



ELECTION 2020



VOLUME LV

Sword & Shield

JAMES MADISON MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT NEWSPAPER

Are you eligible to vote?

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Register to Vote NOW!

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It's voting season, Spartans!

We are Maggie DiSanza and Jessica Jiang, the Co-Editors in Chief of the Sword and Shield. We overview the club, from weekly Monday meetings, to the creation of each month's paper, to J-CON! In this special Election Issue, we touch on important election topics such as voter registration information, candidate summaries, and the workings of the electoral college. We hope that you find it informational and inspirational! If you ever would like to contribute to the Sword and Shield, don't hesitate to reach out to memorialswordandshield@gmail.com. Good luck as school progresses Spartans, and remember: if you are eligible to vote, register by October 14th!



Maggie Di Sanza
Co-Editor-in-Chief



Jessica Jiang
Co-Editor-in-Chief

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GET INVOLVED

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE TO VOTE?

Check this quick guide to make sure you meet all the requirements to vote in Wisconsin!

Are you 18? All voters must be at least 18 years old on the day of the election, November 3rd. However, if you will be 18 years old by the next election and want to register at 17 years of age, you may.

Are you a U.S. citizen? A U.S. birth certificate or Certificate of Naturalization will confirm whether or not you are a U.S. citizen. However, you do not need these documents as proof when you vote. Only U.S. citizens may vote; people with a green card or visa status are not allowed to vote.

Have you lived at your current address for at least 28 days before the election? In order to vote, you must live at your current address at least 28 days before the Election. However, you may register before you have lived at your current address for 28 days if you will meet this requirement. If you have moved within the state within 28 days of the election, you may be able to vote from your old address until you have lived at your new address for 28 days. If you have moved to Wisconsin from a different state within 28 days of the election, you will be able to vote for President and Vice-President only until you have lived at your current address for 28 days.

Who is NOT allowed to vote in Wisconsin?

Anyone serving a felony sentence. If you are serving any part of a felony sentence (including probation or supervision), you will not be allowed to vote until you finish your sentence, have your rights restored, and re-register.

Anyone who has been determined to be incompetent by a judge. If a judge has determined you to be incompetent to vote, you will not be allowed to vote.

Anyone who has placed a bet on the outcome of the election. You are not allowed to vote if you make a bet on the results of the election (trying to make money off of the outcome).

Anyone who has already cast a ballot. A person can only vote once, whether that be through regular or absentee voting. For more information, visit <https://elections.wi.gov/publications/brochures/eligibility-guide>



JMM GENDER EQUITY ASSOCIATION GETTING ELIGIBLE STUDENTS READY TO VOTE!

With the 2020 Presidential election just around the corner, JMM's Gender Equity Association has been busy helping eligible students get ready to vote. Our members have been working in three key areas: helping eligible voters registered, teaching how to request an absentee ballot, and informing voters on how to correctly fill out a ballot.

Firstly, we created graphics on everything eligible voters need to know and do to vote this year. This infographic series includes a quick and easy eligibility checklist, a guide to registering to vote, info on how to vote by mail, how to correctly fill out a ballot, and why youth voters have the power to sway this election. Check out these infographics on page 4 and 5.

We are also holding a workshop on October 20th during lunch to educate voters on how to request an absentee ballot and how to correctly fill out an absentee or in-person ballot. Anyone and everyone is welcome, regardless of whether you are eligible to vote this year. Interested in joining? Email us at jmmgenderequity@gmail.com to receive the Zoom link!

REGISTER TO VOTE!

DEADLINE: October 14th, 2020!

STEP #1:

First, decide whether or not you would like to register to vote online or through mail / delivery! To register to vote online, you will need a valid, unexpired WI Driver's License or WI State ID Card. To vote by mail or delivery, you can complete your registration by delivering a proof of residence document to your Municipal Clerk's Office!

STEP #2:

Determine if you are eligible to vote. Ask yourself the following questions:

- Are you a United States Citizen?
- Will you be at least 18 by the time of the next election?
- Have you resided in Wisconsin for at least 28 consecutive days before the election?
- Are you currently serving a sentence for a felony conviction?

STEP #3:

Go to www.myvote.wi.gov to insert your full name, address, social security number (if you do not have a Wisconsin-Issued Driver's License).

STEP #4:

Look over your inputted information and verify that it is all correct (eligibility, full name, address, social security number, etc).

STEP #5:

Download, email, or print your registration information! Send this document - by mail or in-person - to your local Municipal Clerk's office along with proof of residence (Driver's license, bank statement, paycheck, utility bill, hunting license, IRS check, etc.)

**MUNICIPAL CLERK'S
OFFICE DANE COUNTY:**

Maribeth L Witzel-Behl
City Of Madison - Dane County
210 ML King Jr Blvd Rm 103,
Madison, WI 53703-3342

VOTING ABSENTEE IN WISCONSIN: A STEP BY STEP GUIDE

Planning to vote absentee this November? Every state has different rules on how to vote absentee, so if your place of residence is outside of Wisconsin, do not use this guide. To order a mail-in ballot, you must be registered to vote. The registration deadline for Wisconsin is October 14.

Ready to order your ballot?

Let's get started! It's best to request a mail-in ballot as soon as possible. While the request is done online, the process is not instantaneous. Your request must be approved, an absentee ballot has to be printed, sent to you via mail, then you must vote, and have it sent back before the deadline. Plus, there is a deadline for requesting an absentee ballot: October 29. The first step in ordering your ballot is to get a voter ID. A voter ID is a type of photo ID approved by Wisconsin to verify your existence. Some common forms of voter IDs for Wisconsin are: a Wisconsin driver's license, an ID issued by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, a U.S. passport, and a U.S. military ID. There are other valid forms of voter ID: visit myvote.wi.gov/en-us/PhotoIDRequired to see the complete list.

Know you have a voter ID?

Make sure to have it on hand while you register. The next step is to visit myvote.wi.gov/ and click "vote absentee." You will see a place to enter your name and date of birth. This will start the absentee ballot request process. The website will walk you

through all of the steps. You will be asked to enter relevant information, such as your address. During this process, you will be asked to upload a photo of your voter ID. Depending on the type of ID, there may be different steps to this process. For example, if using a passport, you will need to capture a photo of specific pages. Make sure to hit submit before the deadline! Your request will be processed as quickly as possible. To know the status of your ballot, check the myvote.wi.gov website.

Your ballot just arrived!

What's next? Fill out your ballot as soon as possible.

Your ballot must be delivered by 8pm on November 3rd. To be clear: the county must have your ballot by this time. So for this to happen on time, you must drop off or mail your ballot before then. Time to fill in your ballot! Make sure to have a blue or black pen and a witness. Any U.S. citizen 18 years or older can be a witness. They are here to confirm that you are actually the individual voting. Before you fill out your ballot, show the blank form to the witness. They must also watch you complete the ballot. Next, read the instructions! Done? Reread! Make sure you know the correct way to fill out your ballot. You will fill in the bubble next to the candidate you want to vote for. If you make a mistake, reach out to your county clerk's office. Make sure you request a replacement ballot as soon as possible.

