

FACT SHEET

The Trump Administration Is Interfering in the 2026 Midterm Elections To Entrench the Imperial Presidency

By Michael Sozan August 19, 2026

As discussed in an August 2026 [report](#) from the Center for American Progress, history shows that authoritarian-minded leaders aim to control elections to help ensure they and their allies retain political power. The administration of President Donald Trump is carrying out such a plan, hoping to evade accountability from the American people. The administration's plan, built on the long-discredited myth of widespread voter fraud, includes 15 interlocking tactics that would make it harder for eligible Americans to exercise their cherished right to vote, potentially stoking chaos in the process.

The administration's tactics include:

- **Casting** doubt on election integrity via disinformation to justify nationalizing elections
- **Weaponizing** the federal government by installing election deniers in key government positions
- **Gutting** key agencies and essential election security programs
- **Weaponizing** federal databases and demanding personal voter information from states to track or purge voters
- **Issuing** unconstitutional executive orders to limit voting access
- **Pressuring** Congress to pass legislation that would suppress eligible voters
- **Curtailing** voting by mail
- **Preventing** states from using voting equipment
- **Diluting** voters' power through a mid-decade gerrymandering crisis
- **Using** the departments of Justice and Homeland Security to intimidate election administrators
- **Seizing** election-related materials and voting equipment
- **Deploying** the military to interfere with the election
- **Deploying** federal agents to interfere with the election
- **Declaring** a national emergency to take over or postpone elections
- **Interfering** with issuance of state election certificates or pressuring the U.S. Senate or House of Representatives to block seating of duly elected members

Read more here:

[“The Trump Administration Is Interfering in the 2026 Midterm Elections To Entrench the Imperial Presidency”](#)

[“Trump's First 100 Days: Creating an Imperial Presidency That Harms Americans”](#)

[“Project 2025 Would Destroy the U.S. System of Checks and Balances and Create an Imperial Presidency”](#)

Despite the administration's actions, the U.S. Constitution provides zero authority for presidents to control elections, even in the case of emergencies. Instead, the founders bestowed that authority to the states, with Congress as a backstop. State officials, Congress, courts, civil society, and individual citizens across the ideological spectrum must defend people's constitutional rights and prevent democratic backsliding without regard to partisan outcomes. Free and fair elections have guided this nation through the Civil War, two world wars, a pandemic, and natural disasters. Through sustained vigilance, they will chart the nation's course in November and beyond.

To learn more about the administration's attempts to solidify its power via election interference, read the [full report](#).