Twitter Thread by Ben Giles

Ben Giles
@ben_giles

Arizona Republican elected officials have reacted to the siege at the U.S. Capitol by blaming, and this is not a comprehensive list, Democrats, Doug Ducey, other Republicans, Antifa, and Congress.

Here's a look back at the last 24 hours in tweets...

In this tweet, @RepGosar repeats baseless allegations that the presidential election was stolen and hints that leftists maybe had a role in the mob?



.@RepGosar reaction to the mob varied, depending on what platform you follow him on. @nickmartin points out the discrepancy between Gosar on Twitter and Gosar on conservative-friendly Parler.

https://t.co/Q8fkpChfYH

> His main His alt pic.twitter.com/iS7TqNuhlr
>
> — Nick Martin (@nickmartin) January 7, 2021

.@DebbieLesko condemned the violence at the Capitol...

https://t.co/yoJ8xI1Irc

> Violence and breaking into the U. S. Capitol is dangerous and totally unacceptable.
>
> — Debbie Lesko (@DebbieLesko) January 6, 2021

Then objected to the certified presidential election results from her home state, Arizona, claiming an extended voter registration deadline (that courts allowed) was wrong.

https://t.co/yBOh8qIg1u

> I voted to uphold the U.S. Constitution by objecting to Arizona's electors. The U.S. Constitution says that states need to follow their state's election laws in presidential elections. Since AZ's voter registration deadline law was violated, the U.S. Constitution was violated.
>
> — Debbie Lesko (@DebbieLesko) January 7, 2021

.@RepAndyBiggsAZ has spread plenty of misinformation about the election, rhetoric that helped inflame the mob yesterday.

He boasted he'd "lead the charge" and "FIGHT" for Trump supporters.

https://t.co/cTQ7v0Qrf3

> TODAY, I will lead the charge on the House floor to STAND for election integrity and FIGHT for the millions of Americans who have lost complete trust in our elections systems. pic.twitter.com/aoFMVvh9EK
>
> — Rep Andy Biggs (@RepAndyBiggsAZ) January 6, 2021

After the siege, though, @RepAndyBiggsAZ condemned it, saying violence "should never be tolerated."

https://t.co/NIssOPxN0F

> Peaceful protests are the hallmark of our constitutional republic. Violence should never be tolerated, and I condemn the violence we experienced at the U.S. Capitol today. Those who have violently violated the laws should be prosecuted to the fullest extent.

— Rep Andy Biggs (@RepAndyBiggsAZ) January 7, 2021

.@kelliwardaz has repeatedly, unsuccessfully, attempted to overturn the election results in court.

When that didn't work, the @AZGOP asked people if they were willing to give their lives for Trump.

https://t.co/ybBeosULcd

> The Arizona Republican Party is now advocating for violence to overturn the 2020 election.
>
> Governor @dougducey, Attorney General @GeneralBrnovich, and other Republicans in the state have a duty to denounce this extremist rhetoric before someone gets killed. pic.twitter.com/3D2Nspsedc
>
> — Nick Martin (@nickmartin) December 8, 2020

Wednesday morning, she urged he followers to fight.

https://t.co/OdeU5FN0zz

> #FightForTrump \U0001f1fa\U0001f1f8
>
> — Dr. Kelli Ward \U0001f1fa\U0001f1f8 (@kelliwardaz) January 6, 2021

When a mob overran Congress, she echoed calls for state legislatures to conduct a do-over and send pro-Trump electors to Washington. (This would be ILLEGAL under Arizona law.)

https://t.co/6aOKQKpOe8

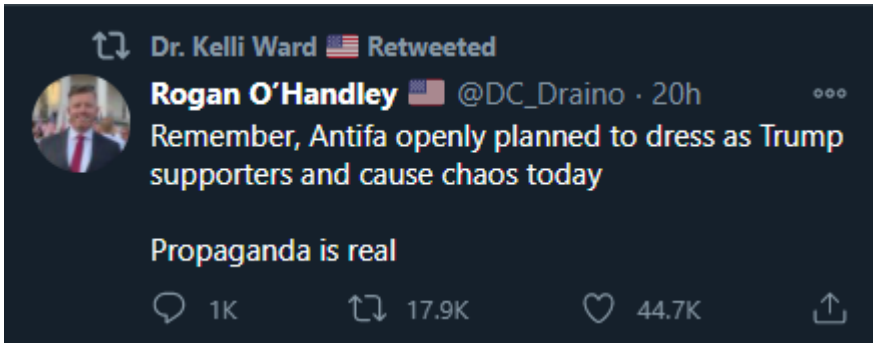
> Congress is adjourned. Send the elector choice back to the legislatures. https://t.co/yFyWjqN3Xv
>
> — Dr. Kelli Ward \U0001f1fa\U0001f1f8 (@kelliwardaz) January 6, 2021

She warned her followers Wednesday morning that Democrats, who were supporting the normal procedure of counting electoral college votes certified by states, were putting county on a path "to the camps."

https://t.co/sL5Myba4l1

> The train the Dems want to put in motion goes to the camps. #SchiffShow #WakeUp
>
> — Dr. Kelli Ward \U0001f1fa\U0001f1f8 (@kelliwardaz) January 6, 2021

She retweeted claims that Antifa was responsible for the siege, despite known Trump supporters documenting their presence inside the Capitol.