You just completed your ballot!

There are still some important steps to complete before you are done. Put your ballot in the return envelope and seal it in front of your witness. Usually, this will be printed there by the city clerk. If not, make sure to put your name, address, city, and zip



code.

Both you and your witness will need to sign the outside of the ballot. Your witness will also have to print their name and address on the outside of the ballot.

All that's left is to return your ballot. You have a couple options. Just a reminder: your ballot must be delivered by 8pm on November 3rd otherwise your ballot will not be counted. Your first option is to mail your ballot back. This is a great option if you do not have the ability to use the other options. The possible downside is if the ballot is lost in the mail or is delivered later than the deadline. Make sure to mail your ballot at least a week before election day so you can make changes if need be!

Your other choice is to drop off your ballot as a designated location. In Wisconsin, you can drop off your ballot at your city clerk's office. Also, on election day (November 3rd), you can drop off your ballot at any polling place. Here is a list of locations and times to drop off your ballot in person: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/clerk/elections-voting/voting/vote-absentee/ballot-drop-off-sites>. This lets your ballot avoid the possible problems with mail.

Want to know when your ballot is delivered? Check myvote.wi.gov every couple of days!

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE YOUTH VOTE!

The importance of voting is one we're all aware of. Despite the constant reminder, youth statistically vote less. People under 30 vote 38 percentage points less than people over. But youth voting is especially important in a state like Wisconsin, and an election like the upcoming one.

Wisconsin is one of many swing states in America, states that switch between voting Republican and Democratic. Being close doesn't matter, whichever side we vote gets all of Wisconsin's votes. In the 2016 presidential election, Trump beat Hillary Clinton 1,405,284 - 1,382,536 in Wisconsin, making the voting gap 22,748. To put that into perspective, the population of Mid-

delton is about 19,784. That's a 1% gap. Even with a margin that close, all of Wisconsin's electoral college voters went to Trump.

Why are Wisconsin youth - specifically - so influential in this coming election? The 2020 Election Youth Electoral Significance Index, produced by the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning & Engagement at Tufts University in Massachusetts, predicts that voters ages 18 to 29 will have more influence on the presidential race in Wisconsin than in any other state. This is partially because of how many youth in Wisconsin usually vote, like in the 2018 and 2012 elections, as well as how close the last election was in Wisconsin. In the preliminaries in 2016, Wisconsin had the fifth highest voter turnout, but the percentage of eligible voters was only 68.33%.

The same thing happens in many other swing states as well - the lack of voting leads to a close election.

The research from Tufts University shows that some other states where young voters could change the outcomes are Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Florida, Iowa, Arizona, and Michigan. Young voters (Gen-Z and Millennials), make up about 37% of eligible voters, which is about the same percentage that baby boomers and pre-boomers make up as well. Given the interest in politics in the younger generation, why don't they vote? Well, it's simple. They intend to vote, and then don't. Whether it's the logistics of registering or something coming up the day itself, they just don't go through with it. American National Election shows that while 88% of 18-30 year olds intend to vote, only 43% actually do.

While the current youth of Wisconsin might be interested in politics, even with the intent to vote, the logistics of voting can hold back. So if you can vote this year, plan ahead, and make your voice in this upcoming election!

HOW TO WORK THE POLLS

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, there is still going to be in-person voting much like the April Primaries months ago. In order to run a successful election where people are able to vote safely and effectively, the city of Madison needs people to work the polls! Poll workers ensure that elections are fair, impartial, trusted, and open, and it is an incredibly rewarding way to be involved in the United States' electoral process. The City of Madison pays poll workers \$21.79 an hour, so not only will you be assisting in giving people their electoral voice, but you will be making an incredible wage!

So, I know what you're asking now: How do I become an election official? Well, there are a few qualifications you have to have. You must be at least 16 years of age, a United States citizen, have a strong attention to detail, be good at problem solving, and be an effective communicator. If you are under the age of 18, you must submit an Authorization Form signed by a legal parent / guardian. Once submitting the proper paperwork, around three to



five weeks before the election, the City of Madison will reach out to you asking for an assignment location depending on where you live! The City of Madison will provide all poll workers with proper protective equipment to keep poll workers and citizens safe while they vote. Remember to wear a mask, wash your hands, social distance, and isolate yourself if you think you have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. If you are interested in working the polls this November, or any election in the future for that matter, please submit your Authorization Form to madisonvotes@cityofmadison.com through email!

CANDIDATES

CANDIDATE OVERVIEW

Even if you are registered to vote, it is crucial that you make an informed decision on who to vote for! Here is a starting place if you do not know much about the candidates you will choose between this November!

President of the United States

**Note: These are only a few key issues that have been prevalent during the campaigning season in the past year. If you are interested in learning more about the specific candidates, please visit <https://www.politico.com>. Remember, these are only three of the most prominent candidates in the presidential race, there are a variety of others! See the 'What's On Your Ballot' section on page 10.*



