

Pending bidding Approval

Type 1 Bid Notice Only

Publish

Publish /Verify Contents

Save as Template

Solicitation Setting

- ✓ Invite Bidders No
- ✓ Evaluate Response online No
- ✓ Internal Approval No
- ✓ Enable Collaboration with other Users No

Solicitation Details

Mandatory Information

Solicitation Type	RFP	Solicitation Number	020221
Solicitation Name	Fleet Management Technologies with Related Software Solutions	Procurement Type	Goods , Services
Country & Province/State	Canada / Ontario	Published By	Sourcewell
Accept Questions	Not Applicable		

Internal Information (For Internal Use Only)

Procurement Title/Project Name	020221 Fleet Management Technology
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Advertisement

Basic Settings


Solicitation Type	Open to all suppliers	Estimated Contract Amount	\$80,000,000.00
Publish Date	12/10/2020	Closing Date & Time	02/02/2021 16:30:00 CT
Publish Option		Value Range for this Solicitation	10,000,001 over

Selected Categories

- Computers
  - Computer Software Computer Software (Licenses, Connexus software, Microsoft software, Phoenix 3.4 etc.), data logger, security software (i.e. anti-virus/spyware) library information system, records management, interactive response system etc



Solicitation Overview



**Fleet Management Technologies with Related Software Solutions**

020221

**Closing Date:** 02/02/2021 04:30:00 PM CT

**Detail:**

Sourcewell, a State of Minnesota local government agency and service cooperative, is requesting proposals for Fleet Management Technologies with Related Software Solutions to result in a contracting solution for use by its Participating Entities. Sourcewell Participating Entities include thousands of governmental, higher education, K-12 education, nonprofit, tribal government, and other public agencies located in the United States and Canada. A full copy of the Request for Proposals can be found on the Sourcewell Procurement Portal [https://portal.sourcewell-mn.gov]. Only proposals submitted through the Sourcewell Procurement Portal will be considered. Proposals are due no later than February 2, 2021, at 4:30 p.m. Central Time, and late proposals will not be considered.

Additional Recipients

Once the posting is approved, an e-mail will be sent to the following recipient(s).

Email Address

carol.jackson@sourcewell-mn.gov

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

# DJC



11 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Suite 201 / Portland, OR 97232-3579  
(503) 226-1311

STATE OF OREGON, COUNTY OF MULTNOMAH--ss.

I, **Nick Bjork**, being first duly sworn, depose and say that I am a **Publisher** of the **Daily Journal of Commerce**, a newspaper of general circulation in the counties of CLACKAMAS, MULTNOMAH, and WASHINGTON as defined by ORS 193.010 and 193.020; published at Portland in the aforesaid County and State; that I know from my personal knowledge that the Goods and Services notice described as

**Case Number: NOT PROVIDED**

**Fleet Management Technologies with Related Software Solutions**

**Sourcewell; Bid Location Staples, MN, Todd County; Due 02/02/2021 at 04:30 PM**

a printed copy of which is hereto annexed, was published in the entire issue of said newspaper for 1 time(s) in the following issues:

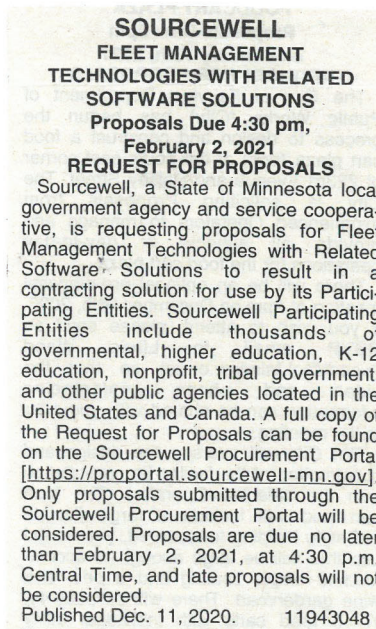
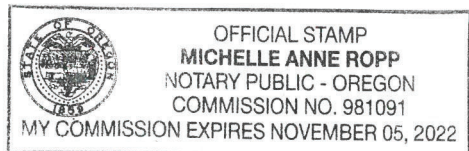
12/11/2020

