

# International NEWS MEDIA

OCTOBER 15, 2024 / SPECIAL ISSUE

## HURRICANE MILTON CHURNS ACROSS FLORIDA MILLIONS LEFT WITHOUT POWER



A vehicle is stranded on a water-flooded street after Hurricane Milton made landfall in Brandon, Florida on Oct. 9, 2024. (AFP/Getty Images via NPR)

Hurricane Milton weakened to a still-powerful Category 1 hurricane as it moved across the Florida peninsula overnight, putting millions of homes and businesses in the dark and without power.

As of 5 a.m. ET Thursday (October 10), the storm was about 10 miles northeast of Cape Canaveral and moving off Florida's east coast, with maximum wind speeds of 85 mph, according to the National Hurricane Center (NHC). Dangerous high winds and heavy rainfall persisted in east-central Florida, the NHC said.

While the storm has weakened considerably, various storm surge, hurricane and tropical storm advisories were still in effect for the area. A storm surge warning remained for the state's west coast, from Bonita Beach northward to Middle

Longboat Key, including Charlotte Harbor, and from the Sebastian Inlet in the state to Altamaha Sound in Georgia, including the St. Johns River, the NHC said.

Additionally, the National Weather Service warned of flash flooding in the Tampa area as well as parts of western and central Florida.

The number of homes and businesses without power grew steadily overnight. By early Thursday morning, the number of customers without power had surpassed 3 million, according to poweroutage.us, with the highest num-

ber of outages reported in the western part of the state, including Tampa, St. Petersburg and Sarasota.

More than 100 tornado warnings associated with Milton had been issued by National Weather Services offices in Florida, The Associated Press reported.

The Florida Division of Emergency Management encouraged residents to shelter in place and "be vigilant," as floods, tornadoes and high winds were predicted.

Gov. Ron DeSantis gave similar guidance and said search and rescue teams will be working intensely. - NPR

## US warns voters of disinformation deluge

WASHINGTON — American voters are likely about to be swamped by a flood of misinformation and influence campaigns engineered by U.S. adversaries aiming, according to senior U.S. intelligence officials, to sway the results of the upcoming presidential election and cast doubt on the process itself.

The latest assessment from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, issued Monday, October 7, comes just 29 days before the November 5 election that will see U.S. voters choose the country's next president and cast ballots in hundreds of other state and local races.

Intelligence agencies also cautioned that U.S. adversaries will likely seize upon the damage done by Hurricane Helene and potential damage from Hurricane Milton to further amplify and manufacture narratives meant to undermine confidence in the election results. - VOA News



File photo shows people line up to vote in the primary at a precinct in Bradfordton, IL in March 2016. (VOA image)

### News Breakers

#### Israel military carries out strikes on Gaza and Lebanon on anniversary of Hamas attack

Israel's military carried out airstrikes on two fronts Monday, targeting Hamas positions across the Gaza Strip and Hezbollah fighters in Lebanon as the country marked one year since a Hamas attack on southern Israel sparked a war that now threatens to engulf the entire region. In Gaza, the targets included Hamas rocket-launching positions.

Hamas said Monday it fired rockets at Tel Aviv, Israel's second-largest city, and areas near several border crossings in southern Israel. - Anadolu

#### CDC warns of potential public health risk from ordering counterfeit medications from online pharmacies

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is informing public health officials, clinicians, and affected patients, their families, and caregivers about a potential public health risk among individuals ordering what they believe to be prescription medications from online pharmacies. On September 30, 2024, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) announced an indictment against individuals running illegal online pharmacies that are advertising, selling, manufacturing, and shipping millions of unregulated counterfeit prescription pills to tens of thousands of individuals in the U.S.

#### Chinese hackers breached US court wiretap systems

Chinese hackers accessed the networks of U.S. broadband providers and obtained information from systems the federal government uses for court-authorized wiretapping, The Wall Street Journal reported on October 2.

Verizon Communications, AT&T and Lumen Technologies are among the telecoms companies whose networks were breached by the recently discovered intrusion, the newspaper said, citing people familiar with the matter.

The hackers might have held access for months to network infrastructure used by the companies to cooperate with court-authorized U.S. requests for communications data, the Journal said. - VOA News

#### N. Korean leader Kim again warns of use of nuclear arms

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has reiterated that the country does not rule out using nuclear weapons if its enemies attempt to use force against it.

North Korea's ruling Workers' Party newspaper, *Rodong Sinmun*, reported that Kim gave a speech at Kim Jong Un University of National Defence the day before. The university marks the 60th anniversary of its founding this year.

Kim repeated his criticism of South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol, saying that a wise politician would engage in managing the situation to prevent an armed clash with a nuclear state, rather than seeking confrontation or direct conflict. - NHK

## JAPAN CAMPAIGNS TO ABOLISH NUCLEAR ARMS

An organization of atomic bomb survivors and young people plans to hold an international forum in Tokyo next year to boost the momentum for nuclear arms abolition.

The Japan Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons made the announcement at a news conference in Tokyo on October 7. Campaign officials say the forum will take place at the University of the Sacred Heart on February 8 and 9 next year.

Organizers said government officials and experts will be invited to hold lectures and discussions on themes including the inhumanity of nuclear arms and support for atomic bomb survivors. - NHK

## STATE DEPARTMENT ADVISES U.S. CITIZENS TO DEPART LEBANON IMMEDIATELY

Due to the unpredictable nature of ongoing conflict between Hezbollah and Israel and recent explosions throughout Lebanon, including Beirut, the U.S. State Department urges U.S. citizens depart Lebanon immediately. The U.S. embassy strongly encourages U.S. citizens, especially those in Southern Lebanon, near the borders with Syria, and/or in refugee settlements to depart those areas immediately.

"Due to the unpredictable nature of ongoing conflict between Hezbollah and Israel and recent explosions throughout Lebanon, including Beirut, the US Embassy urges US citizens to depart Lebanon while commercial options still remain available," the State Department says in an updated advisory.

"At this time, commercial flights are available, but at reduced capacity. If the security situation worsens, commercial options to depart may become unavailable," the statement adds.

The US State Department reiterates that Americans should "immediately" leave southern Lebanon, as well as areas near the Syrian border and refugee settlements.