Joe Biden

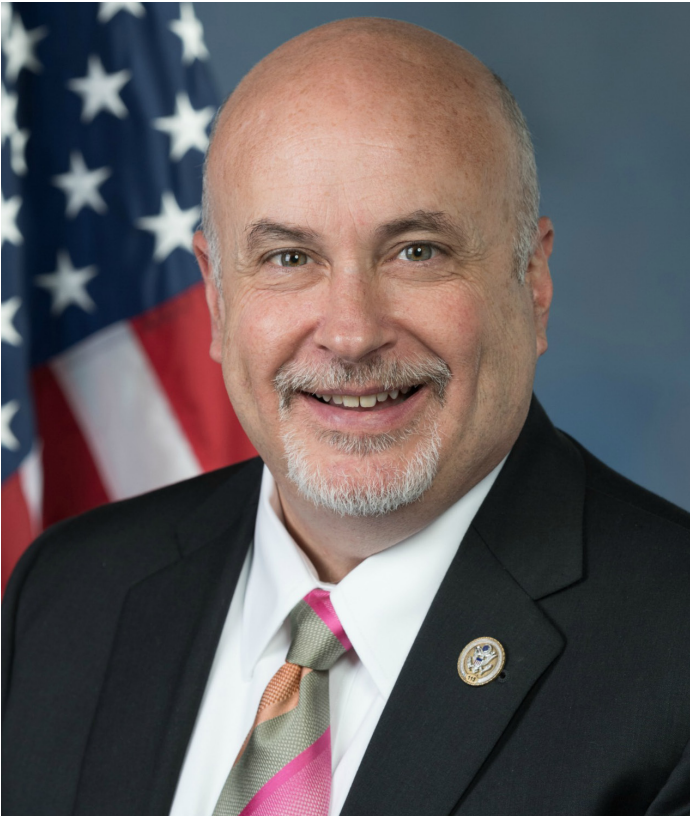


Donald Trump



Jo Jorgensen

| ISSUE: | JOE BIDEN | DONALD TRUMP | JO JORGENSEN |
|--|-----------|--------------|--------------|
| Should Federal Taxes Be Increased? | Yes | No | No |
| Should the Federal Minimum Wage Be Increased? | Yes | No | No |
| Should the United States Implement a Wealth Tax? | Yes | No | No |
| Should Schools Reopen During the COVID-19 Pandemic? | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Should the United States Enforce a Carbon Tax? | Yes | No | No |
| Should the United States Switch to a Medicare-for-All Healthcare System? | No | No | No |
| Should Abortion Be Legal? | Yes | No | Yes |
| Should the United States End the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Policy? | No | Yes | No |
| Should Fracking Be Allowed? | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Should the United States Adopt a Climate Change Plan such as the Green New Deal? | No | No | No |
| Should Student Loan Debt Be Forgiven? | Yes | No | No |
| Should Schools Be Gun-Free Zones? | Yes | No | No |
| Should the United States Implement a Universal Basic Income? | No | No | No |
| Should Federal Welfare Benefits Have Work Requirements? | No | Yes | Yes |
| Should Recreational Marijuana Be Legal | No | No | Yes |



Mark Pocan
Wisconsin Representative

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS DISTRICT #2

Mark Pocan has been a Representative of Wisconsin in the United States House of Representative since 2013, an Assembly Member in the Wisconsin State Assembly from 1999-2013, and was a Supervisor on the Dane County Board of Supervisors from 1991-1996. Pocan's major issues revolve around education, environmental reform, budget for social services, and healthcare. Throughout his entire career Pocan has fought to invest in public education and expand the budget for schools in Wisconsin.

Pocan is also an outspoken supporter of climate policy to make the country more energy efficient. Pocan believes in a tax on carbon, and is a supporter of the Green New Deal. Additionally, Pocan has historically been in favor of increasing the budget for social security services like Medicare and Food Stamps, infrastructure, research, and development.

Peter Theron was a 2016 and 2014 candidate for the same Congressional District seat he is now, but lost against Mark Pocan. Theron has been an advocate for energy independence, rebuilding the military, repealing Obamacare, and decreasing excessive federal regulations. In terms of his energy agenda, Theron hopes to research energy options in America that foster energy independence.

He also prioritizes the rebuilding of the United States military, and the defeating of terrorism. Throughout the entirety of his 2016 and 2020 campaign, Theron spoke outwardly against Obamacare, and proposed alternatives to expansive healthcare. Finally, Theron hopes to decrease federal spending, federal taxes, and calls for the rebuilding of the American economy through job creation and decreasing regulation of American business development.



Peter Theron
Wisconsin Representative Candidate

**VOTE! Go to
www.myvote.wi.gov**

WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT

Once you're registered and ready to vote, you still have to know what is going to be on the ballot! If you live in Dane County, Wisconsin, here is what you can expect to see on the ballot come November 3rd!

SECTION #1: President of the United States

- Joseph R. Biden / Kamala D. Harris (Democratic)
- Donald J. Trump / Michael R. Pence (Republican)
- Don Blankenship / William Mohr (Constitution)
- Jo Jorgensen / Jeremy Spike Cohen (Liberatarian)
- Brian Carroll / Amar Patel (American Solidarity)
- Write In (If you do not wish to vote for any of the candidates listed above, you can write in your own presidential candidate)

SECTION #2: Representative in Congress District 2

- Mark Pocan (Democratic)
- Peter Theron (Republican)
- Write In (If you do not wish to vote for any of the candidates listed above, you can write in your own presidential candidate)

SECTION #3: State Senator District #_

This depends on your specific district within Dane County. Visit www.myvote.wi.gov to see who your candidates are!

SECTION #4: Representative to Assembly District #1

This depends on your specific district within Dane County. Visit www.myvote.wi.gov to see who your candidates are!

SECTION #5: Dane County District Attorney

- Ismael Ozanne (Democratic)
- Write In (If you do not wish to vote for any of the candidates listed above, you can write in your own presidential candidate)

SECTION #6: Dane County Clerk

- Scott McDonell (Democratic)
- Write In (If you do not wish to vote for any of the candidates listed above, you can write in your own presidential candidate)

SECTION #7: Dane County Treasurer

- Adam Gallagher (Democratic)
- Write In (If you do not wish to vote for any of the candidates listed above, you can write in your own presidential candidate)

SECTION #8: Dane County Register of Deeds

- Kristi Chelbowski (Democratic)
- Write In (If you do not wish to vote for any of the candidates listed above, you can write in your own presidential candidate)

SECTION #9 & 10: MMSD

Vote 'Yes' or 'No' for two different referendum questions. See the full referendum statements at 'My Ballot.'



Ismael Ozanne
Dane County District
Attorney Candidate



Scott McDonell
Dane County Clerk Candidate

WHAT'S AT STAKE IN THE 2020 ELECTION

This year's 2020 election has a lot at stake. Many underlying issues in our society are being decided with this election, including the supreme court, economy, our country's values and racial violence.

First, the supreme court. On September 18th, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg passed away and Trump has nominated Amy Conroy Barrett as Ginsburg's successor. The Senate has sought to confirm Barrett as the Supreme Court Justice before the election but many argue that this is hypocritical because a similar situation arose in 2016 with President Obama when a Supreme Court Justice passed away and the Senate barred Obama's nomination. If a judge isn't appointed by this election, the person elected would be able to decide who fills the empty SCOTUS seat.

Many believed that the Supreme Court was impartial but after Ginsburg's death, the court could become biased with this empty seat deciding whether the court leans conservative or liberal for future issues. This could mean different rulings related to abortion, LGBTQ+ rights, gun rights, and more.

The economy is another debatable issue for the 2020 election. In February, U.S. markets reached record highs but due to COVID-19, we reached a bear market (prolonged price declines) by March. Numerous businesses closed temporarily and indefinitely. Many people lost their jobs and had to file for unemployment. In response to this, the federal government enacted a \$2.2 trillion stimulus and relief package to save our economy. But what was first

seen as a temporary measure to help us was now one of the only ways to help the people. After creating three stimulus and relief packages, the two sides of Congress are debating how to lead with the next one.

Currently, Republicans in Congress are calling for more aid for businesses, believing that boosting them will help people by strengthening the economy. Congressional Democrats have called for more individual aid like increased unemployment benefits to ensure families can afford day-to-day necessities thus strengthening businesses.

