

# Groton Daily Independent

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Volleyball team loses to Sisseton in the first round of the regions, 3-0.

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"YOU CANNOT SAVE PEOPLE.  
YOU CAN ONLY LOVE THEM."

-ANAÏS NIN



## Conde National League

**Nov. 2, 2020 Team Standings:** Cubs 21, Braves 17½, Pirates 17, Giants 16, Tigers 13½, Mets 11

**Men's High Games:** Lance Frohling 205, Butch Farmen 202, Ryan Bethke 199

**Men's High Series:** Lance Frohling 564, Butch Farmen 560, Russ Bethke 543

**Women's High Games:** Michelle Johnson 188, Tanah Messevou 163, Vickie Kramp 159, Nancy Radke 159.

**Women's High Series:** Tanah Messevou 450, Vickie Kramp 447, Nancy Radke 430



## **OPEN:** Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located west of the city shop. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

**GDILIVE.COM**

**City Council**

**Meeting**

7 p.m., Nov. 3

Groton Community center

## **Groton City Council Meeting Agenda**

November 3, 2020 – 7:00pm

Groton Community Center

(IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CALL IN TO THIS MEETING, PLEASE MAKE PRIOR ARRANGEMENTS TO DO SO BY CALLING CITY HALL 605-397-8422)

1. Public Comments - pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1  
(Public Comments will offer the opportunity for anyone not listed on the agenda to speak to the council. Speaking time will be limited to 3 minutes. No action will be taken on questions or items not on the agenda.)
2. Minutes
3. Bills
4. Department reports
5. Surplus cutting edges - \$2,000
6. Water Tower Replacement – Schedule B – Maguire Iron Application for Payment Number 4 for \$131,014.80
7. Governor holiday declaration – December 24<sup>th</sup> – 8 hours administrative leave
8. Executive session personnel & legal 1-25-2 (1) & (3)
9. Deputy Finance Officer resignation
10. Adjournment

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**Election workers were putting up the voting booths at the Groton Community Center on Monday. Polls are open today until 7 p.m.**



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- ✓ 30 year law enforcement veteran with city and county government experience
- ✓ Progressive thinker/  
Conservative spender
- ✓ Common sense approach to solving issues



#### I pledge

- ✓ to put taxpayers first by no wasteful spending
- ✓ to increase transparency to taxpayers
- ✓ to maintain roads and bridges
- ✓ to the creation of a criminal justice task force addressing Meth, Opioid and other drug addictions

*Your vote will be much appreciated!*

**Get  
out  
and  
vote  
today!**



Representation from eastern Brown County is long overdue!  
(35 years)

**Vote for Michael Nehls for  
Brown County  
Commission  
(your vote **only** for Mike  
could make a difference)**

Paid for by the committee to elect  
Mike Nehls to  
Brown County Commission



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## Area COVID-19 Cases

	Oct. 21	Oct. 22	Oct. 23	Oct. 24	Oct. 25	Oct. 26	Oct. 27
Minnesota	125,531	126,591	128,152	129,863	132,122	133,802	135,372
Nebraska	59,409	60,308	61,285	62,510	63,215	63,797	64,499
Montana	24,093		25,640	26,503	27,142	27,880	28,501
Colorado	87,582	88,849	90,222	91,572	93,400	95,089	97,300
Wyoming	8,070	8,305	8,537	8,918	9,177	9,396	9,783
North Dakota	33,666	34,165	35,052	35,939	36,874	37,719	38,241
South Dakota	33,836	34,031	34,977	36,109	36,972	37,979	38,504
United States	8,275,093	8,338,413	8,411,259	8,497,011	8,578,175	8,636,995	8,705,127
US Deaths	221,083	222,220	223,059	224,005	224,903	225,239	225,739
Minnesota	+1,092	+1,060	+1,561	+1,711	+2,259	+1,680	+1,570
Nebraska	+592	+899	+977	+1,225	+705	+582	+702
Montana	+703		+1,547	+863	+639	+738	+621
Colorado	+1,208	+1,267	+1,373	+1,350	+1,828	+1,689	+2,211
Wyoming	+146	+235	+232	+381	+259	+219	+387
North Dakota	1,036	+516	+1,038	+886	+935	+851	+527
South Dakota	+562	+558	+948	+1,132	+852	+1017	+525
United States	+59,515	+63,320	+72,846	+85,752	+81,164	+58,820	+68,132
US Deaths	+949	+1,137	+839	+946	+898	+336	+500
	Oct. 28	Oct. 29	Oct. 30	Oct. 31	Nov. 01	Nov. 02	Nov. 3
Minnesota	137,536	139,444	142,311	145,465	148,472	150,672	152,934
Nebraska	65,376	66,545	68,150	69,645	70,732	70,732	72,620
Montana	29,346	29,966	30,853	31,916	32,801	33,495	34,252
Colorado	98,733	100,208	102,014	104,426	107,350	109,910	112,147
Wyoming	10,035	10,288	10,589	11,020	11,276	11,638	12,059
North Dakota	39,130	39,907	41,130	42,483	43,916	45,043	46,015
South Dakota	39,494	40,589	41,507	44,559	45,992	47,324	47,850
United States	8,779,794	8,859,432	8,947,862	9,048,430	9,127,108	9,208,876	9,293,281
US Deaths	226,728	227,703	228,675	229,711	230,566	231,003	231,566
Minnesota	+2,164	1,908	+2,867	+3,154	+3,007	+2,200	2,262
Nebraska	+877	1,169	+1,605	+1,495	+1,087	----	1,888
Montana	+845	+620	+887	+1,063	+885	+694	+757
Colorado	+1,433	1,475	+1,806	+2,412	+2,924	2,560	2,237
Wyoming	+252	+253	+301	+431	+256	+362	+421
North Dakota	+896	+781	1,222	+1,353	+1,434	+1,128	+972
South Dakota	+984	+1,095	+918	+1,560	+1,433	+1,332	+529
United States	+74,667	+79,638	+88,430	+100,568	+78,678	+81,768	+84,405
US Deaths	+989	+975	+972	+1,036	+855	+437	+563

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## November 2nd COVID-19 UPDATE

### Groton Daily Independent from State Health Lab Reports

Low numbers today all around with just one death in Grant County, a female in the 80+ age group. There were 529 positive cases and 338 recovered ones. Brown County had 54 positive and 8 recovered.

Glacial Lakes hospital beds being occupied by COVID-19 patients as well as Minnehaha and Pennington counties: Walworth: 4 (0) Occupied Beds.; Potter: 6 Occupied Beds; Hughes: 6 (-3) Occupied Beds, 3 (-1) ICU Beds, 2 Ventilation; Faulk: 0 (0) Occupied Beds; Edmunds: 2 (0) Occupied Bed; Brown: 15 Occupied Beds, 4 ICU, 0 (-2) Ventilation; Spink: 2 Occupied Beds; Day: 3 Occupied Beds; Marshall: 2 (+1) Occupied Beds; Grant: 2 (-2) Occupied Beds; Codington: 9 Occupied Beds, 4 ICU, 1 Ventilation; None (some counties have no hospitals): Clark, Hand, Hyde, Stanley, Sully, Campbell, McPherson, Roberts; Minnehaha: 187 (-2) Occupied Beds, 46 (+2) ICU, 30 (-2) Ventilation; Pennington: 71 (-9) Occupied Beds, 14 ICU, 7 (0) Ventilation

#### **Brown County:**

Total Positive: +54 (2,274) Positivity Rate: 33.8%  
Total Tests: +160 (18,758)  
Recovered: +8 (1,795)  
Active Cases: +45 (473)  
Ever Hospitalized: +0 (116)  
Deaths: +0 (6)

Percent Recovered: 78.9%

#### **Hospital Reports:**

Avera St. Luke's: Covid-19 Occupied 14; ICU 4 (0), Ventilation 0 (-2).

Sanford Aberdeen: Covid-19 Occupied 1.

Sanford Webster: Covid-19 Occupied 3.

Marshall County Healthcare: Covid-19 Occupied 2 (+1).

#### **South Dakota:**

Positive: +529 (47,850 total) Positivity Rate: 20.0%  
Total Tests: 2632 (440,943 total)  
Hospitalized: +34 (2,755 total). 402 currently hospitalized (-19)  
Deaths: +1 (438 total)  
Recovered: +338 (34,087 total)  
Active Cases: +187 (13,325)  
Percent Recovered: 71.2%

Total COVID-19 Occupied Beds: 402 (-19), Black Hills Region 101 (112), Glacial Lakes Region 52 (-3), Sioux Empire Region 204 (-3), South Central Plains 45 (-1).

ICU Units: Total 80 (+1), BH 14 (0), GL 11 (-1), SE 48 (+2), SCP 7 (+0).

Ventilation: Total 41 (-2), BH 7 (0), GL 3 (0), SE 30 (-2), SCP 1 (0).

Staffed Hospital Bed Capacity: 15% Covid, 50% Non-Covid, 35% Available

ICU Bed Capacity: 27% Covid, 36% Non-Covid, 37% Available

Ventilator Capacity: 10% Covid, 16% Non-Covid, 75% Available

Brown (6): +54 positive, +9 recovered (473 active cases)  
Clark (1): +1 positive, +0 recovered (68 active cases)  
Clay (8): +12 positive, +44 recovered (160 active cases)  
Codington (15): +40 positive, +7 recovered (396 active cases)  
Davison (10): +44 positive, +12 recovered (421 active cases)  
Day (2): +3 positive, +1 recovered (42 active cases)

Edmunds (1): +3 positive, +0 recovered (34 active cases)  
Faulk (2): +1 positive, +0 recovered (51 active cases)  
Grant (3): +4 positive, +1 recovered (66 active cases)  
Hanson (1): +1 positive, +0 recovered (39 active cases)  
Hughes (8): +16 positive, +5 recovered (174 active cases)  
Lawrence (6): +9 positive, +11 recovered (342 active cases)  
Lincoln (21): +33 positive, +25 recovered (993 active cases)  
Marshall (1): +2 positive, +0 recovered (9 active cases)  
McCook (1): +5 positive, +1 recovered (122 active cases)  
McPherson: +0 positive, +1 recovery (14 active case)  
Minnehaha (111): +91 positive, +134 recovered (3436 active cases)  
Potter: +2 positive, +0 recovered (55 active cases)  
Roberts (6): +2 positive, +1 recovered (89 active cases)  
Spink (1): +3 positive, +1 recovered (98 active cases)  
Walworth (10): +2 positive, +0 recovered (58 active cases)

#### **NORTH DAKOTA**

COVID-19 Daily Report, November 2:

- 12.6% rolling 14-day positivity
- 975 new positives
- 7,725 susceptible test encounters
- 215 currently hospitalized (+15)
- 8,440 active cases (+70)
- 540 total deaths (+9)

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County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Persons	Deceased	Community Spread	% RT-PCR Test Positivity
Blaine	1022	347	1030	1	Substantial	33.73%
Brookings	1565	1209	6637	6	Substantial	19.72%
Brown	2274	1795	8796	6	Substantial	27.09%
Brule	328	226	1433	2	Substantial	36.05%
Buffalo	272	230	810	4	Substantial	46.99%
Butte	425	240	2132	3	Substantial	27.13%
Campbell	83	64	167	1	Moderate	23.68%
Charles Mix	443	312	3049	1	Substantial	15.32%
Clark	146	77	693	1	Substantial	32.88%
Clay	884	712	3413	8	Substantial	23.02%
Codington	1706	1295	6566	15	Substantial	29.43%
Corson	238	147	795	2	Substantial	67.01%
Custer	337	267	1753	3	Substantial	21.48%
Davison	1143	712	4606	10	Substantial	31.08%
Day	180	136	1228	2	Substantial	26.88%
Deuel	203	160	803	1	Substantial	28.41%
Dewey	406	268	3401	0	Substantial	29.36%
Douglas	180	138	709	5	Substantial	16.28%
Edmunds	157	122	749	1	Substantial	8.12%
Fall River	235	164	1829	6	Substantial	18.89%
Faulk	225	172	526	2	Substantial	11.76%
Grant	330	261	1518	3	Substantial	15.04%
Gregory	257	178	839	10	Substantial	33.10%
Haakon	104	68	422	2	Substantial	5.22%
Hamlin	230	171	1237	0	Substantial	15.77%
Hand	155	89	578	1	Substantial	44.78%
Hanson	111	71	462	1	Substantial	35.94%
Harding	60	31	111	0	Substantial	59.09%
Hughes	937	755	3878	8	Substantial	16.97%
Hutchinson	257	188	1616	2	Substantial	12.09%



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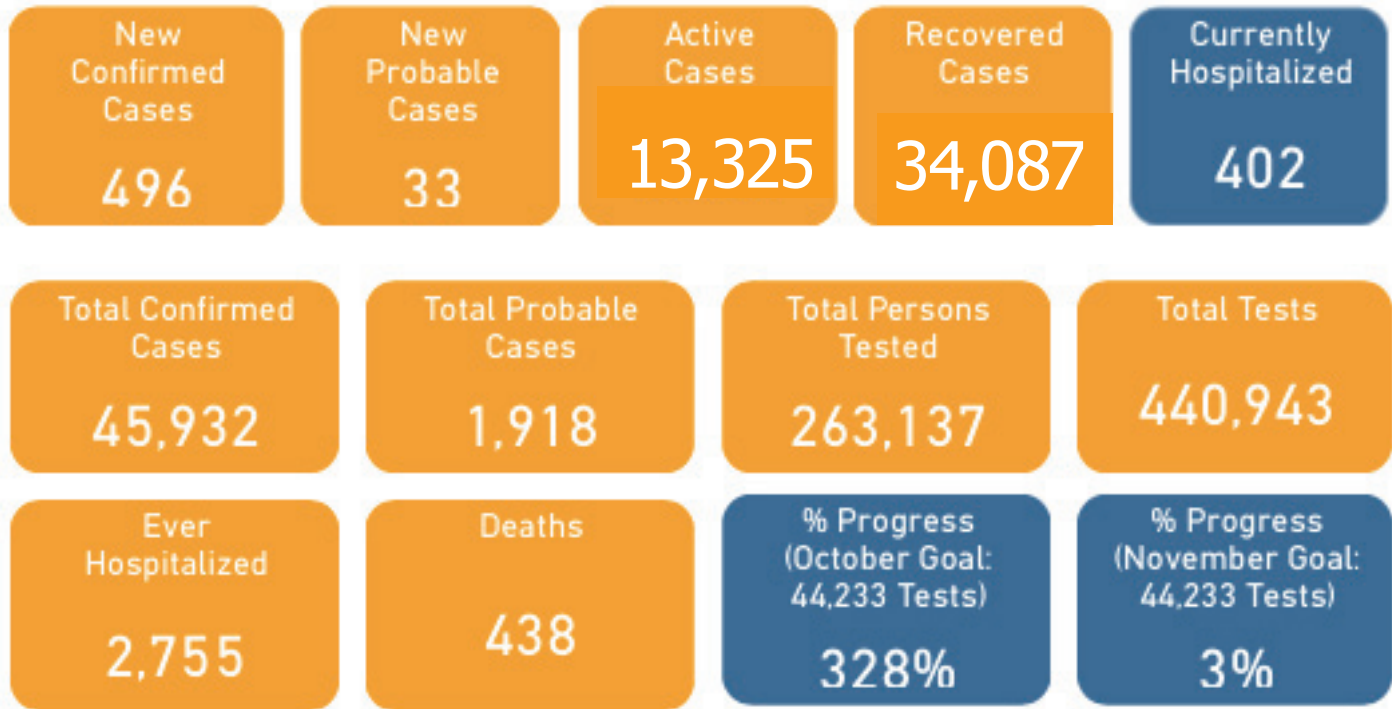
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Hyde	52	38	306	0	Moderate	23.68%
Jackson	137	84	772	3	Substantial	30.77%
Jerauld	169	140	386	13	Moderate	25.93%
Jones	35	29	132	0	Moderate	26.67%
Kingsbury	228	127	1078	2	Substantial	20.74%
Lake	453	310	1925	9	Substantial	36.59%
Lawrence	1070	722	5604	6	Substantial	27.21%
Lincoln	3226	2212	13545	21	Substantial	31.31%
Lyman	294	226	1436	6	Substantial	21.83%
Marshall	67	57	784	1	Moderate	9.30%
McCook	307	184	1119	1	Substantial	31.25%
McPherson	72	58	411	0	Moderate	4.46%
Meade	1052	819	5198	10	Substantial	24.64%
Mellette	94	66	570	1	Substantial	47.22%
Miner	148	92	427	2	Substantial	6.45%
Minnehaha	12758	9211	53837	111	Substantial	28.77%
Moody	245	171	1114	3	Substantial	34.21%
Oglala Lakota	1063	590	5627	9	Substantial	33.07%
Pennington	4948	3649	25880	49	Substantial	19.26%
Perkins	80	64	475	0	Moderate	17.86%
Potter	141	86	613	0	Substantial	17.89%
Roberts	390	295	3317	6	Substantial	23.31%
Sanborn	116	69	461	1	Substantial	28.57%
Spink	318	219	1679	1	Substantial	16.81%
Stanley	102	77	538	0	Substantial	20.34%
Sully	47	35	171	0	Moderate	35.29%
Todd	514	370	3455	6	Substantial	46.36%
Tripp	289	241	1164	2	Substantial	12.45%
Turner	534	340	1860	18	Substantial	38.89%
Union	808	636	4178	12	Substantial	19.68%
Walworth	289	221	1320	10	Substantial	14.05%
Yankton	947	632	6158	6	Substantial	10.57%
Ziebach	110	78	562	2	Substantial	32.26%
Unassigned	0	0	1006	0		

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## South Dakota



### AGE GROUP OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Age Range	# of Cases	# of Deaths
0-9 years	1482	0
10-19 years	4967	0
20-29 years	9755	2
30-39 years	8118	7
40-49 years	6788	13
50-59 years	6790	34
60-69 years	5236	61

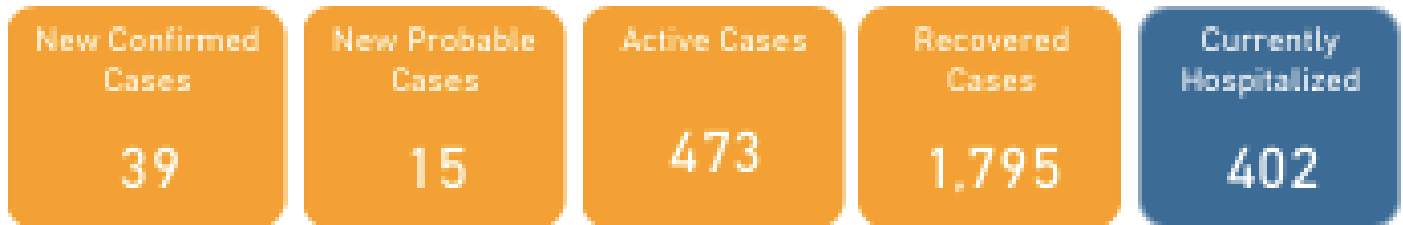
### SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	24624	210
Male	23226	228

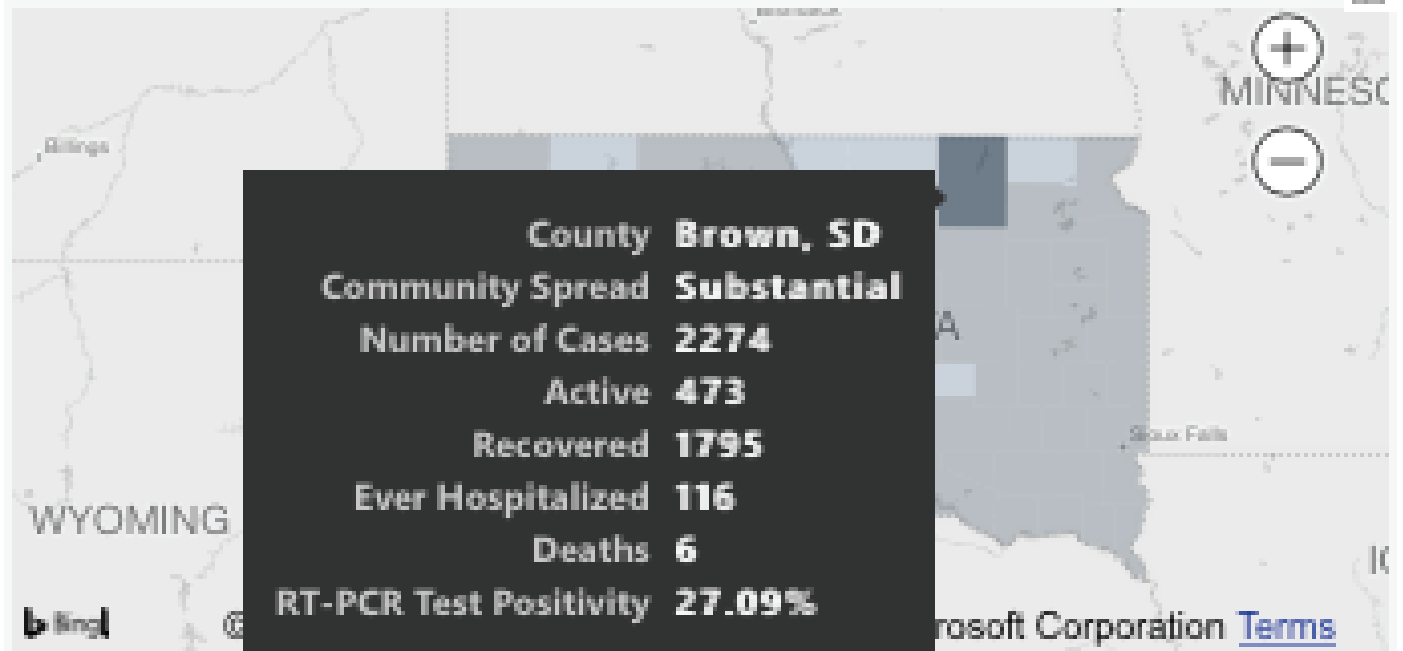
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## Brown County

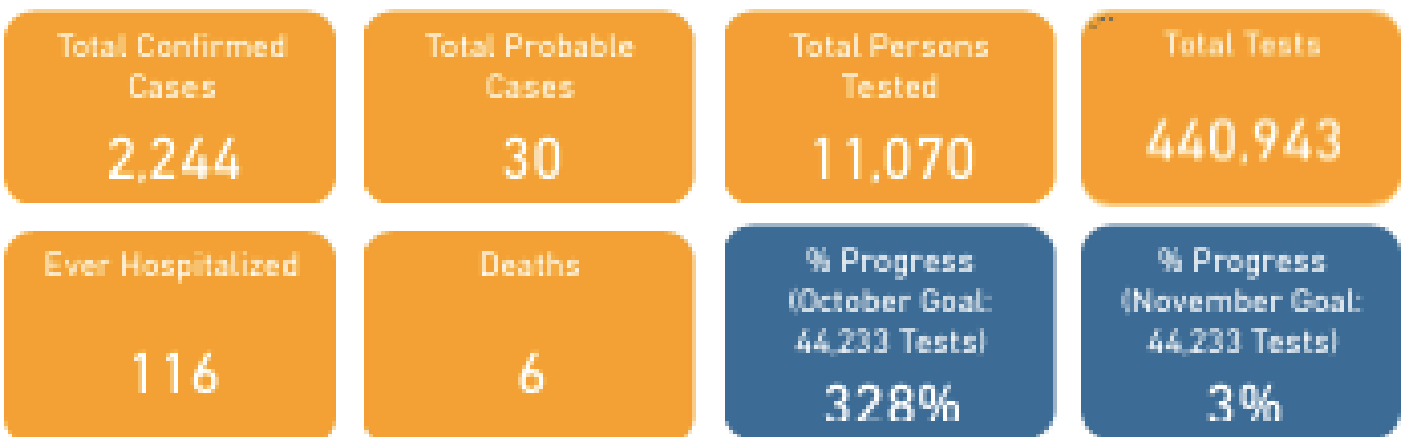


### Community Spread Map by County of Residence



Community Spread ● Moderate ● Substantial

Hover over a county to see its details, or click county to update the orange





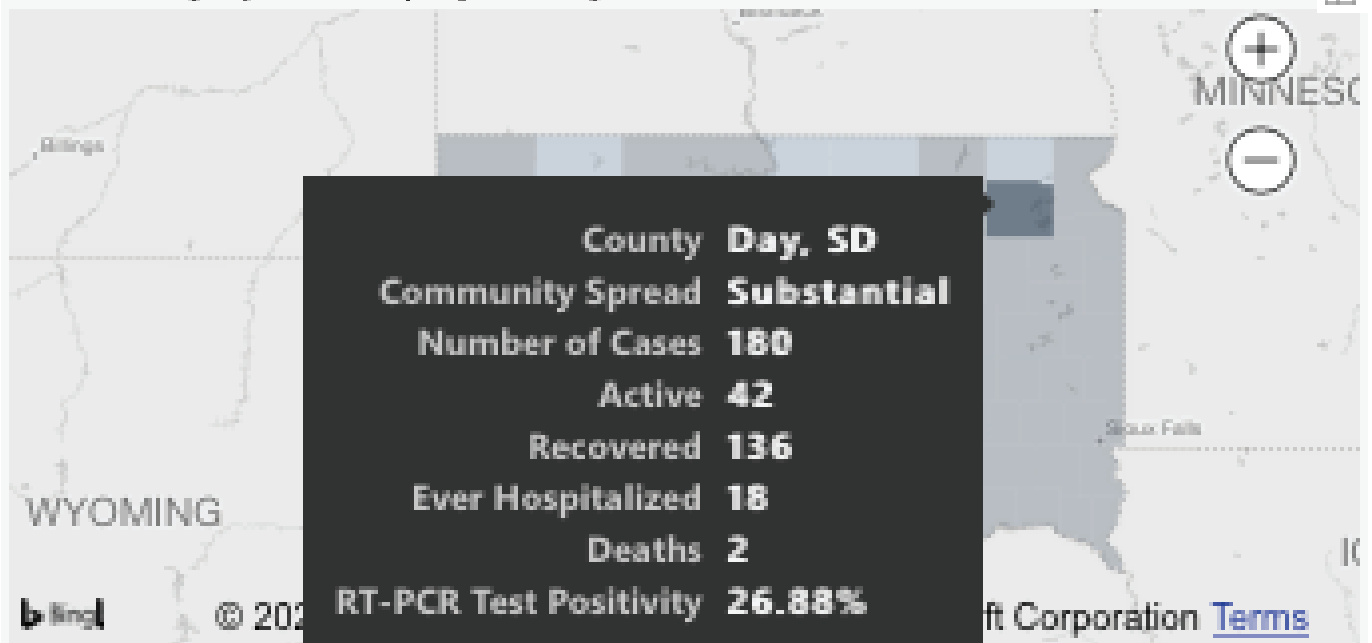
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## Day County

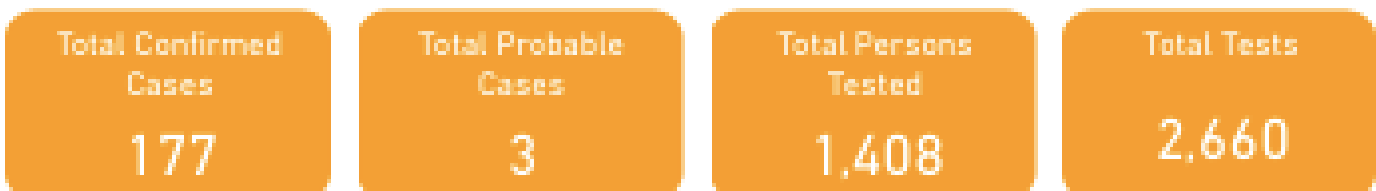


Community Spread Map by County of Residence



Community Spread ● Moderate ● Substantial

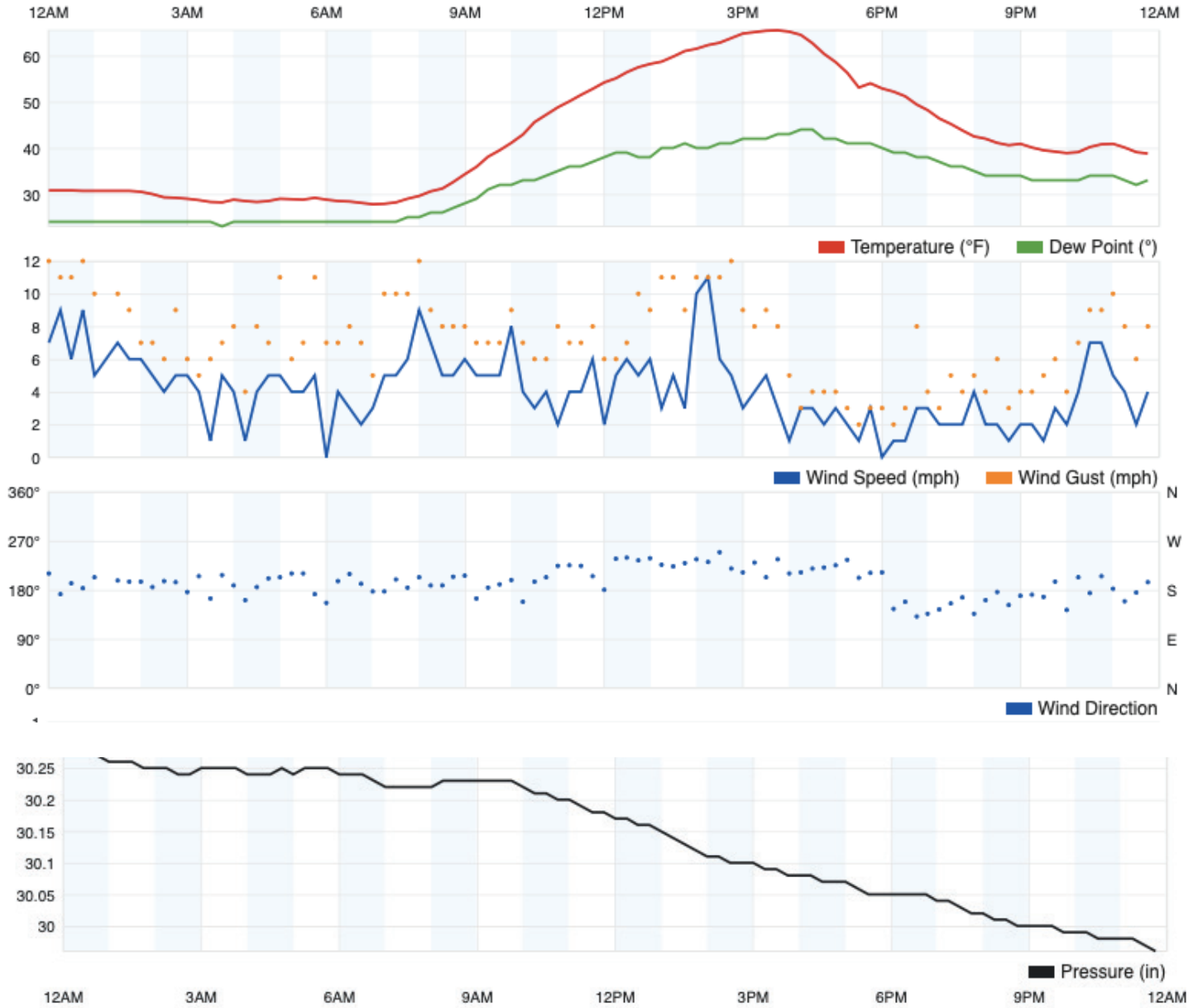
Hover over a county to see its details, or click county to update the orange



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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today



Sunny

High: 73 °F

Tonight



Clear

Low: 35 °F

Wednesday



Sunny

High: 73 °F

Wednesday  
Night



Partly Cloudy

Low: 41 °F

Thursday



Sunny

High: 67 °F



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Well Above Average  
Temperatures Through Friday

- \*Potential record highs today
- \*Highs forecast to be in the low to mid 70s today
- \*Average highs for this time of year are in the upper 40s to low 50s

Updated: 11/3/2020 3:34 AM CDT

Abnormally warm temperatures remain on tap through at least Friday. A few record highs may fall today and temperatures will generally be within 5 to 10 degrees of record highs through Friday. The average high for this time of the year is in the upper 40s to low 50s.