State of Oregon  
County of Multnomah

SIGNED OR ATTESTED BEFORE ME  
ON THE **11th** DAY OF **December, 2020**

**Nick Bjork**

Notary Public-State of Oregon



**Carol Jackson**  
**Sourcewell**  
202 12th St NE  
Staples, MN 56479-2438

Order No.: 11943048  
Client Reference No:

## Notice

### Basic Information

**Estimated Contract Value (CAD)** \$80,000,000.00 (Not shown to suppliers)  
**Reference Number** 0000188662  
**Issuing Organization** Sourcewell  
**Owner Organization**  
**Solicitation Type** RFP - Request for Proposal (Formal)  
**Solicitation Number** 020221  
**Title** Fleet Management Technologies with Related Software Solutions  
**Source ID** PP.CO.USA.868485.C88455

### Details

**Location** All of Canada, All of Canada  
**Purchase Type** Term: 2021/04/01 01:00:00 AM EDT - 2025/03/31 01:00:00 AM EDT  
**Description** Sourcewell, a State of Minnesota local government agency and service cooperative, is requesting proposals for Fleet Management Technologies with Related Software Solutions to result in a contracting solution for use by its Participating Entities. Sourcewell Participating Entities include thousands of governmental, higher education, K-12 education, nonprofit, tribal government, and other public agencies located in the United States and Canada. A full copy of the Request for Proposals can be found on the Sourcewell Procurement Portal [<https://proportal.sourcewell-mn.gov>]. Only proposals submitted through the Sourcewell Procurement Portal will be considered. Proposals are due no later than February 2, 2021, at 4:30 p.m. Central Time, and late proposals will not be considered.

### Dates

**Publication** 2020/12/10 08:47:39 AM EST  
**Question Acceptance Deadline** 2021/01/26 05:30:00 PM EST  
**Questions are submitted online** No  
**Bid Intent** Not Available  
**Closing Date** 2021/02/02 05:30:00 PM EST

**Prebid Conference** 2021/01/08 11:00:00 AM EST

### Contact Information

Procurement Department  
 218-894-1930  
[rfp@sourcewell-mn.gov](mailto:rfp@sourcewell-mn.gov)

### Pre-Bidding Events

**Event Type** Prebid Conference  
**Attendance** Recommended  
**Event date** 2021/01/08 11:00:00 AM EST  
**Location** Online Conference  
**Event Note** Login information will be emailed two business days prior to event.

### Bid Submission Process

**Bid Submission Type** Electronic Bid Submission  
**Pricing** In attached document  
**Pricing** In attached document  
**Bid Documents List**

Item Name	Description	Mandatory
Bid Documents	Documents defining the proposal	Yes

## Categories

### Selected Categories

GSIN Category (1)	
S	<b>Services</b> Services
R1	<b>Administrative and Management Support Services</b> Administrative and Management Support Services
R115G	<b>FLEET MANAGEMENT SERVICES</b> FLEET MANAGEMENT SERVICES
MERX Category (1)	
G	<b>Goods</b> Goods
G10	<b>Electrical and Electronics</b> Electrical and Electronics
UNSPSC Categories (2)	
43000000	<b>Information Technology Broadcasting and Telecommunications</b>
43230000	<b>Software</b>
43232300	<b>Data management and query software</b>
43232600	<b>Industry specific software</b>



# The New York State Contract Reporter

*NYS' official source of contracting opportunities  
Bringing business and government together*

This document printed  
Thursday, 12/10/2020

## Contracting Opportunity

\*\*\* This ad has not been published. It has been reviewed and pending publication. \*\*\*

**Title:** Fleet Management Technologies with Related Software Solutions

**Agency:** Sourcewell

**Division:** Procurement Department

**Contract Number:** 020221

**Contract Term:** 4 years, with potential 1 year extension

**Date of Issue:** 12/11/2020

**Due Date/Time:** 02/02/2021 4:30 PM  
Central Time

**County(ies):** All NYS counties

**Classification:** Information Technology - *Commodities*

**Opportunity Type:** General

**Entered By:** Chris Robinson

**Description:** Sourcewell, a State of Minnesota local government agency and service cooperative, is requesting proposals for Fleet Management Technologies with Related Software Solutions to result in a contracting solution for use by its Participating Entities. Sourcewell Participating Entities include thousands of governmental, higher education, K-12 education, nonprofit, tribal government, and other public agencies located in the United States and Canada. A full copy of the Request for Proposals can be found on the Sourcewell Procurement Portal [<https://portal.sourcewell-mn.gov>]. Only proposals submitted through the Sourcewell Procurement Portal will be considered. Proposals are due no later than February 2, 2021, at 4:30 p.m. Central Time, and late proposals will not be considered.

**Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Set Aside:** No

## Contact Information

**Primary contact:** Sourcewell  
Procurement Department  
James Voelker  
Procurement Lead Analyst  
202 12th Street NE  
P.O. Box 219  
Staples, MN 56479  
United States  
Ph: 218-895-4191  
james.voelker@sourcewell-mn.gov

**Submit to contact:** Sourcewell  
Procurement Department  
James Voelker  
Procurement Lead Analyst  
202 12th Street NE  
P.O. Box 219  
Staples, MN 56479  
United States  
Ph: 218-895-4191  
james.voelker@sourcewell-mn.gov

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**Bid RFP #020221 - Fleet Management Technologies with Related Software Solutions**

[\[Switch to Vendor View\]](#)

Bid Type **RFP**  
 Bid Number **020221**  
 Title **Fleet Management Technologies with Related Software Solutions**  
 Start Date **Dec 10, 2020 7:59:21 AM CST**  
 End Date **Feb 2, 2021 4:30:00 PM CST**  
 Agency **Sourcewell**  
 Bid Contact **Chris Robinson**  
 (218) 895-4168  
 rfp@sourcewell-mn.gov  
 202 12th Street NE  
 P.O. Box 219  
 Staples, MN 56479-0219

**Access Reports**  
 View reports on who has been notified of the bid or accessed it.  
[\[Notification report\]](#) [\[Access report\]](#)  
**Questions**  
 0 Questions  
 0 Unanswered  
[\[View/Ask Questions\]](#)  
**Edit Bid**  
[\[Create Addendum\]](#)

**Description**

Sourcewell, a State of Minnesota local government agency and service cooperative, is requesting proposals for Fleet Management Technologies with Related Software Solutions to result in a contracting solution for use by its Participating Entities. Sourcewell Participating Entities include thousands of governmental, higher education, K-12 education, nonprofit, tribal government, and other public agencies located in the United States and Canada. A full copy of the Request for Proposals can be found on the Sourcewell Procurement Portal [<https://portal.sourcewell-mn.gov>]. Only proposals submitted through the Sourcewell Procurement Portal will be considered. Proposals are due no later than February 2, 2021, at 4:30 p.m. Central Time, and late proposals will not be considered.

**Pre-Bid Conference**

Date **Jan 8, 2021 10:00:00 AM CST**  
 Location **Online conference**  
 Notes **Login information will be emailed two business days prior to event.**

**Documents**

No Documents for this bid



### Opportunity Notice Fleet Management Technologies with Related Software Services

Category: Goods

Potential vendors (bidders) may view the bid package here.

[View Bid Package](#)

Interested vendors (bidders) who wish to submit a response to this opportunity should register their interest by downloading the document(s) from the bid package.

[View Interested Vendors \(Bidders\)](#)

#### Opportunity Information

**Organization:** Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA)  
**Organization Address:** www.rmalberta.com  
**Reference Number:** AB-2020-06945  
**Solicitation Number:** AB-2020-06945  
**Solicitation Type:** Request for Proposal  
**Posting (MM/dd/yyyy):** 12/10/2020  
 04:15:00 PM Alberta Time  
**Closing (MM/dd/yyyy):** 02/02/2021  
 03:30:00 PM Alberta Time  
**Last Update (MM/dd/yyyy):** 12/10/2020  
 04:03:54 PM Alberta Time  
**Agreement Type:** NWPTA/TILMA & CFTA & CETA  
**Region of Opportunity:** Open  
**Region of Delivery:** Alberta  
**Opportunity Type:** Open & Competitive  
**Commodity Codes:**  
 N5825015: Global Positioning System, Navigation Equipment (Except Airborne)  
 R115G: Fleet Management Services

#### Response Submission:

Only Proposals submitted through the Sourcewell Procurement Portal will be considered.

