



Intelligence and Interagency
Coordination Division

Special Event Assessment

21-A-0468 v.2

December 23, 2020

Joint Session of Congress – Electoral College Vote Certification

Bottom Line Up Front:

- On Wednesday, January 6, 2021, the 117th United States Congress will gather for a joint session in the chamber of the House of Representatives to certify the counting of the electoral votes.
- There are some representatives who plan to challenge the votes during this session. However, the challenge will only move forward if a Republican senator agrees to cosign such objection.ⁱ
- The Intelligence and Interagency Coordination Division is currently tracking several protests slated to take place on Capitol grounds on January 6, 2021, and some protesters have indicated they plan to be armed.

Event Summary:

On Wednesday, January 6, 2021, the 117th United States Congress will gather for a joint session in the chamber of the House of Representatives to certify the counting of the electoral votes. The President of the Senate, Vice President of the United States (VPOTUS) Michael Pence, is the presiding officer. If a senator and a representative jointly submit an objection, each would retire to its chamber to consider it. The President and Vice President must achieve a majority of electoral votes (i.e., at least 270 votes) to be elected. In the absence of a majority, the House selects the President, and the Senate selects the Vice President.ⁱⁱ If neither candidate achieves the required 270 vote minimum, the House then decides the election in accordance with the 12th Amendment of the Constitution. Each state would get one vote with a minimum of 26 votes deciding the winner.

- *Analyst Comment: Representative Mo Brooks (R-AL) along with Representative Barry Moore (R-AL),^{iii iv v} and Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA) plan to challenge the Electoral College votes when Congress officially certifies Joe Biden's victory on January 6, 2021, as long as a Senate Republican joins them in the long-shot effort.^{vi vii} Along with this trio of Representatives, Representative Jim Jordan (R-OH)^{viii}, Representative Matt Gaetz (R-FL)^{ix} and Representative Louie Gohmert (R-TX) may also support an objection to the results on the*

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House floor.^x Recently elected Senator Tommy Tuberville (R-AL) has indicated he will join the objection of the representatives in electoral vote.^{xi} At the time of this report, Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) and Senator Ron Johnson (R-WI) have also not ruled out filing an objection to the electoral votes;^{xii} however, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) has warned the Senate of taking such an action.^{xiii}

It should be noted that all 538 electors met Monday, December 14, 2020, in their respective states to cast their votes for president based on the election results that were certified by all 50 states and Washington, D.C.^{xiv}

On Tuesday, December 15, 2020, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) officially recognized Joseph Biden as the President-Elect, the day after the Electoral College certified the votes.^{xv}

Expected Protests Overview:

A number of individuals and groups are calling for their supporters to travel to Washington, DC, on or before January 6, 2021, to show support for POTUS and for overturning the election results. The protests/rallies are expected to be similar to the previous Million MAGA March rallies in November and December 2020, which drew tens of thousands of participants. It is also expected that members of the Proud Boys, Antifa, and other extremist groups will rally on January 6, 2021. Multiple arrests were made as a result of clashes between pro-Trump and opposing groups during each of the November and December rallies. Charges included assault with a dangerous weapon, assault on police, simple assault, weapons violations, riotous acts, destruction of property, disorderly conduct, resisting arrest, and crossing a police line. A number of law enforcement officers were injured in the skirmishes. Many of the confrontations occurred after the rallies ended.

Pro-Trump Protests:

Women for America First (WAF) is organizing another bus tour beginning on December 27, 2020, in Ventura, CA, and arriving in Washington, DC, on January 6, 2021, for a rally^{xvi}. A banner on the webpage states, "The President is calling for us to come back to Washington on January 6th for a big protest – 'Be There, Will Be Wild.'" The time and location will be announced at a later date. WAF filed a permit with the U.S. Park Service for 5,000 participants for January 6, 2021, and with the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) for 50 participants to assemble at Freedom Plaza and then proceed to the U.S. Capitol. The USCP Special Event Section (SES) advised that WAF filed for Union Square (Area 15) also for 50 participants.