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## Today in Weather History

November 3, 2003: Heavy snow fell across the area. Snowfall of 6 to 9 inches fell across Big Stone County in Minnesota, with nine inches in Ortonville. Heavy snow of up to eight inches fell across Grant County in South Dakota. Six inches fell at Big Stone City, and 8 inches fell at Milbank. Heavy snow also fell from the early morning to around noon across parts of central South Dakota. Six inches of snow fell at Kennebec, Fort Thompson, Gann Valley, and Miller.

1927: Historic flooding occurred across Vermont from November 2nd through the 4th. The flood washed out 1285 bridges, miles of roads and railways, and several homes and buildings. Eighty-four people were killed from the flooding, including Lt. Governor S. Hollister Jackson.

1966: An early season snowfall, which started on the 2nd, whitened the ground from Alabama to Michigan. Mobile, Alabama had their earliest snowflakes on record. Louisville, Kentucky measured 13.1 inches, Nashville; Tennessee reported 7.2 inches and Huntsville, Alabama had 4 inches of snow.

2001: Hurricane Michelle reached peak intensity on this day as a Category 4 storm. It would go on to make landfall in Cuba as Cat. 4 on Nov. 4-5.

2002: A Magnitude 7.9 earthquake struck central Alaska. The quake is the 9th largest to be recorded in the US.

2011: Floodwaters by Tropical Depression Keila's heavy rainfall were responsible for several deaths in Oman.

2013: The town of Arnhem in the Netherlands was hit with several tornadoes.

1890 - The temperature at Los Angeles, CA, reached 96 degrees, a November record for 76 years. (David Ludlum)

1927 - Somerset VT was deluged with 8.77 inches of rain to establish a 24 hour record for the state. (3rd-4th) (The Weather Channel)

1961 - A rare November thunderstorm produced snow at Casper, WY. (3rd-4th) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Twenty-one cities, mostly in the Ohio Valley, reported record high temperatures for the date. The afternoon high of 80 degrees at Columbus OH was their warmest reading of record for so late in the season. Showers and thundershowers associated with a tropical depression south of Florida produced 4.28 inches of rain at Clewiston in 24 hours. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - A sharp cold front brought about an abrupt end to Indian Summer in the north central U.S. Up to a foot of snow blanketed Yellowstone Park WY, and winds in the mountains near the Washoe Valley of southeastern Wyoming gusted to 78 mph. Unseasonably warm weather continued in the south central U.S. Del Rio TX tied Laredo TX and McAllen TX for honors as the hot spot in the nation with a record warm afternoon high of 91 degrees. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Cold weather prevailed in the central U.S. Six cities in Texas, Minnesota, and Michigan, reported record low temperatures for the date. The low of 7 above zero at Marquette MI was their coldest reading of record for so early in the season. (The National Weather Summary)

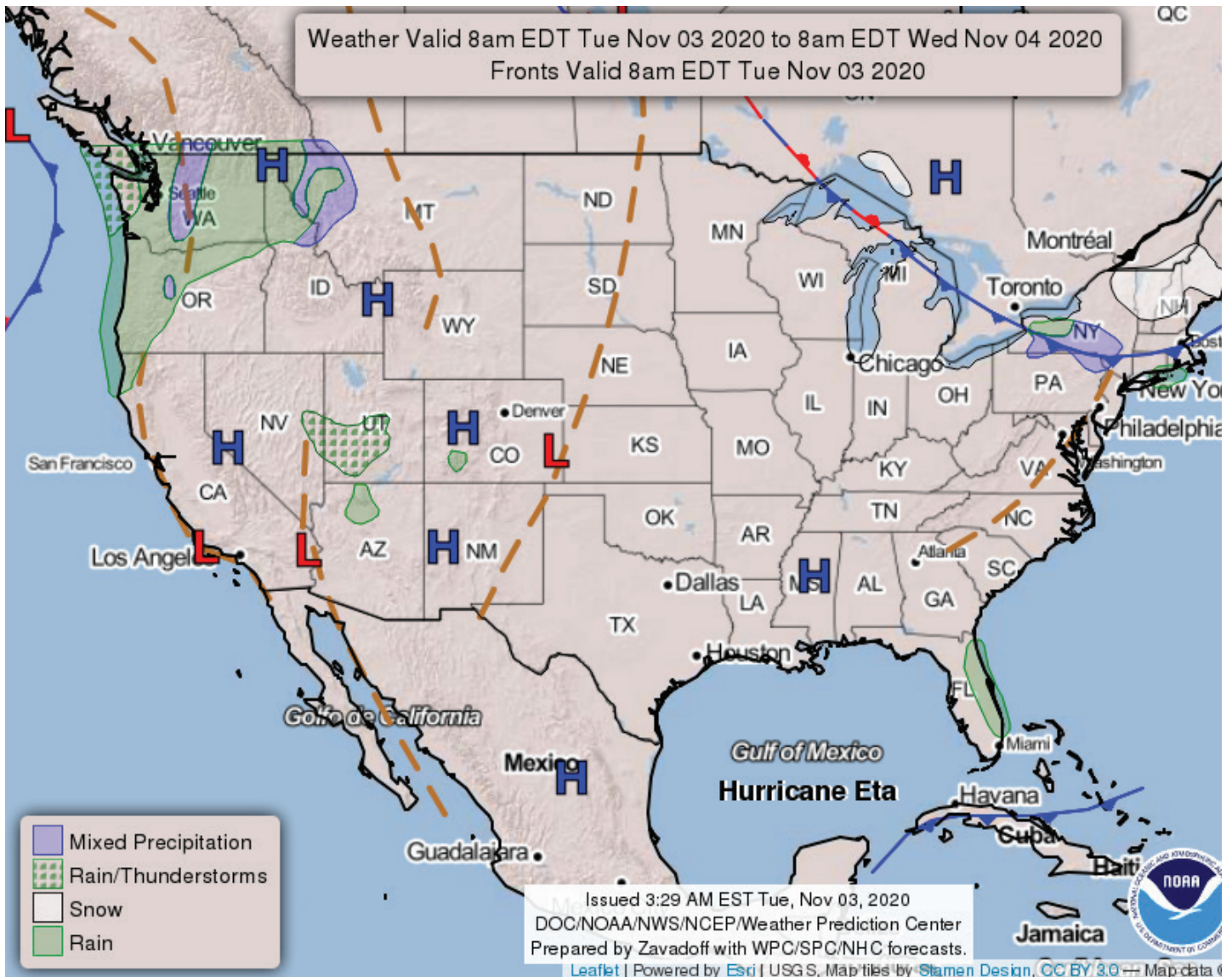
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp: 66 °F at 3:43 PM**  
**Low Temp: 28 °F at 7:03 AM**  
**Wind: 15 mph at 2:18 PM**  
**Precip: .00**

**Record High: 75° in 1904**  
**Record Low: 1° in 1991**  
**Average High: 48°F**  
**Average Low: 25°F**  
**Average Precip in Nov.: 0.06**  
**Precip to date in Nov.: 0.00**  
**Average Precip to date: 20.53**  
**Precip Year to Date: 16.34**  
**Sunset Tonight: 5:17 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:18 a.m.**



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## WONDERS AND MIRACLES

Have you ever planted a seed in a jar, placed it in a window where the sun's warmth and light were at work and watched in "wonder" as God brought life to that small "package?" Left in darkness, little, if anything, would have happened. But when the seed was placed in soil, nourished by the sun and the life-giving elements in the soil, its thirst quenched by water, a "miracle" took place. It "did" what God created it to do.

Some might question the difference between the words "wonder" and "miracle." We often watch in awe when we do not understand what is going on around us. Sometimes things that "amaze" us are easily explained by someone who knows more than we do. Then, when we understand what happened, we may still be filled with wonder, but it is no longer a mystery. It's like God's love for us. We wonder "why" and "how" He loves us despite our flaws and faults until we know Jesus.

A miracle, however, is some event or action that cannot be explained. It is an extraordinary event that demonstrates God's power. Without giving us any warning or making any announcement, He "invades what is going on" in our lives, and unpredictably changes things to let us know "who is in charge!" What has been, no longer is, and what will be cannot be predicted. These kinds of things were obvious in the journey of the Israelites: God unexpectedly saved and protected them. When this occurred, the Psalmist wrote, "Remember His miracles." It was His love, mercy, and grace that saved them.

But what about His miracles in our lives? "By His grace, we can be saved." Like the Israelites, He can save us, too. Now, that's a miracle awaiting us we all can enjoy!

Prayer: Thank You, Lord, for Your love, mercy, grace, salvation, and hope. May we never forget the miracles we have received, or those awaiting us! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Remember the wonders he has performed, his miracles, and the rulings he has given. Psalm 105:5

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## 2020 Groton SD Community Events

- **CANCELLED** Groton Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt - City Park (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- **CANCELLED** Dueling Piano's Baseball Fundraiser at the American Legion
- **CANCELLED** Fireman's Fun Night (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- **POSTPONED** Front Porch 605 Rural Route Road Trip
- **CANCELLED** Father/Daughter dance.
- **CANCELLED** Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales, (1st Saturday in May)
- **CANCELLED** Girls High School Golf Meet at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 05/25/2020 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Services
- 07/04/2020 Firecracker Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 07/12/2020 Summer Fest/Car Show
- 07/16/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Pro Am Golf Tourney
- 07/24/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Ferney Open Golf Tourney
- 07/25/2020 City-Wide Rummage Sales
- **CANCELLED** State American Legion Baseball Tournament in Groton
- 08/07/2020 Wine on Nine Event at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 09/12-13/2020 Groton Fly-In/Drive-In at the Groton Airport north of Groton
- 09/12/2020 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Sat. after Labor Day)
- 09/13/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Couples Sunflower Classic
- 10/09/2020 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/10/2020 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/30/2020 Downtown Trick or Treat
- 10/30/2020 Groton United Methodist Trunk or Treat
- **CANCELLED** Groton Legion Annual Turkey Party (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 11/26/2020 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center
- 12/05/2020 Olive Grove Golf Course Tour of Homes & Holiday Party
- 12/05/2020 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services
- 01/--/2021 83rd Annual Carnival of Silver Skates



## News from the Associated Press

### Marijuana proposals offer South Dakota intrigue

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Like the rest of the nation, voters in South Dakota are deciding whom to back for president. And they've got a U.S. Senate race to decide. But with Republicans long dominating the state's elections, the most interesting questions to be resolved Tuesday may be separate proposals to legalize both medical and recreational marijuana. Election officials have received a historical number of absentee ballots, raising the possibility that tallying the results could take longer than usual.

Some of the key races and ballot items that shaped this year's campaign:

#### PRESIDENT

President Donald Trump is expected to easily carry deep-red South Dakota, which has sent its three electoral college votes to the Republican presidential candidate every year since 1968. Trump won South Dakota handily in 2016, taking over 61% of the vote.

With the state seen as safe for the GOP, neither Trump nor Joe Biden invested much time or energy in South Dakota — although Trump did enjoy a July 3 trip to Mount Rushmore for a massive fireworks display.

#### SENATE

Republican U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds is trying to cruise to a second term over Democrat Dan Ahlers. Rounds, a former governor, held a sizeable cash advantage over Ahlers, a former state legislator and businessman. During the pandemic, Rounds scaled back his campaign activity, citing health concerns for his wife, Jean, who underwent treatment for cancer earlier this year.

#### CONGRESS

U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson appeared to have an open path to reelection to South Dakota's lone House seat after Democrats failed to field a candidate. Johnson did have one challenger — Libertarian Randy "Uriah" Luallin. Luallin toured the state but struggled to raise enough money to launch a significant campaign.

#### RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA

Voters were asked whether to change the state constitution to legalize recreational marijuana — a big jump in a state where lawmakers recently battled for nearly a year over an industrial hemp program. But advocates for the measure have cobbled together both Republican and Democratic supporters, making an argument that it would cut arrests for marijuana possession. They also raised nearly five times as much money as opponents.

However, they faced some influential opponents, including the state's largest doctors association, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Gov. Kristi Noem, who argued it would lead to more drug use.

#### MEDICAL MARIJUANA

This citizen-initiated proposal would set up a medical marijuana program that would allow people with debilitating medical conditions to possess up to 3 ounces of marijuana. When medical marijuana was last on the ballot in 2010, 63% of voters decided against it. But advocates haven't faced the same opposition this year as the recreational marijuana proposal, a potential indicator of the changing national landscape. Neighboring North Dakota and Minnesota already legalized medical marijuana and a handful of states nationwide have made the far more aggressive move to OK recreational marijuana.

#### SPORTS BETTING

Voters will decide whether to allow sports betting in South Dakota's gambling town of Deadwood. The Legislature passed a resolution to put the constitutional amendment on the ballot. Lawmakers argued it bolsters tax revenues and keeps Deadwood competitive with neighboring states like Iowa that have rolled out sports betting after the Supreme Court paved the way for legal wagering two years ago.

Tribal casinos also would be allowed to offer sports betting if the measure passes.

In 2014, 57% of voters passed an amendment that made it possible for keno, craps, and roulette to be played in Deadwood.

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## LEGISLATURE

South Dakota Democrats are trying to recover from a decade of seeing their numbers dwindle to just 16 seats in the Capitol. A combination of financial setbacks and leadership changes in the party may leave Democrats feeling lucky just to hang on to those.

In the days before the election, Democrats went hard at Noem, a Trump ally, for her hands-off approach while the coronavirus grew at one of the worst rates in the nation. While she does not face reelection this year, Democrats are hoping to tap into frustration with how Republicans like Noem and Trump have handled the pandemic.

But Republicans have generally been better funded and more organized this campaign cycle, leading the GOP to believe it can strengthen its stranglehold on the Legislature. Several races in the state's south-eastern cities, which in recent years have seen a shift in demographics and political preferences, could be tight as ballots are tallied.

## Monday's Scores

By The Associated Press

PREP VOLLEYBALL=

Region 1A=

First Round=

Sisseton def. Groton Area, 25-23, 25-15, 25-18

Region 1B=

First Round=

Great Plains Lutheran def. Britton-Hecla, 25-20, 25-11, 25-12

Leola/Frederick def. Wilmot, 25-19, 22-25, 25-17, 16-25, 15-6

Region 2B=

First Round=

Sunshine Bible Academy def. Lower Brule, 25-11, 25-23, 20-25, 25-19

Region 3B=

First Round=

DeSmet def. Lake Preston, 25-22, 25-11, 25-16

Wessington Springs def. Iroquois, 25-19, 25-22, 25-11

Region 4B=

First Round=

Oldham-Ramona/Rutland def. Hanson, 25-12, 25-22, 25-21

Sanborn Central/Woonsocket def. Mitchell Christian, 25-22, 25-14, 25-14

Region 5B=

First Round=

Canistota def. Centerville, 25-20, 25-22, 25-14

Irene-Wakonda def. Freeman Academy/Marion, 25-18, 25-7, 25-13

Menno def. Viborg-Hurley, 25-13, 25-21, 25-11

Region 6B=

First Round=

Gregory def. Andes Central/Dakota Christian, 25-13, 25-19, 24-26, 25-18

Region 8B=

Quarterfinal=

Timber Lake def. Lemmon, 25-22, 25-20, 26-28, 25-18

Some high school volleyball scores provided by Scorestream.com, <https://scorestream.com/>

## Sioux Falls mayor says he likes masks, but not a mandate

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The mayor of South Dakota's largest city said Monday he's against a proposed ordinance that would require residents to wear face coverings because of the coronavirus.

Sioux Falls City Councilor Curt Soehl is working on a measure that would require masks by all city residents in indoor situations where social distancing is not possible, in response to climbing COVID-19 rates in the city and state.

Mayor Paul TenHaken said that while he believes that wearing masks is important, health care professionals have told him they don't see the need for a mandate and it would be difficult to enforce, KELO-TV reported.

"It also puts our law enforcement in a very challenging situation. and in a year that has been hard on law enforcement, I don't have any desire to do that," TenHaken said.

South Dakota ranks second in the country behind North Dakota for new virus cases per capita in the last two weeks, according to Johns Hopkins University researchers, Minnehaha County, which includes the Sioux Falls metropolitan area, is approaching 13,000 positive tests since the start of the pandemic, out of nearly 46,000 statewide.

TenHaken said he wants residents "to behave as if you have COVID" in order to be more serious about protecting themselves and others from the virus.

## Report: South Dakota official distracted before fatal crash

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Attorney General Jason Ravensborg was distracted before he drove onto a highway shoulder where he struck and killed a pedestrian in September, state Secretary of Public Safety Craig Price said Monday.

Price said 55-year-old Joseph Boever was walking on the side of the road and displaying some type of light on the night of Sept. 12 when Ravensborg's 2011 Ford Taurus hit him. Price did not describe what led Ravensborg to become distracted and he did not respond to questions about what the distraction was.

Ravnsborg called 911 that night and told a dispatcher that he hit "something" and that "it was in the middle of the road." When the dispatcher asked if it could have been a deer, Ravensborg initially said, "I have no idea" before adding, "It could be."

Boever's relatives believe he was walking toward his truck that had crashed earlier that evening.

Ravnsborg initially told a county sheriff dispatched to the crash site on U.S. Highway 14 near Highmore in central South Dakota that he thought he struck a deer. He said he returned to the scene the next morning and discovered he had struck a man.

Ravnsborg spokesman Mike Deaver did not immediately return a phone message Monday left by The Associated Press.

Whether Ravensborg can be charged for distracted driving depends on what caused him to leave the roadway, Price said. A new state law that went into effect July 1 made texting and driving a primary offense that carries a \$122.50 fine.

Hyde County State's Attorney Emily Sovell, who is handling the case, did not immediately respond to a phone message seeking comment.

Boever's cousin Nick Nemec said he was not surprised to hear that Ravensborg was distracted and drove onto the shoulder of the road. Nemec said he visited the crash site numerous times and "you don't have to be a rocket scientist" to figure out what happened.

"I think the attorney general should be charged at the very least with distracted driving," Nemec said. "If he was distracted, then you're getting into the territory of involuntary manslaughter. I think that would be an appropriate charge."

Ravnsborg, a Republican, is serving his first term after winning election in 2018.

While the investigation is largely completed, authorities said, they are still waiting on several reports, including a coroner's summary. The speed limit at the site of the crash is 65 mph (105 kph), but it is unclear how fast Ravensborg was driving. Price would not say whether Boever was walking with or against traffic.

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Price would not describe what type of light Boever was carrying, but Nemac said it was not his cellphone. "My brother Victor went into Joe's house the next day and Joe's cellphone was sitting on the table in Joe's house," Nemec said. "So that light had to be some other form of light."

The attorney general was driving home to Pierre from a Republican fundraiser some 110 miles (180 kilometers) away in Redfield. Ravensborg had said he had nothing to drink.

A toxicology report taken roughly 15 hours after the crash showed no alcohol in Ravensborg's system, although at least one expert said that would have been enough time for alcohol to leave the body.

A crash reconstruction expert from Wyoming and the North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation assisted the South Dakota Highway Patrol in the investigation.

Such accidents would ordinarily be investigated by the South Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation, which answers to the attorney general's office. The other agencies took on the investigation to avoid a conflict of interest.

A preliminary autopsy report showed Boever died from extensive traumatic injuries from the crash.

Craig Price's title has been corrected to secretary of public safety, instead of secretary of safety.

## Shooting victim was 18-year-old high school student

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The victim of a fatal weekend shooting in Sioux Falls was an 18-year-old high school student, police said.

Officials at Lincoln High School have notified parents and guardians that Venance Kitungano died in a shooting on Saturday and that police are interviewing witnesses. School counselors will be available for students to speak with throughout the week, KELO-TV reported.

Sioux Falls Police Department Lt. Terrance Matia said the shooting happened after a large party at the Red Sea Pub. More than 30 people who were at the gathering have been interviewed so far, Matia said.

Matia said police believe Kitungano was "an innocent bystander."

The victim was shot in the face, police said.

## Investigation: South Dakota attorney general was distracted before hitting pedestrian on highway shoulder

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Investigation: South Dakota attorney general was distracted before hitting pedestrian on highway shoulder.

## Judge dismisses defamation claim by Dakota Access protester

By JAMES MacPHERSON Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A federal judge has dismissed part of a lawsuit by a New York City woman who was severely injured in an explosion while protesting the Dakota Access oil pipeline in North Dakota four years ago.

In a 54-page ruling issued Thursday, U.S. District Judge Daniel Traynor dismissed claims of defamation against law enforcement officials who made public statements blaming the woman for her own injury.

Sophia Wilansky, who was 21 at the time, suffered an arm injury in a violent November 2016 clash between protesters and police during the unsuccessful months-long protest in southern North Dakota against the pipeline.

Protesters allege the blast was caused by a concussion grenade thrown by officers, but law enforcement said it was caused by a propane canister that protesters rigged to explode.

Wilansky's lawsuit filed two years ago also seeks millions of dollars for alleged excessive force, assault, negligence and emotional distress. Those parts of the lawsuit are still pending.

Traynor, who is based in Bismarck, sided with government attorneys who argued statements about news events released to the public by law officers as part of their official duties are entitled to immunity.



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Government lawyers also argued that Wilansky's father, Wayne, had given interviews to the news media giving her side of the story.

Attorneys for Sophia Wilansky did not immediately return telephone calls Monday.

Texas-based Energy Transfer Partners built the \$3.8 billion Dakota Access pipeline to move oil from the Dakotas through Iowa to a shipping point in Illinois, which it began doing in June 2017.

Thousands of opponents gathered in southern North Dakota in 2016 and early 2017, camping on federal land and often clashing with police. Hundreds were arrested over six months.

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe opposed the pipeline over fears it would harm cultural sites and the tribe's Missouri River water supply — claims rejected by the company and the state.

## Midwest Economy: October state-by-state glance

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The Institute for Supply Management, formerly the Purchasing Management Association, began formally surveying its membership in 1931 to gauge business conditions.

The Creighton Economic Forecasting Group uses the same methodology as the national survey to consult supply managers and business leaders. Creighton University economics professor Ernie Goss oversees the report.

The overall index ranges between 0 and 100. Growth neutral is 50, and a figure greater than 50 indicates growth in that factor over the next three to six months. A figure below 50 indicates decline.

Here are the state-by-state results for October:

Arkansas: The overall index for Arkansas fell to 64.4 from September's 68.5. Components of the index were: new orders at 75.5, production or sales at 72.4, delivery lead time at 63.4, inventories at 48.5, and employment at 62.1. "Validating a rapidly improving state economy, U.S. Department of Labor data indicate that the state's insured unemployment rate stood at 0.9% in the second week of March, peaked at 11.7% in the third week of May, and fell to 1.8% in the third week of October," Goss said.

Iowa: The state's overall index climbed to 78.7 from 67.1 in September. Components were: new orders at 82.1, production or sales at 71.2, delivery lead time at 69.3, employment at 80.9, and inventories at 93.4. "Validating a rapidly improving state economy, U.S. Department of Labor data indicate that the state's insured unemployment rate stood at 1.7% in the second week of March, peaked at 12.4% in the first week of May, and fell to 2.6% in the third week of October," Goss said.

Kansas: The overall state index increased to 68.7 from 63.0 in September. Components of the index were: new orders at 76.9, production or sales at 74.1, delivery lead time at 68.6, employment at 66.1, and inventories at 58.0. "Validating a rapidly improving state economy, U.S. Department of Labor data indicate that the state's insured unemployment rate stood at 0.7% in the second week of March, peaked at 14.6% in the third week of May, and fell to 4% in the third week of October," Goss said.

Minnesota: The overall index for Minnesota soared to 82.7 from 55.9 in September. Components of the overall October index were: new orders at 81.4, production or sales at 79.4, delivery lead time at 85.0, inventories at 88.5, and employment at 78.9. "Validating a rapidly improving state economy, U.S. Department of Labor data indicate that the state's insured unemployment rate stood at 2.3% in the second week of March, peaked at 14.9% in the second week of May, and fell to 4.2% in the third week of October," Goss said.

Missouri: The overall index for Missouri advanced to 78.0 from September's 74.4. Components were: new orders at 84.6, production or sales at 83.2, delivery lead time at 78.8, inventories at 55.6, and employment at 87.9. "Validating a rapidly improving state economy, U.S. Department of Labor data indicate that the state's insured unemployment rate stood at 0.8% in the second week of March, peaked at 9.5% in the third week of May, and fell to 1.9% in the third week of October," Goss said.

Nebraska: Nebraska's overall index for September jumped to 71.4 from 62.9 in September. Components of the index were: new orders at 77.8, production or sales at 75.1, delivery lead time at 71.7, inventories at 63.9, and employment at 68.6. "Validating a rapidly improving state economy, U.S. Department of Labor data indicate that the state's insured unemployment rate stood at 0.5% in the second week of March,



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peaked at 11% in the fourth week of May, and fell to 3.2% in the third week of October," Goss said.

North Dakota: The overall index for North Dakota climbed to 59.0 from 55.6 in September. Components were: new orders at 72.7, production or sales at 69.1, delivery lead time at 53.2, employment at 54.2, and inventories at 45.6. "Validating a rapidly improving state economy, U.S. Department of Labor data indicate that the state's insured unemployment rate stood at 1.5% in the second week of March, peaked at 9.7% in the first week of May, and fell to 1.3% in the third week of October," Goss said.

Oklahoma: The state's overall index advanced to a strong 61.1 from September's 58.6. Components were: new orders at 72.4, production or sales at 68.7, delivery lead time at 52.2, inventories at 58.9, and employment at 53.5. "Validating a rapidly improving state economy, U.S. Department of Labor data indicate that the state's insured unemployment rate stood at 1.1% in the second week of March, peaked at 9.6% in third week of May, and fell to 3.8% in the third week of October," Goss said.

South Dakota: The overall index for South Dakota climbed to 71.2 from 59.9 in September. Components of the overall index were: new orders at 77.7, production or sales at 75.0, delivery lead time at 71.4, inventories at 63.4, and employment at 68.3. "Validating a rapidly improving state economy, U.S. Department of Labor data indicate that the state's insured unemployment rate stood at 0.6% in the second week of March, peaked at 9.7% in the fourth week of May, and fell to 1.0% in the third week of October," Goss said.

## Business leaders survey hits highest level in 16 years

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The overall economic measure of a monthly survey of Midwest business leaders hit a 16-year high for October, but the manufacturing sector of the economy remains stunted from the coronavirus outbreak, according to the Creighton University Mid-America Business Conditions Index released Monday.

The overall index of improved to 70.2 in October from September's already strong 65.1. Any score above 50 on the survey's indexes suggests growth, while a figure below 50 indicates decline.

Creighton University economist Ernie Goss, who oversees the survey, said that the index mirrored national survey results showing that the manufacturing sector has been expanding.

"Even so, current output in the regional and U.S. manufacturing sectors remains below pre-COVID-19 levels," Goss said. "More than three of four supply managers reported negative COVID-19 impacts."

Job growth remains strong in the region, with the employment index growing to 66.7 from 61.8 in September. Goss said the region's unemployment rate fell to 2.9% in October after hitting a high of 11% in May. Before the coronavirus outbreak began, unemployment in region was at 1.3%. About 8 of 10 supply managers reported shortages of qualified workers to fill open positions at their firms in October, Goss said.

Business leaders remained optimistic about the next six months, with the confidence index growing to 70.4 from 69.4 in September.

The monthly survey covers Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

## Attorney general: Shooting of man in Madison justified

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Attorney General's Office says a Lake County sheriff's deputy was justified in shooting and wounding an armed Madison man.

Benjamin Hernandez, 34, refused to put down his loaded shotgun after being ordered to do so by police and a sheriff's deputy, authorities said.

The incident happened Sept. 30 when police and deputies responded to a report of a suicidal man armed with a shotgun in a vehicle at a convenience store in Madison.

The man, later identified as Hernandez, made numerous threats to kill himself and shoot officers, the attorney general said.

At one point, Hernandez pointed his shotgun toward officers with his finger on the trigger, according to the summary.