## Protesters worldwide demand ceasefire of Israel-Hamas conflict

Protesters across the globe have rallied to demand an immediate ceasefire in the Gaza Strip as Israel and Hamas mark the first anniversary of the start of their current round of fighting on October 7.

Demonstrations took place in the United States, Britain, Germany and other parts of the world. Demonstrators in Washington chanted to seek freedom for the Palestinians and appealed for an immediate halt to the blockade of Gaza.

Marchers filled the streets of central London, demanding an end to "the genocide" in Gaza and calling for "a free Palestine."

The fighting began to rage after combatants of the Palestinian group unleashed cross-border attacks on Israel on October 7 last year. The fighters killed 1,200 people, taking many others hostage. Health officials in Gaza said the death toll in the enclave has exceeded 41,000. Survivors in the territory have



Protesters worldwide demand ceasefire.

been enduring a grave humanitarian crisis.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has issued a statement. He said, "The war that has followed the terrible attacks of one year ago continues to shatter lives and inflict profound human suffering for Palestinians in Gaza, and now the people of Lebanon. It is time for the release of the hostages. Time to silence the guns. Time to stop the suffering that has engulfed the region. Time for peace, international law and justice." - NHK

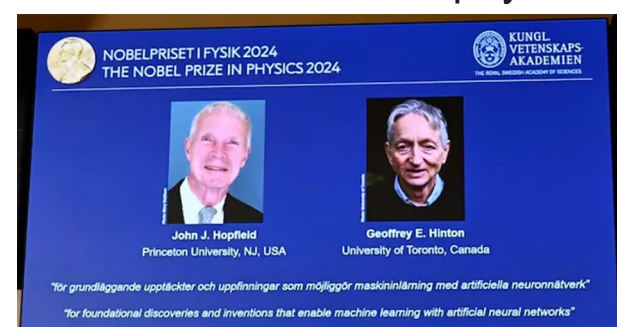
## Pioneers in artificial intelligence win the Nobel Prize in physics

STOCKHOLM — Two pioneers of artificial intelligence — John Hopfield and Geoffrey Hinton — won the Nobel Prize in physics on Tuesday, October 8 for helping create the building blocks of machine learning that is revolutionizing the way we work and live but also creates new threats to humanity, one of the winners said.

Hinton, who is known as the "godfather of artificial intelligence," is a citizen of Canada and Britain who works at the University of Toronto. Hopfield is an American working at Princeton.

"This year's two Nobel Laureates in physics have used tools from physics to develop methods that are the foundation of today's powerful machine learning," the Nobel committee said in a press release.

Ellen Moons, a member of the Nobel committee at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, said the two laureates "used fundamental concepts from statistical physics to design artificial neural networks that function as associative memories and find patterns in large data sets." She said that such networks have been used to advance research in physics and "have also become part of our daily lives, for instance in facial recognition and



John J. Hopfield and Geoffrey E. Hinton are awarded this year's Nobel Prize in Physics, announced at a press conference at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm, Oct. 8, 2024. (TT News Agency/Christine Olsson via AP)

language translation."

Hinton predicted that AI will end up having a "huge influence" on civilization, bringing improvements in productivity and health care. - AP



## U.S. News & World Report's new guide on key swing states, battleground counties in the 2024 Presidential Election offers one-stop shop for voters

WASHINGTON -- U.S. News & World Report on October 2 unveiled a data-rich, must-read guide for voters -- and anyone who wants to understand next month's U.S. presidential election -- on the swing states and battleground counties to watch.

U.S. News has profiled each of the seven swing states: North Carolina, Arizona, Pennsylvania, Nevada, Michigan, Wisconsin and Georgia -- as well as 15 battleground counties, highlighting factors like demographics and voting trends that could play critical roles in the outcome of this year's race for the White House or the track of U.S. politics in years to come.

Each county and state profile features its past presidential track record and why it's one to watch in the presidential race this year.

Breaking down the 15 battleground counties highlighted by the U.S. News analysis:

- Eleven of the 15 counties are located in the seven presidential swing states since a county's electoral leverage may be greater when it sits in the most competitive states.
- Three of the remaining four counties are in large states that are on the periphery of competitiveness -- Florida and Texas -- and one county is in a category all its own because it sits in Nebraska,

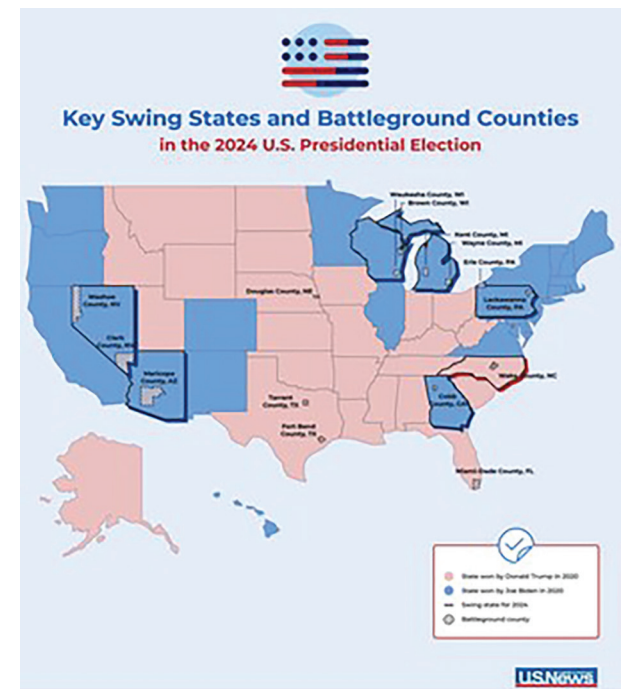
which allocates some of its electoral votes by congressional district.

The counties offer a mix of racial, ethnic and income demographics.

The key battleground counties profiled include:

- Maricopa County, AZ
- Miami-Dade County, FL
- Cobb County, GA
- Kent County, MI
- Wayne County, MI
- Douglas County, NE
- Clark County, NV
- Washoe County, NV
- Wake County, NC
- Erie County, PA
- Lackawanna County, PA
- Tarrant County, TX
- Fort Bend County, TX
- Brown County, WI
- Waukesha County, WI

Source : U.S. News & World Report



Key swing states and battleground counties in the 2024 U.S. presidential election.

