

# Groton Daily Independent

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## City Council Meeting

The Groton City Council met Tuesday evening for an 18-minute open session meeting before going into executive session. The council declared as surplus cutting edges that the city has had for many years and will not be using. They put a value of \$2,000 on them.

Maguire Iron pay request for \$131,014.80 was approved.

The council agreed to grant an additional four hours of administrative leave for city employees on December 24th. The city had previously granted four hours of vacation but will not have the whole day off. After an executive session, the council tabled the resignation of Peggy Locke as deputy finance officer.



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

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

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**Jerry Peltier was one of the election day workers on Tuesday at the Groton Community Center. He said he had seen a notice where they were looking for election workers and he said that instead of staying a home and watching TV, he would help out. He baked cookies for those who brought children to the election. "I figured they would be bored so I gave them a cookie," he said. The election workers also enjoyed his cookies.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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## Election Results

### PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS

FOLLOW THIS CONTEST

PRECINCTS FULLY: 622 / 693 | PARTIALLY: 71 / 693



DONALD J. TRUMP AND MICHAEL R. PENCE  
Republican 64% 244,635

JO JORGENSEN AND JEREMY "SPIKE" COHEN  
Libertarian 3% 10,254

JOSEPH R. BIDEN AND KAMALA HARRIS  
Democratic 33% 126,662

TOTAL VOTES 381,551

### UNITED STATES SENATOR

FOLLOW THIS CONTEST

PRECINCTS FULLY: 622 / 693 | PARTIALLY: 71 / 693



MIKE ROUNDS  
Republican 68% 257,828

DAN AHLERS  
Democratic 32% 121,589

TOTAL VOTES 379,417

### UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

FOLLOW THIS CONTEST

PRECINCTS FULLY: 622 / 693 | PARTIALLY: 71 / 693



DUSTY JOHNSON  
Republican 82% 296,281

RANDY "URIAH" LUALLIN  
Libertarian 18% 64,971

TOTAL VOTES 361,252

### PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSIONER

FOLLOW THIS CONTEST

PRECINCTS FULLY: 622 / 693 | PARTIALLY: 71 / 693



GARY HANSON  
Republican 69% 250,964

DEVIN SAXON  
Libertarian 5% 19,101

REMI W. B. BALD EAGLE  
Democratic 25% 91,324

TOTAL VOTES 361,389

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SUPREME COURT RETENTION: SHALL JUSTICE STEVEN JENSEN REPRESENTING THE FIRST SUPREME COURT DISTRICT, WHOSE TERM EXPIRES JANUARY 1, 2021, BE RETAINED IN OFFICE?

FOLLOW THIS CONTEST

PRECINCTS FULLY: 622 / 693 | PARTIALLY: 71 / 693



YES 82% 269,793

NO 18% 59,766

TOTAL VOTES **329,559**

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT A: AN AMENDMENT TO THE SOUTH DAKOTA CONSTITUTION TO LEGALIZE, REGULATE, AND TAX MARIJUANA; AND TO REQUIRE THE LEGISLATURE TO PASS LAWS REGARDING HEMP AS WELL AS LAWS ENSURING ACCESS TO MARIJUANA FOR MEDICAL USE.

FOLLOW THIS CONTEST

PRECINCTS FULLY: 622 / 693 | PARTIALLY: 71 / 693



YES 53% 200,554

NO 47% 174,919

TOTAL VOTES **375,473**

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT B: AN AMENDMENT TO THE SOUTH DAKOTA CONSTITUTION AUTHORIZING THE LEGISLATURE TO ALLOW SPORTS WAGERING IN DEADWOOD.

FOLLOW THIS CONTEST

PRECINCTS FULLY: 622 / 693 | PARTIALLY: 71 / 693



YES 59% 216,673

NO 41% 153,611

TOTAL VOTES **370,284**

INITIATED MEASURE 26: AN INITIATED MEASURE TO LEGALIZE MARIJUANA FOR MEDICAL USE.

FOLLOW THIS CONTEST

PRECINCTS FULLY: 622 / 693 | PARTIALLY: 71 / 693



YES 69% 260,769

NO 31% 116,041

TOTAL VOTES **376,810**

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## COUNTY COMMISSIONER AT LARGE - BROWN

FOLLOW THIS CONTEST

VOTE CENTERS FULLY: 12 / 12 | PARTIALLY: 0 / 12

EXPORT 

|   |   |        |
|---|---|--------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>RACHEL KIPPLEY</b><br>Republican | <div style="width: 38%;"><div style="background-color: #8B4513; height: 15px;"></div></div> 38% | 10,220 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>DUANE SUTTON</b><br>Republican   | <div style="width: 34%;"><div style="background-color: #8B4513; height: 15px;"></div></div> 34% | 9,227  |
| <b>MICHAEL E. NEHLS</b><br>Democratic                                   | <div style="width: 28%;"><div style="background-color: #0056B3; height: 15px;"></div></div> 28% | 7,379  |

TOTAL VOTES **26,826**



**Work continues on the Groton water tower. Parts of the main bowl are being welded together.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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## Area COVID-19 Cases

|               |           |
|---------------|-----------|
|               | Nov. 4    |
| Minnesota     | 156,313   |
| Nebraska      | 74,060    |
| Montana       | 35,159    |
| Colorado      | 114,709   |
| Wyoming       | 12,399    |
| North Dakota  | 47,187    |
| South Dakota  | 48,854    |
| United States | 9,385,324 |
| US Deaths     | 232,635   |

|               |         |
|---------------|---------|
| Minnesota     | 3,379   |
| Nebraska      | 1,440   |
| Montana       | +907    |
| Colorado      | +2,562  |
| Wyoming       | +340    |
| North Dakota  | +1,172  |
| South Dakota  | +1,004  |
| United States | +92,043 |
| US Deaths     | +1,069  |

|               |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|               | 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 3rd COVID-19 UPDATE

### Groton Daily Independent from State Health Lab Reports

Eight deaths in South Dakota and 14 in North Dakota. In South Dakota, there were six females and two males with two in the 80+ age group, 2 in their 70s, 2 in their 40s, and one each in their 60s and 50s. Dewey County recorded its first death. Minnehaha County had four while Brookings, Lawrence and Lincoln each had one.

Occupied hospital beds in the southeast region took a 48 jump and here in the Glacial Lakes region, 19 were admitted to COVID-19 beds. The southeast also had a jump of 15 patients on ventilation units.

Glacial Lakes hospital beds being occupied by COVID-19 patients as well as Minnehaha and Pennington counties: Walworth: 4 (0) Occupied Beds.; Potter: 7 (+1) Occupied Beds; Hughes: 9 (+3) Occupied Beds, 4 (+1) ICU Beds, 3 (+1) Ventilation; Faulk: 0 (0) Occupied Beds; Edmunds: 3 (+1) Occupied Bed; Brown: 17 (+2) Occupied Beds, 4 ICU, 0 (0) Ventilation; Spink: 4 (+2) Occupied Beds; Day: 3 Occupied Beds; Marshall: 3 (+1) Occupied Beds; Grant: 2 (0) Occupied Beds; Codington: 15 (+6) Occupied Beds, 4 ICU, 0 (-1) Ventilation; None (some counties have no hospitals): Clark, Hand, Hyde, Stanley, Sully, Campbell, McPherson, Roberts; Minnehaha: 246 (+59) Occupied Beds, 46 (0) ICU, 45 (+15) Ventilation; Pennington: 71 (0) Occupied Beds, 14 ICU, 7 (0) Ventilation

#### **Brown County:**

Total Positive: +40 (2,313) Positivity Rate: 51.9%  
Total Tests: +77 (18,835)

Recovered: +30 (1,825)  
Active Cases: +9 (482)  
Ever Hospitalized: +2 (118)  
Deaths: +0 (6)  
Percent Recovered: 78.9%

#### **Hospital Reports:**

Avera St. Luke's: Covid-19 Occupied 13 (-1); ICU 4 (0), Ventilation 0 (0).  
Sanford Aberdeen: Covid-19 Occupied 4 (+3).  
Sanford Webster: Covid-19 Occupied 3.  
Marshall County Healthcare: Covid-19 Occupied: 3 (+1).

#### **South Dakota:**

Positive: +1004 (48,854 total) Positivity Rate: 30.4%  
Total Tests: 3303 (444,246 total)  
Hospitalized: +34 (2,755 total). 402 currently hospitalized (-19)  
Deaths: +8 (446 total)  
Recovered: +954 (35,041 total)  
Active Cases: +42 (13,367)  
Percent Recovered: 71.7%  
Total COVID-19 Occupied Beds: 480 (+78), Black Hills Region 105 (+4), Glacial Lakes Region 68 +16 Sioux Empire Region 263 (+59), South Central Plains 44 (-1).  
ICU Units: Total 81 (+1), BH 16 (+2), GL 12 (+1), SE 48 (0), SCP 5 (-2).  
Ventilation: Total 56 (+15), BH 7 (0), GL 3 (0), SE 45 (+15), SCP 1 (0).  
Staffed Hospital Bed Capacity: 16% Covid, 45% Non-Covid, 40% Available  
ICU Bed Capacity: 23% Covid, 29% Non-Covid, 48% Available  
Ventilator Capacity: 13% Covid, 13% Non-Covid, 75% Available

Brown (6): +39 positive, +30 recovered (482 active cases)  
Clark (1): +5 positive, +8 recovered (65 active cases)  
Clay (8): +12 positive, +13 recovered (159 active cases)

Codington (15): +29 positive, +19 recovered (406 active cases)

Davison (10): +54 positive, +20 recovered (455 active cases)  
Day (2): +3 positive, +2 recovered (43 active cases)  
Edmunds (1): +5 positive, +0 recovered (39 active cases)  
Faulk (2): +3 positive, +2 recovered (52 active cases)  
Grant (3): +4 positive, +8 recovered (62 active cases)  
Hanson (1): +3 positive, +1 recovered (41 active cases)  
Hughes (8): +7 positive, +15 recovered (182 active cases)  
Lawrence (7): +45 positive, +29 recovered (357 active cases)  
Lincoln (22): +66 positive, +75 recovered (983 active cases)  
Marshall (1): +2 positive, +1 recovered (10 active cases)  
McCook (1): +8 positive, +11 recovered (119 active cases)  
McPherson: +1 positive, +0 recovery (15 active case)  
Minnehaha (115): +227 positive, +219 recovered (3440 active cases)  
Potter: +2 positive, +3 recovered (54 active cases)  
Roberts (6): +12 positive, +4 recovered (97 active cases)  
Spink (1): +16 positive, +8 recovered (106 active cases)  
Walworth (10): +0 positive, +4 recovered (54 active cases)

#### **NORTH DAKOTA**

COVID-19 Daily Report, November 3:

- 12.5% rolling 14-day positivity
- 1,198 new positives
- 7,615 susceptible test encounters
- 215 currently hospitalized (0)
- 8,396 active cases (-44)
- 555 total deaths (+15)

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| County      | Positive Cases | Recovered Cases | Negative Persons | Deceased | Community Spread | % RT-PCR Test Positivity |
|-------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|----------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Brookings   | 1590           | 1226            | 6676             | 7        | Substantial      | 19.72%                   |
| Brown       | 2313           | 1825            | 8815             | 6        | Substantial      | 27.09%                   |
| Brule       | 334            | 235             | 1432             | 2        | Substantial      | 36.05%                   |
| Buffalo     | 277            | 232             | 804              | 4        | Substantial      | 46.99%                   |
| Butte       | 440            | 253             | 2137             | 3        | Substantial      | 27.13%                   |
| Campbell    | 84             | 64              | 168              | 1        | Moderate         | 23.68%                   |
| Charles Mix | 453            | 323             | 3057             | 1        | Substantial      | 15.32%                   |
| Clark       | 151            | 85              | 697              | 1        | Substantial      | 32.88%                   |
| Clay        | 896            | 725             | 3433             | 8        | Substantial      | 23.02%                   |
| Codington   | 1735           | 1314            | 6576             | 15       | Substantial      | 29.43%                   |
| Corson      | 241            | 154             | 798              | 2        | Substantial      | 67.01%                   |
| Custer      | 345            | 275             | 1771             | 3        | Substantial      | 21.48%                   |
| Davison     | 1189           | 732             | 4627             | 10       | Substantial      | 31.08%                   |
| Day         | 183            | 138             | 1233             | 2        | Substantial      | 26.88%                   |
| Deuel       | 205            | 165             | 804              | 1        | Substantial      | 28.41%                   |
| Dewey       | 427            | 269             | 3404             | 1        | Substantial      | 29.36%                   |
| Douglas     | 185            | 140             | 710              | 5        | Substantial      | 16.28%                   |
| Edmunds     | 162            | 122             | 749              | 1        | Substantial      | 8.12%                    |
| Fall River  | 238            | 169             | 1838             | 6        | Substantial      | 18.89%                   |
| Faulk       | 228            | 174             | 528              | 2        | Substantial      | 11.76%                   |
| Grant       | 334            | 269             | 1523             | 3        | Substantial      | 15.04%                   |
| Gregory     | 261            | 185             | 866              | 10       | Substantial      | 33.10%                   |
| Haakon      | 105            | 70              | 421              | 2        | Substantial      | 5.22%                    |
| Hamlin      | 234            | 176             | 1252             | 0        | Substantial      | 15.77%                   |
| Hand        | 158            | 91              | 579              | 1        | Substantial      | 44.78%                   |
| Hanson      | 114            | 72              | 466              | 1        | Substantial      | 35.94%                   |
| Harding     | 62             | 33              | 111              | 0        | Substantial      | 59.09%                   |
| Hughes      | 943            | 770             | 3888             | 8        | Substantial      | 16.97%                   |
| Hutchinson  | 261            | 191             | 1630             | 2        | Substantial      | 12.09%                   |

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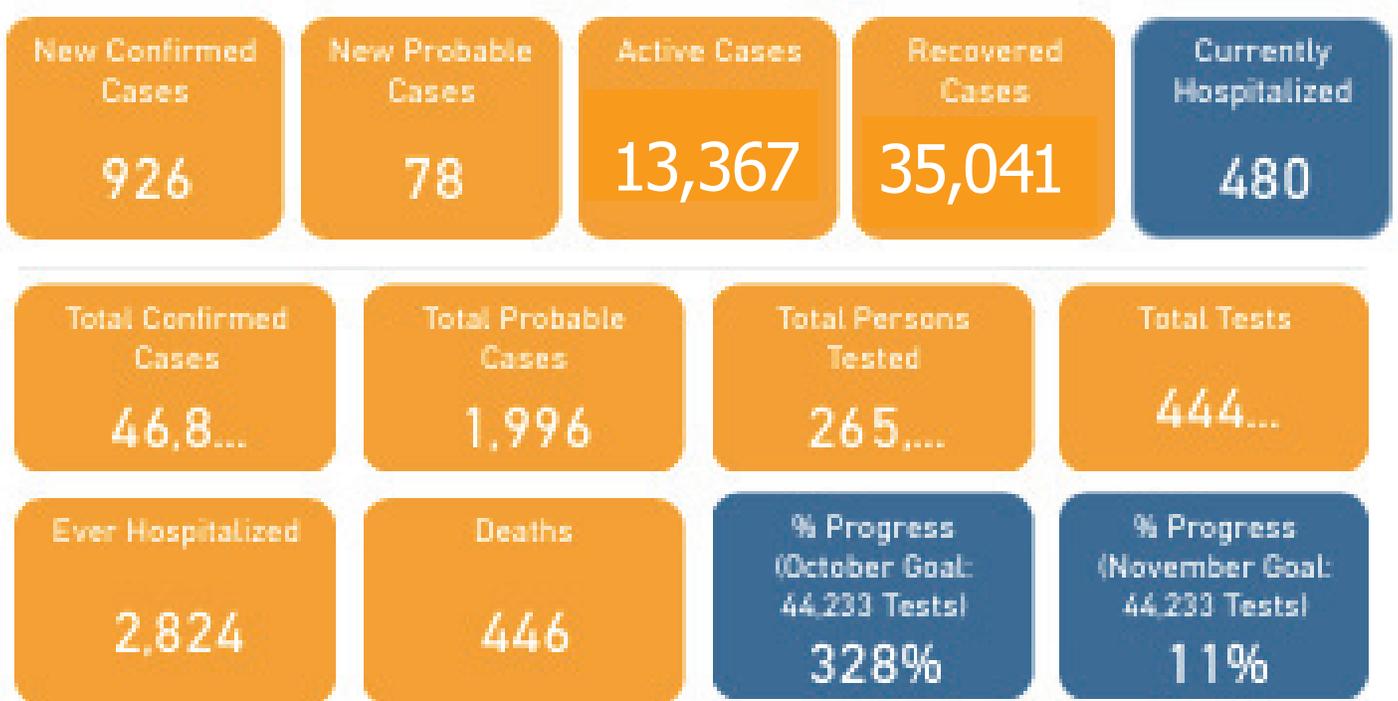
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|                  |       |      |       |     |             |        |
|------------------|-------|------|-------|-----|-------------|--------|
| Hyde             | 53    | 40   | 308   | 0   | Moderate    | 23.68% |
| Jackson          | 141   | 87   | 774   | 3   | Substantial | 30.77% |
| Jerauld          | 170   | 141  | 386   | 13  | Moderate    | 25.93% |
| Jones            | 37    | 30   | 132   | 0   | Moderate    | 26.67% |
| Kingsbury        | 232   | 131  | 1088  | 2   | Substantial | 20.74% |
| Lake             | 464   | 320  | 1940  | 9   | Substantial | 36.59% |
| Lawrence         | 1115  | 751  | 5629  | 7   | Substantial | 27.21% |
| Lincoln          | 3292  | 2287 | 13611 | 22  | Substantial | 31.31% |
| Lyman            | 296   | 233  | 1439  | 6   | Substantial | 21.83% |
| Marshall         | 69    | 58   | 786   | 1   | Moderate    | 9.30%  |
| McCook           | 315   | 195  | 1126  | 1   | Substantial | 31.25% |
| McPherson        | 73    | 58   | 414   | 0   | Moderate    | 4.46%  |
| Meade            | 1076  | 851  | 5227  | 10  | Substantial | 24.64% |
| Mellette         | 98    | 72   | 575   | 1   | Substantial | 47.22% |
| Miner            | 149   | 93   | 427   | 2   | Substantial | 6.45%  |
| Minnehaha        | 12985 | 9430 | 54090 | 115 | Substantial | 28.77% |
| Moody            | 252   | 174  | 1115  | 3   | Substantial | 34.21% |
| Oglala<br>Lakota | 1089  | 628  | 5634  | 9   | Substantial | 33.07% |
| Pennington       | 5049  | 3757 | 26016 | 49  | Substantial | 19.26% |
| Perkins          | 82    | 65   | 480   | 0   | Moderate    | 17.86% |
| Potter           | 143   | 89   | 615   | 0   | Substantial | 17.89% |
| Roberts          | 402   | 299  | 3323  | 6   | Substantial | 23.31% |
| Sanborn          | 123   | 70   | 462   | 1   | Substantial | 28.57% |
| Spink            | 334   | 227  | 1677  | 1   | Substantial | 16.81% |
| Stanley          | 102   | 79   | 544   | 0   | Substantial | 20.34% |
| Sully            | 48    | 35   | 174   | 0   | Moderate    | 35.29% |
| Todd             | 529   | 403  | 3458  | 6   | Substantial | 46.36% |
| Tripp            | 293   | 246  | 1166  | 2   | Substantial | 12.45% |
| Turner           | 546   | 360  | 1867  | 18  | Substantial | 38.89% |
| Union            | 820   | 646  | 4203  | 12  | Substantial | 19.68% |
| Walworth         | 289   | 225  | 1325  | 10  | Substantial | 14.05% |
| Yankton          | 969   | 668  | 6338  | 6   | Substantial | 10.57% |
| Ziebach          | 111   | 78   | 571   | 2   | Substantial | 32.26% |
| Unassigned       | 0     | 0    | 1022  | 0   |             |        |

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## South Dakota



| Age Range   | # of Cases | # of Deaths |
|-------------|------------|-------------|
| 0-9 years   | 1513       | 0           |
| 10-19 years | 5057       | 0           |
| 20-29 years | 9933       | 2           |
| 30-39 years | 8308       | 7           |
| 40-49 years | 6942       | 15          |
| 50-59 years | 6950       | 35          |
| 60-69 years | 5335       | 62          |
| 70-79 years | 2758       | 82          |
| 80+ years   | 2058       | 243         |

### SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

| Sex    | # of Cases | # of Deaths |
|--------|------------|-------------|
| Female | 25116      | 216         |
| Male   | 23738      | 230         |

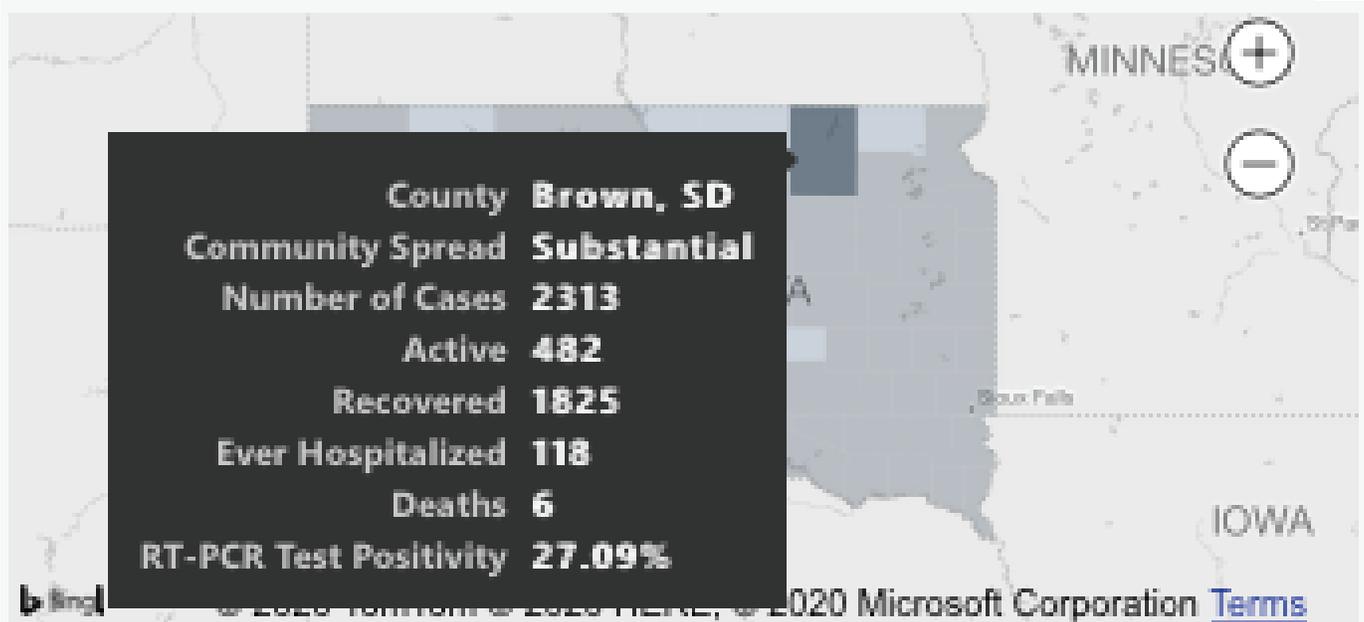
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## Brown County

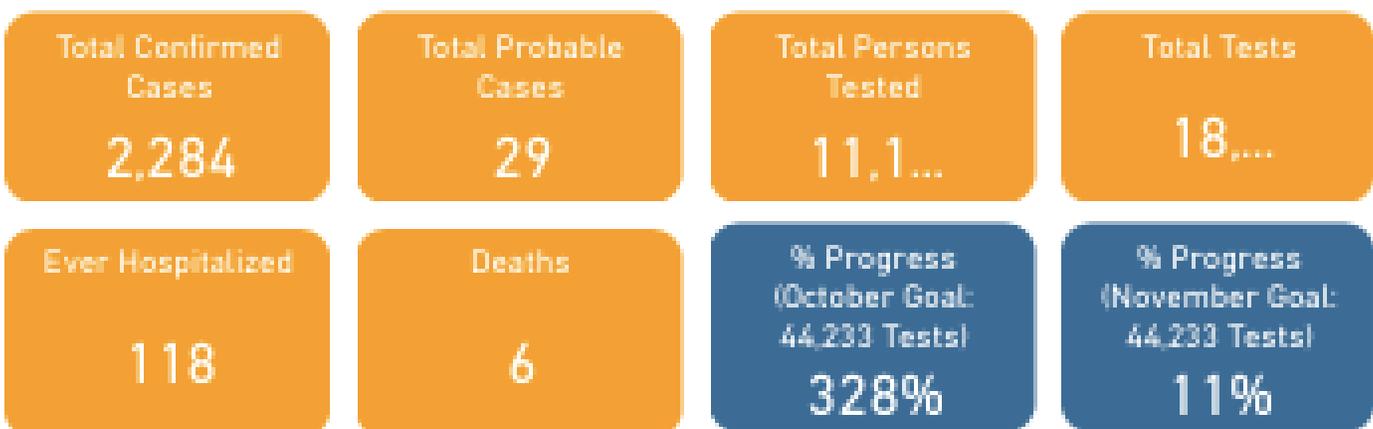


Community Spread Map by County of Residence



Community Spread ● Moderate ● Substantial

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



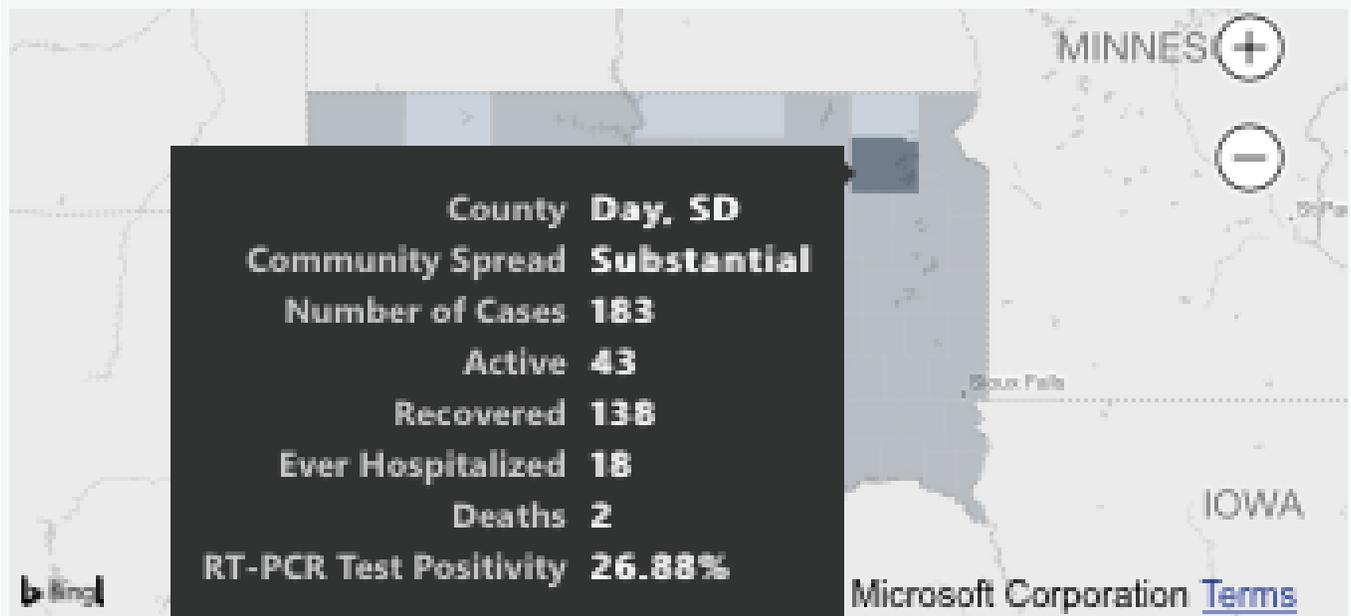
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## Day County

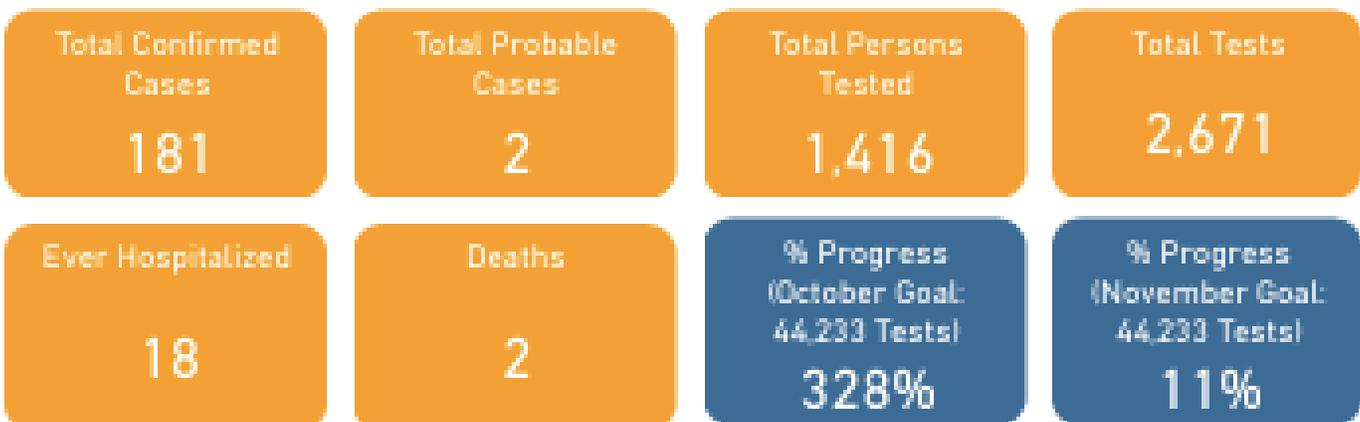


### Community Spread Map by County of Residence



Community Spread ● Moderate ● Substantial

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



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## Statewide Classifieds

### AUCTIONS:

INTERSTATES AUCTION CENTER: Annual lawn, garden, farm equipment, recreational sports auction. November 7 – 10:00 AM. Located 3 miles East Sioux Falls I-90, exit 402 Interstate Auction Center (605) 331-4550 [www.auctionzip.com](http://www.auctionzip.com)

### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY:

FOR SALE: As a package or individually, Britton & Groton Subway Franchises. This is a great opportunity in progressive communities. Contact: Matt: 605 228-3030 [mmehlhaff@wfcastle.com](mailto:mmehlhaff@wfcastle.com) or Charles. 605 380-5351. [cmehlhaff@wfcastle.com](mailto:cmehlhaff@wfcastle.com)

### EMPLOYMENT:

POSITION OPEN: Highway Superintendent, Hyde County, Highmore, SD. Class A CDL required or attain within six (6) months. Applicants may request applications from the Hyde County Auditor's Office, 605-852-2519 or [hydeaud@venturecomm.net](mailto:hydeaud@venturecomm.net). Submit application to the Auditor's Office, 412 Commercial Ave. SE, Highmore, SD 57345. Closing date: Monday November 30, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. Hyde County is an EOE.

NORTHWEST AREA SCHOOLS in Isabel, SD is seeking applications for a Full-time CTE Health Science Instructor available January 2021: South Dakota certification is required. Work-related experience may count toward certification. NWS offers competitive salary, benefits, transportation and SD Retirement. Please contact Quinn Lenk, NWS Director at 605-466-2206, or by email at: [quinn.lenk@k12.sd.us](mailto:quinn.lenk@k12.sd.us) position is open until filled.

CITY OF GROTON Assistant Finance Officer job opportunity available until filled. For details call Hope Block at 605-397-8422 or visit the website: <https://www.city.grotonsd.gov/jobs.html>.

### INSURANCE:

SD Health Insurance Marketplace OPEN ENROLLMENT November 1 – December 15. Statewide assistance available. Go to [Healthcare.gov](http://Healthcare.gov) or call a Navigator at Western SD Community Action 888-441-0117.

### MISCELLANEOUS:

HART RANCH CAMPING RESORT CLUB is seeking proposals for contract operation of its Spring Creek Grille Restaurant beginning in 2021. The operating season covers at least Memorial Day to Labor Day. Minimum menu includes breakfast, lunch, and snack shack items. For more information and a full copy of the RFP, contact the Resort Manager at [t.schnabel@hrresort.org](mailto:t.schnabel@hrresort.org)

### NOTICES:

ADVERTISE IN NEWSPAPERS statewide for only \$150.00. Put the South Dakota Statewide Classifieds Network to work for you today! (25 words for \$150. Each additional word \$5.) Contact the Groton Independent at 605/397-NEWS (6397) for details.

