



# GOVERNMENT & LAW

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THE ELECTIONS

LifePrep  
EDUCATION SYSTEM



# ELECTION

Leading up to and on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, citizens of the United States will cast their vote for President and Vice President of the United States.

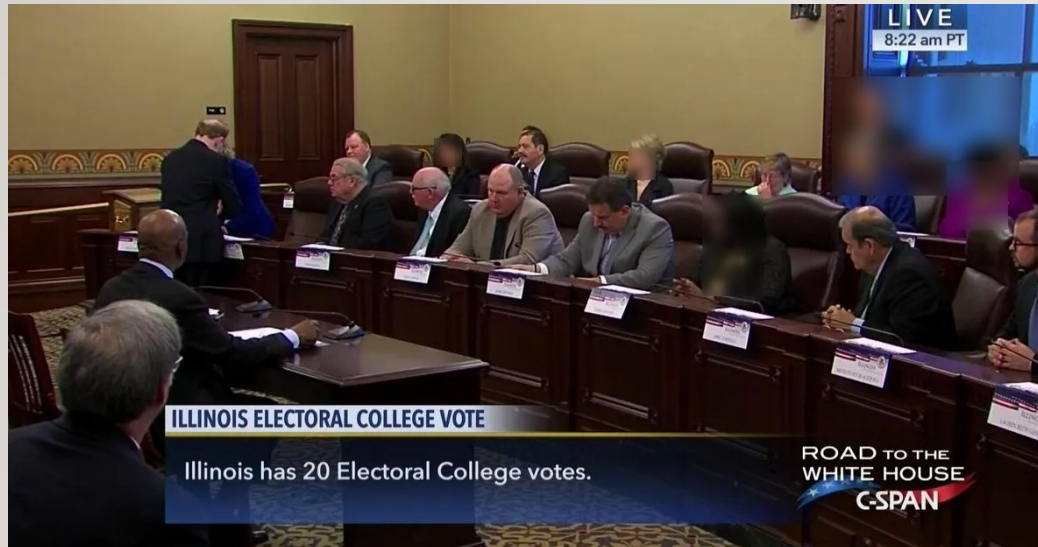
The 2020 election is the 59<sup>th</sup> presidential election in U.S. history.

# HOW DOES ONE WIN THE ELECTION?

THE WINNING CANDIDATE MUST WIN **270** OUT OF THE 538 ELECTORAL VOTES.

# ELECTORAL COLLEGE

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The electoral college is a group of officials whose job it is to choose the president and vice-president of the United States.

They meet every four years, a few weeks after election day, to carry out that task.

# HOW DOES THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE WORK?

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- Each state gets the same amount of electors as it has lawmakers in Congress.
- If a candidate wins the popular vote in a state, the candidate wins all the electors of that state.

Example:

New Jersey has 14 electors.

If Trump wins, he gets all 14 electors' votes. If Biden wins, he gets all 14 electors' votes.

# HOW DOES THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE WORK?

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There are only two states that don't follow the electoral college's "winner takes all" rule:

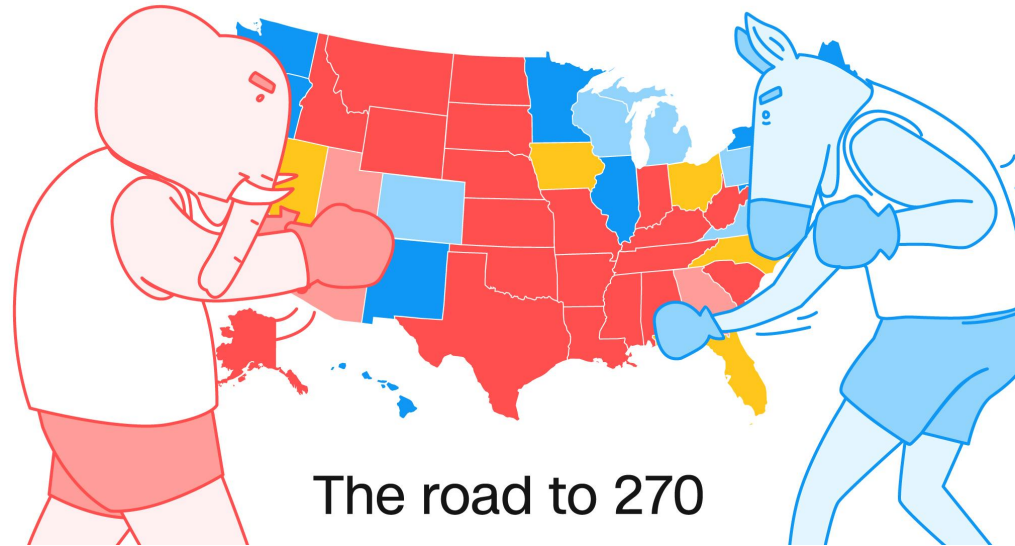
Maine and Nebraska

In these states, the winner of the popular vote in each of its congressional districts is awarded one elector. Whoever wins the popular vote of the state then gets the two remaining electoral votes.



## WINNING THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

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Each elector represents **one** electoral vote, and a candidate needs to gain a **majority** of the votes — 270 or more — to win the presidency.