An unidentified Lake County sheriff's deputy fired a single round that struck Hernandez in the chest. Her-

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andez dropped his gun out of the window and was given first aid by officers, the Argus Leader reported. Hernandez was flown to Sanford Hospital in Sioux Falls with non-life-threatening injuries.

## Election Day shadowed by threats of legal challenges

By MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Even before Election Day, the 2020 race was the most litigated in memory. President Donald Trump is promising more to come.

The candidates and parties have enlisted prominent lawyers with ties to Democratic and Republican administrations should that litigation take on a new urgency if a narrow margin in a battleground state becomes the difference between another four years for Trump or a Joe Biden administration.

Since the 2000 presidential election, which was ultimately decided by the Supreme Court, both parties have enlisted legal teams to prepare for the unlikely event that voting wouldn't settle the contest. But this year, there is a near presumption that legal fights will ensue and that only a definitive outcome is likely to forestall them.

A Pennsylvania case at the Supreme Court pits Donald Verrilli, who was President Barack Obama's top Supreme Court lawyer, against John Gore, a onetime high-ranking Trump Justice Department official.

Trump said this weekend he was headed to court to prevent Pennsylvania from counting mailed ballots that are received in the three days after the election. An extension was ordered by Pennsylvania's top court. The Supreme Court left that order in place in response to a Republican effort to block it.

Trump is unhappy over the decision, even though Pennsylvania will keep those ballots separate from the rest in case of renewed court interest. He spent much of his final days of campaigning railing against it, often employing inaccurate characterizations of the decision as allowing "rampant and unchecked cheating" as well as undermining the law and including street violence. No evidence supports that view.

On Sunday, Trump said that as soon as the polls close, "We're going in with our lawyers."

Aside from what Trump's telegraphed, though, it's not clear what other issues may emerge as voters cast their ballots Tuesday, especially since early voting numbers have already eclipsed 2016 figures.

There's already been roughly 300 lawsuits over the election filed in dozens of states across the country, many involving changes to normal procedures because of the coronavirus pandemic, which has killed more than 230,000 people in the U.S. and sickened more than 9 million. Legal battles ensued over signature matches, drop boxes and secrecy envelopes.

Like Pennsylvania, North Carolina also has seen a court fight between Democrats who support extending the deadline for absentee ballots and Republicans who oppose it. The six-day extension was approved by a state court.

In Minnesota, late-arriving ballots also will be segregated from the rest of the vote because of ongoing legal proceedings, under a federal appeals court order.

Republican lawsuits have also challenged local decisions that could take on national significance in a close election.

In Texas, Republicans asked state and federal courts to order election officials in the Houston area not to count ballots dropped off at drive-in locations. The Texas Supreme Court on Sunday denied the GOP's plea. On Monday, a federal judge also turned away the effort to invalidate the nearly 127,000 votes. Appeals were planned.

In Nevada, a state court judge rejected a bid by the Trump campaign and state Republicans to stop the count of mail-in ballots in Las Vegas, the state's most populous and Democratic-leaning county, though an appeal to the state Supreme Court is being considered.

Most of the potential legal challenges are likely to stem from the huge increase in absentee balloting brought on by the pandemic. In Pennsylvania, elections officials won't start processing those ballots until Election Day, and some counties have said they won't begin counting those votes until the following day. Mailed ballots that don't come inside a secrecy envelope have to be discarded, under a state Supreme Court ruling.

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"I still can't figure how counting and verifying absentee ballots is going to go in some of the battleground states like Pennsylvania," said Ohio State University law professor Edward Foley, an election law expert.

Trump's threat of legal action comes as he has been delivering a chaotic closing message during the waning days of the campaign as he lags behind Biden nationally and by narrow margins in key states. The president has made a flurry of last-minute campaign stops trying to hold onto states he won in 2016, including Pennsylvania, Florida and North Carolina.

Over the weekend, he railed against absentee ballots, frustrated by a Supreme Court ruling that didn't deliver a clear GOP win, continuing a monthslong push to sow unfounded doubt about potential voter fraud.

But several conservative justices indicated they'd be open to taking the issue up after the election, especially if those late-arriving ballots could mean the difference in the state.

The legal issue is whether the extension ordered by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, relying on voter protections in the Pennsylvania constitution, violated the U.S. Constitution. The argument advanced by Republicans is that the Constitution gives state legislatures — not state courts — the power to decide how electoral votes are awarded, including whether absentee ballots received after Election Day can be counted.

Roughly 20 states allow for late-arriving ballots, but Pennsylvania's Republican-controlled legislature did not authorize an extension, even with the huge increase in mailed ballots because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The Supreme Court generally does not second guess state courts when they rely on their own constitutions. But Democrats were alarmed by Justice Brett Kavanaugh's reference to the court's 2000 Bush v. Gore decision that effectively decided the presidential election in favor of George W. Bush. Although it was not the majority opinion in the case, an opinion joined by three conservative justices in 2000 would have ruled for Bush because the Florida Supreme Court's recount order usurped the legislature's authority.

The Supreme Court has never cited Bush v. Gore as the basis for a decision of the court. Kavanaugh is one of three justices who worked for Bush in the Florida case 20 years ago. Chief Justice John Roberts and new Justice Amy Coney Barrett are the others.

Find AP's full election coverage at [APNews.com/Election2020](https://www.apnews.com/Election2020).

## Turkish rescuers pull girl from rubble 4 days after quake

BY MEHMET GUZEL and SUZAN FRASER Associated Press

IZMIR, TURKEY (AP) — Even as hopes of reaching survivors began to fade, rescuers in the Turkish city of Izmir pulled a young girl out alive from the rubble of a collapsed apartment building on Tuesday, four days after a strong earthquake hit Turkey and Greece.

Wrapped in a thermal blanket, the girl was taken into an ambulance on a stretcher to the sounds of applause and chants of "God is great!" from rescue workers and onlookers.

Health Minister Fahrettin Koca identified her as 3-year-old Ayda Gezgin on Twitter and shared a video of her inside the ambulance. The child had been trapped inside the rubble for 91 hours since Friday's quake struck in the Aegean Sea and was the 107th person to have been pulled out of collapsed buildings alive.

Ayda's mother did not survive and her body was found amid the wreckage hours later. Her brother and father were not inside the building at the time of the quake.

Rescuer Nusret Aksoy told reporters that he was sifting through the rubble of the toppled eight-floor building when he heard a child's scream and called for silence. He later located the girl in a tight space next to a dishwasher.

The girl waved at him, told him her name and said that she was okay, Aksoy said.

"I got goosebumps and my colleague Ahmet cried," he told HaberTurk television.

Ibrahim Topal, of the Humanitarian Relief Foundation, or IHH said: "My colleague and I looked at each other like 'Did you hear that, too?' We listened again. There was a very weak voice saying something like 'I'm here.' Then we shut everything down, the machines, and started listening again. And there really was a voice."

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Health ministry officials said the girl was in good condition but would be kept under observation in the hospital for a while. She asked for her mother as well as for meatballs and a yoghurt drink on her way to the hospital, state-run Anadolu Agency reported.

Her rescue came a day after another 3-year-old girl and a 14-year-old girl were also pulled out alive from collapsed buildings in Izmir, Turkey's third-largest city.

Meanwhile, the death toll in the earthquake reached 107, after emergency crews retrieved more bodies from toppled buildings in the city. Officials said 144 quake survivors were still hospitalized, and three of them were in serious condition.

The U.S. Geological Survey registered the quake's magnitude at 7.0, though other agencies recorded it as less severe.

The vast majority of the deaths and some 1,000 injuries occurred in Izmir. Two teenagers also died and 19 people were injured on the Greek island of Samos, near the quake's epicenter in the Aegean Sea.

The quake also triggered a small tsunami that hit Samos and the Seferihisar district of Izmir province, where one elderly woman drowned. The tremors were felt across western Turkey, including in Istanbul, as well as in the Greek capital of Athens. Hundreds of aftershocks followed.

In Izmir, the quake reduced buildings to rubble or saw floors pancake in on themselves and authorities detained nine people, including contractors, for questioning over the collapse of six of the buildings.

Turkey has a mix of older buildings and cheap or illegal constructions that do not withstand earthquakes well. Regulations have been tightened to strengthen or demolish older buildings, and urban renewal is underway in Turkish cities, but experts say it is not happening fast enough.

The country sits on top of two major fault lines and earthquakes are frequent.

Fraser reported from Ankara, Turkey.

## Hurricane Eta inches closer to Nicaragua as Category 4 storm

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — Hurricane Eta inched closer to Nicaragua's Caribbean coast with potentially devastating winds Tuesday, while heavy rains thrown off by the Category 4 storm's bands already were causing rivers to overflow across Central America.

The hurricane had sustained winds of 145 mph (230 kph), and the U.S. National Hurricane Center said it was likely to maintain that strength until making landfall in the morning. It was centered about 30 miles (45 kilometers) southeast of Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua, around 7 a.m. EST (1200 GMT) and moving west-southwest near 4 mph (6 kph). Hurricane-force winds were already blowing on land.

Early Tuesday, Guillermo González, director of the country's emergency management agency, said in a news conference that as Eta began to make landfall there were reports of corrugated metal roofs flying off homes, trees, poles and power lines falling and rivers rising in the coastal area. So far, there were no reported injuries or deaths, he said.

The storm was nearing landfall just south of Bilwi, the main coastal city in the region. About 10,000 people were in shelters in that city and an equal amount were sheltered in smaller towns across the region, he said. The area had already been lashed with strong winds and heavy rain for hours.

Authorities in Nicaragua and Honduras had moved people Monday from outer islands and low-lying areas to shelters. Residents scrambled to shore up their homes, but few structures along Nicaragua's remote Caribbean coast were built to withstand such force.

Nicaragua's army moved red-helmeted troops specialized in search and rescue to Bilwi, the main coastal city in an otherwise remote and sparsely populated area. The navy spent Monday ferrying residents of coastal islands to shelters in Bilwi, also known as Puerto Cabezas.

At a shelter in Bilwi, farmer Pedro Down waited late Monday for Eta's arrival. "When it comes it can rip off all the (roof) and destroy the house, so you have to look for a safer place," he said, cradling a baby in his arms. "So I came here to save our lives."



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On television Monday, Nicaragua Vice President and first lady Rosario Murillo prayed for God to protect the country. She said Nicaragua would apply lessons learned from previous storms. "How many hurricanes have come and we have moved on, thanks to God," she said.

Along Honduras' northern Caribbean coast, torrential rains from Eta's outer bands caused some rivers to overwhelm their banks Monday, forcing evacuations.

This could be only the beginning of Eta's destruction. The storm was forecast to spend the week meandering over Central America dumping rain measured in feet not inches.

Forecasters said central and northern Nicaragua into much of Honduras could get 15 to 25 inches (380 to 635 millimeters) of rain, with 35 inches (890 millimeters) in isolated areas. Heavy rains also were likely in eastern Guatemala, southern Belize and Jamaica.

A storm surge of around 15 feet (4.5 meters) above normal tides was possible for the coast of Nicaragua, forecasters said.

The quantities of rain expected comparisons to 1998's Hurricane Mitch, one of the most deadly Atlantic hurricanes in history. An archival report from the National Hurricane Center said Mitch led to the deaths of more than 9,000 people.

Eta tripled in strength in about 24 hours, rapidly intensifying from a 40 mph (65 kph) storm Sunday morning to a 120 mph (190 kph) hurricane around midday Monday, and continuing to gain power throughout the day.

It is the eighth Atlantic storm this season to hit the meteorologists' definition for rapid intensification — a gain of 35 mph (56 kph) in wind speed in just 24 hours. It's also the fifth to reach major hurricane status. Over the past couple of decades, meteorologists have been increasingly worried about storms that just blow up in strength.

Eta is the 28th named Atlantic storm this season, tying the 2005 record for named storms. It's the first time the Greek letter Eta has been used as a storm name because after the 2005 season ended, meteorologists went back and determined a storm that should have been named wasn't.

Hurricane season still has a month to go, ending Nov. 30. In 2005, Zeta formed toward the end of December.

Associated Press writers Marlon González in Tegucigalpa, Honduras and Christopher Sherman in Mexico City, and AP Science Writer Seth Borenstein in Washington contributed to this report.

## It's here: What to watch on Election Day in America

By BILL BARROW Associated Press  
Election Day is finally here.

Or at least what we still call Election Day, since nearly 100 million Americans had already cast ballots by Tuesday. That's the result of an election system that has been reshaped by the worst pandemic in a century, prompting many voters to take advantage of advance voting rather than head to polling places in person at a time when coronavirus cases are rising.

Here's what to watch as the final votes for President Donald Trump and Democratic challenger Joe Biden are cast:

### WHAT DO AMERICANS WANT FROM A PRESIDENT?

Elections are always about where Americans want to steer the country. That's especially true this year as the U.S. confronts multiple crises and is choosing between two candidates with very different visions for the future.

Trump has downplayed the coronavirus outbreak and panned governors — virtually all Democrats — who have imposed restrictions designed to prevent the spread of the disease. He has bucked public health guidelines by holding his signature campaign rallies featuring crowds of supporters — often unmasked — packed shoulder to shoulder.

Biden has said he'd heed the advice of scientists. He's pledged to work with state and local officials across



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the country to push mask mandates and has called on Congress to pass a sweeping response package. The candidates also hold distinctly different views on everything from climate change to taxes to racial injustice.

Trump cast protests over systemic racism across the U.S. this year as radical and has emphasized a "law and order" message to appeal to his largely white base. Biden acknowledges systemic racism, picked the first Black woman to appear on a major party's presidential ticket and has positioned himself as a unifying figure.

## WHOSE TURNOUT APPROACH WINS?

The two parties took wildly different approaches to contacting voters amid the pandemic.

Democrats stopped knocking on doors in the spring, going all-digital and phone. They resumed limited in-person contacts in September. Republicans continued traditional field work the entire campaign.

The GOP can point to success in increasing their voter registration in battleground states. Democrats can point to their early voting success, including from notable slices of new voters. But only the final tally will vindicate one strategy or the other.

## WILL VOTING BE PEACEFUL?

Each major party can install official poll watchers at precincts. It's the first time in decades Republicans could use the practice after the expiration of a court order limiting their activities. So it's an open question how aggressive those official poll watchers will be in monitoring voters or even challenging eligibility.

The bigger issue is likely to be unofficial "poll watchers" — especially self-declared militias. Voter intimidation is illegal, but Trump, in the Sept. 29 presidential debate, notably refused to state plainly that he'd accept election results and instead said he is "urging my supporters to go into the polls and watch very carefully, because that's what has to happen. I am urging them to do it."

In Michigan, where federal authorities recently arrested members of anti-government paramilitary groups in an alleged plot to kidnap Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, the Democratic secretary of state tried to impose a ban on carrying firearms openly at a polling place. A Michigan judge struck down the order.

## WHITHER THE EXURBS AND SMALLER CITIES?

Trump's reelection depends on driving up his margins in rural areas and smaller towns and cities — those expansive swaths of red on the county-by-county results map from 2016.

But acres don't vote, people do, and Biden is casting a wide demographic and geographic net. His ideal coalition is anchored in metro areas, but he hopes to improve Democratic turnout among nonwhite voters and college-educated voters across the map.

There are places where the competing strategies overlap: exurban counties — those communities on the edges of the large metropolitan footprints — and counties anchored by smaller stand-alone cities. Both campaigns will be closely watching places like Forsyth County, Georgia, where 2012 Republican nominee Mitt Romney won 80% of the vote but Trump's share dropped 10 points, and Montgomery County, Ohio, which flipped from Democrat Barack Obama to Trump.

## A 1968 REDUX? HOW ABOUT 1980?

Trump spent considerable energy this year posturing as a "law and order" president, seeking to replicate 1968, when widespread unrest in the U.S benefited Republican Richard Nixon as he built his "silent majority." But Nixon wasn't the incumbent in 1968. In fact, the political atmosphere was so bad for President Lyndon Johnson that the Democrat didn't seek reelection.

Many Democrats and some Republicans are now pointing more at 1980, when Republican Ronald Reagan trounced President Jimmy Carter and the GOP flipped a whopping 12 Democratic Senate seats. Trump's standing in the polls over 2020 has tracked only slightly above where Carter spent much of the 1980 election year, as he battled inflation, high unemployment and the Iran hostage crisis. But what appeared a tight race on paper as late as October turned into a rout. Even Democratic heavyweights like Indiana Sen. Birch Bayh and South Dakota Sen. George McGovern, once a presidential nominee, fell.

It's a more polarized era four decades later. But the lesson is that Trump would defy history to win reelection amid such a cascade of crises and voter dissatisfaction.

## WHEN WILL THE RACE BE CALLED?

Absentee voting amid coronavirus has changed the vote-counting timeline, and there aren't uniform practices for counting across the states. That makes it difficult to predict when certain key battlegrounds might be called.

For example, Pennsylvania and Michigan — battlegrounds Trump won by less than 1 percentage point in 2016 — aren't expected to have complete totals for days. Florida and North Carolina, meanwhile, began processing early ballots ahead of time, with officials there forecasting earlier unofficial returns. But those two states also could have razor-thin margins.

Early returns, meanwhile, could show divergent results. Biden's expected to lead comfortably among early voters, who tend to skew toward Democrats. Trump is likely to counter with a lead among Election Day voters. Depending on which counties report which batch of votes first, perennially close states could tempt eager partisans to reach conclusions that aren't necessarily accurate.

Find AP's full election coverage at [APNews.com/Election2020](https://www.apnews.com/Election2020).

## Control of Senate at stake as Trump's allies face Democrats

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Control of the Senate is a razor-close proposition in Tuesday's election, as Republicans fight to retain their majority against a surge of Democratic candidates confronting the president's allies across a vast political map.

Both parties see paths to victory, and the outcome might not be known on election night.

From New England to the Deep South, the Midwest to the Mountain West, Republican senators are defending seats in states once considered long shots for Democrats. Washington's handling of the COVID-19 crisis, the economic fallout and the nation's uneasy mood are all on the ballot. Stunning amounts of cash have been flowing to Democrats from millions of Americans apparently voting with their pocketbooks; Republicans are tapping deep-pocketed donors to shore up GOP senators.

President Donald Trump and Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden swooped in on key states important to the Senate as they propelled their own campaigns in a final stretch.

Securing the Senate majority will be vital for the winner of the presidency. Senators confirm administration nominees, including the Cabinet, and can propel or stall the White House agenda. With Republicans now controlling the chamber, 53-47, three or four seats will determine party control, depending on who wins the presidency because the vice president can break a tie.

"Let's run through the tape," said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, making a final campaign swing Monday in Kentucky as he faces Democratic former fighter pilot Amy McGrath.

McConnell said he hoped to remain the Republican majority leader alongside Trump. But he acknowledged the tough Senate races could flip control to the Democrats. "Obviously, that depends on what happens," he said.

The campaigns are competing across an expansive Senate map as Democrats put Republicans on defense deep into Trump country.

What started as a lopsided election cycle with Republicans defending 23 Senate seats, compared with 12 for Democrats, quickly became a starker referendum on the president and his party.

Some of the nation's most well-known senators are in the fights of their political lives.

In South Carolina, Democrat Jaime Harrison is trying to topple GOP Sen. Lindsey Graham, one of the president's top allies.

The two crisscrossed the state in a rush of final campaigning, Graham acknowledging the tight contest after Harrison raised a whopping \$100 million by October, an unheard-of sum for the state. The senator, making TV appeals for cash, said he, too, hit the \$100 million mark over the weekend.

Stuck in Washington to confirm Trump's Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett a week before Election Day, senators quickly fanned out — some alongside the president — for last-ditch tours, often

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socially distanced in the pandemic, to shore up votes.

GOP Sen. Thom Tillis of North Carolina joined Trump's rally in Fayetteville on Monday as he struggled to fend off Democrat Cal Cunningham despite the married challenger's sexting scandal with a public relations strategist.

In one of the most-watched races in the nation, Maine GOP Sen. Susan Collins made a final campaign stop in Aroostook County near her hometown, visiting workers in a sawmill. Democratic challenger Sara Gideon met voters at the Whistle Stop cafe for breakfast Monday.

The Maine race is one of several that could push past Election Day if no candidate breaks the 50% threshold. Collins has typically rallied support as a centrist with an independent streak, but the tight contest shows the difficulty GOP senators have appealing to Trump's most ardent backers while also retaining support from more moderate voters.

Democrats have more than one route to secure the three or four seats needed to capture the majority, and GOP strategists privately conceded the incumbents will almost certainly suffer defeats in some key races.

Younger voters and more minorities are pushing some states toward Democrats. In Colorado, the parties have essentially stopped spending money for or against GOP Sen. Cory Gardner because it seems he is heading toward defeat by Democrat John Hickenlooper, a former governor.

Arizona could see two Democratic senators for the first time since last century if former astronaut Mark Kelly maintains his advantage over GOP Sen. Martha McSally for the seat once held by the late Republican John McCain.

Even the open seat in Kansas, which hasn't elected a Democrat to the Senate since 1932, is being contested.

"The better President Trump does in a state, the easier it is to win any race," said Corry Bliss, a GOP strategist.

The biggest risks to Democrats come in Alabama and Michigan.

Republicans are expecting to reclaim the seat in Alabama, where Democratic Sen. Doug Jones pulled off a rare 2017 special election win in the Trump stronghold but now wages an uphill campaign against Republican Tommy Tuberville, a former Auburn football coach.

In the presidential battleground of Michigan, Republicans have made an aggressive push for John James, a Black Republican businessman, as he rakes in cash to take on Democratic Sen. Gary Peters.

"We think the numbers are moving," said Senate Leadership Fund president Steven Law.

Still, voter turnout during the COVID-19 crisis remains key, and volatile, as more Americans than ever — nearing 100 million — cast early ballots.

Both Biden and Trump touched down in Georgia, where the state is seeing a boost of new voters. Georgia's two Senate seats are at stake and could very well push to a Jan. 5 runoff if no candidate reaches beyond the 50% threshold.

GOP Sen. David Perdue, the former business executive Trump calls his favorite senator, is working to fend off Democrat Jon Ossoff, another candidate who has benefited from the "green wave" of donations.

Separately, GOP Sen. Kelly Loeffler faces Republican Rep. Doug Collins, as well as Democrat Raphael Warnock, in a special election for the seat she was appointed to fill with the retirement of GOP Sen. Johnny Isakson.

It's expected to be a long count in races across the country.

The political landscape is quickly changing from six years ago, when most of these senators last faced voters. It's a reminder of how sharply the political climate has shifted in the Trump era.

In Montana, Republican Sen. Steve Daines is trying to brush back Democrat Steve Bullock, the governor, in a state where Trump was popular. Democrats created an opening by working hard to recruit a well-known candidate in Bullock, who also ran in the party's primary for president.

Iowa Sen. Joni Ernst is fighting for a second term against Democrat Theresa Greenfield. Texas Sen. John Cornyn faces an upstart Democrat, MJ Hegar, in the once solidly Republican state.

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And in Alaska, newcomer Al Gross, a doctor, has broken state fundraising records in part with viral campaign ads as he challenges GOP Sen. Dan Sullivan.

Associated Press writers Mary Clare Jalonick and Alan Fram in Washington contributed to this report.

Find AP's full election coverage at [APNews.com/Election2020](https://www.apnews.com/Election2020).

## Trump, Biden cede stage to voters for Election Day verdict

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, ZEKE MILLER and ALEXANDRA JAFFE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — After a campaign marked by rancor and fear, Americans on Tuesday decide between President Donald Trump and Democrat Joe Biden, selecting a leader to steer a nation battered by a surging pandemic that has killed more than 231,000 people, cost millions their jobs and reshaped daily life.

Nearly 100 million Americans voted early, and now it falls to Election Day voters to finish the job, ending a campaign that was upended by the coronavirus and defined by tensions over who could best address it. Each candidate declared the other fundamentally unfit to lead a nation grappling with COVID-19 and facing foundational questions about racial justice and economic fairness.

Biden entered Election Day with multiple paths to victory while Trump, playing catch-up in a number of battleground states, had a narrower but still feasible road to clinch 270 Electoral College votes. Control of the Senate was at stake, too: Democrats needed to net three seats if Biden captured the White House to gain control of all of Washington for the first time in a decade. The House was expected to remain under Democratic control.

Voters braved long lines and the threat of the virus to cast ballots as they chose between two starkly different visions of America for the next four years. The record-setting early vote — and legal skirmishing over how it will be counted — drew unsupported allegations of fraud from Trump, who refused to guarantee he would honor the election's result.

Fighting to the end for every vote, Biden was headed to Philadelphia and his native Scranton on Tuesday as part of a closing get-out-the-vote effort before awaiting election results in his hometown of Wilmington, Delaware. His running mate, Sen. Kamala Harris, was visiting Detroit, a heavily Black city in battleground Michigan. Both of their spouses were headed out, too, as the Democrats reached for a clear victory.

Trump, after a morning appearance on his favored network, Fox News Channel, planned to visit his campaign headquarters in Virginia. He invited hundreds of supporters to an election night party in the East Room of the White House.

The hard-fought campaign left voters on both sides eager to move on.

"I just want it to be done," said Starlet Holden, a 26-year-old medical biller from New York City, who planned to vote for Biden but spoke for many on both sides of the campaign.

On their final full day on the campaign trail, Trump and Biden broke sharply over the mechanics of the vote itself while visiting the most fiercely contested battleground, Pennsylvania.

The Republican president threatened legal action to block the counting of ballots received after Election Day. If Pennsylvania ballot counting takes several days, as is allowed, Trump claimed without evidence that "cheating can happen like you have never seen."

In fact, there are roughly 20 states that allow mail-in ballots received after Election Day to be counted — up to nine days and longer in some states. Litigation has centered on just a few where states have made changes in large part due to the coronavirus.

Biden told voters in Pennsylvania that the very fabric of the nation was at stake and offered his own election as the firmest rebuke possible to a president who he said had spent "four years dividing us at every turn."

"Tomorrow's the beginning of a new day. Tomorrow we can put an end to a president that's left hard-working Americans out in the cold!" Biden said in Pittsburgh. "If you elect me as president, I'm gonna act to heal this country."



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Trump argued, at a stop in Wisconsin, that Biden was "not what our country needs." He added: "This isn't about — yeah, it is about me, I guess, when you think about it."

For Trump, the election stood as a judgment on his four years in office, a term in which he bent Washington to his will, challenged faith in its institutions and changed how America was viewed across the globe. In a country divided along lines of race and class, he often acted as an insurgent against the very government he led, undercutting its scientists and bureaucracy and doing battle with the media.

The nation braced for what was to come — and a result that might not be known for days.

A new anti-scale fence was erected around the White House. And in downtowns ranging from New York to Denver to Minneapolis, workers boarded up businesses lest the vote lead to unrest of the sort that broke out earlier this year amid protests over racial inequality.

Just a short walk from the White House, for block after block, stores had their windows and doors covered. Some kept just a front door open, hoping to attract a little business.

Both candidates voted early, but first lady Melania Trump was set to cast her ballot Tuesday near Mar-a-Lago, the couple's estate in Palm Beach, Florida.

The candidates blitzed through the battleground states on Monday, with Biden also pushing into Ohio, a state once thought to be safe for Trump. The president, for his part, packed in five rallies, Air Force One streaking across the sky as he drew crowds in North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin and then back in Michigan again.

His finale stretched past midnight in Grand Rapids, where he had also held his last rally in 2016. It marked the end of an era in American politics, one in part defined by the massive and exuberant gatherings that the president continued to hold despite warnings from his government's own public health experts to avoid crowds during the pandemic.

The next president will inherit an anxious nation, reeling from a once-in-a-century health crisis that has closed schools and businesses and that is worsening as the weather turns cold.

Trump in Grand Rapids insisted anew that the nation was "rounding the turn" on the virus. But Dr. Deborah Birx, the coordinator of the White House coronavirus task force, broke with the president and joined a chorus of Trump administration scientists sounding the alarm about the current spike in infections.

"We are entering the most concerning and most deadly phase of this pandemic," Birx wrote in a memo distributed to top administration officials. She added that the nation was not implementing "balanced" measures needed to slow the spread of the virus. One recipient confirmed the contents that were initially reported Monday by The Washington Post.

The pandemic has shadowed the campaign, which has largely been a referendum of Trump's handling of the virus.

In Concord, New Hampshire, 70-year-old Linda Eastman said she was giving her vote to Trump, saying, "Maybe he wasn't perfect with the coronavirus, but I think he did the best that he could with what he had."

In Virginia Beach, it was a vote for Biden from 54-year-old Gabriella Cochrane, who said she thought the former vice president would "surround himself with the brightest and the best" to fight the pandemic.

The challenge of counting a record-setting early vote added a layer of uncertainty to an election marked by suspicions fueled by an incumbent who has consistently trailed in the polls.

Trump, in Pennsylvania, zeroed in on the state's process to count mail-in votes that arrive after Election Day, vowing that "we're going in with our lawyers" as soon as the polls close. He tweeted — without evidence — that "violence in the street" could follow the Supreme Court's decision to grant an extension to count the votes arriving after Tuesday.

Trump offered himself to voters as the same outsider he first pitched to voters four years ago, insisting he's still not a politician. Presenting himself as the last barrier protecting an American way of life under siege from radical forces, he repeatedly tried to portray Biden, who is considered a moderate Democrat, as a tool of extreme leftists.

Biden, for his part, cast Trump as an incompetent leader in a time of crisis, trying to connect what he saw as the president's failures in containing the virus and on other matters to the everyday lives of Americans.



Jaffe reported from Pittsburgh. Miller reported from Grand Rapids, Mich. Associated Press writers Will Weissert in Washington and Bill Barrow in Atlanta contributed to this report.

Find AP's full election coverage at [APNews.com/Election2020](https://apnews.com/Election2020).

## UK to roll out rapid COVID-19 testing in English city

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A half-million people in the English city of Liverpool will be regularly tested for COVID-19 in Britain's first citywide trial of widespread, rapid testing that the government hopes will be a new weapon in combating the pandemic.

Testing will begin later this week at sites throughout the city using a variety of technologies, including new methods that can provide results in an hour or less, the government said in a statement Tuesday. Everyone who lives or works in the city in northwestern England will be offered the test, regardless of whether they have symptoms.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson hopes mass testing will provide a way out of the coronavirus crisis, which has killed more than 46,000 people across the U.K. in Europe's deadliest outbreak. England is scheduled to go into a second national lockdown on Thursday as the government struggles to control a second wave of infections that risks swamping hospitals and emergency rooms.