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WEDNESDAYS | 8AM - 8PM

## RUSTIC *gathering* giveaway

EARN 100 POINTS WITH YOUR ROYAL REWARDS CARD & RECEIVE A PIECE OF DECOR.  
SWIPE AT A KIOSK AFTER EARNING 100 POINTS TO RECEIVE YOUR GIFT VOUCHER  
& REDEEM AT THE PLAYER'S CLUB

NOV 4  
BIG KEROSENE  
LAMP

NOV 11  
5 PIECE  
MASON JAR ON  
GALVANIZED TRAY

NOV 18  
2 PIECE GREY  
FRINGED THROW  
PILLOW SET

NOV 25  
3 GALVANIZED  
BUCKETS

NOV 25  
8:15PM

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WILL GO INTO A BARREL DRAWING TO WIN A  
DINING ROOM TABLE AND CHAIRS SET

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### South Dakota News Watch Town Hall

## The 2020 Presidential Election: What Just Happened?

Monday, November 9

4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Central / via Zoom

Join us as we launch our 2021 fundraising campaign with a virtual town hall discussing the presidential election with two prominent journalists who have front-row seats to our nation's political landscape.



Susan Page  
USA Today



Jim VandeHei  
Axios



SOUTH DAKOTA  
NEWS  
WATCH

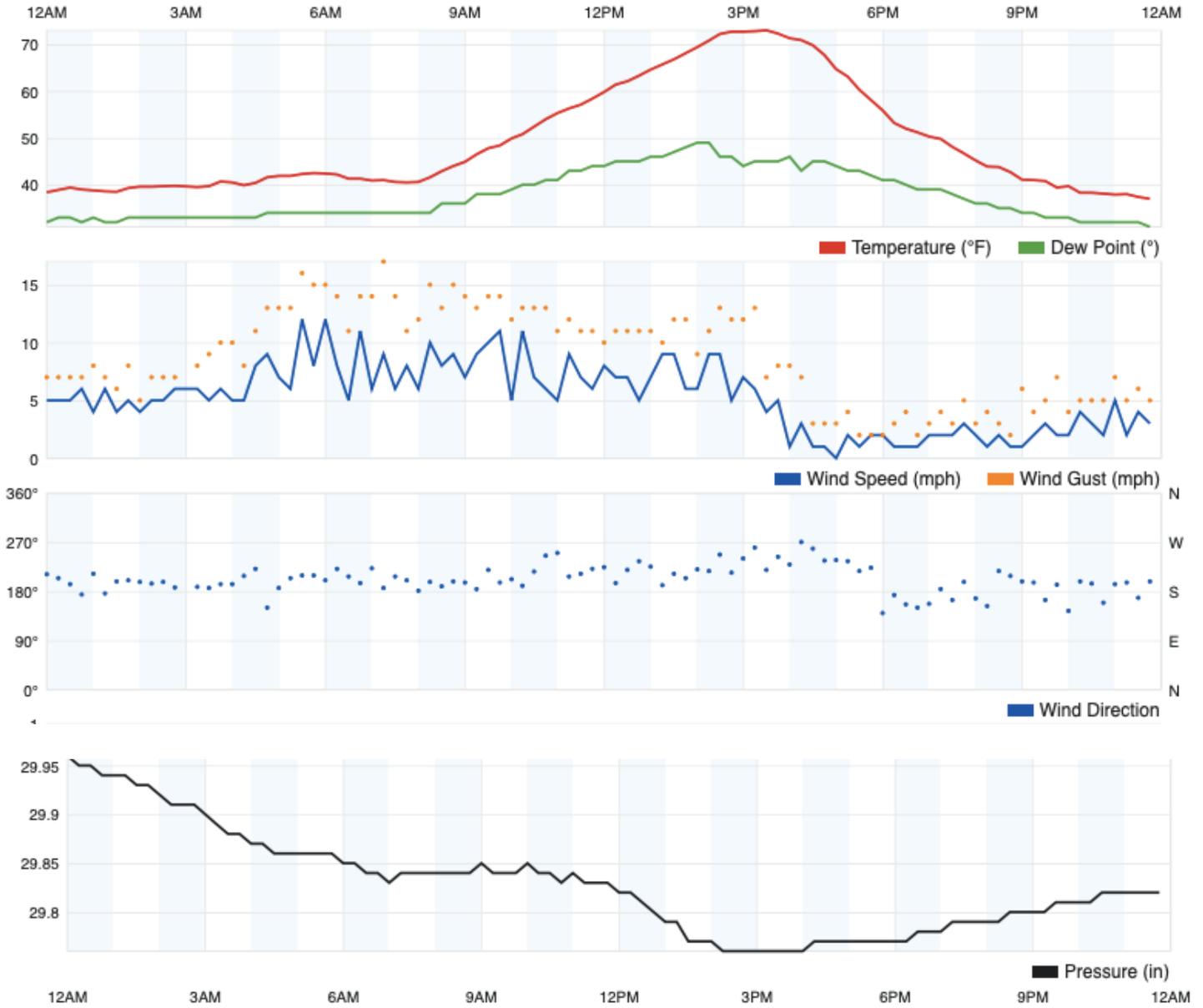
Reserve your seat at

[SDNEWSWATCH.ORG/townhall](https://sdnewswatch.org/townhall)

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today



Sunny

Tonight



Mostly Clear

Thursday



Sunny

Thursday  
Night



Mostly Clear

Friday



Sunny

High: 75 °F

Low: 39 °F

High: 71 °F

Low: 43 °F

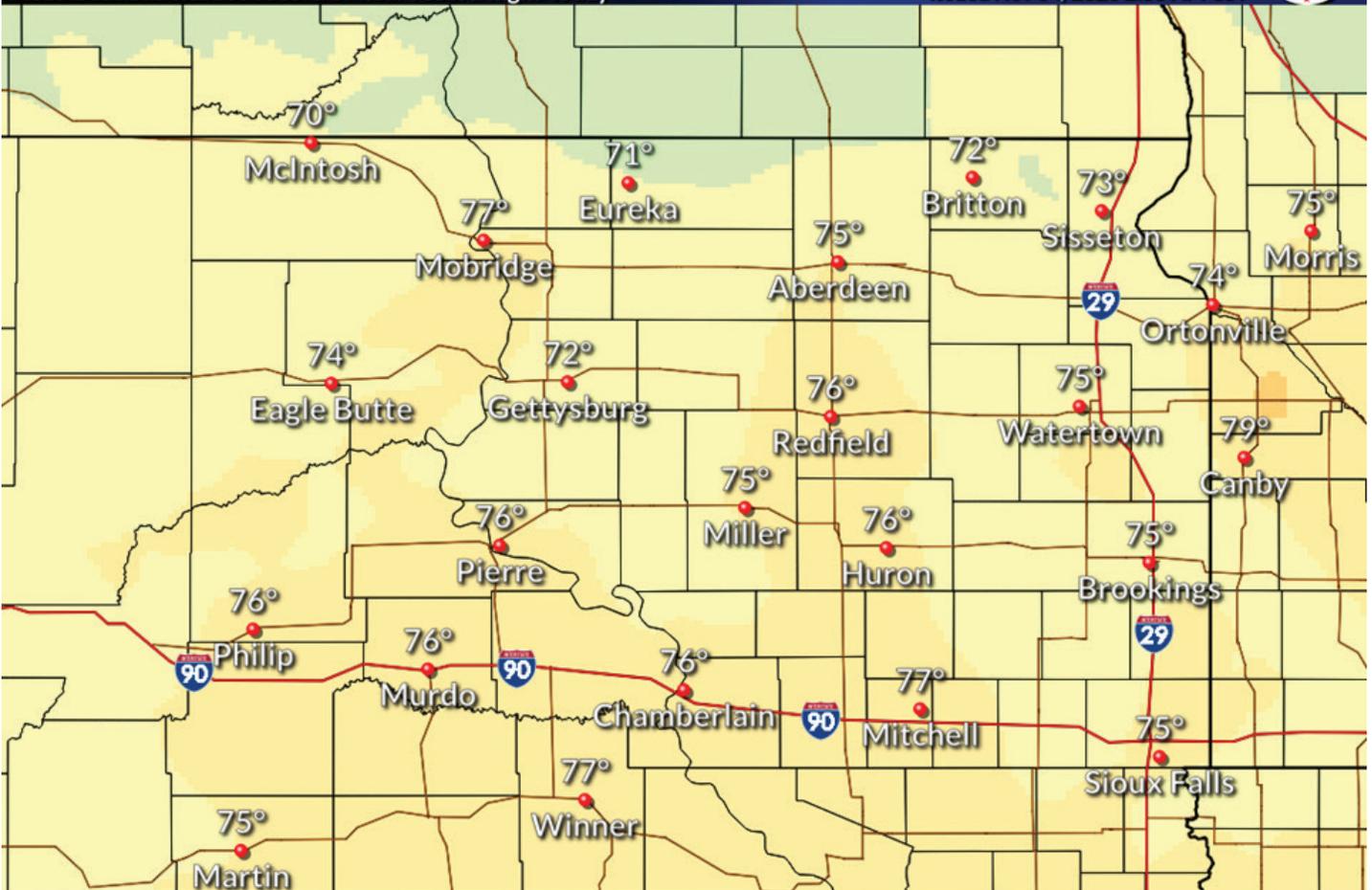
High: 73 °F

## Very Warm Temperatures Today

Most locations will see record or near record highs today

Weather Forecast Office  
Aberdeen, SD

Issued Nov 04, 2020 2:55 AM CST



f t NWSAberdeen

weather.gov/abr

Very warm temperatures for this time of the year will occur again today with record or near record temperatures expected across the region. These warm conditions will continue through at least Saturday before returning to below average to start the next workweek.

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## Today in Weather History

November 4, 1992: Significant snow blanketed much of the state except the southwest between November 1st and November 4th. The snow and slush caused numerous minor traffic accidents and further delayed the fall harvest in many areas. The highest snowfall amounts included over a foot in north-central and northeast South Dakota, and the northern Black Hills, with generally 3 to 7 inches reported elsewhere. Some of the more significant storms total snowfall reports were 25.2 inches at Lead, 15 inches at Eureka, 14 inches near Summit, 13 inches near Victor, 12.6 inches at Roscoe, and 12 inches in Leola and 23 miles north of Highmore.

1935: Called the Yankee Hurricane, this Category 2 storm affected the Bahamas and South Florida. This storm remains the only tropical cyclone to hit Miami from the Northeast in November.

1959: A rare, F0 tornado caused minor damage near Cape St. Elias Light Station on Kayak Island, Alaska.

1985: Heavy rains from the remnants of tropical storm Juan dropped 10 to 19 inches of rain on West Virginia and surrounding states, causing 62 deaths. A maximum of 19.77 inches was recorded near Montebello in the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia. The flood in West Virginia was considered the worst in the State's history.

1991: Nearly 3,000 individuals were killed in the Philippines when Tropical Storm Thelma produced massive flooding on 4th and 5th. The storm was the second major disaster of the year as Mount Pinatubo violently erupted on June 12.

1927 - A great Vermont flood occurred. Tropical rains deluged the Green Mountain area of Vermont causing the worst flood in the history of the state. Torrential rains, up to 15 inches in the higher elevations, sent streams on a rampage devastating the Winooski Valley. Flooding claimed 200 lives and caused 40 million dollars damage. The town of Vernon reported 84 deaths. Flooding left up to eight to ten feet of water in downtown Montpelier VT. (2nd-4th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1985 - A super wet Gulf storm dumped upwards of fifteen inches of rain in the mountains of Virginia and West Virginia causing devastating damage and claiming forty lives. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1987 - Thirty-two cities in the eastern and south central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Highs of 74 degrees at Portland ME and 86 degrees at Fort Smith AR equalled November records. It was the fourth day of record warmth for Beckley WV, Memphis TN and Paducah KY. A cold front ushered much colder air into the north central U.S. Gale force winds lashed all five Great Lakes. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a fast moving cold front produced severe weather over the Tennessee Valley and the Central Gulf Coast States during the afternoon and evening hours, and into the next morning. Thunderstorms spawned nineteen tornadoes, including eleven in Mississippi. The last of the nineteen tornadoes killed a woman in her mobile home in Lee FL. A tornado in Culbert AL injured sixteen people, and caused two million dollars damage. Thunderstorms also produced baseball size hail in Alabama. Unseasonably hot air prevailed south of the cold front. McAllen TX was the hot spot in the nation with a high of 102 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Snow and high winds plagued parts of Colorado and Wyoming. Winds gusted to 71 mph near Wheatland WY, and reached 80 mph west of Fort Collins CO. Up to five inches of snow blanketed Yellowstone Park WY closing many roads. Snow also blanketed northern Minnesota, with seven inches reported at Baudette. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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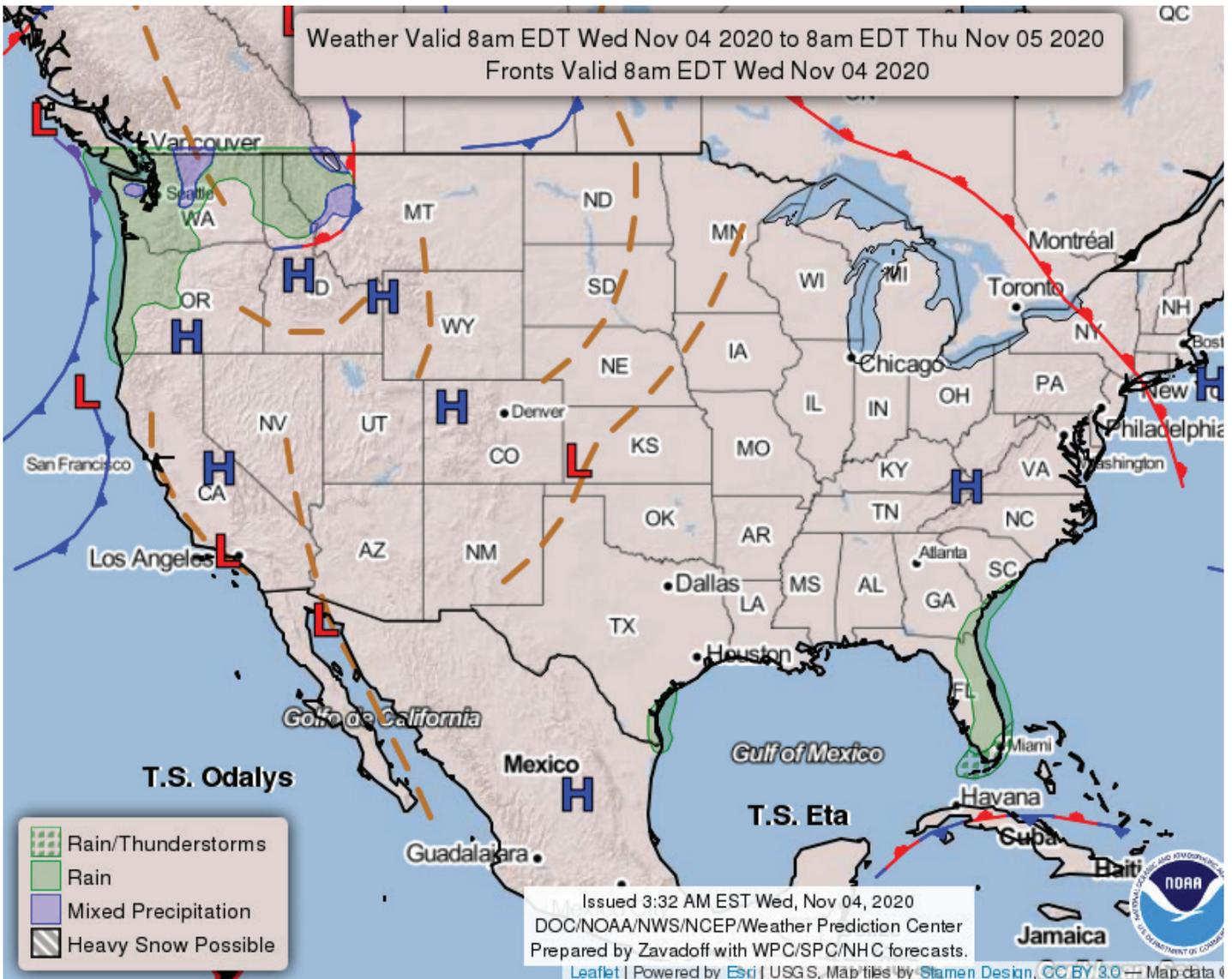
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 73 °F at 3:21 PM**  
**Low Temp: 37 °F at 11:44 PM**  
**Wind: 17 mph at 7:09 AM**  
**Precip: .00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 78° in 1975**  
**Record Low: -2° in 1991**  
**Average High: 47°F**  
**Average Low: 25°F**  
**Average Precip in Nov.: 0.09**  
**Precip to date in Nov.: 0.00**  
**Average Precip to date: 20.56**  
**Precip Year to Date: 16.34**  
**Sunset Tonight: 5:16 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:19 a.m.**



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## **PROMISES? NO! PROMISES!**

Years ago a firm handshake and a sincere look in the eye meant that "my word is my bond as long as I live." No more questions were required, and no exceptions were included. "If I said it I meant it, and I will do it. I will not deny what I said nor will I offer any excuses if I fail!"

How different it is today. Contracts, warranties, and agreements are written with clauses that are vague, difficult to understand, and often need the interpretation of an attorney. Word of mouth promises rarely last longer than the time it takes to speak them.

How different it is with God. In Psalm 105 we are reminded of His faithfulness to Israel. If He said it He did it. If He promised something, there is proof in His Word that He made it happen. All of the promises He made have been fulfilled, and provide proof that "God is a Man of His Word." This should give us courage for today and hope for the future.

Some Biblical scholars who have carefully researched His word have identified 3,000 promises in the Bible! Furthermore, all of them, except one – Christ's second coming - has been fulfilled. And, we can be confident that He will fulfill that promise at the appointed time. If He said it, He did it – or, we know, will certainly do it!

So, here are two great promises we can claim right now: First "The Lord is a stronghold in the day of trouble!" Whenever we can't handle difficult things and horrible times, we have His unfailing word that He certainly can! We can claim this promise!

And, second: "If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in My name." What a wonderful, never-ending, open-ended promise if we call on Him in faith and trust.

Prayer: Thank you Lord for keeping your Word. Help us to claim Your promises and know that You will fulfill them. May we look to You, in faith, and believe! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: He always stands by his promise. Psalm 105:8a

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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

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## News from the Associated Press

Senate Latest: Kelly win gives Arizona 2 Democratic senators

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Latest on Senate races in the 2020 election (all times local):

2:55 a.m.

Democrat Mark Kelly has won the Arizona Senate seat once held by John McCain.

The former astronaut defeated Republican Sen. Martha McSally, who was appointed to the seat after McCain's death in 2018.

It's the second election night contest in which a Democrat beat a GOP incumbent. The other was in Colorado.

The Arizona race was a special election to finish McCain's term, so Kelly could be sworn in as early as Nov. 30, when the results are officially certified.

Kelly flew combat missions for the Navy during Operation Desert Storm before becoming a test pilot and later an astronaut. He flew four missions to the International Space Station.

He is the husband of former Democratic U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, who was shot in the head and wounded in an attempted assassination during a constituent event in Tucson in 2011.

Kelly's victory gives Democrats both Senate seats in Arizona. He will join Kyrsten Sinema in Washington.

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HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE 2020 SENATE RACES:

Control of the Senate is a razor-close proposition in the election as Republicans fight to retain their majority against Democratic candidates who are challenging President Donald Trump's allies across a vast political map.

Read more:

- Senate majority outcome may take weeks or more
- Trump, Biden cede stage to voters for Election Day verdict

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HERE'S WHAT ELSE IS GOING ON:

1:55 a.m.

Republican Steve Daines of Montana has won a second Senate term, dealing a blow to Democrats' hopes of gaining a majority in the chamber.

The former business executive and Donald Trump loyalist defeated Gov. Steve Bullock.

Daines' first election in 2014 broke a Democratic lock on the Senate seat that had lasted more than 100 years. After Trump carried Montana by more than 20 percentage points in 2016, Daines emerged as one of the president's ardent defenders.

Bullock is a two-term Montana governor who entered the race in March after dropping a presidential bid that attracted little support.

Political groups and the campaigns poured more than \$100 million into the contest, a record shattering figure for the sparsely populated state.

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1:25 a.m.

Democratic Sen. Tina Smith of Minnesota has won reelection, defeating her Republican challenger, former U.S. Rep. Jason Lewis.

This is the second time in two years Smith has had to defend her seat. She was Gov. Mark Dayton's lieutenant governor when he appointed her to the seat in 2017 after Democratic Sen. Al Franken resigned. Smith then won a special election in 2018 to complete Franken's term.

Lewis is a one-term former congressman best known from his days as a talk radio host. He tied himself closely to President Donald Trump, stressing their common opposition to coronavirus restrictions, support

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for law and order and the need to put Amy Coney Barrett on the Supreme Court.

12:40 a.m.

Republican Sen. Joni Ernst has won a second term in Iowa, fending off a competitive challenge from Des Moines real estate developer Theresa Greenfield.

Ernst argued that she had been true to her deeply conservative beliefs as both a state legislator and U.S. senator while also trying to portray herself as a senator who crossed party lines on some issues. Ernst serves in Republican leadership and has been an ardent supporter of President Donald Trump.

Greenfield often spoke of her childhood roots working in her family's crop-dusting business and focused on core Democratic issues such as protecting Social Security, increasing job training and expanding health care options.

12:30 a.m.

Democratic Rep. Ben Ray Luján has won the Senate race in New Mexico to succeed retiring Democratic Sen. Tom Udall.

The six-term congressman from northern New Mexico defeated Republican Mark Ronchetti, a former television meteorologist, and Libertarian Bob Walsh.

Luján is the fourth-ranking Democrat in the House. His move to the Senate marks a resurgence of Latino political leadership in a state with the largest share of Hispanic residents.

His campaign emphasized support for Affordable Care Act consumer health protections and highlighted President Donald Trump's handling of the coronavirus pandemic.

11:30 p.m. Tuesday

Republican Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith has been reelected in Mississippi, winning her first full term.

In a repeat of a 2018 special election, Hyde-Smith defeated Democrat Mike Espy as she tied herself closely to President Donald Trump. Hyde-Smith is the only woman to have represented Mississippi in the House or Senate.

Espy, a former U.S. agriculture secretary, said Republican policies had failed to help many Mississippians, particularly those who need health care. He was vying to become Mississippi's first Black senator since Reconstruction.

11:20 p.m. Tuesday

In Georgia, Republican Sen. Kelly Loeffler and Democrat Raphael Warnock have advanced to a Jan. 5 runoff in the special election for Loeffler's Senate seat.

They're the top two finishers in a crowded field that also included Republican Rep. Doug Collins. But no candidate was able to get the 50% threshold needed in order to win outright.

Loeffler, a wealthy businesswoman, was appointed last year to replace retiring Sen. Johnny Isakson. Warnock is pastor of the Atlanta church where the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. preached. Warnock is trying to become Georgia's first Black U.S. senator.

11:20 p.m. Tuesday

Republican Bill Cassidy has won a second term representing Louisiana in the Senate, avoiding a runoff. The lawmaker from Baton Rouge defeated 14 challengers, including Shreveport Mayor Adrian Perkins.

Democrats had hoped Perkins could stop Louisiana's streak of sending Republicans to the Senate. But Cassidy had the power of incumbency, millions of dollars in campaign cash and the endorsement of President Donald Trump.

Cassidy is a doctor who tested positive for the coronavirus in August. He did little in-person campaigning and participated in no debates with his opponents. He instead relied on TV advertising and social media campaigns

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11 p.m. Tuesday

Republican Rep. Roger Marshall has won an open Senate seat in Kansas in a tougher-than-expected race that saw his Democratic opponent far outraise him.

Marshall is an obstetrician who has represented western and central Kansas in Congress for two terms. He prevailed against Democratic state Sen. Barbara Bollier.

Marshall entered the campaign with the GOP's traditional advantages in a state that tends to vote for conservatives. Republicans haven't lost a Senate race in Kansas since 1932. But Bollier, a former Republican, excited Democrats and raised more than \$25 million to set a Kansas record that Marshall couldn't match.

Bollier pitched herself as an independent and common-sense centrist, but Marshall portrayed her as too liberal for Kansas.

Marshall will succeed retiring four-term Republican Sen. Pat Roberts,

11 p.m. Tuesday

Democrat Jeff Merkley has won his third Senate term in Oregon.

Merkley easily defeated Republican Jo Rae Perkins. She drew national headlines this year for her support of a wide ranging and baseless internet conspiracy theory QAnon.

Merkley is one of the most liberal members of the Senate, and he has been outspoken about climate change. He has pushed legislation that aims to eliminate carbon emissions by 2050.

Merkley considered running for president in 2020 but chose to run for reelection to the Senate instead. He was the only senator to endorse Bernie Sanders in the 2016 Democratic presidential primaries.

11 p.m. Tuesday

Idaho Republican Sen. Jim Risch has cruised to reelection, defeating Democrat challenger Paulette Jordan.

Risch is the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and a strong supporter of President Donald Trump. Risch served in the Legislature before he was elected lieutenant governor in 2002 and senator in 2008.

Jordan, a member of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe and a former state legislator, also unsuccessfully ran for Idaho governor in 2018 against then-Lt. Gov. Brad Little.

Idaho remains one of the strongest Republican states, with the GOP holding every statewide office and the vast majority of the Legislature.

10:20 p.m. Tuesday

Republican Sen. John Cornyn of Texas has defeated Democrat MJ Hegar in his hardest-fought reelection battle in almost two decades.

Cornyn held an edge in polls and fundraising for most of the race but was still forced into mounting an unusually aggressive defense as Democrats poured millions of dollars into Hegar's race.

Hegar is a former Air Force helicopter pilot who narrowly lost a U.S. House race two years ago. She called Cornyn a "spineless bootlicker" beholden to Trump and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

Cornyn's victory came in the face of uncommon headwinds for Republicans in Texas.

10:15 p.m. Tuesday

Former Auburn football coach Tommy Tuberville has recaptured a Senate seat for Republicans by defeating Democratic Sen. Doug Jones in Alabama.

Jones had widely been considered the Senate's most endangered Democrat, and Republicans had made winning the once reliably conservative seat a priority in 2020.

Tuberville has never held public office. He aligned himself closely with President Donald Trump and declared in the primary campaign that "God sent us" the president.

Jones won the seat during a 2017 special election in which GOP Senate candidate Roy Moore was publicly accused of sexual misconduct involving young women decades ago. In the Senate, he often voted

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with Democrats and was criticized by Tuberville for his vote to convict Trump in the Senate impeachment trial this year.

10 p.m. Tuesday

Republican Lindsey Graham of South Carolina has secured a fourth term in the Senate, defeating Democrat Jamie Harrison.

Some polling in the campaign's closing weeks showed a head-to-head race, and Harrison's massive fundraising broke records. But Graham mustered support across South Carolina, where all statewide offices are held by Republicans and support for President Donald Trump remains strong.

Harrison portrayed Graham as too willing to acquiesce to Trump. Graham maintained that he felt it in his constituents' best interests that he align with the president, who has remained popular in South Carolina.

If Harrison had won, South Carolina would have been the first state in U.S. history to be simultaneously represented by two Black senators.

9:45 p.m. Tuesday

Democrat John Hickenlooper has defeated Republican Sen. Cory Gardner in Colorado. It's the first seat that the Democrats have picked up on election night.

Colorado is a state that's shifted strongly to the left since Gardner's election to the Senate in 2014.

Hickenlooper is a popular former two-term governor who repeatedly tied Gardner to President Donald Trump during the race.

Gardner promoted his work on a sweeping public lands bill, a national suicide prevention hotline he launched and various federal dollars he secured for Colorado. But he avoided criticism of the president and struggled to distinguish himself from Trump's words and policies.

Democrats have won every statewide race since Gardner's election, with the exception of a board of regents position in 2016.

9:05 p.m. Tuesday

Republican Cynthia Lummis, a former congresswoman, has won an open Senate seat in Wyoming.

Lummis beat University of Wyoming ecology professor and climate activist Merav Ben-David to claim the seat held by Republican Sen. Mike Enzi, who's retiring after four terms.

Lummis was heavily favored to win in the GOP-dominated state after raising and spending far more money than her Democratic opponent.

A former state treasurer and state legislator, Lummis comes from a prominent Cheyenne ranching family and has been well-known in Wyoming politics for over 30 years. She was Wyoming's lone congresswoman from 2009-2017, when she stepped down to attend to family business matters following her husband's death.

9:05 p.m. Tuesday

Nebraska Republican Ben Sasse has been reelected to the Senate, beating Democrat Chris Janicek.

Sasse, a former university president, benefitted from an overwhelming Republican advantage in Nebraska despite his criticism of President Donald Trump.

He said last month that Trump has "flirted with white supremacists," mocks Christian evangelicals in private, and "kisses dictators' butts." Trump lashed back on Twitter, calling Sasse "an embarrassment."

Still, Sasse was a reliable vote for many of the president's policies, and is known for his deeply conservative views on most issues, from fiscal policy to social issues and foreign relations.

Janicek faced even longer odds because the Democratic Party pulled their support from him after he sent lewd text messages about a campaign staffer. Janicek, the owner of an Omaha bakery, apologized but refused to drop out of the race.

The state party ultimately endorsed Omaha activist and professor Preston Love Jr. as a write-in candidate.

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9:05 p.m. Tuesday

Republican Sen. Mike Rounds has won reelection to his second term in South Dakota.

The ex-governor defeated Democrat Dan Ahlers, a former state legislator.

Rounds won despite scaling back his campaign activity during the coronavirus pandemic, citing health concerns for his wife, Jean, who underwent treatment for cancer earlier this year.

Rounds promoted his record of advocating for South Dakota's agricultural community.

9 p.m. Tuesday

Two more Republican senators have won reelection, and Republican Cynthia Lummis has won an open seat in Wyoming.

Republican Sens. Ben Sasse of Nebraska and Mike Rounds of South Dakota have easily won reelection.

In Wyoming, Republican Cynthia Lummis, a former congresswoman, defeated ecology professor and climate activist Merav Ben-David to replace Republican Sen. Mike Enzi, who's retiring.

8:30 p.m. Tuesday

Republican Sen. Tom Cotton of Arkansas has won reelection in a race that's allowed him to lay the groundwork for a potential 2024 White House bid.

The 43-year-old Cotton has easily defeated Libertarian nominee Ricky Dale Harrington, a former prison chaplain who had never run for office. The only Democrat who was running against Cotton dropped out hours after the filing deadline last year.

With millions in campaign cash to spend, Cotton has run ads in presidential battleground states like Ohio and Michigan, and campaigned with endangered Senate GOP colleagues. He insisted the moves were intended to help President Donald Trump and Senate Republicans, and not about any future plans of his own.

8:15 p.m. Tuesday

Republican Bill Hagerty has won an open Senate seat in Tennessee, replacing retiring GOP Sen. Lamar Alexander.

Hagerty served as U.S. ambassador to Japan under President Donald Trump, and he rode the president's endorsement to a win against Democrat Marquita Bradshaw.

Republicans have held both Senate seats in Tennessee since 1994, and Trump remained popular enough in the state that Hagerty mentioned the president at every turn, both in a contested primary and the general election campaign.

Hagerty is a Nashville businessman who sits on the board of a private investment firm. He served as the economic development commissioner for former Republican Gov. Bill Haslam.

8:15 p.m. Tuesday

Democratic Sen. Chris Coons of Delaware has defeated Republican challenger Lauren Witzke to win reelection.

The victory comes a decade after Coons won a special election to fill the Senate seat once held by Democrat Joe Biden. Since then Coons has voted solidly with Democrats while also seeking out ways to work across the aisle.

Witzke is a conservative activist and political newcomer who soundly defeated the Delaware GOP's endorsed candidate in the Republican primary. The Republican has defended the neo-fascist Proud Boys, and previously promoted the baseless, far-right conspiracy theory QAnon.

8:15 p.m. Tuesday

Democratic Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois has been reelected to a fifth term, handily winning over four lesser-known challengers.

