



**TO:** Interested Parties  
**FROM:** John Billings, Executive Director  
**DATE:** April 1, 2021  
**RE:** A Look Inside the NRCC's Campaign to Crush Democrats' Attempts to Overturn the IA-02 Election

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### **OVERVIEW:**

This is the first of what will be many Republican victories this cycle. Republicans are organized, aggressive and have our sights set on one goal: retaking the majority and making sure every vulnerable Democrat pays the price for supporting Nancy Pelosi's socialist agenda.

Throughout this process, Republicans across the ecosystem were united in our efforts.

The NRCC spearheaded a public pressure campaign targeting vulnerable Democrats over their efforts to subvert the will of Iowa voters and overturn the certified results in Iowa's Second Congressional District.

We made sure Democrats across the country were held accountable for Pelosi's blatant attempt to steal an election.

*"Meanwhile, the House GOP's campaign arm is nipping at their heels and trying to make the Hart situation as politically painful as possible for Democrats. The National Republican Congressional Committee has mounted a public pressure campaign — complete with near-daily email blasts — to target 15 of the most vulnerable Democrats over where they stand on the issue." - [Politico, 2/22/2021](#)*

Democrats bragged that they would drag this out until July with Nancy Pelosi [even claiming](#) she wasn't obligated to seat a certified election winner.

### **THE RESULTS:**

Democrats were handed a decisive defeat.

Rita Hart [dropped her challenge](#) to overturn the certified election results and Nancy Pelosi failed to muster the support of her caucus.

Along the way nine vulnerable Democrats came out on the record to publicly break with Pelosi, who remains the [most unpopular politician](#) in America.

[Pennsylvania Rep. Matt Cartwright](#): "Election decisions made at the state and local level should be respected."

[Minnesota Rep. Dean Phillips](#): "Losing a House election by six votes is painful for Democrats. But overturning it in the House would be even more painful for America."

[Michigan Rep. Elissa Slotkin](#): "I'm sorry, I cannot support overturning an election... I can't turn around and vote to decertify something that's been stamped and approved in Iowa."

[New Hampshire Rep. Chris Pappas](#): "This election result was certified by the State of Iowa and Rep. Miller-Meeks was sworn in nearly three months ago... it's time to move on."



[Pennsylvania Rep. Susan Wild](#): “As I have said before in connection with the 2020 presidential election, legislators should be heeding states’ certifications of their elections.”

[California Rep. Lou Correa](#): “This is an issue that states should have primary responsibility in determining the outcome of the election. The state of Iowa certified it, and that’s what should stand.”

[New Jersey Rep. Josh Gottheimer](#): “I have deep reservations.”

[North Carolina Rep. David Price](#): “I don’t think there’s the slightest chance that that would happen.”

[Michigan Rep. Dan Kildee](#): “Unless we see compelling evidence that there’s something seriously wrong, then we should defer to state and local officials.”

### **WHAT WE DID:**

The NRCC sent 57 press releases, generated nearly 100 stories, deployed trackers and conducted research to hold Rita Hart and vulnerable Democrats accountable.

Beyond the PR pressure, the NRCC conducted polling showing how toxic an issue this was for Democrats in battleground districts. Read the polling memo [HERE](#).

The [NRCC also invested in paid media](#), launching ads targeting Cindy Axne, the only federally elected official in Iowa who failed to condemn Pelosi’s efforts to subvert the will of Iowa voters.

*“Republicans have thoroughly trounced the Democrats in the early messaging battle.” – [National Journal, 3/31/21](#)*

*“Amid a growing GOP-led campaign to quash the challenge and to pressure House Democrats to accept the election results, Hart formally announced Wednesday she will no longer try to overturn the election.” – [Fox News, 3/31/21](#)*

### **Read the extensive coverage calling out Democrats’ efforts to subvert democracy:**

#### **Stories Generated: 96**

- [LA Times: House Democrats shouldn’t overrule an Iowa Republican’s victory](#)
- [Charlotte Observer: An NC Democrat may help overturn a U.S. House election. That’s hypocritical.](#)
- [Wall Street Journal: A Warning to Pelosi on Iowa](#)
- [Washington Post: For some Republicans and Democrats, the 2020 race still isn’t over](#)
- [Politico: Why Are Democrats Following Trump’s Post-Election Playbook?](#)
- [Wall Street Journal: Democrats Give Their Iowa Game Away](#)
- [Des Moines Register: Rita Hart’s appeal to Congress doesn’t have a happy ending, especially after she passed over Iowa judges. She should concede.](#)
- [Omaha World Herald: Iowa Democrat must accept close election result for the good of the country](#)
- [Wall Street Journal: Iowa Election Challenge Alarms Some House Democrats](#)
- [Punchbowl News AM: Iowa is getting a visitor](#)
- [Washington Examiner: The Iowa steal: To Democrats, ‘democracy’ means unbridled majority power](#)
- [Washington Times: Democrats try to undermine state certified election results in Iowa](#)