To win the election, a candidate needs to win the popular vote in enough states to gain him 270 electoral votes.

# MAIL-IN BALLOTS

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Otherwise known as absentee ballots, a **mail-in ballot** is a vote cast by someone who is unable or unwilling to attend the official polling station to which the voter is normally allocated. Methods include voting at a different location, postal voting, proxy voting and online voting.

Because of Covid, mail-in ballots are being used in record numbers to avoid going to a physical polling site.





# MAIL-IN BALLOTS

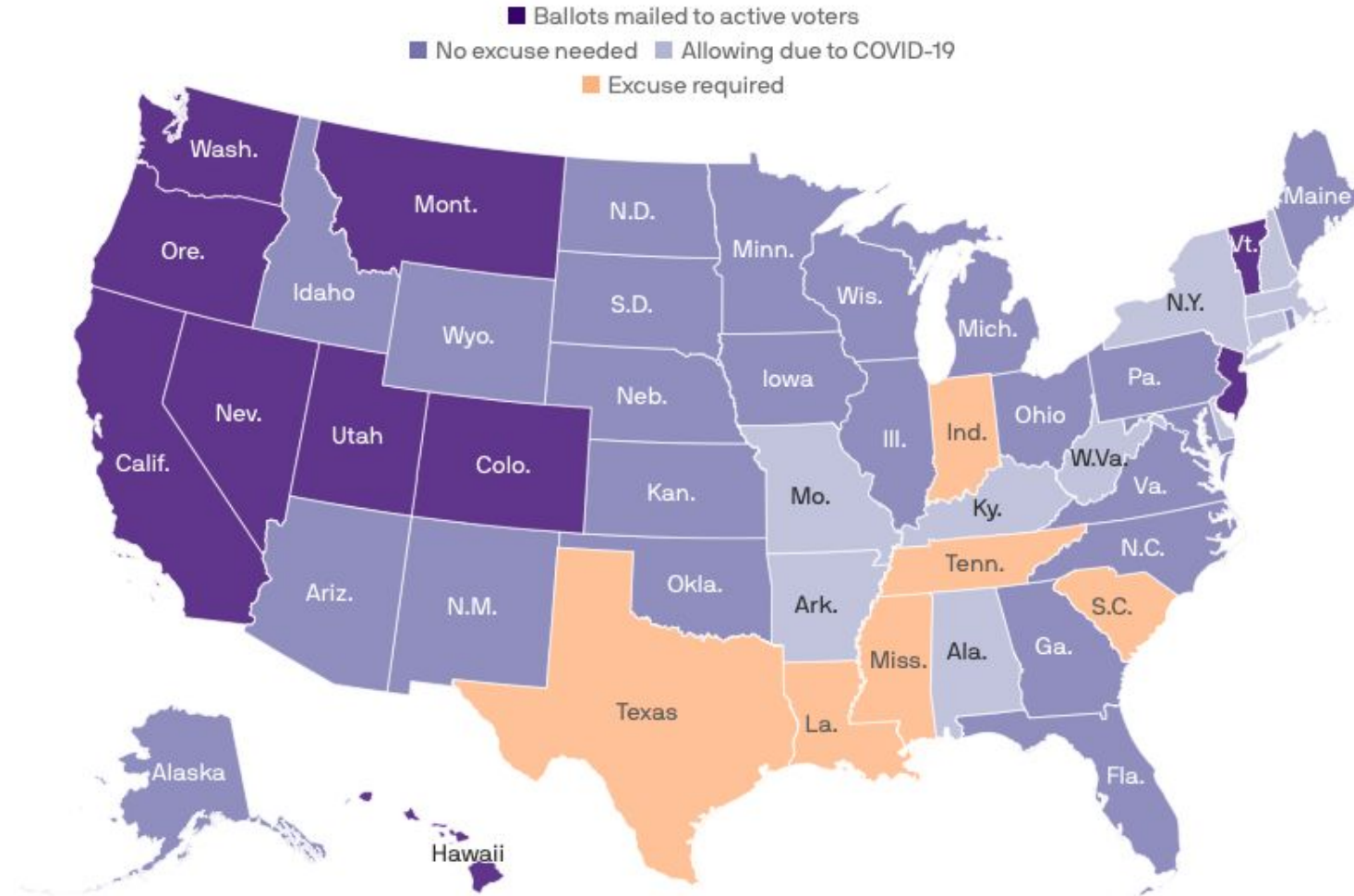
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There are three different systems for deciding where to send mail-in ballots:

- Send to everyone
- Send to everyone who requested
- Only send to those who have a reason

Every state has its own policy on how they deal with sending out mail-in ballots.

## Vote by mail rules by state



# DEMS VS. REPS ON MAIL-IN BALLOTS

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**There are more Democrat voters in the USA.**

They believe that the reason they didn't win in 2016 is because not enough of their people cared to go out and vote.

Therefore, the more a state leans Democrat, the more easygoing the state will be on mail-in ballots.

They want to make it as easy as possible for their state voter base to vote.

# DEMS VS. REPS ON MAIL-IN BALLOTS

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Republicans understand that there are fewer Republican voters than Democrats.

If those Democrats don't all mobilize to vote, the Republicans have a chance of winning.

Therefore, the more a state leans Republican, the stricter the state will be on mail-in ballots.

