

CHOOSE DEMOCRACY BENICIA

PROTECT
THE
RESULTS

Call it what it is and say it out loud: **There might be a coup!**

A coup is the illegal seizure of power. It's a coup if the government:

- Stops counting votes;
- Declares someone the winner who didn't get the majority of votes and/or delegitimizes the voting numbers; or
- Allows someone to stay in power who didn't win the election.

The signs of a potential coup are here!

- Refusal to commit to an orderly transfer of power.
- Repeated declarations that mail-in ballots are rife with fraud.
- Systematic undermining of the US Postal Service.
- Continual delegitimization of the election process.
- A call to action to intimidate voters by illegal "poll watching", and for white supremacist militias to "stand by."
- Partisan legal challenges to electoral processes nationwide, resulting in voter suppression.

What makes a coup successful?

- **Legitimacy** - the public believes that the coup leader has the right to the position they've claimed.
- **Cooperation** - people who actually make the country function, comply with the orders of the coup leader.
- **Momentum** - can often turn support; the belief that a coup attempt will succeed can cause less resistance.

How to prevent a coup

- **Individuals:** Talk with neighbors, friends, work acquaintances, etc. about the dangers if votes are not counted or if a candidate does not concede.
- Join in "Protect the Results" rallies. Go to: ProtectTheResults.com
- **Elected Officials and Leadership Organizations:** Make a public statement, distribute to your constituents/members. Statements should demand:
 - Every vote be counted, regardless of time it takes to get an accurate count, especially given the expansion of mail-in and absentee voting during the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - The losing candidate concedes, and that Congress, the Electoral College, and both state and federal officials honor the accurate, final vote count.

What to do if a coup is attempted?

Take part in mass nonviolent action to support the democratic process of the election by voters. For more information, go to: ChooseDemocracyBenicia.org