The 75-year-old Durbin is the Senate's second-highest ranking Democrat. He was first elected in 1996

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and has been Democratic whip since 2005.

The candidates vying to replace him in Illinois' only statewide race included Republican former Lake County Sheriff Mark Curran and Chicago businessman Willie Wilson, who ran under his own party.

8:15 p.m. Tuesday

Democratic Sen. Edward Markey, a Massachusetts fixture in Congress since the mid-1970s, has won reelection.

Markey easily defeated Republican challenger Kevin O'Connor to win a third term. The 74-year-old Markey has represented the state in Washington for decades — first in the House, starting in 1976, before winning John Kerry's former Senate seat in 2013. After completing Kerry's term, Markey won reelection in 2014.

Markey's bigger test came earlier this year, when he overcame a hard-fought primary challenge from fellow Democrat Joe Kennedy III, the grandson of Robert F. Kennedy and a member of Massachusetts congressional delegation.

8:15 p.m. Tuesday

New Hampshire Democrat Jeanne Shaheen has won a third term in the Senate, defeating Republican Corky Messner and Libertarian Justin O'Donnell.

The former governor has promoted her record of working across party lines to help small businesses during the coronavirus pandemic, secure funding to address the opioid crisis and improve veterans' access to health care.

Messner, an Army veteran and attorney, argued the state would be better served by a political outsider. Shaheen was the first woman elected governor of New Hampshire.

8:15 p.m. Tuesday

New Jersey Democrat Cory Booker has won a second full term in the Senate.

Booker defeated Republican Rik Mehta, a business executive with a law degree and a doctorate in pharmacy.

Booker ran an unsuccessful primary campaign for president this year. While he lost the nomination to former Vice President Joe Biden, Booker had a lock on Democratic support in the state, winning Gov. Phil Murphy's endorsement.

His victory cements New Jersey as a Democratic stronghold. The last Republican elected to the Senate was Clifford Case in 1972.

8:15 p.m. Tuesday

Republican Sen. James Inhofe of Oklahoma has defeated Democrat Abby Broyles and three lesser-known candidates to secure another six-year term.

The 85-year-old Inhofe has been a fixture in Oklahoma politics for 50 years, having served in the state House, state Senate, as Tulsa's mayor, and the U.S. House before being elected to the U.S. Senate in 1994.

Inhofe promoted his friendly relationship with President Donald Trump and his seniority on key Senate committees as reasons for his decision to seek another term.

He painted Broyles, a 31-year-old Oklahoma City attorney and former television reporter, in campaign ads as too liberal for Oklahoma.

8:15 p.m. Tuesday

Democrat Jack Reed of Rhode Island has easily defeated Republican challenger Allen Waters for a fifth Senate term.

Reed cruised to victory over Waters, an investment consultant who mounted earlier unsuccessful campaigns for state Senate and U.S. Senate in Massachusetts.

The 70-year-old Reed was first elected to the Senate in 1996. He's a lawyer and military veteran who previously served three terms in the House. He's a senior member of the powerful Appropriations Com-

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mittee and the top Democrat on the Armed Services Committee.

8:05 p.m. Tuesday

Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has won a seventh term in Kentucky.

The 78-year-old McConnell defeated Democrat Amy McGrath, a retired Marine combat pilot who challenged him as a political outsider. McConnell is the longest-serving Republican leader in Senate history.

As President Donald Trump's top ally on Capitol Hill, McConnell led efforts to defend the president during his impeachment acquittal in the Senate. He also worked with Trump on a tax overhaul and orchestrated Senate confirmation of more than 200 judicial appointments, including Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court.

McGrath also lost a race for a House seat in 2018.

8 p.m. Tuesday

Seven more senators have won reelection, and Republican Bill Hagerty has won an open seat in Tennessee.

The Democratic incumbents who won are Chris Coons of Delaware, Dick Durbin of Illinois, Ed Markey of Massachusetts, Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire, Cory Booker of New Jersey and Jack Reed of Rhode Island. On the GOP side, James Inhofe of Oklahoma has also won reelection.

In Tennessee, businessman Hagerty defeated Democrat Marquita Bradshaw in a race to fill the seat of retiring Republican Lamar Alexander.

7:30 p.m. Tuesday

Shelley Moore Capito has become the first West Virginia Republican to be reelected to the Senate in more than a century.

Capito defeated progressive Democrat Paula Jean Swearengin, a coal miner's daughter who lacked statewide political experience.

Capito campaigned on her Senate record of securing federal money for opioid-related treatment in a state that by far leads the nation in the rate of drug overdose deaths. She also cited efforts to improve the economy, expand internet broadband access, build better roads and help residents and small businesses during the coronavirus pandemic.

Republicans made major gains when Capito won the 2014 Senate race, capturing all the state's House seats for the first time since 1921.

7 p.m. Tuesday

Democratic Sen. Mark Warner of Virginia has won a third term.

Warner defeated Republican challenger Daniel Gade in a low-key race in which the incumbent had a massive cash advantage. Democrats haven't lost a statewide election in Virginia since 2009.

Warner is a businessman who co-founded the company that became Nextel, and he was governor from 2002 to 2006. He's the top Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee.

Gade is a professor at American University in Washington. While in the Army, he was seriously injured in Iraq in 2005, losing a leg after his Humvee was hit by a roadside bomb.

5:15 p.m. Tuesday

Securing a Senate majority will be crucial for whichever candidate wins the White House.

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.

Republicans are fighting to hold on to their slim majority against Democratic candidates who are challenging President Donald Trump's allies across a vast political map.

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

From New England to the Deep South and from the Midwest to the Mountain West, Republican incumbents are defending seats in states once considered long shots for Democrats.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky is facing off against Democrat Amy McGrath, a former fighter pilot.

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

## Trump rolls in South Dakota while 2 marijuana measures pass

By STEPHEN GROVES and DAVE KOLPACK Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — President Donald Trump, U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds and U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson won in South Dakota on Tuesday. But with Republicans long dominating the state's elections, the most interesting development was the passage of separate proposals to legalize both medical and recreational marijuana. Election officials received a historic 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

Another presidential election, another Republican winner — in South Dakota, at least. President Donald Trump put the state's three electoral votes in his column on Tuesday, just as every Republican before him has done since 1968. With the state seen as safe for the GOP, neither Trump nor Joe Biden invested much time or energy in the sharply conservative state — although Trump did enjoy a July 3 trip to Mount Rushmore for a massive fireworks display.

### SENATE

Republican U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds has won re-election to his second term in South Dakota. The former governor from Fort Pierre defeated Democrat Dan Ahlers, a former state legislator. Rounds won despite scaling back his campaign activity during the coronavirus pandemic, citing health concerns for his wife, Jean, who underwent treatment for cancer earlier this year. Rounds touted his record of advocating for South Dakota's agricultural community.

### CONGRESS

U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson was re-elected 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.

Johnson said Tuesday night the coronavirus pandemic made the campaign "more odd than the competition," and, while he plans to keep focusing on rural issues, COVID-19 has "got to be at the top of the congressional to-do list when we return."

### RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA

South Dakota had two marijuana proposals on the ballot — one for medical use and one for recreational — and advocates pitched them to voters as a package deal. Even so, they must have been stunned to see voters say yes to recreational marijuana, putting South Dakota among just a handful of states to take such a step. After all, the state's voters soundly rejected medical marijuana four years ago and it was a struggle simply to legalize industrial hemp. Advocates for recreational marijuana leaned on an argument that legalization would cut arrests for marijuana possession. They had powerful opponents in the state's Chamber of Commerce, but pot supporters raised roughly five times more money than their opponents. The measure approved Tuesday allows people over age 21 to have and distribute up to 1 ounce of pot. So what's next? The Legislature gets until April to set up a program to tax and regulate the drug.

Drey Samuelson, political director of the group that led the push, told The Associated Press early Wednesday that people's attitudes are shifting dramatically on cultural issues, and it will be "up to the country to interpret" the impact of legalization in a conservative state.

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"I do think it's fair to say it will surprise a lot of people. I had a lot of friends say to me, you're crazy, you're wasting your time," Samuelson said.

## MEDICAL MARIJUANA

South Dakota voters have approved medical marijuana in a big sign of how far the drug has come in public acceptance. Just four years ago, voters soundly rejected the idea. But with several states nationally making recreational marijuana legal, the landscape has changed. Still, even legalizing medical marijuana is a significant jump in South Dakota after voters solidly rejected the idea just four years ago. The state also saw a protracted struggle between lawmakers and Noem to get industrial hemp legalized, with Noem arguing it would be akin to legalizing marijuana. South Dakota now joins neighboring states including Minnesota and North Dakota in making marijuana OK for several qualifying medical conditions.

Melissa Mentele, executive director of the pro-medical marijuana group New Approach South Dakota, said education and personal stories helped change people's minds about the issue and noted that voting was strong in both rural and urban areas. "We touched every corner of the state," she said.

## SPORTS BETTING

Voters also approved 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 are allowed to offer sports betting with the passage of the measure.

## LEGISLATURE

The state's dominant party picked up a seat in a key Senate race when Republican challenger Michael Roth defeated Democrat incumbent Susan Wismer in a northeastern district. The GOP was hoping to gain two House seats in Sioux Falls, one of the state's southeastern cities that in recent years have seen a shift in demographics and political preferences. Democrats have seen their numbers dwindle in the last decade.

## VOTER VOICES

Robert Crump, 43, who works in marketing in the Rapid City area, split his votes on separate marijuana measures by supporting medical cannabis and rejecting recreational. He said he voted in favor of recreational marijuana when he lived in Colorado eight years ago but thinks it would hurt business and tourism in the family-friendly Black Hills area.

"Trust me, I was a young college student once too," said Crump, who described himself as somewhat libertarian. "I was concerned that our quaint little downtown would just become nothing but pot shops and drive some of the families away. Let's take care of the medical people first and maybe find our own way of decriminalizing it without turning little Rapid City into Boulder north."

Bill Stocker, 61, a retired Sioux Falls police officer, voted for both marijuana measures in part because he believes the laws are too harsh and in part because of his experience in law enforcement.

"I never came in contact with anyone who either possessed marijuana or who was high on marijuana who wasn't compliant. That never happened," he said. "We can't be giving people a criminal record for having a plant. Come on, man."

## Tuesday's Scores

By The Associated Press

PREP VOLLEYBALL=

Aberdeen Central def. Sioux Falls Washington, 25-27, 25-24, 25-21, 25-19

Harrisburg def. Brookings, 25-15, 25-10, 25-23

Huron def. Brandon Valley

Mitchell def. Pierre, 20-25, 25-23, 15-13

Sioux Falls O'Gorman def. Watertown

Sioux Falls Roosevelt def. Yankton

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Spearfish def. Douglas, 25-16, 25-12, 18-25, 25-19  
Region 1A=  
First Round=  
Milbank def. Webster, 25-13, 25-18, 13-25, 25-20  
Redfield def. Tiospa Zina Tribal, 25-13, 25-13, 25-23  
Region 1B=  
Quarterfinal=  
Northwestern def. Leola/Frederick  
Waubay/Summit def. Waverly-South Shore  
Region 2A=  
First Round=  
Sioux Valley def. Deuel, 25-8, 25-13, 22-25, 27-25  
Region 2B=  
Quarterfinal=  
Faulkton def. Sunshine Bible Academy  
Highmore-Harrold def. North Central Co-Op  
Ipswich def. Sully Buttes, 25-12, 25-15, 25-12  
Potter County def. Herreid/Selby Area  
Region 3A=  
First Round=  
Baltic def. Dell Rapids  
Tri-Valley def. West Central, 25-13, 25-17, 21-25, 25-15  
Region 3B=  
Quarterfinal=  
Castlewood def. Wessington Springs  
Deubrook def. Wolsey-Wessington  
Estelline/Hendricks def. Arlington  
Hitchcock-Tulare def. DeSmet, 25-16, 25-7, 25-21  
Region 4A=  
First Round=  
Elk Point-Jefferson def. Beresford, 25-12, 25-11, 25-8  
Lennox def. Vermillion, 0-0  
Tea Area def. Canton  
Region 4B=  
Quarterfinal=  
Chester def. Oldham-Ramona/Rutland, 25-13, 25-15, 25-18  
Colman-Egan def. Sanborn Central/Woonsocket, 25-18, 25-15, 25-19  
Dell Rapids St. Mary def. Ethan  
Elkton-Lake Benton def. Howard, 25-13, 25-20, 25-12  
Region 5A=  
First Round=  
McCook Central/Montrose def. Wagner  
Parkston def. Mt. Vernon/Plankinton  
Region 5B=  
First Round=  
Bridgewater-Emery def. Canistota, 25-20, 25-18, 25-15  
Quarterfinal=  
Alcester-Hudson def. Scotland  
Freeman def. Irene-Wakonda, 25-19, 25-13, 26-24  
Gayville-Volin def. Menno

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Region 6A=  
First Round=  
Stanley County def. McLaughlin  
Region 6B=  
Quarterfinal=  
Avon def. Colome  
Platte-Geddes def. Burke  
Region 7B=  
Quarterfinal=  
Kadoka Area def. Jones County  
New Underwood def. Edgemont  
Philip def. Lyman  
White River def. Wall  
Region 8B=  
SoDak 16 Qualifier=  
Faith def. Newell  
Timber Lake def. Harding County  
Regions 7A/8A=  
First Round=  
Lead-Deadwood def. Bennett County

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

## **Republican Dusty Johnson wins reelection to U.S. House in South Dakota's 1st Congressional District**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican Dusty Johnson wins reelection to U.S. House in South Dakota's 1st Congressional District.

## **Republican Mike Rounds wins reelection to U.S. Senate from South Dakota**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican Mike Rounds wins reelection to U.S. Senate from South Dakota.

## **Virus hospitalizations surge as pandemic shadows US election**

By ALEXANDRA OLSON Associated Press

Americans went to the polls Tuesday under the shadow of a resurging pandemic, with an alarming increase in cases nationwide and the number of people hospitalized with COVID-19 reaching record highs in a growing number of states.

While daily infections were rising in all but three states, the surge was most pronounced in the Midwest and Southwest.

Missouri, Oklahoma, Iowa, Indiana, Nebraska, North Dakota and New Mexico all reported record high hospitalizations this week. Nebraska's largest hospitals started limiting elective surgeries and looked to bring in nurses from other states to cope with the surge. Hospital officials in Iowa and Missouri warned bed capacity could soon be overwhelmed.

The resurgence loomed over candidates and voters, fearful of both the virus itself and the economic toll of any new shutdowns to control its spread. The debate over how far to take economically costly measures has divided a country already sharply polarized over President Donald Trump's turbulent four years in office.

The pandemic colored who voters chose at the ballot box and how they did it. While many Americans

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took advantage of expanded access to mail-in voting, lines were long in many polling places, with record turnout expected and reminders of the pandemic everywhere.

"It's very serious that we have 400 people gathered in one space at the height of the pandemic here in Wisconsin. So, we've tried to take every measure to limit the movement throughout the room," said Claire Woodall-Vogg, the election commission director of the city of Milwaukee, where poll workers were spread out into 12 different pods to limit contact.

Wisconsin health officials reported 5,771 new coronavirus cases Tuesday, a new record.

In Indiana, the Republican candidate for attorney general tested positive for COVID-19 after developing "some symptoms," his campaign announced Tuesday. Former U.S. Rep. Todd Rokita had been quarantining with his family after learning he was exposed to the virus, it said.

Hand sanitizer on voters' hands caused a ballot scanner to jam at a polling place in Des Moines, Iowa, secretary of state spokesman Kevin Hall said.

Hall said some voters' hands were moist when they handled the ballots and the buildup of sanitizer eventually caused the scanner to stop working. The machine was fixed in about an hour.

Meanwhile, Iowa hospital officials warned that facilities and staff could be overwhelmed without serious efforts to curtail the virus spread. The seven-day rolling average of the state's positivity rate reached 36.4% over the weekend, the third-highest in the nation behind South Dakota and Wyoming, according to researchers at Johns Hopkins University. Hospitalizations reached a record 730 on Monday.

Suresh Gunasekaran, CEO of University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, said the state is entering its third peak, one that is higher than previous ones in May and July. He said his biggest concern is that this peak comes at the beginning of the cold weather season, when the flu and other respiratory conditions typically increase hospitalizations.

"The infection rate is definitely a leading indicator for hospitalizations, and the hospitalization rate is a leading indicator of mortality," Gunasekaran said.

Health officials in Nebraska said hospitalizations have doubled in recent weeks, reaching a record 613 on Sunday.

"No doubt if this trend continues — not just at our hospitals — but every hospital in the state could be at capacity in a very short period of time," 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.

In Missouri, leaders of several rural hospitals raised alarms about bed capacity during a conference call last week with Republican Gov. Mike Parson, who drew renewed fire from his Democratic election challenger for his refusal to issue a statewide mask mandate. Missouri's health department reported 1,659 hospitalizations statewide Monday, surpassing by 10 the previous record set a day earlier. Among the five additional deaths was a 13-year-old boy, the first child under 14 to die from the virus in Missouri.

New Mexico's hospitalizations marked a new high for the 12th day in a row, with 401 reported Tuesday. The state also set a record for the number of COVID-19 cases reported in a single day, 1,141. In Colorado, officials said more residents have been hospitalized with the coronavirus than at any time since a peak in April.

Trump's insistence that the U.S. is "rounding the turn" on the virus angered many voters confronting figures that tell a different story.

The virus has killed more than 232,000 people in the country, and total confirmed coronavirus cases have surpassed 9 million. As hospitalizations have climbed, so have deaths. The seven-day rolling average for deaths from COVID-19 has risen over the past two weeks from about 58,424 on Oct. 19 to 83,805 on Monday, according to Johns Hopkins researchers.

"The fact that he (Trump) acts like this is a fake virus that the entire world is out to get him out of office shows just how convoluted his thinking is," said Carrie Rogers, 44, a software development manager from Mount Laurel, N.J., who dropped off her ballot for former Vice President Joe Biden in one of hundreds of locked boxes set up around the state.

Of equal concern is the fear of more economic pain if the country heads into another round of lockdowns

to contain the virus. While the U.S. economy grew at a record 33.1% annual rate in the July-September quarter, it has yet to fully rebound from the plunge in the spring.

Trump's message prioritizing economic recovery over virus containment resonated with voters like Jason Schanta, a business owner and father of twin 13-year-old boys from Fountain Valley, California. He said his business was doing well before the pandemic, motivating him to vote for the president.

"I don't trust Biden to get it open," Schanta said of the economy.

But there were signs of the virus' resurgence hampering economic reopening even without government shutdown orders, as a fearful public stays away from riskier activities.

Cruise Lines International Association, which represents the bulk of the cruise industry, said its members are extending the suspension of U.S. sailing operations through the end of the year, just days after the U.S. government effectively lifted its no-sail order. The cruise industry group estimates that the suspension of cruises snuffed out more than \$25 billion in economic activity and 164,000 U.S. jobs.

Olson reported from New York. Associated Press writers Amy Taxin in Orange County, California; Eric Olson in Des Moines, Iowa; Josh Funk in Omaha, Nebraska, and AP writers around the country contributed.

## **Sanford Health postponing nonemergency surgeries**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sanford Health is temporarily rescheduling nonemergency surgeries as it deals with an influx of coronavirus patients.

Sanford Vice President of Operations Andy Munce said the move is a standard part of its surge plan to ensure it can maintain staffing and bed capacity for the patients who need it.

We continue to closely monitor the situation and have flexibility to make changes based on fluctuating patient volumes. Our focus remains on providing exceptional care to the communities we serve," Munce said in an emailed statement to KELO-TV.

The number of people hospitalized with COVID-19 hit a new high Tuesday at 480. That's an additional 78 hospitalizations since Monday, the South Dakota Department of Health reported, the largest one-day jump in hospitalizations.

Statewide, 40 percent of the state's staffed hospital beds are available and 48 percent of intensive care unit beds.

Another 1,004 South Dakotans have tested positive for coronavirus, bringing the statewide total to 48,854. Eight more people died of COVID-19 complications, bringing the overall death toll to 446.

## **Mother arrested in death of 1-year-old boy in Vermillion**

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Police in Vermillion say they have arrested the mother of a 1-year-old boy who died under suspicious circumstances.

The 26-year-old woman was arrested Monday night about 9:30 p.m., according to Vermillion police. Officers had been called to a residence earlier in the day after getting a report of a child who wasn't breathing.

Once on the scene, authorities found the child had died.

The cause of death and circumstances leading to the death is under investigation.

No other details were released.

## **Record early vote leads to tranquil Election Day at polls**

By CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY and NICHOLAS RICCARDI Associated Press

Despite fears of clashes at polling places, chaos sparked by the coronavirus pandemic and confusion due to disinformation and swiftly-changing voting rules, millions across the U.S. cast ballots in a historically contentious election with few problems.

About 103 million votes were cast before Election Day, an early voting push prompted by the pandemic. That took some of the pressure off polling places on Tuesday, which generally saw short or no lines as

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coronavirus cases were on the rise. Daily confirmed cases were up 43 percent over the past two weeks in the U.S., according to data compiled by Johns Hopkins University.

Every Election Day comes with problems as millions of people try to cast ballots simultaneously in 50 states. But experts were relieved they were relatively rare at a time when partisan battles over voting reached a fever pitch.

"We were bracing for the worst, and we've been pleasantly surprised," said Kristen Clarke of the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights.

Though the casting of ballots was relatively tranquil, legal storm clouds hang over the counting of those votes. Both parties had fought a massive battle in the courts trying to shape the contours of the election, and that seemed likely to continue beyond Tuesday.

President Donald Trump early Wednesday said he would take the election to the Supreme Court, although it was unclear what legal action he might pursue. The GOP has laid the groundwork for an effort to exclude ballots that arrived after polls closed in Pennsylvania on Tuesday, something several other states permit. Trump has railed over several days about the high court's pre-election refusal to rule out those ballots and said he'd go in "with lawyers."

Trump has spent much of the campaign groundlessly trying to sow doubt about the accuracy of the vote count and casting doubt on mail balloting. It led to great voter stress — but fears didn't materialize at the polls.

"A lot of people were fearful to come out and vote today, and for me I didn't want fear to stop me from voting on Election Day," said Sadiyyah Porter-Lowdry, 39, who cast her ballot at a church in Charlotte, North Carolina.

In Iowa, hand sanitizer on voters' hands caused ballot counting machines to jam briefly in Des Moines, but the problem was fixed and voting went smoothly. Officials reported a calm day.

"No armed people, no protesters, no pickups with Trump flags like they've seen elsewhere. Our voters have been 'Iowa Nice' through-and-through, and they have been patient," said Joel Miller, the commissioner of elections in Linn County, the state's second largest, which includes Cedar Rapids.

In Pennsylvania, a judge in Democrat Joe Biden's hometown of Scranton extended voting at two precincts inside an elementary school for 45 minutes beyond the normal 8 p.m. close of voting because machines had been down earlier in the day, said Lackawanna County spokesman Joe D'Arienzo. The last Las Vegas-area voters cast their ballots shortly after 9 p.m. Tuesday after a court order kept 30 polling places open later in Nevada's largest county, where some polling places had been slow to open.

There also were a few other issues with voting technology. Electronic pollbooks from voting equipment vendor KnowInk failed in Ohio's second-largest county and in a small Texas county, forcing voting delays as officials replaced them with paper pollbooks.

Those who did vote on Election Day included some who wanted to vote by mail but waited too long to request a ballot or didn't receive their ballots in time. Election offices had to scramble to rejigger procedures to allow for a huge surge in mail voting as voters sought a way to avoid exposure to the coronavirus at the polls.

Kaal Ferguson, 26, planned to vote by mail but was concerned he hadn't left enough time to send his ballot back. So he voted in person in Atlanta, despite worries he could be exposed to COVID-19 by fellow voters.

"Obviously everybody has their right to vote," he said. "But it's kind of scary knowing that there's not a place just for them to vote if they'd had it, so you could easily be exposed."

Despite warnings of clashes between Trump and Biden supporters, there were no wide-scale instances of voter intimidation. Indeed, in battleground Michigan, demonstrators from the opposing camps initially shouted at each other through bullhorns outside a suburban Detroit polling place, but ended up joining together to sing "God Bless America."

Law enforcement officials breathed an audible sigh of relief.

"I would say it is blissfully uneventful," Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel told reporters. "We've had virtually no disturbances of any kind."

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There were reports, as there are every election, of efforts to discourage people from voting that surfaced in robocalls in a few states. The FBI was investigating. But there were no large-scale cyber attacks that upended voting.

Gen. Paul Nakasone, the commander of U.S. Cyber Command and director of the National Security Agency, said in a statement that he was "confident the actions we've taken against adversaries over the past several weeks and months have ensured they're not going to interfere in our elections."

Instead, voters were often pleasantly surprised. Anthony Medina, of Phoenix, who turned 18 four months ago, accompanied his cousin, who turned 18 on Election Day, to the polls Tuesday.

"I wanted to see how it was to vote in person because I've never voted," Medina said. "It was kind of nerve-wracking because I didn't know if they were gonna ask for more stuff than they did. But it went pretty good overall."

Amber McReynolds, a former Denver clerk whose group Vote from Home has helped local election offices step up their mail voting options during the pandemic, said the ability for more than half of all voters to cast ballots before Tuesday was clearly a significant factor in the quieter day.

She noted that the fairly smooth election operations came even as Congress wouldn't give local officials an estimated \$3.6 billion they needed to help transform their systems during the pandemic.

"Given the difficulty elected officials faced with Congress not giving them enough money, with all the disinformation and political fights — yes, I think today was an astounding success on all front," McReynolds said.

Cassidy reported from Atlanta and Riccardi from Denver. Associated Press reporters across the country contributed.

## World waits nervously, impatiently for US vote count

By JOHN LEICESTER Associated Press

From Ford Model T cars that popped off the assembly line in just 90 minutes to 60-second service for burgers, the United States has had a major hand in making the world a frenetic and impatient place, primed and hungry for instant gratification.

So waking up to the news Wednesday that the winner of the U.S. election might not be known for hours, days or longer — pundits filled global airwaves with their best bets — was jarring for a planet weaned on that most American of exports: speed.

In the absence of an immediate winner between President Donald Trump and challenger Joe Biden, the guessing game of trying to figure out which of them would end up in the White House, and how, quickly turned global. Government leaders scrambled to digest the delay and ordinary people swapped views, hopes and fears on feeds and phones.

"I'm hearing it may take some time before things are sorted out," said the finance minister of Japan, Taro Aso. "I have no idea how it may affect us."

In Paris, a Spanish resident, Javier Saenz, was stunned to wake up without a declared winner.

"I thought there was going to be something clear. And I have read different articles, no one really knows who is going to win," he said. "I am very shocked by that."

But the lack of result was not that surprising to experts — and not, in and of itself, an indication that anything was wrong. In a year turned upside down by the coronavirus pandemic, many states made it easier to vote by mail. That meant a slowdown in compiling results because postal ballots mail often take longer to process than those cast at polling places.

Still, the unease of not knowing was mixing with sharpening concerns about how America might heal after the divisive election and anxieties fueled by Trump's own extraordinary and premature claims of victory and his threat to take the election to the Supreme Court to stop counting.

From Europe, in particular, came appeals for patience and a complete tally of votes. In Slovenia, the birthplace of first lady Melania Trump, the right-wing prime minister, Janez Jansa, claimed it was "pretty

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clear that American people have elected Donald Trump," but he was a lonely voice among leaders in jumping ahead of any firm outcome.

The German vice chancellor, Olaf Scholz, insisted on a complete tally, saying: "It is important for us that everything be counted and in the end we have a clear result."

The main industry lobbying group in Germany, Europe's biggest economy, warned that business confidence could be damaged by sustained uncertainty. And the German defense minister, Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, said that "the battle over the legitimacy of the result — whatever it will look like — has now begun."

"This is a very explosive situation. It is a situation of which experts rightly say it could lead to a constitutional crisis in the U.S.," she said on ZDF television. "That is something that must certainly worry us very much."

In financial markets, investors struggled to make sense of it all, sending some indexes up and others down.

In the vacuum of no immediate winner, there was some gloating from Russia, Africa and other parts of the world that have repeatedly been on the receiving end of U.S. criticism, with claims that the election and the vote count were exposing the imperfections of American democracy.

"Africa used to learn American democracy, America is now learning African democracy," tweeted Nigerian Sen. Shehu Sani, reflecting a common view from some on a continent long used to troubled elections and U.S. criticism of them.

In Zimbabwe, the ruling ZANU-PF party's spokesman, Patrick Chinamasa, said: "We have nothing to learn about democracy from former slave owners."

Traditional U.S. allies clung to the belief that regardless of whether Trump or Biden emerged as the winner, the fundamentals that have long underpinned some of America's key relationships would survive the uncertainty and the U.S. electoral process.

"Whatever the result of the election, they will remain our allies for many years and decades, that is certain," said Thierry Breton, the EU's commissioner for the internal market.

That idea was echoed by the Japanese prime minister, Yoshihide Suga, who told a parliamentary session that "the Japan-U.S. alliance is the foundation of Japanese diplomacy, and on that premise I will develop solid relationship with a new president."

AP journalists around the world contributed.

## 2020 Latest: Biden campaign willing to fight Trump in court

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

4 a.m.

Democrat Joe Biden's campaign says it will fight any efforts by President Donald Trump's campaign to go to the U.S. Supreme Court to prevent ballots from being tabulated.

In a statement sent before 4 a.m. Wednesday, Biden campaign manager Jen O'Malley Dillon called Trump's statement that he will "be going to the U.S. Supreme Court" and that he wants "all voting to stop" "outrageous, unprecedented and incorrect."

O'Malley Dillon says the Biden campaign has "legal teams standing by ready to deploy to resist that effort." And she says, "They will prevail."

The Associated Press has not declared a winner in the presidential race. There are still hundreds of thousands of votes left to be counted, and the outcome hinges on a handful of uncalled battleground states.

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

President Donald Trump and his Democratic challenger, Joe Biden, are in a tight battle for the White House. Many of the battleground states have yet to be called, including Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. Trump has won Texas, Florida, Iowa and Ohio, while Biden carried Arizona, New Hampshire and Minnesota. It takes 270 electoral votes to win the presidency.

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Read more:

- EXPLAINER: A long night, or more, before president is known
- AP VoteCast: Voters favor Biden on virus, Trump on economy
- Biden, Trump locked in tight races in battleground states
- Routes to Senate control narrow as GOP holds back Democrats

HERE'S WHAT ELSE IS GOING ON:

3:06 a.m.

Democrat Joe Biden has won at least three of Maine's four electoral votes in his bid to unseat President Donald Trump.

Biden won the statewide tally and the 1st Congressional District, good for three electoral votes. Trump, meanwhile, hoped to claim one electoral vote in a win in the 2nd Congressional District. The 2nd Congressional District hasn't yet been called.

Maine split its electoral votes four years ago, awarding three to Democrat Hillary Clinton and one to Trump, who won the more rural and conservative of Maine's congressional districts.

It marked the first time in state history that Maine divided its electoral votes.

Maine is one of only two states that divides its electoral votes. The other is Nebraska.

In the race to the 270 electoral votes needed to win, Biden has 238 while Trump has 213.

2:52 a.m.

Democrat Joe Biden has won Arizona and its 11 electoral votes, flipping a critical battleground state that Donald Trump won four years ago and that could help determine which candidate wins the presidency.

The victory by Biden was a huge blow to Trump's chances for reelection. Arizona has backed a Democratic presidential candidate only once in the last 72 years.

Biden's campaign had focused on Arizona as part of its expanded battleground map through the Sun Belt, citing demographic changes, new residents and realignment away from Republicans among key suburban voters.

Arizona is among the more than half a dozen states that will help determine which candidate gets the 270 electoral votes to capture the White House.

Biden's massive advantage in campaign cash allowed him to put Trump on defense across the country and work to build an unstoppable lead in the Electoral College.

In the race to 270 electoral votes, Biden has 236, while Trump has 213.

2:40 a.m.

President Donald Trump is vowing to ask the Supreme Court to weigh in on the inconclusive election. The Associated Press has not declared a winner in the presidential race.

Trump appeared before supporters at the White House early Wednesday morning and cried foul over the election results, calling the process "a major fraud on our nation." But there's no evidence of foul play in the cliffhanger.

The night ended with hundreds of thousands of votes still to be counted, and the outcome still unclear in key states he needs if he is to win against Democrat Joe Biden.

Nevertheless, he has cast the night as a disenfranchisement of his voters. He said: "We will win this and as far as I'm concerned we already have won it."