## New USC research reveals untapped potential for mobilizing voters of color in battleground states

New research by the Center for Inclusive Democracy at USC finds persistent low turnout for Latino, Asian-American and Black voters in all nine swing states. Boosting groups' participation could be a gamechanger for the November election.

With swing states playing a pivotal role in the 2024 presidential election, new reports from the Center for Inclusive Democracy (CID) at the USC Price School of Public Policy have found significant voter turnout disparities between white, non-Latino voters and voters of color in all nine battleground states.

The reports highlight the persistent "voter representation gap," where voters of color remain underrepresented at the polls, despite substantial population growth. If narrowed by November, the research concludes, this gap could significantly influence election results, particularly in swing states that had close election outcomes in 2020.

CID analyzed voter files from the

2020 general election for Latino, Black and Asian-American voters in Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Texas. The study found that while the eligible voter populations of color in these swing states grew substantially from 2010 to 2020--outpacing the growth of the white, non-Latino population and often the general population--these voters of color had consistently lower turnout rates compared to white, non-Latino voters during the 2020 election.

"The huge number of eligible non-voters among communities of color in swing states presents an extraordinary opportunity for voter mobilization and engagement," said Mindy Romero, founder and director of CID and the study's lead author.

"Getting more voters of color to the polls could be transformational and have the potential to impact election outcomes in November," said Romero, who is also a research assistant professor at USC Price.

Source: usc.edu

## PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS 2024 CANDIDATES

### REPUBLICAN PARTY

President



DONALD J. TRUMP

Vice -President



J.D. VANCE

### DEMOCRATIC PARTY

President



KAMALA HARRIS

Vice -President



TIM WALZ

## ELECTING A PRESIDENT (Continued from page 4)

The process of repeating voting rounds goes on until one candidate receives the majority of votes and thereby is officially appointed as the presidential candidate for a party. However, not since 1976 have there been any doubts about whether one candidate would receive a majority of delegates, and not since 1952 has there been more than one voting round at a convention. This shows that normally, after the primaries, it is clear who will become the parties' presidential candidates. The convention can then instead be used as a means to launch the candidates' presidential campaigns and unite the party in support of the candidate.

### Presidential election

When the two parties have elected their presidential and vice presidential candidates at each of their national conventions a several months long presidential election campaign begins. Besides the candidates from the Republicans and Democrats, a few candidates from other minor parties are on the ballot as well. Those candidates rarely have any real influence on the outcome of the election. The election is held on the first Tuesday following the first Monday of November.

There are three requirements to be a presidential candidate: One has to (1) be 35 years of age or older, (2) be a natural born citizen of the U.S., and (3) have lived in the States for more than 14 years. Additional to these requirements, a President may only serve two terms. If a President has already been elected twice it is not possible to run for office a third time.

In the U.S. the presidential election is fixed to be held every 4th year, and Congress (the Senate and House of Representatives) cannot force the President to resign just because a majority of Congress members are against the President. The President would need to be impeached to be forced out of

The U.S. is divided into 50 states. Each state has a certain number of electoral votes which is decided by the size of their population. There are 538 electoral votes, and these are split between the 50 states. California has 55 electoral votes since it is the state with the largest population. In contrast, Alaska and six other states with low population numbers (as well as Washington D.C.) only have three electoral votes.

The presidential candidate that receives most of the electoral votes wins the election. A candidate can win the electoral votes in a state by getting more votes than the other candidate(s). But, in contrast to Denmark, every single one of the states' electoral votes will be assigned to the winner of the state. This means that candidates do not merely get the same proportion of the electoral votes as the popular vote. Thus, if candidate A receives 51% of the votes in California and candidate B only receives 49% every single one of California's 55 electoral votes will be assigned to candidate A even though there was only a two percentage point difference

between the two candidates. This kind of "winner takes all" electoral system is called election by majority vote. Only Nebraska and Maine deviate from this system.

### Winner takes all

When using this kind of electoral system it opens the possibility of having a candidate winning the popular vote but not become President anyway. Imagine if the U.S. only consisted of three equally sized states. If candidate A received 100% of the votes in one of the states and 49% of the votes in the two others, candidate A would only win all of the electoral votes in one of the states. Candidate B, on the other hand, would win all of the electoral votes in the two other states. In this case candidate A would have received more votes in total than candidate B, but it is Candidate B that receives most electoral votes and is elected President.

The example above is overly simplified. But it has actually happened five times in history that a candidate has become President even though another candidate won the popular vote. The last time it happened was at the 2016 election between Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton. Clinton won the popular vote with 48% of all the votes while Trump received 45,9% of the votes. Thus, Clinton won the popular vote with just shy of 3 million votes more than Trump. In spite of this, Trump was assigned 306 of the 538 electoral votes while Clinton was assigned only 232 electoral votes which meant Trump was elected President.

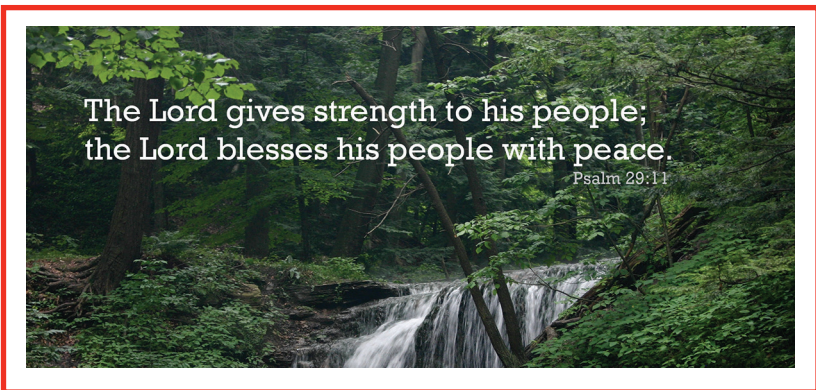
### What happens after Election Day?

The Election Day in the beginning of November isn't the end of the road though. The 538 electoral votes each presidential candidate has received are actually 538 real people -- the so-called electoral college. Mid December the electoral college will vote for the candidates who become President and Vice President. Here, they are supposed to vote for the candidate who won the election in their state even if they might prefer another candidate themselves. There has been several examples of "faithless electors" who choose to vote for another candidate than they are supposed to.