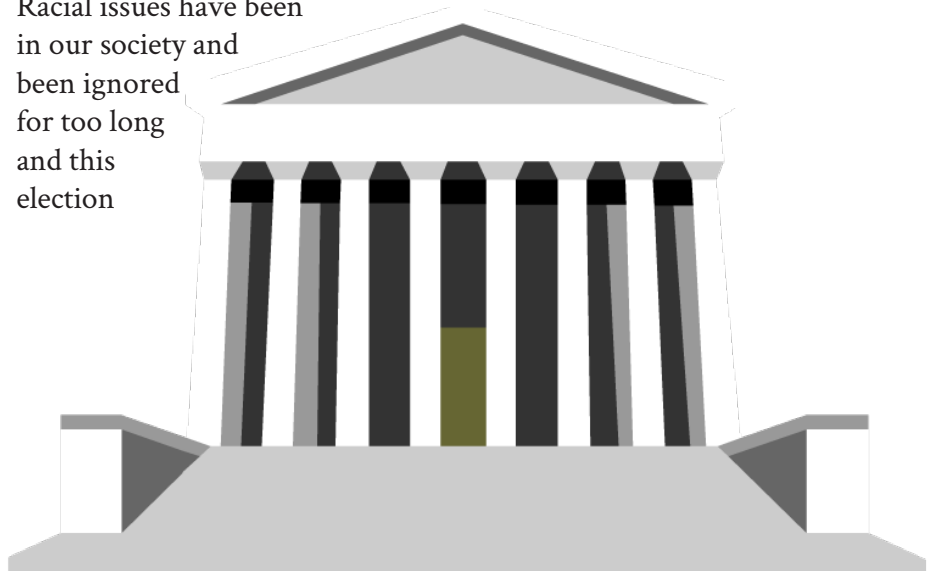
The Senate, which is closely split between political parties, is a deciding factor for the economy and how to help it so the government's role will be decided with whoever the winner of the election is. Another economical issue that will be decided with the election is the Federal Reserve Board. The Federal Reserve introduced a large number of new monetary stimulus measures and there are two empty spaces on the board. The winner of the election will have a major role in shaping monetary policies for the coming years.

Finally, racial violence issues will be acknowledged with this election. Racial issues have been in our society and been ignored for too long and this election

may be the culmination of the struggle the oppressed face. This year, people got tired of the injustice of police brutality and other racial issues and many took to the streets to protest. With these protests, they asked for change through the government and the laws but nothing has been done yet. Based on who is elected this year, this issue could be finding its resolution or could continue with people fighting for their rights.

Some believe that our country's ideals are being damaged with all that we are doing now. Some believe that the country's ideals are finally being lived up to. This election is a turning point for how the future will interpret and reflect our country's founding values.

The integrity of the election will be brought into question with the different circumstances we are facing. How we handle issues in our country and how politically polarized our Congress is: issues like these are on the line. This election could very well be one of the defining parts of our history based on who wins. It will determine many issues for the future and the best we can do is to vote with our beliefs and believe that this country will be better.



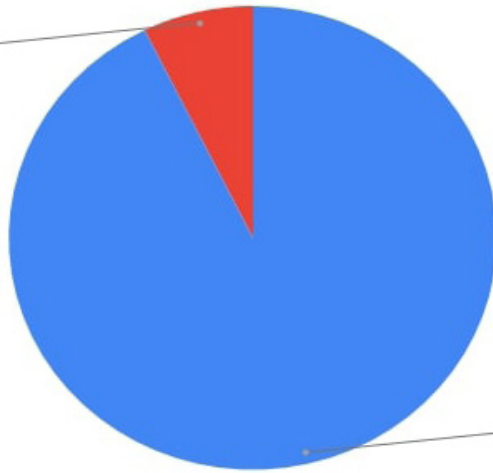
JMM PREDICTIONS

JMM SURVEY RESULTS

The Sword & Shield Editor Team surveyed the JMM Student Body to see who they would vote for in the upcoming presidential election, and who they predicted will actually win. We found that 7.3% of the JMM Student Body believes that Donald Trump should be the next president, and 92.7% of the JMM Student Body believes that Joe Biden should be the next president. Despite this, 68.3% said that Biden will actually win, 17.1% predicted Trump's win, and 14.6% reorted that they were unsure.

Choose your next President

Donald Trump
7.3%



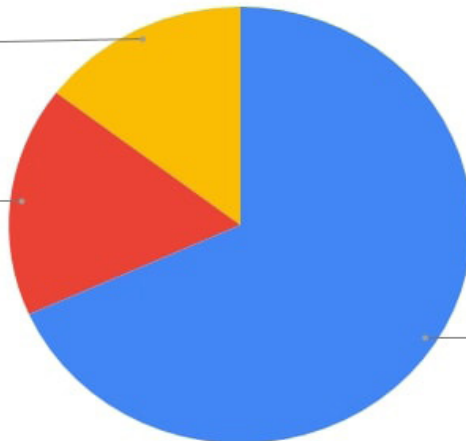
Joe Biden
92.7%



Who Do You Predict Will Win?

