

## Irrationality Caused Capitol Chaos

The Pittsburgh Freethought Community decries the violence that occurred in our nation's capital on January 6, 2021, as well as the massive disinformation campaign that caused it.

After the November 3, 2020, election, President Donald J. Trump and other irresponsible lawmakers in his party fabricated the Big Lie that he lost the election due to massive fraud, although no evidence of such fraud was ever produced. In a speech to his supporters outside the White House on January 6, Trump said that the election had been stolen and even absurdly claimed that Pennsylvania had counted 205,000 more votes than there were voters. Trump's audience included armed militias mixed with other angry disappointed Trump voters, all hungry to believe the lies.

Deluded by conspiracy theories and feeling cheated, Trump's supporters turned irrationality into action. The aggrieved mob marched to the Capitol building where Congress was in session certifying the election results. Armed with "Jesus Saves" flags, crosses, symbols of white male supremacy, MAGA hats, and assorted weaponry, they overpowered Capitol police, swarmed into the building, assaulted journalists, vandalized the building, and searched the premises for Vice President Pence and members of Congress, forcibly interrupting the Congressional session. Four protesters died in the melee and a Capitol police officer died of his wounds a day later. Many were injured.

Fortunately, the mob never found its congressional targets. Many hours later Congress was able to reconvene and declare Joseph R. Biden to be the next President of the United States. It was an uncomfortably close call for democracy.

Please contact the following House representatives who, despite witnessing the assault on the Capitol, voted to void the votes of Pennsylvanians. They must admit to their constituents that the 2020 Presidential Election was free and fair:

- [Rep. John Joyce \(13th District\)](#)
- [Rep. Fred Keller \(12th District\)](#)
- [Rep. Mike Kelly \(16th District\)](#)
- [Rep. Dan Meuser \(9th District\)](#)
- [Rep. Scott Perry \(10th District\)](#)
- [Rep. Guy Reschenthaler \(14th District\)](#)
- [Rep. Lloyd Smucker \(11th District\)](#)
- [Rep. Glen Thompson \(15th District\)](#)

Please thank those below and the many others who told the truth and denounced the violence:

- [Rep. Conor Lamb \(17th District\)](#)      [Video of Rep. Lamb's speech in Congress](#)
- [Sen. Bob Casey \(D-PA\)](#)      [Video of Senator Casey's speech in Congress](#)
- [Sen. Pat Toomey \(R-PA\)](#)      [Video of Senator Toomey's speech in Congress](#)

We at PFC are dedicated to using science, reason, and humanist values to combat the forces of ignorance, irrationality, and hate that threaten to destroy our liberal democracy.