On the 6th of January, Congress (the Senate and the House of Representatives) assemble to count the electoral votes. They can then proceed to declare the President and Vice President elected. In the unlikely event that the candidates get the exact same amount of votes, the two chambers of Congress will elect the President and Vice President. The House will elect the President, but for this procedure in the House, each state only has one vote. The Senate will elect the Vice President.

Two weeks later, on January 20th, the president-elect will officially be sworn in as President of the United States of America at an inauguration ceremony in Washington D.C.

Source: U.S.Embassy.gov



The Lord gives strength to his people;  
the Lord blesses his people with peace.

Psalm 29:11

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## FTC and Justice Department participate in summit with G7 enforcement partners on artificial intelligence competition challenges

The Federal Trade Commission and the Justice Department's Antitrust Division participated in the G7 Competition Authorities and Policymakers Summit to discuss ways to ensure competition in artificial intelligence (AI)-related technologies, products, and applications.

The Summit was convened by the G7 Industry, Technology and Digital Ministerial Declaration and hosted in Rome by the Italian Competition Authority (Autorità Garante

della Concorrenza e del Mercato). The Antitrust Division was led by Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Doha Mekki.

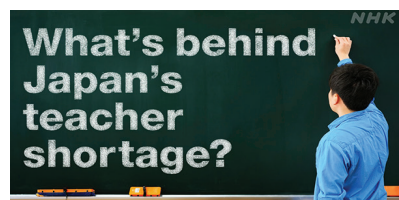
At the conclusion of the summit, FTC Chair Lina M. Khan and other representatives of the G7 competition authorities and government policymakers issued a Communiqué highlighting potential competition concerns in AI-related markets and identifying guiding principles to ensure fair competition across AI markets. - *FTC*

## Japan's teacher shortage crisis deepening

At one school, two classes have been combined into one. At another, an assistant principal is taking classes despite their role not usually being a classroom job. It's a scenario that's playing out across Japan as the country's teacher shortage continues to bite.

NHK has learned that the teacher shortage is worsening halfway through the school year. It surveyed the education boards of local governments to find out more about the staffing gap at elementary, junior high and senior high schools, as well as special needs schools.

Among them, 43 local governments



had data on teacher shortages as of September. NHK compared the figures with those from May, just after the beginning of the school year. The results show that the schools were short by a total of 2,397 teachers as of September. The figure was up by 589 from May, marking a 1.3-fold increase in just four months. - *NHK*

## POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!

We have tried so many times and over so many years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms. How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced; how much blood has been shed; how many lives have been shattered; how many hopes have been buried... But our efforts have been in vain.

Now, Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts, and give us the courage to say: "Never again war!"; "With war everything is lost". Instill in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.

Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarreling into forgiveness.

Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words "division", "hatred" and "war" be banished from the heart of every man and woman. Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be "brother", and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam! Amen.



## NASA announces teams for 2025 Student Launch Challenge



Students celebrate after a successful performance in the 2024 Student Launch competition at Bragg Farms in Toney, Alabama.

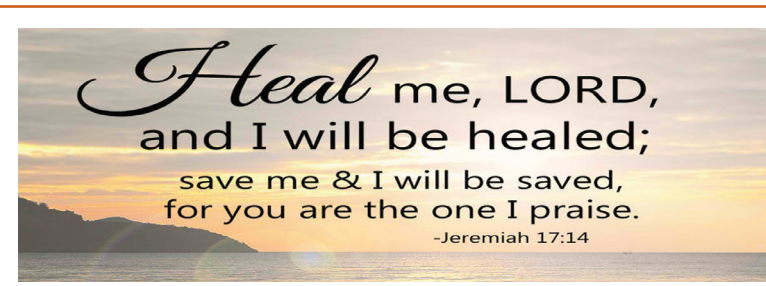
NASA has selected 71 teams from across the U.S. to participate in its 25th annual Student Launch Challenge, one of the agency's Artemis Student Challenges. The competition is aimed at inspiring Artemis Generation students to explore science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) for the benefit of humanity.

As part of the challenge, teams will design, build, and fly a high-powered amateur rocket and scientific payload. They also must meet documentation milestones and undergo detailed reviews throughout the school year.

The nine-month-long challenge will culminate with on-site events starting on April 30, 2025. Final launches are scheduled for May 3, at Bragg Farms in Toney, Alabama, just minutes north of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama. Teams are not required to travel for their final launch, having the option to launch from a qualified site. Details are outlined in the Student Launch Handbook.

## THE FIRST QUADRENNIAL PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

The 1788–89 United States presidential election was the first quadrennial presidential election. It was held from Monday, December 15, 1788, to Wednesday, January 7, 1789, under the new Constitution ratified that same year. George Washington was unanimously elected for the first of his two terms as president and John Adams became the first vice president. This was the only U.S. presidential election that spanned two calendar years without a contingent election and the first national presidential election in American history. - *Wikipedia*



## Stu Sjouwerman, founder and CEO of KnowBe4, presented with the Holland on the Hill Freddy Heineken Award

The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the U.S. Congressional Caucus on the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and the Netherland-America Foundation presented Stu Sjouwerman, the Dutch-born founder and CEO of American cybersecurity company KnowBe4, with the 2024 Holland on the Hill Freddy Heineken Award.

The Holland on the Hill Freddy Heineken Award honors an entrepreneur or organization that has made a substantial and positive impact on the economic ties between the Netherlands and the United States. Freddy Heineken came to the US in the 1940s to expand Heineken's market. With his Dutch business acumen and American marketing know-how, Heineken built the foundation for the global brand.

## UN Tourism welcomes first students to Sustainable Tourism Degree course



UN Tourism has welcomed the first students enrolled on its pioneering degree course in International Sustainable Tourism.

Developed in collaboration with the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts (HSLU), the three-year Bachelor of Science in International Sustainable Tourism is designed to train graduates capable of leading the sector toward a more sustainable future.

For the first academic year, 30 students were welcomed to Madrid, representing six different countries (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Saudi Arabia, Georgia, and Switzerland). The Degree course is designed to equip students equipped with the skills to innovate, to drive change, and to make decisions that promote both economic growth and environmental stewardship.