<https://portal.sourcewell-mn.gov>

Proposals are due no later than February 2, 2021, at 4:30 p.m. Central Time, and late proposals will not be considered.

#### Response Contact:

Robinson, Chris  
 Procurement Manager  
 2510 Sparrow Drive  
 Nisku, Alberta T9E 0N5  
 Tel: 218-895-4168  
 Email: rfp@sourcewell-mn.gov

#### Response Specifics:

A full copy of the Request for Proposals can be found on the Sourcewell Procurement Portal [<https://portal.sourcewell-mn.gov>]. Only proposals submitted through the Sourcewell Procurement Portal will be considered. Proposals are due no later than February 2, 2021, 4:30 pm Central Time, and late proposals will not be considered.

Proposer's complete proposal must be submitted through the Sourcewell Procurement Portal no later than the date and time specified in the Solicitation Schedule. Any other form of proposal submission, whether electronic, paper, or otherwise, will not be considered by Sourcewell. Only complete proposals that are timely submitted through the Sourcewell Procurement Portal will be considered. Late proposals will not be considered. It is the Proposer's sole responsibility to ensure that the proposal is received on time.

All proposals must be received through the Sourcewell Procurement Portal no later than the Proposal Due Date and time noted in the Solicitation Schedule above. It is recommended that Proposers allow sufficient time to upload the proposal and to resolve any issues that may arise. The closing time and date is determined by the Sourcewell Procurement Portal web clock.

In the event of problems with the Sourcewell Procurement Portal, follow the instructions for technical support posted in the portal. It may take up to twenty-four (24) hours to respond to certain issues.

Upon successful submission of a proposal, the Portal will automatically generate a confirmation email to the Proposer. If the Proposer does not receive a confirmation email, contact Sourcewell's support provider at [support@bidsandtenders.ca](mailto:support@bidsandtenders.ca).

To ensure receipt of the latest information and updates via email regarding this solicitation, or if the Proposer has obtained this solicitation document from a third party, the onus is on the Proposer to create a Sourcewell Procurement Portal Vendor Account and register for this solicitation opportunity.

All proposals must be acknowledged digitally by an authorized representative of the Proposer attesting that the information contained in the proposal is true and accurate. By submitting a proposal, Proposer warrants that the information provided is true, correct, and reliable for purposes of evaluation for potential contract award. The submission of inaccurate, misleading, or false information is grounds for disqualification from a contract award and may subject the Proposer to remedies available by law.

#### Opportunity Description:

Rural Municipalities of Alberta ("RMA"), is posting the solicitation on behalf of RMA and its current and potential Members and represented Associations and their Members, which includes local Governmental and other not-for-profit organizations located in all provinces and territories in Canada including but not limited to British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador and Northwest Territories.

Request for Proposal ("RFP") to result in regional and/or national contract solutions under the rules and regulations of the New West Partnership Trade Agreement ("CETA") for this procurement. RMA/Sourcewell is requesting proposals for Fleet Management Technologies with Related Software Solutions to result in a national contracting solution for use by its members.

Members include thousands of governmental, higher education, K-12 education, not-for-profit, tribal government, and other public agencies located in Canada. A full copy of the Request for Proposals can be found on the Sourcewell Procurement Portal [<https://portal.sourcewell-mn.gov>]. Only proposals submitted through the Sourcewell Procurement Portal will be considered. Proposals are due no later than February 2, 2021, at 4:30 p.m. Central Time, and late proposals will not be considered.

**APC "Opportunity Notices"** This notice is provided for information purposes only. Refer to the "Opportunity Documents" in the bid package for authoritative information.

All queries pertaining to the language, content or any missing or inaccurate information within this abstract must be sent to its originator or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without the prior written permission of the Manager, Centre of Expertise via:

SA\_APC\_Requests@gov.ab.ca. Her Majesty the Queen in right of Alberta and the Alberta public sector entities that use APC are not responsible or liable for the accuracy of the information contained in the publication. It is the responsibility of interested parties to review the opportunity posting for changes or updates prior to the opportunity closing date/time.



