Twitter Thread by Dermot Cole



Dermot Cole
@DermotMCole

1. I've had second thoughts about the value of the extensive weasel words the @adndotcom published from the lips of @SenDanSullivan the other day. Thanks to @AK_OK for offering this profile in evasion. I've added annotation.
#aksen

2. Sullivan covers for Trump, the inciter-in-chief with a deflection, never admitting that Trump lit the fuse. "I think had the president accepted the election results earlier and repudiated the mob violence earlier and more forcefully, it could have had an impact yesterday."

> **Q: Who do you think bears responsibility for what happened at the Capitol yesterday?**
>
> "Rioters number one, first and foremost."
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> "I think most Trump supporters in Alaska certainly were aghast at the violence. So the rioters, first and foremost, and they need to be fully prosecuted to the extent of the law. I think had the president accepted the election results earlier and repudiated the mob violence earlier and more forcefully, it could have had an impact yesterday."

3. As late as Monday Jan. 4, Sullivan's office refused comment on the GOP coup proposed by members of Congress. On Jan. 7, Sullivan said he had "decided a number of days ago" to oppose the coup. So he stayed silent in the corner, avoiding triggering Trump or Trump voters.

Q: When did you decide that you were not going to object to the certification of the results? How did you come to that?

"I had dug into that for quite some time."

"I wasn't making comments, but I had decided a number of days ago and been writing up my response that I completed today."

4. Embarrassed by the rioters, Trump defenders like Sarah Palin started the lie—rejected by the FBI—that the terrorists were Antifa. Sullivan won't call it a lie.

Q: Some Republicans say antifa is to blame for the riots. Is that something you believe?

"There's obviously going to be a very big investigation here. And I won't comment on that until I see people dig into the investigation."

5. Sullivan and other Republicans refused to denounce the torrent of lies from Trump about the election, setting the stage for the GOP terrorists. Sullivan still excuses himself and refuses to call out Trump's lies, knowing that Trump is popular with Sullivan voters.

Q: I want to ask you something that came in an email from a reader: "It's difficult to swallow coverage of both Dan Sullivan and Mike Dunleavy denouncing yesterday's riots at the Capitol without the context that they both played an enabling role by denying the results of the election." Do you wish you had handled things differently?

"No, I never denied the results of the election. What I did was I said — and I think I even put it in the press release I just put out — was that I supported the right of the Trump campaign to pursue legal challenges, in the request for recounts through the courts. By the way … that happens almost every single election. And in our constitutional system of government, that's how electoral disputes and allegations of fraud are resolved.

"They weren't resolved in the favor of the Trump administration, which is why when the Electoral College system kicked in … that's when the president-elect is actually constitutionally recognized. And that's when I recognize them. So I guess I would just disagree with the premise of the question."

6. Sullivan's office has sent a 2,100-word term paper to Alaskans who wrote him about the coup, trying to appease Trump supporters and opponents. "I wish fervently that President Trump had accepted the results of the election. . ." Sullivan said after the terrorists were gone.

I was saddened and angered by the violence that engulfed the Capitol on January 6, 2021, and I wish fervently that President Trump had accepted the results of the election, and more forcefully and earlier repudiated the violence on that sad day.

7. In the appeasement paper, Sullivan never says Trump lost. He never says Biden won. He never says Trump lied. He says Trump didn't win in court. He says some people believe there was fraud. He excuses Trump lies, but opposes violence, adding to election doubts. He gets an F.

I. Introduction

I want to thank the thousands of Alaskans who called or wrote in about the presidential election, and on the joint session of Congress to count the Electoral College vote. Regardless of where you stand on the presidential race, your engagement is appreciated. In fact, it is crucial for our democratic system of government.

I also want to thank the many Alaskans who reached out to make sure my team and I were safe on Wednesday, January 6, 2021, as violence was underway at the U.S. Capitol while we were attempting to undertake our constitutional duty by counting the Electoral College vote. And, I thank the courageous work of our law enforcement officers today, including the Capitol police, some of whom were seriously injured and, tragically, one of whom died.