"These tests will help identify the many thousands of people in the city who don't have symptoms but can still infect others without knowing," Johnson said. "Dependent on their success in Liverpool, we will aim to distribute millions of these new rapid tests between now and Christmas and empower local communities to use them to drive down transmission in their areas."

Liverpool has one of the highest infection rates in England, with more than 410 cases per 100,000 people, compared to 225 per 100,000 for the nation as a whole.

Mayor Joe Anderson said he expects the program to last six to eight weeks as authorities work to bring the local outbreak under control. Rapid testing for health-care workers, teachers and students will be particularly useful in helping the city return to normal after the national lockdown ends, he said.

About 2,000 military personnel will help the National Health Service and independent contractors deliver the tests.

"This first deployment of whole city testing in Liverpool is a really important step forward and is thanks to the big increase in testing capacity and our investment in new testing technologies," said Dido Harding, the head of the Test and Trace program.

Follow AP's coronavirus pandemic coverage at <https://apnews.com/hub/virus-outbreak> and <https://apnews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak>

## Huge voter turnout expected despite virus, political rancor

By CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY and ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE Associated Press

The scourge of a global pandemic produced an election season like no other in the U.S., persuading record numbers of Americans to cast their ballots early, forcing states to make changes to long-established election procedures and leading to hundreds of lawsuits over how votes will be cast and which ballots will be counted.

Polls began opening Tuesday as election officials warned that millions of absentee ballots could slow the tallies, perhaps for days, in some key battleground states and as President Donald Trump threatened legal action to prevent ballots from being counted after Election Day.

Amid the tumult, tens of millions of Americans heeded warnings to act early, prompted by concerns over Postal Service delays and worries about the virus spreading through crowded polling places.

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"Come hell or high water," said Kristen Clarke, executive director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. "It feels like that has been the attitude voters have needed to make sure their voices are heard this year."

At least 98.8 million people voted before Election Day, about 71 percent of the nearly 139 million ballots cast during the 2016 presidential election, according to data collected by The Associated Press. Given that a few states, including Texas, had already exceeded their total 2016 vote count, experts were predicting record turnout this year.

Those yet to vote headed to polling places on Tuesday despite another spike in COVID-19 cases that has hit much of the country. Democrat Joe Biden's campaign had emphasized early voting due to the pandemic. Among those braving the polls were voters who may have wanted to vote by mail but waited too long to request a ballot or those who didn't receive their ballots in time.

Others were likely persuaded by the president's rhetoric attacking mail voting or simply preferred to vote in person. With Democrats dominating the early vote, Republicans were expected to comprise a large share of Tuesday's voting.

In the months leading up to Election Day, election officials had to deal with a pandemic that has infected more than 9 million Americans and killed more than 230,000, forcing them to make systemic changes largely on the fly and mostly without federal money. Meanwhile, Trump repeatedly sought to undermine the election with unsubstantiated claims of widespread voter fraud.

He has particularly targeted the crucial battleground state of Pennsylvania, after the U.S. Supreme Court allowed — at least for now — a three-day extension for receiving and counting absentee ballots. Over the weekend, Trump said that as soon as the polls close there on Tuesday, "We're going in with our lawyers."

Misinformation about election procedures, concerns about confrontations at the polls and reports of mail slowdowns also clouded the run-up to Election Day.

"The eyes of the American public and the world are on election officials as we administer free and fair elections during this unprecedented time," said New Mexico Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver, who also is president of the National Association of Secretaries of State. "Rest assured, we are ready. We have coordinated with all levels of government and are in constant communication to ensure a smooth election."

The group has been working with the National Association of State Election Directors to help states hammer out plans for protecting against foreign and domestic cyberattacks, countering misinformation and strengthening an election infrastructure tested by massive early voting and pandemic precautions.

Election officials across some 10,000 voting jurisdictions scrambled to purchase personal-protective equipment, find larger polling places, replace veteran poll workers who opted to sit out this year's election due to health concerns and add temporary workers to deal with the avalanche of mail ballots.

Most states, even ones with broad mask mandates, stopped short of forcing voters to wear them at the polls. Instead, they urged voters to don masks while providing options for those who refused.

"Ten thousand election officials, locals to every community in the country, have shifted on a dime and planned this election in record time and are working very hard to count every legitimate ballot," said Noah Praetz, a former election official in Illinois who has been helping election offices adapt their processes this year. "They are catching rare incidents of bad behavior, and they are ensuring the integrity of this election."

Given the last-minute changes and decentralized nature of U.S. elections, problems were expected. In every election, equipment malfunctions, polling places open late and lines can get long, particularly in urban areas.

On Tuesday, lines will be extended by social-distancing rules and could get worse if large numbers of voters who requested a mail ballot show up at the polls after deciding they would rather vote in person.

In some states, those voters will be required to cast a provisional ballot — one that ultimately will be counted if the voter is eligible and did not previously vote. But this also triggers a lengthier check-in process, leading to delays. Millions of absentee ballots were still outstanding as of Monday, including 1.3 million in Florida and 700,000 in Pennsylvania.

Election officials have emphasized that while long lines are not acceptable, it does not mean there has been any sort of widespread failure. They also warned that isolated incidents of voter intimidation were

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possible given the level of political rancor this year, but that safeguards are in place and voters should not be concerned about casting a ballot in person.

"There is a lot to be angry about and to fix after Election Day," said Wendy Weiser, director of the democracy program at the Brennan Center for Justice. "But despite those unprecedented strains, the system was able to pull it together and accommodate this incredible surge in voting. That required a lot of ingenuity, commitment to democracy and hard work, especially by our election officials."

\_\_\_\_ Cassidy reported from Atlanta and Izaguirre from Lindenhurst, N.Y. Associated Press writers Nicholas Riccardi in Denver and Julie Carr Smyth in Columbus, Ohio, contributed to this report.

\_\_\_\_ Associated Press coverage of voting rights receives support in part from Carnegie Corporation of New York. The AP is solely responsible for this content.

## Nation by nation, the world watches Election Day in the US

By The Associated Press undefined

For four years, the world's nations have watched as a very different American president engages with the international community — or doesn't.

Longtime alliances have been strained, agreements wiped away, tariffs erected, funding withdrawn. Some nations have been the objects of presidential derision. Others, like North Korea, have been on the receiving end of diplomatic overtures once considered unthinkable.

For countries around the planet, the presidency of Donald Trump in its first term has been, it is safe to say, a singular experience to watch. Now that an inflection point in Trump's time in office is at hand with Tuesday's U.S. election, what's at stake if his presidency ends — or if it continues? Nation by nation, how is Election Day in the United States being watched, considered, assessed?

Stay tuned to this file as Associated Press correspondents from around the world weigh in throughout U.S. Election Day with insight and analysis about how their regions view what's happening in the United States — and what the various stakes might be.

### CHINA

It's all about trade for China — and trade is about hitting economic growth targets at home and being a technology leader abroad.

The stormy commercial relationship between the world's two biggest economies since President Donald Trump took office is front and center in China's view of the U.S. election. While a win for Democratic challenger Joe Biden offers no guarantee of relief, Beijing hopes to avoid a further deterioration and see negotiations put on an even keel.

"People are concerned. They want to know what their future is to be," said investor and prominent blogger Ding Chenling. "Whoever is the U.S. president has no choice: They will have to do business with China."

Trump seized on longstanding concerns about Chinese commercial espionage, the forced handover of technology, and state subsidies for Chinese companies. He elevated them into a high-stakes tariff war launched in 2018, and last year tightened controls on Chinese purchases of computer chips and other high-tech components.

That could place a drag on China's ambitions to be a global leader in cutting edge technologies and build, as it calls it, a "moderately prosperous society" at home, although the loss of access to U.S. technology is also motivating a drive for self-sufficiency.

Meanwhile, Trump's vow that China would pay for allegedly cheating the U.S. consumer has yet to yield more balanced trade.

September exports to the U.S. rose 20.5% over a year ago to \$44 billion as China's factories continued to assemble most of the world's smartphones, personal computers and consumer electronics, along with much of the clothing, housewares and toys sold in the U.S.

That means that, despite disruptions from trade tension and the pandemic, the ruling Communist Party

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is likely to hit its economic targets for the time being. Still, calming the stormy seas of trade could provide the long-term assurance Beijing's leaders seek.

"I believe Joe Biden would ease relations," said Qu Zhan, a Beijing health care worker.

## THE PHILIPPINES

The next U.S. president could reshape the country's relationship with President Rodrigo Duterte, who leads a key American treaty ally in Asia — but presents a dilemma.

Duterte has been regarded by international watchdogs as a human rights calamity for his notorious anti-drug crackdown that has left thousands of mostly poor suspects dead. He has been accused of undermining one of Asia's most vibrant democracies — an American legacy.

Known for his expletive-laced outbursts, the 75-year-old leader is hypersensitive to criticism of his so-called war on drugs. He once told then-President Barack Obama in a speech to "go to hell."

Unlike his predecessor, President Donald Trump has not publicly raised red flags over Duterte's brutal campaign. Trump's gambit won him cozier ties with Duterte, who called on Filipino Americans in March to vote Republican, saying, "you are getting the best deal with Trump."

But the Filipino leader has pressed on with his anti-U.S. broadsides while nurturing ties with China and Russia. In February, his government notified Washington of its intent to terminate a key security pact, although he later delayed the effect of that decision.

"Do we need America to survive as a nation?" he asked. He essentially said, no.

While a Trump reelection would likely mean business as usual for Duterte, a Biden presidency carries the prospect of a stronger U.S. pushback against Duterte at the risk of further alienating the leader of a crucial ally with less than two years left in office.

—Jim Gomez in Manila, Philippines

## Attack in Vienna targeted nightlife; suspect had IS ties

By PHILIPP JENNE and FRANK JORDANS Associated Press

VIENNA (AP) — At least one Islamic extremist — a 20-year-old armed with an automatic rifle and a fake explosive vest — rampaged through a crowded Vienna nightlife district hours ahead of a coronavirus lockdown, leaving four people dead before being killed by police, Austrian authorities said Tuesday.

The suspect in Monday night's attack was identified as a young Austrian-North Macedonian dual citizen with a previous terror conviction for attempting to join the Islamic State extremist group in Syria.

Unverified video showed the suspect, dressed in white coveralls, firing off bursts apparently at random as he ran down the Austrian capital's cobblestone streets.

Police have arrested several other people and searched 15 houses and apartments, Interior Minister Karl Nehammer told the Austrian news agency APA.

Two men and two women died from their injuries in the attack, Chancellor Sebastian Kurz said. He said a police officer who tried to get in the way of the attacker was shot and wounded, and another 14 people were hurt.

Vienna's hospital service said seven people were in life-threatening condition Tuesday after the attack, APA reported.

"Yesterday's attack was clearly an Islamist terror attack," Kurz said. "It was an attack out of hatred — hatred for our fundamental values, hatred for our way of life, hatred for our democracy in which all people have equal rights and dignity."

The attacker, identified as Kujtim Fejzulai, was sentenced to 22 months in prison in April 2019 because he had tried to travel to Syria to join the Islamic State group. He was granted early release in December under juvenile law.

Nehammer told APA that Fejzulai had posted a photo on his Instagram account before the attack that showed him with two of the weapons he apparently used.

"(The suspect) was equipped with a fake explosive vest and an automatic rifle, a handgun and a



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machete to carry out this repugnant attack on innocent citizens," Nehammer said.

Authorities were still trying to determine whether further attackers may be on the run. People in Vienna were urged to stay at home if possible on Tuesday and children did not have to go to school. Some 1,000 police officers were on duty in the city on Tuesday morning.

The shooting began shortly after 8 p.m. (1900 GMT) Monday near Vienna's main synagogue as many people were enjoying a last night of open restaurants and bars before a month-long coronavirus lockdown, which started at midnight.

Vienna police chief Gerhard Puerstl said the attacker was killed at 8:09 p.m. But authorities continued to look for potential further assailants.

"We will unearth and chase down the perpetrators, those behind them and like-minded people and give them the punishment they deserve," Kurz said. "We will pursue all those who have anything to do with this outrage by all available means."

His government on Tuesday ordered three days of official mourning, with flags on public buildings to be flown at half-staff until Thursday, APA reported.

Austria held a minute of silence at midday Tuesday, accompanied by the tolling of bells in the capital. Kurz, President Alexander Van der Bellen and other leading politicians laid wreaths and candles in the area where the attack took place.

Rabbi Schlomo Hofmeister said he saw at least one person shoot at people sitting outside at bars in the street below his window near the city's main synagogue.

"They were shooting at least 100 rounds just outside our building," Hofmeister said. "All these bars have tables outside. This evening is the last evening before the lockdown."

Authorities said residents have uploaded 20,000 videos of the attack to help police with their investigation.

The attack drew swift condemnation and assurances of support from leaders around Europe, including from French President Emmanuel Macron, whose country has experienced three Islamist attacks in recent weeks, and German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

U.S. President Donald Trump tweeted Monday night as he prepared for his final rally ahead of Election Day: "Our prayers are with the people of Vienna after yet another vile act of terrorism in Europe."

"These evil attacks against innocent people must stop," Trump added. "The U.S. stands with Austria, France, and all of Europe in the fight against terrorists, including radical Islamic terrorists."

Egypt's Al-Azhar, the Sunni Muslim world's foremost religious institution, condemned the "terrorist attacks" in Vienna. It called on international institutions "to stand united" against terrorism and reject violence and hatred.

Austria's military sent 75 soldiers to guard key sites in Vienna, freeing up police to continue the investigation.

Frank Jordans reported from Berlin. Kirsten Grieshaber and Geir Moulson contributed from Berlin.

## Iran's supreme leader, quoting Trump, mocks US election

By NASSER KARIMI Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's supreme leader mocked America's presidential election Tuesday in a televised address, quoting President Donald Trump's own baseless claims about voter fraud to criticize the vote as Tehran marked the 1979 U.S. Embassy hostage crisis.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei reiterated a long-standing Iranian position that it didn't matter whether Trump or Joe Biden wins the vote, but the stakes couldn't be higher for the Islamic Republic.

Another four years could see Trump's maximum-pressure campaigns further expand as it crushes the Iranian economy and stops Tehran from openly selling its crude oil abroad. Biden meanwhile has said he would consider re-entering Tehran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, providing possible relief to the beleaguered Iranian rial.

"If you look at their own situation, it's interesting to watch. The incumbent president, who is supposed

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to hold the elections, says this is the most-rigged U.S. election throughout history," Khamenei said, not acknowledging that individual U.S. states run the vote. "Who says this? The sitting president who is arranging the elections himself. His opponent says Trump intends to widely cheat. This is American democracy."

Khamenei added that the result of the vote "is none of our business, meaning it won't influence our policy at all. Our policy is clear and well-calculated and people coming and going will have no impact on it."

Khamenei, 81, as supreme leader has final say on all matters of state in Iran. He approved the efforts at reaching the nuclear deal, which saw Iran agree to limit its enrichment of uranium in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions.

But Trump withdrew from the deal in 2018, complaining it didn't address Iran's ballistic missile program nor its regional policies. Iran later withdrew from all the deal's limits, though Tehran still allows U.N. inspectors access to nuclear sites. Satellite photos show it is now starting new construction work at its Natanz nuclear site, which was targeted in a reported sabotage attack in July.

Khamenei spoke as the coronavirus pandemic forced authorities to cancel a planned commemoration of the Nov. 4, 1979 takeover of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran. That started a 444-day hostage crisis that transfixed America and still affects relations between Washington and Iran today.

Anti-Americanism remains a cornerstone of Iranian policy, over four decades after the takeover.

"Such an empire will not last long. It's obvious that when a regime reaches this point, it will not live for much longer and will be destroyed," Khamenei said of America. "Of course, some of them if they take office will destroy America sooner, and some others if elected will cause America to be destroyed a bit later."

Khamenei's speech was marking the birth of Prophet Muhammad based on the Iranian calendar and he began his remarks with comments deeply critical of French President Emmanuel Macron over his defense of caricatures of the prophet, which has sparked protests by Muslims across the world amid two attacks in France. The supreme leader accused France of harboring "terrorist" groups targeting the Islamic Republic after earlier supporting Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein during his 1980s war against Iran.

He also called for an end of the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, calling it a "bitter incident."

"The lands that were occupied by Armenia should be returned to Azerbaijan and security of Armenians of their lands should be provided," Khamenei said. "There should be no violation of international borders and terrorists should not come close to our borders. If they get close, there will be an encounter" with Iran.

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Associated Press writer Jon Gambrell in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, contributed to this report.

## The Latest: UK to test all Liverpool residents for the virus

By The Associated Press undefined

LONDON — The British government plans to trial a new citywide coronavirus testing program in Liverpool, offering regular testing to everyone who lives and works in the city of 500,000 in an effort to slow the spread of the virus.

Testing will take place throughout the city using a variety of technologies, including new methods that can provide results in an hour or less.

The Department of Health says, "these more advanced tests will help identify infectious individuals who are not displaying symptoms ... so they can self-isolate and prevent the virus from spreading."

The Liverpool trial is seen as a test of how Britain might be able to roll out mass testing across the country, which is battling a surge in coronavirus infections. England is scheduled to begin a second national lockdown on Thursday.

Liverpool has one of the highest infection rates in England, with more than 410 cases per 100,000 people.

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HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE VIRUS OUTBREAK:

- Huge voter turnout expected in U.S. despite virus, political rancor
- 'Raw exposed nerves': Anxious nation awaits Election Day
- Germany to expand use of antigen tests, hoping that's a cheaper way to keep nursing homes safe

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— U.S. hospitals are scrambling to hire more nurses as the coronavirus pandemic surges, leading to stiff competition and increased costs

— Follow AP's coronavirus pandemic coverage at <http://apnews.com/VirusOutbreak> and <https://apnews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak>

## HERE'S WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING:

**BERLIN** — As Europe tries to break a surging wave of coronavirus infections, Germany is counting on a new type of test to avoid closing nursing homes to visitors, a move that caused considerable anguish among residents and relatives in the spring.

So-called antigen tests, which look for a specific protein on the virus, were first launched months ago. They are cheap and fast, but experts said at the time they are also less accurate than the standard PCR test, which detects even the tiniest genetic trace of the virus.

Still, Germany — which has managed to contain the spread of the outbreak better than many of its neighbors — announced recently that it is bulk-buying millions of antigen tests each month.

"We have a new strategy," Chancellor Angela Merkel told reporters. "We can now basically perform rapid tests on visitors to nursing and care homes."

Nursing homes will receive up to 20 free monthly tests per resident. These can be used to test patients, staff and — crucially — visiting relatives, who might be unwitting carriers of COVID-19.

**COLOMBO, Sri Lanka** — Authorities in Sri Lanka have extended the school holidays for two more weeks, postponing the opening of classes amid a surge of COVID-19 patients from two clusters in Colombo and the capital's suburbs.

Schools had been scheduled to reopen Nov. 9, but the government announced Tuesday that classes would not resume until Nov. 23.

Schools were suddenly closed last month as a precautionary measure after a new cluster of coronavirus infections centered on a garment factory erupted in the densely populated Western province, where the capital is. Another cluster centered on the country's main fish market arose later.

The two clusters have now grown to 7,856 confirmed cases, with 275 in the previous 24 hours. The total caseload for the pandemic stands at 11,335 with 21 deaths from COVID-19.

**NEW DELHI, India** — India has registered 38,310 confirmed coronavirus cases in the last 24 hours, maintaining an overall downturn even as fresh infections continue to appear in its capital, New Delhi.

The Health Ministry on Tuesday also reported 490 more fatalities from COVID-19, raising the overall death toll to 1,23,097.

With a total of 8.2 million coronavirus cases during the pandemic, India is the second worst-hit country behind the United States. But it has been witnessing a steady fall in daily cases.

Still, health officials say New Delhi remains in the grip of its third and worst wave of infections yet. In the past week, there were more than 5,200 cases on average every day. The Health Ministry attributes the city's surge to the festival season, with people crowding markets for shopping.

**TOPEKA, Kan.** — A surge in confirmed coronavirus cases in Kansas is hitting some of the state's most rural counties hard and has officials in even urban areas worrying that people aren't following public health advice closely enough.

Of the 20 Kansas counties with the largest number of new cases per 1,000 residents in the past two weeks, all but two have fewer than 10,000 residents, and a dozen of them have fewer than 3,000.

But health officials elsewhere say the virus is also spreading because people are still going to family gatherings such as weddings, baby showers and barbecues. The health officer in the state's most populous county of Johnson County in the Kansas City area says 20% of its cases since Sept. 1 are people infecting others in their own households.

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OMAHA, Neb. — The surge in COVID-19 cases in Nebraska has led to record-high hospitalizations that are straining the state's health care system, officials said Monday.

The number of people hospitalized in the state with the novel coronavirus set another record on Sunday with 613, one more than the previous day. Hospitalizations from COVID-19 have surged over the last month, according to the state's online tracking portal.

Dr. Cary Ward, chief medical officer for CHI Health's network of 14 hospitals across eastern Nebraska and western Iowa, said during a video call with reporters that there had been a doubling of COVID-positive patients in the last several weeks in the network. He said if the trend continues "every hospital in the state could be at capacity in a very short period of time."

Nebraska's largest hospitals have started limiting elective surgeries as they work to cope with the increase in COVID-19 hospitalizations. The number of confirmed cases increased by 934 on Sunday in Nebraska, which has the seventh-highest rate of new cases in the nation.

DES MOINES, Iowa — The number of people being treated for the coronavirus in Iowa hospitals continued to soar Monday, prompting doctors and hospital officials to warn their facilities and staff could be overwhelmed without serious efforts to curtail the virus spread.

Data from the Iowa Department of Public Health indicated 1,469 new confirmed cases and 17 additional deaths in the past 24 hours. That follows a weekend in which more than 2,800 new cases were reported each day.

The seven-day rolling average of the positivity rate in Iowa has risen over the past two weeks from 25.5% on Oct. 18 to 36.4% on Sunday, according to researchers at Johns Hopkins University. Iowa's rate is now third in the nation, behind South Dakota and Wyoming.

All 99 Iowa counties have a positivity rate above 7.5% and 46 are above 15%, an indication that the virus is aggressively spreading statewide.

HARTFORD, Conn. — Rising rates of the novel coronavirus in Connecticut have postponed plans to resume jury trials in state courts, judicial officials said Monday.

Chief Justice Richard Robinson in September announced a proposal to have residents begin reporting for jury duty again on Nov. 2, about eight months after trials were put on hold in March as the virus swept through the state.

The plan has been put on hold indefinitely and will be reassessed weekly, said Rhonda Stearley-Hebert, a spokeswoman for the Judicial Branch.

Gov. Ned Lamont's office has said the number of cases has been rising steadily, including a one-day positive test rate of 6.1% on Thursday. Friday's rate was back down to 2.5%. The rate had been below 1% over the summer.

Connecticut also continues to see an increase in hospitalizations and deaths. There were 329 people in the state hospitalized with COVID-19 on Friday, the most since early June. The state also reported seven more virus-related deaths Friday, bringing the state's total during the pandemic to 4,616. More than 71,000 people in the state have tested positive.

HONOLULU — U.S. Surgeon General Jerome Adams is pleading not guilty to being in a Hawaii park that was closed amid coronavirus restrictions.

Adams' attorney, Michael Green, entered the plea on his behalf. Adams was not in Hawaii for Monday's hearing. His assistant, who was also cited with him last month, also pleaded not guilty.

Adams and his aide were in Hawaii helping with a spike in coronavirus cases. When a police officer found them at Kualoa Regional Park, which was closed to prevent gatherings of people, Adams was taking in the view and snapping photos at the park on Oahu's northeastern coast, according to the citation.

Adams told the officer he was visiting Hawaii to work with the governor for COVID-19 and didn't know



parks were closed. The offense is a misdemeanor and carries a fine of up to \$5,000, up to a year in jail, or both.

## Germany eyes antigen tests to keep elderly safe from virus

By FRANK JORDANS and NADINE ACHOUÏ-LESAGE Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — As Europe tries to break a surge in coronavirus infections, Germany is counting on a new type of test to avoid closing nursing homes to visitors, a move that caused considerable anguish among residents and relatives in the spring.

So-called antigen tests, which look for a specific protein on the virus, were first launched months ago. They are cheap and fast, but experts said at the time they are also less accurate than the standard PCR test, which detects even the tiniest genetic trace of the virus.

Still, Germany — which has managed to contain the spread of the outbreak better than many of its neighbors — announced recently that it is bulk-buying millions of antigen tests each month.

“We have a new strategy,” Chancellor Angela Merkel told reporters Monday. “We can now basically perform rapid tests on visitors to nursing and care homes.”

Nursing homes will receive up to 20 free monthly tests per resident. These can be used to test patients, staff and — crucially — visiting relatives, who might be unwitting carriers of COVID-19, posing a potentially devastating threat.

“Health insurers will cover the costs for a certain number of visitors each month,” Merkel said. “That’s huge progress in terms of protection.”

Germany has one of the world’s oldest populations. More than 24 million people are 60 or older and about 900,000 people live in nursing homes. A further 2.5 million younger people have serious disabilities.

That means almost 30% of Germany’s population of 83 million are particularly vulnerable to the virus, Merkel said.

“Almost everyone knows somebody they don’t want to infect,” she said.

Germany has reported about 550,000 coronavirus cases — less than half the number recorded in Britain, Spain and France. Germany’s confirmed virus death toll of 10,669 is also one-fourth of Britain’s.

A Health Ministry spokeswoman told The Associated Press that manufacturers have agreed to supply Germany with 9 million antigen tests in November and 11.5 million tests in December.

Experts caution that while antigen tests have become more accurate, they should not be seen as a replacement for the standard PCR method.

Scientists in Switzerland recently scrutinized two widely available antigen tests, sold by Chicago-based Abbott Laboratories and Swiss pharma giant Roche. The researchers concluded that out of 100 people infected with the virus, only between 85 and 89 tested positive using the antigen method.

“It does fulfill the criteria that are published by the (World Health Organization), which should be more than 80% sensitivity,” said Isabella Eckerle, who heads the Center for Emerging Viral Diseases at the University of Geneva, where the tests were validated.

While the tests are less accurate, they provide quick results, she noted.

“One big advantage of these tests would be that you, for example, can build up a decentralized testing center,” Eckerle told The AP. “So you build up a tent, let’s say, in front of a school or in a park, and then people can come. And then after 15 minutes, they will know if they are positive or not.”

The tests still need to be carried out by a person qualified to take a nasal swab, however.

“This test is not a home test,” she said. “It’s nothing that you can do in your home before you visit your grandmother.”

Sandra Ciesek, who heads the Institute of Medical Virology at the University Hospital in Frankfurt, says the PCR test remains the “gold standard” for now.

But Christian Drosten, one of Germany’s most prominent virologists who developed one the first PCR tests for COVID-19, has suggested that the antigen method has its uses if people take into account its limitations.

One distinct feature of the new coronavirus is its ability to multiply rapidly in the throat of newly infected

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hosts, causing them to spread the virus days before they show symptoms. By the time most people are diagnosed, the amount of virus they are expelling when they speak or even breathe has dropped significantly.

While only the PCR tests can determine with near-absolute certainty if someone is infected, argues Drosten, the antigen tests can indicate whether a person is infectious — and therefore a risk to others.

Some experts say a negative result from an antigen test could therefore be sufficient to allow people without symptoms to leave quarantine or return to school or work, giving greater freedoms particularly to children and young adults who are less at risk from serious illness.

Eckerle, of the University of Geneva, was hesitant.

"I would not call them a game changer," she said. "They are a very nice and very important addition that comes exactly at the right time. But because they are less sensitive than our standard tests, we know that we would probably still miss a small proportion of infectious cases."

That's a risk some countries may be willing to take as the pandemic drags on and the availability of PCR tests reaches its limits.

Antigen tests are already used at nursing homes and assisted living facilities in the United States. Spain warned of faulty tests early in the pandemic, but the World Health Organization has since touted them as an effective tool for low- and middle-income countries.

Roche says it can provide over 40 million antigen tests per month worldwide and aims to more than double that by the end of the year. The company declined to disclose the price of its tests but said that "in pandemic situations like this, cost should not be a barrier to accessing diagnostics."

Abbott said it is providing "tens of millions" of its \$5 antigen test per month and is working to ramp up capacity.

As new restrictions came into force in Germany on Monday with no certainty that they will effectively flatten the curve of infections, Merkel said the country might be able to get as many as 20 million antigen tests in January, offering some prospect of freedom.

"Then we can (...) start thinking about whether we can do this for visits to grandparents, not just care homes," she said.

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Achoui-Lesage reported from Geneva. Jamey Keaten in Geneva also contributed to this report.

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Follow AP's coronavirus pandemic coverage at <https://apnews.com/hub/virus-outbreak> and <https://apnews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak>

## Tradition: 2 New Hampshire towns cast votes after midnight

By The Associated Press undefined

DIXVILLE NOTCH, N.H. (AP) — Two tiny New Hampshire communities that vote for president just after the stroke of midnight on Election Day have cast their ballots, with one of them marking 60 years since the tradition began.

The results in Dixville Notch, near the Canadian border, were a sweep for former Vice President Joe Biden who won the town's five votes. In Millsfield, 12 miles (20 kilometers) to the south, President Donald Trump won 16 votes to Biden's five.

Normally, there would be a big food spread and a lot of media crammed into a small space to watch the voting, Tom Tillotson, town moderator in Dixville Notch, said last week. But that's no longer possible because of the coronavirus pandemic. It's also hard to observe the 60th anniversary of the tradition, which started in November 1960.

"Sixty years — and unfortunately, we can't celebrate it," he said.

A third community with midnight voting, Hart's Location, suspended the tradition this election because of coronavirus concerns. It decided to hold voting from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday. The White Mountains town started the early voting in 1948 to accommodate railroad workers who had to be at work before normal voting hours. It eventually stopped in 1964 and brought it back in 1996.