4770 S. 5600 W.  
WEST VALLEY CITY, UTAH 84118  
FED. TAX I.D.# 87-0217663  
801-204-6910

Deseret News



The Salt Lake Tribune

**PROOF OF PUBLICATION CUSTOMER'S COPY**

CUSTOMER NAME AND ADDRESS

SOURCEWELL,  
Accounting Dept  
PO BOX 219

STAPLES MN 56479

ACCOUNT NUMBER

9001496962

DATE

12/14/2020

ACCOUNT NAME

SOURCEWELL,

TELEPHONE

2188945483

ORDER # / INVOICE NUMBER

0001305174 /

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

START 12/10/2020 END 12/10/2020

CUSTOMER REFERENCE NUMBER

Sourcewell RFP for Advertisement (Fleet Management Tech)

CAPTION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Sourcewell, a State of Minnesota local government agency

SIZE

35 LINES 1 COLUMN(S)

TIMES

3

TOTAL COST

80.95

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

Sourcewell, a State of Minnesota local government agency and service cooperative, is requesting proposals for Fleet Management Technologies with Related Software Solutions to result in a contracting solution for use by its Participating Entities. Sourcewell Participating Entities include thousands of governmental, higher education, K-12 education, nonprofit, tribal government, and other public agencies located in the United States and Canada. A full copy of the Request for Proposals can be found on the Sourcewell Procurement Portal (<https://portal.sourcewell-mn.gov>). Only proposals submitted through the Sourcewell Procurement Portal will be considered. Proposals are due no later than February 2, 2021, at 4:30 p.m. Central Time, and late proposals will not be considered.  
1305174 UPAXLP

**AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION**

AS NEWSPAPER AGENCY COMPANY, LLC dba UTAH MEDIA GROUP LEGAL BOOKER, I CERTIFY THAT THE ATTACHED ADVERTISEMENT OF **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Sourcewell, a State of Minnesota local government agency and service cooperative, is requesting proposals for Fleet Management Technologi** FOR **SOURCEWELL**, WAS PUBLISHED BY THE NEWSPAPER AGENCY COMPANY, LLC dba UTAH MEDIA GROUP, AGENT FOR DESERET NEWS AND THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE, DAILY NEWSPAPERS PRINTED IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE WITH GENERAL CIRCULATION IN UTAH, AND PUBLISHED IN SALT LAKE CITY, SALT LAKE COUNTY IN THE STATE OF UTAH. NOTICE IS ALSO POSTED ON UTAHLEGALS.COM ON THE SAME DAY AS THE FIRST NEWSPAPER PUBLICATION DATE AND REMAINS ON UTAHLEGALS.COM INDEFINITELY. COMPLIES WITH UTAH DIGITAL SIGNATURE ACT UTAH CODE 46-2-101; 46-3-104.

PUBLISHED ON Start 12/10/2020 End 12/10/2020

DATE 12/14/2020

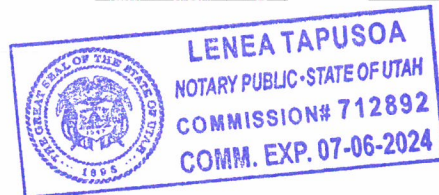
SIGNATURE *Ludmundson*

STATE OF UTAH )

COUNTY OF SALT LAKE )

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME ON THIS 14TH DAY OF DECEMBER IN THE YEAR 2020

BY LORAIN GUDMUNDSON.



*L Tapusoa*  
NOTARY PUBLIC SIGNATURE

## View Details

Click [here](#) to return to the Sourcewell Procurement Portal home page.

