

Record Courier (NV)

Concerns for the election

After the 2020 election, some Republican officials, primarily election deniers, were involved in efforts to disrupt the certification of the election results by refusing to certify them. GOP officials in several states were pressured not to certify the election results, which would cast doubt on the election results.

In 2020 midterm elections, nearly a dozen counties across a number of states refused or delayed certification results with unfounded claims of fraud or other irregularities.

Recently, the Washoe County Commission in Reno made headlines by refusing to certify the results of two local recounts from the June primary elections. In the 3-2 decision, there were insignificant changes from the initial results, but three Republican commissioners voted against certification, stating that they were concerned about election integrity and administrative mistakes. This decision was later reversed after pressure and the threat of legal action.

Nevada's Secretary of State Francisco Aguilar and Attorney General Aaron Ford, filed a petition with the Nevada Supreme Court seeking a legal mandate to confirm the obligation of county commissioners to certify election results. They argue that failing to certify could set a dangerous precedent and undermine voter confidence. It's uncertain as to when the Supreme Court will make a decision in the case.

There are growing concerns about the upcoming 2024 elections that these tactics will become more widespread and organized. There are reports that Republican officials in various states are being encouraged to refuse certification regardless of actual election outcomes. This includes pushing for new rules and laws that would make it easier for local officials to block certification.

In the case of Washoe County, the Secretary of State emphasized that the certification process is a ministerial duty, meaning county commissioners must certify the vote as long as the proper procedures have been followed and there is no evidence of fraud or significant error.

If officials at the county or state level refuse to certify election results, it could lead to chaos. This could delay the certification of state and federal results, possibly throwing the election results into question and leading to legal battles. The ultimate risk is undermining our democratic process and the peaceful transfer of power.

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