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The communities also vote just after midnight for New Hampshire's first-in-the-nation presidential primary, which was on Feb. 11. That almost didn't happen this year in Dixville Notch, when one person moved away, leaving the remaining four residents one short of the minimum needed to handle various election responsibilities. That was fixed when a developer working on renovations of the now-closed Balsams resort, where the voting tradition began, moved in.

For years, voting was held in a wood-paneled room filled with political memorabilia at the Balsams, which closed in 2011. Some of those items were brought over to a former culinary school on the property, the setting for Tuesday's vote.

Find AP's full election coverage at [APNews.com/Election2020](https://www.apnews.com/Election2020).

## **EXPLAINER: A long night, or more, before president is known**

By KEVIN FREKING Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — There's a good chance Americans won't know the winner of Tuesday's presidential election when they go to bed that night.

The main reason? Many states have made it easier to request a mail ballot amid the coronavirus pandemic and concerns about crowded polling places. But mail ballots generally require more time to process than ballots that are cast in person.

### DIFFERENT STATES, DIFFERENT APPROACHES

Some states with extensive experience in using mail-in ballots have adjusted for those extra steps.

In Florida, clerks can start counting ballots 22 days before an election. In North Carolina, beginning five weeks before the election, county boards insert approved ballots into a voting machine, allowing for a prompt tabulation on Election Day.

But other states such as Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, all with Republican-led legislatures and all of them swing states, made a conscious decision to wait. There will be no counting of mail-in ballots prior to Election Day. As a result, it could take days to tally enough ballots to project a winner.

The wrangling in the states over the use of mail-in ballots has come as President Donald Trump claims that mail voting is ripe for fraud.

### ELECTION DAY ISN'T ALWAYS THE DEADLINE

And here's another wrinkle that could delay the naming of a winner: In some key states, mail-in ballots can come in several days after Election Day and still be counted, as long as they are postmarked by then. Democrats have argued that the flood of absentee ballots and slow mail delivery in some areas makes such a precaution necessary.

For example, mail-in ballots from Nevada voters are not due until Nov. 10 if postmarked by Election Day. In North Carolina, mail-in ballots are not due until Nov. 12 if postmarked by Election Day.

### THERE WILL BE LEGAL CHALLENGES

Polling indicates that a majority of Trump's supporters plan to cast their ballot on Election Day, while more than half of Joe Biden's backers plan to vote by mail. Expect the Trump campaign's legal team to challenge the validity of many mail-in ballots cast in critical battleground states such as Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

"We will have a sizable contingent of lawyers who will be ready to fend off any of the shenanigans that Democrats are trying," Tim Murtaugh, the Trump campaign's communications director, told reporters this week.

### SOME EARLY SIGNS?

While it's unlikely the election outcome will be known Tuesday night, results from two states could signal which way it's headed.

Both Florida and Georgia allow election officials to begin processing ballots weeks before election day, allowing the count to go much more quickly. The timeline for calling races in the two states probably won't be much different than what voters have experienced in the past, unless the races are simply too close

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to call. If Biden wins either state, the prospects of a Trump victory are severely damaged. Same goes for North Carolina.

## In 2020 finale, Trump combative, Biden on offense

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, ZEKE MILLER, WILL WEISSERT and ALEXANDRA JAFFE Associated Press  
PITTSBURGH (AP) — In the closing hours of a campaign shadowed by a once-in-a-century pandemic, President Donald Trump charged across the nation Monday delivering an incendiary but unsupported allegation that the election is rigged, while Democratic challenger Joe Biden pushed to claim states once seen as safely Republican.

America stood at a crossroads. Never before in modern history have voters faced a choice between candidates offering such opposite visions as the nation confronts a virus that has killed 230,000 Americans, the starkest economic contraction since the Great Depression and a citizenry divided on cultural and racial issues.

The two men broke sharply Monday on the voting process itself while campaigning in the most fiercely contested battleground, Pennsylvania. The president threatened legal action to stop counting beyond Election Day. If Pennsylvania ballot counting takes several days, as is allowed, Trump charged that “cheating can happen like you have never seen.”

Going further, Trump even tweeted about election-related “violence in the streets,” though none has occurred. Asked about it, Biden said “I’m not going to respond to anything he has to say. I’m hoping for a straightforward, peaceful election with a lot of people showing up.”

Biden, earlier in Pittsburgh, delivered a voting rights message to a mostly Black audience, declaring that Trump believes “only wealthy folks should vote” and describing COVID-19 as a “mass casualty event for Black Americans.”

“We’re done with the chaos, we’re done with the tweets, the anger, the hate, the failure, the irresponsibility,” said Biden, whose campaign has focused on increasing turnout by Black voters, who could prove the difference in several battleground states.

Both campaigns insist they have a pathway to victory, though Biden’s options for winning the required 270 Electoral College votes are more plentiful. Trump is banking on a surge of enthusiasm from his most loyal supporters in addition to potential legal maneuvers.

Trump spent the final full campaign day sprinting through five rallies, from North Carolina to Pennsylvania to Wisconsin with his final rally, just like four years earlier, in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Biden devoted most of his time to Pennsylvania, where a win would leave Trump with an exceedingly narrow path. He also dipped into Ohio, a show of confidence in a state that Trump won by 8 percentage points four years ago.

Biden emphasized the pandemic. He declared that “the first step to beating the virus is beating Donald Trump,” and he promised he would retain the nation’s leading infectious disease expert, Dr. Anthony Fauci, whom the president has talked of firing.

Trump in Grand Rapids insisted that the nation was “rounding the turn” on the virus. But Dr. Deborah Birx, the coordinator of the White House coronavirus task force, broke with the president Monday and joined a chorus of Trump administration scientists sounding alarm about the current spike in infections.

“We are entering the most concerning and most deadly phase of this pandemic,” Birx wrote in a memo distributed to top administration officials. She added that the nation was not implementing “balanced” measures needed to slow the spread of the virus. One recipient confirmed the contents that were initially reported by The Washington Post.

Trump, meanwhile, made only passing mention of what his aides believe are his signature accomplishments — the nation’s economic rebound, the recent installation of Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney Barrett — in favor of a torrent of grievance and combativeness. He angrily decried the media’s coverage of the campaign while complaining that he also was being treated unfairly by, in no particular order, China, the Electoral College system and rock singer Jon Bon Jovi.

“I have been under siege illegally for three-and-a-half years. I wonder what it would be like if we didn’t



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have all of this horrible stuff. We'd have a very, very calm situation," said Trump at an evening rally in Michigan. "People see that we fight and I'm fighting for you. I'm fighting to survive. You have to survive."

Later in Wisconsin, he stopped himself short in midsentence: "This isn't about -- yeah, it is about me, I guess, when you think about it."

Biden announced an unusual move to campaign on Election Day, saying he would head to Philadelphia and his native Scranton on Tuesday as part of a get-out-the-vote effort. His running mate, Sen. Kamala Harris, will visit Detroit, a heavily Black city in battleground Michigan, and both of their spouses will hit the road too. Trump told reporters he would be visiting his campaign headquarters in Virginia, and he is also hosting family and friends on Election Night in the East Room of the White House.

Nearly 100 million votes have already been cast, through early voting or mail-in ballots, which could lead to delays in tabulation. Trump has spent months claiming without evidence that the votes would be ripe for fraud and refusing to guarantee that he would honor the election result.

Trump also rallied in Scranton on Monday, underscoring the importance of the state's vote-rich north-east counties, and zeroed in on the state's process to count votes. He has used stark terms to threaten litigation to stop the tabulation of ballots arriving after Election Day — counting that is allowed with earlier postmarks in some states.

He has said that "we're going in with our lawyers" as soon as the polls close in Pennsylvania and on Monday spoke ominously about the Supreme Court decision to grant an extension to count the votes after Tuesday.

"They made a very dangerous situation, and I mean dangerous, physically dangerous, and they made it a very, very bad, they did a very bad thing for this state," Trump declared. He said of Pennsylvania's Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf, "Please don't cheat because we're all watching. We're all watching you, Governor."

There is already an appeal pending at the Supreme Court over the counting of absentee ballots in Pennsylvania that are received in the mail in the three days after the election.

The state's top court ordered the extension, and the Supreme Court refused to block it, though conservative justices expressed interest in taking up the propriety of the three added days after the election. Those ballots are being kept separate in case the litigation goes forward. The issue could assume enormous importance if the late-arriving ballots could tip the outcome.

One of Biden's top legal advisers Bob Bauer pushed back at Trump's promise of mobilizing his lawyers to challenge certain ballots.

"It's very telling that President Trump is focused not on his voters but on his lawyers, and his lawyers are not going to win the election for him," Bauer said. "We are fully prepared for any legal hijinks of one kind or another."

Democrats also celebrated a decision by a federal judge to reject another last-ditch Republican effort to invalidate nearly 127,000 votes in Houston because the ballots were cast at drive-thru polling centers established during the pandemic.

Biden's team pushed into states Trump won handily in 2016, hoping to deliver an Election Night knockout blow that could prevent further Republican challenges.

Biden said he returned to Ohio at the urging of Sen. Sherrod Brown and other Ohio Democrats in Congress, suggesting a final, late visit could win. And the Democrats' most popular surrogate, former President Barack Obama, made one of his final campaign stops in Georgia.

"I didn't originally plan to come to Georgia. I told Michelle, I'm sorry, Baby, I got to go to Georgia. This is a big deal," said Obama. "Georgia could be the state, Georgia could be the place."

But even as Biden enjoyed strong poll numbers, the move to expand the map revived anxiety among Democrats scarred by Trump's 2016 upset over Hillary Clinton, whose forays into red states may have contributed to losing longtime party strongholds.

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Lemire and Weissert reported from Washington. Miller reported from Traverse City, Michigan. Associated Press writer Bill Barrow in Atlanta contributed.

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AP's Advance Voting guide brings you the facts about voting early, by mail or absentee from each state: <https://interactives.ap.org/advance-voting-2020/>.

## The Latest: Trump predicts he'll 'so easily' win Michigan

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Latest on the presidential campaign (all times local):

12:20 a.m.

President Donald Trump declared he would win Michigan "so easily" as he rallied supporters in a midnight gathering that wraps up his reelection campaign and heralds the beginning of Election Day.

Thousands turned out in Grand Rapids in low 40s weather to cheer Trump and Vice President Mike Pence. While polling in several key states shows Trump trailing Democratic rival Joe Biden, the president assured his Michigan supporters that "I think we're doing well all over" and predicted a "red wave."

Grand Rapids was the final stop of the Trump campaign in 2016, which turned into a surprise victory over Democrat Hillary Clinton. As Monday became Tuesday, Trump told supporters, "We made history four years ago and tomorrow we're going to make history once again."

Officials say Trump plans to spend election night at the White House.

9:45 p.m.

Joe Biden is predicting a victory in Pennsylvania on the eve of the election.

Speaking at a drive-in rally in Pittsburgh, Biden encouraged the audience to vote and said, "I have a feeling we're coming together for a big win tomorrow!" The crowd, about 250 cars gathered in the parking lot of Heinz Field, honked their horns and cheered as he spoke.

Biden was the headliner at a star-studded pair of rallies Monday night. Before he spoke in Pittsburgh, running mate Kamala Harris delivered a call to action at a rally in Philadelphia that was live-streamed on a large screen at the Pittsburgh rally. John Legend played in Philadelphia, while Lady Gaga performed in Pittsburgh and exhorted the crowd to "vote like your lives depend on it!"

Biden delivered a speech focused on the need to expand health care, address income inequality and racial injustice. After four events across Ohio and Pennsylvania Monday, Biden's voice grew hoarse, but he was still energetic, at times pounding the podium for emphasis.

Biden's campaign insists the Democrat has multiple paths to victory, but his easiest route is through Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania. He'll be campaigning in Scranton and Philadelphia on Election Day, and told the crowd Monday night, "The power is in your hands, Pennsylvania!"

9:35 p.m.

President Donald Trump is campaigning in Kenosha, Wisconsin, emphasizing "peace and order" as he tries to win the critical battleground state.

Trump has returned to Kenosha, where a police officer responding to a domestic dispute call shot Jacob Blake in the back at close range, setting off waves of protests, some of which turned destructive. Buildings and cars were set on fire and stores looted.

The violence spiked Aug. 25, when two protesters were shot and killed and another was injured. Kyle Rittenhouse, a white 17-year-old who came to Kenosha that day with a semiautomatic rifle, is charged in the shootings.

The crowd chanted "back the blue" as Trump claimed that Democrats were "waging war on the police."

Trump seemed to acknowledge he's in a tough race when he mocked his challenger, Democratic nominee Joe Biden. He asked the crowd: "Could he really win? Are we serious about this? What the hell is going on?"

HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE:

President Donald Trump and Democratic challenger Joe Biden have one last chance to make their case to voters in critical battleground states on Monday. The Republican president's final day has him sprinting

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through five rallies, from North Carolina to Wisconsin. Biden is devoting most of his time to Pennsylvania.

Read more:

- Trump threatens to fire Fauci in rift with disease expert
- Trump promises court fight over Pennsylvania absentee votes
- 2020 Watch: Will loser of the election accept the result?
- Expect a lot more of the same if Trump wins a 2nd term
- Biden looks to restore, expand Obama administration policies
- AP FACT CHECK: Trump's errant final pitches on virus, energy
- 6 questions going into the presidential election
- AP Explains: The election result may be delayed. That's OK.

HERE'S WHAT ELSE IS GOING ON:

9 p.m.

Sen. Kamala Harris is delivering an urgent message for people to vote to repair the nation's divides and protect its democracy on an election eve rally in battleground Pennsylvania.

Harris told the crowd that justice, equality, opportunity, decency and character are among the values on the ballot in Tuesday's contest.

"Let's vote, and vote with conviction and confidence and hope," she said.

Some of the loudest honks from supporters at the drive-in rally came as Harris spoke of the need for better health care, women's rights and a criminal justice system that embraces a person's dignity.

To acclaimed chef Michael Solomonov, whose two young sons were wrapped in blankets near the stage, the election involves more than politics, more than fixing an economy shattered in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"This is a moral question, and a moral decision," said Solomonov, 42, the executive chef of Zahav in Philadelphia. "(It's) really just a question of right and wrong."

6:55 p.m.

In Philadelphia, Democratic Mayor Jim Kenney kicked off a stadium car rally set to feature vice presidential nominee Kamala Harris on a brisk Election Day eve.

Kenney told people listening from their cars outside Citizen Bank Park on Monday that the country needs "a strong, sound and sane president in the White House."

Anastasia Austin, a Philadelphia educator, wore a sweatshirt to the Harris event boasting of her affiliation with Zeta Phi Beta, one of the Divine Nine sororities to which Harris also belongs.

Austin and her husband took their 3-year-old daughter with them when they voted early in Delaware County.

"As an African American woman raising a daughter ... for my daughter to see somebody that looks like her in leadership, creating change," Austin said, "it brings me to tears."

Austin, like Harris, has Jamaican heritage, and said she looks forward to leaders who embrace people from different backgrounds, not ostracize them.

6:35 p.m.

Former President Barack Obama is criticizing President Donald Trump for casting doubt on the results of Tuesday's upcoming election, likening him to strongmen elsewhere in the world.

Addressing a Monday evening drive-in rally in Miami on Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden's behalf, Obama said his successor has suggested he may "declare victory before all the votes are counted tomorrow."

"That's something a two-bit dictator does," Obama said. "If you believe in democracy, you want every vote counted."

Obama said if a Democrat was acting like Trump, "I couldn't support him."

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The former president said that, unlike Trump, "With Joe and Kamala you're not going to have to think about them every single day."

"You're not going to have to argue about some crazy tweet that the president sent out this morning," Obama said. "It won't be so exhausting. You'll be able to about your lives know that the president's doing his job instead of suggesting we inject bleach."

6:30 p.m.

President Donald Trump is stressing issues important to Michigan at the first of two campaign rallies he's holding in the state on the eve of Tuesday's election.

Trump tells a large crowd of supporters at the airport in Traverse City that a vote for Democrat Joe Biden "is a vote to extinguish and eradicate" the state's auto industry.

Biden was vice president under President Barack Obama, who helped revive U.S. automakers.

Trump is also criticizing Biden's position on trade, another issue important to Michigan. The president is promising that things will change "if you just give us another four years."

Trump is closing Monday's final day of campaigning at a rally -- his fifth of the day -- in Grand Rapids, Michigan. It's where he ended his 2016 run.

6:20 p.m.

Joe Biden is telling Black voters in Pittsburgh to turn out to help him win the all-important state of Pennsylvania.

Speaking Monday at an outdoor rally in Homewood, a predominantly African American community in Pittsburgh, Biden told the crowd that "the power to change this country is in your hands." He spoke about the disproportionate effect COVID-19 has had on the community as well as his plan to promote Black economic mobility.

Biden said that "we're done with the chaos, we're done with the racism, we're done with the tweets, the anger, the hate, the failure, the irresponsibility." Some supporters sitting in their cars for the outdoor event honked their horns, while others bundled up in blankets and watching Biden in front of the stage cheered.

Black and Latino voters are key to Biden's hopes of a win in Pennsylvania and beyond, and he and running mate Kamala Harris have held numerous events focused on minority communities. Biden spoke Sunday at a "Souls to the Polls" event at a Baptist church in Philadelphia, where he made the same case, telling the largely Black crowd that their votes could put him over the top.

3:35 p.m.

President Donald Trump is assailing a decision that allows Pennsylvania's elections officials to count mailed ballots that are received in the three days after Tuesday's election.

Trump is blaming the U.S. Supreme Court, which refused to block the Pennsylvania Supreme Court decision. Pennsylvania's top court ordered the extension until Nov. 6, even if the ballot doesn't have a clear postmark, as long as there is not proof it was mailed after the polls closed.

Addressing a campaign rally Monday at the airport in Avoca in battleground Pennsylvania, Trump called the situation "very dangerous, and I mean dangerous, physically dangerous."

He argued that "you can't extend dates" and claimed — without evidence — that cheating goes on in the Democratic stronghold of Philadelphia.

Trump has said that once the polls close Tuesday, "we're going in with our lawyers" to try to stop Pennsylvania from counting the mailed ballots received after the election.

3:25 p.m.

Former President Barack Obama is telling reluctant voters he knows their frustrations but doesn't believe they're reason not to vote.

He said at a drive-in rally in Atlanta on Monday, the eve of Election Day, that "government doesn't solve



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every problem” and that the “long legacy in this country of hardship and prejudice and people who are powerful and rich taking advantage of folks who aren’t” can be “discouraging.”

But he said Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden and his running mate, Kamala Harris, would improve the country, just as Obama believes he did in eight years in office.

“We’re never going to get all the way to the promised land, but we can help lay the path for future generations to get there,” Obama said. “That’s what public service should be about. That’s what citizenship should be about. That’s what voting is about — not making things perfect, but making things better, laying that path.”

Obama has been campaigning in several battleground states in the campaign’s closing weeks. He was joined beneath the 1996 Olympic flame in Atlanta by Georgia Democratic Senate candidates, Jon Ossoff and the Rev. Raphael Warnock.

3:20 p.m.

Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden is revving up a group of union members to help him turn out the vote in a suburban Pittsburgh county.

Biden spoke Monday afternoon at Beaver County Community College, where about 100 union workers gathered for a canvass kickoff. He emphasized the significance of Pennsylvania and told the crowd that Democrats will win the state and “show the world what we stand for.”

The supporters gathered outside to see him speak cheered as he promised to “be the most pro-union president you’ve ever seen.” Biden has had strong union support throughout his political career and has made a pitch to union and working-class workers a centerpiece of his campaign.

Beaver County is home to the kind of blue-collar voters who have abandoned the Democratic Party in recent years and helped deliver Republican Donald Trump a win in 2016.

2:40 p.m.

Joe Biden and Kamala Harris will spend Election Day in key battleground states.

Biden plans to campaign in Scranton and Philadelphia on Tuesday. That follows a blitz by the Democratic ticket through Pennsylvania on Monday and indicates the importance of winning the state. Biden was born in Scranton and often speaks about the region in personal terms.

Harris will visit Detroit, a heavily Black city in battleground Michigan.

Her husband, Doug Emhoff, will be in Ohio. And Jill Biden will campaign in Tampa and St. Petersburg, Florida, as well as Wake County, North Carolina.

President Donald Trump won all five states in 2016. His best path to reelection comes through Pennsylvania and Florida.

2:15 p.m.

Democratic vice presidential nominee Kamala Harris isn’t uttering President Donald Trump’s name as she campaigns in Pennsylvania.

Instead, Joe Biden’s running mate is referring to him as “you know who” or “the other guy.”

She told a crowd in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, on Monday: “I’m kinda done talking about the guy in the White House. If y’all don’t mind, I’m just gonna talk about Joe.”

The event was billed as a get-out-the-vote rally focused on Latinos, who make up roughly 30% of the city’s population. Harris largely stuck to her standard campaign speech, highlighting the differences between Trump and Biden.

She says Biden understands hard work, determination and faith can get people through difficult times. She says, “He believes in the American people, and he believes in the strength of who we are as a nation.”

12:50 p.m.

Democratic vice presidential nominee Kamala Harris is talking up Joe Biden’s labor credentials during a

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stop in northeastern Pennsylvania.

If she and Biden win the White House, she said, "we will probably have the most pro-labor administration we've seen in a long time."

Harris made her remarks in Luzerne County, her first of three stops in battleground Pennsylvania on Monday. The region was once a major hub of anthracite coal mining, and the county backed Republican Donald Trump in 2016 after previously supporting Democrat Barack Obama.

Harris is pitching Biden's plan to expand skills training and suggesting there's no false choice between tackling climate change and saving jobs. Harris says a Biden administration will work to make the country the world's top maker of electric vehicles.

She was direct about Pennsylvania's importance. She says, "Pennsylvania's gonna determine the outcome of this election."

12:40 p.m.

Joe Biden is delivering a working-class economic pitch as he makes a late play for Ohio.

At a drive-in rally Monday at an airplane hangar in Cleveland, Biden said President Donald Trump "sees the world from Park Avenue," but "Wall Street didn't build America — the middle class built America!"

Biden told the crowd he's got a "chip on his shoulder, noting some suggest the fact he doesn't have an Ivy League degree "has got to mean I don't belong because I went to a state university." But he added that it's "about time" someone with a state university degree becomes president, telling the audience, "Because you're gonna be there!" The crowd cheered and rang cowbells, with some seated in their cars leaning heavily on their horns.

Biden also spoke about manufacturing jobs lost in Ohio and his plan to boost those jobs by incentivizing companies and the federal government to make more products in the U.S.

Ohio is a perennial swing state, and no Republican has won the presidency without it. While Trump won it by about 8 percentage points in 2016, Biden's aides believe he has a shot here because of his appeal to blue-collar workers and suburban voters in the state.

12:15 p.m.

President Donald Trump is projecting confidence and declaring at a North Carolina rally that "we're going to win anyway" despite investigations he says were launched as part of an attempted takedown.

Opening the first of five campaign rallies on the eve of Election Day, Trump openly wondered what the political landscape would have looked like "had it been legit."

He was referring to the special counsel's investigation into ties between his 2016 presidential campaign and Russia and his impeachment by the Democratic-run House. Special counsel Robert Mueller found multiple links between the Russian government and the Trump campaign, but ultimately did not establish that the Trump campaign conspired with Russia to interfere in the election.

Trump says it's all "fake stuff."

The president spoke in Fayetteville, North Carolina. His other stops Monday are in Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin.

He's closing the night in Grand Rapids, Michigan, the same place he closed the 2016 run.

12:10 p.m.

Ohio Sen. Sherrod Brown says Joe Biden's "not doing enough anywhere" in the campaign, but he's "doing as much as you can" — and thinks the Democratic presidential candidate can win Ohio.

Brown spoke to reporters Monday before Biden's drive-in rally in Cleveland. He noted that Biden has spent most of his campaign time in Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin because those are the core states he expects to deliver him an Electoral College win. But he said Biden can tamp down any efforts to delegitimize the election by winning Ohio.

Brown says he and the rest of the Democrats in the Ohio delegation had been lobbying the Biden cam-

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paigned to send him for weeks. Polls show a close race in the state.

As the president lobs baseless claims that the election is rigged, Brown says, "Winning Ohio will undermine all of Trump's shenanigans and antics after the election when he calls it rigged." While other states could take days to count the large volume of mail ballots, "Ohio is quick" to call the election, he noted, and could give a sign of an overwhelming Biden lead on election night if he wins.

9:05 a.m.

Joe Biden is defending Dr. Anthony Fauci after President Donald Trump suggested he'd dismiss the nation's top infectious disease expert after Election Day.

The Democratic presidential nominee tweeted Monday: "We need a president who actually listens to experts like Dr. Fauci."

Biden has sought to keep the presidential campaign focused on the federal response to the coronavirus pandemic, which has killed more than 231,000 people in the U.S. Trump has used the race's final hours to accuse Biden of wanting to force the country back into a lockdown to slow the spread of the virus.

During a rally that started late Sunday in Opa-locka, Florida, the Republican president expressed frustration that the surging virus cases remain prominent in the news, sparking chants of "Fire Fauci" from his supporters.

Trump replied, "Don't tell anybody, but let me wait until a little bit after the election."

Biden is traveling to Ohio and Pennsylvania on Monday, trying to keep open multiple pathways to an Electoral College victory. Trump plans a whirlwind five rallies, from the battlegrounds of North Carolina to Wisconsin.

8:55 a.m.

President Donald Trump's press secretary says Trump expects to spend election night at the White House watching results roll in.

White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany was asked on Fox News Channel's "Fox & Friends" on Monday where the president planned to celebrate. She said Trump and some aides "will be together ... at the White House" for election night.

Trump's campaign had planned a traditional campaign party at his Washington, D.C., hotel. But Trump said last week that he was considering other options, including staying at the White House, because the District of Columbia's coronavirus protocols would restrict the size of the gathering.

The Trump campaign last month pushed out fundraising emails in the Republican president's name offering donors the chance to enter a drawing "to join Team Trump at the Election Night Party" in his "favorite hotel," in Washington, suggesting he would use his hotel as the backdrop for reacting to election results.

## Judge rejects GOP effort to throw out 127,000 Houston votes

By NOMAAN MERCHANT Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — A federal judge on Monday rejected another last-ditch Republican effort to invalidate nearly 127,000 votes in Houston because the ballots were cast at drive-thru polling centers established during the pandemic.

The lawsuit was brought by conservative Texas activists who have railed against expanded voting access in Harris County, where a record 1.4 million early votes have already been cast. The county is the nation's third-most populous and a crucial battleground in Texas, where President Donald Trump and Republicans are bracing for the closest election in decades on Tuesday.

U.S. District Judge Andrew Hanen's decision to hear arguments on the brink of Election Day drew concern from voting rights activists and came after the Texas Supreme Court rejected a nearly identical challenge over the weekend.

"We cannot allow participation to be limited simply because there are those who choose to think that they have the ability and the authority to decide who votes," Democratic Rep. Al Green, of Houston, said

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outside the courthouse after the ruling. "It's the Constitution that determines who votes."

Hanen said those who oppose drive-thru centers — who were represented by former Harris County GOP Chairman Jared Woodfill— had no standing to bring a lawsuit. He added that people had already voted and that conservative activists had months to bring a challenge sooner.

But Hanen still expressed doubts about whether Texas law allowed anyone to vote from their car, even during a pandemic.

"I would not vote in a drive-thru just out of my concern as to whether that's legal or not," Hanen said.

Harris County Clerk Chris Hollins, the county's top election official, announced late Monday on Twitter that he would shut down all but one drive-thru voting site on Election Day. Only the site at the Toyota Center, the downtown arena home to the NBA's Houston Rockets, will stay open Tuesday.

Another 20,000 or more voters had been expected to use drive-thru polling locations Tuesday, Hollins said earlier Monday. But Hollins, a Democrat, cited the judge's questioning of whether tents used at other drive-thru sites could be considered adequate Election Day polling sites under state law.

"I cannot in good faith encourage voters to cast their votes in tents if that puts their votes at risk," he said.

Woodfill filed an motion late Monday with the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals asking the court to bar all drive-thru voting on Tuesday. The appeal did not ask the court to overturn votes already cast at drive-thru sites. The appeals court did not rule immediately, but lawyers for Harris County criticized the motion as an "eleventh-hour attempt to disrupt the election."

Woodfill acknowledged the political implications of the fight.

"If Harris County goes against Trump in large enough numbers, then we could lose Texas. And if Trump loses Texas then we lose the national election," Woodfill said after the ruling. "As far as I'm concerned, this is ground zero."

Several voters who already used the drive-thru centers rushed to join mounting opposition to the lawsuit, including a Houston attorney whose wife was 35 weeks pregnant when she cast her ballot. She gave birth to twins Friday.

"My vote counts," David Hobbs said. "My wife's vote counts."

Trump won Texas by nine points in 2016 but polls have shown Democrat Joe Biden still within reach in America's biggest red state. Democrats also need to flip only nine seats to reclaim a majority in the Texas House for the first time in 20 years, and have aggressively targeted several races in Harris County.

Woodfill has been a part of a battery of court challenges over moves to expand voting options during the COVID-19 pandemic. The challenges have not involved Trump's campaign.

Harris County offered 10 drive-thru locations as an option for its nearly 5 million residents amid worries of spreading the coronavirus. Woodfill argued that Texas election law makes no explicit allowances for drive-thru voting and framed it as an unlawful expansion of curbside voting, which is legal in Texas but limited to people who are unable to enter polling places because of their health.

Portions of the hearing were consumed by debate over what exactly qualified as a legal structure for a polling place under Texas law.

"You have a fundamental right to vote in a car?" Hanen tersely asked an attorney for the ACLU.

Woodfill's lawsuit noted that all but one of the drive-thru centers were set up "in Democrat areas of the county." More than 40% of Harris County residents are Latino, and about one in five residents are Black.

The lawsuit drew objections even from Republicans, including former Texas House Speaker Joe Straus. Republican Sen. John Cornyn, who is facing the toughest reelection battle of his career Tuesday against Democrat MJ Hegar, also said during a weekend campaign stop that the Texas Supreme Court made the right decision earlier in rejecting an identical challenge.

