

US midterm elections 2026**Donald Trump moves to block certification of Alaska Senate result if Republican loses**

Candidates' similar names could 'taint' the result, argues US Justice Department



Daniel S Sullivan speaks at a campaign rally in Wasilla, Alaska, earlier this month © AP Photo/Lindsey Wasson

Ella Lee in Washington

Published YESTERDAY | Updated 19:06

Donald Trump has directed his Department of Justice to ask a federal judge to block the certification of midterm election results in Alaska's Senate race if the Republican incumbent does not beat his Democratic opponent.

In a lawsuit filed late on Thursday, the justice department said Republican Daniel S Sullivan's bid to retain his seat against Democrat Mary Peltola could be "tainted" by the inclusion of a third candidate who is also named Dan Sullivan. The DoJ said the other Sullivan entered the race with the intention of misleading the incumbent's supporters.

"I'm the one that said do it," Trump told reporters when asked about the case on Friday. Daniel J Sullivan "has nothing to do with politics", he added, calling his candidacy "disgraceful".

There was a “substantial likelihood” that certifying Alaska’s results would “reflect an electoral process that lacked integrity”, associate attorney-general Stanley Woodward wrote in the filing. “To guard against this danger, it is vital that Defendants not certify any election result that may be impacted by voter confusion.”

The lawsuit marks a significant escalation in the Trump administration’s efforts to expand federal control over US elections, which are managed by states.

In the November midterms — which are now just 11 days away — Republicans are fighting to retain their narrow majority in Congress. The Senate, which just months ago looked impregnable for the Democratic Party, is now vulnerable as the president’s approval rating sinks to new lows, and the Alaska race could tip the scales.

The DoJ urged the Alaska court to block the state from certifying the results of November’s election if Daniel S Sullivan, the senator, loses by a smaller margin than the number of votes won by Daniel J Sullivan, pending an investigation of whether those votes were meant for the incumbent.

The “battle of the Sullivans” has consumed Republicans for months. In June, the Alaska Division of Elections determined that Daniel J Sullivan’s candidacy declaration was not filed “in order to declare an actual good-faith candidacy” for senator.

But the candidate challenged the finding and Alaskan courts sided with him, allowing him to be included on the ballot.

Earlier this week Trump posted on social media that Daniel J Sullivan’s involvement in the race was a “SCAM” amounting to “CHEATING in an Election”. He vowed to hold “the Democrats accountable for their Election Interference”.

“Even 1, 2, or 3% could make the difference,” he wrote.

Nate Adams, Daniel S Sullivan’s campaign spokesperson, said: “We’ll let the DoJ complaint run its course. Alaskans can tell the difference between a Democrat sideshow and Senator Sullivan’s strong record of delivering for Alaska, a record he’ll keep building on for the next six years.”

Daniel J Sullivan did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

“This is a despicable political threat to overturn an election, designed by Senator Dan Sullivan’s allies to suppress the voices of Alaskans because Sullivan is terrified he’ll lose the seat that has allowed him to enrich himself at Alaskans’ expense for over a decade,” said a spokesperson for Peltola.

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