.@kelliwardaz also blamed Democrats for refusing to turn over a host of voting materials in Maricopa County. Worth noting that a court has yet to decide if that demand, in form of a legislative audit, is even lawful.

https://t.co/KO42HwgzvB

> You know what could have prevented this? #ElectionIntegrity and full transparent investigations into 2020 fraud. Audits, eyes on paper ballots, full audit of ALL digitally adjudicated and all duplicated ballots, full evaluation of Dominion machines. Remember: Democrats refused.
>
> — Dr. Kelli Ward \U0001f1fa\U0001f1f8 (@kelliwardaz) January 6, 2021

The list goes on. Pinal County Sheriff Mark Lamb said the siege wasn't about Trump, but (4 years later) still about "the Hillary Clintons."

https://t.co/TPZXO0Cf0i

> Pinal County Sheriff Mark Lamb speaking after the storming of the US Capitol yesterday:
>
> "I don't know how loud we have to get before they start to listen to us... "
>
> He said yesterday's events were not about the president but about "the Hillary Clintons"https://t.co/OedKXvXUp7
>
> — Andrew Oxford (@andrewboxford) January 7, 2021

State senator-elect @WendyRogersAZ echoed boasts that Wednesday was the new "1776." When violence descended on the Capitol, she blamed 1) Antifa, 2) Democrats...

https://t.co/kApYIo9xmi

> I condemn the radical Antifa mobs for attacking the Capitol and I condemn the Democrats for wanting to defund the very police who protected them.
>
> — Wendy Rogers (@WendyRogersAZ) January 7, 2021

...and 3) Congress, who she directly blamed for the death of a Trump supporter who was at the U.S. Capitol.

https://t.co/kMDE3Wv5eb

> Congress caused the killing of a peaceful unarmed Air Force veteran today because of their ignoring of the requests from the people. She was shot her in the neck & is now deceased. All they had to do was allow for an audit of the machines and votes. This could have been avoided.
>
> — Wendy Rogers (@WendyRogersAZ) January 7, 2021

Arizona state representative @MarkFinchem was in DC at the protest. He blamed the violence on Congress refusal to acknowledge "rampant" (baseless claim) "fraud."

https://t.co/cpRXFLApt4

> What happens when the People feel they have been ignored, and Congress refuses to acknowledge rampant fraud. #stopthesteal pic.twitter.com/0ZXwyOsS7y
>
> — Mark Finchem (@MarkFinchem) January 6, 2021

Former GOP lawmaker @AdamKwasman called for Finchem to be expelled from the Arizona Legislature for his actions Wednesday.

https://t.co/xXPVVYv7yZ

> Mark Finchem represents a seat I briefly held a decade ago. He\u2019s represented it far-longer, and he is a friend. @MarkFinchem should be expelled from the AZ House immediately for participating in a violent riot against the United States. https://t.co/8X1BZRLEGL
>
> — Adam Kwasman (@AdamKwasman) January 7, 2021

In response, @MarkFinchem claimed he never actually entered the U.S. Capitol, and also pinned blame for the siege on... Antifa.

https://t.co/XqOybJqznh

> @AdamKwasman Misrepresentation is running rampant among those who don\u2019t even bother to fact check their claims. There\u2019s this thing called a telephone and one uses it to communicate with others. #truthmatters pic.twitter.com/jddV5WkwK4
>
> — Mark Finchem (@MarkFinchem) January 7, 2021

AZ Congressman @RubenGallego called for the Capitol Police to investigate Finchem's actions on Wednesday.

https://t.co/I3ROJnzPY1

> .@CapitolPolice I expect you to investigate this Arizona State Representative if he entered the Capitol he should be arrested and charged. https://t.co/0LvasnPxTx
>
> — Ruben Gallego (@RubenGallego) January 7, 2021

State rep. @KellyTownsend11 blamed @dougducey for not calling the GOP-controlled Legislature back to the state capitol so they could examine election results that have already been certified by Republicans and Democrats.

https://t.co/3xdJijKxbe

> #StopTheSteal #ElectionIntegrity #MarchForTrump #FightForTrump pic.twitter.com/xUxapzPXHx
>
> — Senator-Elect Kelly Townsend (@KellyTownsend11) January 6, 2021

On Facebook, state rep. Vince Leach (if you're one of the few people he hasn't blocked on Twitter, you're in rare company) says there's a better way to affect change than a siege: At the ballot box.

https://t.co/OgVJTvU1ac

> State Sen. @VinceLeach, R-Tucson, on yesterday\u2019s mob violence at the US Capitol: Self-government relies on self-control; if you want to change the government, do it at the ballot box by making the better argument. pic.twitter.com/iXHE76CpAD
>
> — Jeremy Duda (@jeremyduda) January 7, 2021

State rep. @anthonykernAZ, like @MarkFinchem, was also in DC yesterday.

He posted a photo from Trump's pre-siege rally comparing the day to D-Day, the seaborne invasion of Normandy during WWII.

https://t.co/7WHnZCboqt

> D-Day in DC to support Arizona's and America's duly elected President Donald Trump! #StoptheSteal @realDonaldTrump pic.twitter.com/IFEmBkBnjI
>
> — Anthony Kern (@anthonykernAZ) January 6, 2021

Kern would later call out @SenSchumer for comparing the siege on the U.S. Capitol to Pearl Harbor.

https://t.co/YnGtZEoYhA

> @SenSchumer compared today's protest in #DC to bombing of Pearl Harbor! What a hideous slap in the face to our soldiers on that fateful day! Today, men, women, young people, and children peacefully protested at their US Capitol. Only a small few broke the law. #StopTheSteal
>
> — Anthony Kern (@anthonykernAZ) January 7, 2021

As @BorderReporter notes, Rep. Debbie Lesko's role in spreading misinformation about the election have a lot to do with why people are, as she put it, "at a breaking point."

https://t.co/RtlSjFMxwM

Republican Rep. Debbie Lesko, who voted to overturn the election results with baseless claims of fraud, worries that people are upset. Here is the amicus brief she signed on to in December: https://t.co/qOHLYXMoeq https://t.co/3QorUMELUJ

— Michel Marizco (@BorderReporter) January 7, 2021