The Texas Supreme Court, which is controlled entirely by Republicans, rejected an identical lawsuit last month and on Sunday refused to invalidate the votes already cast. The state's highest court did not explain its decision.

Hollins had asked Republican Gov. Greg Abbott to affirm that the drive-thru locations are legal but received no response.



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Texas is one of just five states that did not allow for widespread mail-in voting this year during the coronavirus pandemic, which has killed more than 18,000 people statewide. Abbott instead expanded early voting by one week, and that extra time helped Texas already surpass 2016's total votes even before Tuesday's election.

More than 9.7 million people have cast early ballots in Texas, where turnout typically ranks among the lowest in the country. Some elections experts predict that total turnout in Texas could surpass 12 million, and Harris County officials have taken more steps than most to expand voting access.

The county tripled the number of polling places and last week had eight locations that stayed open for 24 hours.

Associated Press writer Paul J. Weber in Austin and Jake Bleiberg in Dallas contributed to this report.

## 2 dead, 15 wounded in Vienna terror attack, authorities say

By PHILIPP JENNE and FRANK JORDANS Associated Press

VIENNA (AP) — Gunmen opened fire on people enjoying a last night out at Vienna's cafes and restaurants before a coronavirus lockdown Monday in what authorities said was a terrorist attack that left at least two dead — including one of the assailants — and 15 wounded.

"We are victims of a despicable terror attack in the federal capital that is still ongoing," Austria's Chancellor Sebastian Kurz said hours after the gunfire erupted.

"One of the perpetrators was neutralized, but several perpetrators appear to still be on the loose," he said. "They seem to also, as far as we know, be very well equipped, with automatic weapons. So they were very well prepared."

Police said that several shots were fired shortly after 8 p.m. (1900 GMT) on a lively street in the city center and that there were six shooting locations. Unverified footage on social media showed gunmen walking through the streets, apparently shooting at people at random, wounding several.

The motive was under investigation, but Kurz said the possibility it was an anti-Semitic attack cannot be ruled out, given that the shooting began outside Vienna's main synagogue. It was closed at the time.

Interior Minister Karl Nehammer said the army had been asked to guard key locations in the city as hundreds of heavily armed police hunted for the gunmen. He urged people in Vienna to stay indoors and avoid the city center and encouraged parents not to send their children to school on Tuesday.

Kurz praised police for killing one of the attackers and vowed: "We will not never allow ourselves to be intimidated by terrorism and will fight these attacks with all means."

Vienna Mayor Michael Ludwig said 15 people were hospitalized, seven with serious injuries.

Oskar Deutsch, the head of the Jewish community in Vienna, said it was not clear whether the main synagogue had been targeted.

Rabbi Schlomo Hofmeister said he saw at least one person shoot at people sitting outside at bars in the street below his window.

"They were shooting at least 100 rounds just outside our building," Hofmeister said.

"All these bars have tables outside. This evening is the last evening before the lockdown," he added. "As of midnight, all bars and restaurants will be closed in Austria for the next month, and a lot of people probably wanted to use that evening to be able to go out."

President Donald Trump tweeted American support for Austria in fighting terrorism. "Our prayers are with the people of Vienna after yet another vile act of terrorism in Europe. These evil attacks against innocent people must stop," he wrote.

French President Emmanuel Macron tweeted that the French "share the shock and grief of the Austrian people hit by an attack tonight."

"After France, this is a friendly country that has been attacked. This is our Europe. ... We will not give in," he wrote.

France has endured three attacks blamed on Muslim extremists in recent weeks: the wounding of two

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people outside satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo's old headquarters; the beheading of a schoolteacher who showed students caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad; and a deadly knife attack Thursday in a church in the Mediterranean city of Nice.

All of the attacks were strongly condemned at the time by Austria's chancellor.

Frank Jordans reported from Berlin. Kirsten Grieshaber and David Rising contributed to this report from Berlin.

## Biden backers make final plea for delivery of mail ballots

By MATT SEDENSKY AP National Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Down to the wire with the threat of court battles looming, supporters of former Vice President Joe Biden scrambled Monday to rally swing-state voters to drop off ballots, visit precincts in person and ensure their votes are counted.

As months of President Donald Trump undercutting the legitimacy of mail-in votes gave way to promises he would challenge them in court, both sides made a final push to ensure their supporters turned out, even with the lingering threat of lawsuits aimed at invalidating ballots.

"Do not put ballots in the mail. Hand-deliver your mail ballot to your county election office, satellite election office or other designated drop box or drop-off location," Pennsylvania's top election official, Secretary of State Kathy Boockvar, a Democrat, said Monday. "Do it today. Do not wait."

With about 700,000 of some 3.1 million requested mail ballots in Pennsylvania still outstanding, some voters like 57-year-old Daniel Pigott took the warning to heart.

Pigott stood in a line of dozens of voters outside the Bucks County government building on a blustery Monday waiting to cast his vote after being alerted there was a problem with his mail-in ballot.

"In a normal election, would I do all this?" asked Pigott, who voted for Biden. "Nah, probably not."

Roughly 300 lawsuits already have been filed over the election in dozens of states across the country, many involving changes to normal procedures because of the coronavirus pandemic, which has killed more than 230,000 people in the U.S. and sickened more than 9 million.

Pennsylvania, where the candidates appeared to be divided by a razor-thin margin for the state's 20 electoral votes, seemed likely to be the epicenter of any post-election litigation. The deadline for receiving and counting absentee ballots is Friday under an extension ordered by the state's top court, a ruling that the Supreme Court left in place but suggested it would be open to revisiting.

Trump called the decision a "horrible thing" and warned "as soon as that election's over, we're going in with our lawyers." He added: "If people wanted to get their ballots in, they should have gotten their ballots in long before that."

Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro, a Democrat, insisted in an interview Monday that all votes would be counted and said he was encouraged the state prevailed in lawsuits filed by Trump and his supporters: "We have lawyers and agents fanned out all across Pennsylvania prepared to deal with whatever may come."

In a tweet, he expressed confidence as he taunted Trump: "If your lawyers want to try us, we'd be happy to defeat you in court one more time."

The Supreme Court's openness to revisiting its prior ruling, though, and the presence of a new Trump appointee on the high court, Justice Amy Coney Barrett, left others feeling anything but certain.

"Make sure, regardless what happens with litigation, that your vote is counted," said Sylvia Albert, director of voting and elections for Common Cause, which called for Barrett to recuse herself from any potential election litigation. "To me, it seems a clear voter-suppression tactic and an effort to invalidate ballots" that a party does not think are for them.

"I would hope the court would see that as an obvious power grab, but the reality is, we don't know what the court would do," Albert said.

Stung by 2016 and conscious that voter surveys could be wrong, the same note of caution pervaded the country a day ahead of an anything-but-typical election.

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In Wisconsin, which Trump won by fewer than 23,000 votes four years ago, both sides called on supporters to get out to vote after a Supreme Court ruling last week rejected Democrats' attempt to allow ballots postmarked by Election Day to be counted for six more days.

All absentee ballots must be received in Wisconsin by the close of polls on Tuesday night. About 175,000 of more than 1.2 million requested ballots remained outstanding. At news conferences and public events and on social media campaigns, voters were told not to count on the mail.

"All our efforts right now are focused on doors, phones, texts and emails," said Wisconsin Republican Party spokesman Alec Zimmerman, urging voters to do in-person balloting or use 39 drop boxes around the state.

State Attorney General Josh Kaul, a Democrat, said the number of outstanding mail ballots was not a cause for concern, saying some people who request them "ultimately decide to vote in person."

In Michigan, Democrats blitzed voters by phone, text, email, social media and the occasional door-knock with pleas to take ballots to a drop box or local clerk's office, or vote in person on Tuesday.

Darnesha Coleman, 32, stood in a long line Monday alongside her 80-year-old grandmother to vote at a Detroit polling place after absentee ballots they requested never showed up. She worries that voting changes forced by the pandemic could jeopardize the election's outcome.

"It is quite chaotic," she said. "It's not like it usually is. I don't think it's going to go like it's supposed to."

Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson first advised voters Oct. 20 to hand-deliver ballots instead of relying on the mail, a message she has since repeated.

"We are too close to Election Day, and the right to vote is too important, to rely on the Postal Service to deliver absentee ballots on time," she said last week.

The Michigan Democratic Party blitzed voters by phone, text, email and social media -- and in some cases door-knocking -- Monday with pleas to take ballots to a drop box or local clerk's office, or vote in person Tuesday, chair Lavora Barnes said.

Democratic Party Chairman Ken Martin said officials were reaching out to voters with unreturned absentee ballots, and Democratic Sen. Tina Smith, who is up for re-election Tuesday, created a television ad to tell voters what they need to do to make sure their votes count.

In Minnesota, elections officials reminded voters it was too late to return absentee ballots after a federal appeals court ruling that those arriving after Election Day should be separated from other ballots, raising the possibility that they may be challenged and invalidated.

Erik Carbonell, a 22-year-old nursing student in Minneapolis, was among those turning out in person, worried about "potential discrepancies" with mail-in ballots.

"I didn't want to potentially lose my vote," he said.

The Postal Service said it could not guarantee ballots mailed after Oct. 27 would arrive by Election Day, a message at the heart of candidates' last-minute pleas for support.

"GEORGIA," tweeted Jon Ossoff, a Democratic candidate for the Senate. "Make your plan to vote ASAP. Find your absentee ballot Drop Box. If you requested an absentee ballot and still haven't gotten it, vote in-person on Election Day (Tuesday, Nov 3) instead."

Democrats have requested far more mail ballots than Republicans, but have also generally returned them at a brisker clip, making outstanding ballots in many states closely divided between the parties.

Whatever uncertainty remains about Tuesday, many people are resigned to ongoing disputes. Brookings Institution elections expert Elaine Kamarck sees litigation as inevitable, even as she says most voters should be "not very concerned" about getting their ballots counted because the law is on their side.

"The Constitution is pretty damn clear: States have the authority for running elections and particularly presidential elections. So as long as a state makes clear what its parameters are, the courts are loath to intervene," said Kamarck, a member of the Democratic National Committee. "I think the way voters should look at this is if it is a razor-thin race in some state, and that state makes the difference for one candidate or another getting to 270 electoral votes, then every single thing is going to be litigated."

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Contributing to this report were Associated Press writers Mark Scoloro and Marc Levy in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Haleluya Hadero and Sophia Tulp in Atlanta; Claire Galofaro in Detroit; Scott Bauer in Madison, Wisconsin; Jonathan Drew and Bryan Anderson in Raleigh, North Carolina; John Flesher and Anna Nichols in Traverse City, Michigan; Amy Forliti and Mohamed Ibrahim in Minneapolis; Mike Catalini, in Doylestown, Pennsylvania; and Nicholas Riccardi in Denver.

## 'Raw exposed nerves': Anxious nation awaits Election Day

By CLAIRE GALOFARO AP National Writer

WARREN, Mich. (AP) — She could have dropped her ballot at the post office, but she wasn't sure if she should trust the mail. She considered slipping it into the secured ballot box just outside of City Hall, but what if something happened? A fire maybe; or theft.

This year has delivered so many shocks that anything seemed possible. So 58-year-old Diane Spiteri trudged up three flights of steps to place her absentee ballot straight into the hands of the clerk in this critical battleground suburb of Detroit.

As the traditional Election Day closes in, Americans are exhausted from constant crises, on edge because of volatile political divisions and anxious about what will happen next. Their agony is not in deciding between President Donald Trump or his Democratic challenger, Joe Biden. Most made that choice long ago. Instead, voters arriving in record numbers to cast early ballots say basic democratic foundations feel suddenly brittle: Will their vote count? Will the loser accept the result? Will the winner find a way to repair a fractured, sick and unsettled nation?

"I just can't wait until the whole thing is over. And I think it's long from over, even after Tuesday. There's just so much anxiety," said Spiteri, who voted last week for Biden. "I am hoping that there wasn't too much damage done in the last four years that it can't be undone."

Here in Macomb County and across the country, some say the stress has made them physically ill. Others have obsessively tracked polls to soothe their nerves, or bought guns, or researched moving abroad, or retreated to a cabin in the woods. Tension has ratcheted up, sometimes within families, as each side believes the other is threatening to usher in the end of America as we know it.

"Our country is in a state of chaos," said Roberta Henderson, as she deposited her ballot in Sterling Heights, Michigan. She voted for Trump in 2016. But she grew tired of his willingness to divide people for his own political gain, no matter the cost to the country.

This time, she voted for Biden.

A nation already uncertain about its future amid a worsening pandemic, an economic sucker punch and series of police killings that forced a national reckoning on racism is now contemplating the added threat of possible clashes in the wake of Election Day.

Caravans of Trump supporters clogged traffic around the New York metropolitan area this weekend. In Texas, cars and pickup trucks festooned with Trump flags swarmed a Biden campaign bus, sometimes boxing it in. Trump criticized the F.B.I. for investigating the incident, calling the drivers "patriots." Weeks ago, a group of men were arrested for allegedly plotting to kidnap the Democratic governor of Michigan. Gun sales are through the roof. Last week, Walmart announced it removed ammunition and firearms from displays, citing "civil unrest." Trump has refused to promise a peaceful transfer of power. He told a far-right group to "stand back and stand by."

About 7 in 10 voters say they are anxious about the election, according to an AP-NORC poll last month. Only a third are excited. Biden supporters were more likely than Trump voters to be nervous — 72% to 61%.

But Trump's supporters, too, said they feel a sense of dread. The president has warned them that if he loses the country would lurch toward socialism, crime would consume the streets, freedom would buckle under political correctness.



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"If we let that other guy in, all hell is going to break loose," said Dan Smith, 53, who is retired from law enforcement in Norfolk, Virginia. He said he's supporting Trump because he's concerned about "law and order."

As the coronavirus crisis surges to more than 9 million infections and 230,000 dead, the election for many is a referendum on how Trump has handled the pandemic. In the final days of the campaign, he has continued to downplay the toll it has taken, and many of his supporters say they find no fault in his response.

In New Albany, Ohio, Jason Baker, a 44-year-old real estate agent, said that despite the fact that he and his family all had COVID-19 two months ago, he cast his ballot for Trump. He believes the pandemic has "been highly politized to the point where it's disgusting." He described his vote as "a chess move" toward protecting the issues most important to him: law enforcement and the economy.

But Theresa McGarity in Mount Clemens, Michigan, lost her mother to COVID in April at 76 years old. She was a God-fearing woman and had been teaching her 8-year-old great-granddaughter how to crochet. On Friday night, McGarity brought the child to an art installation: they filled a lawn with shoes, each representing one of Macomb County's approximately 1,000 dead from the virus. A raucous pro-Trump demonstration down the street could be heard as they read the age and hometown of each of their dead.

"I guess because it hit home, it's not political anymore. It's a plain, simple right and wrong," said McGarity, who already cast a ballot for Biden. "When someone in leadership is aware of something that could flip your whole world upside down and they don't inform you. And you have the right to vote to change that, shame on you if you don't."

Early voting numbers — nearly 90 million by Saturday morning — suggest 2020 will shatter voter turnout records. Trump has alleged that widespread absentee voting will lead to fraud, though there is no evidence to support that claim.

In Topeka, Kansas, Roger Randel, a 48-year-old pastor and Trump supporter, voted early in person, citing stories of mail-in ballots found in trays of mail discarded in a Wisconsin ditch — a case the White House seized on to cast doubt on the election's integrity. The Wisconsin Elections Commission later reported that no election ballots from that state were among the discovered parcels.

"If there are honest and fair elections, yes, I think they will be respected, but if there's a lot of fraud that's been caught and seen, I think it throws a damper on the election integrity," Randel said.

And in Wichita, 51-year-old Michael Long, a former civil engineer, also voted for Trump in person early instead of mailing his ballot, then planned to later check online to be sure it was counted. Long said he's had "a falling out" with friends and family because of the "elevated emotional tension."

In Macomb County, Terry Frandle hung Trump banners outside his house and noticed that neighbors who used to stop to chat crossed to the other side of the street, not even offering a "hello." Some drivers wave, some flip the bird. He doesn't blame Trump for the discord — he blames Democrats and the media for failing to give Trump a fair shake, he said. He plans to vote in person on Election Day.

"I just don't trust anything anymore," he said — except for what he hears directly from Trump.

On the other side of the aisle, too, people are grappling with emotional political tension.

In the Chicago suburbs, Phyllis Delrosario, 73, said her mood vacillates from excitement to depression. She researched moving to another country if Trump is reelected because she thinks democracy will "cease to exist."

She worries she's taking her emotions out on her husband. Delrosario said she has a short fuse, and she blames Trump.

"I just feel like I'm this raw exposed nerve all the time, and the anxiety of all this and the chaos of 'what's he going to destroy next?' What thing is he going to step on next?' It's horrible," she said.

In Dunedin, Florida, Charles Oppermann dropped his ballot for Biden off Thursday then retreated to a mountain cabin in North Carolina to disconnect.

Oppermann, 55, spent 11 days in the hospital battling coronavirus. A few week ago, he was lying in bed, scrolling through Twitter and came across an altered photo of Trump, his skin pockmarked with red, spiky coronavirus blobs. Panicked, he got out of bed and turned on the TV to try to get that image out

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of his mind. He believes his intense reaction was a combination of trauma from his infection and anxiety about the election.

In the Pittsburgh suburbs, Carla Dundes, a retired 66-year-old, has settled into a nervous pre-election routine. Each day, she checks the county website's tally of mailed ballots, monitors COVID infection numbers and scrolls the latest polls. That doesn't calm her nerves, so she centers herself behind her Steinway piano to play.

"I want my life back," she said. "I want to be able to have my evenings where we read and we watch frivolous TV shows and I don't have to listen to the news obsessively."

She, and other Democrats, said favorable polls for Biden bring back bad memories from Election night 2016, when they thought Hillary Clinton was cruising to victory then Trump eked out a win.

Back then, Meghan Iliesiu, a 32-year-old stay-at-home mother in Oakland County, Michigan, voted third-party. She never thought Trump would win. Now she believes he's made the country more hateful and divided.

She decided long ago to vote for any Democrat who ran against him, but her husband was still leaning toward voting third-party. They went out for a drive this summer, saw lots of Trump yard signs and he changed his mind. They both cast their ballots for Biden.

Now the wait is excruciating, Iliesiu said.

"I feel really helpless," she said. "Because I feel that there's just no good outcome. If Trump wins, that's the worst outcome. And if Biden wins, is the transition going to go smoothly? And what's going to happen with the approximately 50 percent of Americans who do vote for Trump?"

Shahin Nazmul Hassan, founder of the Bangladeshi American Democratic Caucus in Michigan, said the message Trump has sent to his community is that they are not welcome. He said Trump's anti-immigrant acts have motivated groups to band together in this election — Chinese, Middle Eastern, African and other immigrants gathered virtually to try to energize people to the polls because the stakes seem higher now than they've ever been.

"Thirty years ago, when I came to this country, it was so beautiful, so warm and welcoming, so accepting. But that is not the culture anymore," he said. "What we've seen in the past four years is division, putting people down. There's no decency and respect."

Trump at a recent debate declined to clearly condemn white supremacy.

As a Black woman, Charlotte Moss, 64, of Oakland County, Michigan, decided not to live in fear. She had become increasingly concerned about emboldened militant racist groups. It had once seemed outrageous that leaders would stoke racial tensions to pit Americans against each other, maybe even violently. But that doesn't seem so outrageous anymore, she said.

She had never owned a gun, but about a month ago, bought one. She took a class at the Detroit chapter of the National African American Gun Association. Chad King started the club in 2017, and it's grown to 210 members. In the weeks before the election, he scheduled two courses on deescalating tense situations. They sold out in three days.

"For the Black community, there are so many things at stake right now," said Linnea Pace, 57, in the Atlanta suburb Decatur. Trump, she believes, wants to erode civil rights measures and turn back the clock to a darker time.

She voted on the first day of early voting in Georgia.

Michelle McDonald got chills when she submitted her early ballot for Biden in Macomb County last week. As a Black woman, she hadn't experienced that sensation since voting for Barack Obama. It felt like that monumental of a moment.

She was anxious as she walked into the clerk's office, but as she walked out she felt something different: hope.

"I did my part," she said. "I have faith that no matter what happens things are going to get better. God has us all."

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Associated Press journalists Sharon Cohen in Chicago; Matt Sedensky in Philadelphia; Tamara Lush in St. Petersburg, Florida ; Jeff Martin in Decatur, Georgia; Ben Finley in Norfolk, Virginia; Andrew Welsh-Huggins in Columbus, Ohio; Andy Tsubasa Field in Topeka, Kansas; Roxana Hegeman in Wichita, Kansas and Hannah Fingerhut contributed to this report.

## House Dems ask Trump admin to halt COVID border expulsions

By GARANCE BURKE and JASON DEAREN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A group of Democratic lawmakers called on the Trump administration Monday to stop the expulsion of unaccompanied children and other asylum seekers at the U.S. border using emergency powers granted during the coronavirus pandemic.

The letter to acting Department of Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf and Dr. Robert Redfield, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, comes after reporting by The Associated Press revealed that Vice President Mike Pence directed CDC to effectively close the U.S. land borders to immigrants and asylum seekers, according to two former health officials.

The directive from Pence came after the top CDC doctor who normally oversees such orders refused a White House mandate to halt the flow of immigrants across the border because he said there was no valid public health reason to do so. The action has so far caused more than 197,000 migrant children and adults to be expelled from the country.

"Clearly, expulsions lack a public health rationale, and the U.S. government is fully capable of receiving and placing unaccompanied children and asylum seekers while also protecting public health," said the letter, signed by 58 lawmakers.

In a statement, the CDC refused to comment on the situation, citing pending litigation, but said it would respond directly to Congress. DHS did not immediately respond to a request for comment Monday. Pence's spokeswoman, Katie Miller, has denied that he directed the CDC on this issue.

At issue is the March 20 order under Title 42 of the Public Health Service Act, which gives federal health officials unique powers during a pandemic to take extraordinary measures to limit transmission of an infectious disease. One of those is the ability to stop the flow of immigration from countries with high numbers of confirmed cases, a legal authority the CDC does not normally have.

The CDC's order covers the U.S. borders with both Mexico and Canada, but has mostly affected the thousands of asylum seekers and immigrants arriving at the southern border. Public health experts had urged the administration to focus on a national mask mandate, enforce social distancing and increase the number of contact tracers to track down people exposed to the virus.

But Stephen Miller, a top aide to President Donald Trump who has been a vocal opponent of immigration, pushed for the expulsion order, according to Olivia Troye, a former top aide to Pence, who coordinated the White House coronavirus task force.

Before March, Central American children who crossed into the U.S. alone generally were sent to facilities overseen by the Department of Health and Human Services. HHS shelters are required to be state-licensed, have beds and provide schooling. Most children are eventually placed with family or friends who serve as sponsors while they await their day in court.

Under the Title 42 order this year, the administration instead detained some migrant children in hotels, sometimes for weeks, before expelling them to their home countries.

In their letter, the lawmakers say the order endangers children, including by exposing them to risks such as human trafficking.

"By bypassing these procedures, DHS is placing the well-being of these children — and in some cases, their lives — in jeopardy," the letter states.

Burke reported from San Francisco.

## NCAA's Election Day off sends message but is it needed?

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By RALPH D. RUSSO AP College Football Writer

A summer of activism, sparked by protests of racial injustice, led to a grassroots movement to give college athletes the day off from sports on Election Day.

The NCAA latched on to the idea and, under a mandate approved in September, organized athletics will go dark on college campuses across the country. It has not gone over without a hitch: Tuesdays are typically when that week's game plan is first put into action, and there has been grumbling from a few football coaches.

Clemson safety Nolan Turner, who is from the suburbs of Birmingham, Alabama, said Monday he had already voted by absentee ballot.

"We're going to have our typical Tuesday practice today, and then (Tuesday) will kind of be a midweek day, get refreshed, get the body feeling good and really get dialed in on our game plan and what we've got to do against Notre Dame," Turner said of the top-ranked Tigers' trip to Indiana this weekend.

That's the point Turner's coach, Dabo Swinney, was making last month when he said he "didn't understand" the NCAA decision. Many players will have already voted and those that haven't probably wouldn't need all day to do so.

Notre Dame coach Brian Kelly said having Tuesday off meant rushing players back on Sunday for weight training, physical rehab and meetings after returning from a road game at Georgia Tech last Saturday night. No. 4 Notre Dame also worked in an additional COVID-19 test for players because of the change in schedule.

"Less than an ideal situation," Kelly said.

Florida coach Dan Mullen said he supports making Election Day a federal holiday and giving everyone a day off from work and school. But last week he called the NCAA's Election Day decision "disappointing."

Florida has held a team voter registration day, Mullen said, and he wanted to get the team together to vote as a group Tuesday.

"We're not allowed to do the organized team activities that day now," Mullen said.

At the height of the protests that came after the police killings of George Floyd in Minneapolis and Breona Taylor in Louisville, it was common for college football players and their coaches to not just take part in campus marches and demonstrations but to lead them.

At Clemson, in particular, star quarterback Trevor Lawrence and his teammates organized an event.

Georgia Tech assistant basketball coach Eric Reveno has been credited with planting the idea of making Election Day an off day for college athletes back in the summer and moving it forward on social media with #AllVoteNoPlay.

Georgia Tech football coach Geoff Collins backed Reveno's idea. Before the NCAA made it official on Sept. 16, individual schools such as UCLA and Minnesota said they would give athletes Nov. 3 off. Texas coach Tom Herman said he planned to do give his team the day off and provide transportation to the polls for those who needed it.

Duke coach David Cutcliffe said the school and athletic department have put a lot of effort into empowering athletes, encouraging them to vote and educating them on how to go about it.

"We've worked very hard with our team so that anybody that wasn't registered is now registered, and we've had our people administratively help them get their ballots, make sure they're voting and have voted," Cutcliffe said.

As for a day off, Cutcliffe said: "I think it's a little more showy, honestly -- I'll just say it like it is -- than it has purpose."

Perhaps no team had to condense its preparation this week more than No. 9 BYU. The Cougars play their toughest game of the season Friday night at No. 21 Boise State.

BYU, which is affiliated with the Church of Latter Day Saints, does not permit athletic activities on Sundays. Because of that, the school asked the NCAA for a waiver to permit the Cougars to practice Tuesday. It was denied.

"Everybody had good intentions," BYU athletic director Tom Holmoe said. "I don't think there's anybody



that's going to argue with the fact that we can do more as administrators in college athletics, and thus the legislation."

But, he added, "I think most of the work has been done."

David Ridpath, a professor of sports business at Ohio University and member of the Drake Group watchdog group for college sports, said it probably wasn't necessary to give the athletes a full day off.

Having it does send a message.

"I certainly don't want to say it was a bad idea by any stretch and it probably was more public relations than anything," Ridpath said. "I like the fact that we're trying to get college students and athletes more politically engaged. I do think the symbolism is important."

Follow Ralph D. Russo at <https://twitter.com/ralphDrussoAP> and listen at <https://westwoodonepodcasts.com/pods/ap-top-25-college-football-podcast/>

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## Lawyers on standby if cloudy election outcome heads to court

By MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Signature matches. Late-arriving absentee votes. Drop boxes. Secrecy envelopes. Democratic and Republican lawyers already have gone to court over these issues in the run-up to Tuesday's election. But the legal fights could take on new urgency, not to mention added vitriol, if a narrow margin in a battleground state is the difference between another four years for President Donald Trump or a Joe Biden administration.

Both sides say they're ready, with thousands of lawyers on standby to march into court to make sure ballots get counted, or excluded.

Since the 2000 presidential election, which was ultimately decided by the Supreme Court, both parties have enlisted legal teams to prepare for the unlikely event that voting wouldn't settle the contest. But this year, there is a near presumption that legal fights will ensue and that only a definitive outcome is likely to forestall them.

The candidates and parties have enlisted prominent lawyers with ties to Democratic and Republican administrations. A Pennsylvania case at the Supreme Court pits Donald Verrilli, who was President Barack Obama's top Supreme Court lawyer, against John Gore, a onetime high-ranking Trump Justice Department official.

It's impossible to know where, or even if, a problem affecting the ultimate result will arise. But existing lawsuits in Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Minnesota and Nevada offer some hint of the states most likely to be ground zero in a post-election battle and the kinds of issues that could tie the outcome in knots.

Roughly 300 lawsuits already have been filed over the election in dozens of states across the country, many involving changes to normal procedures because of the coronavirus pandemic, which has killed more than 230,000 people in the U.S. and sickened more than 9 million.

Most of the potential legal challenges are likely to stem from the huge increase in absentee balloting brought on by the coronavirus pandemic. In Pennsylvania, elections officials won't start processing those ballots until Election Day, and some counties have said they won't begin counting those votes until the following day. Mailed ballots that don't come inside a secrecy envelope have to be discarded, under a state Supreme Court ruling.

"I still can't figure how counting and verifying absentee ballots is going to go in some of the battleground states like Pennsylvania," said Ohio State University law professor Edward Foley, an election law expert.

The deadline for receiving and counting absentee ballots is Friday, an extension ordered by Pennsylvania's top court. The Supreme Court left that order in place in response to a Republican effort to block it. But several conservative justices indicated they'd be open to taking the issue up after the election, especially if those late-arriving ballots could mean the difference in the state.

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Trump, though, was not happy the extension was left in place, even though Pennsylvania will keep those ballots separate from the rest in case of renewed court interest.

"This is a horrible thing that the United States Supreme Court has done to our country," Trump said in Pennsylvania Saturday.

On Sunday, he said that as soon as the polls close, "We're going in with our lawyers."

Like Pennsylvania, North Carolina also has seen a court fight between Democrats who support extending the deadline for absentee ballots and Republicans who oppose it. The issue is a six-day extension approved by a state court — beyond the three extra days after Election Day that the Republican-controlled legislature agreed to in response to the pandemic.

The justices last week allowed the extra days to remain in effect, over a dissent by three conservatives on the court.

In Minnesota, late-arriving ballots also will be segregated from the rest of the vote because of ongoing legal proceedings, under a federal appeals court order.

Republican lawsuits have challenged local decisions that could take on national significance in a close election.

In Nevada, a state court judge rejected a bid by the Trump campaign and state Republicans to stop the count of mail-in ballots in Las Vegas, the state's most populous and Democratic-leaning county.

