

How States Can Prevent Election Subversion in 2024 and Beyond | Brennan Center for Justice

By Alice Clapman

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Next year, the United States will hold its first presidential election since the 2020 race and attempted coup. Many risks remain. States can shore up their systems ahead of 2024, but time is short.

The facts are still hard to believe: Nearly three years ago, President Donald Trump lost his reelection bid in an election that his own administration called “the most secure in American history.” He then denied that loss and tried to hold onto the presidency through fraud and incitement of violence. Shocking numbers of people joined him. Politicians and pundits amplified baseless theories that the election had been stolen. State and local officials refused to certify valid election results. Lawyers sought to overturn these results in court, and judges voted to do so. Federal lawmakers attempted to thwart Congress’s nominal role in counting and certifying electoral votes. Vigilantes harassed and threatened election workers and attacked the U.S. Capitol. Thanks to heroic interventions by many officials and citizens, the attempted coup failed — narrowly.

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