**Bid Details**

Bid Classification: Bid Type: Bid Number: Bid Name: Bid Status: Bid Closing Date: Question Deadline: Time-frame for delivery or the duration of the contract: Negotiation Type: Condition for Participation: Electronic Auctions: Language for Bid Submissions: Submission Type: Submission Address: Public Opening: Description:  Bid Document Access:  Categories:	Goods RFP - General RFP 020221 Fleet Management Technologies with Related Software Solutions <b>Open</b> Tue Feb 2, 2021 4:30:00 PM (CST) Tue Jan 26, 2021 4:30:00 PM (CST) Four years, with possible extension as stated in the bid documents Refer to project document Refer to project document Not Applicable English unless specified in the bid document Online Submissions Only Online Submissions Only No Sourcewell, a State of Minnesota local government agency and service cooperative, is requesting proposals for Fleet Management Technologies with Related Software Solutions to result in a contracting solution for use by its Participating Entities. Sourcewell Participating Entities include thousands of governmental, higher education, K-12 education, nonprofit, tribal government, and other public agencies located in the United States and Canada. A full copy of the Request for Proposals can be found on the Sourcewell Procurement Portal [ <a href="https://proportal.sourcewell-mn.gov">https://proportal.sourcewell-mn.gov</a> ]. Only proposals submitted through the Sourcewell Procurement Portal will be considered. Proposals are due no later than February 2, 2021, at 4:30 p.m. Central Time, and late proposals will not be considered.  Bid Opportunity notices and awards and a free preview of the bid documents is available on this site free of charge without registration. There is no cost to obtain an unsecured version of the document and /or to participate in this solicitation. <a href="#">Show Categories [+]</a>
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Submit a Question
 Register for this Bid
 Download Bid Documents

## Meeting Locations

The following are the meeting times and locations for the opportunity:

Meeting Location	Description	Date / Time	Mandatory Me...	Meeting Document
Online Pre-Proposal Conference	Login instructions will be provided to registered plan takers by email two business days prior to the web conference.	Friday January 8, 2021 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM (CST)	No	



View Edit Delete Revisions

OPEN

### Fleet Management Technologies with Related Software Solutions

Sourcewell, a State of Minnesota local government agency and service cooperative, is requesting proposals for Fleet Management Technologies with Related Software Solutions to result in a contracting solution for use by its Participating Entities. Sourcewell Participating Entities include thousands of governmental, higher education, K-12 education, nonprofit, tribal government, and other public agencies located in the United States and Canada. A full copy of the Request for Proposals can be found on the Sourcewell Procurement Portal [https://portal.sourcewell-mn.gov]. Only proposals submitted through the Sourcewell Procurement Portal will be considered. Proposals are due no later than February 2, 2021, at 4:30 p.m. Central Time, and late proposals will not be considered.

#### Important Dates

Pre-Proposal Conference:  
January 8, 2021 at 10:00 am CST

Proposals Due:  
February 2, 2021 at 4:30 pm CST

To obtain a copy of the complete RFP, ask questions related to the RFP, or submit a proposal, please use the link below.

[Sourcewell Procurement Portal](#)



THE STATE MEDIA CO., INC.

Columbia, South Carolina publisher of

**The State**

The State Media Company

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## AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Account #	Ad Number	Identification
327043	0004825995	REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Sourcwell, a State of Minnesota local gc

Attention: Carol Jackson

SOURCEWELL  
PO BOX 219  
STAPLES, MN 56479

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Sourcwell, a State of Minnesota local government agency and service cooperative, is requesting proposals for Fleet Management Technologies with Related Software Solutions to result in a contracting solution for use by its Participating Entities. Sourcwell Participating Entities include thousands of governmental, higher education, K-12 education, nonprofit, tribal government, and other public agencies located in the United States and Canada. A full copy of the Request for Proposals can be found on the Sourcwell Procurement Portal (<https://proportal.sourcwell-mn.gov>). Only proposals submitted through the Sourcwell Procurement Portal will be considered. Proposals are due no later than February 2, 2021, at 4:30 p.m. Central Time, and late proposals will not be considered. 4825995

State of South Carolina

County of Richland

I, Michelle Long, makes oath that the advertisement, was published in The State, a newspaper published in the City of Columbia, State and County aforesaid, in the issue(s) of

1 Insertion(s)

Published On:

December 10, 2020



Michelle Long  
Inside Classified Accounts  
Representative

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 17th day of December in the year of 2020



Amy L. Robbins  
Notary Public for South Carolina  
My Commission Expires:  
November 27, 2022

*"Errors- the liability of the publisher on account of errors in or omissions from any advertisement will in no way exceed the amount of the charge for the space occupied by the item in error, and then only for the first incorrect insertion."*

## WASHINGTON

# Trump supporters to rally in Washington

## Protest comes just before Electoral College meets

N'dea Yancey-Bragg  
USA TODAY

As many as 5,000 of President Donald Trump's supporters are expected to descend on the nation's capital Saturday – just days before Electoral College votes are cast – to protest alleged voter fraud in the Nov. 3 presidential election, an unfounded claim also pushed by Trump.