Trump campaign in Nevada co-chairman Adam Laxalt said an immediate appeal to the Nevada Supreme Court is being considered.

The Republicans say observers aren't allowed close enough to workers and machines at the busy vote-counting center in suburban Las Vegas to challenge signatures.

In Texas, Republicans are asking state and federal courts to order election officials in the Houston area not to count ballots dropped off at drive-in locations. The Texas Supreme Court on Sunday denied the GOP's plea. On Monday, a federal judge also turned away the effort to invalidate the nearly 127,000 votes.

The scale and scope of legal action related to the presidential election has never been seen before. Trump has suggested the outcome could well be decided in court. The closer the contest, the more likely his prediction proves true.

## Widely shared photo of Biden without mask was taken in 2019

By AMANDA SEITZ Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — President Donald Trump's supporters have seized on a photo circulating on Twitter since late Sunday that shows Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden not wearing a mask while he talks to a campaign staffer on a plane.

Why wasn't Biden, who has made a point to put on a facial covering throughout the campaign, wearing a mask? Because the photo was taken in November 2019, before the first case of the new coronavirus was reported, and months before global health officials began urging people to wear masks in order to stop the spread of the virus.

The image was shared on Twitter by Trump's former acting Director of National Intelligence Richard Grenell, where it was liked and shared from his account more than 50,000 times. Grenell, who currently serves as special presidential envoy for Serbia and Kosovo peace negotiations, was a U.S. ambassador to Germany for two years before resigning in June.

When contacted by The Associated Press, Grenell did not answer questions about whether he knew the image was old before sharing it with his 671,000 followers.

Mask wearing has become a political issue on the campaign trail, with Biden frequently putting one on in public and Trump rarely doing so, and even mocking Biden for wearing a mask so often.

Here's a look at the misleading claim:

CLAIM: A photo of Biden talking to a campaign staffer without a mask on a plane begs the question: "Joe Biden doesn't wear a mask on a plane but wears one outside?"

AP'S ASSESSMENT: False. The photo was taken in November 2019. At that point in the campaign, the new coronavirus had not emerged globally so Biden did not wear a mask anywhere.

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THE FACTS: A photo of Biden on a plane talking with his traveling national press secretary, Remi Yamamoto, both without masks, was taken in November 2019, not recently.

The photo was featured in a Vogue magazine article last week about Yamamoto and her role in the campaign. Conservative Twitter users seized on the image Sunday night, claiming it shows a hypocritical Biden not following recommended mask guidelines while traveling on a plane.

But the caption on that image clearly notes that it was captured by Biden's campaign in November 2019 while Biden was traveling to South Carolina, before COVID-19 was even identified as a worldwide health threat.

Associated Press reporting confirms Biden traveled to South Carolina in late November of last year, making a campaign stop at Lander University in Greenwood on Nov. 21. The next day, he stopped at a soul food restaurant in Abbeville and filed paperwork to run in the state's presidential primary.

## Trump threatens to fire Fauci in rift with disease expert

By ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

OPA-LOCKA, Fla. (AP) — President Donald Trump is suggesting that he will fire Dr. Anthony Fauci after Tuesday's election, as his rift with the nation's top infectious disease expert widens while the nation sees its most alarming outbreak of the coronavirus since the spring.

Speaking at a campaign rally in Opa-locka, Florida, Trump expressed frustration that the surging cases of the virus that has killed more than 231,000 people in the United States this year remains prominent in the news. That sparked his supporters to begin chanting "Fire Fauci."

"Don't tell anybody but let me wait until a little bit after the election," Trump replied to thousands of supporters early Monday, adding he appreciated their "advice."

Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden tweeted later Monday in response: "We need a president who actually listens to experts like Dr. Fauci."

Biden has sought to keep the campaign focused on what he says is a disastrous federal response to the pandemic. Trump is countering by using the race's final hours to accuse Biden of wanting to force the country back into a lockdown to slow the spread of the virus.

Still, Trump's comments on Fauci less than 48 hours before polls close likely ensure the pandemic will remain front and center heading into Election Day.

It's the most direct Trump has been in suggesting he was serious about trying to remove Fauci from his position. He has previously expressed that he was concerned about the political blowback of removing the popular and respected doctor before the election.

Trump cannot directly fire Fauci, who is not a presidential appointee. Theoretically, Trump could pressure Fauci's boss, Dr. Francis Collins, or Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar to do so. Even discounting Fauci's scientific legacy, taking that step would be politically extraordinary considering a Republican president, George W. Bush, awarded Fauci the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Fauci also has considerable bipartisan support in Congress.

Former President Barack Obama defended Fauci while campaigning in Atlanta for Biden. Obama praised Fauci's public service and remarked that Trump's "second-term plan is to fire that guy, the one person who could actually help them contain the pandemic."

The latest flare-up follows Fauci making his sharpest criticism yet of the White House's response to the coronavirus and Trump's public assertion that the nation is "rounding the turn."

Fauci has grown outspoken that Trump has ignored his advice for containing the virus, saying he hasn't spoken with Trump in more than a month. He has raised alarm that the nation was heading for a challenging winter if more isn't done soon to slow the spread of the disease.

In an interview with The Washington Post this weekend, Fauci cautioned that the U.S. will have to deal with "a whole lot of hurt" in the weeks ahead due to surging coronavirus cases.

Fauci said the U.S. "could not possibly be positioned more poorly" to stem rising cases as more people gather indoors during the colder fall and winter months. He says the U.S. will need to make an "abrupt

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change" in public health precautions.

Fauci added that he believed Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden "is taking it seriously from a public health perspective," while Trump is "looking at it from a different perspective." Fauci, who's on the White House coronavirus task force, said that perspective emphasizes "the economy and reopening the country."

In response, White House spokesman Judd Deere said Trump always puts people's well-being first charged that Fauci had decided "to play politics" right before Tuesday's election. Deere said Fauci "has a duty to express concerns or push for a change in strategy" but instead is "choosing to criticize the president in the media and make his political leanings known."

Trump had already stepped up his attacks on Biden in recent days for pledging to heed the advice of scientists in responding to the pandemic. As Trump charges that Biden's measures to slow the pandemic could keep Americans home and hurt the economy, the former vice president has countered that the only way out of the health crisis is to heed the warnings of Fauci and other medical professionals. Biden has also been careful not to endorse another national lockdown.

Trump has recently relied on the advice of Stanford doctor Scott Atlas, who has no prior background in infectious diseases or public health, as his lead science adviser on the pandemic. Atlas has been a public skeptic about mask wearing and other measures widely accepted by the scientific community to slow the spread of the virus.

Other members of the White House coronavirus task force have grown increasingly vocal about what they see as a dangerous fall spike in the virus.

Trump's aggressive approach to Fauci carries some risks.

A Kaiser Family Foundation poll in September showed 68% of Americans have a great deal or a fair amount of trust in Fauci to provide reliable information on the coronavirus. That compares with 52% of Americans who trusted Biden to do that and just 40% for Trump.

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AP Medical Writer Luran Neergaard in Washington and Associated Press writer Bill Barrow in Atlanta contributed to this report.

## Polling places are latest front in battle over face masks

By ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE Associated Press

America's fight over masks has reached a new front: polling places.

On Election Day, voters across the country will face varying rules about mask-wearing when they cast a ballot as officials try to balance public safety precautions amid a global pandemic with the constitutional right to vote.

Most states, even ones with broad mask mandates, are stopping short of forcing voters to use a face covering. Instead, they're opting for recommendations to wear them while providing options for voters who refuse.

"We are asking everyone at the polls to observe social distancing inside and outside of polling places, and not to create disturbances about wearing or not wearing face coverings," said Meagan Wolfe, chief elections official in Wisconsin, where a state mask mandate applies to poll workers but not voters.

During the early voting period, disagreements over masks occasionally led to long voting lines and had election officials clearing polling sites for the mask-less or directing them to stations away from other machines.

Still, due to the decentralized nature of the country's voting systems, rules are different depending on where ballots are cast. Some places are taking harder stances than others.

In one case that caught national attention, a Maryland man was arrested after refusing to wear a mask while trying to vote last month. He has since sued his local election board over the incident.

In Texas, the issue has wound up in court.

First, Republican Gov. Greg Abbott carved out an exception for voting locations in his statewide mask mandate issued earlier this year. Then, in response to a challenge from voting rights groups, a federal



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judge ordered that masks must be worn inside polling sites. That decision was quickly reversed by an appeals court.

Despite the legal back and forth, at least some Texas elections administrators had chosen not to enforce the short-lived polling station mask mandate.

Wendy Weiser, director of the democracy program at the Brennan Center for Justice, said governments should be able to require masks at polling places during the coronavirus pandemic.

"Despite the few attempts to challenge mask requirements in court, there is no question that it is well within the legal authority of states and localities to require masks to be worn at polling places — both as a matter of public health and as a reasonable regulation of the election process," she said.

With Election Day looming, most places have settled on a strategy of strongly encouraging voters to wear masks. Their message is that abiding by widely accepted health guidelines will protect poll workers and other voters.

In Atlanta, Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms over the weekend signed an extension of measures designed to limit the spread of the virus, including a mask mandate in the city. But her order specifically says "no individual shall be denied ingress or egress to or from a polling place for failure to wear a facial covering or mask."

Gabriel Sterling, statewide voting system implementation manager for the secretary of state's office, said during a news conference Monday that individual poll managers will have to decide how to accommodate people who have tested positive or are in quarantine. He suggested that one way to handle them might be pulling them aside and having them vote a hand-marked paper ballot away from everyone else, rather than having them use one of the touchscreen voting machines.

But he stressed that no additional barriers to voting can be put in place.

"You can't turn away somebody because they're not wearing a mask," Sterling said.

Meanwhile, election officials across the country have scrambled to shore up polling place safety precautions to make it easier to recruit poll workers. Many of them have traditionally been older retirees — the type of people who are at greater risk of getting a severe case of the coronavirus.

The idea of staffing a polling place where voters aren't wearing masks was one reason Richard Baus decided to break over a decade of tradition and not work the election in his hometown of Dublin, Pennsylvania, this year. Even at 90-years-old during a global pandemic, Baus said he was considering returning as a poll worker but ultimately decided against it.

"Being a poll worker, you do come into contact with people, very close contact," he said. "I would have been more inclined to work if they had a mask mandate."

Virginia Elections Commissioner Chris Piper said voters who walk into polling places without wearing face coverings will be offered masks by poll workers. If they refuse to wear them, the voters will be asked to return to their cars and vote curbside. If they refuse to do that, they will be allowed to vote inside the polling location.

"Obviously, the goal is to mitigate that, to encourage the health and safety of everybody," Piper said. "But certainly if they refuse, they have to be offered a ballot."

In Florida's Broward County, where there is a mask ordinance, elections spokesman Steve Vancore said just four out of 364,000 early voters refused to wear masks. They were allowed to cast ballots after they were separated from other voters.

"We tell them 'Sir or ma'am — it is mostly sir — you are not supposed to be in here without a mask. There is a county ordinance,'" he said. "They mostly obey."

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Izaguirre reported from Lindenhurst, New York. Associated Press writers Kate Brumback and Christina A. Cassidy in Atlanta; Acacia Coronado in Austin, Texas; Denise Lavoie in Richmond, Virginia; and Terry Spencer in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, contributed to this report.

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Associated Press coverage of voting rights receives support in part from Carnegie Corporation of New York. The AP is solely responsible for this content.

## IS attack on Afghan university leaves 22 dead, 22 wounded

By RAHIM FAIEZ and KATHY GANNON Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Islamic State militants in Afghanistan stormed Kabul University on Monday as it hosted a book fair attended by the Iranian ambassador, sparking an hours-long gunbattle and leaving at least 22 dead and 22 wounded at the war-torn country's largest school.

Most of the casualties were students and there were fears the death toll could climb further with some of the wounded said to be in critical condition.

It was the second attack on an educational institution in Kabul in as many weeks.

The Taliban promptly issued a statement denying they took part in the assault, which came as the insurgents continue peace talks with representatives of Kabul's U.S.-backed government, with the aim to help the United States finally withdraw from Afghanistan. Later in the day, the Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack.

As the attack unfolded, students and teachers were seen fleeing the part of the campus where law and journalism schools are located, while hand grenades exploded and automatic rifle fire could be heard. Scores of Afghan special forces surrounded the campus, shepherding teachers and students to safety.

The chaos subsided as the sun set over the Afghan capital and the Interior Ministry's spokesman, Tariq Arian, said all three attackers involved in the assault were killed.

The Islamic State group said it targeted newly graduated "judges and investigators belonging to the apostate Afghan government" gathered at the campus, according to the SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors terror online messaging.

The IS statement claimed only two of its fighters were involved, and posted their photographs, which conflicted with the Afghan authorities' report of three attackers. The claim did not indicate the IS intended to target the Iranian envoy or the book fair.

Last week, IS also claimed a brutal assault on a tutoring center in the Afghan capital's mostly Shiite neighborhood of Dasht-e-Barchi that killed at least 24 students and wounded more than 100 others on Oct. 24.

The peace negotiations between the Taliban and the Kabul government, known as intra-Afghan talks, were part of a deal Washington signed with the insurgents in February. They are taking place in the Gulf Arab state of Qatar, and are seen as Afghanistan's best chance at peace — though daily bloodshed has continued.

Five hours into the fighting on Monday, sporadic grenade explosions and automatic weapons fire still echoed down the empty streets surrounding the university's fenced compound. Afghan troops stood guard.

Ahmad Samim, a university student, told journalists he saw militants armed with pistols and Kalashnikov assault rifles firing at the school, the country's oldest with some 17,000 students. He said the attack happened at the university's eastern side, where its law and journalism faculty teach.

Afghan media reported that a book exhibition was being held at the university and attended by a number of dignitaries at the time of the shooting. None of the dignitaries were reported hurt.

While Afghan officials declined to discuss the bookfair, Iran's semiofficial ISNA news agency reported Sunday that Iranian Ambassador Bahador Aminian and cultural attaché Mojtaba Noroozi were to inaugurate the fair, which was hosting some 40 Iranian publishers. Iranian state television reported that the attack occurred, but did not offer information on its officials.

Iranian diplomats have been targeted previously in Afghanistan, incidents that dangerously escalated tensions between the two countries. In 1998, Iran held the Taliban responsible for the deaths of nine Iranian diplomats working in its consulate in northern Afghanistan, and sent reinforcements to the 950-kilometer- (580-mile-) long Iran-Afghan border.

The IS affiliate in Afghanistan has declared war on the country's minority Shiite Muslims and staged dozens of attacks since emerging in the region in 2014. A horrific attack earlier this year on a Kabul maternity hospital — also in the Dasht-e-Barchi neighborhood — was blamed on the Islamic State group. In

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that attack, militants killed 25 people, many of them newborn babies and mothers.

Schools have also been targeted in past attacks. Last year, a bomb outside of the Kabul University's gates killed eight people. In 2016, gunmen attacked the American University in Kabul, killing 13.

Violence has been relentless even as the talks in Qatar to end more than four decades of war in Afghanistan have been painfully slow and despite repeated demands for a reduction in violence.

The U.S.-Taliban deal in February allowed for the withdrawal of U.S. and NATO troops from Afghanistan and set the stage for the talks underway in Doha.

The architect of Washington's agreement with the Taliban, Zalmay Khalilzad, returned last week to the region, citing deep disappointment at the escalating violence in Afghanistan. On Monday, Khalilzad was in neighboring Pakistan, where he met with the powerful army chief. Few details of the meeting have been released but it is widely believed Khalilzad was pressing for Pakistan's help to push the Taliban to agree to a reduction in violence.

Even though their political office is based in Qatar, Taliban leadership councils are located in Pakistan, with Islamabad being critical to pressing the insurgents into peace talks.

Though Khalilzad and the Afghan government have been calling for a cease-fire or at the very least a reduction in violence, the Taliban have refused a truce, saying a permanent end to fighting would be part of the negotiations.

Pakistan's foreign ministry condemned Monday's attack in Kabul, calling it an "act of terrorism" that was particularly "despicable as it targeted an institution of learning." Last week, a suicide bomber attacked a religious school in Pakistan's northwest on the border with Afghanistan, killing eight students and wounding more than 120.

Also on Monday, a vehicle hit a roadside mine in Afghanistan's southern Helmand province, killing at least seven civilians, most of them women and children, provincial governor spokesman Omer Zwak said.

Gannon reported from Islamabad. Associated Press writers Nasser Karimi and Amir Vahdat in Tehran, Iran, contributed to this report.

## **EXPLAINER: States to watch on election night**

By DEB RIECHMANN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump and Democratic challenger Joe Biden each has a path to win the White House. The former vice president is competitive in all the battleground states Trump carried in 2016, and has put a handful of traditional Republican states, including Georgia and Arizona, in play. Trump can win by defending a wide swath of territory he won in 2016, but his hopes for reelection are heavily dependent on the swing states of Florida and Pennsylvania.

Grab the binoculars and focus on these 10 states as election returns start rolling in:

### **FLORIDA IS WORTH 29 ELECTORAL VOTES**

All eyes are on Florida, a swing state known for razor-thin election tallies. If President Donald Trump doesn't win Florida, he's going to have a rough time capturing enough states to stay in office. If Democrat Joe Biden doesn't win the state, he still has other pathways to victory.

Don't put the state in either candidates' win column too early. After the polls close, Florida election officials are expected to announce the results of millions of mail-in ballots cast early. If more Democrats voted in advance, it could make it look like Biden is winning. It's important to keep watching as ballots cast on Election Day trickle in. The remaining votes might heavily favor Trump and allow him to eke out a win just as he did in 2016. Moreover, polls close an hour later in Florida's Panhandle, which is a Republican stronghold.

### **PENNSYLVANIA IS WORTH 20 ELECTORAL VOTES**

Trump won the long-running Democratic state of Pennsylvania in 2016 by a little more than 1 percentage point. Biden has had a slight advantage in most polls, while some suggest Trump remains positioned to capture the state again.

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Trump's hopes of winning boosted after Biden, in a presidential debate, called for phasing out fossil fuels. That created an opportunity for Trump in a state with a robust natural gas industry.

Biden, who was born in Scranton, claims some favorite-son status in the state and he's traveled there a lot during the campaign from his home in nearby Delaware.

Bucks County, once Philadelphia's most GOP-heavy suburb, has been trending Democratic. Trump lost that county by less than 2 percentage points in 2016 and has seen his standing in the suburbs steadily erode since then.

## OHIO IS WORTH 18 ELECTORAL VOTES

Trump glided to victory in Ohio four years ago by 8 percentage points, but recent polls show this year's presidential race tightening in the Buckeye State.

Trump's support in key suburbs has eroded and he has worked to keep a hold of the near-historic margins he earned from voters in rural areas of the state in 2016.

As early voting began in the state, Biden expanded his ad buys into every corner of Ohio. Biden's push into traditionally Republican areas signaled his campaign's hope that the state could be within his grasp.

Biden also added a last minute campaign stop Monday in Cleveland, which his campaign hopes will juice turnout for him.

## GEORGIA IS WORTH 16 ELECTORAL VOTES

Population changes are driving politics in the Peach state.

Georgia, long a GOP stronghold, hasn't voted for a Democratic presidential candidate since the 1990s, but parts of the state are leaning Democratic. Trump easily won the state by 5 percentage points in 2016, but Biden maintains he has a shot and made campaign stops in Georgia during the final week of the campaign.

The GOP grip on Georgia is loosening as the number of older, white, Republican-leaning voters die. They are being replaced by younger people — some having moved to fast-growing Atlanta from other states — who vote Democratic.

## MICHIGAN IS WORTH 16 ELECTORAL VOTES

Michigan was long considered a Democratic stronghold in presidential contests. But Trump won it by less than 11,000 votes in 2016 with support from working-class voters and a boost from Hillary Clinton's poor showing with Black voters in Detroit.

Biden has teamed up with former President Barack Obama to campaign in Flint and Detroit, predominantly Black cities where strong turnout will be essential to putting the state in Biden's win column.

Trump isn't ceding Michigan to Biden. In his campaign visits, Trump argued that he has promoted trade policies that have benefited Michigan's auto industry, while pillorying the state's Democratic governor over restrictions she has implemented to try to stem the spread of the coronavirus.

## ARIZONA IS WORTH 11 ELECTORAL VOTES

Arizona has a long political history of going Republican. It's the home state of Barry Goldwater, a five-term, conservative senator who was the Republican nominee for president in 1964.

Trump won Arizona in 2016, but it is no longer an ironclad GOP stalwart.

A fast-growing Latino population — politically activated during the past decade by anti-immigrant legislation — plus explosive growth among suburbanites skeptical of Trump has energized Democrats.

In 2018, Sen. Kyrsten Sinema became the first Democrat in three decades to win an U.S. Senate seat. Democrats also won three statewide offices, five of nine congressional seats and made gains in the state legislature that year.

## WISCONSIN IS WORTH 10 ELECTORAL VOTES

Trump won Wisconsin by fewer than 23,000 votes in 2016. To win it again, he needs to perform well outside urban areas like Milwaukee and Madison. His record on handling the coronavirus pandemic is at the forefront in many voters' minds as cases of the virus spike in Wisconsin.

Biden is expected to win urban areas and recent polling suggests Trump is not doing as well as he did in 2016 in GOP-leaning suburbs around Milwaukee.

Those are key areas for successful Republican campaigns in the state. It's unclear whether Trump can lure



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enough votes in the more rural areas to offset Biden strongholds in Milwaukee, Madison and Green Bay.

## IOWA IS WORTH SIX ELECTORAL VOTES

Trump won Iowa handily in 2016, yet the public health and economic crises resulting from the coronavirus pandemic are part of why Democrats think they have a chance.

Iowa is not a must-win for Biden. A loss for the president would significantly narrow his path to reelection.

## NEVADA IS WORTH SIX ELECTORAL VOTES

Trump narrowly lost Nevada in 2016 as the state has trended toward the Democrats in the past decade, but the president thinks he can flip it.

Trump's campaign has invested heavily in the state and is relying on its ground game to turn out voters. Democrats, by contrast, have largely relied on virtual campaign efforts during the pandemic, save for the casino workers' Culinary Union, which has sent workers door-to-door.

Some Democrats fear Trump has gained momentum from increasing support from Latinos and non-college education white voters, two important constituencies in the state.

## 2 children pulled alive in dramatic Turkey quake rescues

By MEHMET GUZEL and SUZAN FRASER Associated Press

IZMIR, Turkey (AP) — When firefighter Muammer Celik reached a 3-year-old girl trapped for three days under the rubble of a deadly earthquake in a Turkish coastal city, his heart sank. She was lying motionless, covered in dust, and he asked a colleague for a body bag.

But as Celik extended his arm to wipe her face, the child opened her eyes and grabbed hold of his thumb.

"That's where we saw a miracle," Celik of the Istanbul fire department's search-and-rescue team told The Associated Press, recounting Monday's operation 65 hours after the quake hit, killing at least 94 people in Turkey and Greece.

It was the second dramatic rescue Monday after a 14-year-old was also pulled out alive. Onlookers applauded with joy and wept with relief at both scenes in the Turkish city of Izmir, where the vast majority of the deaths and nearly 1,000 injuries have occurred. Two teenagers also died and 19 people were injured on the Greek island of Samos, near the quake's epicenter in the Aegean Sea.

The U.S. Geological Survey rated the quake 7.0, though other agencies recorded it as less severe. Many buildings were completely reduced to rubble or saw several floors pancake in on themselves in Turkey, which has a mix of older buildings and cheap or illegal construction that do not withstand earthquakes well. Regulations have been tightened to strengthen or demolish older buildings, and urban renewal is underway in Turkish cities, but it is not happening fast enough.

On Monday, authorities detained nine people for questioning about six building collapses, including contractors and officials who approved plans, the state-run Anadolu Agency reported.

Celik, whose team was among several who traveled to Izmir, said he found Elif Perincek lying on her back between her bed and a closet in a space that was just big enough for her.

"At first I was very upset," he said. "Then I stretched out my hand to clean her face and she grabbed my thumb. ... I froze because right before that moment, I had asked my team for a blanket and a body bag."

His voice breaking with emotion, he added: "This is a firefighter's joy."

The child spent nearly three full days in the wreckage of her apartment and became the 106th person to be pulled alive from the rubble. Her mother and two sisters — 10-year-old twins — were rescued two days earlier. Her 6-year-old brother did not survive.

Health Minister Fahrettin Koca tweeted that both Elif and 14-year-old Idil Sirin were doing well.

Video broadcast by HaberTurk television showed Elif holding a doll and waving at a camera from her hospital bed, with one eye slightly swollen.

Elsewhere in Izmir, rescue workers scrambled to find more survivors used listening devices to detect any signs of life.

"Can anyone hear me?" a team leader shouted, asking possible survivors to bang against surfaces three times if they could.

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Officials said 147 quake survivors were still hospitalized, and three of them were in serious condition. The quake also triggered a small tsunami that hit Samos and the Seferihisar district of Izmir province, where one elderly woman drowned. The tremors were felt across western Turkey, including in Istanbul as well as in the Greek capital of Athens. Hundreds of aftershocks followed.

Turkey sits on top of fault lines and is prone to earthquakes. In 1999, two powerful quakes killed some 18,000 people in northwestern Turkey. Earthquake are frequent in Greece as well.

Fraser reported from Ankara, Turkey.

## Trump promises court fight over Pennsylvania absentee votes

By MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump and his reelection campaign are signaling they will pursue an aggressive legal strategy to try to prevent Pennsylvania from counting mailed ballots that are received in the three days after the election.

The matter could find its way to the Supreme Court, especially if those ballots could tip the outcome in the battleground state.

The three-day extension was ordered by Pennsylvania's top court. The Supreme Court refused to block it, but several conservative justices have indicated they could revisit the issue after the election.

Pennsylvania Secretary of State Kathy Boockvar, a Democrat, already has told local elections officials to keep the late-arriving ballots separate, but also to count them. She acknowledged that a post-election court fight could change that.

Trump's threat of legal action comes as he has been delivering a chaotic closing message during the waning days of the campaign as he lags behind Democratic rival Joe Biden nationally and by narrow margins in key battleground states. The president has made a flurry of last-minute campaign stops trying to hold onto states he won in 2016, including Pennsylvania, Florida and North Carolina. Over the weekend, he continued to rail against absentee ballots, frustrated by a Supreme Court ruling that didn't deliver a clear GOP win, continuing a months-long push to sow unfounded doubt about potential voter fraud.

Trump said the high court's pre-election refusal to rule out the extension was a "terrible decision." He also said that once the polls close Tuesday, "we're going in with our lawyers."

Justin Clark, the deputy Trump campaign manager and senior counsel, said Boockvar "is blatantly attempting to steal this election for Joe Biden and the Democrats. But make no mistake: President Trump and his team will continue to fight for the free, fair election and the trustworthy results all Americans deserve."

The legal issue is whether the extension ordered by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, relying on voter protections in the Pennsylvania constitution, violated the U.S. Constitution. The argument advanced by Republicans is that the Constitution gives state legislatures — not state courts — the power to decide how electoral votes are awarded, including whether absentee ballots received after Election Day can be counted.

Roughly 20 states allow for late-arriving ballots, but Pennsylvania's Republican-controlled legislature did not authorize an extension, even with the huge increase in mailed ballots because of the coronavirus pandemic. Similar ballot-deadline extensions have resulted in court fights in Minnesota and North Carolina.

The Supreme Court generally does not second guess state courts when they rely on their own constitutions. But Democrats were alarmed by Justice Brett Kavanaugh's reference to the court's 2000 *Bush v. Gore* decision that effectively decided the presidential election in favor of George W. Bush. Although it was not the majority opinion in the case, an opinion joined by three conservative justices in 2000 would have ruled for Bush because the Florida Supreme Court's recount order usurped the legislature's authority.

The Supreme Court has never cited *Bush v. Gore* as the basis for a decision of the court. Kavanaugh is one of three justices who worked for Bush in the Florida case 20 years ago. Chief Justice John Roberts and new Justice Amy Coney Barrett are the others.

Despite Trump's recent criticism of the court, he has said that one reason he pushed for Barrett's quick confirmation as a justice was to have her on the court for any post-election disputes. Barrett, Kavanaugh

and Justice Neil Gorsuch are the three Trump appointees on a court that now has a 6-3 conservative advantage.

## South African firm and Johnson & Johnson strike vaccine deal

By MOGOMOTSI MAGOME Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — South African pharmaceutical firm Aspen Pharmacare has announced a deal with U.S. firm Johnson & Johnson to manufacture its COVID-19 vaccine candidate, if it is approved in South Africa and internationally.

In a statement issued on Monday, Aspen said that if ongoing trials bring international health authorities to endorse the J&J vaccine as effective and safe, it would be produced at Aspen's manufacturing facility in Port Elizabeth in South Africa's Eastern Cape province.

The company said the facility has a capacity to manufacture more than 300 million doses of the vaccine a year.

Johnson & Johnson's test vaccine, Ad26.COV3-S, is one of four different vaccines currently undergoing clinical trials in South Africa.

Johnson & Johnson would be responsible for supplying the vaccine in large batches and Aspen would put it into vials and package it for individual doses, pending a final commercial agreement, said the statement issued by Aspen.

Aspen chief executive Stephen Saad said the company has invested more than 3 billion rand (\$184 million) in its South African facility and has a track record of supplying drugs for the treatment of HIV/Aids and multi-drug-resistant TB.

The 7-day rolling average of daily new cases in South Africa did not increase over the past two weeks, going from 2.73 new cases per 100,000 people on Oct. 18 to 2.64 new cases per 100,000 people on Nov. 1.

The country has a total of 726,823 cases, representing more than 40% of all cases recorded in Africa, according to the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In July protesters demonstrated in Johannesburg against vaccine trials of a vaccine being tested by the University of Oxford, in which about 2,000 people were expected to participate.

The protesters told The Associated Press then that people chosen as volunteers for the trials were from impoverished backgrounds and not fully aware of the potential risks associated with clinical trials. However, academics running the trials said that all those participating were given considerable information about the trial and had to take an examination about the trial and pass with a rate of 80%

Experts told a United Nations webinar in June this year that misinformation about testing fueled anti-vaccine sentiment in Africa.