Stop the Steal has posted a webpage entitled "wildprotest.com" that includes a map of the Capitol grounds indicating they will be gathering on the Senate East Front Grassy Area 9 on January 6, 2021. The webpage states "We the People must take to the U.S. Capitol lawn and steps . . ." They plan to show support for Rep. Mo Brooks and several other Members of Congress who are expected to file objections to the certification of the electoral vote. They list the following speakers as confirmed to participate in this event:

Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ)
 Alex Bruesewitz (Journalist)
 Megan Barth (Political Commentator)
 Ali Alexander (Head of Stop the Steal)
 Scott Presler (Conservative Activist)
 Jenny Beth Martin (Tea Party Patriots Founder)
 Vernon Jones (Former Democratic Georgia State Representative)
 Brandon Straka (Leader of the WalkAway Campaign)
 State Rep. Mark Finchem (R-AZ)
 State Senator Doug Mastriano (R-NJ)
 Shemeka Michelle (Author and Activist)
 Ed Martin (Political Commentator)
 CJ Pearson (Conservative Activist)
 Rose Tennet (Host of *Rose Unplugged*)
 Michael Coudrey (Businessman)
 Kimberly Fletcher (Founder of Moms for America)
 Melissa Tate (Social Media Influencer)

The webpage also lists several hotels including the Holiday Inn Washington Capitol (550 C St. SW), Washington Marriott at Metro Center (775 12th St NW), and the Holiday Inn Alexandria at Carlyle (Alexandria, VA). MPD has also reported generally that hotels in the DC area are reporting a significant increase in the number of bookings on/around January 6, 2021.

The "wildprotest.com" website also promotes "Patriot Caravans for 45,"^{xvii} which is organizing ridesharing to Washington, DC, for the January 6, 2021 protests/rallies. They are also organizing protests at state capitals and city halls. As of December 22, 2020, there are over 100 posts requesting/offering rides or to caravan from states as far away as Washington and Oregon. This site is being widely shared on social media.

There are also several other permit requests pending with the USCP for this day. SES advised a number of people contacted them regarding filing permits for January 6, 2021, for Capitol Grounds. Bryan Lewis filed for the Senate East Front Grassy Area 9 for 50 participants and Women For a Great America (WFGA)/50+ Days of Blessings filed for the House East Front Grassy Area 10 for 50 participants for January 4, 6, 7, 8 and Area 11 on January 5, 2021. The New York Apostolic Prayer Network (NYAPN) filed an application for January 4 – 10, 2021 for 50 participants. The location of the event is still being worked through with SES as of this writing. The One Nation Under God Foundation filed an application for January 6, 2021 for Area 8 between 0830 and 1800 hrs. Moms for America filed an application for January 6, 2021 for Area 11. SES advised the applications are in process and should be moving forward soon.

Analyst Comment: The previously reported Patriots United March for Congress has been deleted and the Patriots United website no longer contains any information about this event; therefore, this event has been removed from the list of protests scheduled for January 6, 2021.

Finally, there have been several social media posts encouraging protesters to be armed.^{xviii} Sam Andrews from the Freedom Center USA recently appeared on *The Hagmann Report* podcast calling for armed individuals to assemble in Washington, DC, beginning on January 4, 2021, to demand answers on election fraud. He advised listeners to travel in large, armed groups to discourage law enforcement action against armed individuals. When asked by the moderator if Andrews was organizing this event, Andrews replied he is not organizing anything and is just encouraging "concerned Americans to travel to DC" to exercise their first and second amendment rights. Andrews goes on to say if 500,000 armed citizens are in Washington, the police would "have a whole different attitude" and would not be able to attack the armed citizens.^{xix}

Expected Protests (Pro-Biden):

The They/Them Collective posted to their Instagram account a message^{xx} about the MAGA rallies in January. No specific details were published at this time about a protest location or time. Shutdown DC also posted to social media about the MAGA rallies on January 6, 2021, asking for donations "to help us defend democracy."^{xxi} Refuse Fascism is also promoting a protest on this same day.^{xxii} While the groups have not indicated where they intend to gather, in the past they have demonstrated in the BLM Plaza area.

