action from the Democratic base.

Wisconsin

Wisconsin is considered to be a very important swing state to gain the support within a presidential race, leaving the state as a possible asset for Trump's team and his allies to possibly use in subverting the electoral process in the 2024 election had he lost. Trump was able to secure Wisconsin during the 2024 presidential election. The current layout of their state government is that both the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Secretary of State are all Democratic while the state legislature in both houses in the Senate along with the State Assembly are majority Republican instead. Meaning all the major positions in the state legislature including the President of the Senate, Senate Majority Leader, Speaker of the Assembly, and the Senate Majority are all Republicans leading to a majority Republican-led state legislature. At the federal level, the state of Wisconsin has one Democratic and one Republican Senators with the congressional delegation being majority Republican, which is able to showcase a slight edge for a Republican majority. The Wisconsin Supreme Court is run by a nonpartisan statewide election with seven justices though each of the justices have an ideological preference and have aligned with either party with liberal justices having a slight majority over the conservative justices in the current roster of the state Supreme Court. A recent election has brought a progressive judge into the state Supreme Court leading to an interesting development for the Court due to its split nature (Krieg, 2023). The candidate Trump endorsed for the 2022 midterms in the gubernatorial race lost while the ones in the Senate and a congressional race won their seats showing Trump having some level of support within the state (Schultz, 2022). This also showed how the voter base for Trump was apparent in the state.

Factors that also have to be accounted for include gerrymandering, current election law, and any recognized plots of electoral subversion. The state legislature of Wisconsin has recently attempted to expand gerrymandering efforts, also attempted to undermine the authority of a recently elected progressive judge to the state Supreme Court on matters related to redistricting, unsuccessfully attempted to fire the nonpartisan administrator of the Wisconsin Elections Commission, limit the power of the governor along with expanding the power of the state legislature instead, and pass stricter voter suppression laws across the state such as enforcing tougher Voter ID laws. However, there has been reform made recently in 2024 as the state legislature has finally decided to pass new redistricting maps now approved by the Governor that are meant to eliminate any form of gerrymandering found in previous maps. It may also explain how voter blocks have already been established for Trump and his state allies to win the race. What this means is that while Trump does have some slight support at the state legislature and possibly the state Supreme Court, his team along with his allies will have issues dealing with the other fronts of the state government such as the governorship. As a result, it is advisable while possible to subvert the results in Wisconsin, it is also recommended to proceed with caution to the contested nature of power in the state (Bauer, 2023.)

Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania has been noted for its status as an important swing state to maintain during presidential elections resulting in being an essential front that Trump and his team used for this race. To understand Pennsylvania, it is important to see the current layout of the state especially when it comes to political affiliation such as having a Democratic Governor and Lt. Governor

along with a state legislature as both of the two houses are contested between party lines. What it means is the State Senate is majority Republican to the point of having the Senate President Pro Tempore and Senate Majority Leader being Republican while the Senate President is a Democrat instead. Meanwhile, the State House of Representatives is majority Democrat with the Speaker of the House and the House Majority Leader in the same party. Both U.S Senators from the state are Democrat and there is also a slight Democratic majority in the Pennsylvania Congressional delegation. The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, with its judges selected by election, has its current roster consisting of a Democratic majority. For Trump's endorsed candidates, his choice for Senator lost but with the exception of one, all of his endorsed candidates for Congress have successfully won their own seats. What this means is that while Trump and his team have a chance of success, it is also important to take precautions when facing potential resistance (Levy, 2023). Yet despite these odds, Trump has won Pennsylvania in the election.

When looking into how the electoral process of a state can be overturned, it is important to look into election law, history of voter suppression, and any recent policies put into place that can make electoral subversion easier to implement. While the Trump team attempted to subvert the results in the 2020 presidential election, the Pennsylvania state government is in an effort led by the Governor to prevent similar attempts though one pitfall is state law allowing voters to request a ballot recall if they believe there is suspected fraud. Voter suppression has been a major issue affecting the state especially in recent elections and will only continue to become a persistent issue in the 2024 election cycle due to efforts made by the Pennsylvania state legislature to reject measures meant to expand Voter ID requirements, rules changes towards mail ballots, along with other electoral reform. In Pennsylvania, congressional redistricting is determined by a five

person commission consisting of members from the state legislature with no set of oversight by either the office of the Governor or the state legislature, leaving complete control of the redistricting process to the commission. The only form of control given is that the redistricted map must be approved as a legislative bill from both houses of the state legislature where it is then sent to the Governor where it is either approved or vetoed. When it comes to analyzing how successful Trump's team will be on subverting the electoral process in the state of Pennsylvania, it is important that while they have support in the state legislature, they may be small in number but they have a series of tools at their disposal to help them succeed in this initiative. Meaning while it is possible to implement this plan, there is still the threat of opposition meaning preparations for any kind of counteroffensive must also be considered (Huangpu and Walker 2023). Opposition to take account in the contingency of Trump's loss.