## Crushed by the virus, 2 mall operators file for bankruptcy

By JOSEPH PISANI AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Two mall operators filed for bankruptcy protection Monday, hurt by the coronavirus pandemic that has forced their tenants to permanently close stores or not pay rent.

Both companies, CBL and Pennsylvania Real Estate Investment Trust, said their malls will remain open as they go through the bankruptcy process.

Even before the virus, malls have struggled to attract shoppers who are increasingly shopping online or elsewhere. But the pandemic forced many of them to temporarily close for months. Mall tenants, which operators rely on for rent payments, are also stressed. Some are going bankrupt and closing stores, such as department store chain J.C. Penney.

The two bankruptcies come just before the crucial holiday shopping season. With reported coronavirus cases rising, malls will need to limit crowds during what is traditionally their busiest times of the year. At the same time, big retailers that didn't have to close during the pandemic, such as Amazon, Target and Walmart, are benefiting as they push people to shop online.

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CBL, which operates 107 malls, said more than 30 of its tenants have filed for bankruptcy protection this year and are shutting stores, including woman's clothing retailer Ascena, which has 100 Ann Taylor, LOFT and other stores in CBL malls. Based in Chattanooga, Tennessee, CBL operates malls across the U.S., including EastGate Mall in Cincinnati and West County Center in St. Louis.

PREIT, based in Philadelphia, has more than 20 properties, including Cherry Hill Mall in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, and Viewmont Mall in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Like other malls looking to attract shoppers, PREIT has added restaurants, movie theaters and gyms to its malls in recent years, which now account for about 24% of its tenants. But those establishments have been hit harder by the pandemic and have stricter rules on how many people can visit.

PREIT said more stores are paying rent now than earlier this year, but it still expects its revenue from rent to continue to suffer as long as COVID-19 affects "the return of customers to malls."

## Vatican breaks silence, explains pope's civil union comments

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

ROME (AP) — The Vatican says Pope Francis' comments on gay civil unions were taken out of context in a documentary that spliced together parts of an old interview, but still confirmed Francis' belief that gay couples should enjoy legal protections.

The Vatican secretariat of state issued guidance to ambassadors to explain the uproar that Francis' comments created following the Oct. 21 premiere of the film "Francesco," at the Rome Film Festival. The Vatican nuncio to Mexico, Archbishop Franco Coppola, posted the unsigned guidance on his Facebook page Sunday.

In it, the Vatican confirmed that Francis was referring to his position in 2010 when he was archbishop of Buenos Aires and strongly opposed moves to allow same-sex marriage. Instead, he favored extending legal protections to gay couples under what is understood in Argentina as a civil union law.

While Francis was known to have taken that position privately, he had never articulated his support while as pope. As a result, the comments made headlines, primarily because the Vatican's doctrine office in 2003 issued a document prohibiting such endorsement. The document, signed by Francis' predecessor as pope, says the church's support for gay people "cannot lead in any way to approval of homosexual behavior or to legal recognition of homosexual unions."

The recent uproar gained even more attention because it turned out director Evgeny Afineevsky misled journalists by claiming Francis had made the comments to him in a new interview. A week before the premiere, when he was asked about the civil union comments, Afineevsky told The Associated Press that he had two on-camera interviews with the pope. In comments to journalists after the premiere, he claimed that the civil union footage came from an interview with the pope with a translator present.

It turned out, Francis' comments were apparently taken from a May 2019 interview with Mexican broadcaster Televisa that were never broadcast. The Vatican hasn't confirmed or denied reports by sources in Mexico that the Vatican cut the quote from the footage it provided to Televisa after the interview, which was filmed with Vatican cameras.

Afineevsky apparently was given access to the original, uncut footage in the Vatican archives.

The guidance issued by the secretariat of state doesn't address the issue of the cut quote or that it came from the Televisa interview. It says only that it was from a 2019 interview and that the comments used in the documentary spliced together parts of two different responses in a way that removed crucial context.

"More than a year ago, during an interview, Pope Francis answered two different questions at two different times that, in the aforementioned documentary, were edited and published as a single answer without proper contextualization, which has led to confusion," said the guidance posted by Coppola.

In the film, Afineevsky recounts the story of Andrea Rubera, a married gay Catholic who wrote Francis asking for his advice about bringing into the church his three young children with his husband.

It was an anguished question, given that the Catholic Church teaches that gay people must be treated with dignity and respect but that homosexual acts are "intrinsically disordered." The church also holds that marriage is an indissoluble union between man and woman, and as a result, gay marriage is unacceptable.



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In the end, Rubera recounts how Francis urged him to approach his parish transparently and bring the children up in the faith, which he did. After the anecdote ends, the film cuts to Francis' comments from the Televisa interview.

"Homosexual people have the right to be in a family. They are children of God," Francis said. "You can't kick someone out of a family, nor make their life miserable for this. What we have to have is a civil union law; that way they are legally covered."

Francis' comments about gays having the right to be in a family referred to parents with gay children, and the need for them to not kick their children out or discriminate against them, the Vatican guidance said.

Francis was not endorsing the right of gay couples to adopt children, even though the placement of the quote right after Rubera told his story made it seem that Francis was.

The pope's comments about gay civil unions came from a different part of the Televisa interview and included several caveats that were not included in the film.

In the Televisa interview, Francis made clear he was explaining his position about the unique case in Buenos Aires 10 years ago, as opposed to Rubera's situation or gay marriage as a whole.

In the Televisa interview, Francis also insisted that he always maintained Catholic doctrine and said there was an "incongruity" for the Catholic Church as far as "homosexual marriage" is concerned.

The documentary eliminated that context.

The Televisa footage is available online, and includes an awkward cut right after Francis spoke about the "incongruity" of homosexual marriage. Presumably, that is where he segued into his position as archbishop in favoring extending legal protections to gay couples.

Neither the Vatican nor Afineevsky have responded to repeated questions about the cut quote or its origin.

The Vatican guidance insists that Francis wasn't contradicting church doctrine. But it doesn't explain how his support for extending Argentine legal protections to gay couples in 2010 could be squared with the 2003 document from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which says "the principles of respect and non-discrimination cannot be invoked to support legal recognition of homosexual unions."

## Supreme Court changes fuel moves to protect abortion access

By DAVID CRARY AP National Writer

A vast swath of West Texas has been without an abortion clinic for more than six years. Planned Parenthood plans to change that with a health center it opened recently in Lubbock.

It's a vivid example of how abortion-rights groups are striving to preserve nationwide access to the procedure even as a reconfigured Supreme Court — with the addition of conservative Justice Amy Coney Barrett — may be open to new restrictions.

Planned Parenthood has made recent moves to serve more women in Missouri and Kentucky, and other groups are preparing to help women in other Republican-controlled states access abortion if bans are imposed.

"Abortion access in these states now faces its gravest ever threat," said Alexis McGill Johnson, Planned Parenthood's president. She said the new health center in Lubbock "is an example of our commitment to our patients to meet them where they are."

The clinic opened on Oct. 23 in a one-story building that had been a medical office and was renovated after Planned Parenthood purchased it. To avoid protests and boycotts that have beset some previous expansion efforts, Planned Parenthood kept details, including the clinic's location, secret until the opening was announced.

Planned Parenthood says the health center will start providing abortions — via surgery and medication — sometime next year. Meanwhile, it is offering other services, including cancer screenings, birth control and testing for sexually transmitted infections.

Planned Parenthood closed its previous clinic in Lubbock, a city of 255,000 people, in 2013 after the Texas Legislature slashed funding for family planning services and imposed tough restrictions on abortion clinics.

That law led to the closure of more than half the state's 41 abortion clinics before the Supreme Court

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struck down key provisions in 2016. There were no clinics left providing abortion in a region of more than 1 million people stretching from Amarillo in the Texas Panhandle south to Lubbock and the oil patch cities of Odessa and Midland.

Women in Lubbock faced a 310-mile (500-kilometer) drive to the nearest abortion clinic in Fort Worth. Anti-abortion activists have been mobilizing to prevent the return of abortion services to Lubbock — and are not giving up even with the new clinic's opening.

"Lubbock must not surrender to the abortion industry," said Kimberlyn Schwartz, a West Texas native who attended Texas Tech University in Lubbock and is now communications director for Texas Right to Life.

Her organization has backed a petition drive trying to persuade the City Council to pass an ordinance declaring Lubbock a "sanctuary city for the unborn." Abortion opponents hope that designation would lead to either enforcement efforts or lawsuits seeking to block abortion services.

Thus far, the City Council has declined to adopt the ordinance, but activists say they have enough signatures to place it on the ballot in a local referendum.

Texas is one of several red states where Planned Parenthood has sought to expand abortion access. Earlier this year, its health center in Louisville, Kentucky, began providing abortions after obtaining a license from the newly installed administration of Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear.

For the previous four years, anti-abortion Republican Gov. Matt Bevin's administration refused to issue a license. The change doubled the number of abortion providers in Kentucky from one to two.

Dr. Kara Cadwallader, Planned Parenthood's chief medical officer for Kentucky and Indiana, said the resumption of abortion services in Louisville had gone smoothly. Anti-abortion protesters routinely appear outside the building, she said, but they were a steady presence even when the center did not provide abortions.

She and her colleagues are bracing for a new wave of anti-abortion legislation from Kentucky's Legislature, where the GOP holds enough seats to override possible vetoes from Beshear.

"We'll once again be under siege," Cadwallader said.

In October 2019, Planned Parenthood's affiliate in St. Louis opened a large new health center in Fairview Heights, Illinois — about 17 miles (27 kilometers) from its St. Louis clinic. Illinois, where Democrats hold power, has not sought to curtail abortion, and the clinic was intended to provide an extra option for women from Missouri and other nearby Republican-governed states with multiple restrictions.

Missouri, for example, bars the use of telemedicine for abortion services, a policy that has sharply limited the number of medication abortions. Dr. Colleen McNicholas, Planned Parenthood's chief medical officer for reproductive health services in the St. Louis region, has made clear that medication abortion by telemedicine is available in Illinois.

The Rev. Katherine Ragsdale, who represents many independent abortion providers as president of the National Abortion Federation, said one priority for her members is to make medication abortion more widely available. She also anticipates that it will become more difficult for women to obtain abortions later in pregnancy, increasing the need for funding programs that can help pay for travel to clinics that offer those procedures.

Laurie Bertram Roberts is executive director of one such program, the Alabama-based Yellowhammer Fund. She anticipates an increase in the number of low- and middle-income women who will need significant financial help — sometimes topping \$10,000 — to travel to distant clinics if access is curtailed in Alabama.

Bertram Roberts also expects more women to resort to do-it-yourself abortions, now that it's increasingly possible to receive abortion pill drugs by mail.

"We're talking about a huge amount of people who can possibly do stuff at home safely," she said. "We're not going back to the days of back-alley abortions."

## Families, day cares feel strain of new COVID-19 health rules

By SALLY HO The Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Joelle Wheatley hit her pandemic-parenting rock bottom after her son was sent home

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from day care for a second time, with the sniffles, due to stricter health guidelines in a symptom-sensitive COVID-19 world.

It was supposed to be Jacob's first day back after a stressful 10-day home quarantine for another mild symptom that turned out to be harmless. Frustrated, desperate — there were no other care options, and she needed to focus on work — and certain that the 2-year-old's runny nose and cough were also benign, the Seattle mom defied the day care's orders and brought him back the next day anyway.

"I was just so sure he had a cold, and that sounds so irresponsible," said Wheatley, 43, who works at an early education nonprofit. "But I honestly was just in such a low place."

As more families make the jump back to group day care this fall in an attempt to restart lives and careers, many parents, pediatricians and care operators are finding that new, pandemic-driven rules offer a much-needed layer of safety but also seem incompatible with the germ reality of childhood.

They stem largely from coronavirus guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention lowering the fever threshold, disqualifying even a single bout of diarrhea or vomiting and making sniffles suspect in group settings.

But the guidelines don't take into account that young children are prone to catching the common viral infections that help build up their immune systems, or that seasonal allergies, crying, even teething and normal playground exertion can prompt a COVID-19-like symptom.

And the price parents and kids pay for such symptoms — which could easily signal either a happy, healthy toddler, or a lurking case of the disease that has now killed more than 230,000 people in the U.S. — is now a dayslong disruption.

That's a reality Wheatley knows all too well: Jacob was turned away again on Day 2 and she then had to scramble to get him a coronavirus test and an appointment with a doctor who wrote a note confirming the boy was virus-free. It took two days to get Jacob back to preschool, causing her anxiety about his health and guilt over neglecting work.

Medical experts acknowledge the lines are blurry for kids with symptoms.

The CDC notes on its website that young children commonly have up to eight respiratory illnesses or colds each year as a matter of course. In its guidelines for K-12 schools, the CDC warns that excluding children for longer than "existing" policies over COVID-19 symptoms alone could cause unnecessary absences.

The American Academy of Pediatrics' latest child care guidelines released in October initially didn't include congestion, runny nose, vomiting or diarrhea on its symptoms checklist. Following questions from The Associated Press, the pediatricians' group updated its recommendations on Friday to include those symptoms in alignment with the CDC, calling it an oversight.

Dr. Elaine Donoghue, who helped write the pediatricians' child care guidelines, said any symptom must be taken seriously if it looks even vaguely like COVID-19. While young children are prone to minor infections, they now in theory face less exposure to those milder illnesses due to pandemic-related social distancing, and that means the calculus behind assessing symptoms changes.

"We should not be expecting certainty during a pandemic," Donoghue said. "This is an uncertain time."

Considered essential in many states, day cares are one of the few services that have remained open through the pandemic that's now stretched nine months and counting in the U.S. Numerous programs have permanently closed, though there are signs families are trickling back to preschool.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the number of people working in child care has recovered steadily in recent months. But while the 853,000 workers reported in September marks a 28% jump from April, it's still below the more than 1 million in the field a year ago.

Lois Martin, who runs the Community Day Center for Children in Seattle, said the learning curve has been steep for her staff since most of her families returned to the day care. The preschool teachers are now being asked to take on responsibilities requiring medical expertise, such as evaluating runny nose secretions based on thickness and color.

"This is definitely not the world we want our children to be in," Martin said.

In October, the Child Care Aware of America advocacy group released a national survey conducted by Yale researchers in May and June of more than 57,000 child care employees — including those who were

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and were not actively working at the time — and found no link to known positive coronavirus infections or hospitalizations among the workforce. The study's authors say this suggests that when done under such strict guidelines, child care can be safe from widespread transmission during the pandemic.

Wheatley and her husband have seen firsthand the benefits of having vigilant sanitizing, social distancing and symptom-checking: A teacher at their day care had the coronavirus in August, but it never spread to any other workers, kids or families.

So, the couple, who also have a 10-month-old baby, now figure future day care disruptions will become just another part of the new normal, with the kids inevitably being kicked out again when there's a hint of possible illness.

"It's not sustainable," Wheatley said. "Our solution is going to be suck it up and be unhappy and eventually move" to be near family who can help.

That kind of strain on families has Deeann Puffert, CEO of the Washington branch of Child Care Aware, worrying that parents may start hiding symptoms from caregivers.

"To meet the (health) requirements and maintain the joy of caregiving and early caregiving — it's just challenging," Puffert said. "There are no answers."

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## **GOP tries to save its Senate majority, with or without Trump**

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republicans are fighting to save their majority, a final election push against the onslaught of challengers in states once off limits to Democrats but now hotbeds of a potential backlash to President Donald Trump and his allies on Capitol Hill.

Fueling the campaigns are the Trump administration's handling of the COVID-19 crisis, shifting regional demographics and, in some areas, simply the chance to turn the page on the divisive political climate.

Control of the Senate can make or break a presidency. With it, a reelected Trump could confirm his nominees and ensure a backstop against legislation from House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif. Without it, Joe Biden would face a potential wall of opposition to his agenda if the Democratic nominee won the White House.

In North Carolina, for example, the match-up between GOP Sen. Thom Tillis and Democratic challenger Cal Cunningham, among the most expensive in the nation, is close.

"At some point, you put it in the hands of voters," said Dallas Woodhouse, a former executive director of the state's Republican Party.

Republican incumbents are straining for survival from New England to the Deep South, in the heartland and the West and even Alaska. Overpowered in fundraising and stuck in Washington until just last week to confirm Trump's Supreme Court nominee, they are fanning out some alongside Trump for last-ditch, home-state tours to shore up votes.

With the chamber now split, 53-47, three or four seats will determine Senate control, depending on which party wins the White House. The vice president breaks a tie in Senate votes.

What started as a lopsided election cycle with Republicans defending 23 seats, compared with 12 for Democrats, quickly became a more stark referendum on the president as Democrats reached deeper into Trump country and put the GOP on defense.

Suddenly some of the nation's better-known senators — Lindsey Graham in South Carolina, Susan Collins in Maine — faced strong reelection threats. Only two Democratic seats are being seriously contested, while at least 10 GOP-held seats are at risk.

"I don't see how we hold it," said Chip Felkel, a Republican strategist in South Carolina who opposes the president.

Felkel added: "You'd be hard pressed to admit we don't have a Trump problem."

The political landscape is quickly changing from six years ago when most of these senators last faced



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voters. It's a reminder of how sharp the national mood has shifted in the Trump era.

Younger voters and more minorities are pushing some states toward Democrats, including in Colorado, where the parties have essentially stopped spending money for or against GOP Sen. Cory Gardner because it seems he is heading toward defeat by Democrat John Hickenlooper, a former governor.

In more Republican-friendly terrain, the GOP senators must balance an appeal to Trump's most ardent supporters with outreach to voters largely in suburbs who are drifting away from the president and his tone .

Tillis is struggling to gain ground in North Carolina, a presidential battleground, even after Cunningham's sex-texting scandal with a public relations strategist.

Arizona could see two Democratic senators for the first time since last century if former astronaut Mark Kelly maintains his advantage over GOP Sen. Martha McSally for the seat held by the late Republican John McCain.

A vivid dynamic is in Iowa, a state Trump won in 2016 but is now a toss-up as Sen. Joni Ernst struggles to fend off Democrat newcomer Theresa Greenfield. Ernst wowed Republicans with a 2014 debut ad about castrating hogs but she faced criticism after last month's debate when she stumbled over the break-even price for soybeans.

In Georgia, Trump calls David Perdue his favorite senator among the many who have jockeyed to join his golf outings and receive his private phone calls. But the first-term senator faces a surge of new voters in the state and Democrat Jon Ossoff is playing hardball.

Ossoff called Perdue a "crook" over the senator's stock trades during the pandemic. Perdue shot back that the Ossoff would do anything to mislead Georgians about Democrats' "radical and socialist" agenda.

Democrats have tapped into what some are calling a "green wave" — a new era of fundraising — as small-dollar donations pour in from across the country from Americans expressing their political activism with their pocketbooks.

Graham's challenger in South Carolina, Jamie Harrison, has raised so much money — some \$100 million — that it sent the top Trump ally scrambling to take the race seriously. Graham swiftly raked in his own record haul as he led the Senate confirmation of Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court.

Competitive races are underway in Republican strongholds of Texas, Kansas and Alaska where little known Al Gross broke state records, Democrats said, in part with viral ads introducing voters to the military-veteran-turned-doctor who once fought off a grizzly bear.

Swooping in to fill the gap for Republicans is the Senate Leadership Fund, tapping deep-pocketed donors. Casino magnate Sheldon Adelson has funneled more than \$60 million to help Republicans hold the Senate.

Over the weekend, the fund was pouring \$4.6 million to one of the rare Republican bright spots — in Michigan, where John James, a Black Republican businessman is gaining on Democratic Sen. Gary Peters.

"We see a potential opportunity," said Senate Leadership Fund president Steven Law.

The only other state where Republicans are playing offense is Alabama, where Democratic Sen. Doug Jones pulled off a rare special election win the Trump stronghold but now wages a longshot campaign against Republican Tommy Tuberville, a former Auburn football coach.

"We are confident heading into the home stretch because we remain on offense in so many seats across the country," said Stewart Boss, a spokesman for the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee.

The COVID crisis has shadowed the Senate races as Democrats linked Trump's handling of the pandemic to the GOP's repeated attempts to undo the Obama-era Affordable Care Act, particularly its insurance protections for those with preexisting medical conditions. Republicans fired back that Democrats want to keep the economy closed, hurting jobs.

David Flaherty, a Colorado-based Republican pollster, said his surveys are showing that COVID will be "the most likely issue many voters will make their decisions on."

"In more places in the country than not, the president is not getting good marks" on that, Flaherty said, and it's damaging Senate GOP candidates, "especially those in lockstep with the president."

Several races may drag well past election night including if no candidate secures a majority, including

in Georgia or Maine, where Collins was once considered among the most independent senators, is now confronting critics from the right and left.

Jesse Hunt, spokesman for the National Republican Senatorial Committee said the races are tightening in the final days.

"We always knew this was going to be a competitive election cycle," he said.

This story has been corrected to show that the woman Cunningham texted with was a public relations strategist, not an aide.

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Associated Press writer Alan Fram contributed to this report.

## Germany starts 'wave-breaker' shutdown as Europe locks down

By GEIR MOULSON Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Several European countries are tightening restrictions this week, starting with a partial shutdown Monday in Germany, as authorities across the continent scramble to slow a rapid rise in coronavirus infections that threatens to overwhelm their health care systems.

Britain and Austria will follow suit later in the week, closing restaurants, bars and many leisure activities. Italy, Greece and Kosovo also announced new measures. In some places, the new rules — which vary in strictness — are prompting violent protests by people frustrated at once again having to forgo freedoms.

But in many, experts are saying they should have come weeks ago — a reflection of the increasingly difficult balance many countries are struggling to strike between controlling the virus and boosting already damaged economies.

"We are aware of the frustration, the sense of loss, the tiredness of citizens, also of the anger which is being manifested in these days, by citizens who find themselves living with new limits to their personal freedom," said Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte, as he defended his government's decision to order new measures.

Restrictions have been slowly ramping up for weeks in many European countries, but virus cases have continued to rise. There was a sign of hope from hard-hit Belgium, however, where a leading virologist said that "the high-speed train is somewhat easing up."

Overall, Europe has seen more than 270,000 confirmed virus-related deaths, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University. Experts say case and death figures understate the true toll of the pandemic due to missed cases, limited testing and other reasons.

In Germany, restaurants, bars, theaters, cinemas, gyms and other leisure facilities closed in a four-week "wave-breaker" shutdown that seeks to force daily new infections back down to manageable levels. Germans have been asked not to travel, and hotels are barred from accommodating tourists.

In a worrying sign for a country long praised for its testing and tracing abilities, German officials say they can't track the source of three-quarters of new coronavirus cases. Health Minister Jens Spahn, who himself caught the virus, says he doesn't know where he was infected.

Chancellor Angela Merkel said the number of COVID-19 patients in intensive care has doubled in 10 days, and the government couldn't stand by and watch.

"The virus punishes half-heartedness," she said of the new restrictions, telling Germans that "everyone has it in their own hands" to make them a success.

"We will do try to do everything politically so that this is limited to November," Merkel told reporters in Berlin. But she stressed that "we are very much dependent on the majority of people simply being sensible and playing along, and so saving others' lives."

The new restrictions are still milder than the ones Germany imposed in the first phase of the pandemic in March and April. This time, schools, nonessential shops and hairdressers are staying open. Officials will review the situation after two weeks.

England is headed for a tougher lockdown starting Thursday, with nonessential shops and hairdressers closing for a month and people allowed to leave home for only a short list of reasons including exercise.

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Travel is also discouraged.

The lockdown is supposed to end on Dec. 2, but minister Michael Gove told Sky News on Sunday that couldn't be guaranteed "with a virus this malignant, and with its capacity to move so quickly."

The plan, which needs lawmakers' approval, is facing resistance from parts of Prime Minister Boris Johnson's own Conservative Party, which worries about its economic impact. Still, passage is virtually assured because of backing from the opposition Labour Party.

Austria is also introducing new restrictions this week. Starting Tuesday and until the end of November, restaurants and bars are being closed — except for deliveries and takeout, as in Germany and England — and cultural, sports and leisure activities canceled. Residents will be asked to stay home from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. They can go out to exercise or to work, among other things, and nonessential shops will remain open.

In Spain, lawmakers last week approved an extension until May 2021 of the country's state of emergency. The measure puts into place a national nightly curfew and allows regions to impose more localized restrictions, such as limiting movement outside city limits on weekends.

"These measures save lives," Catalonia police chief Eduard Sallent said. "We are enforcing a measure that is meant to prevent deaths and the collapse of our health care system."

Spain's curfew drew weekend protests in a dozen cities. Mostly young protesters set fire to vehicles and trash cans, blocked roads and threw objects at riot police.

Cabinet minister José Luis Escrivá told Antena 3 television Monday that "this kind of behavior is to be expected" as people grow weary of restrictions.

Countries including hard-hit Belgium, France, Poland and the Czech Republic already have implemented shutdowns of varying strictness.

In Italy, Conte announced new restrictions including the closure of shopping malls at weekends and of museums. Movement between regions will be limited and a "late-evening" curfew introduced, Conte said, without specifying a time or saying when the measures will take effect.

Greece announced a localized lockdown in its second-largest city, Thessaloniki, and the northern province of Serres.

While cases have been rising and are well beyond governments' comfort zones across the continent, data from the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control show wide variations in the average number of new cases per 100,000 residents reported over the past 14 days, with Germany's figure of about 215 as of Monday less than half those of Austria and the U.K. The country currently worst hit, Belgium, has 1,735 new cases per 100,000.

A leading Belgian virologist said that "long-expected points of light" are beginning to appear, though the situation remains "extremely worrying."

"The number of infections and hospital admissions continue to rise but not as fast anymore," said Steven Van Gucht of the Sciensano government health group.

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Associated Press writers around Europe contributed to this report.

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This story has been corrected to show that Austria plans to keep nonessential shops open.

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Follow AP's coronavirus pandemic coverage at <http://apnews.com/VirusOutbreak> and <https://apnews.com/UnderstandingtheOutbreak>

## Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Nov. 3, the 308th day of 2020. There are 58 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 3, 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt won a landslide election victory over Republican chal-

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lenger Alfred "Alf" Landon.

On this date:

In 1900, the first automobile show in the United States opened at New York's Madison Square Garden under the auspices of the Automobile Club of America.

In 1911, the Chevrolet Motor Car Co. was founded in Detroit by Louis Chevrolet and William C. Durant. (The company was acquired by General Motors in 1918.)

In 1960, President John F. Kennedy established the U.S. Agency for International Development.

In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson soundly defeated Republican Barry Goldwater to win a White House term in his own right.

In 1970, Salvador Allende (ah-YEN'-day) was inaugurated as president of Chile.

In 1979, five Communist Workers Party members were killed in a clash with heavily armed Ku Klux Klansmen and neo-Nazis during an anti-Klan protest in Greensboro, North Carolina.

In 1986, the Iran-Contra affair came to light as Ash-Shiraa, a pro-Syrian Lebanese magazine, first broke the story of U.S. arms sales to Iran.

In 1992, Democrat Bill Clinton was elected the 42nd president of the United States, defeating President George H.W. Bush. In Illinois, Democrat Carol Moseley-Braun became the first Black woman elected to the U.S. Senate.

In 1994, Susan Smith of Union, South Carolina, was arrested for drowning her two young sons, Michael and Alex, nine days after claiming the children had been abducted by a Black carjacker.

In 2004, President George W. Bush claimed a re-election mandate a day after more than 62 million Americans chose him over Democrat John Kerry; Kerry conceded defeat in make-or-break Ohio rather than launch a legal fight reminiscent of the contentious Florida recount of four years earlier.

In 2017, Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, who walked away from his post in Afghanistan and triggered a search that left some of his comrades severely wounded, was spared a prison sentence by a military judge in North Carolina; President Donald Trump blasted the decision as a "complete and total disgrace."

In 2014, 13 years after the 9/11 terrorist attack, the resurrected World Trade Center opened for business, marking an emotional milestone for both New Yorkers and the nation.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama acknowledged that Democrats had taken "a shellacking" in midterm elections. The Federal Reserve announced a plan to buy \$600 billion in Treasury bonds over the next eight months in an attempt to boost lending and stimulate the economy. Former Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin died in Moscow at age 72.

Five years ago: Ohio voters rejected a ballot proposal that would have legalized both recreational and medical marijuana. U.S. auto safety regulators fined Japan's Takata Corp. \$70 million for concealing evidence for years that its air bags were prone to explode with potentially deadly consequences. Online retail giant Amazon opened its first brick-and-mortar bookstore, located in Seattle, two decades after it began selling books over the Internet. Ahmad Chalabi, a prominent Iraqi politician who helped persuade the Bush administration to invade Iraq and overthrow Saddam Hussein in 2003, died in Baghdad.

One year ago: Authorities in Southern California lifted all evacuation orders as firefighters made progress on a large blaze that sent thousands fleeing homes and farms northwest of Los Angeles. Geoffrey Kamworor of Kenya won his second men's title in three years at the New York City Marathon; in the women's race, Kenyan Joyciline Jepkosgei powered away from four-time winner Mary Keitany in her first marathon.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Lois Smith is 90. Actor Monica Vitti is 89. Former Massachusetts Gov. Michael S. Dukakis is 87. Actor Shadoe Stevens is 74. Singer Lulu is 72. "Vogue" editor-in-chief Anna Wintour is 71. Comedian-actor Roseanne Barr is 68. Actor Kate Capshaw is 67. Comedian Dennis Miller is 67. Actor Kathy Kinney is 67. Singer Adam Ant is 66. Sports commentator and former quarterback Phil Simms is 65. Director-screenwriter Gary Ross is 64. Actor Dolph Lundgren is 63. Rock musician C.J. Pierce (Drowning Pool) is 48. Actor Francois Battiste (TV: "Ten Days in the Valley") is 44. Olympic gold medal figure skater Evgeni Plushenko is 38. Actor Julie Berman is 37. Actor Antonia Thomas (TV: "The Good Doctor") is 34. Alternative rock singer/songwriter Courtney Barnett is 33. TV personality Kendall Jenner (TV: "Keeping Up with the Kardashians") is 25.