- [Wall Street Journal: Democrats Move on Iowa's Second District](#)
- [CNN: House Democrats weigh ejecting GOP winner of contested Iowa race, dismissing comparisons to Trump's efforts to overturn election](#)
- [New York Times: House Review of Narrow Iowa Election Win Revives Partisan Brawl](#)
- [Washington Post: Resistance grows in both parties to Democratic probe of narrow Iowa race](#)
- [Fox News: Pelosi: 'Of course' there's a scenario where GOP win in tight Iowa race overturned](#)
- [PunchBowl News: Blurb on Rita Hart and Stephanopoulos](#)
- [Bret Baier Special Report: Nancy Pelosi opens door to House nullifying Iowa election result](#)
- [CNN: House Democrats face backlash on both sides for investigating Iowa House race won by a Republican](#)
- [BizPacReview: 'Of course! Of course!' Pelosi eager on the prospect of removing Iowa Republican who narrowly won](#)
- [Breitbart: House Democrats Inch Closer to Overturning Congressional Election in Iowa](#)
- [Daily Mail: Democrats launch bid to try and OVERTURN Iowa Congressional race after Republican won by just six votes](#)
- [Daily Wire: Pelosi: 'There Could Be A Scenario' In Which Democrats Unseat GOP Congresswoman, Give Seat To Democrat](#)
- [Epoch Times: Pelosi Says She's Open to Overturning Republican Win in Iowa District](#)
- [The Hill: House committee to consider Democrat challenge to results in Iowa congressional race](#)
- [Hot Air: Pelosi: Why Yes, I Could See A "Scenario" Where We Unseat Miller-Meeks](#)
- [LifeZette: Pelosi: 'Of Course' There Could Be A Scenario Where We Overturn State-Certified Election Of GOP Rep](#)
- [National File: VIDEO: Pelosi Says 'Of Course' Democrat House Could Overturn Election Results To Let Democrat Win Months After Losing Election](#)
- [National Review: How Goes the Democrats' Attempt to Steal a Congressional Race?](#)
- [PJ Media: Nancy Pelosi Thinks House Dems Could Overturn Election of a GOP Congresswoman](#)
- [RedState: Democrats Try to Steal a House Seat in Iowa and I'm Assured It's an Insurrection](#)
- [RedState: Regarding Democrats Stealing the House Seat in Iowa — It's Not Like the Democrats Haven't Stolen an Election This Same Way Before](#)
- [Fox News: Iowa GOP rep blasts Democrat's election challenge: 'They want to go against the laws of our state'](#)
- [The Federalist: Pelosi Threatens To Disenfranchise Iowa Voters With Contested House Race](#)
- [Daily Wire: Pelosi Excuses Democrats Launching Probe To Potentially Unseat Elected GOP Member: 'It Was Six Votes'](#)
- [The Federalist: Pelosi Defends Push To Overturn Iowa House Race GOP Won: 'Well, It Was Six Votes'](#)
- [The Epoch Times: 'It's Only Six Votes': Pelosi Excuses Democrats From Launching Probe to Possibly Unseat GOP Member](#)
- [The Post Millennial: WATCH: Pelosi says it's okay to overturn an election if a Republican wins](#)
- [RedState: Nancy Pelosi Makes Stealing Elections Great Again Because She's a Shameless Hack](#)
- [Fox News: Marc Elias, ex-Clinton lawyer involved in Steele dossier, sanctioned by Texas court over 2020 election case](#)
- [Breitbart: Report: Democrat Push to Overturn Iowa House Race Election Results Causes Concern for Vulnerable Members](#)
- [Washington Examiner: Blue Dog Democrat troubled by House review that could overturn Iowa Republican's razor-thin election win](#)



