

# Michigan State Police Raided Town And Seized Voting Machines

By [James Baker](#) 1 day ago

Michigan State Police have seized the voting tabulator in a small town an hour west of Lansing as an investigation into the unauthorized access of election equipment expands into new regions of the state, officials said on Friday.

State police raided Irving Township Hall in Barry County on April 29 and took possession of its ballot-processing tabulator, the county clerk and township supervisor told Reuters, confirming earlier media reports.

The raid shows that state police have expanded their probe into potential breaches of voting equipment and data into at least one more county, following the state's disclosure of an investigation into Roscommon County in February.

"As we found out more information we've expanded our area to see if any other places were compromised," said Michigan State Police Lieutenant Derrick Carroll, declining to comment on Irving specifically. "We have gone to other regions."

Irving Township Supervisor Jamie Knight said the state police and office of Attorney General Dana Nessel seized the town's tabulator "pursuant to a search warrant" last Friday.

"The Township intends to fully cooperate with law enforcement, and the Township attorneys have been in contact with the Michigan State Police regarding this matter," Knight said in an emailed statement, declining further comment.

The seizure adds to the tally of potential voting equipment breaches. Last week, Reuters reported on eight known attempts to gain unauthorized access to voting systems in five U.S. states since the 2020 election, all involving local Republican officeholders or party activists who have promoted former President Donald Trump's false claims about voter fraud or conspiracy theories about rigged voting machines.

Michigan State Police expand probe into post-2020 voting systems breaches

<https://t.co/BJTzxPcvks> [pic.twitter.com/AkJ5ZT6ruF](https://pic.twitter.com/AkJ5ZT6ruF)

— Reuters (@Reuters) [May 6, 2022](#)

The Michigan investigation was launched at the request of Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, who in February disclosed that an unauthorized

party had “allegedly gained inappropriate access to tabulation machines and data drives used in Richfield Township and Roscommon County” without providing details.

Benson’s office also mentioned how a third party also accessed Dominion Voting Systems vote tabulators in Antrim County in December 2020 following a court order, referring to a so-called forensic audit conducted as part of a now-dismissed 2020 election lawsuit in the rural northern Michigan county, “and then used the data it found to generate a report falsely claiming election fraud.”

The ensuing report, Benson’s office said, “was thoroughly debunked by multiple election experts but not before it was cited as the reason for the federal government to seize tabulation machines in a draft executive order of former President Donald Trump. Another submission in the same case in Antrim County claimed to include an image from an Election Systems and Software tabulator, the vendor that provides tabulators to all Roscommon County jurisdictions.”

Benson, a Democrat, wrote a letter to the House committee investigating the Capitol riot raising the prospect that the controversial analysis of Dominion machines was instrumental to Trump’s claims of widespread fraud and challenges to the results of the contest.

Antrim County prosecutor James Rossiter told the [\*Washington Post\*](#) in a report published Feb. 9 that he declined a request by Rudy Giuliani and other legal advisers to Trump to seize and share his county’s voting machines. “I said, ‘I can’t just say [to] give them here.’ We don’t have that magical power to just demand things as prosecutors. You need probable cause,” Rossiter said. Giuliani’s attorney said his client declined to comment on the report.

Trump touted the Antrim County lawsuit as recently as last month in a telephone town hall event for Matthew DePerno, a 2022 Republican candidate in the race for Michigan attorney general who spearheaded the 2020 litigation. "The mistake had to be corrected," Trump said. "We caught them. And they said, 'Well, we made a little mistake.' It wasn't a mistake at all. It was being caught."

DePerno was picked to receive the Michigan Republican Party's endorsement at the state GOP convention last month. Kristina Karamo, another Trump-backed candidate who is running for Michigan secretary of state, was also endorsed.

DePerno became the face of the battle against officials over election results in Antrim County, a jurisdiction in northern Michigan with about 23,000 residents, in a lawsuit that initially focused on a local marijuana retailer proposal. He and his client, Antrim County resident William Bailey, alleged that the county voting machines were hacked, changing the votes, spurred on by the results initially showing President Joe Biden winning the race. But tabulation errors were quickly discovered, and once rectified, Trump was shown to be the victor.

State and county officials have blamed human error, a failure to update software properly across the county, for the mishap. The case was dismissed last year by 13th Circuit Judge Kevin Elsenheimer after the plaintiffs were allowed to proceed with a "forensic audit" of the Dominion Voting Systems machines in the county on Dec. 6, 2020. Dominion CEO John Poulos blasted the report, which claimed there was an error rate of 68.05%, in a hearing with Michigan lawmakers, testifying that the findings were "categorically false" and released by a "biased group." His company has filed multiple defamation lawsuits since the 2020 election.

DePerno's lawsuit wasn't quite dead after he appealed, and arguments were made last month in court about whether there was a need for more audits. However, a Michigan Court of Appeals [rejected the appeal](#). "There are no allegations in the complaint to support that the purported irregularities in Antrim County 'might have affected the outcome' of the presidential election, as the cited case law clearly requires," [the opinion said](#) in part. The appeals court panel also said it "will not reverse a trial court's decision when it reaches the right result, even if for the wrong reason," expressing disagreement with Elsenheimer's declaration that the claims in the case were moot, a point DePerno noted in signaling he plans to stick with the litigation.

"I appreciate the appeals court agreeing that the lower court erred and look forward to taking this fight to the state Supreme Court. I will continue to fight for election integrity at the highest levels and that includes as attorney general of Michigan," [DePerno said in a statement](#).

Benson made the Roscommon County inquiry request in the same week the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, an arm of the Department of Homeland Security, said it was reviewing a report on alleged vulnerabilities in Georgia's voting equipment, also of the Dominion variety. CISA asked a judge in a Georgia election case to hold off on ordering the release of the report, which could have implications for election technology used in states across the country, until it completes its review.

J. Alex Halderman, a professor of computer science and engineering at the University of Michigan, wrote a report [released by the Michigan Department of State](#) arguing that human error led to early tabulation errors in Antrim County in the 2020 election. Although Halderman acknowledged vulnerabilities in the election technology, he stressed

that "there is no evidence that any of these problems was ever exploited in Antrim County." Halderman also wrote the Georgia report, which is currently under seal.

Dominion also cut at the credibility of Halderman's review in Georgia.

"Security assessments of any system, including voting systems, should always include a holistic approach of all safeguards in place, including procedural and technical safeguards. There is a reason why US voting systems rely on bipartisan election officials, poll-watchers, distributed passwords, access controls, and audit processes. The review conducted in the [Georgia election] case did not take this approach," Poulos said in a statement released by Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger's team in January.

"Dominion supports all efforts to bring real facts and evidence forward to defend the integrity of our machines and the credibility of Georgia's elections," Poulos said.