# Steve Bannon On January 6 And Democracy

**Highlights:**

* Steve Bannon advised Trump to deny the 2020 election results and helped plan the January 6 rally.
  + Bannon advised Trump to deny the legitimacy of the 2020 election.
  + Bannon planned and promoted the “Stop the Steal” rally on January 6.
    - Two Bannon associates helped set up the rally.
* Steven Bannon was convicted for contempt of Congress for refusing to testify about his role on January 6.
  + Bannon refused to comply with a Congressional subpoena from the January 6 committee.
  + Bannon was convicted of contempt of Congress and sentenced to four months in prison.

## Steve Bannon Advised Trump To Deny The 2020 Election And Helped Plan The January 6 Rally

### Steve Bannon Advised Trump To Deny The Legitimacy Of The 2020 Election

**Bannon Told Trump To “Kill The Biden Presidency In The Crib.”** According to Newsweek, “‘And Bannon had actually been in close touch with President Trump for days before January 6th,’ said Costa on MSNBC. ‘Based on our reporting, he privately told President Trump to have a reckoning on January 6th. And he said to the president, it's time to kill the Biden presidency in the crib.’” [Newsweek, [9/22/21](https://www.newsweek.com/steve-bannon-confirms-his-involvement-january-6-insurrection-war-room-podcast-1631667)]

**Trump Repeatedly Spoke With Steve Bannon For Advice On His Effort To Overturn The 2020 Election.** According to Bloomberg, “President Donald Trump has repeatedly spoken by phone in recent weeks with once-estranged White House adviser Steve Bannon, who’s facing federal criminal charges, for counsel on his campaign to overturn his re-election defeat, according to people familiar with the matter.” [Bloomberg, [1/14/21](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-01-14/trump-reconciles-with-ex-strategist-bannon-in-talks-on-election?sref=ik1V3sxr&__twitter_impression=true)]

**Bannon Convinced Trump To Return To Washington For January 6.** According to Newsweek, “Woodward, a former Washington Post associate editor, and Costa, a national political reporter, also reported in Peril that on December 30, Bannon convinced Trump to return to Washington D.C. on January 6, the day that Biden's 2020 election win was to be certified by Congress. ‘You've got to return to Washington and make a dramatic return today,’ Bannon said to Trump, according to the book. ‘You've got to call [Vice President Mike] Pence off the f\*\*king ski slopes and get him back here today. This is a crisis.’ ‘People are going to go, 'What the f\*\*k is going on here?'’ Bannon said of the looming election. ‘We're going to bury Biden on January 6th, f\*\*king bury him.’” [Newsweek, [9/22/21](https://www.newsweek.com/steve-bannon-confirms-his-involvement-january-6-insurrection-war-room-podcast-1631667)]

#### Bannon Said Trump Would Declare Victory On Election Night No Matter What The Results Were

**October 2020: Bannon Said Trump Would Declare Victory On Election Night No Matter What The Results Were And Then Claim Any Changes Were The Result Of Fraud.** According to Mother Jones, “On the evening of October 31, 2020, Steve Bannon told a group of associates that President Donald Trump had a plan to declare victory on election night—even if he was losing. Trump knew that the slow counting of Democratic-leaning mail-in ballots meant the returns would show early leads for him in key states. His ‘strategy’ was to use this fact to assert that he had won, while claiming that the inevitable shifts in vote totals toward Joe Biden must be the result of fraud, Bannon explained. ‘What Trump’s gonna do is just declare victory. Right? He’s gonna declare victory. But that doesn’t mean he’s a winner,’ Bannon, laughing, told the group, according to audio of the meeting obtained by Mother Jones. ‘He’s just gonna say he’s a winner.’ ‘He’s gonna declare victory. But that doesn’t mean he’s a winner.’ ‘As it sits here today,’ Bannon said later in the conversation, describing a scenario in which Trump held an early lead in key swing states, ‘at 10 or 11 o’clock Trump’s gonna walk in the Oval, tweet out, ‘I’m the winner. Game over. Suck on that.’” [Mother Jones, [7/12/22](https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2022/07/leaked-audio-steve-bannon-trump-2020-election-declare-victory/)]