- [Breitbart: Moderate Democrat Questions Nancy Pelosi's Motivation to Overturn Iowa 2nd Congressional District Election](#)
- [Salon: One House race remains undecided — and Republicans are howling about hypocrisy](#)
- [Townhall: Pelosi Flip-Flops on Commitment to Hear 'Will of the People' in Congressional Elections](#)
- [National Review: House Democrats Try to Steal an Election in Iowa](#)
- [Iowa Field Report: Rob Sand Is Squirming, and It's Rita Hart's Fault](#)
- [Daily Caller: 'We Can't Be Concerned With Optics': Democrats Continue Campaign To Overturn Iowa Congressional Election](#)
- [Breitbart: Mariannette Miller-Meeks Releases Letter of Pelosi Congratulating Her Election](#)
- [Breitbart: Moderate Democrat Questions Nancy Pelosi's Motivation to Overturn Iowa 2nd Congressional District Election](#)
- [Politico: Dems sound alarm at prospect of overturning Iowa race](#)
- [The Hill: GOP hammers Democrats over Iowa Democrat's election challenge](#)
- [POLITICO: Playbook: Democrats are dead serious about taking back that Iowa seat](#)
- [POLITICO: Playbook PM: Dems balk at leadership's bid to overturn Iowa House race](#)
- [Fox News: Dem Rep. Dean Phillips breaks with Pelosi, opposes overturning Iowa congressional race](#)
- [Town Hall: Dem Congressman Calls Out Party's Attempt to Steal a Congressional Seat](#)
- [Fox News: Republicans accuse Dem election lawyer of 'serious conflict of interest' in case to reverse Iowa House race](#)
- [Breitbart: Democrat House Leadership Struggles With Messaging on Overturning Iowa House Race](#)
- [National Review: Dem Rep. Breaks from Pelosi on Overturning Iowa House Race](#)
- [The Hill: Democratic lawmaker criticizes idea of overturning Iowa race](#)
- [Daily Caller: 'More Painful For America': Democratic Rep. Dean Phillips Comes Out Against Pelosi's Decision To Overturn Iowa Congressional Race](#)
- [Washington Examiner: 'Painful for America': Democrat breaks with Pelosi on push to overturn Iowa election](#)
- [Town Hall: Report: Democrats' Drive to Steal Iowa House Election 'Blessed' from the Top](#)
- [The Federalist: Nancy Pelosi Needs Another House Seat, So She's Stealing It](#)
- [RedState: Pelosi Thinks She's Queen and Can Declare the Winner of Iowa Congressional Race](#)
- [Breitbart: 20 House Republicans Sign Letter: 'This Is an Insult to Free Press'](#)
- [Breitbart: Democrat Efforts to Overturn Certified Iowa Election Backfire](#)
- [The Sun: Pelosi branded a 'hypocrite' for trying to overturn GOP win](#)
- [KCCI: Rita Hart's election challenge sparks awkward division among House Democrats](#)
- [The Daily Iowan: Top Republican officials in Iowa condemned Rita Hart's contest in the U.S. House](#)
- [The New York Post: Democrats opposed overturning election results on principle – until they didn't](#)
- [Daily Caller: Pelosi Argues She Has A Right Not To Seat Certified Election Winner In Iowa](#)
- [The Blaze: 'Accept defeat': LA Times warns Pelosi, House Dems not to overturn Iowa election, expect accusations of 'abuse of power,' 'legislative tyranny' if they do it](#)
- [The Post Millennial: WATCH: Pelosi claims ultimate authority in Iowa election dispute](#)
- [OANN: Pelosi defends potential overturning of Iowa House race](#)
- [Twitchy: Nancy Pelosi says if she wanted to be unfair, she wouldn't have seated Republican representative, so you're welcome](#)



- [MSNBC: Iowa Voters Sound off On Pelosi Stealing an Election](#)
- [Iowa Field Report: “Though shall not steal” Axne is the Target of New NRCC Radio Ad](#)
- [The Hill: NRCC poll: Majority of swing district voters oppose Democrats' challenge to Iowa House race](#)
- [Bloomberg: Iowa Election Challenge Fueling GOP Drive to Capture the House](#)
- [Breitbart: NRCC Poll: Most Voters Oppose Push to Overturn Iowa House Election](#)
- [Breitbart: NRCC Targets Axne on Attempting to Overturn Certified House Election](#)
- [Breitbart: GOP Leader Kevin McCarthy: 'Mariannette Miller-Meeks Won Her Election'](#)
- [Breitbart: Exclusive - NRCC Chair: Nancy Pelosi Is 'Trying to Subvert Democracy'](#)
- [The Quad-City Times: Campaign Almanac for Tuesday, March 30, 2021](#)
- [The Federalist: Psaki Says White House Agrees With Pelosi's Effort To Steal Iowa House Seat](#)
- [CNN: Hart lawyer pushes for panel to 'count every vote,' as House Democrats grow skeptical of overturning election](#)
- [POLITICO: Biden starts to fill in the bench](#)
- [POLITICO: GOP leaders pressure Democrats over Iowa House race](#)
- [Punchbowl: NRCC goes on air against Axne in IA-2 flap](#)
- [RedState: Psaki Weighs in With Biden's Opinion on the Effort to Steal the Iowa Seat, The Hypocrisy Is Just Incredible](#)
- [Washington Examiner: Back to the future: GOP invokes 1985 attack line in disputed Iowa House race](#)