# DEMS VS. REPS ON MAIL-IN BALLOTS

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That's politics.

When Republicans control the state, they'll make stricter voting laws to keep themselves in power.

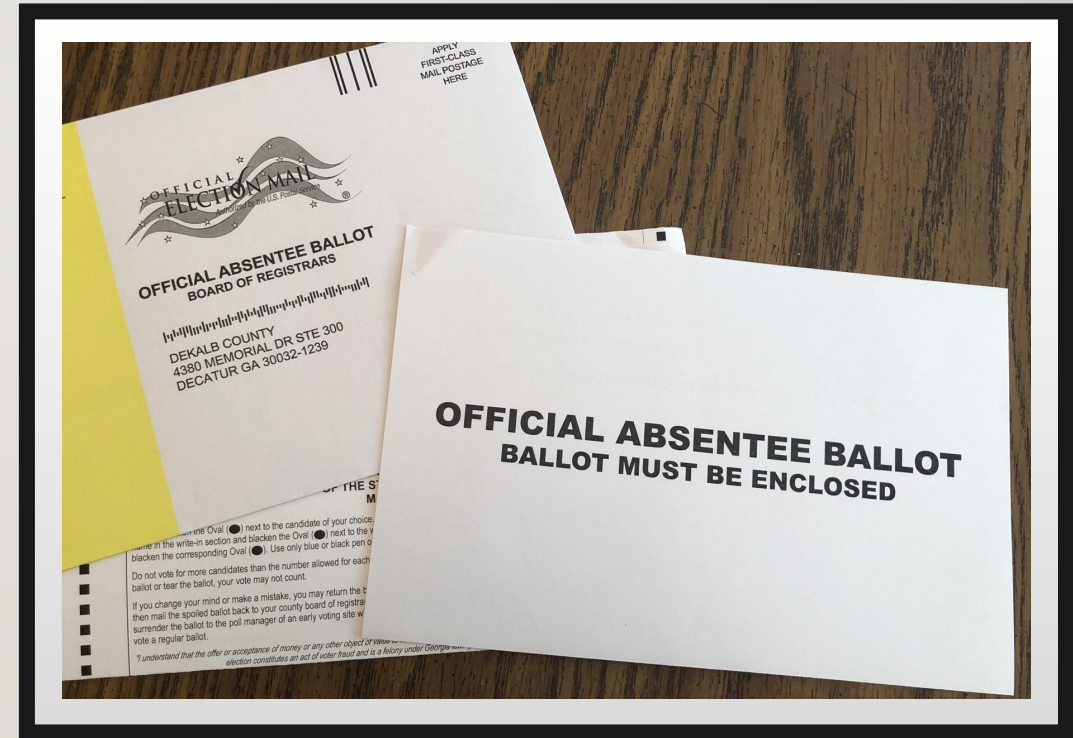
When Democrats control the state, they'll make the laws more lenient to help them maintain power.

# COUNTING ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Every state has its own policy on when the cutoff date for mail-in ballots should be.

For example:

- New Jersey's policy is that the ballot must be postmarked by Election Day and received 7 days after the election by 8 PM.
- Florida's deadline is that ballots must be delivered by 7 PM on Election Day.



	Where to apply for absentee	Deadline to request application	Early in-person voting date	Mail ballot deadline
New Jersey	<a href="#">Mail, in person</a>	Mail: Oct. 27. In person: Nov. 2, 8 p.m.	Sept. 19	Postmarked: Nov. 3
New Mexico	<a href="#">Online</a>	Oct. 20, 5 p.m.	Oct. 17–31	Received: Nov. 3, 7 p.m.
New York	<a href="#">Mail, in person</a>	Mail: Oct. 27. In person: Nov. 2	Oct. 24–Nov. 3	Postmarked: Nov. 3
North Carolina	<a href="#">Online</a>	Oct. 27, 5 p.m.	Oct. 15–31	Postmarked: Nov. 3, 5 p.m.
North Dakota	<a href="#">Mail, in person</a>	No deadline	Oct. 19	Postmarked: Nov. 2
Ohio	<a href="#">Mail, in person</a>	Oct. 31	Oct. 6–Nov. 2	Postmarked: Nov 2
Oklahoma	<a href="#">Online</a>	Oct. 27, 5 p.m.	Oct. 29	Received: Nov. 3, 7 p.m.
Oregon	<a href="#">None (all mail)*</a>	–	None	Received: Nov. 3, 8 p.m.
Pennsylvania	<a href="#">Online</a>	Oct. 27, 5 p.m.	None	Received: Nov. 3, 8 p.m.
Rhode Island	<a href="#">Mail, in person</a>	Oct. 13, 4 p.m.	Oct. 14	Received: Nov. 3, 8 p.m.

# PROBLEMS WITH MAIL-IN BALLOTS

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There are some complications with mail-in ballots.

- How do we make sure that the person on the card is the one who actually sent in the ballot?
- What happens if signatures don't match?
- We know that mailings were dumped. We know that mailings went out to thousands of dead people.
- It's very possible that if votes were thrown out for having faulty signatures, the case may go to the courts for a recount.