Unsure
14.6%

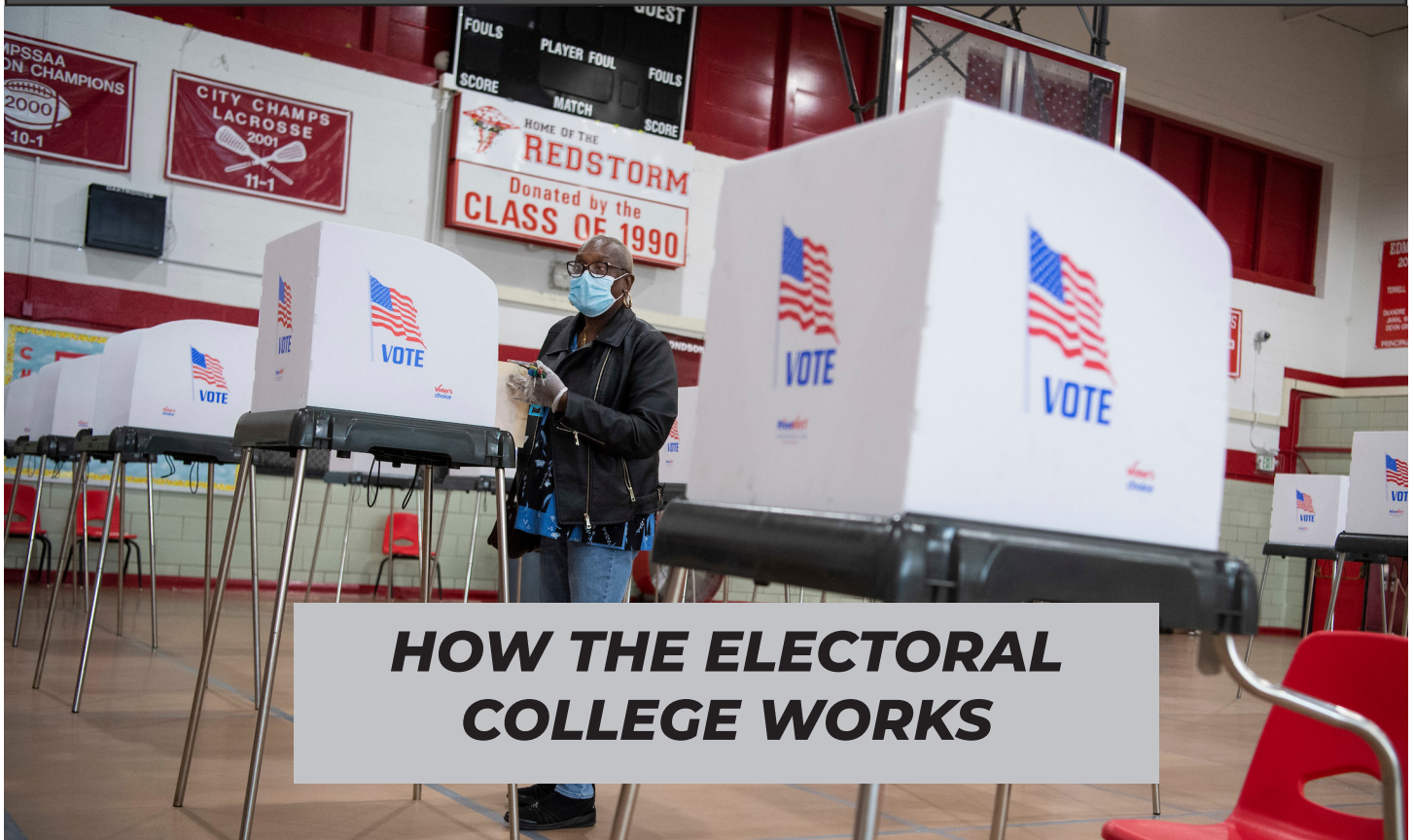
Trump
17.1%



Biden
68.3%



2020 PREDICTIONS —



HOW THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE WORKS

In US presidential elections, the winner is not whoever gets the most votes nationwide (what we call the popular vote), but rather who gets the most electoral college votes. In the electoral college system, the fifty states and the District of Columbia are assigned a certain number of electoral votes. Whichever candidate gets the most votes in a state wins all of the electoral votes for that state, and whichever candidate accumulates the most electoral votes wins the election.

Each state gets the same number of electoral votes as the number of US Senators and Representatives it has in Congress. That means each state will get at least a minimum of three electoral votes, because each state has two senators and at least one representative in the House of Representatives. The constitution requires that the number of representatives for each state be determined every ten years following a national census, so the number of electoral votes also changes every ten years. A big state like California - which has a population of nearly 40 million - currently has 55 electoral votes, while a small state like Wyoming has just three. While the District of Columbia is not represented in Congress, it does get three electoral votes in the presidential election. Since a national census took place this year, some of these numbers will be updated next year.

As of today, the total number of electoral votes is 538, since there are 435 representatives in the House, 100 Senators, and 3 electoral votes for DC. Because there are currently two major political parties, a presidential candidate needs to get 270 electoral votes, which is one more than half of 538. In the past, when more than two candidates received a significant part of the vote, the winner would only have to win more electoral votes than anyone else, but not necessarily the majority.

The electoral votes are not automatically assigned once a candidate has won a state. Between the election and Inauguration Day (January 20th), electors for each state will gather and vote for president. Traditionally, the

party for the winning candidate in each state will nominate the electors, who in turn will pledge to vote for their party's candidate. However, there are cases of "faithless electors" who do not vote for their party. In 2016, there were ten faithless electors. Although these electors did not change the outcome of the election, this was highly unusual.

There have also been rumors recently that President Trump's campaign may install electors loyal to him in key swing states with Republican-led legislatures, who presumably would back the action. If there is uncertainty about the results for those states on election night, his campaign could theoretically seize the moment to declare victory, nominate loyal electors and increase Trump's chances of winning a majority of the electoral college vote.

The most common criticism of the electoral college is that a candidate can win the election without winning the national popular vote by gaining the most electoral college votes. In 2000 and 2016, Republican Presidents George Bush and Donald Trump both won the electoral college vote without winning the popular vote. Furthermore, since electoral college votes matter more than the popular vote, candidates will usually campaign exclusively in swing states, where the possibility of victory could go to either candidate. Indeed, the swing state of Florida went to George Bush in 2000 by just 537 votes, ultimately winning him the presidency with its 25 electoral votes.

Originally, the electoral college was set up in the Constitution as a compromise between framers that thought the President should be chosen by the people and framers that thought the US Congress should decide. Over two centuries later, changing the electoral college would be exceedingly difficult, as it would require a constitutional amendment.



538 Senate prediction. Lighter colors indicate closer races.

THE BALANCE OF POWER

featuring *fivethirtyeight.com*

The following predictions are based on the renowned polling aggregation and political analysis website FiveThirtyEight, also known as 538. The site is best known for predicting the vote winner in all 50 states for the 2012 presidential election.

According to 538, Joe Biden has an 84 percent chance of winning the presidential election.

Democrats have a 2 in 3 chance of winning a majority of the Senate. Republicans currently hold the majority 53-47. In the case of a 50-50 Senate, the party of the next President will determine the Senate majority, because the Vice President is the determining vote.

Democrats have a 94 percent chance of keeping the House of Representatives majority. Currently, Democrats have 232 seats and Republicans have 197 seats. There is one Libertarian Representative and five vacancies.

Supreme Court justices do not have any political party affiliation. However, Republican-nominated justices have the majority on the court.

Following Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's passing, there are 5 conservative justices and 3 liberal justices. One of the conservative justices, Chief Justice John Roberts, is often considered a more moderate justice. He has sided with the liberal justices in several key 5-4 decisions.

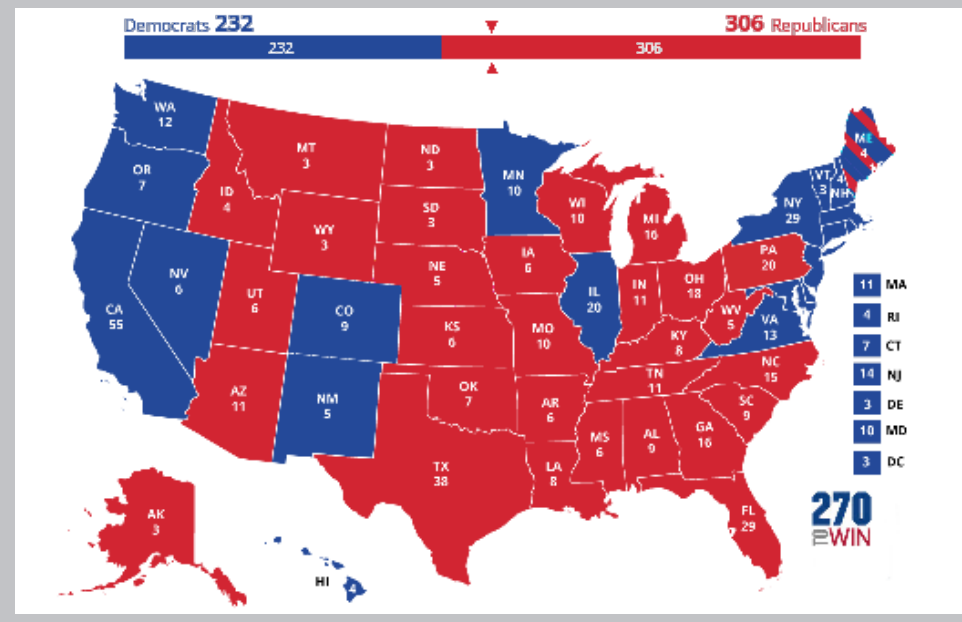
Donald Trump and GOP members of Congress are mostly united in their intent to appoint Amy Coney Barret, a conservative justice, to fill Justice Ginsburg's seat. If they are successful, conservatives will likely have a strong hold on the Supreme Court for several years or decades.