Ohio

Ohio is a noted swing state presidential candidates pay notice towards as a vital state to successfully win in their campaigns. Ohio is currently led by a Republican Governor and Lieutenant Governor with both houses in the Ohio State Legislature possessing an overwhelming Republican majority. This means that the major positions in the state legislature including the President of the Senate, Senate President Pro Tempore, Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives, and Speaker Pro Tempore are all Republicans leaving Trump's team with a strong advantage to start with. There is one Democrat and Republican Senator for Ohio though the Congressional delegation for the state possesses a Republican majority. The Ohio Supreme Court selects their judges through an election that used to be nonpartisan until a recent law was

passed by the state legislature back in 2021 allowing for partisan elections resulting in the Court now possessing a slight Republican majority. For the candidates Trump endorsed in the 2022 midterm cycle, his choice for Governor, Senator, Attorney General, Auditor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, and Treasurer along with most of his congressional endorsed candidates have won their election races. What this shows is that Trump has a strong advantage to hold within the state of Ohio that his team can use for their plan (Smyth 2022). Another advantage is that the running mate, Senator JD Vance is also from the state providing a hometown advantage for Trump to capture.

There are of course, other factors that have to be considered when it comes to seeing how successful Trump's team might potentially be to overturn the state. One key factor in the state is that along with other states with successful Trump endorsed candidates, prominent figures in state politics such as Senator J.D Vance are still denying the results of the 2020 presidential election, pushing for its illegitimacy among their base and the masses. In a recent election where a state proposition legalizing Abortion was successfully passed, the state legislature has planned to overturn the results. (Smyth, 2023). All of this is part of a larger narrative further reinforced from policies allowing for the continuation of certain measures such as excessive gerrymandering occurring across the state. For example, there was a trio of lawsuits in 2023 challenging the newly restricted legislative maps for 2024 on the basis of illegal gerrymandering in favor of the Republican Party that were not only dismissed by the state Supreme Court but the newly restricted maps but received unanimous support from the Court. This should be considered surprising due to the Secretary of State being Republican and has led the effort to have these cases dismissed by the state Supreme Court and the Court possessing a Republican majority

within their ranks. On January 6, 2023, the Governor signed House Bill 458 into law that mandated the usage of photo IDs, passports, or driver's licenses to vote, limiting counties to one ballot drop box, along with adding citizenship status on IDs while also excluding county-issued veterans' and college IDs as sources of ID people can use to voter identification in the state. What this shows is the state of Ohio is a viable state for Trump's team to utilize in their aspirations for their inclinations of electoral subversion and not only is it possible but there is a great chance of success. Beneficial factors such as having a Republican majority in the state legislature and the state Supreme Court, a precedent of voter suppression, along with a strong belief of election denialism held by those in power that showcases why Ohio is a viable candidate for Trump's team to effectively succeed in their mission to subvert American democracy in the 2024 election cycle (Perkins 2023). This serves why Trump was able to win the state during the election.

Georgia

Georgia has been gaining notoriety in recent years in American politics as an emerging yet important swing state for candidates to successfully secure the support of during the presidential election cycle. The state of Georgia is currently being led by a Republican Governor and Lieutenant Governor along with both houses in the Georgia state legislature possessing a Republican majority. This includes prominent positions in the state legislature such as President of the Senate, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and Speaker of the House being Republicans allowing a clear advantage for Trump's team to use. The Supreme Court of Georgia selects their judges through or nonpartisan statewide election or through direct appointment by the Governor

to fill in a vacancy, explaining why 8 of the 9 judges were directly appointed by Republican governors with only one of the judges being elected into his current position. The state currently has two Democratic senators yet there is also a Republican majority found within the state congressional delegation that leads to an interesting mix on the federal side. For his endorsed candidates in the 2022 midterm cycle, his selection for U.S Senator, Governor, Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner, Attorney General, and Secretary of State have either lost the primary or general elections while most of his congressional endorsements alongside his pick of Lieutenant Governor have successfully won. What this shows is that although Trump has faced a few setbacks in the state, it appears that he has maintained a base of potential allies to have especially for the few candidates he personally endorsed who have now won their seats across the state (Hallerman and Rankin 2023). The support of his base has allowed Trump to secure the state during the 2024 election.