The group "I Approve this Message" is also planning a march entitled "Donald, You're Fired! March on DC" for January 6, 2021.^{xxiii} They have indicated they would gather in the Union Square area, however, as of the date of this publication, they have not requested a permit for that area. Interest is also relatively low based on the Facebook post.

Protests:

At this time there are nine known protest as it relates to this joint congressional session, the following are the details:

Pro-Trump Events

Million MAGA March

Location: Freedom Plaza / U.S. Capitol

Date: January 6, 2021

Time: 1000-1400 hours

Organizer: Women for America First

Attendance: 5,000 per NPS permit application

Description: Participants will gather at Freedom Plaza and march to the US Capitol in support of President Trump. The event will occur during the Joint Session of Congress to confirm the electoral votes.

Wild Protest

Location: Grassy Area 9

Time: TBD

Organizer: Stop the Steal

Attendance: Unknown

Description: Participants will let the Members of Congress know they object to the certification of the Electoral College votes.

Mothers for America

Location: Grassy Area 11

Time: TBD

Organizer: Women for a Great America

Attendance: 50

Description: Participants will let the Members of Congress know they object to the certification of the Electoral College votes.

Women for a Great America

Location: Grassy Area 10

Time: TBD

Organizer: Women for a Great America

Attendance: 50

Description: Participants will let the Members of Congress know they object to the certification of the Electoral College votes.

One Nation Under God

Location: Grassy Area 8

Time: 0830-1800 hours

Organizer: The One Nation Under God Foundation

Attendance: 50

Description: Battle against the government's efforts to eradicate its free exercise of faith.^{xxiv}

Pro-Biden Events

They/Them Collective

Location: TBD

Date: January 6, 2021

Time: TBD

Attendance: Approximately 200-300 (based on December 12 attendance)

Organizer: They/Them Collective, DC Youth Liberation Front, FAAN1312

Description: "They/Them Collective" posted about the January 6 "Million MAGA March" event on their social media accounts, however they have not publicized any specific plans for counter-protests.^{xxv}

Shutdown DC

Location: TBD

Date: January 6, 2021

Time: TBD

Attendance: 25-50 (based on December 12 attendance)

Organizer: Shutdown DC

Description: Shutdown DC has acknowledged the "Million MAGA March" on their social media accounts but has not detailed specific plans for a counter-protest.

Refuse Fascism

Location: TBD

Date: January 6, 2021

Time: TBD

Attendance: 25-50 (based on December 12 attendance)

Organizer: Refuse Fascism DC

Description: Refuse Fascism DC has acknowledged the "Million MAGA March" on their social media accounts but has not detailed specific plans for a counter-protest.^{xxvi}

- Analyst Comment: Refuse Fascism DC is a small group with a history of non-violent civil disobedience and risking arrest. During previous "MAGA March" protests, Refuse Fascism DC organized counter-protests at Black Lives Matter Plaza but did not intentionally confront the "Proud Boys" and pro-Trump protesters like "They/Them Collective."^{xxvii xxviii}

