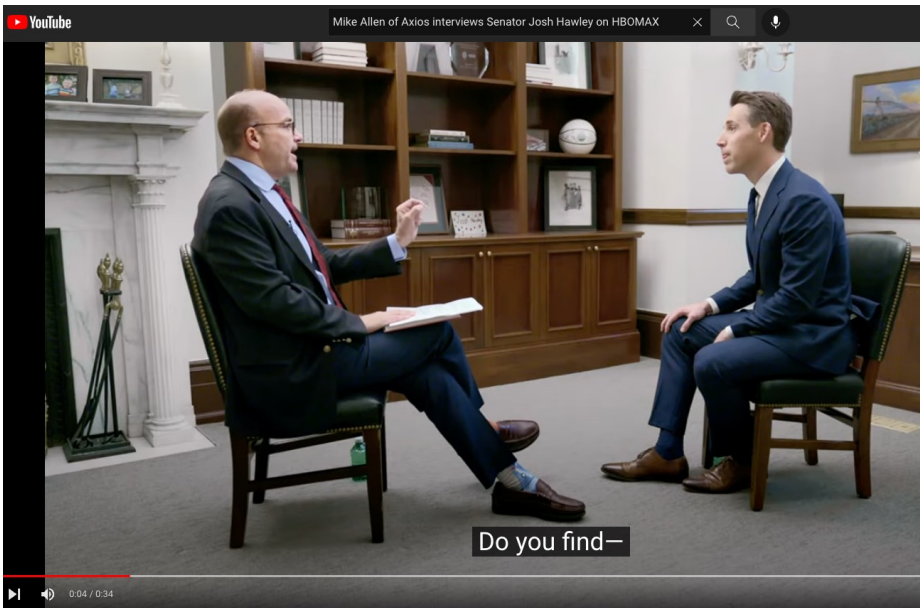


Mike Allen (Axios on HBO) is getting Senator Josh Hawley to respond about two separate issues, elections and masculinity.

[HBOMax link](#)

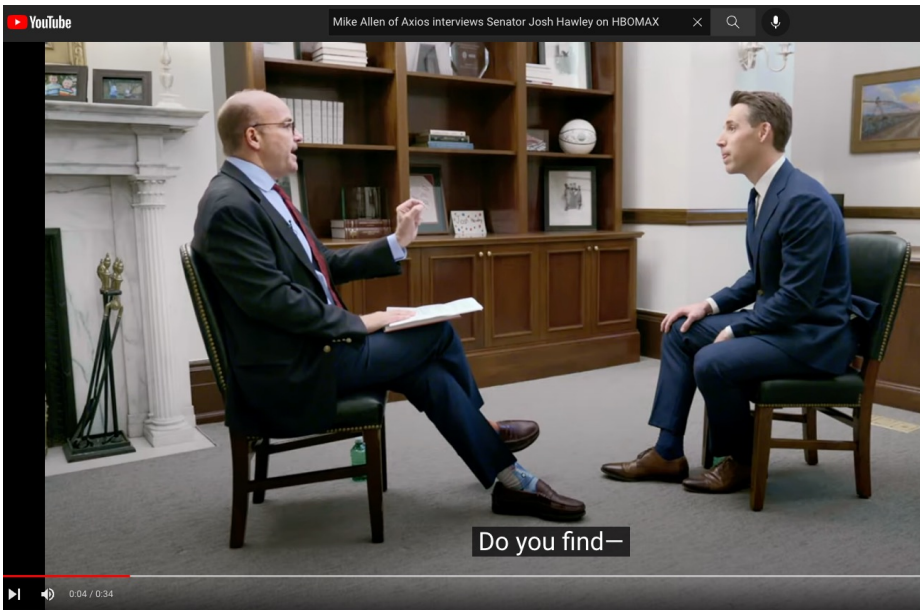
- Allen reminds Hawley about the “indelible image” of Hawley’s fist pump of solidarity to Trump supporters outside the Capitol on January 6th morning.
- Hawley: “There’s fraud in every election.”
- Allen: “Trump’s attorney general William Barr debunked the idea of “widespread fraud” in December 2020. Yet, polls show a lot of Republicans still doubt that there was no widespread fraud. Does that worry you?”





Hawley thinks for a moment, and then reframes quickly.

- Hawley: “There is a long standing tradition in America of both parties “vigorously contesting elections”.
- Equates Bush v Gore of 2000 with Trump’s refusal to concede Biden’s win in 2020.
- Hawley gets away from the problem of his giving credence to claims of widespread fraud to a new frame of vigorously contesting elections.

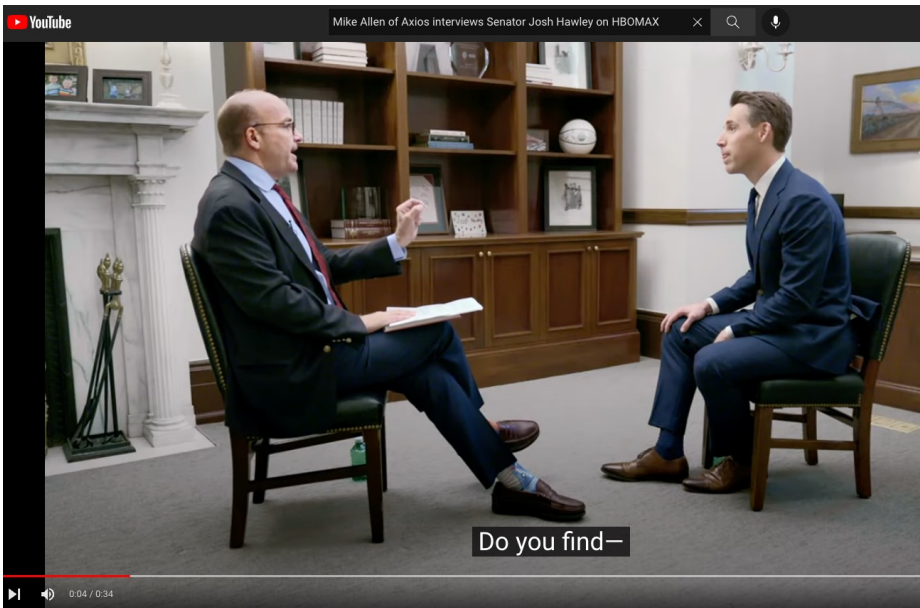


Allen does not push back on the inapplicability of the “vigorously contesting elections” frame to January 6th.

- “So you’d like to see more of it?”, he asks Hawley, referring to the insurrection.
- Hawley now has a chance to say “I didn’t say that”.
- Simply says: “that’s (vigorous contestation) is just a fact of our elections.”
- **Result: Hawley thus is able to place a legitimate-sounding tenor to his response.**



REAL: Mike Allen (Axios) could have asked Josh Hawley..



Hawley is a conservative. The Jan 6th '21 attack on the US capitol could be examined under both the **Fairness** and **Betrayal/Loyalty** moral foundations. **These questions were not asked.**

- Allen could say: "You are framing the US Capitol attackers as each person committing a crime warranting due prosecution" and pivot to:
- Can you talk about patriotism? Were the attackers disloyal to the core American democratic ideal of peaceful transfer of power? Did they betray that American ideal?
- Biden won fairly. Did Trump's supported they not get cheated by Trump's false narrative – they believed him -- that the election was stolen? Was Trump being fair to his supporters?