Other factors that Trump's team has to look for when it comes to seeing how successful they will achieve their objective in the state such Gerrymandering, history of voter suppression, and current efforts being made by the state legislature on election subversion. For redistricting, the Georgia Constitution calls for the process to be enacted once every ten years after the national Census yet it also allows for annual redistricting where state legislators can change district lines during any legislative session. This process has been used by the state legislature to eliminate any potential political opposition from emerging in their home districts, while also enacting harm to the democratic system in the process. This has gone on to the point where a federal judge has recently ruled that the state legislature must redraw their congressional and state legislative maps before the 2024 election due to concerns of the proposed maps diluting the black vote in the

state. As for voter suppression, a federal judge recently struck down Senate Bill 202, a measure that prevented individuals from handing out food and water to voters near polling stations and imposed strict criminal penalties to any violators caught along with requiring election officials to reject a voter's absentee ballot if the birth date written in an outer ballot envelope did not match the birth date in the voter's registration record (Sneed, 2023). The state of Georgia has been noted for Trump's attempt of getting the Georgia Secretary of State to "find" ballots sufficient enough for him to win the state, although the Secretary of State refuse, this incident along with a similar incident on attempting to find fake electors kickstarted an investigation from the Fulton County District Attorney leading to an indictment for Trump and his allies. There was also a plan by the Elections Commission to impose hand-counted ballots until the plan was then struck down by a federal judge. What this shows is while there is some minor risk, Georgia is still a valuable state for Trump's team to use when it comes to successfully subverting the democratic process due to its lax election laws and sympathies towards him in the state legislature.

Florida

Florida, an interesting spectacle to behold explaining why Trump has won the state. When it comes to the layout of the state, both the Governor and Lieutenant Governor are Republican along with both houses composing the state legislature consisting of a Republican majority. Meaning that major positions such as the President of the Senate, Senate Majority Leader, Speaker of the House, and House Majority Leader are Republican with the majority exception being the Minority Leaders of both the House and the Senate instead. The Supreme Court of Florida consists of 7 Justices directly appointed by the Governor as per state law with every

justice in the current roster being directly appointed by a Republican Governor. The state of Florida currently has two Republican Senators and also has a Republican majority found within their congressional delegation. In the state of Florida, all the candidates Trump endorsed for Congress, Senate, Agriculture Commissioner, Attorney General, and Chief Financial Officer have won each of their electoral races. What this shows is that Trump and by extension his team have a lot of support in Florida along with also having his headquarters stationed in the state meaning any plan for election subversion could have worked.

When looking at the state and its potentiality for success when it comes to acts of election subversion, it is also important to look for key elements that can be there for Trump's team to effectively utilize in such a scenario. In 2022, the Governor introduced an Office of Election Crimes and Security, with the intended purpose of enforcing Florida election law yet there has been a track record of the office disproportionately prosecuting people of color who received government voter identification cards along with most of the cases being dismissed. (Webb 2024). There has been a notable case of recent gerrymandering by the Governor was struck down by a state judge as unconstitutional for carving out a black-majority congressional district represented by a Black Democrat into smaller districts that are more favorable towards conservative White Republicans and ordered to have it redrawn while state Republicans are looking to have the case appealed (Robertson 2023). For election law, there was Senate Bill 7050 passed in 2023 that imposed stricter requirements and fines for third-party voter registration organizations, tighter restrictions on mail-in ballots, and strengthening list maintenance requirements leading to an increased risk of voters having their registrations purged. However, it should be noted that a federal judge has recently struck down a provision of the law barring

noncitizens from handling or collecting voter registration data on behalf of third-party voter registration organizations, meaning that at least some progress had been made (Ginsburg 2024). When it comes to Florida, it can be argued that the state would have been a great hub for Trump's plan to run successfully due to heavy party support and lenient policies allowing for election subversion even with the risk of possible federal interference.

Conclusion

In conclusion, it can be argued that there is the risk of election subversion could have been possible within swing states during the 2024 election season had Trump lost. Though it is again important to acknowledge that the risk varies depending on the state. The following states of Arizona, North Carolina, Wisconsin, Ohio, Georgia, and Florida were at great risk of facing successful democratic subversion within the scenario of a Trump loss. Meanwhile the state of Michigan has been projected to be safe in the 2024 presidential election due to then newly enacted reforms in their election procedures while the state of Pennsylvania has instead shown itself to go either way due to having enough support for Trump but yet enough resistance to make such an endeavor risky in this scenario. With the fragile state of democratic integrity that this nation is facing, reform is necessary to prepare for the possible chaos that would have arrived in November. The point being is that the 2024 election season was still a risky period for the stability of American democracy unless needed reform on the electoral process is properly enacted even in a Trump victory since the information provided could provide valuable insight to his electoral win. Though much of the swing states have come out in favor of Trump, the threat for this fragile democracy is still not over.

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