The violence that engulfed our Capitol was a disgrace and will go down as one of the sadder and more dispiriting days in our country's history. But those who chose violence in order to disrupt our constitutional duties did not have the last word. Early on Thursday morning, January 7, Congress fulfilled its role to count the votes of the Electoral College, ensuring that an orderly transition of power—one of the most sacred hallmarks of our great constitutional republic—takes place on January 20, showing the country, and the world, the resiliency of America's democracy.

Like I have done with all critically important decisions—including votes to acquit President Trump on impeachment charges just 11 months ago—I've focused intently on fulfilling my constitutional responsibilities throughout the Electoral College process. I have refrained from talking to the media before I could fully absorb all of the material—particularly the relevant constitutional provisions, historical record, precedents, and input from Alaskans and fellow senators. Similar to the impeachment trial, I have been focused on the impact that our actions in the U.S. Senate would have, not just today, but the precedents that will be set regarding constitutional norms, our institutions, and states' rights—giving serious consideration to the deep responsibility we have in the Congress to future times.

Many Alaskans encouraged me to join some of my fellow senators in objecting to certain states' Electoral College votes, but as I explain more fully below, I believe that by objecting to the votes of the Electoral College, Congress would be dramatically expanding its limited constitutional role in presidential elections by usurping the explicit constitutional power of the states and the people to elect the President. This would set unwise and troubling precedents, especially for Alaska.

Like many Alaskans, I am deeply concerned that the incoming Biden administration will work to undermine much of the historic progress we have made during the Trump administration that has positively impacted working families, our economy, our military and veterans, access to our lands, Alaska Native communities, and the federal judiciary. But, ultimately, my oath is to the Constitution and the laws of our nation. This includes the Electoral College process and the orderly transfer of power.

8. Sullivan's conclusion. He didn't mention his fervent wishes for Trump to accept the results of the election until after the riots incited by Trump. #aksen #akgov

V. Conclusion

I was saddened and angered by the violence that engulfed the Capitol on January 6, 2021, and I wish fervently that President Trump had accepted the results of the election, and more forcefully and earlier repudiated the violence on that sad day.

This past November, a significant majority of Alaskans, myself included, supported President Trump's reelection. These Alaskans should not be confused with or lumped together with those who perpetrated violence in the historic halls of the U.S. Capitol. Working with Alaskans, the Trump administration helped our state make historic progress on a variety of issues that positively impact working families, our economy, our military and veterans, access to our lands, Alaska Native communities, and the federal judiciary. Although I stand ready to work in a bipartisan manner with President-elect Biden, I am deeply concerned that the incoming administration will work to undermine much of the progress we have achieved in the past few years.

But, ultimately, my oath is to the Constitution and the laws of our nation. This includes the Electoral College process, and the orderly transfer of power—one of the most sacred elements of our great constitutional republic—which will take place on January 20. For these reasons, I voted on January 6 and 7 against objections to the 2020 state-certified Electoral College vote, which helped to underscore for Alaskans, our fellow Americans, and the rest of the world that American democracy remains resilient and strong. I recognize that thousands of Alaskans did not agree with this decision, but I believe strongly that this was the constitutionally correct action to take as your Senator.

About a year ago, right before the impeachment trial began, I was at an event in Wasilla where many Alaska veterans were in attendance. One proud veteran approached me with a simple but fervent request: "Senator Sullivan, protect our Constitution." I believe I did as a result of my votes on impeachment and, although I am sure that some will disagree, I believe that I also did so regarding my Electoral College votes.

On January 6, 2021, the world witnessed our Capitol under siege. On January 20, our country will swear in the 46th President of the United States. The world will witness the cornerstone of our democracy, a peaceful transfer of power—like there has been in our country for more than 200 years. Our Constitution will remain strong.

Thank you again for contacting me on this issue. I hope you and your family find yourselves healthy and well during these challenging times. I am confident that Alaska and America will emerge stronger and more resilient as we all work together to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. If you have any more questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me or my staff. My office can be reached at 202-224-3004, or online at www.sullivan.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Dan Sullivan
United States Senator