Donald, You're Fired March on DC^{xxix}

Location: U.S. Capitol to White House

Date: January 6, 2021

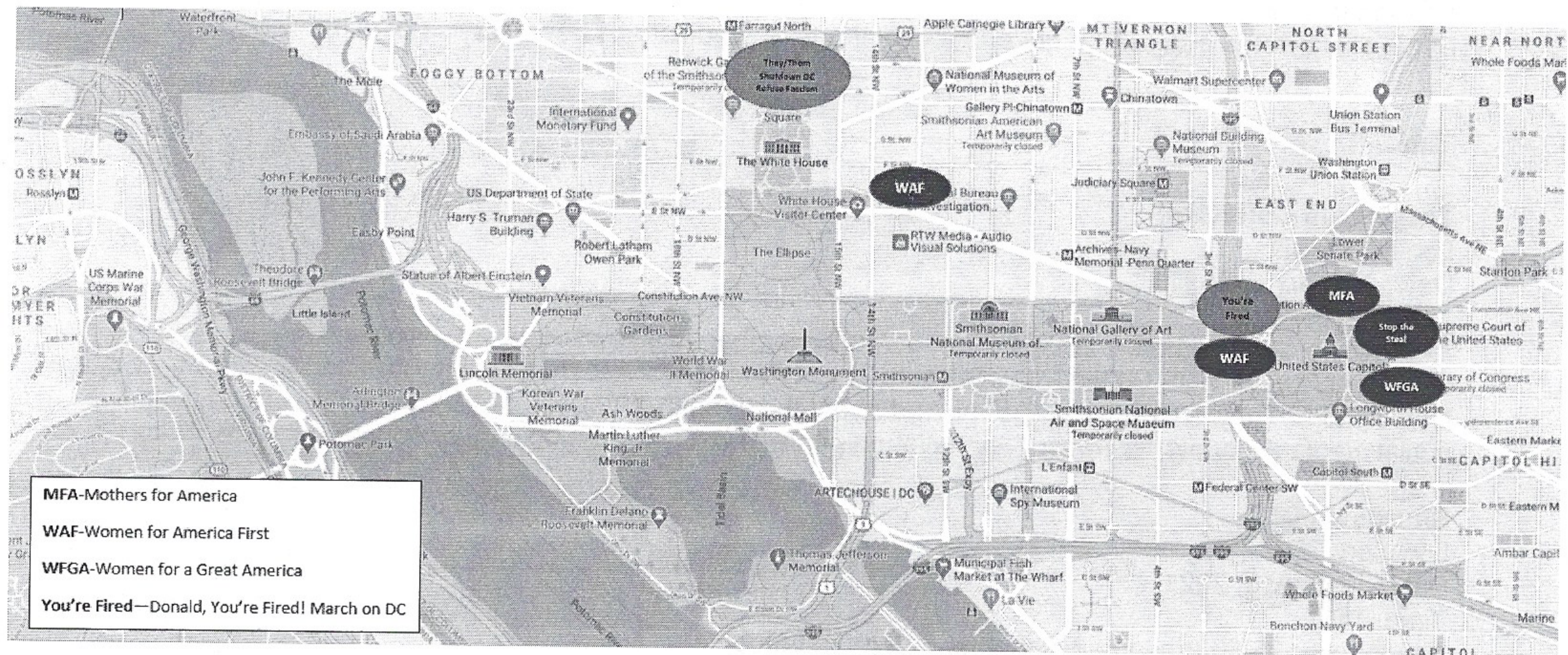
Time: 1200 – 1500 hours

Organizer: I Approve This Message

Attendance: Unknown

Description: On January 6th, 2021, at 12:00 p.m. Eastern Time, We, the People will convene at the steps of the United States Capitol to witness this momentous occasion. Upon the declaration the results of the 2020 elections, held on November 3rd, 2020, We the People will proceed, peacefully and safely, from the Capitol Building to the White House to deliver the message to Mr. Trump, "Donald, You're Fired!"

Protest Locations:



Traffic Cuts:

This information has not been posted as of this date.

IICD Overall Analysis:

IICD has found no information regarding specific disruptions or acts of civil disobedience targeting this function. Due to the tense political environment following the 2020 election, the threat of disruptive actions or violence cannot be ruled out. Actions of individuals or small groups are generally not broadcast publically making them impossible to detect.

Information Current as of 23 December 2020 @ 1600 hours

IICD will continue to monitor the situation, identify information gaps, and provide updates as needed.

For comments or questions related to the content or dissemination of this document, please contact the Intelligence and Interagency Coordination Division by phone at 202-224-9700.

Sources:

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