Trump says: "We'll be going to the U.S. Supreme Court — we want all voting to stop." In fact, there is no more voting — just counting.

1:55 a.m.

Democrat Joe Biden has won at least one of Maine's four electoral votes in his bid to unseat President Donald Trump.

Biden won the state's 1st Congressional District, good for one electoral vote.

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Maine's statewide vote, which is worth two electoral votes, and the state's 2nd Congressional District haven't yet been called.

Maine split its electoral votes four years ago, awarding three to Democrat Hillary Clinton and one to Trump. Trump won the 2nd Congressional District, the more rural and conservative of Maine's congressional districts.

It marked the first time in state history that Maine divided its electoral votes.

Maine is one of only two states that divides its electoral votes. The other is Nebraska.

1:27 a.m.

President Donald Trump has won four of Nebraska's five electoral votes, while Democrat Joe Biden has won one electoral vote from the state.

The 1st Congressional District was called for Trump early Wednesday. He also won the 3rd Congressional District earlier, as well as the statewide vote. Trump gets one electoral vote for each congressional district, plus two electoral votes for winning the statewide vote.

Biden's win in the 2nd Congressional District, which includes Omaha, is a flip from 2016, when Trump narrowly won it against Democrat Hillary Clinton.

While Trump easily carried the state itself, Nebraska is one of only two states that divides its electoral votes.

In 2016, Trump won all five of Nebraska's electoral votes.

1:22 a.m.

Democrat Joe Biden has won Nebraska's 2nd Congressional District, which includes Omaha. That flips a district that Donald Trump won in 2016.

Nebraska, one of two states that divides its electoral votes, has five total electoral votes up for grabs. On Tuesday, Trump won the statewide vote, which is good for two electoral votes. He also won the 3rd Congressional District, which nets him a third vote.

Biden earns one electoral vote for winning Nebraska's 2nd Congressional District. Nebraska's 1st Congressional District hasn't yet been called.

In 2016, Trump narrowly won Nebraska's 2nd Congressional District over Democrat Hillary Clinton.

1:12 a.m.

Twitter is hiding an election-related post by President Donald Trump, warning that its content is disputed and could be misleading.

Trump stated without evidence early Wednesday that Democrats were trying to "steal" the election. He also falsely said votes cannot be cast after polls are closed.

States allow voters to cast ballots if they are in line when polls close. Some states also allow mail-in ballots postmarked by Election Day but received later to be counted.

Trump's tweet came after his Democratic challenger, Joe Biden, delivered remarks as the race was too early to call in key battleground states.

Biden told his supporters to be patient while all the votes are counted.

Twitter says placing a warning on the tweet is in line with its "Civic Integrity Policy." The tweet is still visible after clicking through the warning.

1:06 a.m.

President Donald Trump has won Texas and its 38 electoral votes despite a furious, late push by Democrats to turn America's biggest red state blue.

An avalanche of early votes fed Democrats' high hopes of ending decades of losses in Texas, where polls showed Joe Biden running unusually close. But Trump carried Texas for a second straight year.

Trump won Texas by 9 percentage points in 2016 and all but took a win here for granted. He didn't swing through Texas for campaign rallies or swamp television airwaves, and his conservative allies on the ground

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scoffed at Biden's chances as a far reach.

Trump sought to make an issue out of Biden's answer during their final presidential debate that Biden would "transition away from the oil industry" if elected president. Texas is among the swing states with voters who depend on the oil industry to make a living.

1:03 a.m.

More than 1,000 people protesting President Donald Trump have descended on Black Lives Matter Plaza near the White House.

Hundreds more are marching through parts of downtown Washington early Wednesday, sometimes blocking traffic and setting off fireworks.

Trump and his Democratic challenger, Joe Biden, are in a tight battle for the White House. Many of the battleground states have yet to be called, including Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas and Wisconsin.

So far, Trump won Florida, Iowa and Ohio, while Biden carried New Hampshire and Minnesota.

It takes 270 electoral votes to win the presidency.

Elsewhere, scattered protests took place from Seattle to New York City, but across the U.S. there were no signs of serious violence or widespread unrest in the hours immediately after the polls closed.

12:59 a.m.

Democrat Joe Biden has won at least one of Maine's four electoral votes in his bid to unseat President Donald Trump.

Biden won Maine's 1st Congressional District, good for one electoral vote. The statewide vote, which is worth two electoral votes, and the 2nd Congressional District, which is worth one electoral vote, still have not been called.

Maine split its electoral votes four years ago, awarding three to Democrat Hillary Clinton and one to Trump, who won the more rural and conservative of Maine's congressional districts.

It marked the first time in state history that Maine divided its electoral votes.

Maine is one of only two states that divides its electoral votes. The other is Nebraska.

12:55 a.m.

President Donald Trump says he's planning to make a statement early Wednesday morning as the race remains too close to call.

Neither Trump nor Democrat Joe Biden has reached the 270 Electoral College vote threshold.

Trump is insisting by tweet that "Votes cannot be cast after the Poles are closed!" even though, in multiple states, ballots can be counted if they arrive after Election Day.

Many of the battleground states have yet to be called, including Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas and Wisconsin.

Trump won Florida, Iowa and Ohio, while Biden carried New Hampshire and Minnesota. It takes 270 electoral votes to win the presidency.

12:51 a.m.

Joe Biden is asking his supporters to "keep the faith" and urging them to "be patient" as the counting goes on in the drawn-out U.S. presidential election.

The Democratic presidential candidate emerged Wednesday after midnight to speak on the election results that have left the outcome in the balance. He spent the evening watching the returns come in from his home in Wilmington, Delaware, then drove downtown by motorcade to make his statement outside the Chase Center.

He told a gathering of supporters that his hopes for victory remain high despite the uncertainty and cautioned them that it could take a day or longer to know who won.

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He told them: "Your patience is commendable."

Hours after the polls have closed across America, however, the result is up in the air.

A number of key states still have hundreds of thousands of ballots outstanding, after a large influx of mail ballots have slowed down the count in states across the nation.

12:35 a.m.

President Donald Trump has won Florida and its 29 electoral votes, the biggest prize among the perennial battlegrounds and a state crucial to his reelection hopes.

A victory in Florida means reelection is within Trump's grasp. A loss in the state would have made it nearly impossible for Trump to reach the 270 electoral votes needed to retain the White House.

Democrat Joe Biden's campaign had hoped the devastating toll of the coronavirus pandemic, particularly among older adults, would put him in a strong position in a state popular with retirees.

Trump moved his official residence to his Palm Beach estate Mar-a-Lago from New York last year.

Trump narrowly beat Democrat Hillary Clinton in the state in 2016.

12:25 a.m.

Democrat Joe Biden will speak shortly on the election results, as many of his key states remain too close to call.

The Biden campaign gathered the press pool that covers him in Wilmington, Delaware, for an early Wednesday morning statement but offered no further guidance.

Biden has spent the night watching the returns come in from his home, while reporters waited near the Chase Center in downtown Wilmington for potential remarks.

Biden began his day early Tuesday with a handful of campaign stops across the all-important state of Pennsylvania as voters went to the polls.

Hours after the polls have closed across America, however, the result of the presidential election remains unclear. A number of key states still have hundreds of thousands of ballots outstanding, after a large influx of mail ballots have slowed down the count in states across the nation.

12:21 a.m.

President Donald Trump has won Iowa and Montana.

The Republican nominee on Wednesday was awarded six electoral votes from Iowa and three electoral votes from Montana.

Trump won Iowa by more than 9 percentage points four years ago against Democrat Hillary Clinton, but his support eroded significantly over his handling of the coronavirus pandemic and the overall direction of the country.

Trump rallied in Iowa in the final stretch of the campaign, going so far as to announce he would be awarding the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Iowa wrestling legend Dan Gable. In an appeal to the state's farmers, he told them he was responsible for \$28 billion in aid designed to help offset damage stemming from his trade war with China.

12:19 a.m.

President Donald Trump has won Ohio and its 18 electoral votes, holding on to a battleground state where the race against Democrat Joe Biden had tightened in recent months.

The Republican nominee comfortably carried the Midwestern state four years ago, but polls heading into the final weeks showed Biden well within range, forcing the president to spend more time in the state than anyone expected.

In 2016, Trump saw notable support from blue-collar manufacturing and mining communities disenchanted with his opponent, Democrat Hillary Clinton, and buoyed by the Republican's promise to bring back jobs to their hard-hit communities.

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Biden saw the gap as overly daunting early on but seized an opening in the closing months amid Trump's softening support among college-educated suburban women. The campaign responded with a summer ad blitz and string of in-person campaign appearances.

12:13 a.m.

Democrat Joe Biden has carried Minnesota, turning back a strong push by President Donald Trump and holding on to a state narrowly won by Democrat Hillary Clinton four years ago.

Biden was awarded the state's 10 electoral votes on Tuesday.

Biden made up for his campaign getting a late start in Minnesota compared with Trump, who held several campaign rallies in the state this election cycle. The former vice president took advantage of anti-Trump sentiment and organizing efforts by the state's Democrats, who stressed COVID-19 and health care issues.

Trump came within 1.5 percentage points of carrying Minnesota in 2016 and made winning the state this time a personal priority. Republicans invested time and money in building a field organization to boost GOP turnout, focusing on conservative rural Minnesota and suburban areas that were once mostly Republican but have become swing territory.

The last Republican presidential candidate to capture the state was Richard Nixon in 1972.

12:06 a.m.

Democrat Joe Biden has won the state of Hawaii.

He was awarded its four electoral votes on Tuesday.

Hawaii is a reliably Democratic state and last went for a Republican presidential candidate in 1984, when it was won by Ronald Reagan.

11:15 p.m.

Several hundred people have gathered in Black Lives Matter Plaza, just one block from the White House, holding signs and chanting about democracy.

It was a generally festive atmosphere Tuesday night as election results came in, with a few scuffles along the edges.

There were fears of widespread unrest connected to the election, and authorities around the country were on alert in their communities.

11:08 p.m.

President Donald Trump has won the state of Utah.

The Republican nominee on Tuesday was awarded its six electoral votes.

Utah hasn't supported a Democratic presidential candidate since Lyndon B. Johnson in 1964.

Trump won Utah in 2016, but independent candidate Evan McMullin had a strong showing in the state owing to widespread distaste of both Trump and Democrat Hillary Clinton. McMullin captured more than 20% of the vote.

11 p.m.

Democrat Joe Biden has won California, Oregon and Washington state, while President Donald Trump has won Idaho.

California, Oregon and Washington are all liberal states, while Idaho is conservative.

California has 55 electoral votes, the biggest haul of any state. It's also the home of Biden's running mate, Sen. Kamala Harris. She served as the San Francisco district attorney and the state's attorney general before winning election to the Senate in 2016.

Biden nets 74 electoral votes for the three Western states, while Trump takes four electoral votes from Idaho.

10:54 p.m.

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Democrat Joe Biden has won New Hampshire and its four electoral votes, holding on to a state that President Donald Trump only narrowly lost in 2016.

The state was considered a 2020 battleground despite not going for a Republican presidential candidate since George W. Bush in 2000.

Four years ago, Democrat Hillary Clinton won the small state over Trump by roughly 2,700 votes. That's less than 1% of the 732,000 ballots cast, and it was the second-closest margin of victory in the country.

Biden didn't fare as well in New Hampshire's first-in-the-nation Democratic primary in February. He finished a dismal fifth, behind Bernie Sanders, Pete Buttigieg, Amy Klobuchar and Elizabeth Warren. But his candidacy took off after a commanding win later that month in the South Carolina primary, leading to the exits of several of his competitors.

10:31 p.m.

President Donald Trump has won the state of Missouri.

The Republican nominee on Tuesday was awarded its 10 electoral votes.

In 2016, Trump beat Democrat Hillary Clinton in the state by 18 percentage points.

10:15 p.m.

Republicans and President Donald Trump's campaign got no quick decision from the Nevada Supreme Court on an appeal aimed at stopping the count of mail-in ballots in the Las Vegas area.

The state high court did not stop election night counting, calling instead for written filings to be completed Monday, Nov. 9, in a case that could affect the vote tally in Clark County, a Democratic stronghold in an otherwise red GOP state.

Trump campaign officials say they want transparency.

State Democrats say Republicans are trying to undermine the election.

Nevada is a presidential battleground state with six electoral votes at stake. Democrat Hillary Clinton won the state in 2016.

9:59 p.m.

President Donald Trump has won the state of Kansas.

The Republican nominee on Tuesday was awarded its six electoral votes.

In 2016, Trump coasted to victory over Democrat Hillary Clinton by 20 percentage points in the state.

9:37 p.m.

Democrat Joe Biden has won the state of Colorado.

He was awarded its nine electoral votes on Tuesday.

The state, which went for Democrat Hillary Clinton four years ago, has trended sharply to the left since President Donald Trump's 2016 election.

The state also has a competitive Senate race between Republican incumbent Cory Gardner and the state's former governor John Hickenlooper. Gardner is considered one of the nation's most vulnerable senators.

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

## Election 2020 Today: No winner yet, Trump's court threat

By The Associated Press undefined

Here's what's happening Wednesday in Election 2020.

TODAY'S TOP STORIES:

**NO WINNER:** President Donald Trump carried the prized battleground of Florida, then he and Democrat Joe Biden shifted their focus to three Northern industrial states — Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania — that could prove crucial in determining who wins the White House. A late burst of votes in Wisconsin

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from Milwaukee gave Biden a small lead, but the state remained too early to call early Wednesday. Michigan and Pennsylvania also remained too early to call with hundreds of thousands of outstanding votes in both states.

**COURT CHALLENGE:** Trump says he'll take the presidential election to the Supreme Court, but it's unclear what he means in a country in which vote tabulations routinely continue beyond Election Day and states largely set the rules for when the count has to end. Trump says "we want all voting to stop," but the voting is over. It's only counting that is taking place across the nation. No state will count absentee votes that are postmarked after Election Day. Biden's campaign called Trump's statement "outrageous, unprecedented, and incorrect."

**STATUS QUO:** Their hopes fading for Senate control, Democrats had a disappointing election night as Republicans swatted down an onslaught of challengers and fought to retain their majority. Several races remained undecided, and at least one headed to a runoff in January. It was a jarring outcome for Democrats, who had devised an expanded political map, eager to provide a backstop against Trump and his party's grip on the Senate. The voters' choices will force a rethinking of Democratic Party strategy, messaging and approach from the Trump era.

**HOUSE CONTROL:** Democrats are driving toward extending their control of the House for two more years but with a potentially shrunken majority. They have lost six incumbents and failed to oust any Republican lawmakers in initial returns. The only gains for Democrats have been two North Carolina seats vacated by GOP incumbents after a court-ordered remapping. Though Democrats seem likely to retain House control, the results have been disappointing for the party, which had hoped to make modest gains of perhaps 15 seats.

**BALLOT MEASURES:** A nationwide push to relax drug laws took a significant step forward. Voters in Arizona and New Jersey added their states to the list of places legalizing marijuana for adults. And Oregon became the first state to decriminalize possession of small amounts of hard drugs such as cocaine, heroin and methamphetamine. Louisiana voters approved an amendment saying there is no state constitutional right to abortion, but Colorado voters defeated abortion limitations. Florida voters approved a measure to gradually raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour. And Mississippi voters approved a new flag.

**QUOTABLE:** "We'll be going to the U.S. Supreme Court — we want all voting to stop." — Trump declared even though voting had ended and it's only counting that is taking place across the nation.

ICYMI:

Protesters gather near White House, no wide unrest seen  
World waits nervously, impatiently for US vote count  
News organizations rebuke Trump on election results claim  
AP VoteCast: Voters split on virus, economy, even football

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

## AP VoteCast: Voters favor Biden on virus, Trump on economy

By JOSH BOAK and HANNAH FINGERHUT The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Voters in the U.S. presidential election faced a public health crisis and a wounded economy, but neither candidate emerged as the clear choice to handle both of those issues, according to AP VoteCast.

More voters — both nationwide and in key battlegrounds — said former Vice President Joe Biden would be better able to handle the coronavirus pandemic, the top concern for about 4 in 10 voters. But President Donald Trump edged out Biden on the question of who would be better to rebuild an economy besieged by nearly 11 million job losses and small businesses staring down a bleak winter. About 3 in 10 voters nationally ranked the economy as the most pressing issue.

The competing concerns dominated the race between Trump and Biden, which concluded Tuesday with the candidates locked in tight races across the battleground states. Biden warned that the economy can

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never fully heal unless the coronavirus is first contained and businesses can fully reopen. Trump argued that the economy should not be a casualty of the disease and maintained, without evidence, that the nation was "rounding the turn."

Even as Tuesday night passed without a victor, clear lines were drawn in the electorate. Three-quarters of all voters said they knew all along who they supported. And Trump weighed heavily on their minds — two-thirds said their decision was driven by their opinion of the untraditional president, either for or against.

Voters grouped themselves into two coalitions with little common ground — with Republicans seeing a solid economy where Democrats saw fragility. Issues such as racism and climate change were concerns for the majority of Biden voters, but they resonated less with Trump backers.

Trump voters overwhelmingly endorsed their president. About 8 in 10 said their vote was in support of him, not in opposition to Biden, and roughly as many said Trump has changed the way things work in Washington for the better.

Trump continued to draw support from a coalition of white men, white voters without a college degree and those living in small towns and rural communities. Biden enjoyed more backing from women, college graduates, young people and Black, Hispanic and Asian voters.

A majority of Biden voters — about 6 in 10 — said the pandemic was the most important issue, more than twice the share of Trump voters.

AP VoteCast is a nationwide survey of more than 133,000 voters and nonvoters conducted for The Associated Press by NORC at the University of Chicago.

Millions of voters rushed to cast their ballots early, and did so with a clear sense of anxiety and worry. About 6 in 10 voters — including most Biden voters and about a quarter of Trump voters — said they think things in the country are on the wrong track.

Trump's campaign tried to make the handling of the economy a top selling point for his reelection, an uphill battle as unemployment spiked to double digits this spring. A comeback has recently showed signs of stalling as federal aid lapsed because the Trump administration and House Democrats could not reach a compromise. Only about 4 in 10 voters said the economy was good or excellent, with the rest describing conditions as not so good or poor.

The coronavirus outbreak has claimed more than 230,000 American lives and has been surging across the country in recent weeks. Still, voters were divided on whether the nation has contained the spread of the virus. About half of voters said the virus is at least somewhat under control, while roughly half described the coronavirus as out of control.

Voters in key battleground states shared anxieties about the virus and its spread. In Wisconsin, which saw an October spike in cases, close to half of voters said the pandemic was the top issue facing the country and about 6 in 10 said it was not under control. About two-thirds said the government should prioritize stopping its spread even if it means economic pain.

About half of Wisconsin voters said that Biden would do a superior job combating the virus, roughly the same as in Michigan and Pennsylvania. Trump had an edge in stewarding the economy, with roughly half of voters in these states saying he would do better than Biden.

More than 100 million Americans rushed to vote early and by mail, taking advantage of new rules intended to make voting safer and easier during the pandemic. Trump has sought to sow doubt about the new voting systems and the legitimacy of the count, and claimed without evidence that some voters would cheat. The survey found about 3 in 10 expressing doubts that their votes would be accurately counted.

Concerns about voting were somewhat higher in Pennsylvania, another key state in the election, compared with other states: 36% were not confident the vote count would be accurate.

Tensions over structural racism increased this summer after the police killings of several Black Americans, which set off peaceful protests and in some cases riots, looting and violence. Trump positioned himself as a defender of police and cast the protesters as radicals — part of an appeal to suburban and older voters who he thought would embrace a law and order message.

Nationally, about three-quarters of voters called racism a serious challenge for society as a whole and close to as many said that of policing in particular. About a quarter said they want to see the police be

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tougher on crime; about a third think police are too tough. But Trump's pitch to suburbanites appeared to have limited impact. When asked which candidate would be better able to handle policing and justice issues, suburban voters preferred Biden to Trump by a narrow margin.

Notably, majorities of voters in two battleground states — Wisconsin and Minnesota — disapproved of protests over policing. Both states saw violence and destruction during demonstrations after police shootings of Black men.

AP VoteCast is a survey of the American electorate conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago for Fox News, NPR, PBS NewsHour, Univision News, USA Today Network, The Wall Street Journal and The Associated Press. The survey of 110,484 voters was conducted for eight days, concluding as polls closed. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. The survey combines a random sample of registered voters drawn from state voter files; self-identified registered voters using NORC's probability based Ameri-Speak panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population; and self-identified registered voters selected from nonprobability online panels. The margin of sampling error for voters is estimated to be plus or minus 0.4 percentage points. Find more details about AP VoteCast's methodology at <https://ap.org/votecast>.

Online:

For AP's complete coverage of the U.S. presidential elections: <https://apnews.com/hub/election-2020>

## Trump seeks to stop 'all voting,' but only counting remains

By MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump says he'll take the presidential election to the Supreme Court, but it's unclear what he means in a country in which vote tabulations routinely continue beyond Election Day, and states largely set the rules for when the count has to end.

"We'll be going to the U.S. Supreme Court — we want all voting to stop," Trump said early Wednesday.

But the voting is over. It's only counting that is taking place across the nation. No state will count absentee votes that are postmarked after Election Day.

Democratic challenger Joe Biden's campaign called Trump's statement "outrageous, unprecedented, and incorrect."

"If the president makes good on his threat to go to court to try to prevent the proper tabulation of votes, we have legal teams standing by ready to deploy to resist that effort," Biden Campaign Manager Jen O'Malley Dillon said in a statement. "And they will prevail."

Election law expert Richard Hasen wrote in Slate on Sunday that "there has never been any basis to claim that a ballot arriving on time cannot be counted if officials cannot finish their count on election night."

Ohio State University election law professor Edward Foley wrote on Twitter Wednesday: "The valid votes will be counted. SCOTUS would be involved only if there were votes of questionable validity that would make a difference, which might not be the case. The rule of law will determine the official winner of the popular vote in each state. Let the rule of law work."

In any event, there's no way to go directly to the high court with a claim of fraud. Trump and his campaign could allege problems with the way votes are counted in individual states, but they would have to start their legal fight in a state or lower federal court.

There is a pending Republican appeal at the Supreme Court over whether Pennsylvania can count votes that arrive in the mail from Wednesday to Friday, an extension ordered by the state's top court over the objection of Republicans. That case does not involve ballots already cast and in the possession of election officials, even if they are yet to be counted.

The high court refused before the election to rule out those ballots, but conservative justices indicated they could revisit the issue after the election. The Supreme Court also refused to block an extension for the receipt and counting of absentee ballots in North Carolina beyond the three days set by state law.

Even a small number of contested votes could matter if either state determines the winner of the elec-

tion and the gap between Trump and Biden is so small that a few thousand votes, or even a few hundred, could make the difference.

## Presidency hinges on tight races in battleground states

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, ZEKE MILLER, JILL COLVIN and ALEXANDRA JAFFE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The fate of the United States presidency hung in the balance Wednesday morning, as President Donald Trump and Democratic challenger Joe Biden battled for three familiar battleground states — Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania — that could prove crucial in determining who wins the White House.

It was unclear when or how quickly a winner could be determined. A late burst of votes in Wisconsin gave Biden a small lead in the state, but it was still too early to call the race. Hundreds of thousands of votes were also outstanding in Michigan and Pennsylvania.

The high stakes election was held against the backdrop of a historic pandemic that has killed more than 230,000 Americans and wiped away millions of jobs. Both candidates spent months pressing dramatically different visions for the nation's future and voters responded in huge numbers, with more than 100 million people casting votes ahead of Election Day.

But by night's end, the margins were exceedingly tight, with the candidates trading wins in battleground states across the country. Trump picked up Florida, the largest of the swing states, while Biden flipped Arizona, a state that has reliably voted Republican in recent elections. Neither cleared the 270 Electoral College votes needed to carry the White House.

Trump, in an extraordinary move from the White House, issued premature claims of victory and said he would take the election to the Supreme Court to stop the counting. It was unclear exactly what legal action he might try to pursue.

Biden, briefly appearing in front of supporters in Delaware, urged patience, saying the election "ain't over until every vote is counted, every ballot is counted."

"It's not my place or Donald Trump's place to declare who's won this election," Biden said. "That's the decision of the American people."

Vote tabulations routinely continue beyond Election Day, and states largely set the rules for when the count has to end. In presidential elections, a key point is the date in December when presidential electors met. That's set by federal law.

Several states allow mailed-in votes to be accepted after Election Day, as long as they were postmarked by Tuesday. That includes Pennsylvania, where ballots postmarked by Nov. 3 can be accepted if they arrive up to three days after the election.

Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf tweeted that his state had over 1 million ballots to be counted and that he "promised Pennsylvanians that we would count every vote and that's what we're going to do."

Trump appeared to suggest those ballots should not be counted, and that he would fight for that outcome at the high court. But legal experts were dubious of Trump's declaration.

"I do not see a way that he could go directly to the Supreme Court to stop the counting of votes. There could be fights in specific states, and some of those could end up at the Supreme Court. But this is not the way things work," said Rick Hasen, a professor of law and political science at the University of California-Irvine.

Trump has appointed three of the high court's nine justices including, most recently, Amy Coney Barrett.

Democrats typically outperform Republicans in mail voting, while the GOP looks to make up ground in Election Day turnout. That means the early margins between the candidates could be influenced by which type of votes — early or Election Day — were being reported by the states.

Throughout the campaign, Trump cast doubt about the integrity of the election and repeatedly suggested that mail-in ballots should not be counted. Both campaigns had teams of lawyers at the ready to move into battleground states if there were legal challenges.

The tight overall contest reflected a deeply polarized nation struggling to respond to the worst health

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crisis in more than a century, with millions of lost jobs, and a reckoning on racial injustice.

Trump kept several states, including Texas, Iowa and Ohio, where Biden had made a strong play in the final stages of the campaign. But Biden also picked off states where Trump sought to compete, including New Hampshire and Minnesota. But Florida was the biggest, fiercely contested battleground on the map, with both campaigns battling over the 29 Electoral College votes that went to Trump.

The president adopted Florida as his new home state, wooed its Latino community, particularly Cuban-Americans, and held rallies there incessantly. For his part, Biden deployed his top surrogate — President Barack Obama — there twice in the campaign's closing days and benefitted from a \$100 million pledge in the state from Michael Bloomberg.

Democrats entered the night confident not only in Biden's prospects, but also in the the party's ability to take control of the Senate. But the GOP held several seats that were considered vulnerable, including in Iowa, Texas and Kansas. The House was expected to remain under Democratic control.

The coronavirus pandemic — and Trump's handling of it — was the inescapable focus for 2020.

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. Rarely trying to unite a country divided along lines of race and class, he has often acted as an insurgent against the government he led while undermining the nation's scientists, bureaucracy and media.

The momentum from early voting carried into Election Day, as an energized electorate produced long lines at polling sites throughout the country. Turnout was higher than in 2016 in numerous counties, including all of Florida, nearly every county in North Carolina and more than 100 counties in both Georgia and Texas. That tally seemed sure to increase as more counties reported their turnout figures.

Voters braved worries of the coronavirus, threats of polling place intimidation and expectations of long lines caused by changes to voting systems, but appeared undeterred as turnout appeared it would easily surpass the 139 million ballots cast four years ago.

No major problems arose on Tuesday, outside the typical glitches of a presidential election: Some polling places opened late, robocalls provided false information to voters in Iowa and Michigan, and machines or software malfunctioned in some counties in the battleground states of Ohio, Pennsylvania, Georgia and Texas.

The cybersecurity agency at the Department of Homeland Security said there were no outward signs by midday of any malicious activity.

With the coronavirus now surging anew, voters ranked the pandemic and the economy as top concerns in the race between Trump and Biden, according to AP VoteCast, a national survey of the electorate.

Voters were especially likely to call the public health crisis the nation's most important issue, with the economy following close behind. Fewer named health care, racism, law enforcement, immigration or climate change

The survey found that Trump's leadership loomed large in voters' decision-making. Nearly two-thirds of voters said their vote was about Trump — either for him or against him.

Jaffe reported from Wilmington, Delaware. Miller reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Robert Burns, Kevin Freking, Aamer Madhani, Deb Riechmann and Will Weissert in Washington, Bill Barrow and Haleluya Hadero in Atlanta, Jeff Martin in Cobb County, Georgia, Thomas Beaumont in Des Moines, Juan Lozano in Houston, Corey Williams in West Bloomfield, Michigan, Kathy McCormack in Concord, New Hampshire, and Natalie Pompilio contributed to this report.

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

## EXPLAINING RACE CALLS: Presidential race too early to call

By BRIAN SLODYSKO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Associated Press is not calling the presidential race yet because neither can-

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didate has secured the 270 electoral college votes needed to claim victory.

Republican President Donald Trump spoke at the White House early Wednesday and claimed victories in several states that were still too early to call, saying, "Frankly, we did win this election" over Democrat Joe Biden. His assertion of victory does not match the results and information currently available to the AP. Trump said he would take the election to the Supreme Court, but it was unclear on what legal grounds.

Trump or Biden would need 270 electoral votes to win. Several key states are too early to call, including Pennsylvania, Georgia and Michigan.

Here is an alphabetical state-by-state look at how and why The Associated Press has called U.S. states in the 2020 presidential election. More states will be added as they are called.

## WHY AP CALLED ALABAMA FOR TRUMP:

The AP declared President Donald Trump the winner of Alabama as soon as polls closed in the state, even though election officials there had yet to release results from Tuesday's presidential contest.

The news agency did so after results from AP VoteCast and an analysis of voting statistics confirmed expectations that the state's longstanding political trend of favoring Republican presidential candidates will hold.

VoteCast, the AP's wide-ranging survey of the American electorate, captures voters' choices and why they made them.

A Democratic presidential contender hasn't won Alabama since Jimmy Carter, from neighboring Georgia, did in 1976. Trump carried the state by 28 percentage points in 2016.

## WHY AP CALLED ARIZONA FOR BIDEN:

The Associated Press has declared Democrat Joe Biden the winner in Arizona, flipping a longtime GOP state that President Donald Trump won in 2016.

The AP called the race at 2:50 a.m. EST Wednesday, after an analysis of ballots cast statewide concluded there were not enough outstanding to allow Trump to catch up.

With 80% of the expected vote counted, Biden was ahead by 5 percentage points, with a roughly 130,000-vote lead over Trump with about 2.6 million ballots counted. The remaining ballots left to be counted, including mail-in votes in Maricopa County, where Biden performed strongly, were not enough for Trump to catch up to the former vice president.

Arizona has a long political history of voting Republican. It's the home state of Barry Goldwater, a five-term, conservative senator who was the Republican nominee for president in 1964. John McCain, the party's 2008 presidential nominee, represented the state in Congress from 1983 until his 2018 death.

But changing demographics, including a fast-growing Latino population and a boom of new residents — some fleeing the skyrocketing cost of living in neighboring California — have made the state friendlier to Democrats.

Many of the gains have been driven by the shifting politics of Maricopa County, which is home to Phoenix and its suburbs. That's where Biden sealed his victory. Maricopa County accounts for 60% of the state's vote, and Biden ran up huge margins there.

In 2016, Trump carried the county by 4 percentage points, which helped propel him to a win. But two years later, Democratic Sen. Kyrsten Sinema flipped the seat from Republican control by winning the county by 5 points.

When the AP called the race for Biden, he was leading there by 9 percentage points.

Biden flipping Arizona is a sign of Democrats' ascendant influence in the state.

In 2018, Sinema became the first Democrat in three decades to win a U.S. Senate seat in Arizona. Democrats also won three statewide offices and five of nine congressional seats and made gains in the state legislature that year.

In 2016, voters ousted Republican Joe Arpaio, Maricopa County's hardline sheriff, who built a national profile on his harsh treatment of immigrants.

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## WHY AP CALLED ARKANSAS FOR TRUMP:

The AP declared President Donald Trump the winner of Arkansas as soon as polls closed in the state, even though election officials there had yet to release any results from Tuesday's presidential contest.

The news agency did so after results from AP VoteCast and an analysis of early voting statistics confirmed expectations that the state's longstanding political trends in favor of Republican presidential candidates will hold.

VoteCast, the AP's wide-ranging survey of the American electorate, captures voters' choices and why they made them.

Bill Clinton, a native of Hot Springs and a longtime former governor, was the last Democratic presidential candidate to win the state in 1996. Trump won Arkansas by nearly 27 percentage points in 2016.

