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Election denial deniers

Steve Bakke  January 30, 2023

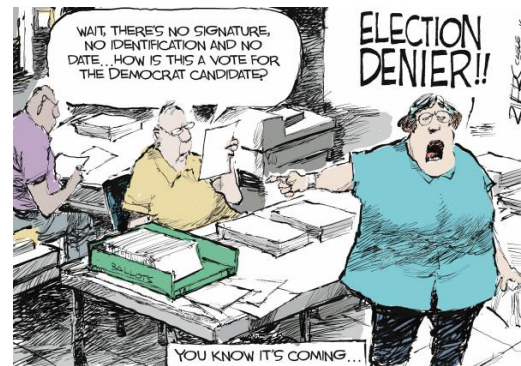


I stipulate to the foolishness of Trump and those supporters who joust at windmills of “stolen elections.” Joe Biden is the legitimate President. Trump and his supporters should reserve their energy for developing fair and honest election controls and working with democrats to repair election credibility.

Claiming election irregularities is neither illegal nor inappropriate, whether by making comments or bringing lawsuits. And the Electoral Count Act of 1887 provides for official objections. Democrats used it consistently since 2020. I’m wagging a disapproving finger at republicans’ foolishness, while shining a light on democrats’ hypocrisy.

According to Democrats, to qualify as a supporter of Trump’s “Big Lie,” or to be labeled “election denier,” one must merely question 2020 election procedures or controls. These are tossed in the same “sin bin” as “stolen election” whining, or the January 6 riots.

Democrats have a history of questioning election results. In recent decades it’s been part of their campaign toolbox. They even like to complain about computer mis-counts.



While they themselves complained about campaign and election violations, democrats labeled republicans as “election deniers” even when republicans borrowed democrats’ strategies. Recall that democrat objections to the 2016 election led to the baseless Mueller investigation of Trump/Russian collusion and ultimately the first futile Trump impeachment. Let’s consider a few other examples.

In January 2001, Congresswoman Maxine Waters signed an objection to certifying the 2000 election. During the 2000 presidential election certification she stated: “Ohio’s partisan Secretary of State, Mr. Kenneth Blackwell, I am ashamed to say [is] an African American man...” On January 6, 2017, she officially opposed the slate of 2016 electors.

“Mr. Speaker, the right to vote has been stolen...” claimed Congressman Jerry Nadler during the 2000 election certification. Also at that ceremony, democrat Bennie Thompson, chair of the recently dissolved J-6 Committee, joined with 30 other House Democrats and Senator Boxer attempting to decertify Ohio’s presidential results.

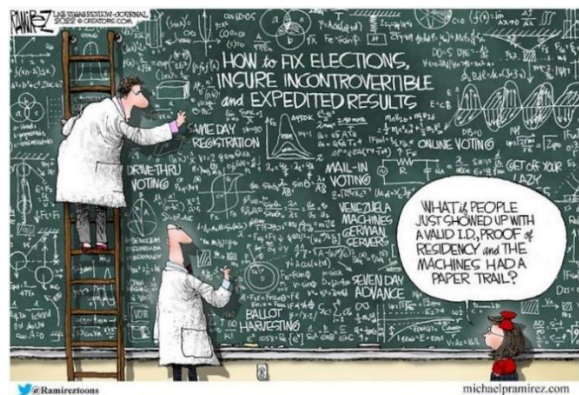
The new democrat House Minority Leader, Hakeem Jeffries, tweeted in 2018: “The more we learn about 2016 the more illegitimate it becomes. America deserves to know whether we have a fake President...”

On January 6, 2017, Democrat Congressman Jamie Raskin officially objected to Florida electors: “...because they violated Florida’s prohibition against dual office holding.” During that same certification, Democrat Congresswoman Barbara Lee officially objected to Michigan electors stating: “people are horrified by the overwhelming evidence of Russian interference...”

Hillary Clinton, continues to call the 2016 election “stolen” and describes then-President Trump as “illegitimate.” “I think a full investigation would show that Trump didn’t actually win the election in 2016...Russians interfered on his behalf” – so proclaimed former-President Carter in 2019.

Demonstrating their refusal to accept the 2016 election, almost 70 congressional democrats boycotted Trump’s inauguration claiming the election was fraudulent. That group was led by the late Congressman John Lewis who declared: “I don’t see this president-elect as a legitimate president...Russians participated in helping this man...”

In addition to the boycott, riots erupted in Washington, D.C. and other parts of the U.S. Mollie Hemingway recalled inauguration day 2017 in “Rigged,” her chronicle of the 2020 election: “Hundreds were arrested as black-clad rioters set cars on fire, threw bricks, and injured police.”



Biden’s press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre, tweeted soon after Trump’s victory: “...stolen election... welcome to the world of #unpresided Trump.” In 2017, on Joy Reid’s show, she complained: “he now sits behind the Resolute desk in the Oval Office essentially defecating on women.”

Following every election from 2000 forward, the aforementioned 1887 Act was used to pose objections to certifying elections. And in 2021, legal republican congressional objections were offered for the first time. This unfairly constitutes part of the democrats’ justification for calling republicans liars and threats to democracy.

President Biden recently stated that “democracy cannot survive” if republicans continue questioning election results. Also, there have been efforts to ban several members of congress from public office for participating in the official, legal January 6, 2021 electoral objections.

My message is that democrats apply a self-righteous and hypocritical double standard when evaluating election and campaign behavior. Paraphrasing political analyst Thomas Gallatin, when democrats object to the election of a republican, democrats are protecting democracy. When republicans object to the election of a democrat, republicans are threatening democracy.