Twitter Thread by USA TODAY

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A joint session of Congress has begun the final steps of counting the Electoral College votes that will officially make Joe Biden the next president.

https://t.co/9YTss44fxL

> House Republicans stand up to object to Arizona's 11 electoral votes for Biden. Sen. Ted Cruz stands up as the Senate sponsor, drawing applause from his colleagues.
>
> Next, the Senate and House will break into separate sessions for up to two hours to debate the objection.
>
> — Joey Garrison (@joeygarrison) January 6, 2021

Vice President Mike Pence said he concluded, after “a careful study of the Constitution,” that he doesn’t’ have the sole power to accept or reject electoral votes. Instead, he said, his role is “ministerial.”
https://t.co/zke97UPowm

> Pence in statement says it's lawmakers, not him, who determines the results of today's Electoral College proceedings.
> "it is the people's representatives who review the evidence and resolve disputes through a Democratic process."
> pic.twitter.com/p9N7SfAOHN
>
> — Nicholas Wu (@nicholaswu12) January 6, 2021

Outside the Capitol, where a joint session of Congress is meeting. https://t.co/XKSsW2Qpnh

> #Trump supporters trying to storm the @uscapitol as Congress is set to certify @JoeBiden's win.
>
> Per @ElijahSchaffer: pic.twitter.com/vTzPxeZdG6
>
> — Philmonger (@phillipmbailey) January 6, 2021

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., delivered a stern warning to his congressional colleagues against attempting to overturn the 2020 election, saying democracy would enter a "death spiral" if Congress were to reject the

counting of electoral votes.

https://t.co/YJ7URBQtBs

> As some Trump supporters breach the fencing outside the Capitol Building, others are facing off with counterprotesters dressed in black in Black Lives Matter Plaza \U0001f4f8 cred: @jarrad_tweets pic.twitter.com/LdbMOrTaRB
>
> — N'dea Yancey-Bragg (@NdeaYanceyBragg) January 6, 2021

U.S. Capitol locked down as protesters push through fence, breach building. https://t.co/hPME7wgdJG

https://t.co/meWfZd5hcp

> Washington, D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser orders a curfew from 6 p.m. on Wednesday to 6 a.m. on Thursday. https://t.co/Oo6ghh9Cwo
>
> — Rebecca Morin (@RebeccaMorin_) January 6, 2021

Photos show protesters inside the U.S. Capitol.

More: https://t.co/RDH29zOk2j



The House and Senate recessed from their session as protesters breached the Capitol and the building locked down. Vice President Mike Pence has been taken to an undisclosed, secure location, according to a source. https://t.co/QAFvkxmMlb



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., asked for the National Guard to clear and secure the Capitol, according to a person familiar with the situation not authorized to speak on the record.



U.S. Capitol Police detain protesters outside of the House Chamber.



Protective gear is handed out as protesters storm the Capitol building.



A protester sits in the Senate Chamber after pro-Trump supporters storm the Capitol. ■: Getty


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