## WHY AP CALLED CALIFORNIA FOR BIDEN:

The AP declared Democrat Joe Biden the winner of California as soon as polls closed in the state, even though election officials there had yet to release any results from Tuesday's presidential contest.

The news agency did so after results from AP VoteCast and an analysis of early voting statistics confirmed expectations that the state's longstanding political trend in favor of Democratic presidential candidates will hold.

VoteCast, the AP's wide-ranging survey of the American electorate, captures voters' choices and why they made them.

Hillary Clinton beat Trump in California by 30 percentage points in 2016, and a Republican presidential candidate hasn't carried the state since George H.W. Bush in 1988.

California is the most populous state in the U.S. and its 55 electoral votes make it the biggest Election Day prize.

## WHY AP CALLED COLORADO FOR JOE BIDEN

The AP declared Democrat Joe Biden the winner of Colorado as soon as polls closed in the state, even though election officials there had yet to release results from Tuesday's presidential contest.

The news agency did so after results from AP VoteCast and an analysis of early voting statistics confirmed expectations that the state's longstanding political trend of favoring Democratic presidential candidates will hold.

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Colorado was a swing state not that long ago. It voted for Republican Bob Dole over President Bill Clinton in 1996, and swung for George W. Bush in 2000 and 2004. And state government was solidly Republican until about 15 years ago.

But massive growth in Denver and its surrounding areas ushered in a political shift. Employment opportunities, craft beer brewing, legal marijuana and the state's rugged and snow-capped mountains drew in new residents — as well as their decidedly more liberal politics.

Democrats now control the governor's office and the Legislature. In addition to Biden winning the state, former Gov. John Hickenlooper also ousted incumbent Republican Sen. Cory Gardner for the U.S. Senate on Tuesday.

## WHY AP CALLED CONNECTICUT FOR BIDEN:

The AP declared Democrat Joe Biden the winner of Connecticut as soon as polls closed in the state, even though election officials there had yet to release results from Tuesday's presidential contest.

The news agency did so after results from AP VoteCast and an analysis of early voting statistics confirmed expectations that the state's longstanding political trend of favoring Democratic presidential candidates will hold.

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Hillary Clinton won Connecticut by over 13 percentage points in 2016. A Republican presidential candidate hasn't carried the state since George H.W. Bush in 1988.

## WHY AP CALLED DELAWARE FOR BIDEN:

The AP declared Democrat Joe Biden the winner of Delaware as soon as polls closed in the state, even though election officials there had yet to release any results from Tuesday's presidential contest.

The news agency did so after results from AP VoteCast and an analysis of early voting statistics confirmed expectations that the state's longstanding political trend of favoring Democratic presidential candidates will hold.

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Biden, who moved to Delaware as a boy and continues to live there, represented the state in the U.S. Senate for more than three decades until he became Barack Obama's vice president in 2009.

Hillary Clinton won Delaware by over 11 percentage points in 2016. The state hasn't voted for a Republican presidential candidate since George H.W. Bush in 1988.

## WHY AP CALLED FLORIDA FOR TRUMP:

In Florida, one of 2020's most crucial battleground states, President Donald Trump's strength in his recently adopted home state delivered a victory over Democratic nominee Joe Biden.

The Associated Press called the race for Trump at 12:34 a.m. Wednesday, after an analysis of ballots statewide concluded there were not enough outstanding to allow Democratic nominee Joe Biden to catch up.

Florida is typically decided on razor-thin margins and Trump carried the state in 2016 by just 1.2 percentage points. It is one of the biggest Election Day prizes, offering 29 electoral votes.

With 96% of the expected vote counted, Trump led Biden by over 375,000 votes. The remaining vote left to be counted in Democratic-leaning areas of the state was not enough to overcome Trump's lead of about 3 percentage points.

To win, Biden needed to run up massive margins in the three heavily Democratic counties in south Florida. But early returns showed him underperforming in Miami-Dade County.

That's where Trump and his allies have been branding Democrats as socialists in advertisements for more than a year — a message geared toward south Florida's Cuban population, many of whom fled the island nation after Fidel Castro's communist government came to power.

Florida was a must-win for Trump. Without it, his path to the presidency would have drastically narrowed.

He saturated the state with TV advertising and shifted his residency from New York to Palm Beach County, where he owns the Mar-a-Lago Club, which has been billed as the "Winter White House."

## WHY GEORGIA IS TOO CLOSE TO CALL:

The Associated Press has not declared a winner in Georgia's presidential contest because the race between President Donald Trump and Democratic nominee Joe Biden is too early to call, with outstanding ballots left to be counted in counties where Biden has performed well.

Trump and Biden are locked in a tight contest to secure the 270 electoral votes needed to win the presidency. Early Wednesday, Trump prematurely claimed he carried Georgia — and several other states that were too early to call.

"It's ... clear that we have won Georgia. We're up by 2.5%, or 117,000 (votes) with only 7% (of the vote) left" to count, Trump said during an early morning appearance at the White House. He also said he planned to contest the U.S. presidential election before the Supreme Court. It was unclear exactly what legal action he might pursue.

The race is too early to call because an estimated 4% of the vote still remains to be counted. That

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includes mailed ballots from two counties Biden is winning: metro Atlanta's DeKalb County, as well as Chatham County, which is home to Savannah.

Several counties in the Atlanta area also stopped counting votes after running into technical difficulties.

## WHY AP CALLED HAWAII FOR BIDEN:

The AP declared Democrat Joe Biden the winner of Hawaii as soon as polls closed in the state, even though election officials there had yet to release any results from Tuesday's presidential contest.

The news agency did so after results from AP VoteCast and an analysis of early voting statistics confirmed expectations that the state's longstanding political trends in favor of Democratic presidential candidates will hold.

VoteCast, the AP's wide-ranging survey of the American electorate, captures voters' choices and why they made them.

A Republican presidential candidate hasn't won Hawaii since Ronald Reagan in 1984. Trump lost Hawaii by 32 points in 2016.

## WHY AP CALLED IDAHO FOR TRUMP:

The AP declared President Donald Trump the winner in Idaho when polls closed in the state, even though election officials there had yet to release any results from the election concluding Tuesday.

The news agency did so after results from AP VoteCast and an analysis of early voting statistics confirmed expectations that the state's longstanding political trends in favor of Republican presidential candidates will hold.

VoteCast, the AP's wide-ranging survey of the American electorate, captures voters' choices and why they made them.

Lyndon Johnson in 1964 was the last Democratic presidential candidate to win Idaho. Trump carried the state by over 31 percentage points in 2016.

## WHY AP CALLED ILLINOIS FOR BIDEN:

The AP declared Democrat Joe Biden the winner of Illinois as soon as polls closed in the state, even though election officials there had yet to release any results from Tuesday's presidential contest.

The news agency did so after results from AP VoteCast and an analysis of early voting statistics confirmed expectations that the state's longstanding political trends in favor of Democratic presidential candidates will hold.

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Illinois has long been a Democratic stronghold and hasn't swung for a Republican presidential candidate since George H.W. Bush in 1988. Hillary Clinton carried the state by 17 percentage points in 2016.

## WHY AP CALLED INDIANA FOR TRUMP:

The AP declared President Donald Trump the winner of Indiana at 8:48 p.m. EST, after an analysis of ballots cast statewide concluded there were not enough outstanding ones to allow Democratic nominee Joe Biden to catch up.

With 55% of the expected vote counted, Trump led Biden by roughly 22 percentage points.

Those results matched data from AP VoteCast. The survey found Trump with a substantial lead in the state. VoteCast, the AP's wide-ranging survey of the American electorate, captures voters' choices and why they made them.

Trump's Indiana win is no surprise. He carried the state by 19 points over Democrat Hillary Clinton in 2016. The GOP holds all statewide offices and both Senate seats. And it's the home state of Vice President Mike Pence, who was Indiana's governor until Trump picked him to join the GOP ticket in 2016.

Other than 2008, when Barack Obama carved out a narrow win, Indiana hasn't favored a Democrat for

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president since Lyndon Johnson in 1964.

## WHY AP CALLED IOWA FOR TRUMP:

The AP declared President Donald Trump the winner of Iowa at 12:16 a.m. EST Wednesday, after an analysis of ballots statewide concluded there were not enough outstanding ones to allow Democratic nominee Joe Biden to catch up.

With 95% of the expected vote counted, Trump led Biden by roughly 8.3 percentage points — or about 128,000 votes out of almost 1.6 million ballots counted.

Those results matched data from AP VoteCast. The survey found Trump had a substantial lead in the state. VoteCast, the AP's wide-ranging survey of the American electorate, captures voters' choices and why they made them.

Iowa was once a pivotal swing state that went for Al Gore over George W. Bush in 2000 and twice elected Barack Obama.

But over the past decade it has trended increasingly Republican.

The state is home to the greatest number of counties — 31 — that went for Trump in 2016 after voting for Obama. State government is dominated by the GOP. And Trump won the state by 9.5 percentage points over Hillary Clinton in 2016.

## WHY THE AP CALLED KANSAS FOR TRUMP

The AP declared President Donald Trump the winner of Kansas at 9:45 p.m. EST, after an analysis of ballots cast statewide concluded there were not enough outstanding ones to allow Democratic nominee Joe Biden to catch up.

With 77% of the expected vote counted, Trump led Biden by nearly 7 percentage points.

Those results matched data from AP VoteCast. The survey found Trump with a substantial lead in the state. VoteCast, the AP's wide-ranging survey of the American electorate, captures voters' choices and why they made them.

The state hasn't swung for Democratic presidential candidate since Bill Clinton in 1996, when Kansan Bob Dole was the Republican nominee. Trump won the state by 20 percentage points in 2016.

## WHY AP CALLED KENTUCKY FOR TRUMP:

The AP declared President Donald Trump the winner of Kentucky as soon as polls closed in the state, even though election officials there had yet to release results from Tuesday's presidential contest.

The news agency did so after results from AP VoteCast and an analysis of early voting statistics confirmed expectations that the state's longstanding political trends in favor of Republican presidential candidates will hold.

VoteCast, the AP's wide-ranging survey of the American electorate, captures voters' choices and why they made them.

Bill Clinton was the last Democratic presidential contender to win Kentucky in 1996. Trump won the state in 2016 by nearly 30 points.

## WHY AP CALLED LOUISIANA FOR TRUMP:

The AP declared President Donald Trump the winner of Louisiana as soon as polls closed in the state, even though election officials there had yet to release any results from Tuesday's presidential contest.

The news agency did so after results from AP VoteCast and an analysis of early voting statistics confirmed the state's longstanding political trends in favor of Republican presidential candidates will hold.

VoteCast, the AP's wide-ranging survey of the American electorate, captures voters' choices and why they made them.

Bill Clinton was the last Democratic presidential candidate to win the state in 1996. Trump carried Louisiana by over 19 points in 2016.

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## WHY AP CALLED MAINE FOR BIDEN:

The AP declared Democrat Joe Biden the winner in Maine at 2:36 a.m. Wednesday, after an analysis of ballots cast statewide concluded there were not enough outstanding ones to allow President Donald Trump to catch up.

With 85% of the expected vote counted, Biden led Trump by roughly 10 percentage points. The vote left to be counted in Republican-leaning areas was not enough for Trump to catch up to Biden.

Maine is one of two states that does not use a "winner take all" approach toward awarding electors. Two electors are given to the winner of the statewide vote, while Maine's two congressional districts each award one elector to the top vote-getter in the district.

Biden won the statewide vote, as well as Maine's 1st congressional district. Maine's 2nd congressional district has not yet been called.

Maine has not voted for a Republican presidential contender since George H.W. Bush in 1988. Hillary Clinton defeated Trump in the state by 3 points in 2016.

## WHY AP CALLED MARYLAND FOR BIDEN:

The AP declared Democrat Joe Biden the winner of Maryland as soon as polls closed in the state, even though election officials there had yet to release any results from Tuesday's presidential contest.

The news agency did so after results from AP VoteCast and an analysis of early voting statistics confirmed expectations that the state's longstanding political trends in favor of Democratic presidential candidates will hold.

VoteCast, the AP's wide-ranging survey of the American electorate, captures voters' choices and why they made them.

A Republican presidential candidate hasn't won Maryland since George H.W. Bush in 1988. Democrat Hillary Clinton carried the state by over 26 percentage points in 2016.

## WHY AP CALLED MASSACHUSETTS FOR BIDEN:

The AP declared Democrat Joe Biden the winner of Massachusetts as soon as polls closed in the state, even though election officials there had yet to release any results from Tuesday's presidential contest.

The news agency did so after results from AP VoteCast and an analysis of early voting statistics confirmed expectations that the state's longstanding political trends in favor of Democratic presidential candidates will hold.

VoteCast, the AP's wide-ranging survey of the American electorate, captures voters' choices and why they made them.

Hillary Clinton carried the state by over 27 percentage points in 2016, and a Republican presidential candidate hasn't won Massachusetts since Ronald Reagan in 1984.

## WHY AP HASN'T CALLED MICHIGAN:

There are over 1 million ballots left to be counted in Michigan, many coming from the Democratic stronghold of Detroit. That makes the race between President Donald Trump and Democratic nominee Joe Biden too early for the Associated Press to call.

Michigan is among a handful of battleground states where Trump prematurely claimed early Wednesday he was "winning" the contest with Biden. The two men are locked in a tight race for the 270 electors needed to win the presidency.

"We're winning Michigan by — I'll tell you, I looked at the numbers," Trump said during an appearance at the White House, where he promised to contest the election before the Supreme Court.

More than 5.26 million votes have been cast in Michigan and many of the ballots left to be counted were submitted by mail, a way of voting that favors Biden. Of those, a significant number were from Wayne County, home to heavily Democratic Detroit.

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Trump also gave differing figures for his lead in the contest. At one point he said he was ahead by 300,000 votes, but he later said his lead was 107,000.

With 79% of the vote counted in the state, Trump is actually leading by 226,000 votes.

## WHY AP CALLED MINNESOTA FOR BIDEN:

The AP declared Joe Biden the winner of Minnesota at 11:55 p.m. EST Tuesday, after an analysis of ballots statewide concluded there were not enough outstanding ones to allow President Trump to catch up.

With 85% of the expected vote counted, Biden led Trump by roughly 4 percentage points — or about 190,000 votes out of about 2.3 million ballots cast. The remaining votes in Republican-leaning areas are not enough for Trump to overtake Biden's lead.

Minnesota has been solidly Democratic for the past half-century, but has turned into a presidential battleground.

Trump targeted the state after narrowly losing to Democrat Hillary Clinton in 2016 by 1.6 percentage points.

Republicans, however, suffered a blow in the 2018 midterm elections. Minnesota Democrats flipped two suburban congressional districts, took back control of the state House by winning suburban Trump-voting areas and came within one seat of winning control of the state Senate.

The last time Minnesota voted for a Republican presidential candidates was Richard Nixon in 1972.

## WHY AP CALLED MISSISSIPPI FOR TRUMP:

The AP declared President Donald Trump the winner of Mississippi as soon as polls closed in the state, even though election officials there had yet to release any results from Tuesday's presidential contest.

The news agency did so after results from AP VoteCast and an analysis of voting statistics confirmed expectations that the state's longstanding political trends in favor of Republican presidential candidates will hold.

VoteCast, the AP's wide-ranging survey of the American electorate, captures voters' choices and why they made them.

A Democratic presidential contender hasn't won Mississippi since Jimmy Carter in 1976. Trump carried the state by more than 17 percentage points in 2016.

## WHY AP CALLED MISSOURI FOR TRUMP:

The AP declared President Donald Trump the winner of Missouri at 10:18 p.m. EST, after an analysis of ballots cast statewide concluded there were not enough outstanding ones to allow Democratic nominee Joe Biden to catch up.

With 44% of the expected vote counted, Trump led Biden by roughly 16 percentage points.

Those results matched data from AP VoteCast. The survey found Trump with a substantial lead in the state. VoteCast, the AP's wide-ranging survey of the American electorate, captures voters' choices and why they made them.

Bill Clinton in 1996 was the last Democratic presidential candidate to win Missouri. Trump carried the state by over 18 percentage points in 2016.

## WHY AP CALLED MONTANA FOR TRUMP:

The AP declared President Donald Trump the winner of Montana at 12:14 a.m. EST Wednesday, after an analysis of ballots statewide concluded there were not enough outstanding ones to allow Democratic nominee Joe Biden to catch up.

With 56% of the expected vote counted, Trump led Biden by nearly 6 percentage points. The remaining vote count in Democratic leaning areas was not enough to overcome Trump's lead.

Those results matched data from AP VoteCast. The survey found Trump had a substantial lead in the state. VoteCast, the AP's wide-ranging survey of the American electorate, captures voters' choices and why they made them.

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Bill Clinton in 1992 was the last Democratic presidential candidate to win the state. Trump won Montana by 20 points in 2016.

## WHY AP CALLED NEBRASKA FOR TRUMP:

The AP declared President Donald Trump the winner of the statewide vote in Nebraska as soon as polls closed there, even though election officials had yet to release any results from Tuesday's presidential contest.

A Democrat hasn't won a presidential race in Nebraska since Lyndon Johnson in 1964. The news agency called the race for Trump after results from AP VoteCast and an analysis of early voting statistics confirmed expectations that the state's longstanding political trends in favor of Republican presidential candidates will hold.

VoteCast, the AP's wide-ranging survey of the American electorate, captures voters' choices and why they made them.

While the AP called the state for Trump, Nebraska is one of two states that don't award electoral votes on a "winner take all" basis.

Instead, the statewide winner garners two electoral votes, while the winner in each of the state's three congressional districts is awarded 1 vote per district they carry.

Trump carried Nebraska's 3rd and 1st congressional districts. Biden took Nebraska's 2nd congressional district, which Trump carried in 2016 when he won the state by about 25 points.

## WHY AP CALLED NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR BIDEN:

The AP declared Joe Biden the winner of New Hampshire at 10:50 p.m. EST, after an analysis of ballots statewide concluded there were not enough outstanding to allow President Donald Trump to catch up.

With 48% of the expected vote counted, Biden led Trump by nearly 9 percentage points — or about 33,000 votes out of 382,000 counted.

Completed vote counts in a representative selection of precincts in communities across New Hampshire also showed Biden comfortably ahead of Trump.

Those results matched data from AP VoteCast and an analysis of early voting statistics. The survey found Biden with a significant lead in the state.

New Hampshire last voted for a Republican presidential contender in 2004 when George W. Bush was on the ballot. Democrat Hillary Clinton won the state by less than a percentage point in 2016.

## WHY AP CALLED NEW JERSEY FOR BIDEN:

The AP declared Democrat Joe Biden the winner of New Jersey as soon as polls closed in the state, even though election officials there had yet to release any results from Tuesday's presidential contest.

The news agency did so after results from AP VoteCast and an analysis of early voting statistics confirmed expectations that the state's longstanding political trends in favor of Democratic presidential candidates will hold.

VoteCast, the AP's wide-ranging survey of the American electorate, captures voters' choices and why they made them.

A Republican presidential candidate hasn't won New Jersey since George H.W. Bush in 1988. Democrat Hillary Clinton carried the state by 14 percentage points in 2016.

## WHY AP CALLED NEW MEXICO FOR BIDEN:

The AP declared Democrat Joe Biden the winner of New Mexico as soon as polls closed in the state, even though election officials there had yet to release any results from Tuesday's presidential contest.

The news agency did so after results from AP VoteCast and an analysis of early voting statistics confirmed expectations the state's longstanding political trends in favor of Democratic presidential candidates will hold.

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they made them.

Trump initially planned to contest New Mexico, which has only voted for a Republican presidential candidate once since 1992, and even held a 2019 rally in Rio Rancho. But the state was not truly within his grasp and his campaign long ago gave up on trying to win it.

Democrats control all statewide offices and both Senate seats, as well as the state's three congressional districts.

George W. Bush was the last Republican presidential candidate to win the state in 2004. Hillary Clinton carried New Mexico in 2016 by 8 percentage points.

## WHY AP CALLED NEW YORK FOR BIDEN:

The AP declared Democrat Joe Biden the winner of New York as soon as polls closed in the state, even though election officials there had yet to release any results from Tuesday's presidential contest.

The news agency did so after results from AP VoteCast and an analysis of early voting statistics confirmed expectations that the state's longstanding political trends in favor of Democratic presidential candidates will hold.

VoteCast, the AP's wide-ranging survey of the American electorate, captures voters' choices and why they made them.

Ronald Reagan in 1984 was the last Republican to win the state. Trump, who was raised in Queens and built his personal brand as a brash New York City real estate developer, lost the state by more than 22 points in 2016.

## WHY AP HASN'T CALLED NORTH CAROLINA:

The Associated Press has not declared a winner in North Carolina's presidential contest because the race between President Donald Trump and Democratic nominee Joe Biden is too early to call.

Trump, who is locked in a tight battle with Biden to secure the 270 electoral votes needed to win the presidency, prematurely claimed early Wednesday that he won the state.

"We've clearly won North Carolina, where we're up 1.7%, 77,000 votes with only approximately 5% left. They can't catch us," he said during an appearance at the White House. Trump also said he planned to contest the U.S. presidential election before the Supreme Court. It was unclear, exactly, what legal action he might pursue.

Though Trump is correct that he held a 76,000-vote lead in the state early Wednesday, the race is too early to call and there are still about 200,000 mail-in ballots left to count.

As long as those ballots are postmarked by Nov. 3, state election officials have until Nov. 12 to count them. And when it comes to mail ballots, Biden was far outperforming Trump.

That means there's a considerable number of ballots yet to be counted that could give Biden a lead.

## WHY AP CALLED NORTH DAKOTA FOR TRUMP:

The AP declared President Donald Trump the winner of North Dakota as soon as polls closed in the state, even though election officials there had yet to release any results from Tuesday's presidential contest.

The news agency did so after results from AP VoteCast and an analysis of early voting statistics confirmed expectations the state's longstanding political trends in favor of Republican presidential candidates will hold.

VoteCast, the AP's wide-ranging survey of the American electorate, captures voters' choices and why they made them.

Lyndon Johnson in 1964 was the last Democratic presidential candidate to win the state. Trump won North Dakota by 36 percentage points in 2016.

## WHY THE AP CALLED OHIO FOR TRUMP:

The AP declared President Donald Trump the winner of Ohio at 12:17 a.m. EST Wednesday, after an analysis of ballots statewide concluded there were not enough outstanding to allow Democratic nominee Joe Biden to catch up.

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With 85% of the expected vote counted, Biden led Trump by roughly 4 percentage points — or about 120,000 votes out of 3 million counted. The remaining votes left to be counted in Democratic areas — both absentee and provisional ballots — were not enough for Biden to overtake Trump's lead.

For a long time, Ohio was the quintessential swing state, which Barack Obama won twice. Yet Trump carried it by 8 points in 2016. And after Republican wins statewide over the past decade, it has increasingly proven to be out of Democrats' reach.

## WHY AP CALLED OKLAHOMA FOR TRUMP:

The AP declared President Donald Trump the winner of Oklahoma as soon as polls closed in the state, even though election officials there had yet to release any results from Tuesday's presidential contest.

The news agency did so after results from AP VoteCast and an analysis of early voting statistics confirmed expectations the state's longstanding political trends in favor of Republican presidential candidates will hold.

VoteCast, the AP's wide-ranging survey of the American electorate, captures voters' choices and why they made them.

Lyndon Johnson in 1964 was the last Democratic presidential candidate to win the state. Trump carried Oklahoma by 36 points in 2016.

## WHY AP CALLED OREGON FOR BIDEN:

The AP declared Democrat Joe Biden the winner of Oregon as soon as polls closed in the state, even though election officials there had yet to release any results from Tuesday's presidential contest.

The news agency did so after results from AP VoteCast and an analysis of early voting statistics confirmed expectations the state's longstanding political trends in favor of Democratic presidential candidates will hold.

VoteCast, the AP's wide-ranging survey of the American electorate, captures voters' choices and why they made them.

A Republican presidential candidate hasn't won Oregon since Ronald Reagan in 1984, and Democrat Hillary Clinton beat President Donald Trump in the state by 11 points in 2016.

## WHY AP HASN'T CALLED PENNSYLVANIA:

The Associated Press has not declared a winner in the battleground state of Pennsylvania, because there are more than 1.5 million votes left to be counted in the contest between President Donald Trump and Democrat Joe Biden.

Pennsylvania is among a handful of battleground states Trump and Biden are narrowly contesting as they seek the 270 electoral votes needed to win the presidency.

Trump, who held a 675,000-vote lead early Wednesday, prematurely declared victory in the state.

"We're winning Pennsylvania by a tremendous amount. We're up 690,000 votes in Pennsylvania. These aren't even close. It's not like, 'Oh, it's close,'" Trump said during an appearance at the White House.

Yet, the vast majority of the votes left to be counted there were cast by mail, a form of voting that Biden has carried by a large margin. That's likely because Trump has spent months claiming without proof that voting by mail would lead to widespread voter fraud.

Democrats had long considered Pennsylvania a part of their "blue wall" — a trifecta that also includes Wisconsin and Michigan — that for years had served as a bulwark in presidential elections. In 2016, Trump won each by less than a percentage point.

Biden, who was born in Scranton, claims favorite-son status in the state and has long played up the idea that he was Pennsylvania's "third senator" during his decades representing neighboring Delaware. He's also campaigned extensively in the state from his home in Delaware.

## WHY AP CALLED RHODE ISLAND FOR BIDEN:

The AP declared Democrat Joe Biden the winner of Rhode Island as soon as polls closed in the state, even though election officials there had yet to release any results from Tuesday's presidential contest.

The news agency did so after results from AP VoteCast and an analysis of early voting statistics confirmed expectations that the state's longstanding political trends in favor of Democratic presidential candidates

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will hold.

VoteCast, the AP's wide-ranging survey of the American electorate, captures voters' choices and why they made them.

A Republican presidential candidate hasn't won Rhode Island since Ronald Reagan in 1984. Hillary Clinton beat Trump in the state by over 15 percentage points in 2016.

## WHY AP CALLED SOUTH CAROLINA FOR TRUMP:

The AP declared President Donald Trump the winner of South Carolina at 7:53 p.m. EST, after results from early returns and an AP survey of the electorate showed Trump had beaten Democratic nominee Joe Biden in the state.

While only about 3% of the vote had been counted statewide, completed counts in a representative selection of precincts in communities across South Carolina showed Trump comfortably ahead.

Those results matched data from AP VoteCast and an analysis of early voting statistics. The survey found Trump with a substantial lead in the state. VoteCast, the AP's wide-ranging survey of the American electorate, captures voters' choices and why they made them.

South Carolina hasn't swung for a Democratic presidential contender since the 1976 election of Jimmy Carter, who is from neighboring Georgia. Trump won the state by over 14 points in 2016.

## WHY AP CALLED SOUTH DAKOTA FOR TRUMP:

The AP declared President Donald Trump the winner of South Dakota as soon as polls closed in the state, even though election officials there had yet to release any results from Tuesday's presidential contest.

The news agency did so after results from AP VoteCast and an analysis of early voting statistics confirmed expectations the state's longstanding political trends in favor of Republican presidential candidates will hold.

VoteCast, the AP's wide-ranging survey of the American electorate, captures voters' choices and why they made them.

Lyndon Johnson in 1964 was the last Democratic presidential candidate to win the state. Trump won South Dakota by almost 30 percentage points in 2016.

## WHY AP CALLED TENNESSEE FOR TRUMP:

The AP declared President Donald Trump the winner of Tennessee as soon as polls closed in the state, even though election officials there had yet to release any results from Tuesday's presidential contest.

The news agency did so after results from AP VoteCast and an analysis of early voting statistics confirmed expectations that the state's longstanding political trends in favor of Republican presidential candidates will hold.

VoteCast, the AP's wide-ranging survey of the American electorate, captures voters' choices and why they made them.

Bill Clinton in 1996 was the last Democratic presidential candidate to win Tennessee. Trump carried the state by 26 percentage points in 2016.

## WHY AP CALLED TEXAS FOR TRUMP:

The AP declared President Donald Trump the winner of Texas at 12:54 a.m. EST Wednesday, after an analysis of ballots statewide concluded there were not enough outstanding to allow Democratic nominee Joe Biden to catch up.

With 82% of the expected vote counted, Trump led Biden by roughly 5 percentage points — or about 626,000 votes out of roughly 10.8 million counted. The remaining ballots left to be tabulated in Democratic-leaning areas were not enough for Biden to overcome Trump's lead.

Trump won Texas by 9 percentage points over Hillary Clinton in 2016. Republicans dominate state government in the capital, Austin. And a Democrat hasn't won statewide since 1994.

But headed into Election Day, Democrats argued Texas was a competitive.

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Demographics in the state have been shifting. The population is booming. Latinos are flocking to the state. Job opportunities have also drawn people from across the U.S., who have brought with them their more liberal values.

Beto O'Rourke, a former El Paso congressman, came within 3 percentage points of beating Republican Sen. Ted Cruz in 2018.

It was enough to entice Sen. Kamala Harris, Biden's running mate, to make a last-minute visit to Fort Worth in the final week of the campaign.

But Trump's victory again dashed the Democratic hope that the state was on the cusp of flipping. And for all their optimism, Democrats are still faced with the reality that their 26-year drought without a state-wide win will continue.

## WHY THE AP CALLED UTAH FOR TRUMP:

The AP declared President Donald Trump the winner of Utah at 11:06 p.m. EST, after an analysis of ballots cast statewide concluded there were not enough outstanding ones to allow Democratic nominee Joe Biden to catch up.

With 65% of the expected vote counted, Trump had a 145,000-vote lead over Biden out of roughly 913,000 ballots cast, which amounted to a roughly 16 percentage point lead.

Lyndon Johnson in 1964 was the last Democratic presidential candidate to win the state. Trump beat Democrat Hillary Clinton in Utah by 18 percentage points in 2016, even with Utah-native Evan McMullin appearing on the ballot as a conservative alternative to Trump.

## WHY AP CALLED VERMONT FOR BIDEN:

The AP declared Democrat Joe Biden the winner of Vermont as soon as polls closed in the state, even though election officials there had yet to release results from Tuesday's presidential contest.

The news agency did so after results from AP VoteCast and an analysis of early voting statistics confirmed expectations that the state's longstanding political trend of favoring Democratic presidential candidates will hold.

VoteCast, the AP's wide-ranging survey of the American electorate, captures voters' choices and why they made them.

Biden's victory in Vermont is not a surprise: Democrats have won the state in every presidential election since 1992, and it is home to former Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders.

Democrat Hillary Clinton carried the state in 2016 by over 28 percentage points.

## WHY AP CALLED VIRGINIA FOR BIDEN:

The AP declared Democratic nominee Joe Biden the winner of Virginia at 7:31 p.m. EST, after results from early returns and an AP survey of the electorate showed the former vice president had beaten President Donald Trump in the state.

With about 53% of the vote counted statewide at 11 p.m., completed counts in a representative selection of precincts in communities across Virginia showed Biden comfortably ahead of Trump.

Those results matched data from AP VoteCast and an analysis of early voting statistics. The survey found Biden with a substantial lead in the state. VoteCast, the AP's wide-ranging survey of the American electorate, captures voters' choices and why they made them.

Trump jumped out to an early lead in Virginia because many Republican counties reported their results first. But much of the remaining ballots left to be counted were cast in population-dense Democratic areas near Washington D.C., including Fairfax and Prince William counties.

Virginia was once solidly Republican, with President George W. Bush winning there as recently as 2004. But explosive growth in northern Virginia's Washington, D.C., suburbs has led to an influx of increasingly diverse and Democratic-leaning voters who have helped tip the balance of power.

Democrat Hillary Clinton won Virginia by more than 5 points in 2016. The state has a Democratic gover-

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nor. And in 2019, Democrats took control of both chambers of the Legislature for the first time in decades.

## WHY AP CALLED WASHINGTON FOR BIDEN:

The AP declared Democrat Joe Biden the winner of Washington state as soon as polls closed in the state, even though election officials there had yet to release any results from Tuesday's presidential contest.

The news agency did so after results from AP VoteCast and an analysis of early voting statistics confirmed expectations that the state's longstanding political trend in favor of Democratic presidential candidates will hold.

VoteCast, the AP's wide-ranging survey of the American electorate, captures voters' choices and why they made them.

It's no surprise Biden won Washington state. Democrats control the governor's office, the Legislature and both Senate seats.

Though voters there went for Republican presidential candidates in the 1970s and '80s, left-leaning politics is woven into the state's political DNA.