# ELECTION RESULTS

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There's a chance we **won't** know who won the presidential election on election night. More people than ever are voting by mail this year due to the pandemic, and mail ballots take longer to count than ballots cast at polling places.

Each state has its own rules for how votes are counted and reported, some will report results sooner than others.

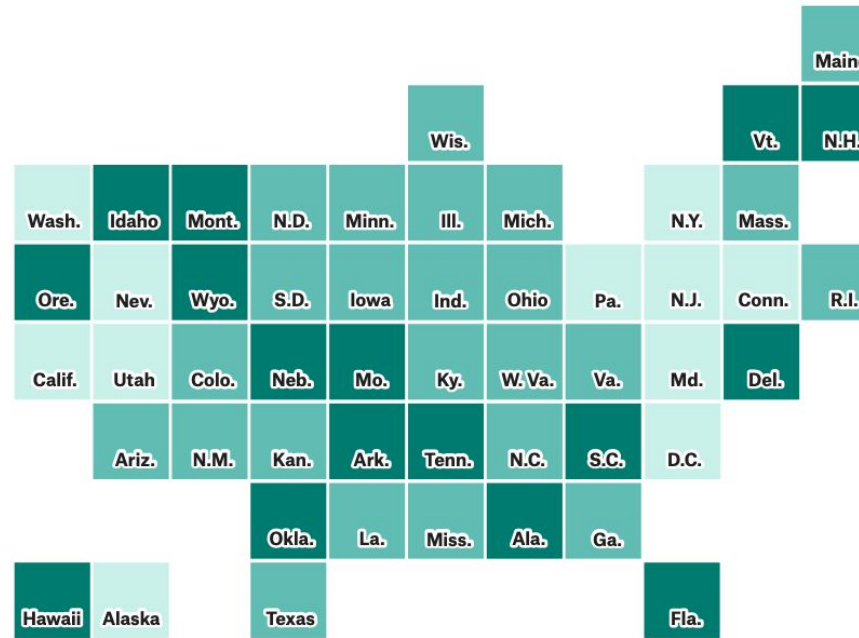


# ELECTION RESULTS

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How much of the vote is expected to be counted on election night?

- Nearly all
- Most but not all
- Only some



The logo for "DECISION 2020" is displayed in a bold, sans-serif font. "DECISION" is in blue, "2020" is in red and blue, and a stylized American flag is to the right. The background features a pattern of white stars on a grey field.

# DECISION 2020

## POLLS

Election polling and predictions are a significant part of any election year.

Parties need to know where to ramp up their efforts; businesses want to know what they should plan for over the coming year.

There are many political pundits, polling companies, and statisticians who focus on creating predictions of the upcoming election.

# DIDN'T THEY GET IT WRONG LAST ELECTION?

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**Actually, no.**

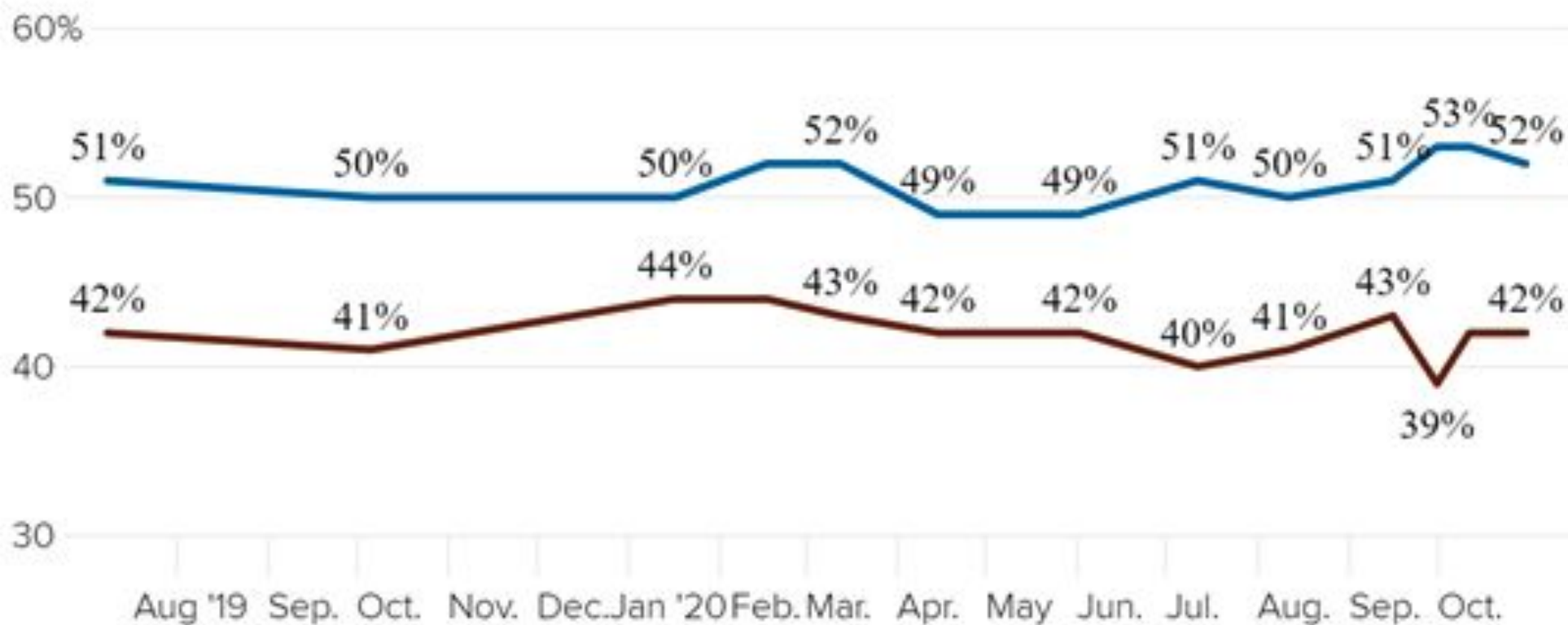
Polls predicted Clinton would win by an average of 3.2 percent. She **WON** the popular vote by 2.1 percent.