UN Tourism Executive Director, Natalia Bayona says: "The tourism sector needs skilled people with diverse knowledge and innovative vision, and the Bachelor in International Sustainable Tourism was created to accompany tourism leaders on their journey into the future."

## GEORGE WASHINGTON The 1st President of the United States



George Washington (February 22, 1732 – December 14, 1799) was an American Founding Father, politician, military officer, and farmer who served as the first president of the United States from 1789 to 1797.

As commander of the Continental Army in 1775, Washington led Patriot forces to victory in the American Revolutionary War and then served as president of the Constitutional Convention in 1787, which drafted the current Constitution of the United States.

On April 30, 1789, George Washington, standing on the balcony of Federal Hall on Wall Street in New York, took his oath of office as the first President of the United States. "As the first of every thing, in our situation will serve to establish a Precedent," he wrote James Madison, "it is devoutly wished on my part, that these precedents may be fixed on true principles." - *Wikipedia*

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS MEDIA



# The American Union Versus the European Union: A Matter of Democracy

## THE YEAR OF ELECTIONS

by CARLOS PUENTE, PhD

Economist \* Lawyer \* Political Scientist \* Senior Visiting Professor & Lecturer \* Book Author

The year 2024 will be remembered in the history of elections for several events, but mainly because the citizens of two continents will be able to understand what is democracy.

In the European Union, on June 9, European citizens were able to vote in the elections to the European Parliament and, as a consequence, the renewal of the elite of the European Commission. In the United States, the presidential elections will be held on November 5th., to renew a large part of the House of Representatives and the Senate. In Europe, Mrs. Ursula von der Leyen has already been "appointed" as president of the European Commission while the presidency of the Council of the Union is currently held by the president of the government of Hungary, Viktor Orban. In the United States, either Donald Trump or Mrs. Kamala Harris will be in office as president of the American Union due to the result of the elections. In Brussels, the capital of the European Union, the president of the European Commission has been appointed by a political decision of the European Council while, in Washington, the president of the United States will be decided by the vote of citizens. It must be remembered that the political structure of the European Union is very complicated: there is a European Parliament, made up of representatives of the EU Member States, who have been proposed by political parties; the European Council, which is made up of representatives of the governments of the Member States of the Union according to established proportion; and the European Commission, which is the executive power of the European Union and is made up of the president, eight vice-presidents, the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and 18 Commissioners, each responsible for one or more areas of work.

In the United States, the electoral campaigns of the candidates to re-

place Joe Biden have become very violent, with a frustrated attack against the Republican Party candidate, Donald Trump. A similar situation cannot be imagined in Europe, although there have been cases of attacks against elected politicians. Taking into account that electoral legislation in the United States is not uniform and that in many States victory depends on the difference of one vote, the result depending on one vote is not understandable for Europeans. That is why there is concern that the result depends on the elections in a few States or just in one of them and on the support of minorities. However, there is a clear lesson in favor of the US presidential system: the president of the nation is elected by the citizens while in the European Union the president of the executive power, the European Commission, is the result of a political decision.

Indeed, the results of the European elections held on June 9, 2024 gave victory to the center-right and nationalist parties. Furthermore, the reaction of the European left parties was to raise a barrier against the parties that they classify as "extreme right", democratically elected, as it happened in Netherlands, France, Italy or Hungary and, recently, in Austria. This situation had already happened with the results of the elections in Spain, where the Socialist Party governs by allying itself with Catalan separatists and former Basque terrorists. That is to say, the governments that lost the elections in Europe have allied with minority parties to come up to power. The president of the European Commission, Ms. Von der Leyen, has been proposed by the parties that did not win the elections in Member States.

In the United States, this situation has also occurred where the president's party did not win the elections: In five times in the history of U.S. elections the candidate who collects the most number of votes has not

become president due to the fact that the candidate did not get a majority of electoral votes. Thus, in 1824 US elections John Quincy Adams ran for president against Henry Clay, William Crawford and Andrew Jackson but none of them got a majority and the election was decided in the House of Representatives. John Quincy Adams with the support of Henry Clay, became president in 1825 just two centuries ago.

From Europe, the elections in the United States are observed with great concern because the US Foreign policy depends on the next president of the American Union and must decide on policies that may have an impact on Europe: the war in Ukraine, with an uncertain future due the commitments of the Biden Administration with the government of Kiev; Israel war against Hamas and Hezbollah, which is destroying Lebanon; trade policy with China, and the future of NATO, an organization that millions of Europeans reject. Furthermore, a new world order is emerging with the expansion of the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa), which can reach up to 40 States as members with political and, mainly, economic influence. The world is on the edge of a nuclear war and the United States must have a responsible president who rejects the warmongering spirit of the Democratic Party, as has happened in the past. During the Trump Administration, the USA has not intervened in any war and President Biden has proven to be a bad president with corrupted connections. Europeans are expecting the election of the new president of the United States, who will govern the country for the coming four years and will have a great influence in the World from 2025, just on the 190 anniversary of the publication of "On Democracy in America" by the French philosopher Alexis de Tocqueville.

### POLITICAL PARTIES IN AMERICA

Throughout American history, a variety of political parties have shaped the landscape of presidential elections. These parties emerged in response to the unique challenges and diverse ideologies of different eras. Today, the United States operates within a multi-party system, with the Democratic and Republican Parties as the most influential players. However, other parties, including the Reform, Libertarian, Socialist, Natural Law, Constitution, and Green Parties, also participate in presidential elections. In this learning material, we will explore the history of political parties in the United States and examine their impact on the election process.

#### Historical Development of Political Parties

- Dixiecrats, Know-Nothings, Free-Soil, Prohibition: These are some of the early political parties that emerged in response to various social, economic, and political issues in American history. Each of these parties had specific ideals and candidates that they championed.

- The Birth of Political Factions: The Founding Fathers, concerned about the potential divisiveness of political parties, debated their merits during the Constitutional Convention of 1787. Benjamin Franklin and James Madison expressed their fears that ambition and greed might lead to factions that could threaten the stability of the new government.

- Political Factions vs. Political Parties: Ironically, despite these concerns, political factions quickly arose in support of or opposition to the Constitution itself. By the presidential election of 1796, political parties were firmly established in America. The Federalists, led by Alexander Hamilton, and the Democratic-Republicans, led by Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, became the first major political parties.

