



White House supports Pelosi, Democrats bid to topple GOP candidate who won Iowa House seat

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White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki argued Friday that House Democrats are acting within their rights as a legislative body to consider whether to overturn the results of an Iowa congressional election.

House Democrats are intervening in an election in which Rep. Mariannette Jane Miller-Meeks, R-Iowa, defeated Democratic opponent Rita Hart by just six votes. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Psaki argue congressional Democrats have the authority to review Hart's loss and potentially unseat Miller-Meeks even after Iowa certified her win.

Democrats are following the necessary process "to ensure that every vote is counted," Psaki said during a presser today. Her remarks come a day after Pelosi told reporters it is her "right" not to seat Miller-Meeks.

"If I wanted to be unfair, I wouldn't have seated the Republican from Iowa because that was my right on the opening day. I would have just said, you're not seated, and that would have been my right as Speaker to do so," Pelosi.

Hart filed a petition last December under the Federal Contested Election Act, a law signed in 1969 allowing candidates to contest general elections by filing with the House rather than where the election took place.

Democrats lost several seats in 2020, dropping their majority to 222 members. The result of last year's election left Republicans with 212 seats, potentially putting a crimp in President Joe Biden's legislative agenda.

Congress last intervened in a tight election more than 35 years ago.

Back in 1984, former Democratic Rep. Frank McCloskey prevailed over Republican Rick McIntyre in an Indiana House race after House Democrats defeated a motion that would have seated McIntyre as the congressman from the state's 8th District.

That move helped galvanize the Republican Party, according to Walter Olson, a senior fellow at the libertarian-leaning Cato Institute. He said back in December that Pelosi should probably avoid "something where she winds up losing because ten of her members end up peeling off."

Conservatives are mocking the Democrat's attempts to overturn an election this time-around, with some Republican strategists calling it hypocritical to intervene in an election's results after lambasting Republicans who attempted to do the same for former President Donald Trump.

“[Democrats are] on the weakest, thinnest footing they could possibly be on in terms of their own messaging. They’re going to have to basically swallow an entire mouthful of hypocrisy if they actually go through with this and overturn this election,” GOP strategist David Kochel said, according to Yahoo News. “It might gain them one seat in the short-term, but it’s going to cost them dearly in the long-term on the political side.”

Nine of the 10 House Republicans who voted to impeach Trump asked Pelosi last week to “immediately cease any and all efforts by the House Administration Committee to reverse the result of that election,” The Washington Post reported.

Moderate Democrats are also criticizing Pelosi's move.

“As I have said before in connection with the 2020 presidential election, legislators should be heeding states’ certifications of their elections, and unless there is rampant error and substantial evidence thereof, I do not believe it is the role of House members to dictate the outcome of elections,” Rep. Susan Wild, D-Penn., said in a press statement earlier this week.