The polls were off by a small percentage, but it's a percentage that mattered a lot.

It's incredibly difficult to nail down the numbers in swing states because of the way people think about politics today. The pollsters missed that Trump would win by an average of 1.3 percent in the swing states.

## Biden's stable lead over Trump

■ Biden ■ Trump



**NBC NEWS**

Data: NBC/WSJ polls of registered voters, 2019-2020. MOE for most recent poll is +/- 3.1%

# POLLS SHOW A VERY CLOSE RACE

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There is something called the “shy vote” or the “silent voter”.

While polls have mainly predicted Biden as winner of the election, their data doesn't necessarily account for voters who haven't responded to them, answered the phone, or lied.

Trafalgar and the like seemingly account for those votes... which put Trump in the lead by about 2%.

That's a slim margin.

# BLUE STATES VS. RED STATES

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**Blue = Democratic**

When we hear that a state votes blue or red, we mean they predominantly support that party.

This creates a voting dynamic where just a few states are responsible for determining the winner of the election.

These states are called “swing states.”



## SWING STATES

A swing state is a state that does not consistently vote Red or Blue. They can “swing” either way depending on who the candidate for each party is.

The swing states are the deciders of the election.

Win the swing states and you win the election.



# KEY SWING STATES

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New Hampshire - 4

Iowa - 6

Nevada - 6

Wisconsin - 10

Minnesota - 10

Arizona - 11

North Carolina - 15

Michigan - 16

Georgia - 16

Ohio - 18

Pennsylvania - 20

Florida - 29

Texas - 38

There are a total of 199 electoral swing votes.



# WHAT HAPPENS IF THERE'S A TIE?

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If neither candidate gets a majority of the 538 electoral votes, the presidential election is decided in the House of Representatives, with each state delegation having one vote.

A majority of states (26) is needed to win.

(Keep in mind that even though the House is controlled by Democrats, they won't get to pick the president, as Republicans control a greater number of states.)

Senators would elect the Vice-President, with each Senator having a vote.

A majority of Senators (51) is needed to win.

# WHO IS WINNING IN THE SWING STATES?

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As it stands, all major polling has Biden winning by a few percentage points.

The only poll showing Trump in the lead is the Trafalgar Group.

Most news agencies won't show them because they are considered controversial. This is because they claim to count the "shy vote" – something that is a very difficult task.

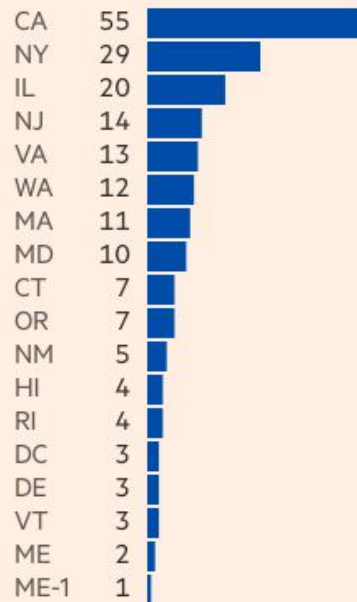
If the election were held today, the latest polls suggest this outcome in the electoral college:

**252** Joe Biden  
DEMOCRAT

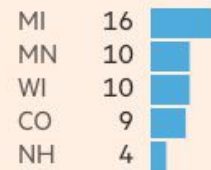
Donald Trump **125**  
REPUBLICAN



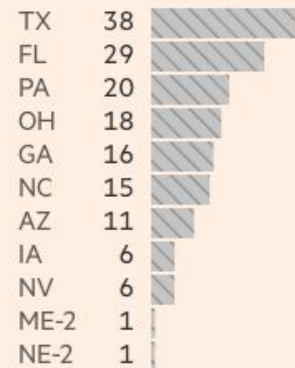
**Solid (203)**



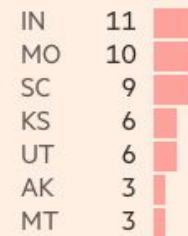
**Leaning (49)**



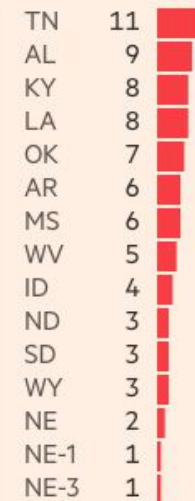
**Toss-up (161)**



**Leaning (48)**



**Solid (77)**



States where the difference in poll numbers between Biden and Trump is less than 5 percentage points are classified as 'toss-up' states.