### Bannon Planned And Promoted The “Stop The Steal” Rally On January 6

**Bannon Was Part Of The “War Room” That Planned The January 6 Rally.** According to Newsweek, “Former White House Chief Strategist Steve Bannon admitted on his War Room podcast that he had a hand in planning the rally for then-President Donald Trump that preceded the riot at the U.S. Capitol on January 6. Bannon played a clip on War Room from an MSNBC broadcast in which Washington Post journalists Robert Costa and Bob Woodward, who just released the book Peril, discussed Bannon meeting up with Rudy Giuliani and other Trump allies the night before the insurrection. Costa claimed that on January 5, Bannon, Giuliani, and the other allies had a ‘war-room-type meeting’ at the Willard Hotel, which is located blocks from the White House.” [Newsweek, [9/22/21](https://www.newsweek.com/steve-bannon-confirms-his-involvement-january-6-insurrection-war-room-podcast-1631667)]

**January 5, 2021: Bannon Said, “All Hell Will Break Loose Tomorrow.”** According to ProPublica, “One of the loudest voices urging Donald Trump’s supporters to push for overturning the presidential election results was Steve Bannon. ‘We’re on the point of attack,’ Bannon, a former Trump adviser and far-right nationalist, pledged on his popular podcast on Jan. 5. ‘All hell will break loose tomorrow.’ The next morning, as thousands massed on the National Mall for a rally that turned into an attack on the Capitol, Bannon fired up his listeners: ‘It’s them against us. Who can impose their will on the other side?’” [ProPublica, [9/2/21](https://www.propublica.org/article/heeding-steve-bannons-call-election-deniers-organize-to-seize-control-of-the-gop-and-reshape-americas-elections)]

**Bannon Sponsored The “March For Trump” Bus Tour And Promoted The January 6th Rally Outside The White House.** According to ABC News, “Bannon also played a significant role in promoting the Jan. 6 rally, which was co-organized by ‘March for Trump,’ and he previously served as a prominent sponsor of the group's cross-country December bus tour ahead of the rally.” [ABC News, [1/15/21](https://abcnews.go.com/US/longtime-trump-advisers-connected-groups-rally-led-capitol/story?id=75261028)]

#### Two Bannon Associates Helped Set Up The January 6 Rally

**Two Of Bannon’s Longtime Associates Had Key Roles In Organizing The January 6 Rally.** According to ABC News, “Two of Bannon's longtime associates also served in key roles on Jan. 6. Dustin Stockton was one of the lead organizers of the rally, and Jennifer Lawrence ran media relations. Until 2017, Stockton and Lawrence worked as writers at the far-right media outlet Breitbart when Bannon was executive chairman, according to their LinkedIn profiles. The pair most recently worked with Bannon on his crowdfunding campaign ‘We Build the Wall,’ which in August 2020 resulted in the federal indictments over allegations of defrauding donors.” [ABC News, [1/15/21](https://abcnews.go.com/US/longtime-trump-advisers-connected-groups-rally-led-capitol/story?id=75261028)]

## Bannon Was Convicted For Contempt Of Congress For Refusing To Testify About His Role In January 6

### Bannon Refused To Comply With A Congressional Subpoena From The January 6 Committee

**September 2021: Bannon Subpoenaed By The January 6 Committee.** According to National Public Radio, “The Democratic-led House select committee investigating the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol has issued subpoenas to four former Trump administration officials, including former White House chief of staff Mark Meadows and strategist Steve Bannon.” [NPR, 9/23/21]