The state's population-dense Puget Sound region has long been a hotbed of labor activism. Seattle, the state's largest city, was the site of the first general strike of the 20th century in 1919. And Franklin Delano Roosevelt's postmaster general, James Farley, once joked in 1936 that there were "forty-seven states in the Union, and the Soviet of Washington." Hawaii and Alaska were not yet states at the time.

A Republican presidential candidate hasn't won Washington state since Ronald Reagan in 1984 and Trump lost the 2016 vote by 16 percentage points.

## WHY AP CALLED WASHINGTON, D.C., FOR BIDEN:

The AP declared Democratic nominee Joe Biden the winner of Washington, D.C., at 9:26 p.m. EST, after an analysis of ballots cast across the district concluded there were not enough outstanding to allow President Donald Trump to catch up.

With 41% of the expected vote counted, Biden led Trump by roughly 86 percentage points. Those results matched data from AP VoteCast and an analysis of early voting statistics. The survey found Biden with an overwhelming lead.

VoteCast, the AP's wide-ranging survey of the American electorate, captures voters' choices and why they made them.

The nation's capital has never voted for a Republican since it was granted electoral votes in 1961. Hillary Clinton carried it by over 85 points in 2016.

## WHY AP CALLED WEST VIRGINIA FOR TRUMP:

The AP declared President Donald Trump the winner of West Virginia as soon as polls closed in the state, even though election officials there had yet to release any results from Tuesday's presidential contest.

The news agency did so after results from AP VoteCast and an analysis of voting statistics confirmed expectations that the state's longstanding political trend of favoring Republican presidential candidates will hold.

VoteCast, the AP's wide-ranging survey of the American electorate, captures voters' choices and why they made them.

Trump won West Virginia by 42 points in 2016. The last Democratic presidential contender to carry the state was Bill Clinton in 1996.

## WHY AP HASN'T CALLED WISCONSIN:

The Associated Press has not declared a winner in Wisconsin's presidential contest because the race between President Donald Trump and Democrat Joe Biden is too early to call.

Trump, who is locked in a tight battle with Biden to secure the 270 electoral votes needed to win, prematurely claimed early Wednesday that he was "winning" the state.

Biden is ahead of Trump by fewer than 8,000 votes out of nearly 3.2 million cast. Trump led earlier in

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the night, fueled by in-person voting results, but the 169,000 outstanding ballots from Milwaukee and ballots from other cities broke heavily for Biden. There were still a few thousand other votes waiting to be counted, primarily from the city of Green Bay.

Trump also said he planned to contest the election before the Supreme Court. It was unclear exactly what legal action he might pursue.

## WHY AP CALLED WYOMING FOR TRUMP:

The AP declared President Donald Trump the winner of Wyoming as soon as polls closed in the state, even though election officials there had yet to release any results from Tuesday's presidential contest.

The news agency did so after results from AP VoteCast and an analysis of early voting statistics confirmed expectations the state's longstanding political trends in favor of Republican presidential candidates will hold.

VoteCast, the AP's wide-ranging survey of the American electorate, captures voters' choices and why they made them.

Lyndon Johnson in 1964 was the last Democratic presidential candidate to win the state. Trump won Wyoming by 47 points in 2016.

## Presidency hinges on tight races in battleground states

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, ZEKE MILLER, JILL COLVIN and ALEXANDRA JAFFE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The fate of the United States presidency hung in the balance Wednesday morning, as President Donald Trump and Democratic challenger Joe Biden battled for three familiar battleground states — Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania — that could prove crucial in determining who wins the White House.

A late burst of votes in Wisconsin from Milwaukee gave Biden a small lead, but it was too early to call the race. Hundreds of thousands of votes were also outstanding in Michigan and Pennsylvania.

The two candidates, who have proposed dramatically different visions for the nation, split territory across the U.S. after polls closed Tuesday night. With neither candidate securing the 270 Electoral College votes needed to win the White House, Biden urged patience and vowed that every vote would be counted.

But Trump, in an extraordinary move from the White House, called for outstanding ballots not to be counted.

Trump made premature claims of victories in several key states and said he would take the election to the Supreme Court to stop the counting. It was unclear exactly what legal action he might try to pursue.

Vote tabulations routinely continue beyond Election Day, and states largely set the rules for when the count has to end. In presidential elections, a key point is the date in December when presidential electors met. That's set by federal law.

Several states allow mailed-in votes to be accepted after Election Day, as long as they were postmarked by Tuesday. That includes Pennsylvania, where ballots postmarked by Nov 3 can be accepted if they arrive up to three days after the election.

Trump suggested those ballots shouldn't be counted. But Biden, briefly appearing in front of supporters in Delaware, urged patience, saying the election "ain't over until every vote is counted, every ballot is counted."

"It's not my place or Donald Trump's place to declare who's won this election," Biden said. "That's the decision of the American people."

Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf tweeted that his state had over 1 million ballots to be counted and that he "promised Pennsylvanians that we would count every vote and that's what we're going to do."

Legal experts were dubious of Trump's declaration.

"I do not see a way that he could go directly to the Supreme Court to stop the counting of votes. There could be fights in specific states, and some of those could end up at the Supreme Court. But this is not the way things work," said Rick Hasen, a professor of law and political science at the University of California-Irvine.

Trump has appointed three of the high court's nine justices including, most recently, Amy Coney Barrett.

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Democrats typically outperform Republicans in mail voting, while the GOP looks to make up ground in Election Day turnout. That means the early margins between the candidates could be influenced by which type of votes — early or Election Day — were being reported by the states.

Throughout the campaign, Trump cast doubt about the integrity of the election and repeatedly suggested that mail-in ballots should not be counted. Both campaigns had teams of lawyers at the ready to move into battleground states if there were legal challenges.

The tight overall contest reflected a deeply polarized nation struggling to respond to the worst health crisis in more than a century, with millions of lost jobs, and a reckoning on racial injustice.

Trump kept several states, including Texas, Iowa and Ohio, where Biden had made a strong play in the final stages of the campaign. But Biden also picked off states where Trump sought to compete, including New Hampshire and Minnesota. But Florida was the biggest, fiercely contested battleground on the map, with both campaigns battling over the 29 Electoral College votes that went to Trump.

Wisconsin, which Trump narrowly won in 2016, was another prized state. The president seems certain to request a recount. State law allows for the apparent losing candidate to pay for a recount if the margin of defeat is less than 1%.

The president adopted Florida as his new home state, wooed its Latino community, particularly Cuban-Americans, and held rallies there incessantly. For his part, Biden deployed his top surrogate — President Barack Obama — there twice in the campaign's closing days and benefitted from a \$100 million pledge in the state from Michael Bloomberg.

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. But Republicans maintained several seats that were considered vulnerable, including in Iowa, Texas and Kansas. The House was expected to remain under Democratic control.

The coronavirus pandemic — and Trump's handling of it — was the inescapable focus for 2020.

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. Rarely trying to unite a country divided along lines of race and class, he has often acted as an insurgent against the government he led while undermining the nation's scientists, bureaucracy and media.

The momentum from early voting carried into Election Day, as an energized electorate produced long lines at polling sites throughout the country. Turnout was higher than in 2016 in numerous counties, including all of Florida, nearly every county in North Carolina and more than 100 counties in both Georgia and Texas. That tally seemed sure to increase as more counties reported their turnout figures.

Voters braved worries of the coronavirus, threats of polling place intimidation and expectations of long lines caused by changes to voting systems, but appeared undeterred as turnout appeared it would easily surpass the 139 million ballots cast four years ago.

No major problems arose on Tuesday, outside the typical glitches of a presidential election: Some polling places opened late, robocalls provided false information to voters in Iowa and Michigan, and machines or software malfunctioned in some counties in the battleground states of Ohio, Pennsylvania, Georgia and Texas.

The cybersecurity agency at the Department of Homeland Security said there were no outward signs by midday of any malicious activity.

With the coronavirus now surging anew, voters ranked the pandemic and the economy as top concerns in the race between Trump and Biden, according to AP VoteCast, a national survey of the electorate.

Voters were especially likely to call the public health crisis the nation's most important issue, with the economy following close behind. Fewer named health care, racism, law enforcement, immigration or climate change.

The survey found that Trump's leadership loomed large in voters' decision-making. Nearly two-thirds of voters said their vote was about Trump — either for him or against him.

Jaffe reported from Wilmington, Delaware. Miller reported from Washington. Associated Press writers

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Robert Burns, Kevin Freking, Aamer Madhani, Deb Riechmann and Will Weissert in Washington, Bill Barrow and Haleluya Hadero in Atlanta, Jeff Martin in Cobb County, Georgia, Thomas Beaumont in Des Moines, Juan Lozano in Houston, Corey Williams in West Bloomfield, Michigan, Kathy McCormack in Concord, New Hampshire, and Natalie Pompilio contributed to this report.

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

## US formally exits Paris pact aiming to curb climate change

By FRANK JORDANS Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — The United States on Wednesday formally left the Paris Agreement, a global pact forged five years ago to avert the threat of catastrophic climate change.

The move, long threatened by U.S. President Donald Trump and triggered by his administration a year ago, further isolates the United States in the world but has no immediate impact on international efforts to curb global warming.

Some 189 countries remain committed to the 2015 Paris accord, which aims to keep the increase in average temperatures worldwide "well below" 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit), ideally no more than 1.5C (2.7 F), compared to pre-industrial levels. A further six countries have signed, but not ratified the pact.

Scientists say that any rise beyond 2 degrees Celsius could have a devastating impact on large parts of the world, raising sea levels, stoking tropical storms and worsening droughts and floods.

The Paris accord requires countries to set their own voluntary targets for reducing greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide. The only binding requirement is that nations have to accurately report on their efforts.

The United States is the world's second biggest emitter after China of heat-trapping gases such as carbon dioxide and its contribution to cutting emissions is seen as important, but it is not alone in the effort. In recent weeks, China, Japan and South Korea have joined the European Union and several other countries in setting national deadlines to stop pumping more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

While the Trump administration has shunned federal measures to cut emissions, states, cities and businesses in the United States have pressed ahead with their own efforts.

Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden has said he favors signing the U.S. back up to the Paris accord.

With the United States outside the pact, it will be harder for the rest of the world to reach the agreed goals.

Follow Frank Jordans on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/wirereporter>

Read more stories on climate issues by The Associated Press at <https://www.apnews.com/Climate>

## News organizations rebuke Trump on election results claim

By DAVID BAUDER and LYNN ELBER Associated Press

In a stunning scene in the middle of the night, news organizations rebuked President Donald Trump after he falsely said on live television that he had won reelection even as votes were still being counted.

With reporters and supporters gathered at the White House at 2:20 a.m. Eastern, the president said it was "a major fraud on our nation" that he hadn't been declared the winner. "As far as I'm concerned, we already have won this," he said.

The words were barely out of his mouth before television anchors rushed to refute him.

CBS News' Norah O'Donnell said Trump was "castrating the facts" by "falsely claiming that he has won the election and disenfranchising millions of voters whose ballots have not been counted."

"Donald Trump is losing right now both in the popular vote and the electoral vote and there are many

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states left to be called," ABC News' George Stephanopoulos said.

Said NBC News' Savannah Guthrie, "The fact of the matter is we don't know who won the election." Guthrie had interrupted Trump's speech to tell viewers that several of Trump's statements were not true.

The Associated Press said that at the time of Trump's statement, its count had Trump winning 213 electoral votes to Democrat Joe Biden's 225. The AP has determined that it's too early to declare a winner in several states, including Pennsylvania, Georgia and Michigan.

It was an explosive moment after a frazzled nation had sat through hours of uncertainty. Media outlets had warned for weeks that Americans would have to be patient waiting for a decision in the bitter campaign between Biden and Trump, and repeatedly drove that point home through their election night coverage.

Biden had spoken to supporters at 12:42 a.m. in Delaware, expressing confidence in his campaign and saying he wanted to see every vote counted.

"Keep the faith, guys, we're going to win this," Biden said.

Trump had immediately responded with a tweet saying "we are up BIG, but they are trying to STEAL the election. We will never let them do it."

The president's address, after he was ushered to a podium to the sound of "Hail to the Chief," received criticism in what are normally friendlier outlets.

"This is an extremely flammable situation and the president just threw a match into it," said Fox News Channel's Chris Wallace.

His Fox colleague, former George W. Bush administration aide Dana Perino, said, "he just went a step too far." Conservative commentator Ben Shapiro tweeted that it was "deeply irresponsible" for Trump to claim victory.

The president's team was angry at Fox News Channel for striking out ahead of other news organizations in declaring that Biden had defeated Trump in the battleground state of Arizona. It would have been the first state to flip parties from 2016, and was crucial in the path to 270 electoral votes and victory.

Fox's Bret Baier, noting the network was taking "incoming," put decision desk chief Arnon Mishkin on the air. He explained that with the bulk of uncounted votes in Arizona cast early and thus more likely for Biden, Trump would not be able to catch up to the Democrat's lead in that state.

"I'm sorry, but we're not wrong in this particular case," Mishkin said. The AP eventually called Arizona for Biden at 2:52 a.m.

Millions of people following election coverage on the East Coast went to bed before all the drama, and without knowing the answer to the question they had waited hours for: Who's going to be in the White House for the next four years?

The president also expressed anger at news organizations for not declaring him the winner in Georgia and North Carolina, where he held leads. CNN's John King explained that there was still doubt given there were votes still to be counted in regions where Biden was expected to do well.

It was emerging that the presidency hinged on the Midwest battlegrounds of Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania.

"We've been saying for a long time that anything could happen, this is a very competitive race and that ... it really was going to come down to these three states," said CNN's Jake Tapper. "That's happening, and yet it still feels like people didn't hear it when we were telling them that the previous three weeks."

Prior to the appearances by the two candidates, the night's mood ebbed and flowed like a tide, and almost as predictably. Experts had said voters would be confused by the vast amount of early votes that were more likely to support Biden, and the different practices of states in when they would count them and the Election Day votes that favored Trump.

That proved to be the case when initial leads for Biden in Ohio and North Carolina that briefly heartened his supporters were suddenly erased. When Trump gained the lead in the Midwest battlegrounds, the question became whether Biden could overcome him when all early votes were counted.

On the television networks, it put the spotlight on numbers geeks like CNN's John King and MSNBC's Steve Kornacki. MSNBC kept a "Kornacki cam" on their man as he studied voting data.

For the first time, The Associated Press wrote stories explaining in detail to readers and members of the

news cooperative why it had declared winners in individual states.

Network anchors began election night coverage with calls for patience. Stephanopoulos told viewers that it did not mean that the process is broken or unfair if the results were not clear Tuesday night.

As the evening progressed, it became clear that while patience might not necessarily be rewarded, it was still necessary.

"I would be very careful drawing sweeping generalizations about what we think we're going to see," Robert Gibbs, a former White House press secretary in the Obama administration, said on MSNBC. "Because it may be that it takes six days to figure out who wins this race."

## Democrats losing paths to Senate control as GOP hangs on

By LISA MASCARO and MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hopes fading for Senate control, Democrats had a disappointing election night as Republicans swatted down an onslaught of challengers and fought to retain their fragile majority. Several races remained undecided into Wednesday and at least one headed to a runoff in January.

It was a jarring outcome for Democrats who had devised an expanded political map, eager to provide a backstop against President Donald Trump and his party's grip on the Senate. The races attracted an unprecedented outpouring of small-dollar donations from Americans apparently voting with their pocket-books to propel long-shot campaigns.

The voters' choices will force a rethinking of Democratic Party strategy, messaging and approach from the Trump era.

While Democrats picked up must-win seats in Colorado and Arizona, they suffered a setback in Alabama, and Republicans held their own in one race after another — in South Carolina, Iowa, Texas, Kansas and Montana, dramatically limiting the places where Democrats hoped to make inroads.

"You wasted a lot of money," said White House ally Sen. Lindsey Graham in Columbia, South Carolina, after defeating Jamie Harrison, despite the Democrat's stunning \$100 million haul for his upstart campaign. "This is the worst return on investment in the history of American politics."

Trump loomed large over the Senate races as did Democratic rival Joe Biden. The Trump administration's handling of the COVID-19 crisis, its economic fallout and the nation's uneasy mood all seemed to be on the ballot.

Voters ranked the pandemic and the economy as top concerns, according to AP VoteCast, a national survey of the electorate.

"It's time for a different approach," said Democrat John Hickenlooper, a former governor who unseated Republican Sen. Cory Gardner in Colorado, during a live video message posted on Facebook.

Yet voters, for the most part, stuck with the status quo.

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 in the Senate.

Democrats contested seats from New England to the Deep South and the Midwest to the Mountain West, reaching deep into GOP strongholds. But by early Wednesday, the tally was not too different from before Election Day.

The Democrats' gains were in Colorado and Arizona, where former astronaut Mark Kelly beat GOP incumbent Martha McSally. But they couldn't hold on in Alabama: Former college football coach Tommy Tuberville defeated Sen. Doug Jones.

Several battlegrounds broke for Republicans: In South Carolina, Graham survived the race of his political career against Harrison; in Texas, Sen. John Cornyn turned back former Air Force helicopter pilot MJ Hegar; in Iowa, Sen. Joni Ernst defeated Democrat Theresa Greenfield in a race seen as a toss-up; in Montana, Sen. Steve Daines routed Gov. Steve Bullock; and in Kansas, Rep. Roger Marshall prevailed over state Sen. Barbara Bollier, a former Republican who energized Democrats in a state that hasn't elected a Democrat to the Senate since 1932.

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The final breakdown awaited the outcome of races in Alaska, Maine, Michigan, North Carolina and Maine. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell acknowledged the uncertainty still ahead even after he secured a seventh term in Kentucky, fending off Democrat Amy McGrath, a former fighter pilot in a costly campaign.

"We don't know which party will control the Senate," McConnell said from Louisville. "But some things are certain already. We know grave challenges will remain before us, challenges that could not care less about our political polarization. We know our next president will need to unite the country, even as we all continue to bring different ideas and commitments to the table."

North Carolina Republican Sen. Thom Tillis has struggled against Democrat Cal Cunningham, despite the married challenger's sexting scandal with a public relations strategist.

And in Maine the race between GOP Sen. Susan Collins and Democrat Sara Gideon could be another one that pushes later into the week. If no one in the multi-candidate field breaks the 50% threshold in the first-round votes, then there are additional tabulations in which last-place finishers are eliminated. Under the state's rank-choice system the tabulations continue until a candidate achieves a majority.

In Georgia, two seats were being contested and at least one is headed to a runoff after no candidate reached the 50% threshold to win.

GOP Sen. Kelly Loeffler will face Democrat Raphael Warnock, a Black pastor at the church where the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. preached, in the Jan. 5 runoff special election for the seat Loeffler was tapped to fill for retired Sen. Johnny Isakson.

In the other, GOP Sen. David Perdue, the former business executive Trump calls his favorite senator, tried to stave off Democrat Jon Ossoff, another candidate who has benefited from the "green wave" of campaign donations. It, too, could go to a runoff.

Republicans were on defense in most states. But in the presidential battleground of Michigan, Republicans made an aggressive push for John James, a Black Republican businessman who stood by Trump at a rally late Monday, against Democratic Sen. Gary Peters.

In South Carolina, Graham eventually caught up with Harrison's fundraising as the Senate Judiciary Committee chairman led the confirmation of Trump's Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett, sometimes making pleas for cash during appearances on TV.

Harrison energized voters, among several Black candidates for Senate including Warnock, drawing an outpouring of national support in a year of racial reckoning.

"We didn't get the result at the ballot box that we wanted, but we showed courage and determination," Harrison said on Twitter. "We brought hope back to South Carolina."

Stuck in Washington as McConnell rushed the Senate to confirm Barrett a week before Election Day, senators quickly fanned out — some alongside the president — for last-ditch tours, often socially distanced in the pandemic, to shore up votes.

Democrats tried to win over voters promising to protect access to health care and provide a plan to reserve the COVID crisis. Republicans promoted their alliance with Trump, and their success in confirming conservative judicial nominees, including three to the Supreme Court.

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. Or not.

In Alaska, newcomer Al Gross, a doctor, broke state fundraising records in part with viral campaign ads as he took on GOP Sen. Dan Sullivan.

The Senate will welcome some newcomers as others retire. In New Mexico, Democrat Ben Ray Lujan, a member of House leadership, was elected to the seat held by Democrat Tom Udall. Tennessee Republican Bill Hagerty won the seat held by Republican Lamar Alexander. Republican Cynthia Lummis, the former congresswoman from Wyoming, won the Senate seat being vacated by Republican Mike Enzi.

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Associated Press writers Bruce Schreiner in Louisville, Ky., and Meg Kinnard in Columbia, S.C., contributed to this report.

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

## Quake toll rises to 116 in Turkey; rescuers finish searches

By ANDREW WILKS Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — The death toll in last week's Aegean Sea earthquake rose to 116 on Wednesday as rescuers in the Turkish city of Izmir finished searching buildings that collapsed in the quake.

All but two of the victims were killed in Izmir, Turkey's third-largest city. Two teenagers died on the Greek island of Samos, which lies south of the epicenter of Friday's earthquake. The U.S. Geological Survey registered the quake's magnitude at 7.0, although other agencies recorded it as less severe.

Mehmet Gulluoglu, head of Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency, said search and rescue operations had been completed at 17 buildings that fell in Izmir. The rescue operation has been roaring at full tilt since Friday, pulling 107 survivors from the rubble.

Of the 1,035 people injured in the quake, 137 remained hospitalized on Wednesday, the agency added.

Following a Cabinet meeting on Tuesday evening, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan pledged not to give up until the final person was recovered. Rescuers' spirits were raised Tuesday when they pulled a 3-year-old girl from the wreckage of her family home 91 hours after the quake.

The tremors were felt across western Turkey, including in Istanbul, as well as in the Greek capital of Athens. Some 1,700 aftershocks followed, 45 of which were greater than 4.0 magnitude.

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

Turkey has a mix of older buildings and new buildings made of 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 experts say it is not happening fast enough.

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

## Push to relax drug laws gains big victories on state ballots

By DAVID A. LIEB Associated Press

A nationwide push to relax drug laws took a significant step forward Tuesday as more states legalized marijuana for adults and voters made Oregon the first state to decriminalize the possession of small amounts of street drugs such as cocaine, heroin and methamphetamine.

The drug measures were among 120 proposed state laws and constitutional amendments that were on the ballot in 32 states. They touched on an array of issues that have roiled politics in recent years — voting rights, racial inequalities, abortion, taxes and education, to name a few.

But none directly dealt with the dominant theme of 2020 — the coronavirus pandemic. That's because the process to put measures on the ballot began, in most cases, before the virus surged to the forefront.

The Oregon drug initiative will allow people arrested with small amounts of hard drugs to avoid going to trial, and possible jail time, by paying a \$100 fine and attending an addiction recovery program. The treatment centers will be funded by revenues from legalized marijuana, which was approved in Oregon several years ago.

"Today's victory is a landmark declaration that the time has come to stop criminalizing people for drug use," said Cassandra Frederique, executive director of the Drug Policy Alliance, which backed the measure.

The proposal was endorsed by the Oregon Democratic Party, as well as some nurses and physician associations. The Oregon Republican Party had denounced the drug decriminalization measure as radical, and some prosecutors called it reckless.

Oregon voters also approved a measure making the state the first to legalize the therapeutic use of psychedelic mushrooms.

Voters in New Jersey and Arizona approved measures legalizing marijuana for adults age 21 and older. In New Jersey, the Legislature now will have to pass another measure setting up the new marijuana marketplace. The Arizona measure also allows people convicted of certain marijuana crimes to seek expungement of their records. Passage signaled a change of attitudes, after Arizona voters there narrowly

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defeated a legal pot proposal in 2016.

Recreational marijuana measures also were ahead in the polls in Montana and narrowly leading in South Dakota. Separate medical marijuana initiatives passed in South Dakota and Mississippi.

A decade ago, recreational marijuana was illegal in all 50 states. Voters allowed it in Colorado and Washington in 2012, sparking a movement that already included 11 states and Washington, D.C., heading into Tuesday's elections. Supporters hope additional victories, especially in conservative states, could build pressure for Congress to legalize marijuana nationwide.

Two states considered anti-abortion amendments with different results.

Louisiana voters passed a measure asserting there is no state constitutional right to abortion — something that could come into play if the U.S. Supreme Court overturns its *Roe v. Wade* decision that legalized abortion nationwide.

In Colorado, by contrast, voters defeated a measure to prohibit abortions after 22 weeks unless the pregnant woman's life is endangered. Previous Colorado ballot initiatives to limit abortion also failed in 2008, 2010 and 2014.

Several states also were considering measures affecting voting rights.

Virginia voters passed a constitutional amendment taking power away from members of the Democratic-led Legislature to draw voting districts for themselves and members of Congress based on census results. It instead will create a bipartisan commission of lawmakers and citizens to develop a redistricting plan that the Legislature could approve or reject, but not change.

Virginia is the sixth state in the past two general election cycles to pass measures intended to prevent gerrymandering — a process in which politicians draw voting districts to benefit themselves or their political parties. Voters in Missouri, which passed a redistricting reform measure in 2018, voted Tuesday on whether to roll back key parts of it before it can be used next year.

The Missouri measure, which remained undecided in a close vote, would repeal a nationally unique model using a nonpartisan demographer to draw state House and Senate districts to achieve "partisan fairness" and "competitiveness." Republicans who control the Legislature put forth a new ballot measure this year that would return redistricting duties to a pair of bipartisan commissions and drop "partisan fairness" and "competitiveness" to the end of the criteria.

In Florida, voters approved a measure gradually increasing the minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2026. The measure puts Florida in line with at least seven other states — California, Connecticut, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York — and Washington, D.C., which already have enacted laws to gradually boost the minimum wage to \$15 an hour.

In Mississippi, voters approved a proposal for a new state flag with a magnolia design. The vote came after legislators in June ended the use of a flag bearing a Confederate battle emblem. In Rhode Island, whose official name is "Rhode Island and Providence Plantations," residents in a close vote were deciding whether to eliminate the final three words, which some say evoke a legacy of slavery.

Tax proposals were on the ballot in more than a dozen states. Tobacco tax hikes passed in Colorado and Oregon. Colorado voters also approved a slight income tax cut. Still undecided were a proposed property tax increase on California businesses and higher income taxes on the wealthy in Illinois and Arizona. The additional tax revenue in Arizona would fund pay raises for teachers and other school personnel.

Another of the many California ballot issues would repeal a 1996 initiative that prohibits affirmative action programs granting preferential treatment based on race, sex, color, ethnicity or national origin in public employment, education or contracting.

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Associated Press writer Andrew Selsky contributed to this report.

## **EXPLAINER: With no outcome yet, why does a candidate talk?**

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrat Joe Biden addressed his supporters early Wednesday. It was not an

acceptance speech or a concession speech. It was a plea for their patience while the votes are counted. Voters are used to seeing and hearing from candidates after the results are in — win or lose. So why did the former vice president decide to talk at all?

One reason: Several states key to determining the outcome of the race against Republican President Donald Trump remained to be called as Wednesday was arriving in the east. Biden wanted to rally his supporters and encourage them to “keep the faith.”

Such speeches aren’t unusual when vote counting becomes a slog. What was unusual Wednesday is that Biden spoke for himself, instead of assigning the task to a campaign aide.

Four years ago, Democrat Hillary Clinton sent her campaign chairman, John Podesta, to address her supporters at the Javits Center in New York City on election night. Podesta told the crowd that it had been a long night after a long campaign and that they should go home. Clinton had not yet conceded the race to Trump.

“It ain’t over until every vote is counted, every ballot is counted,” Biden said at a convention center in his hometown of Wilmington, Delaware. “But we’re feeling good about where we are.”

Another motive was at play with his remarks.

Aides had said in the run-up to the election that they expected Biden to speak for himself, partly because they presumed Trump would speak at some point during the night. Biden didn’t want to yield the stage to Trump and his megaphone, they said.

Immediately after Biden spoke, Trump tweeted: He’d be making a statement, too.

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Associated Press writer Bill Barrow in Atlanta contributed to this report.

## **AP VoteCast: Voters split on virus, economy, even football**

By TAMMY WEBBER and HANNAH FINGERHUT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As they chose a leader in a time of turmoil, supporters of President Donald Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden found little common ground on the top crises facing the nation.

The divide between Republican and Democratic America cut across the economy, public health and racial justice, according to AP VoteCast, a national survey of the electorate.

Among the few shared views in the two camps of voters: Trump has changed the way things work in Washington. Most Trump voters say he has changed Washington for the better; most Biden voters say he’s changed it for the worse.

Here’s a snapshot of who voted and what matters to them, based on preliminary results from AP VoteCast, a survey of more than 133,000 voters and nonvoters nationwide conducted for The Associated Press by NORC at the University of Chicago.

### **TWO DIFFERENT WORLDS**

The differences between Trump and Biden supporters — on the virus, the economy, even on football — are stark.

As U.S. coronavirus cases rise, claiming more than 232,000 lives, a majority of Biden voters — about 6 in 10 — said the pandemic was the most important issue facing the country. And Biden voters overwhelmingly said the federal government should prioritize limiting the spread of the virus — even if that damages the economy.

But Trump voters were more focused on the economy. About half of Trump voters called the economy and jobs the top issue facing the nation, while only 1 in 10 Biden voters named it most important.

The two groups did not agree on the state of the economy, either. Trump voters remain adamant that the economy is in good shape: About three-quarters call national economic conditions excellent or good. About 8 in 10 Biden voters call them not so good or poor.

Partisanship even seemed to cloud views on football among voters in many states, including Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan and Ohio. When the coronavirus threatened the Big Ten’s college football season, Trump campaigned on ensuring the games would be played. Not surprisingly, across eight states, voters who

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approved of the Big Ten playing this year supported Trump over Biden. Those who saw it as a mistake were more likely to back Biden.

## LOYAL TO TRUMP

Trump won four years ago with a message of disruption, promising to shake up the Washington establishment, roll back regulations and put America first — and his message still resonates with his supporters. They like what they're seeing.

Trump voters overwhelmingly said their vote was an endorsement of him, not cast in opposition to Biden. And they were more likely than Biden voters to say they agreed with their candidate all or most of the time, 81% versus 74%.

An overwhelming majority of Trump voters continue to want to shake up the political system — even after four years of Trump's leadership. But in a twist, a large majority of Democrats now agree — although they'd like a shake-up to oust Trump.

But both candidates' voters expressed worries about Washington corruption, with an overwhelming majority saying they believe corruption would be a "major problem" in their opponent's administration.

## THE PANDEMIC'S PERSONAL IMPACT

Although a wide majority of voters said the coronavirus pandemic has affected them personally, there were deep racial and partisan disparities.

About 4 in 10 Black voters and about 3 in 10 Latino voters said they lost a family member or close friend to the virus, while just over 1 in 10 white voters said the same.

Latino and Black voters also were more likely to lose household income because of the pandemic: nearly half of Latino voters and about 4 in 10 Black voters, compared with about a third of white voters.

Voters in cities were more likely than those in other communities to say they have lost a close friend or family member. Urban voters also report income loss somewhat more than other voters.

All these groups of voters fall into Biden's column, meaning his voters were somewhat more likely than Trump voters to say they've felt the impact in at least one of the ways the survey asked about, 73% to 62%.

## VOTING

Voters did not stay on the sidelines, with experts predicting total votes will exceed the 139 million cast in 2016. About 101 million people voted ahead of Election Day.

About three-quarters said they've known all along who they were supporting in this election.

Voters were measured in their confidence that the vote count would be accurate — despite Trump seeking to sow doubts about the integrity of the vote count.

About a quarter of voters said they are very confident that the votes in the election will be counted accurately, while just under half were somewhat confident. Roughly 3 in 10 said they are not confident in an accurate vote count.

## RACIAL UNREST

A summer of protests and sometimes-violent clashes over racial inequality in policing exposed sharply divergent views on racism.

An overwhelming majority of Black voters said racism in the U.S. is a "very serious" problem, but fewer than half of white voters said it is.

Nearly two-thirds of Black voters and about 4 in 10 Latino voters said police are too tough on crime. But among white voters, only about a quarter said police are too tough and roughly as many said police are not tough enough.

Those divisions translate into partisan splits. Biden voters almost universally said racism is a serious problem in U.S. society and in policing, including about 7 in 10 who called it "very" serious. A slim majority of Trump voters — who are overwhelmingly white — called racism a serious problem in U.S. society, and just under half said it was a serious problem in policing.