# WHAT SHOULD WE BE FOCUSED ON NOW?

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Trump has a decent chance to win Florida and Ohio. He is currently tied or has a slight lead in the polls, and we should know those results by 1:00 AM Eastern time.

If Trump wins those states...

And Pennsylvania...

He has a good chance of winning the election.

If he loses PA, or any of the three, he is likely to lose.

## PENNSYLVANIA IS THE MOST IMPORTANT STATE TO WATCH

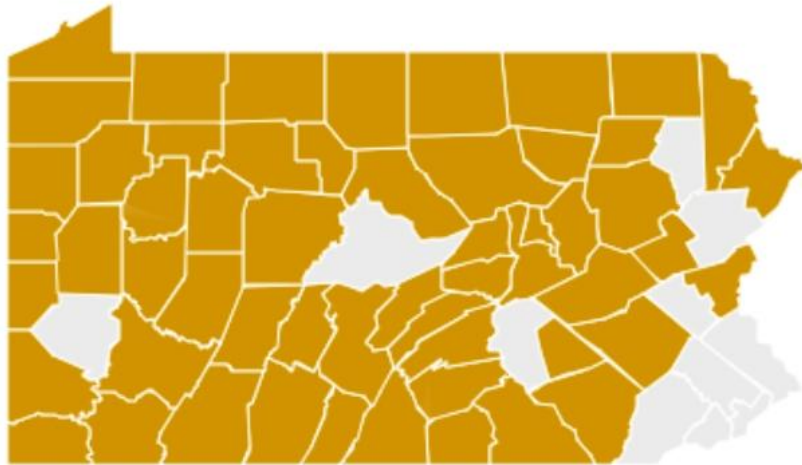
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Pennsylvania's deadline for absentee ballots: They need to be postmarked on Nov. 3 or earlier and need to be received by Nov. 12.

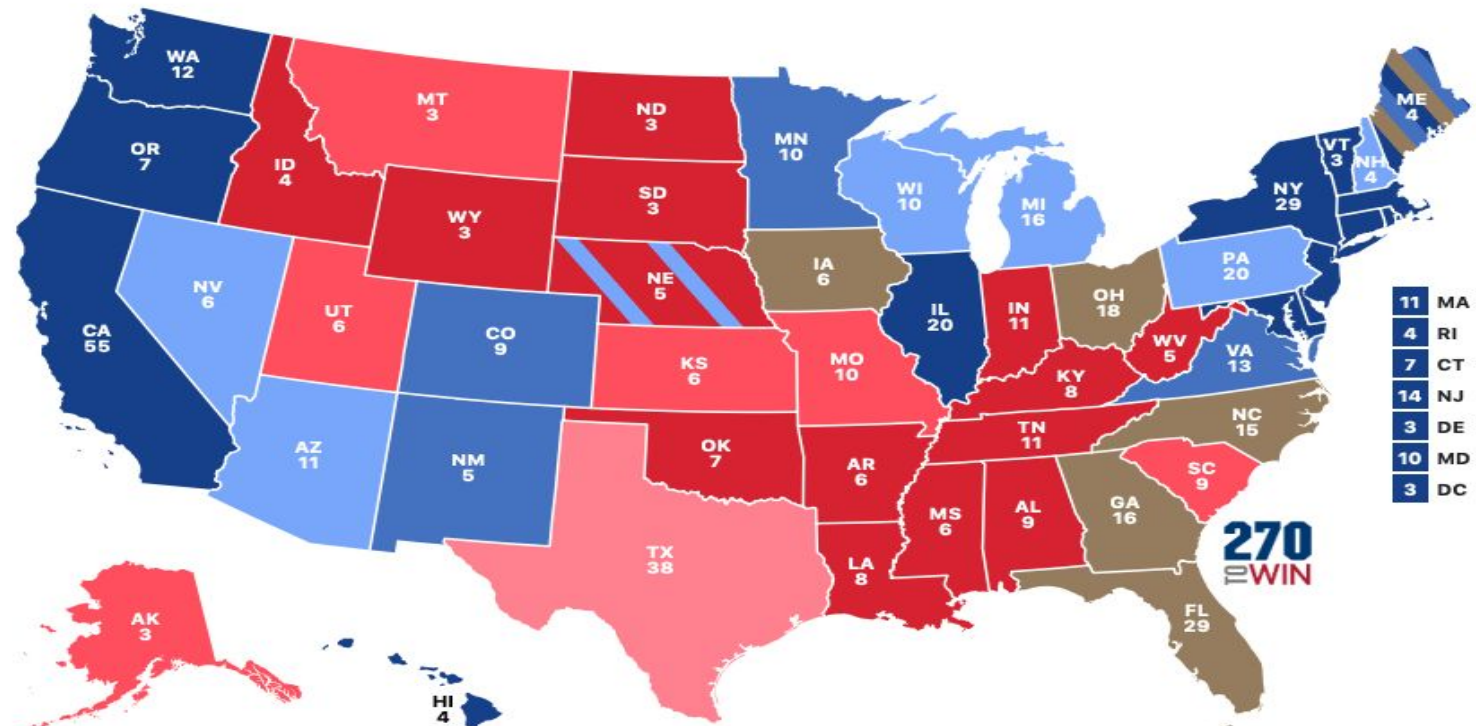
Democrats are sending in mail-in ballots at a much higher rate than Republicans.