#### NRCC Releases Sent: 57

- (National, , IA-02): [NEW POLL: Overturning IA-02 is toxic for vulnerable Dems](#)
- (National, , IA-02): [Chuck Todd rips Hart & Pelosi for skipping Iowa Courts](#)
- (PA-17): [Lamb's lonely island](#)
- (PA-08): [Another one...](#)
- (CA-10): [SJV Sun: Possible IA-02 vote puts Harder in vulnerable spot](#)
- (National): [Biden backs effort to overturn IA02](#)
- (IA-03): [New NRCC ad targets Axne on IA-02](#)
- (CA-03, CA-10, CA-45, CA-49) [Even the LA Times weighs in on Iowa, CA Dems still silent](#)
- (GA-07): [Does Bourdeaux support Pelosi's effort to overturn certified election?](#)
- (IA-02; IA-03): [Rob Sand: I “disagree” with Hart's attempt to disenfranchise Iowans](#)
- (IA-03): [Is Axne really standing by Hart's attack on IA voters?](#)
- (IA-03, IA-02): [Axne hasn't commented since DECEMBER!!!](#)
- (MN-02): [Phillips spoke up, where's Craig?](#)
- (ME-02): [Is that really Golden's final answer on IA-02?](#)
- (ME-02): [Just another reason Golden will lose in '22](#)
- (National, IA-02): [Another defection for Pelosi & Hart](#)
- (National, IA-02): [Dems' Goal: Throw out state law to steal a House seat](#)
- (National, IA-02): [Pelosi lies about vulnerable Dems supporting her IA-02 scheme](#)
- (National, IA-02): [LA Times Ed Board Condemns Pelosi & Hart](#)
- (National, IA-02): [Vulnerable Dem breaks from Pelosi on overturning IA02](#)
- (National, IA-02): [Pelosi funding partisan effort to overturn certified election](#)
- (National, IA-02): [Biden backs effort to overturn IA02](#)
- (National, IA-02): [The dam is breaking for Pelosi and Hart](#)
- (National, IA-02): [House Dem: “It would be insane to overturn the results of the Iowa election”](#)



- (National) [FW: Democrats still won't stand up for democracy](#)
- (NH-01): [Will Chris Pappas "honor the results" of the certified IA-02 election?](#)
- (NH-01): [What will Pappas do to stop Pelosi from stealing an election?](#)
- (NJ-05): [What will Gottheimer do to stop Pelosi from stealing an election?](#)
- (NJ-07): [Where is Malinowski's concern for democracy now?](#)
- (NJ-07): [What's stopping Tom Malinowski from speaking up on IA-02?](#)
- (NJ-07): [Gottheimer spoke up, where's Malinowski?](#)
- (PA-07): [What will Wild do to stop Pelosi from stealing an election?](#)
- (PA-08): [Will Cartwright flip-flop on Nancy Pelosi's scheme to steal an election?](#)
- (PA-08): [Cartwright doesn't care anymore](#)
- (PA-08, PA-17): [Wild spoke up, where are Cartwright and Lamb?](#)
- (PA-17): [Conor Lamb won't have the courts to blame if Pelosi steals an election](#)
- (PA-17): [Lamb is helping Pelosi steal an election](#)
- (TX-07) [Fletcher still won't stand up for democracy](#)
- (TX-07) [Lizzie Fletcher's tweet about fair elections](#)
- (TX-07) [Lizzie Fletcher: State certified elections aren't a "partisan issue"](#)
- (TX-15) [Gonzalez Makes NRCC Exit List and Earns Paid Media Campaign](#)
- (TX-32) [NEW: Colin Allred thread on voting rights doesn't mention Iowa](#)
- (TX-32) [Allred still won't stand up for democracy](#)
- (TX-32) [Colin Allred keeps talking about voting rights](#)
- (TX-32) [Will Colin Allred "subvert our democracy?"](#)
- (VA-07): [Does Spanberger support Pelosi's effort to overturn certified election](#)
- (VA-02): [Does Luria support Pelosi's effort to overturn certified election?](#)
- (WI-03): [Is Ron Kind OK with overturning elections now?](#)
- (IA-02; National): [Rove: Pelosi Might Steal an Iowa House Seat](#)
- (IA-02; National): [Democrats "recoil" at vote to unseat a sitting member](#)
- (IA-02; National): [MUST LISTEN: Ruthless Podcast on Pelosi's "Big Lie"](#)
- (IA-02; National): [Marc Elias hit with ethics sanctions](#)
- (IA-02; National): ["Well, it was six votes..."](#)
- (IA-03): [Axne supports disenfranchising Iowa voters](#)
- (IA-03): [Cindy Axne should stand up for Iowa voters](#)
- (IL-17): [WATCH: Bustos silent on Pelosi overturning state-certified election](#)
- (ME-02): [Jared Golden is willing to steal an election](#)