But compared with the pandemic and the economy, relatively few voters deemed racism or law enforcement the country's top issue: 7% said racism was most important and just 4% said law enforcement was.

Webber reported from Fenton, Michigan.

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AP VoteCast is a survey of the American electorate conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago for Fox News, NPR, PBS NewsHour, Univision News, USA Today Network, The Wall Street Journal and The Associated Press. The survey of 110,482 voters was conducted for eight days, concluding as polls closed. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. The survey combines a random sample of registered voters drawn from state voter files; self-identified registered voters using NORC's probability based Ameri-Speak panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population; and self-identified registered voters selected from nonprobability online panels. The margin of sampling error for voters is estimated to be plus or minus 0.4 percentage points. Find more details about AP VoteCast's methodology at <https://ap.org/votecast>.

Online:

For AP's complete coverage of the U.S. presidential elections: <https://apnews.com/hub/election-2020>

## Protesters gather near White House, no wide unrest seen

By ASHRAF KHALIL Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than 1,000 people protesting President Donald Trump converged on Black Lives Matter Plaza on Tuesday night, just a block from the White House, while hundreds more marched through parts of downtown Washington, sometimes blocking traffic and setting off fireworks.

Scattered protests also took place from Seattle to New York City, but across the U.S. there were no signs of serious violence or widespread unrest in the hours immediately after the polls closed, with the outcome still unknown.

The demonstrations in Washington were largely peaceful, with people shouting, "Whose streets? Our streets!" and "If we don't get no justice, they don't get no peace!"

Groups of teenagers danced in the street as onlookers cheered. Large banners, including one reading "Trump lies all the time," were unfurled.

At one point, the marchers stabbed the tires of a parked police van to flatten them.

Hundreds of people marched in anti-Trump demonstrations in Portland, Oregon, and Seattle, with several arrested.

"This is what democracy looks like," protesters chanted in Portland, where organizers said the demonstration would be peaceful and that regardless of the presidential election result, they would continue protesting in support of racial justice. The sheriff's office said some protesters were openly carrying guns.

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown had put the National Guard on standby, since Portland has seen almost nightly protests since the death of George Floyd under a Minneapolis police officer's knee in May.

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler said on Twitter that there would be "no tolerance for any violence, intimidation or criminal destruction," and that people should be "safe while using their voice to advocate for their perspective."

In Seattle, police said they arrested several people, including someone who put nails in a road and another who drove over a barricade and into a police bike lane. No one was injured.

Hundreds of businesses in cities across the U.S. boarded up their doors and windows ahead of the election, fearing the vote could lead to the sort of violence that broke out after Floyd's death.

"Some people would like to cause mayhem and trouble," Washington Mayor Muriel Bowser said earlier in the day. She said she had never seen so many businesses being boarded up: "That all saddens me."

## Mississippi approves flag with magnolia, 'In God We Trust'

By EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Mississippi will fly a new state flag with a magnolia and the phrase "In God We Trust," with voters approving the design Tuesday. It replaces a Confederate-themed flag state lawmakers

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retired months ago as part of the national reckoning over racial injustice.

The magnolia flag was the only design on the general election ballot, and voters were asked to say yes or no. A majority said yes.

Legislators will have to put the design into law, but they are expected to do that with little fuss because they already did the hard work of retiring a flag that some people wanted to keep.

Mississippi has been without a flag since late June, when legislators surrendered the last state banner in the U.S. that included the Confederate battle emblem — a red field topped by a blue X with 13 white stars. The rebel flag has been used by Ku Klux Klan groups and is widely condemned as racist.

The new Mississippi flag has the state flower on a dark blue background with red bars on either end. The magnolia is encircled by stars representing Mississippi as the 20th state. The flag also has a single star made of diamond shapes representing the Native American people who lived on the land before others arrived.

White supremacists in the state Legislature adopted the Confederate-themed flag in 1894 amid backlash to power Black people gained during Reconstruction.

For decades, the flag was divisive in a state with a significant Black population, currently about 38%. A majority of voters chose to keep the flag in a 2001 election, but several cities and counties and all of Mississippi's public universities had stopped flying it because of the Confederate symbol. Many furled the Mississippi flag after mid-2015, when a white man shot and killed nine Black people worshipping at a church in Charleston, South Carolina; he had previously posed for photos with the rebel flag.

Until this summer, a majority of Mississippi legislators were unwilling to consider changing the flag because they considered the issue too volatile. Momentum changed as protests broke out across the U.S. after a Black man was killed in Minneapolis police custody. The final push for changing the Mississippi flag came from business, education, religious and sports groups — including, notably, the Mississippi Baptist Convention and the Southeastern Conference.

Angela Reginal, 53, of Pearl, said she voted for the new design. Reginal, who is Black, said the Confederate-themed old flag was "part of history," and although she said it never bothered her, she believed it needed to be changed.

"For me, if it offends my brother, I think it needs to be changed," said Reginal, who works in the office of a home health agency.

A white voter at the same precinct in Pearl, Beki Routh, said she voted for the new flag but wanted to keep the old one.

"If you try to erase history, you're doomed to repeat it," said Routh, 50, a bank employee.

Joan Martin, 79, a retired registered nurse from Picayune, said she voted for the new flag because "I didn't have any choice.

"There was just the one thing and I thought it looked pretty and it said 'In God We Trust,' so I voted yes on it," said Martin, who is white.

The law retiring the old flag specified that the new one could not include the Confederate battle emblem and must have "In God We Trust." Requiring the religious phrase helped persuade some conservative legislators to let go of the old flag.

Taderell Lamont Roberts, 48, of Picayune, goes by his middle name, which was on the name patch on his work shirt for Heritage Plastics, where he's a foreman. He said he voted for the new flag.

"That old flag to me represented a lot of rebelism, you know, the good old boys," said Roberts, who is Black. "It never bothered me. ... But is time for a different flag so our new generation can see that all that is in the past, and they don't have to deal with that. We were brought up to just live with it. But I'm glad that now it's time for a change."

The public submitted nearly 3,000 flag designs. A nine-person commission — with members appointed by the governor, lieutenant governor and House speaker — chose the magnolia flag to go on the ballot.

If voters had rejected the magnolia flag, the commission would have designed another flag that still could not include the Confederate symbol and must include "In God We Trust." That design would have gone on the ballot in November 2021.

Separately, supporters of the old Mississippi flag are starting an initiative that could revive the old flag by putting the Confederate-themed banner and some other designs up for a statewide vote. But they face big hurdles in gathering enough signatures to get their ideas on the ballot, and their efforts could be complicated by limited public interaction during the coronavirus pandemic.

Associated Press writer Janet McConnaughey in Picayune, Mississippi, contributed to this report.

Follow Emily Wagster Pettus on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/EWagsterPettus>.

Find AP's full election coverage at <https://apnews.com/hub/election-2020>.

## Montana goes red; it's status quo in other governor races

By GEOFF MULVIHILL Associated Press

Montana is getting a Republican governor for the first time in 16 years, but voters decided against partisan changes in the 10 other states where the office was on the ballot Tuesday.

It's not clear whether Democrats have been able to flip any legislative chambers.

Efforts to battle the coronavirus pandemic have put governors in the spotlight while state legislatures are poised to determine redistricting, abortion, health care and other super-charged topics. Both are on the ballot this year in races that have been overshadowed nationally by the presidential race but have drawn intense interest and massive spending in their states.

Across the country, 35 are picking state lawmakers this year.

Democrats are hoping to gain control of more state legislative chambers after Republicans scored huge wins in 2010. That put them in charge of drawing congressional and state legislative maps after that year's Census, a process that kept them in control in most of those states throughout the decade.

In most states, legislatures and governors have a role in drawing congressional and legislative maps, a process that starts after the U.S. Census delivers its decennial count at the end of this year.

Control of governor's offices and legislatures also will determine much of how coronavirus-related restrictions and recovery efforts go.

If an increasingly conservative U.S. Supreme Court throws out the right to an abortion or portions of the Affordable Care Act, the new policies could be set state-by-state.

The only governor's job to change parties is in Montana, where Republican U.S. Rep. Greg Gianforte defeated Democratic Lt. Gov. Mike Cooney. The job was up for grabs as the incumbent, Democrat Steve Bullock, reached his term limit.

The national Democratic and Republican governors associations and the campaigns themselves have contributed more than \$24 million to the race.

In Missouri, incumbent Mike Parson, a Republican, defeated Nicole Galloway, the state auditor who was the Democrats' best chance to pick up a seat. The race had some echoes of the race for president; Parson, who has resisted mandating mask usage, tested positive for the coronavirus in September as the state's case total started to surge.

Galloway made Parson's response to the virus outbreak a core part of her campaign. An Associated Press survey of the electorate found Parson ahead in rural areas, Galloway leading in cities and a close race in suburban areas.

While Democrats have been chipping away at Republicans' edge in state political offices, the GOP is still in control of the majority of state legislative and executive branches.

Republican incumbents Eric Holcomb in Indiana, Chris Sununu in New Hampshire, Doug Burgum in North Dakota, Jim Justice in West Virginia and Phil Scott in Vermont were re-elected. So were Democratic incumbents John Carney in Delaware and Jay Inslee in Washington.

The only governorship besides Montana without an incumbent on the ballot is Utah, where Spencer Cox will replace fellow Republican Gary Herbert, who did not seek re-election after more than a decade in office.

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In North Carolina, a swing state, Democratic incumbent Roy Cooper held off Republican Dan Forest. Republicans are seeking to expand their power by taking over the legislature in New Hampshire. But it's Democrats who are on the offense elsewhere, including Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Texas.

Party control in some of those chambers may not be clear immediately.

## **EXPLAINER: Widespread Election Day unrest not materializing**

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Election Day ushered in skirmishes near the White House and relatively minor demonstrations in California and elsewhere on the West Coast, but none of the widespread unrest that some had feared in the hours after the polls began closing around the country.

Why is that? It's hard to say.

But as the East Coast began Wednesday, the night was still young elsewhere in the United States and prolonged uncertainty, particularly in the bitter presidential race between Republican President Donald Trump and Democrat Joe Biden, could increase odds that tensions eventually flare.

In Washington, D.C., police created a wide security perimeter around the White House, where President Donald Trump watched the election returns and hosted guests. Surrounding streets were closed to traffic and the executive mansion was ringed by anti-climb fencing.

Mostly peaceful protests overtook streets near the White House earlier this year following the killing of George Floyd, who was Black, by a Minneapolis police officer.

Hundreds of people gathered in a generally festive mood Tuesday night on a street near the White House that was recently renamed Black Lives Matter Plaza by the city's mayor, who is Black. Police largely kept their distance despite a few skirmishes. Some arrests were reported.

In cities around the country, including in the District of Columbia, storefront businesses had boarded up their windows to guard against anticipated protests and related violence.

In Minneapolis, a few dozen people marched through the city's Uptown neighborhood, lighting fireworks and carrying a banner that said "America is Over."

Small demonstrations were reported in Los Angeles and Portland, Oregon. Seattle police advised residents in a tweet about a pair of marches moving through separate neighborhoods.

## **Hurricane Eta lashes Nicaragua with rains, deadly mudslides**

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — Hurricane Eta continues to spin across northern Nicaragua after lashing the country's Caribbean coast for much of Tuesday, isolating already remote communities and setting off deadly landslides in two countries that killed at least three people.

The storm had weakened by late Tuesday, but was moving so slowly and dumping so much rain that much of Central America was on high alert.

Eta came ashore Tuesday afternoon south of the Nicaraguan city of Bilwi as a powerful Category 4 hurricane after stalling just off the coast for hours. The city of about 60,000 had been without power since Monday evening. Corrugated metal roofing and uprooted trees were scattered through its streets. Some 20,000 of the area's residents were in shelters.

Inland, about 100 miles (160 kilometers) west of where Eta made landfall, two gold miners were killed when a mountainside unleashed tons of mud Tuesday morning. A third miner escaped the slide and sought help.

One body was recovered before rescuers had to suspend recovery efforts due to nightfall and fears that more slides could occur as the rain continued, said Lt. Cesar Malespin of the Bonanza Fire Department. He said recovery efforts would continue Wednesday. Bonanza was getting lashed by strong winds and torrential rain, he said.

The storm has been drenching neighboring Honduras with rain since at least Sunday and the country

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reported its first death attributed to Eta early Tuesday. A 12-year-old girl died in a mudslide in San Pedro Sula, the main population center in northern Honduras, said Marvin Aparicio, director of the national system of incident commands for Honduras' emergency management agency.

In Honduras, there were at least 559 people affected by flooding who had to move to shelters or go to relatives' homes, he said. At least 25 people had been rescued, he said. His agency reported at least six rivers causing significant flooding.

Forecasters said central and northern Nicaragua and 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.

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

Nicaragua's remote northeast where Eta made landfall was already isolated before the storm. Crossing the wide Wawa river to reach Bilwi, also known as Puerto Cabezas, the main city in the region, requires riding a ferry, which had suspended operations as the storm approached, making driving to the impact zone impossible.

Cairo Jarquin, emergency response project manager in Nicaragua for Catholic Relief Services, said the immediate concern in northeastern Nicaragua after the storm's passage would be getting water and food to those remote communities.

The majority of the region's inhabitants are Miskito, who live through subsistence farming or fishing, Jarquin said. Most of their homes are simple wooden construction concentrated in riverside communities that likely suffered heavy damage. They depend on hand dug wells for drinking water, which he feared would be contaminated by floodwaters.

As the storm continued west toward Nicaragua's mountains and the border with Honduras concerns grew that it could have devastating impact on the country's coffee crop — a key export — just as the harvest was set to begin.

Eta already led Honduras to cancel a long weekend that had been scheduled to begin Wednesday. The extra-long weekend was supposed to spur tourism and help the economy strangled by the coronavirus pandemic. Instead, Eta promised to bring several more days of rain to the region.

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Associated Press writers Marlon González in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, and Christopher Sherman in Mexico City contributed to this report.

## **EXPLAINER: Why AP called Virginia for Biden**

By BRIAN SLODYSKO Associated Press

WHY AP CALLED VIRGINIA FOR BIDEN:

The AP declared Democratic nominee Joe Biden the winner of Virginia at 7:31 p.m. EST, after results from early returns and an AP survey of the electorate showed the former vice president had beaten President Donald Trump in the state.

With about 53% of the vote counted statewide at 11:00 p.m., completed counts in a representative selection of precincts in communities across Virginia showed Biden comfortably ahead of Trump.

Those results matched data from AP VoteCast and an analysis of early voting statistics. The survey found Biden with a substantial lead in the state. VoteCast, the AP's wide-ranging survey of the American electorate, captures voters' choices and why they made them.

Trump jumped out to an early lead in Virginia because many Republican counties reported their results first. But much of the remaining ballots left to be counted were cast in population-dense Democratic areas near Washington D.C., including Fairfax and Prince William counties.

Virginia was once solidly Republican, with President George W. Bush winning there as recently as 2004. But explosive growth in northern Virginia's Washington, D.C., suburbs has led to an influx of increasingly

diverse and Democratic-leaning voters who have helped tip the balance of power.

Democrat Hillary Clinton won Virginia by more than 5 points in 2016. The state has a Democratic governor. And in 2019, Democrats took control of both chambers of the Legislature for the first time in decades.

## Georgia Republican who supports QAnon wins US House seat

By BEN NADLER Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Republican Marjorie Taylor Greene, who expressed racist views and support for QAnon conspiracy theories in a series of online videos, has won a U.S. House seat representing northwest Georgia.

Her candidacy was bolstered by President Donald Trump, who has called her a “future Republican Star.” Greene was heavily favored in the conservative district even before Democratic challenger Kevin Van Ausdal suddenly dropped out in September, saying he was moving out of state.

Greene thanked her staff and asked supporters to pray for Trump to win reelection at a watch party Tuesday night, video of which was livestreamed on Facebook.

In her remarks, Greene pledged to “fight hard to make sure that Nancy Pelosi and the squad and the radical Democrats in the House do not steal anything away from America, because this country was never ever meant to be a socialist nation.”

Greene is a businesswoman and political newcomer who’s gained large followings on social media in part by posting incendiary videos and comments.

Greene has claimed in online videos that Black and Hispanic men are being held back by “gangs and dealing drugs,” alleged an “Islamic invasion” of government offices and accused Jewish billionaire George Soros of collaborating with Nazis.

She has also embraced QAnon, a far-right U.S. conspiracy theory centered around the debunked belief that Trump is fighting a secret campaign against “deep-state” enemies and a child sex trafficking ring of satanic pedophiles and cannibals.

In more recent videos and posts, she has attacked everything from the Black Lives Matter movement to the use of facemasks to protect against the coronavirus.

After some of her comments came to light, Greene was condemned by some future House colleagues within her own party, but many other Republicans including Trump and Republican U.S. Sen. Kelly Loeffler have embraced her.

She had a blunt message for her detractors in a speech after winning a GOP primary runoff in August: “I will not apologize.”

“Congratulations to future Republican Star Marjorie Taylor Greene on a big Congressional primary win in Georgia against a very tough and smart opponent,” Trump tweeted after her primary win. “Marjorie is strong on everything and never gives up - a real WINNER!”

Greene initially started campaigning for a different House seat, challenging Democratic Rep. Lucy McBath in Georgia’s 6th Congressional District, made up of suburbs north of Atlanta. She switched to the more conservative 14th District after Republican Rep. Tom Graves announced that he wasn’t seeking reelection.

Democrats weren’t able to replace Van Ausdal on the ballot because he dropped out too close to the election, leaving Greene essentially unopposed in the race.

The seat has been open since Graves stepped down in October.

## Hurricane Eta grinds inland into Nicaragua; at least 3 dead

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — Hurricane Eta churned inland through northeast Nicaragua Tuesday night with devastating winds and rains that destroyed rooftops, caused rivers to overflow and left at least three people dead in the region.

The hurricane had sustained winds of 105 mph (165 kph), according to the U.S. National Hurricane Center, down from an overnight peak of 150 mph (240 kph). Even before it made landfall as a Category 4 hurricane, Honduras reported the first death after a mudslide trapped a 12-year-old girl in San Pedro

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Sula and two miners were killed in a mudslide in Bonanza, Nicaragua.

Tuesday night, the Category 2 hurricane crawled inland from the coast, about 45 miles (70 kilometers) west-southwest of coastal Puerto Cabezas or Bilwi, and it was moving west near 6 mph (9 kph).

Landfall came hours after it had been expected. Eta's eye had hovered just offshore through the night and Tuesday morning. The unceasing winds uprooted trees and ripped roofs apart, scattering corrugated metal through the streets of Bilwi, the main coastal city in the region. The city's regional hospital abandoned its building, moving patients to a local technical school campus.

"It was an intense night for everyone in Bilwi, Waspam and the communities along the northern coast," Yamil Zapata, local Bilwi representative of the ruling Sandinista Front, told local Channel 4 Tuesday.

Guillermo González, director of the country's emergency management agency, said in a news conference earlier that there were reports of corrugated metal roofs flying off homes, trees, poles and power lines falling and rivers rising in the coastal area.

About 10,000 people were in shelters in Bilwi and an equal number in smaller towns across the region, he said. The area had already been lashed with strong winds and heavy rain for hours.

Inland, about 100 miles (160 kms) west of where Eta made landfall, two gold miners were killed when a mountainside unleashed tons of mud. A third miner escaped the slide and sought help.

One body was recovered before rescuers had to suspend recovery efforts due to nightfall and fears that more slides could occur as the rain continued, said Lt. Cesar Malespin of the Bonanza Fire Department. He said recovery efforts would continue Wednesday.

The storm has been drenching neighboring Honduras with rains since at least Sunday and the country reported its first death attributed to Eta early Tuesday.

A 12-year-old girl died in a mudslide in San Pedro Sula, the main population center in northern Honduras, said Marvin Aparicio, director of the national system of incident commands for Honduras' emergency management agency.

In Honduras, there were at least 559 people affected by flooding who had to move to shelters or go to relatives' homes, he said. At least 25 people had been rescued, he said. His agency reported at least six rivers causing significant flooding.

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.

This could be only the beginning of Eta's destruction. The storm was forecast to spend much of the week meandering over Central America.

Forecasters said central and northern Nicaragua and 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.

The quantities of rain expected drew 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.

## **EXPLAINER: Postal Service, judge at odds over ballot search**

By The Associated Press undefined

### WHAT HAPPENED:

The U.S. Postal Service says it can't meet a federal judge's order to sweep processing centers for undelivered mail-in ballots. It is arguing that doing so would be disruptive to its Election Day operations and that it had "physical and operational limitations."

### THE SIGNIFICANCE:

Disputes about mail ballots, particularly those received after Election Day, could be the fuel for court fights over election results in some states.

### THE BACKGROUND:

U.S. District Judge Emmet G. Sullivan's order came after weeks of bruising court decisions for an agency that has become heavily politicized under its new leader, Postmaster General Louis DeJoy. DeJoy, a major GOP donor, made a series of controversial policy changes in the summer that delayed mail nationwide, fueling worry about the service's ability to handle the unprecedented crush of mail-in ballots.

At the same time, President Donald Trump has baselessly attacked mail voting as fraudulent throughout his campaign.

Much of Sullivan's order hinged on postal data showing roughly 300,000 mail-in ballots in several states had not received scans showing they had been delivered. The agency has disputed the accuracy of the figure, saying it has pushed to ensure same-day local delivery of ballots by circumventing certain processing steps entirely, leaving them without the final delivery scan.

### WHAT'S NEXT:

Sullivan had given the agency until Tuesday afternoon to search 27 facilities in several battleground areas for outstanding ballots and send out those votes immediately.

The Postal Service said it had already conducted rounds of morning checks at all its processing hubs. Further, the agency said it has been performing daily reviews of all 220 facilities handling election mail and planned another sweep hours before polling places closed Tuesday.

The judge accepted the agency's response but set a Wednesday hearing "to discuss the apparent lack of compliance with the court's order."

## **Pennsylvania emerges as online misinformation hot spot**

By AMANDA SEITZ and BARBARA ORTUTAY Associated Press

A single voting machine jammed for just minutes Tuesday morning at a precinct in Joe Biden's hometown of Scranton, Pennsylvania -- but misleading posts on Facebook and Twitter claimed multiple machines there were down for hours.

Pennsylvania emerged as a hot spot for online misinformation on Election Day. Facebook and Twitter scrambled to take down false posts about polling locations in Scranton, Philadelphia and beyond to minimize the spread of misinformation and prevent it from sowing doubt about the election process.

Misleading claims about voting in the key battleground state were shared thousands of times on Facebook and Twitter — even reaching their way to the Twitter feed of the president's son, Donald Trump Jr.

"The fact that we are unlikely to know the result of that pivotal race tonight means that any incidents will receive disproportionate attention because there won't be a resolution to the race," said Emerson Brooking, a disinformation fellow at the Atlantic Council's Digital Forensic Research Lab, a Washington think tank.

Results in the closely watched state might be delayed because of the surge of mail-in ballots this year, even though that delay doesn't indicate a problem with the vote.

Conservative social-media influencers and websites spread a video purporting to show voting machine

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outages in the Scranton Cultural Center at the Masonic Temple throughout the late afternoon and evening. In fact, just one machine had only briefly been jammed and was restored within minutes Tuesday morning, Lackawanna County spokesman Joseph D'Arienzo said.

Twitter and Facebook also removed a false post from an Instagram user who claimed to be discarding hundreds of ballots cast for Trump while working at a polling place in Erie County.

"The person making the statements does not work in any way with Erie County or have any part of Erie County's election process," the Erie County Board of Elections Chair Carl J. Anderson III said in a statement. "In fact, the individual is not a registered voter and is not believed to be a resident of Erie County, Pa."

Facebook said it confirmed with authorities that the claims were inaccurate and was working on removing the posts. Twitter removed screenshots and short videos of the claim, which was originally posted on Instagram by the person claiming to be a poll worker, though not before it gained some traction on the platform, including a retweet from Trump Jr.

Twitter also took action on several tweets from the @PhillyGOP account, which is run by the Republican Party of Philadelphia, and at least four from the Trump campaign's director of Election Day operations, Mike Roman.

One of the misleading tweets was a photo of a poster endorsing Democratic candidates that was hung on the building of a polling site in northeast Philadelphia. The image was shared more than 10,000 times with Twitter users saying it was a "violation" of election laws.

Not so, said the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, which tweeted in response that the polling place is "located in an interior room and the sign in question is further than 10 feet from it."

Before Election Day even started, Pennsylvania seemed poised for an onslaught of misinformation. In October, the state was mentioned the most — more than 200,000 times — in misleading claims of voter fraud on websites and social media platforms, according to data collected by media intelligence firm Signal Labs.

More misinformation is likely to pop up as the outcome of the race is being determined in battleground states like Arizona and Wisconsin, said Cindy Otis, the vice president of analysis for the Alethea Group, a firm that investigates disinformation.

"I think we will see additional claims much like the Pennsylvania ones being made about those states as well," Otis said.

Seitz reported from Chicago. Ortutay reported from Oakland, Calif. Associated Press writers Ali Swenson in Seattle, Mark Scolforo in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Beatrice Dupuy and Arijeta Lajka in New York contributed to this report.

## **EXPLAINER: Despite the angst, voting problems not widespread**

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In Spalding County, Georgia, machine problems led to a two-hour extension for voting. Wait times stretched beyond an hour at four voting centers in Baltimore. And this, unique to 2020: Sanitizer on voters' hands caused a ballot scanner to jam at a polling place in Des Moines, Iowa.

Minor problems like these happen during every election. But Tuesday's voting appeared largely free of any major glitches — despite being held during a deadly pandemic that has killed more than 230,000 Americans and infected more than 9 million.

The FBI was investigating reports of efforts to discourage people from voting using automated calls in a few states. Such reports are common in every election.

But there were no signs Tuesday of large-scale voter intimidation efforts or clashes at the polls, as some had feared, given the intensity on either side of the hotly contested race between Republican President Donald Trump and Democrat Joe Biden.

The Homeland Security Department's cybersecurity agency said earlier in the day that it had seen no apparent signs of any malicious cyberactivity, but also noted that it was too soon to declare victory.

Still, some polling places opened late, and machines or the software that powers them malfunctioned in some counties in the key states of Ohio, Pennsylvania, Georgia and Texas.

As the novel coronavirus took root in the U.S., officials repeatedly urged voters to cast their ballots early or by mail, in hopes the advance voting would ease some of the problems that materialized during the primaries, such as long lines and hours-long waits.

More than 102 million voters heeded that advice, a record number that represented 73% of the total vote in the presidential election four years ago.

## Postal Service says it can't meet judge's ballot order

By ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE Associated Press

The U.S. Postal Service on Tuesday said it could not meet a federal judge's order to sweep processing centers for undelivered mail-in ballots, arguing that doing so would disrupt its Election Day operations.

U.S. District Judge Emmet G. Sullivan of Washington, D.C., gave the agency until Tuesday afternoon to search 27 facilities in several battleground areas for outstanding ballots and send out those votes immediately.

The order came after weeks of bruising court decisions for an agency that has become heavily politicized under its new leader, Postmaster General Louis DeJoy. DeJoy, a major GOP donor, made a series of controversial policy changes in the summer that delayed mail nationwide, fueling worry about the service's ability to handle the unprecedented crush of mail-in ballots. At the same time, President Donald Trump has baselessly attacked mail voting as fraudulent throughout his campaign.

In its response to the judge's order, the Postal Service said it had already conducted rounds of morning checks at all its processing hubs. Further, the agency said it has been performing daily reviews of all 220 facilities handling election mail and planned another sweep hours before polling places closed Tuesday.

Much of Sullivan's order hinged on postal data showing roughly 300,000 mail-in ballots in several states had not received scans showing they had been delivered. The agency has disputed the accuracy of the figure, saying it has pushed to ensure same-day local delivery of ballots by circumventing certain processing steps entirely, leaving them without the final delivery scan.

"Defendants are working as expeditiously as possible to comply with this Court's orders while recognizing physical and operational limitations and the need to avoid disrupting key activities on Election Day," Justice Department lawyers representing the Postal Service wrote.

The judge accepted the agency's response but set a Wednesday hearing "to discuss the apparent lack of compliance with the court's order."

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Izaguirre reported from Lindenhurst, New York.

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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.

## EXPLAINER: 1876 election holds record for highest turnout

By JERRY SCHWARTZ Associated Press

The voter turnout for the 2020 presidential election was massive by recent standards. But it didn't come close to surpassing the record set in 1876.

That year, 81.8% of eligible American voters went to the polls.

The winner was Republican Rutherford B. Hayes, though he received fewer votes than his Democratic opponent, Samuel Tilden. Because 20 electoral votes were disputed, neither won a majority of the Electoral College, the election went to the House of Representatives, and it set up a commission that awarded the presidency to Hayes.

No reliable data is available until 1828. But during the last two-thirds of the 19th century, voter turnout of

more than 70 percent of those eligible was common — often reflecting sharp discord. The second highest turnout — 81.2 percent — was in 1860, when Abraham Lincoln defeated Stephen Douglas. Even before Lincoln took office, seven Southern states seceded.

In 1920 and 1924, turnout dropped to 49.2 percent and 48.9 percent, respectively, as women gained suffrage and the number of eligible voters doubled. In most years since, somewhere between 50 percent and 60 percent voted; the last time more than 60 percent voted was 1968, when Richard M. Nixon beat Hubert Humphrey and turnout was 60.7 percent.

The worst turnout in recent years — 49 percent — occurred in 1996, when Democrat Bill Clinton won a second term by defeating Republican Bob Dole.

In 2016, when Donald Trump won the presidency despite losing the popular vote to Hillary Clinton, 59.2 percent voted.

## Virus hospitalizations surge as pandemic shadows US election

By ALEXANDRA OLSON Associated Press

Americans went to the polls Tuesday under the shadow of a resurging pandemic, with an alarming increase in cases nationwide and the number of people hospitalized with COVID-19 reaching record highs in a growing number of states.

While daily infections were rising in all but three states, the surge was most pronounced in the Midwest and Southwest.

Missouri, Oklahoma, Iowa, Indiana, Nebraska, North Dakota and New Mexico all reported record high hospitalizations this week. Nebraska's largest hospitals started limiting elective surgeries and looked to bring in nurses from other states to cope with the surge. Hospital officials in Iowa and Missouri warned bed capacity could soon be overwhelmed.

The resurgence loomed over candidates and voters, fearful of both the virus itself and the economic toll of any new shutdowns to control its spread. The debate over how far to take economically costly measures has divided a country already sharply polarized over President Donald Trump's turbulent four years in office.

The pandemic colored who voters chose at the ballot box and how they did it. While many Americans took advantage of expanded access to mail-in voting, lines were long in many polling places, with record turnout expected and reminders of the pandemic everywhere.

"It's very serious that we have 400 people gathered in one space at the height of the pandemic here in Wisconsin. So, we've tried to take every measure to limit the movement throughout the room," said Claire Woodall-Vogg, the election commission director of the city of Milwaukee, where poll workers were spread out into 12 different pods to limit contact.

Wisconsin health officials reported 5,771 new coronavirus cases Tuesday, a new record.

In Indiana, the Republican candidate for attorney general tested positive for COVID-19 after developing "some symptoms," his campaign announced Tuesday. Former U.S. Rep. Todd Rokita had been quarantining with his family after learning he was exposed to the virus, it said.

Hand sanitizer on voters' hands caused a ballot scanner to jam at a polling place in Des Moines, Iowa, secretary of state spokesman Kevin Hall said.

Hall said some voters' hands were moist when they handled the ballots and the buildup of sanitizer eventually caused the scanner to stop working. The machine was fixed in about an hour.

Meanwhile, Iowa hospital officials warned that facilities and staff could be overwhelmed without serious efforts to curtail the virus spread. The seven-day rolling average of the state's positivity rate reached 36.4% over the weekend, the third-highest in the nation behind South Dakota and Wyoming, according to researchers at Johns Hopkins University. Hospitalizations reached a record 730 on Monday.

Suresh Gunasekaran, CEO of University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, said the state is entering its third peak, one that is higher than previous ones in May and July. He said his biggest concern is that this peak comes at the beginning of the cold weather season, when the flu and other respiratory conditions typically increase hospitalizations.

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"The infection rate is definitely a leading indicator for hospitalizations, and the hospitalization rate is a leading indicator of mortality," Gunasekaran said.

Health officials in Nebraska said hospitalizations have doubled in recent weeks, reaching a record 613 on Sunday.