#### The Evolution of Political Parties

- Changing Policies and Ideals: Over the decades, the platforms and ideologies of political parties evolved. By the twentieth century, the Democratic and Republican Parties emerged as the dominant players.

- Notable Differences: Corinne Roosevelt Robinson highlighted significant differences between the two major parties in the early 20th century, emphasizing that their ideals and political stances were distinct.

- Modern-Day Parties: Today, the American party system is firmly established. Some Americans believe there are meaningful differences between the major parties, while others see them as indistinguishable. Regardless, political parties continue to play a crucial role in the nation's governance.

#### Reflection and Discussion

- The Founders' Concerns: Reflect on the concerns expressed by the Founding Fathers, such as Benjamin Franklin and James Madison, regarding the potential divisiveness of political factions. Discuss whether these concerns were warranted in light of the role played by political parties in today's elections.

- Party System Strength: Consider whether the American party system has strengthened or weakened the election process over time. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of a multi-party system.

- Future of American Politics: Speculate on whether the American people might one day seriously consider candidates from outside the Democratic and Republican Parties for the presidency. Explore the potential factors that could lead to such a shift in the political landscape.

**Conclusion:** Political parties have played a significant role in shaping American presidential elections throughout history. While concerns were raised by the Founding Fathers about the divisive potential of factions, political parties have become an integral part of the nation's political landscape. As the United States continues to navigate its complex political terrain, the role of political parties in the election process remains a subject of ongoing discussion and debate. *dk.U.S.embassy.gov*

### ELECTING A PRESIDENT

Every four years, presidential elections take place in the United States. Electing a President is a long process, which consists of two major election processes. First, the primary elections take place, in which presidential candidates for the two parties are elected. Second, when the candidates for each party have been officially selected, the process of the actual presidential election begins. Below, you will be able to learn more about these processes.

#### Primary Elections

In Denmark, politicians and parties have three weeks to campaign from the moment the Prime Minister declares an election. In the United States, the election campaign takes place over a much longer period of time. Presidential elections are always held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November every four years. However, candidates start announcing their candidacy as early as the first months of the year before – that is, 1.5 – 2 years prior to the presidential election. In Danish general elections each party nominates a number of different candidates. But in the U.S. parties select only one candidate each for the presidential election. Therefore, parties hold primary elections – or primaries – in order to determine what candidate gets to represent each party in the presidential election.

If the incumbent President decides to attempt reelection, his party's primaries will often be more or less a formality with little competition from rival candidates.

The primaries take place from February through June, and during this time elections move from state to state. The first election at the beginning of February is always in Iowa. After Iowa follows elections in the rest of the states until June. In the primaries, candidates receive a number of delegates, depending on how many votes they get. Within the Democratic Party a total of 3,979 delegates are distributed among their candidates, and among Republicans the number is 2,472. In each state the amount of delegates available depends on the number of inhabitants in the state. The delegates are actually real people. These people are obliged to vote for the candidate to which they are assigned when the parties hold their conventions at the end of the primaries.

#### Why is Iowa important?

It is important for Iowa to get to be the first state to hold an election. This is due to the fact that voters in Iowa may then very well set the agenda for the whole election. Iowa is thereby able to influence the candidates' chances of getting elected, in spite of the fact that the state does not have very many inhabitants. Thus, this state plays an important role in the primaries.

One very important day in the beginning of March is called Super Tuesday, and on this day 14 states hold elections, distributing 1/3 of all delegates. This day is highly significant to the two parties' races towards presidential candidacy.

#### Variation across states

The rules determining how to distribute delegates between the candidates vary according to state and party. A rather simplified explanation is to say that in most states candidates receive an amount of delegates that matches the percentage of votes they get. But a candidate can only receive delegates if he or she gets a minimum of 15% of votes. However, some states apply a "winner takes all" system, where the candidate receiving the plurality of votes gets all of the state's delegates.

The rules determining who may vote and how the process is conduct-

ed also varies according to state. In most states you may only vote within one of the parties. And in some places you even have to be a member of the party beforehand if you wish to vote at the primaries. In other places merely stating in which party's election you wish to vote is sufficient. Here, there are thus two separate lines at the polling stations – one for Republican voters and one for Democrats.

#### The elections intensify

During the elections it becomes more and more clear which candidates have small chances of being elected. For this reason, many candidates withdraw their candidacies even before all states have voted.

The last primary election is held in the beginning of June. After this, all that is left is the parties' conventions in July or August, in which presidential candidates for each party are officially appointed. The party of the incumbent President get to hold their convention second. At the conventions, delegates vote for the candidate to which they have been assigned at the primaries. Furthermore, participants at these conventions vote on central areas of each party's policies.

#### Delegates, superdelegates, and unbound delegates

As we have now seen, each party has a number of delegates who are distributed at the primaries and are subsequently bound to vote for a specific candidate. In addition to these, each party has a number of delegates who do not have the same obligation to vote for a certain candidate. Democrats call these superdelegates. In 2020 the Democratic Party has 775 superdelegates, and these consist of party leaders, such as governors, members of Congress, current and former leaders such as Presidents and Vice Presidents, as well as other appointed members of the party. These superdelegates are selected in advance and they are free and able to vote for any candidate of their choice.

In the Republican Party this group is called unbound delegates, and normally there are three unbound delegates in each state. However, Republicans have not made use of their unbound delegates since 2016. Instead, the people who are usually selected to function as unbound delegates must follow the result of the primary election in the state they are from. In the Democratic Party, the influence of the superdelegates has similarly decreased in 2020. Thus, superdelegates may not vote in the first round at the convention (unless one candidate is already certain of getting elected. If that is the case, superdelegates may cast their vote to express their opinion). In order to become elected as the presidential candidate a person must receive a majority of delegates at the convention. This means that over 50% of the delegates must vote for one candidate for him or her to be appointed as presidential candidate. A simple majority vote is not enough.