Women for America First, a group of conservative women that organized last month's "Stop the Steal" rally in Washington, filed for another protest permit from the National Park Service after their first event, which drew tens of thousands of people.

Electors from all 50 states and Washington, D.C., meet in their respective state capitols Monday to formally cast votes for president based on the popular votes in each state. President-elect Joe Biden won 306 electoral votes and Trump stands at 232; a presidential candidate needs 270 of these votes to win.

Twenty-six states and the District of Columbia legally mandate electors vote in accordance with the popular vote, but "faithless" electors have voted for someone other than their candidate. None have ever affected the outcome of the election.

The demonstration is a way for Trump supporters to express their disillusionment and anger over the election, said Amy Kremer, chair for Women for America First, who is traveling to the nation's capital as part of a two-week, cross-country bus tour.

"We want him to continue to stay strong and fight to expose this voter fraud and demand transparency and



The Proud Boys at Million MAGA March last month. The group plans to march this weekend. JACK GRUBER/USA TODAY

election integrity," she said. "The second propose is really to support each other."

Attorney General William Barr said last week the Justice Department has not found evidence of widespread voter fraud that would change the outcome of the vote. A national coalition of election security officials said last month there was no evidence any voting system was compromised and described the election as "the most secure in American history."

"There's no evidence to support the contention or the allegation that there's been widespread voter fraud in the 2020 presidential election," said David Levine, elections integrity fellow at the nonpartisan Alliance for Securing Democracy. He noted that the majority of lawsuits the Trump team has filed in states have failed.

"What I am more concerned about is that these kinds of events contribute to a broader mis- or disinformation campaign that undermines voter confidence in elections and creates fissures in our democracy," he said.

Levine added that more work needs to be done to boost voter confidence in election integrity and to protect election officials who may be targeted if they are perceived as contributing to a candidate's loss.

The goal of the rally appears to be an attempt to change some of the electors' minds and cause "disruption and chaos," according to Angelo Carusone, president of the left-leaning media watchdog group Media Matters for America. He said the rally turnout also could provide insight into what to expect from right-wing organizers under the Biden administration.

"The external goal and ostensibly sort of purpose of this is to have a show of force in some meaningful way right when the electors from the Electoral College come to D.C. to cast their votes," he said. "The internal goal is to just keep the keep engagement going and to keep their membership together."

The permit application estimates upward of 5,000 people will gather on Dec. 11 and 12 in support of Trump, a considerably smaller figure than the tens of thousands who turned out in November.

Turnout could be much lower than the previous event in part because it was not as heavily advertised initially in right-wing circles, said Jared Holt, a visiting fellow at the Atlantic Council's Digital Forensics Research Lab who focuses on domestic extremism.

"We are seeing this Stop the Steal movement is already starting to dwindle at least in its digital footprint and that appears to be translating to rallies," he said.

The pro-Trump gathering likely will be held at Freedom Plaza, according to the National Park Service. A permit is expected to be issued this week that will include details for the event and the number of participants.

Several groups including anti-Trump

organization Refuse Fascism and anti-fascist group All Out DC have already announced they will again hold counterprotests. Refuse Fascism is planning to rally in Black Lives Matter plaza.

"We are rallying to stand up against the regime in power and the fascist mobilization," she said.

Organizers of the pro-Trump rally acknowledged the potential for counterprotests on their permit application, specifically mentioning Black Lives Matter and Antifa.

"Obviously we've seen that anyone anti trump will attack us," Cindy Chafian of Women for America First wrote in the application. "We will make sure to have a plan in place to ensure the safety of attendees."

At the mid-November rally, skirmishes between protesters and counterprotesters broke out across the city. At least 20 people were arrested on a variety of charges, including assault and weapons possession, The Associated Press reported. One stabbing was reported, two police officers were injured and several firearms were also recovered by police.

Kristen Metzger, a spokesperson for the D.C. police, confirmed police will be present at the demonstration and a traffic advisory with road closures will be released ahead of the event.

Carusone said several chapters of the Proud Boys, a far-right extremist group known for inciting violence, are not only planning to attend as they have before but said counterprotesters need to be aware that Proud Boys seek to antagonize counter demonstrators to create a "pretext for self-defense."