Aside from the Supreme Court, Democrats are currently on track to win control of the White House and both houses of Congress for the first time since 2009.

ELECTORAL MAPS

2016 RESULTS

not including faithless electors



What are the stripes for?

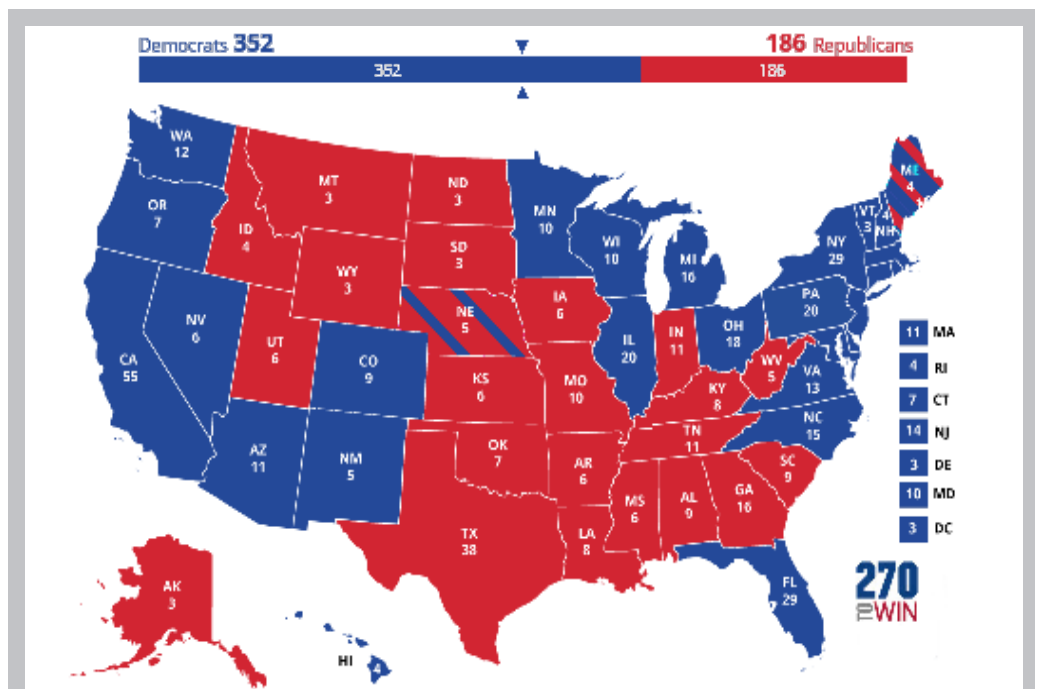
Nebraska and Maine are the only states that separate their electoral votes by congressional district instead of “winner-takes-all”. In both states, two electoral votes are given to the overall state winner, and then one electoral vote is given for each congressional district (2 in Maine and 3 in Nebraska). The stripes indicate that votes for Nebraska and Maine were split between both candidates.

Did you know?

In 2016, there were 7 faithless electors. 2 were originally pledged to Trump and 5 were originally pledged to Clinton. The actual electoral college vote was 227-304. Laws on faithless electors vary by state. Four of them incurred a \$1000 fine, while three were simply replaced by an alternate elector.

2020 PREDICTION

as of October 8th, 2020 on fivethirtyeight.com

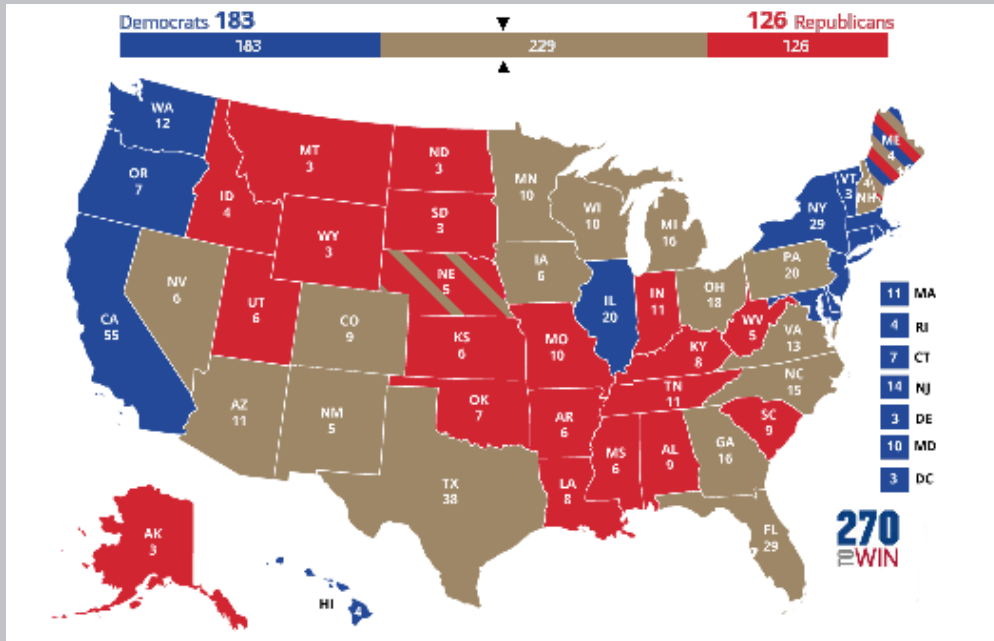


2016 COMPETITIVE STATES

WHICH STATES ARE COMPETITIVE?

Arizona and North Carolina are traditionally Republican states that are likely to vote for Joe Biden in 2020. As voter demographics change, Democrats have begun to overtake Republicans in Arizona, while races in North Carolina have tightened in recent years.

Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin are Rust Belt swing states that have historically leaned Democratic in presidential elections, but voted for



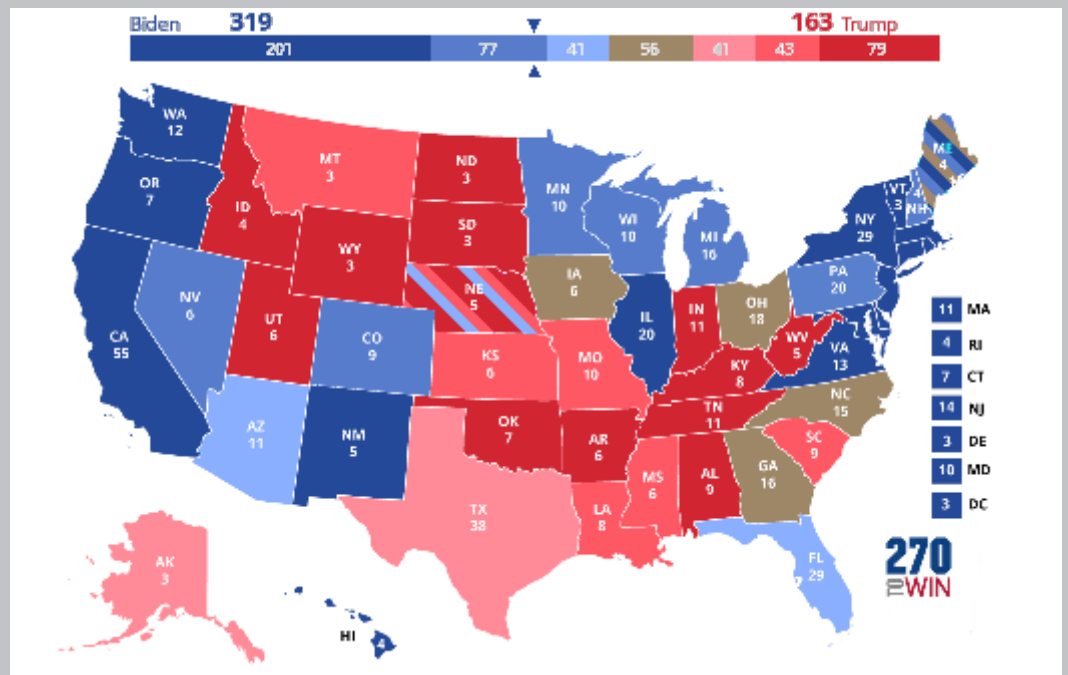
Donald Trump in the last election. They are expected to go to Joe Biden.

Ohio and Iowa are swing states that have begun to trend more Republican in recent years. They both voted for Barack Obama, a Democrat, in 2008 and 2012, then voted for Republican Donald Trump in 2016. They leaned Republican earlier this year, but became toss-ups at the beginning of October. Although traditionally considered solid Republican states, Texas and Georgia have increasingly moved to the left and may become true swing states within

the next election cycle. They are expected to vote for Donald Trump this year, but for the first time in decades, the Democrats have a chance of winning these two states. Joe Biden's campaign has made moves to start advertising seriously in both. New Hampshire, New Mexico, Nevada, and Minnesota are generally some of the tighter races in presidential elections, but they have all voted for the Democratic candidate in the past 3 elections

2020 COMPETITIVE STATES

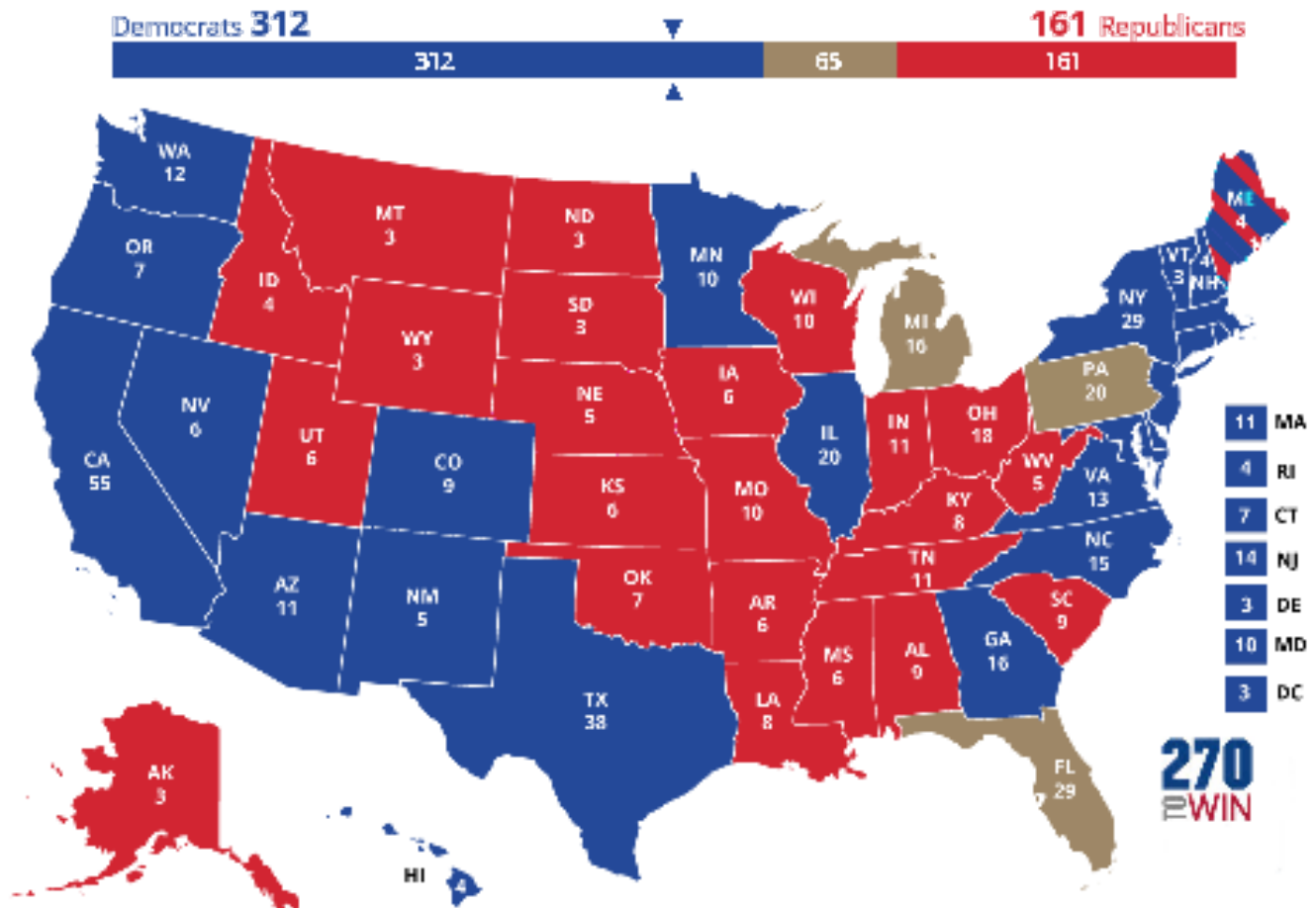
As of October 8th, 2020 on 270towin.com using an aggregate of 9 poll sources



and are considered very likely to do so again in 2020. Trump’s campaign has made plays for these historically lean-Democrat states but is highly unlikely to flip them. **Colorado** and **Virginia** were once swing states, but Democrats have strengthened significantly at the state level over the last decade. Republicans have especially lost their once-strong foothold in Virginia. Both states are likely to go to Joe Biden. **Maine** is notoriously independent and moderate in its politics, though recently it has become increasingly polarized between its conservative rural areas and liberal urban areas. It is likely that both parties will win a couple votes from Maine, but the state is not a dealbreaker for either candidate. **Florida** is a true swing state. Democrats and Republicans have each won the state three times in the last six elections, each time by margins of about 1 percent. In 2000, the initial count went to Republican George Bush by 537 votes (out of almost 6 million votes). With 29 electoral votes, this state is crucial in presidential elections. At the moment, Florida leans towards Joe Biden.