#### What happens if nobody gets the majority of votes?

If no candidate receives the majority of votes, voting continues in a second round. For Democrats, this means that the superdelegates will then be able to participate in the vote. For Democrats as well as Republicans, delegates are increasingly released from their obligations to vote for a specific candidate (to some delegates this happens in round 2, for some in round 3, etc. depending on which state they are from). This way, the delegates are able to attempt to convince each other of changing sides and voting for a specific candidate. However, delegates have all been selected based on who they support, in order to ensure that delegates who are obliged to vote for a specific candidate in the first round is a general supporter of him or her. In principle this does mean, however, that it is not the people, but the convention, who ultimately elects the presidential candidates. *(Turn to page 2 for continuation)*



## INM Book Choice

**THE COMPLETE BOOK OF US PRESIDENTS, Third Edition**  
By **BILL YENNE**

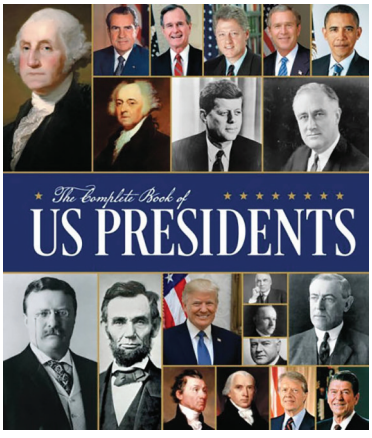
Inform your vote with the history and personal stories of 45 US Presidents in this beautifully illustrated volume.

From the first president, George Washington, to the most recent president, Donald Trump, the United States has seen a host of extraordinary men take office. Their stories are all included in *The Complete Book of US Presidents* by journalist and historian Bill Yenne.

This book features short, biographical essays about the lives of 45 presidents, jam-packed with unusual details and expounding on the significant roles each commander-in-chief played in the shaping of the United States and its relations with the world. Lavishly illustrated, including each president's official White House portrait, sidebars about each and every vice president and First Lady, and interesting anecdotes, this book is accessible to a broad audience and will captivate any history lover during election season.

*The Complete Book of US Presidents* is an expansive collection that reflects on America's rich presidential history, telling the story of a nation through the biographies of some of its greatest political leaders.

\*\*\*



BILL YENNE, Author, Historian, Book Producer

Bill Yenne writes "with a cinematic vividness." — *The Wall Street Journal*

Bill Yenne is the author of more than three dozen non-fiction books, as well as a dozen novels. His work has been selected for Chief of Staff of the Air Force Reading List, and he is the recipient of the Air Force Association's Gill Robb Wilson Award for the "most outstanding contribution in the field of arts and letters [as an] author whose works have shaped how thousands of Americans understand and appreciate airpower." (Previous Gill Robb Wilson Awardees include Edward R. Murrow, Ted Koppel, Tom Brokaw and Tom Clancy.)

## Presidents From 1921- 2021, and First Spouses and Vice-Presidents of the United States

1921-1923	Warren G. Harding	Florence Kling Harding	Calvin Coolidge
1923-1925	Calvin Coolidge	Grace Goodhue Coolidge	office vacant
1925-1929	Calvin Coolidge	Grace Goodhue Coolidge	Charles G. Dawes
1929-1933	Herbert Hoover	Lou Henry Hoover	Charles Curtis
1933-1941	Franklin D. Roosevelt	Eleanor Roosevelt	John N. Garner
1941-1945	Franklin D. Roosevelt	Eleanor Roosevelt	Henry A. Wallace
1945	Franklin D. Roosevelt	Eleanor Roosevelt	Harry S. Truman
1945-1949	Harry S. Truman	Bess Wallace Truman	office vacant
1949-1953	Harry S. Truman	Bess Wallace Truman	Alben W. Barkley
1953-1961	Dwight D. Eisenhower	Mamie Doud Eisenhower	Richard M. Nixon
1961-1963	John F. Kennedy	Jacqueline Kennedy	Lyndon B. Johnson
1963-1965	Lyndon B. Johnson	Lady Bird Johnson	office vacant
1965-1969	Lyndon B. Johnson	Lady Bird Johnson	Hubert Humphrey
1969-1973	Richard M. Nixon	Pat Nixon	Spiro T. Agnew
1973-1974	Richard M. Nixon	Pat Nixon	Gerald R. Ford
1974-1977	Gerald R. Ford	Betty Ford	Nelson Rockefeller
1977-1981	Jimmy Carter	Rosalynn Carter	Walter F. Mondale
1981-1989	Ronald Reagan	Nancy Reagan	George H. W. Bush
1989-1993	George H. W. Bush	Barbara Bush	Dan Quayle
1993-2001	Bill Clinton	Hillary Rodham Clinton	Albert Gore
2001-2009	George W. Bush	Laura Bush	Richard Cheney
2009-2017	Barack Obama	Michelle Obama	Joseph R. Biden
2017-2021	Donald J. Trump	Melania Trump	Mike Pence
2021-	Joseph R. Biden	Jill Biden	Kamala Harris

Source : Library of Congress

## What is the Electoral College?

The Electoral College is a process, not a place. The Founding Fathers established it in the Constitution, in part, as a compromise between the election of the President by a vote in Congress and election of the President by a popular vote of qualified citizens.

### What is the process?

The Electoral College process consists of the selection of the electors, the meeting of the electors where they vote for President and Vice President, and the counting of the electoral votes by Congress.

### How many electors are there? How are they distributed among the States?

The Electoral College consists of 538 electors. A majority of 270 electoral votes is required to elect the President. Your State has the same number of electors as it does Members in its Congressional delegation: one for each Member in the House of Representatives plus two Senators.

The District of Columbia is allocated 3 electors and treated like a State for purposes of the Electoral College under the 23rd Amendment of the Constitution. For this reason, in the following discussion, the word "State" also refers to the District of Columbia and "Executive" to the State Governors and the Mayor of the District of Columbia.

### How are my electors chosen? What are their qualifications? How do they decide who to vote for?

Each candidate running for President in your State has their own group of electors (known as a slate). The slates are generally chosen by the candidate's political party in your State, but State laws vary on how the electors are selected and what their responsibilities are.

### What happens in the general election? Why should I vote?

The general election is held every four years on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November. When you vote for a Presidential candidate you are actually

voting for your candidate's preferred electors.

Most States have a "winner-take-all" system that awards all electors to the Presidential candidate who wins the State's popular vote. However, Maine and Nebraska each have a variation of "proportional representation."