If Biden is tied or in the lead in Pennsylvania by 8:00 PM on Election Day, Biden will most likely win Pennsylvania and take the election.

If it's close or even if Trump has a small lead, we won't know until a few days after the election.



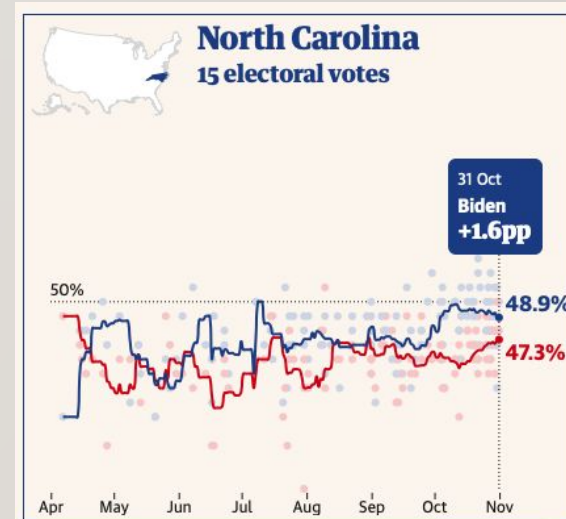
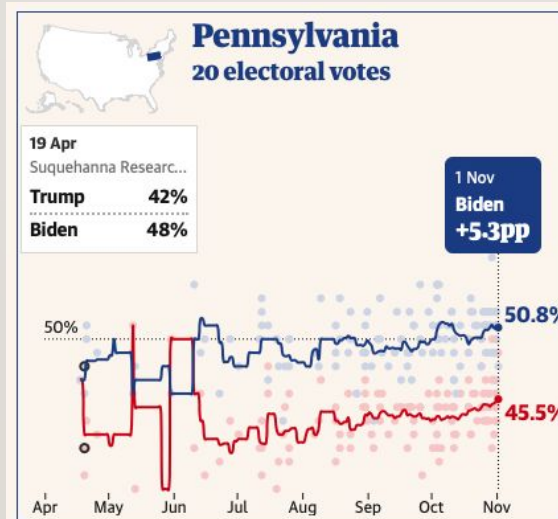
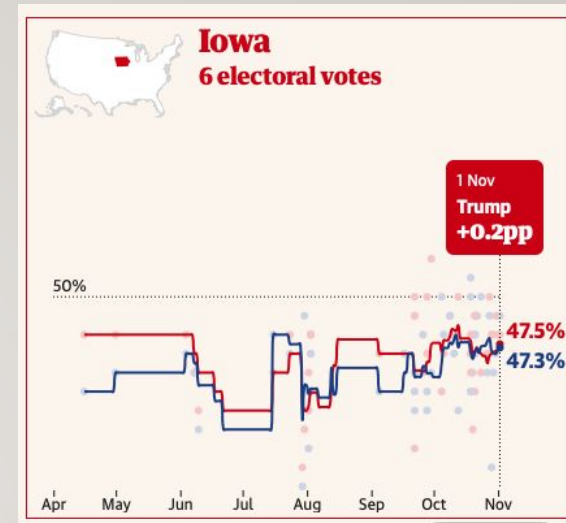
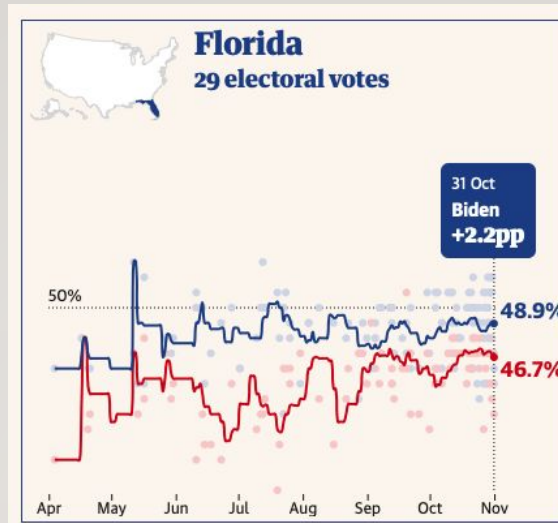
# Swing State Polling Graph



Map Updated: Nov. 1, 2020 at 23:09 UTC (6:09 PM EST)