WHAT COULD THE FUTURE ELECTORAL MAP LOOK LIKE?

Swing states in the Sun Belt (the Southwest region of the country) like Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico and Colorado are increasingly trending Democratic, while the original “Blue Wall” in the Rust Belt and Midwest - states like Wisconsin, Iowa, and Ohio - may be moving to the right towards Republicans (although this change is less aggressive than in the Sun Belt). Meanwhile, traditionally solid southern Republican states Texas and Georgia are swinging quickly to the left and may soon become lean Democrat states. In the last few decades, Republicans have had a significant advantage in the electoral college, even losing the popular vote twice (2000 and 2016) but winning the presidency through the electoral college. With the loss of Texas and its 38 electoral votes, Republicans may be in serious trouble for future presidential elections.



A potential 2024 or 2028 electoral map. It’s not as clear where Michigan, Pennsylvania and Florida are headed politically.

ELECTORAL HISTORY

THE HISTORY OF VOTING RIGHTS

Voting is something everybody at or above the age of 18 technically can and should do right now. But, this wasn't always the case. Over the course of history, different people got their rights to vote at different times. Let's take a look at when people got this privilege, and how they got it.

1776: At this point, in concept, all men got the right to vote. But actually, only white men 21+ in age who owned land could vote.

1868: Because of the 14th amendment to the US Constitution, all men who had been born/naturalized in America were now citizens, so they could technically vote.

1870: The 15th amendment to the US Constitution, again, technically removed racial barriers in the voting process (except for Native Americans. They still couldn't vote.) In reality, there were still many other things to make the polls racist as well, such as literacy tests and poll taxes.

1910: In Washington, voters amended the State Constitution. Now, women could vote and run for office within the state.

1920: Because of the Women's Suffrage movement, women could now vote and run for office! The 19th amendment was ratified, and women could vote across the country.

1923: Voters in Washington State passed Initiative 40. This repealed the poll tax, one of the methods of voting discrimination.

1924: The Indian Citizenship Act finally gave Native Americans the right to vote.

1964: The Civil Rights Act was passed, so now all men and women older than 21, regardless of religion, education, or race, had the right to vote. The 24th Amendment to the US Constitution was ratified, which ended poll taxes nationwide.

1965: Because of the Federal Voting Rights Act, literacy tests were also eliminated.

1971: The 26th amendment to the US Constitution lowered the voting age to 18.

1975: The Federal Voting Rights Act was renewed, so literacy tests were permanently banned across the country.

1984: Because of the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act, voting centers needed to be accessible to people with disabilities.

2000: Because of sketchy ballot counting in Florida in the presidential election, many election reforms came into play.

2008: Washington beat the Supreme Court in a battle to make voters able to vote for whoever they want, despite party preference. This is called the "Top 2 Primary".

2020: Currently, there are over 150 million people registered to vote in the US.



ELECTION HISTORY 2000-2016

2000 ELECTION

Candidates:

Republicans

President: George W. Bush (Governor of Texas)

Vice President: Dick Cheney (U.S. Secretary of Defense)

Democrats

President: Al Gore (45th Vice President of the U.S.A.)

Vice President: Joe Lieberman (U.S. Senator from Connecticut)

Association of State Green Party

President: Ralph Nader (Founder of Public Citizen)

Vice President: Winona LaDuke (Activist from Minnesota)

Libertarian Party

President: Harry Browne (Writer from Tennessee)

Vice President: Art Olivier (Mayor of Bellflower, CA)

The 2000 election was one of the five historic instances where the winning candidate lost the popular vote. In this case, George W. Bush, son of former president George H.W. Bush, won the electoral vote by five votes and won the election while Al Gore won the popular vote by over half a million votes. Both of the major party candidates focused on domestic issues like tax relief, reform for federal social insurance, and budget. Al Gore's campaign was

heavily focused on finance reform, gun control, and plans

to spend the budget surplus on social welfare programs to help the poor and the middle class. Bush's campaign supported free market healthcare, expansion of Medicare, free trade, nuclear power, and expanded drilling for oil. On election night, people weren't sure who won as the electoral votes hadn't been counted for Florida. Afterwards, they found that Bush had won Florida by a margin of 0.009%, so state law required a recount. After a month-long battle, the recount ended and Bush won Florida and the election.

2004 ELECTION

Candidates:

Republicans

President: George W. Bush (Incumbent President of the United States)

Vice President: Dick Cheney (Incumbent Vice President of the United States)

Democrats

President: John Kerry (U.S. Senator from Massachusetts)

Vice President: John Edwards (U.S. Senator from North Carolina)

President George W. Bush and his running mate, Vice President Dick Cheney, ran for reelection and won the popular vote by 3 million votes and the electoral vote by 35 votes. Bush's electoral count increased from 2000 and he won over 50% of the popular vote.



President George W. Bush



Vice President Dick Cheney

2008 ELECTION*Candidates:***Republicans**

President: John McCain (U.S. Senator from Arizona)

Vice President: Sarah Palin (Governor of Alaska)

Democrats

President: Barack Obama (U.S. Senator from Illinois)

Vice President: Joe Biden (U.S. Senator from Delaware)

Green Party

President: Cynthia McKinney (Former Democratic Representative)

Vice President: Rosa Clemente (Activist from New York)

Libertarian Party

President: Bob Barr (Former Republican Representative)

Vice President: Wayne Allyn Root

With this election, Barack Obama became the first African-American President of the U.S. Obama won by a major amount: for the popular vote, he won by 10 million votes, and for the electoral vote, he won by around 190 votes. He flipped nine states that had voted Republican in 2004 and was the first Democrat to win an outright majority of the popular vote since 1976. One of the major issues discussed was the Iraq war, which McCain supported and Obama opposed. Another issue was healthcare, where McCain supported open market competition rather than a government controlled system while Obama supported universal healthcare.

2012 ELECTION*Candidates:***Republicans**

President: Mitt Romney (Governor of Massachusetts)

Vice President: Paul Ryan (U.S. Representative from Wisconsin)

Democrats

President: Barack Obama (Incumbent President of the U.S.A.)

Vice President: Joe Biden (Incumbent Vice President of the U.S.A.)

Green Party

President: Jill Stein (Doctor from Massachusetts)

Vice President: Cheri Honkala (Social Organizer from Pennsylvania)

Libertarian Party

President: Gary Johnson (Former Governor of New Mexico)

Vice President: Jim Gray (Retired State Court Judge from California)

Barack Obama and Joe Biden were reelected with over 300 electoral votes and 5 million popular votes. Of nine swing states, Obama won eight, but he won this election at a lower margin than 2008. For this election, several state laws were passed regarding voter ID's to combat voter fraud. Some states shortened early voting periods, some required state-issued IDs, and Florida and Iowa barred felons from voting.



**President
Barak Obama**



**Vice President
Joe Biden**