"No doubt if this trend continues — not just at our hospitals — but every hospital in the state could be at capacity in a very short period of time," 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.

In Missouri, leaders of several rural hospitals raised alarms about bed capacity during a conference call last week with Republican Gov. Mike Parson, who drew renewed fire from his Democratic election challenger for his refusal to issue a statewide mask mandate. Missouri's health department reported 1,659 hospitalizations statewide Monday, surpassing by 10 the previous record set a day earlier. Among the five additional deaths was a 13-year-old boy, the first child under 14 to die from the virus in Missouri.

New Mexico's hospitalizations marked a new high for the 12th day in a row, with 401 reported Tuesday. The state also set a record for the number of COVID-19 cases reported in a single day, 1,141. In Colorado, officials said more residents have been hospitalized with the coronavirus than at any time since a peak in April.

Trump's insistence that the U.S. is "rounding the turn" on the virus angered many voters confronting figures that tell a different story.

The virus has killed more than 232,000 people in the country, and total confirmed coronavirus cases have surpassed 9 million. As hospitalizations have climbed, so have deaths. The seven-day rolling average for deaths from COVID-19 has risen over the past two weeks from about 58,424 on Oct. 19 to 83,805 on Monday, according to Johns Hopkins researchers.

"The fact that he (Trump) acts like this is a fake virus that the entire world is out to get him out of office shows just how convoluted his thinking is," said Carrie Rogers, 44, a software development manager from Mount Laurel, N.J., who dropped off her ballot for former Vice President Joe Biden in one of hundreds of locked boxes set up around the state.

Of equal concern is the fear of more economic pain if the country heads into another round of lockdowns to contain the virus. While the U.S. economy grew at a record 33.1% annual rate in the July-September quarter, it has yet to fully rebound from the plunge in the spring.

Trump's message prioritizing economic recovery over virus containment resonated with voters like Jason Schanta, a business owner and father of twin 13-year-old boys from Fountain Valley, California. He said his business was doing well before the pandemic, motivating him to vote for the president.

"I don't trust Biden to get it open," Schanta said of the economy.

But there were signs of the virus' resurgence hampering economic reopening even without government shutdown orders, as a fearful public stays away from riskier activities.

Cruise Lines International Association, which represents the bulk of the cruise industry, said its members are extending the suspension of U.S. sailing operations through the end of the year, just days after the U.S. government effectively lifted its no-sail order. The cruise industry group estimates that the suspension of cruises snuffed out more than \$25 billion in economic activity and 164,000 U.S. jobs.

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Olson reported from New York. Associated Press writers Amy Taxin in Orange County, California; Eric Olson in Des Moines, Iowa; Josh Funk in Omaha, Nebraska, and AP writers around the country contributed.

## **EXPLAINER: The unprecedented early voting, and what it means**

By DEB RIECHMANN undefined

WASHINGTON (AP) — An unprecedented 103.2 million people cast their ballots early in this year's presidential election.

The early birds represent 74.3 percent of the total turnout in the 2016 election. A tally by The Associated Press shows the early vote in several states, including hotly-contested Texas and Arizona, exceeded

the total vote of four years ago. In Kentucky, nearly 13 times as many voters cast their ballots early this year than in 2016.

WHY:

Some people wanted to avoid long lines and crowded polling stations to avoid contracting the coronavirus. Others liked the convenience of voting by mail or dropping their ballot in an official collection box. Many states also have changed regulations to facilitate voting by mail, or at early voting polling places. And some just were eager to cast ballots in the matchup between President Donald Trump or Democrat Joe Biden.

Every state offers the opportunity to cast early ballots — some by mail, some by person, some both. When those votes are processed and tallied varies by state. Some are tallied before Election Day, on Election Day when the polls open or close or not until after Election Day.

WHAT IT MEANS:

High numbers of early votes could mean it might take longer to get results. Some states let election clerks get a head start in verifying early votes. But in some of the key presidential battleground states, clerks aren't allowed to do that, or they are given a limited time to do it, which will slow the count.

## EXPLAINER: Looking at Election Day misinformation

By The Associated Press undefined

WASHINGTON (AP) — One key concern about Election Day 2020 in the United States: misinformation, disinformation, and how they could affect the way Americans vote. Here's a look at what's been seen so far Tuesday, direct from Karen Mahabir, fact check and misinformation editor for The Associated Press.

ON WHAT HER TEAM HAS SEEN SO FAR:

"We've seen a lot of small things. There's been a lot of what we expected — regular problems at polling stations that are blown up into something more than they are, which we totally thought would happen. We've seen a lot of attention on Pennsylvania," a swing state that many believe will be pivotal in the decision.

ON WHAT SHE EXPECTS IN COMING HOURS AS POLLS CLOSE:

"What we're going to see is what we see a lot on a day-to-day basis — old material, old posts, old videos being passed off as new."

ON WHAT HER TEAM IS WATCHING ESPECIALLY CLOSELY:

"I think a lot of this stuff is magnified today. So we need to check ourselves and make sure our judgment is spot-on and that we're not amplifying anything."

ON WHAT HAPPENS IF WORD OF A WINNER IS DELAYED:

"My concern is that if we don't have a winner, that leaves a space for people to step in with supposed answers. So I'm concerned with what Wednesday might look like if the race isn't called."

## FBI investigates robocalls warning voters to 'stay home'

By DAVID KLEPPER and JOHN FLESHER Associated Press

TRAVERSE CITY, Michigan (AP) — Voters across the U.S. received anonymous robocalls in the days and weeks before Election Day urging them to "stay safe and stay home" — an ominous warning that election experts said could be an effort to scare voters into sitting out the election.

The FBI is investigating calls that seek to discourage people from voting, a senior official at the Department of Homeland Security told reporters Tuesday. Authorities wouldn't offer details.

The brief calls, which featured a computerized female voice, made no mention of the election. But given the lack of details, and the timing, the message was clear, according to Dan Doughty, a Kansas City resident who received the robocall Tuesday morning.

"It felt like voter suppression," Doughty told The Associated Press. "It was even so vague that whoever did it could say it was about COVID."

The automated calls were placed to residents in nearly 90 percent of U.S. area codes, according to an analysis by YouMail, a tech company that makes anti-robocall software. YouMail's findings were reported

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Tuesday in The Washington Post.

YouMail found that the calls began over the summer but increased dramatically in recent weeks. In October alone there were 10 million calls, according to Alex Quilici, YouMail's chief executive. On Tuesday, they were reported in states including Iowa, Kansas, Florida, Nebraska and Missouri.

"This is just a test call," the voice says in one version of the robocall. "Time to stay home. Stay safe and stay home."

Whoever created the robocalls used sophisticated tactics, routing the calls in a way that masked their identity and location, Quilici said. And unlike most robocalls, the message didn't ask for personal information or urge respondents to take any particular action — suggesting confusion and fear may have been the goal.

Those could all be clues as to who is behind the effort, he said.

"It's not a 12-year-old with a computer. This feels like maybe it's state sponsored," Quilici said. "If you want to cause mischief, you want to do it to everybody."

In a statement, the FBI said "We are aware of reports of robocalls and have no further comment. As a reminder, the FBI encourages the American public to verify any election and voting information they may receive through their local election officials."

The Homeland Security official, who spoke on the condition that they not be further identified, cautioned that "robocalls of this nature happen every election" and advised people to "keep calm, vote on."

Officials warned of a separate spate of robocalls made Tuesday to voters in Flint, Michigan, suggesting falsely that they could wait until Wednesday to vote in person because of long lines at polling places on Tuesday. In fact, Tuesday is the last day to vote.

"Obviously this is FALSE and an effort to suppress the vote," Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel tweeted. "No long lines and today is the last day to vote. Don't believe the lies! Have your voice heard!"

Michigan is a critical swing state that President Donald Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden have both targeted in the campaign's final days. Flint is a heavily Democratic city and the majority of its residents are Black.

Nessel filed charges Oct. 1 against two political operatives accused of orchestrating a series of robocalls "aimed at suppressing the vote" in the general election. The calls went to nearly 12,000 Detroit-area residents, she said.

Those calls falsely claimed that voting by mail would allow personal information to become part of a database used by police and creditors to trace people for mandatory vaccines, Nessel said.

Associated Press writer Frank Bajak contributed to this report from Boston. Klepper reported from Providence, R.I.

## 'Vote and get home,' anxious voters say on Election Day

By CLAIRE GALOFARO AP National Writer

She carefully planned a five-hour drive to the polling place in her Tennessee hometown to vote on Election Day. She considered the traffic, the weather, the surging coronavirus pandemic and — something she never imagined having to contemplate — the possibility of civil unrest in the aftermath of an American election.

The last four years have delivered so many shocks that anything seemed possible to Lacey Stannard, the wife of a soldier. She had tried to get an absentee ballot sent to her home on a military base on the other side of the state. But the clerk in her hometown refused. A part of her thought it was crazy to drive 10 hours roundtrip to cast a Democratic vote in deep-red Tennessee, but a larger part thought it was worth it to register her displeasure.

Many Americans who lined up before dawn to vote on Election Day are exhausted from constant crises, uneasy because of volatile political divisions and anxious about what will happen next. Like those who cast ballots early, their agony is not in deciding between President Donald Trump or his Democratic challenger, Joe Biden. Most made that choice long ago. Instead, those voting in record numbers say basic democratic

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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?

Stannard, a 28-year-old mother of two, hit the road Monday evening to arrive at the polls early on Election Day, only to turn around and rush home before an uncertain conclusion might aggravate a nation already on edge — fear she blames on the president's penchant for pitting people against each other.

"When the election results start trickling in, I would rather be safe at home, which is sad because never in my life... would I have thought I have to hurry up and vote and get home so that I wouldn't have to be fearful," she said. "Which is one of the reasons I'm driving five hours to vote because I shouldn't have to feel that way."

Across the country, Americans say the stress of this election 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, as each side believes the other is threatening to usher in the end of America as we know it.

On Tuesday morning in the critical battleground suburbs of Detroit, 57-year-old Karama Mishkoo and her daughter planned to vote, go to work and immediately head home.

"Please, please, please don't go anywhere else," Mishkoo begged her daughter, 24-year-old Ashley.

Mishkoo, a devout Catholic and immigrant from Iraq, said she fled that country decades ago for peace, stability and freedom, and she's sad that now this nation seems so shaken. They support Trump, but didn't put signs in the yard because there's so much anger. Ashley Mishkoo said she'd seen the partisan vitriol piling up on social media and wondered: What if that cracks open in real life?

"This week is really scary," she said. "I'm just hoping, whatever way it goes, there's peace in our country."

In New York City, too, voter Nurit Dallimore likened the political climate to the "war zone" atmosphere of her native Israel.

"The country is so divided that I feel like it's not going to be good either way," Dallimore worried.

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 FBI 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. Some businesses boarded up their buildings.

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.

"I feel terrified in a world with Biden, absolutely terrified," said 69-year-old Susan Spence, a retired teacher in Powder Springs, Georgia. "I'm here because I believe in Americanism, not socialism."

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.

Olivia Tomlin, a 70-year-old in Nashville, said she lost family members to the virus, and still she supports the president.

"I voted for Trump because I think he was treated unfairly over the coronavirus, and I don't think it's anyone's fault. I think it's something that happened that we couldn't control," she said. "I still think it was beyond our control."

But Haydee Gregeda arrived Tuesday on her 75th birthday at a polling place in Brooklyn, using a walking stick and holding tight to her daughter's arm. She has had trouble walking since spending more than two weeks in an ICU battling coronavirus.

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"The president didn't pay attention to us, so where are we heading?" she asked. "Thousands and thousands more will die."

Early voting numbers 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 a rural stretch of upstate New York, Jim Czebiniak, 72 years old and semiretired, arrived to vote Tuesday at the town hall.

"I don't trust the way the mail is being handled, I don't trust the way ballots are getting ignored or thrown out," he said.

In Macomb County, Michigan, 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.

"I just don't trust anything anymore," he said — except for what he hears directly from Trump. He didn't trust the mailed ballots either, so voted in-person on Election Day.

In suburban Reston, Va., Michelle Scheatzle, 47, said casting her ballot for Trump Tuesday made her less anxious, because she felt she did her part. She feels like pressure has been boiling up, and she expects protests and unrest as the days unfold.

In Lexington, Kentucky, too, 26-year-old Jonaé Collins anticipated trouble this week. She never got her absentee ballot in the mail, so planned to go polls Tuesday afternoon. She was nervous. She wasn't sure how the crowds would act and how the discord in the country would play out after.

"I feel like with whoever wins, there's going to be outrage and that kind of scares me," she said.

In West Philadelphia, James "Sekou" Jenkins, a 68-year-old retired carpenter and mechanic, said he voted in person for Biden "to get that nut out of the White House." Jenkins fought for civil rights in the 1960s, and he said he feels like Trump is "drawing battle lines."

Mark Creighton in Lexington, South Carolina, voted for Trump in 2016, but he's come to agree with Jenkins.

"Trump's a maniac. He's an embarrassment to this country," said Creighton, 46, who voted for Biden as well as Sen. Lindsey Graham's Democratic challenger Jaime Harrison. Graham, he said, was Trump's puppet, and that "says a lot about his character."

He rebuked the president for inciting violence and refusing to condemn white supremacy.

Trump at a recent debate told a far-right group to "stand back and stand by."

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.

"Hatred is on the frontlines. People aren't afraid to be hateful anymore," said Sadiyyah Porter-Lowdry as she cast her ballot Tuesday in Charlotte, North Carolina. "It feels a bit different, but it also feels very much the same."

A lot of people were afraid to vote on Election Day, she said.

But she didn't want fear to stop her, so she marched into a Baptist church to cast her ballot.

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Associated Press journalists Sharon Cohen in Chicago; Michelle Liu in Lexington, South Carolina; Sophia Tulp in Atlanta; Jim Mustian and Luis Andres Henao in New York City; Jeff Martin in Powder Springs, Georgia; Michael Hill in Knox, New York; Teresa Walker in Nashville; Sarah Blake Morgan in Charlotte, North Carolina; Natalie Pompilio in Philadelphia; and Hannah Fingerhut contributed to this report. Galofaro reported from Macomb County, Michigan.

## EXPLAINER: What's happening with Election Day 'robocalls'?

By KEVIN FREKING Associated Press

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WASHINGTON (AP) —

Election officials in a handful of states are warning voters to disregard “robocalls” urging them to stay home rather than go to the polls. It’s unclear whether the calls are part of any partisan agenda. They have hit Republican-leaning states as well as Democratic ones.

WHAT ARE THE ROBOCALLS?

One series of them appears to have gone out around the country and doesn’t reference the election. Another appears targeted specifically at voters in Flint, Michigan, a Democratic stronghold with a large African-American population.

WHAT ELECTION OFFICIALS ARE SAYING

Election officials in Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa are among those who say they have received reports urging voters to “stay home and stay safe.” Some officials are sending a different message.

“Our polling places across the state are open. Our voters and our poll workers will be kept safe,” Nebraska Secretary of State Robert Evnen tweeted. “Elections matter and your vote counts.”

“Disregard these calls. If you have not already voted, today is the day!” said a tweet from the Kansas secretary of state’s office, which is overseen by Secretary of State Scott Schwab, a Republican.

The FBI is investigating calls that seek to discourage people from voting, a senior official at the Department of Homeland Security told reporters Tuesday. Authorities wouldn’t offer details.

HOW IS MICHIGAN DIFFERENT?

Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel said her office was getting reports of multiple robocalls telling Flint residents that, due to long lines, they should vote on Wednesday.

“Obviously this is FALSE and an effort to suppress the vote,” Nessel tweeted. “No long lines and today is the last day to vote. Don’t believe the lies! Have your voice heard!”

Michigan is a critical swing state that Donald Trump and Joe Biden have both targeted in the campaign’s final days.

Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer says her office has received reports of an “unknown party” purposely spreading misinformation in Flint in an attempt to confuse voters. “Let me be clear — if you plan to vote in-person, you must do so, or be in line to do so, by 8 p.m. today,” she tweeted.

## Fascinated and trepidatious, world braces for America’s vote

By JOHN LEICESTER Associated Press

SAINTE MARIE DU MONT, France (AP) — In one of the towns in Normandy where U.S. Army paratroopers fought and died on D-Day in World War II, a French store owner already has readied the “Trump 2020” flag that he plans to unfurl in celebration if the U.S. president wins a second term.

But in Sweden, a scientist alarmed by the increasing signs of global warming she witnessed on her latest Arctic research trip is hoping Trump is voted out, not simply because she believes Democrat Joe Biden will do better against climate change but also because she wants to fall back in love with a country she now finds repellent.

Two voices, from among the multitudes of people across the globe for whom the U.S. election is not a faraway event in a faraway land but an impossible-to-ignore contest with stakes for the entire world. For many, that’s especially true in a year in which the scythe of the coronavirus cutting through millions of lives and livelihoods has driven home the need for countries to work together.

Because Trump has had such an outsize impact on global affairs -- tracing his own “America First” course and upending traditional alliances, friendships and norms -- the possibility of change in the White House has left the rest of the world even more captivated than usual by an election in which it has no say.

“America votes and gives the world a president,” tweeted the editor in chief of the Ashraq Al-Awsat newspaper, which is Saudi-owned and published from London.

As ballots were cast, global onlookers both fascinated and trepidatious braced for the butterfly effect of America’s choice and its knock-on effects big and small. A very real feared repercussion for some was the prospect of a reelected Trump further closing pathways to immigrants and some visitors.

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"Trump makes these unexpected decisions out of nowhere and the lives of millions are changed," said Ishan Kalra, a doctoral student in linguistics from India who fears her studies in the United States could be cut short. "It's on my mind all the time."

By often refusing to be a team player on global initiatives, including pulling the U.S. out of international efforts to slow climate change and withdrawing from the World Health Organization in the midst of the virus pandemic, Trump dismayed many around the world who long for U.S. engagement and leadership.

That includes Gunhild Rosqvist, a Stockholm University professor just back from her latest trip studying climate warming's impact on Arctic communities. She'll be keeping a close eye on her smartphone as election results come in, hoping that Biden wins and reengages with pressing global problems.

"If America drops out even more from the global agreements, it's going to be bad," Rosqvist said. "If Trump wins, it means that half of the population in America thinks he's doing a good job, and that's scary because then that means they don't care."

In the suburbs of Paris, the founder of a Black literature book club said that if Trump is reelected, her first thought will be that it's a signal French nationalist far-right leader Marine Le Pen also could win in France's 2022 presidential election. Laurie Pezeron said Trump's unabashed nationalism and flirting with far-right groups has emboldened extremists beyond U.S. shores who now "express themselves far more freely and aren't ashamed of their supremacist views."

The particularly rancorous nature of the battle for the presidency made it a ready target for critics' jibes. In Africa, commentators noted the irony of the Trump administration voicing concerns about election irregularities in Tanzania as Trump himself makes unsupported claims about voting fraud in the U.S. campaign.

Iran's supreme leader also couldn't resist an Election Day dig.

"The incumbent president ... says this is the most-rigged U.S. election throughout history," Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said in a televised address Tuesday. "His opponent says Trump intends to widely cheat. This is American democracy."

But in the Normandy town of Sainte Marie du Mont, store owner Philippe Tanne was relishing the spectacle of America voting in the only election he cares about outside France.

Before the pandemic, the former soldier traveled to the United States two or three times a year because "I really love the country, the way of life. For us, it represents freedom."

If Trump wins, he'll proudly fly his "Trump 2020" flag at the front of his store that sells military memorabilia, facing the village square where U.S. forces fought off Nazi occupiers in 1944 and the church where bullet holes left by the squirt of a machine gun remain visible in the confessional's wooden panels.

"I'd like to have a president in France who thinks a bit like him," Tanne said. "He says, 'Americans first, let's make America work for us.' I'd like to have a French president who says 'the French first.'"

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Nasser Karimi in Tehran, Iran; Sarah El Deeb in Beirut, Lebanon; Cara Anna in Nairobi, Kenya; Sheikh Saaliq in New Delhi, and AP journalists elsewhere in the world contributed.

## **EXPLAINER: When do Electoral College votes need to be in?**

By DEB RIECHMANN Associated Press

IS THERE A DEADLINE BY WHICH THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE MUST OFFICIALLY HAVE ALL ITS VOTES IN?

Election Day is only one point in the process of the Electoral College, which decides who wins a U.S. presidential race.

After the polls close, states begin to count and certify popular vote results according to their respective rules. Federal law then requires governors to prepare, "as soon as practicable," official certificates to report the popular vote in the state. These documents, often signed by governors, must carry the seal of the state. One copy is sent to the archivist of the United States.

Electoral College electors in each state don't vote until Dec. 14. The electors' votes typically align with the popular vote in each state. But not all states require the votes cast by electors to mirror the popular

vote. Certificates recording the electoral vote results in each state must be received by the president of the Senate and the archivist no later than Dec. 23.

The official results of the electoral votes are sent to the new elected Congress, which is set to meet in a joint session on Jan. 6, 2021, and announce the results.

## Gunman who killed 4 in Vienna attack had sought to join IS

By PHILIPP JENNE and GEIR MOULSON Associated Press

VIENNA (AP) — A man who had previously tried to join the Islamic State group rampaged in Vienna armed with an automatic rifle and a fake explosive vest, fatally shooting four people before he was killed by police, Austrian authorities said Tuesday.

Witnesses described dozens of screaming people fleeing the sounds of gunshots Monday night in a nightlife district crowded with revelers enjoying the last hours before a coronavirus lockdown.

Others barricaded themselves inside restaurants for hours until they were sure the danger had passed. Video that appeared to be from the scene showed a gunman, dressed in white coveralls, firing off bursts seemingly at random as he ran down the Austrian capital's dark cobblestone streets.

While the attack lasted just minutes, authorities said only on Tuesday afternoon that there was no indication of a second attacker — adding to tension in the capital as residents were urged to stay home.

Two men and two women died from their injuries in the attack — including one German woman, according to Germany's foreign minister. Authorities said a police officer who tried to get in the way of the attacker was shot and wounded, along with 21 other people.

The suspect was identified as a 20-year-old Austrian-North Macedonian dual citizen with a previous terror conviction for attempting to join the Islamic State group in Syria. Police searched 18 properties as well as the suspect's apartment, detaining 14 people associated with the assailant who are being questioned, Interior Minister Karl Nehammer said.

"Yesterday's attack was clearly an Islamist terror attack," Chancellor Sebastian 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 armed with a fake explosive vest, an automatic rifle, a handgun and a machete, according to Nehammer. Before the attack he posted a photograph on a social media account showing him posing with the rifle and machete, Nehammer said.

Fejzulai was sentenced to 22 months in prison in April 2019 but was granted early release in December.

"The fact is that the terrorist managed to deceive the judicial system's deradicalization program" to secure his release, Nehammer said, adding that the system should be reevaluated.

He also said that an attempt to strip Fejzulai of his Austrian citizenship had failed for lack of enough evidence.

The Islamic State group on Tuesday claimed credit for the Vienna attack, calling the perpetrator a "soldier of the Caliphate." The claim of responsibility was published through the militant group's media arm, Amaq. It didn't elaborate on the attacker's ties to IS and had similar wording to past, opportunistic claims by the group.

IS also released a video through Amaq of what is said was the attacker, Fejzulai, whom it called Abu Dujana al-Albani — apparently a nom de guerre — showing him pledging allegiance to the Islamic State group. It wasn't clear when the video was filmed.

In North Macedonia, police said a list of suspects sent by Austria included two others with dual Austrian and North Macedonian citizenship.

In Switzerland, police in the city of Winterthur said an 18-year-old and a 24-year-old were arrested in consultation with Austrian authorities. Investigators are now trying to determine the nature of the two men's contact with the Vienna suspect.

Some of the circumstances of the Vienna shooting are reminiscent of the case of Usman Khan, who stabbed two people to death in 2019 in central London. Khan had been sentenced to 16 years in prison

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after being convicted for his role in a plot to bomb the London Stock Exchange. He was released in December 2018 after serving half his sentence, as are most prisoners in Britain. While in prison, Khan had begun working with a program that seeks to rehabilitate criminals through storytelling and workshops.

Nikolaus Rast, Fejzulai's lawyer in the 2019 case, told public broadcaster ORF that his client had seemed "completely harmless" at the time.

"He was a young man who was searching for his place in society, who apparently went to the wrong mosque, ended up in the wrong circles," Rast said.

Fejzulai's family "wasn't radical," Rast added. "I still remember that the family couldn't believe what had happened with their son."

Authorities worked well into Tuesday to determine whether there were any other attackers, with some 1,000 police officers on duty in the city. People in Vienna were urged to stay at home if possible on Tuesday, and children did not have to go to school.

By mid-afternoon, investigators sifting through copious video evidence had found "no indication of a second perpetrator," Nehammer said. "But because the evaluation is not yet concluded, we cannot yet say conclusively how many perpetrators are responsible for the crime."

For the time being, an elevated security level will remain in place in Vienna, he said. The country held a minute of silence at midday Tuesday, accompanied by the tolling of bells in the capital, and the government ordered three days of official mourning, with flags on public buildings to be flown at half-staff.

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

Nine minutes later, it was over, Nehammer said.

Alois Schroll, an Austrian lawmaker and the mayor of the town of Ybbs, said he had just arrived at a nearby restaurant when the shooting began. He said he "saw many, many people running with their hands up high, they were in a panic and screaming."

Police "sealed off the entire restaurant," Schroll, 52, told The Associated Press. "People inside the restaurant were in shock, there were several women who were crying. And it wasn't until shortly before 1 a.m., that police finally let us out of the restaurant."

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.

The attack drew swift condemnation and assurances of support from leaders around Europe, including from French President Emmanuel Macron, whose country has experienced three terror attacks in recent weeks. U.S. President Donald Trump also condemned "yet another vile act of terrorism in Europe." Britain raised its terror threat level to severe, its second-highest level, following the attack in Austria and others in France.

Geir Moulson reported from Berlin. Associated Press writers Frank Jordans, Kirsten Grieshaber and David Rising in Berlin, Danica Kirka in London, and Konstantin Testorides in Skopje, North Macedonia, contributed to this report.

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

By MEHMET GUZEL and SUZAN FRASER Associated Press

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

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.

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Health Minister Fahrettin Koca identified her as 3-year-old Ayda Gezgin on Twitter. 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.

After she was pulled from the rubble, little Ayda called out for her mother, in video of the rescue broadcast on television.

But Ayda's mother did not survive. 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."

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 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.

"We will not lose hope (about finding survivors) until our search-and-rescue efforts reach the last person under the wreck," President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said following a Cabinet meeting.

Erdogan said around 6,700 people who lost their homes or were too frightened to return to them were being temporarily housed in tents. Authorities on Tuesday began assembling containers homes for the survivors, he added.

Meanwhile, the death toll in the earthquake climbed to 112, after emergency crews retrieved more bodies from toppled buildings in the city. Officials said 138 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.

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Suzan Fraser reported from Ankara, Turkey.

## 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

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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.

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: Long lines to vote on Election Day aren't unusual**

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Long voting lines on Election Day aren't unusual or necessarily a sign of that something nefarious is afoot.

They're often the product of something as simple as heavier-than-expected turnout for an important election like Tuesday's presidential, congressional and other races.

Long lines also develop when there aren't enough voting machines — either because some have malfunctioned or there just aren't enough of them to comfortably manage the turnout — or when poll workers don't show up for their assignments, leading to understaffing.

This year, polling places are putting social distancing measures in place because of the coronavirus pandemic, with voters who are in line encouraged to keep at least 6 feet (1.83 meters) apart — automatically making for longer lines.

Long lines materialized in many counties in many states during the past few weeks of early in-person voting because the early turnout was so heavy.

Nearly 100 million Americans voted early.

One scenario that could complicate Tuesday's voting: voters who decide to show up at the polls after getting a ballot in the mail, or not receiving one they requested.

Voters with mailed ballots can change their minds and choose instead to vote in person. However, poll workers will have to take extra steps to make sure the person won't vote twice, which is illegal. The same applies to someone who shows up to vote, claiming not to have received a ballot.

Many such cases could contribute to long lines because of the time needed to resolve these and other issues.

On the flip side, the high number of people who have already voted early — whether in-person or by mail — could turn out to be a benefit on Tuesday.

"There is a good chance that the voting on Election Day may be kind of light if a high percentage of the

vote is already in," said Tom Verdin, AP's national editor for state government.

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This story is part of a series dedicated to answering commonly asked questions from AP's audience about the 2020 U.S. presidential election.

## UK to roll out rapid COVID-19 testing in Liverpool

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.

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

## Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Nov. 4, the 309th day of 2020. There are 57 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 4, 2008, Democrat Barack Obama was elected the first Black president of the United States, defeating Republican John McCain.

On this date:

In 1842, Abraham Lincoln married Mary Todd in Springfield, Illinois.

In 1916, CBS newsman Walter Cronkite was born in Saint Joseph, Missouri.

In 1922, the entrance to King Tutankhamen's tomb was discovered in Egypt.

In 1956, Soviet troops moved in to crush the Hungarian Revolution.

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In 1979, the Iran hostage crisis began as militants stormed the United States Embassy in Tehran, seizing its occupants; for some of them, it was the start of 444 days of captivity.

In 1980, Republican Ronald Reagan won the White House as he defeated President Jimmy Carter by a strong margin.

In 1985, to the shock and dismay of U-S officials, Soviet defector Vitaly Yurchenko announced he was returning to the Soviet Union, charging he had been kidnapped by the C-I-A.

In 1991, Ronald Reagan opened his presidential library in Simi Valley, California; attending were President George H.W. Bush and former Presidents Jimmy Carter, Gerald R. Ford and Richard Nixon — the first-ever gathering of five past and present U.S. chief executives.

In 1995, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated by a right-wing Israeli minutes after attending a festive peace rally.

In 2001, NBC's "The West Wing" took eight honors at the twice-delayed Emmy Awards, including best dramatic series; HBO's "Sex and the City" won best comedy series.

In 2008, California voters approved Proposition 8, a constitutional amendment outlawing same-sex marriage, overturning a state Supreme Court decision that gave gay couples the right to wed just months earlier.

In 2014, riding a powerful wave of voter discontent, resurgent Republicans captured control of the Senate and tightened their grip on the House.

Ten years ago: Australian airline Qantas grounded all six of its Airbus A380 superjumbo jets after one of them blew out an engine over Indonesia; the plane made a safe emergency return to Singapore with 469 people aboard. An AeroCaribbean ATR 72 crashed in a mountainous area of Cuba, killing all 68 people on board. Hall of Fame baseball team manager Sparky Anderson died in Thousand Oaks, California, at age 76.

Five years ago: Justin Trudeau was sworn in as Canada's new Liberal prime minister. A factory building collapsed in Lahore, Pakistan, killing more than 50 people. At the Country Music Association Awards, Chris Stapleton won for male vocalist, new artist and album of the year for "Traveller." Hollywood screenwriter Melissa Mathison ("E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial") died in Los Angeles at age 65.

One year ago: The Trump administration said it had formally notified the United Nations that the United States had begun the process of pulling out of the 2015 Paris climate agreement. Iran broke further away from the 2015 nuclear deal with world powers by doubling the number of advanced centrifuges it operated. New York Police Commissioner James O'Neill, who'd been increasingly under fire amid a tug-of-war between reform advocates and police unions, announced his retirement. Former President Bill Clinton was among the speakers at the Detroit funeral of longtime U.S. Rep. John Conyers.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Loretta Swit is 83. Rhythm-and-blues singer Harry Elston (Friends of Distinction) is 82. Blues singer Delbert McClinton is 80. Former first lady Laura Bush is 74. Actor Ivonne Coll is 73. Actor Markie Post is 70. Rock singer-musician Chris Difford (Squeeze) is 66. Country singer Kim Forester (The Forester Sisters) is 60. Actor-comedian Kathy Griffin is 60. Actor Ralph Macchio is 59. "Survivor" host Jeff Probst is 59. Saxophonist Tim Burton is 57. Actor Matthew McConaughey is 51. Rapper-producer Sean "Puffy" Combs is 51. Talk show host Bethenny Frankel is 50. Actor Anthony Ruivivar is 50. Soul/jazz singer Gregory Porter is 49. Rhythm-and-blues singer Shawn Rivera (Az Yet) is 49. Celebrity chef Curtis Stone is 45. Actor Heather Tom is 45. Rhythm-and-blues/gospel singer George Huff is 40. Actor Emme Rylan is 40. Actor Chris Greene (Film: "Loving") is 38.