**October 2021: Bannon Defied The Subpoena.** According to the Associated Press, “A congressional committee investigating the Jan. 6 insurrection could soon recommend criminal contempt charges against former White House aide Steve Bannon as he defies a subpoena for documents and testimony about his interactions with President Donald Trump ahead of the violent siege of the Capitol. The committee scheduled a Thursday deposition with Bannon, but his lawyer has said that at Trump’s direction he won’t appear.” [Associated Press, [10/14/21](https://www.ajc.com/news/nation-world/steve-bannon-defies-jan-6-subpoena-may-face-contempt-charge/U7OS2OA73ZANXN3WCI3UDD3HAU/)]

**October 2021: The U.S. House Of Representatives Voted To Hold Steve Bannon In Criminal Contempt Of Congress For Refusing To Testify About His Communications With Trump Concerning The Events Surrounding January 6.** According to Politico, “The House voted Thursday to hold Steve Bannon, a longtime ally of Donald Trump, in criminal contempt of Congress for refusing to testify about his communications with the former president. In a 229-202 vote, with nine House Republicans joining all Democrats, the chamber moved to hold Bannon in contempt for defying a subpoena to testify to the select committee investigating the Jan. 6 Capitol attack.” [Politico, [10/21/21](https://www.politico.com/news/2021/10/21/jan-6-contempt-bannon-justice-department-516390)]

### Bannon Was Convicted Of Contempt Of Congress And Sentenced To Four Months In Prison

**November 2021: Bannon Was Charged With Two Counts Of Criminal Contempt Of Congress.** According to ABC News, “The Justice Department has charged former White House chief strategist Steve Bannon with two counts of criminal contempt of Congress over his defiance of a subpoena from the select committee investigating the Jan. 6 assault on the U.S. Capitol.” [ABC News, [11/12/21](https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/justice-department-charges-steve-bannon-criminal-contempt-congress/story?id=81138335)]

**July 2022: Bannon Was Convicted Of Contempt Of Congress.** According to National Public Radio, “A federal jury has convicted former Trump political adviser Steve Bannon of two counts of criminal contempt of Congress for intentionally defying a subpoena related to the assault on the U.S. Capitol last year. Bannon put on no defense in the case, which featured testimony from just two government witnesses, including the deputy staff director of the House Select Committee investigating the events of Jan. 6, 2021. The Justice Department told jurors the case was black and white - as simple as the words on the subpoena to Bannon last autumn. ‘The defendant chose allegiance to Donald Trump over compliance with the law,’ Assistant U.S. Attorney Molly Gaston said in closing arguments.” [NPR, [7/22/22](https://www.npr.org/2022/07/22/1112937587/steve-bannon-guilty-jan-6-committee-contempt-charges)]

#### Bannon Was Sentenced To Four Months In Prison

**October 2022: Bannon Was Sentenced To Four Months In Prison.** According to the New York Times, “Stephen K. Bannon, a longtime adviser to former President Donald J. Trump who aided in the effort to overturn the 2020 election, was sentenced on Friday to four months in prison for disobeying a subpoena from the House committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol. Mr. Bannon, 68, was found guilty of two counts of contempt of Congress this summer after Judge Carl J. Nichols rejected an array of arguments offered by Mr. Bannon’s defense team, including that he was protected by executive privilege from being compelled to testify.” [New York Times, [10/21/22](https://www.nytimes.com/2022/10/21/us/politics/steve-bannon-sentence-contempt-congress.html)]

**May 2024: Bannon’s Appeal Was Rejected.** According to the Associated Press, “A federal appeals court panel on Friday upheld the criminal conviction of Donald Trump’s longtime ally Steve Bannon for defying a subpoena from the House committee that investigated the attack on the U.S. Capitol. A three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit rejected Bannon’s challenges to his contempt of Congress conviction for which he was sentenced in 2022 to four months in prison. The judge overseeing the case has allowed him to remain free while he pursues his appeal.” [Associated Press, [5/10/24](https://apnews.com/article/steve-bannon-contempt-congress-appeals-court-397cd470d2862816fea776b0d788a760)]