



[Trump Faces Widespread Criticism for His Efforts to Pressure Georgia's Top Election Official into Overturning Biden's Win in the State](#)

In damning audio obtained by the Washington Post, President Trump is heard pressuring Georgia's Secretary of State to overturn the results of the election in his state. In a call between the two, the president can be heard telling Secretary Brad Raffensperger he should "find" the votes needed to change the outcome of the presidential race in Georgia. Outgoing President Trump has frequently and baselessly attacked the character and integrity of Georgia's election officials, deludedly believing that rampant fraud and voting irregularities occurred during the November election. Georgia has conducted three separate recounts, none of which have uncovered the fraud that the president claims occurred. Additionally, a signature matching audit determined that 99.9% of ballots were accurate. Both Congress and the Electoral College have certified President-elect Biden's victory in the presidential election, following the defeat of dozens of lawsuits filed by the Trump campaign and its allies.

President Trump's ramblings about voter fraud have largely been focused on Georgia, with one reason for this being his embarrassment over becoming the first Republican to lose the state since 1992. He has frequently pressured and criticized both Secretary of State Raffensperger and Governor Brian Kemp to overturn the election results, calling them unfit for office. Both Kemp and Raffensperger are Republicans who voted for President Trump, but unlike the president, they have put their civic duty ahead of partisanship. In his criticism of the two Georgia officials, the president has resorted to baseless conspiracy theories about voting machines and fraud that have been proven false.

In the leaked audio of the call between President Trump and Secretary Raffensperger, the president urged Raffensperger to "find 11,780 votes because we won the state." It is not clear what the president was basing this assessment off of, as President-elect Biden won Georgia handily and legitimate investigations into voter irregularities have failed to unearth anything groundbreaking. As a result, the president is essentially asking Georgia's chief elections official to overturn the results of a legitimate and democratic election. The president also urged Raffensperger to simply say Georgia's election officials had "miscalculated," furthering his brazen attempts to overturn the election.

In response to the president's demand, Secretary Raffensperger repeatedly told him that Georgia's election officials believed that the state had conducted their election legitimately and that the outcome had not been tainted by serious irregularities. President Trump then said that Georgia was off by "hundreds of thousands of votes," even though that claim had been proven false in numerous courts. The president was also seemingly surprised that Raffensperger and Kemp would not just blindly accept his baseless conspiracy theories and overturn the election, based on the fact that they are both Republicans. Public officials on both sides of the aisle have criticized the president's call to Raffensperger as a disgraceful attempt to undermine a free and fair election. The call has been widely characterized as a new low for President Trump, with many Republican officials breaking with the president to condemn his recent conduct.