# SWING STATE POLLING

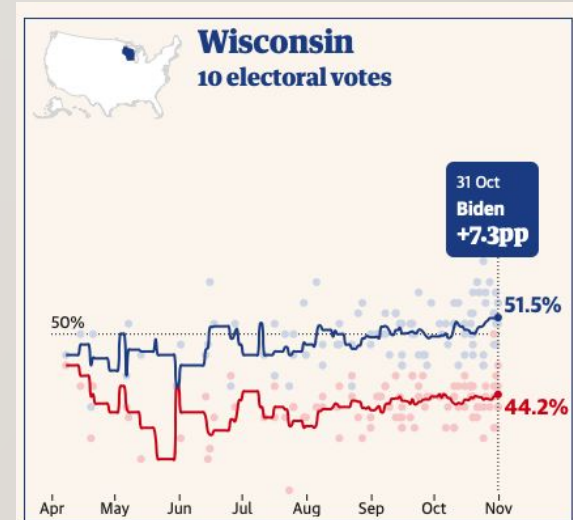
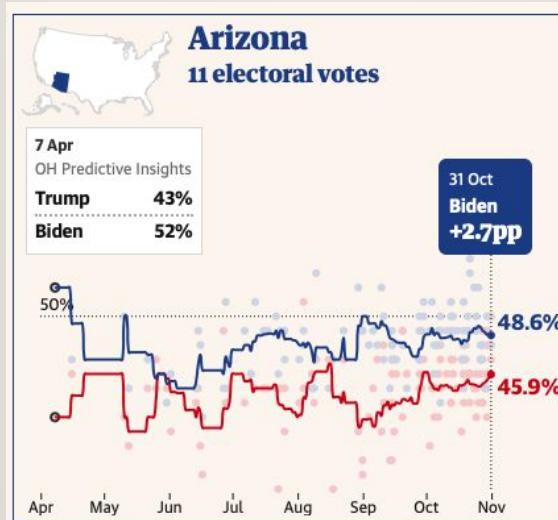
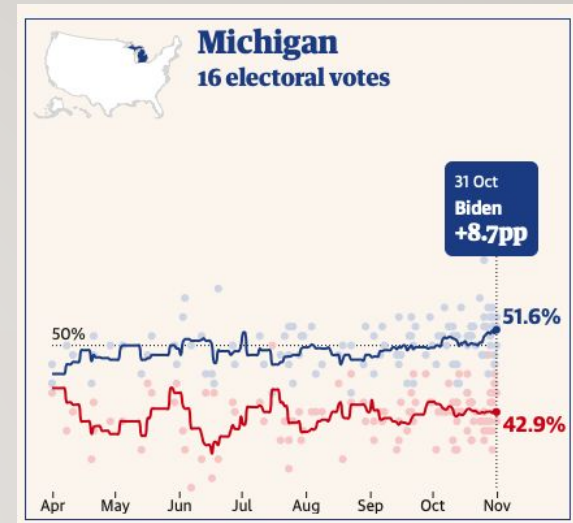
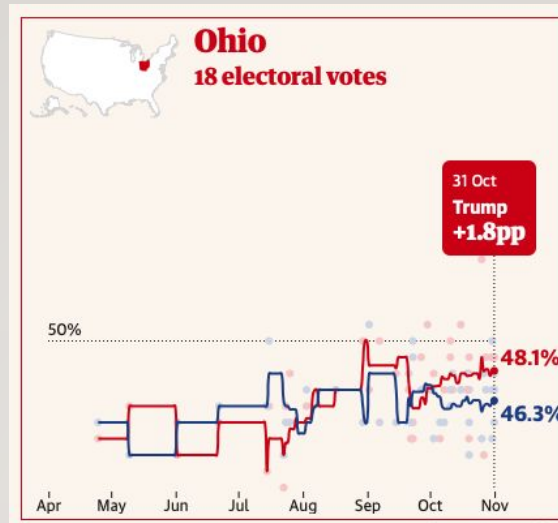
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# SWING STATE POLLING

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# ONE LAST THING TO KEEP IN MIND...

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Two factors can make it or break it for Trump:

- **Weather:** If the weather is nice, voters will turn out. Trump needs that to combat mail in ballots.
- **Covid:** If news comes out that there are more Covid-19 cases, people will be less willing to show up to vote in person. This will be a problem for Trump.

# THE LIFEPREP PREDICTION

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We clearly don't know what is in fact best for Klal Yisrael in this election.

We try to operate under the guidance of our Rabbonim, but we also know that Hakadosh Baruch Hu has a plan for us that is completely good.

That obviously includes the winner of this year's election.



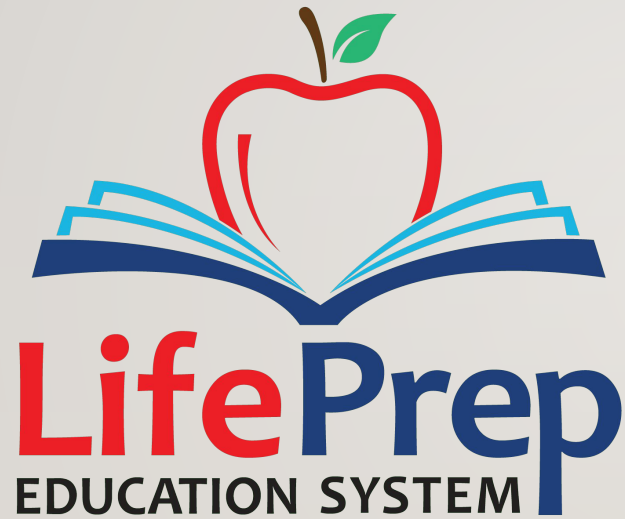
***"I would like to call it a מוסד קדוש"***

***"The bochurim are interested in this, and they do it with enthusiasm... a game changer."***

***"It's been done in gevaldiga Yeshivos, with tremendous success!"***

***"It changes the Ruach of the whole day."***

*To benefit from this program,  
have your sons' Mesivta reach out.*



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