"Likelihood for violence is actually more acute than it was last time largely because of who's really organizing it," Carusone said.

Contributing: The Associated Press; Kevin Johnson, USA TODAY

## POLITICS NEWS BRIEFING

## Stimulus talks drag on; Biden introduces Pentagon pick

The stalemate in stimulus negotiations continued Wednesday as Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., attacked top Democrats' rejection of the latest White House offer, while Democrats staked their hopes on a bipartisan group of nine senators negotiating a \$908 billion proposal.

On Tuesday, McConnell had offered to drop one of Republicans' largest priorities in negotiations – liability protections for businesses – if Democrats dropped one of their priorities – aid for state and local governments.

Those sticking points could be resolved in another relief bill at the beginning of next year, he said.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., rejected McConnell's approach, urging him to work with the bipartisan group instead and accusing him of "obstruction."

Adding to the scramble to get a bill done before Congress leaves for Christmas, the White House and Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin made their own \$916 billion proposal Tuesday evening, an approach Democrats mostly rejected because of the small amount it provided for unemployment funds.

"In a bizarre and schizophrenic press release, the speaker and the leader said the administration was obstructing negotiations by negotiating," McConnell said.

"Two more brush-offs in about two hours. More deflection, more delay, and

more suffering for innocent Americans."

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., told reporters Wednesday, "Cutting unemployment to the extent he has ... it's not going to get much support among any Democrats." Schumer said bipartisan negotiations were the "way to go."

Sen. Angus King, I-Maine, working on the compromise proposal, told reporters the group was still "trying to finalize the language."

### Biden introduces Defense pick

In officially introducing Lloyd Austin as his nominee to become secretary of the Defense Department, President-elect Joe Biden sought Wednesday to tamp down criticism of picking a retired, four-star Army general as the civilian leader of the armed forces.

"He is the right person for this job, at the right moment leading the Department of Defense at this moment in our nation's history," Biden said.

"Through sheer determination and and extraordinary skill, He's been breaking down barriers and blazing a trail forward in this nation for more than 40 years."

Biden said Austin led the reduction in troops from Iraq, which represented the biggest logistical challenge to the department in 60 years. One night while meeting at the ambassador's house in Baghdad, Biden said, insurgents

launched a rocket attack.

"Of course, for Gen. Austin, it was just another day at the office," Biden said. "He's cool under fire, inspiring the same in all those around him."

If confirmed, Austin would be the first African American to head the Pentagon. People of color represent about 30% of military personnel, which Biden said should be better reflected in leadership.

"It's long past the time that the department's leadership reflects that diversity," Biden said.

Austin thanked Biden for the honor of building upon the history of African Americans in the military, from Buffalo soldiers to the Tuskegee Airmen to Colin Powell, a former general and secretary of state. "Many people have paved the way for me," Austin said.

Before Austin can be confirmed, Congress must grant a waiver from a law that requires active-duty military personnel to wait at least seven years before they can become defense secretary.

### HUD, Agriculture choices named

Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris will choose Rep. Marcia Fudge as their nominee for secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and Tom Vilsack for secretary of Agriculture.

Fudge is an Ohio Democrat representing the Cleveland area. She would

be the second Black woman to lead HUD, which focuses on federal policy surrounding housing. Vilsack would return to the position he held for eight years during the Obama administration. He also served two terms as Iowa's governor.

### High court spurns election suit

The Supreme Court refused Tuesday to stop Pennsylvania from finalizing Biden's victory in the state despite allegations from allies of President Donald Trump that the expansion of mail-in voting was illegal.

The action by the high court, which includes three justices named by Trump, came as states across the country are locking in the results that will lead to next week's Electoral College vote. It represented the latest in a string of stinging judicial opinions that have left the president defeated politically and legally.

By their one-sentence denial, the justices left intact a ruling by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, which said the challenge to a state law passed in 2019 came far too late. New Associate Justice Amy Coney Barrett appeared to have participated in the case; no dissents or recusals were noted.

Contributing: David Jackson, Bart Jansen, Richard Wolf, Nicholas Wu, Sean Rossman, Rebecca Morin, Deborah Barfield Berry, The Associated Press

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