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Trump calls U.S. elections 'vulnerable' to cheating

Alleges interference by China with electoral process in 2020

Phillip M. Bailey and Joey Garrison
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump in a July 16 prime-time address sought to further sow distrust in U.S. elections, claiming broad vulnerabilities with voting systems and potential for interference from other nations.

Trump specifically pointed to China, alleging it interfered with the electoral process in 2020.

“Every American deserves to know that when they cast their vote, that vote will be counted accurately in a system, and that is to make that system secure – one where cheating and interference are not just difficult, but virtually impossible,” he said. “Unfortunately, the system we have today falls catastrophically short of that standard.”

The president said newly declassified documents will show China tried to undermine the 2020 election in several ways, including compromising U.S. voter

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President Donald Trump in a July 16 prime-time address alleged China interfered with the electoral process in 2020. SAUL LOEB/POOL/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

U.S., Iran trade new attacks on infrastructure

Escalation in Middle East fighting pushes global oil prices higher

Jana Choukeir and Eman Abouhassira
REUTERS

DUBAI – The United States struck bridges and an airport in Iran on July 17 and Tehran responded by hitting a power and desalination plant in Kuwait, as the warring foes risked further escalation by expanding their targets to include infrastructure.

In the contested Strait of Hormuz, where the renewed conflict has again cut off global energy supplies from the Middle East, U.S. Marines boarded a tanker, and another ship was reported to have been hit by a projectile. Another vessel was boarded by armed men off Yemen, though one maritime security

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The sun rises July 17 next to the Empire State Building through a haze of wildfire smoke. New York City was handing out free KN95 face masks at hundreds of libraries, police precincts and firehouses.

EDUARDO MUNOZ/REUTERS

Smoky air lingers in Midwest, Northeast

Changing weather expected to ease health concerns

Thao Nguyen
USA TODAY

Smoke from hundreds of wildfires burning in Canada, along with fires in northern Minnesota, kept air quality at unhealthy levels across parts of the Midwest, Great Lakes and Northeast on July 17, shrouding cities in haze and prompting warnings that the air outside could be hazardous to breathe.

Air quality alerts remained in effect July 17 in multiple states, stretching from Minnesota to Vermont in the Northeast and the Carolinas on the Atlantic coast as smoke drifted south, the National Weather Service said. Some of the worst conditions have been con-

centrated around Detroit, Minneapolis, Chicago and New York in recent days.

Northwest winds carried the smoke across the Great Lakes and into the Northeast this week, producing yellow and hazy skies, reducing visibility and worsening air quality. The weather service has warned that smoke concentrations near the surface could create health risks, particularly for children, older adults and people with heart or respiratory conditions.

According to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, PM2.5 concentrations, the tiny pollution particulates found in wildfire smoke, in parts of

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Nearly 900 wildfires are burning across Canada, affecting air quality across parts of the United States, including New York City, pictured. DAVID "DEE" DELGADO/REUTERS

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