### What happens after the general election?

After the general election, your State's Executive prepares a Certificate of Ascertainment listing the names of all the individuals on the slates for each candidate. The Certificate of Ascertainment also lists the number of votes each individual received and shows which individuals were appointed as your State's electors. Your State's Certificate of Ascertainment is sent to NARA as part of the official records of the Presidential election.

The meeting of the electors takes place on the first Tuesday after the second Wednesday in December after the general election. The electors meet in their respective States, where they cast their votes for President and Vice President on separate ballots. Your State's electors' votes are recorded on a Certificate of Vote, which is prepared at the meeting by the electors. Your State's Certificate of Vote is sent to Congress, where the votes are counted, and to NARA, as part of the official records of the Presidential election.

Each State's electoral votes are counted in a joint session of Congress on the 6th of January in the year following the meeting of the electors. Members of the House and Senate meet in the House Chamber to conduct the official count of electoral votes. The Vice President of the United States, as President of the Senate, presides over the count in a strictly ministerial manner and announces the results of the vote. The President of the Senate then declares which persons, if any, have been elected President and Vice President of the United States.

The President-elect takes the oath of office and is sworn in as President of the United States on January 20th in the year following the general election.

Source: National Archives (archives.gov)

## IS VOTING MANDATORY IN THE U.S.?

In the U.S., no one is required by law to vote in any local, state, or presidential election.

Amendments to the U.S. Constitution and the creation of the Voting Rights Act extended and strengthened voting rights. But there are no laws making voting mandatory for U.S. citizens.

## PRESIDENTIAL GENERAL ELECTION

Every four years, U.S. citizens vote for president and vice president during the general election.

### Presidential candidates

Major political parties nominate presidential and vice presidential candidates at their party's national convention. The candidates' names will be listed on the general election ballot. Candidates from minor political parties and independent candidates might not have a national convention. But they may be on the ballot on a state-by-state basis if they meet the eligibility requirements. This usually includes collecting a certain number of signatures on a petition for that state.

### Voting in the presidential general election

In the presidential general election, citizens who are registered can:

- Vote even if they did not vote in their state's primary elections
- Vote for any presidential candidate, regardless of the party they are registered with or who they voted for in the past

Most people vote on Election Day, which is the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. Depending on where you live, the voting period may be extended to include absentee ballots, mail-in ballots, and early voting. - [usa.gov](http://usa.gov)

## VOTER ID REQUIREMENTS

Each state sets its own voter ID rules. And most require voters to bring identification to vote in person. Know the voter ID laws in your state before going to the polls.

Your state's voter ID laws determine whether you will need to show an ID and, if so, what kind. Your state may require you to show a photo ID like a driver's license, state ID, or passport. Or they may ask to see another form of identification like your birth certificate, or Social Security card. If you are a registered voter and have a voter registration card, you are not required to bring it with you when you vote. But you can still use it as a form of identification.

### Procedures for voting without ID

Even if you do not have a form of ID that your state asks for, you may be able to vote. Some states may ask you to sign a form affirming your identity. Other states will let you cast a provisional ballot.

- States use provisional ballots when there is a question about a voter's eligibility.
  - They keep your provisional ballot separate until they investigate your eligibility.
- You may have to return to show an acceptable form of ID within a few days, or the ballot will not count. - [usa.gov](http://usa.gov)

## VOTING AS A NEW U.S. CITIZEN

As a new U.S. citizen, you have the opportunity to take part in U.S. elections. Voting is your right — and a great way to make a difference in your community.

### Registering to vote is the first step

Before you can vote, you need to register. Once you're registered, you can vote in state, local, and federal elections.

You may have already registered to vote at your naturalization ceremony. If you're not sure, you can check your registration status online or visit your local election office. You may have also received a voter registration card by mail. If your

name or address has changed, you will need to update your voter registration.

If you haven't registered, don't wait! You can register to vote any time after your naturalization ceremony.

Make sure you're officially a citizen before registering.

If you're not a U.S. citizen yet, you should not register to vote. Non-citizens, including permanent legal residents, cannot vote in federal, state, and most local elections. Registering to vote before you're a citizen can affect your citizenship.

Source: [usa.gov](http://usa.gov)

### JEREMIAH 33:6

"NEVERTHELESS, I WILL BRING HEALTH AND HEALING TO IT; I WILL HEAL MY PEOPLE AND WILL LET THEM ENJOY ABUNDANT PEACE AND SECURITY."



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## 2024 CALIFORNIA GENERAL ELECTION

- The last day to register to vote for the November 5, 2024, General Election is October 21, 2024.
- All California active registered voters will receive a vote-by-mail ballot for the November 5, 2024, General Election.
- Your county elections office will begin mailing ballots by October 7, 2024.
- Ballot drop-off locations open on October 8, 2024.
- Vote-by-mail ballots can be returned by mail, at a drop-off location, or your county elections office.
- Vote centers open for early in-person voting in all Voter's Choice Act counties beginning on October 26, 2024.
- Vote-by-mail ballots must be postmarked on or before Election Day and received by November 12, 2024.

## When and where to vote

Most states and territories offer flexible options to make voting work for your needs. Here are the options that may be available in your state.

### Voting in person

Most people who vote on Election Day must vote in person at a voting location. When you arrive at the voting location, you will see election workers ready to help you. You will vote by selecting your choices on a paper ballot or by using an electronic device.

Find your voting location. The opening and closing times for voting locations vary by jurisdiction. Check with your state or local election office if you have any questions about your voting location.

### Early voting

Some voting locations are open before Election Day. Check if your state or territory allows early in-person voting or check with your state or local election office for early voting dates and rules in your area.

### Voting by mail and absentee voting

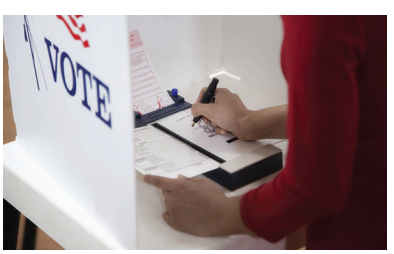
Some states conduct elections entirely by mail. Others allow you to ask for an absentee ballot if you're unable to vote in person or simply prefer to vote by mail. Each state has its own guidelines, so check to see if you're eligible to vote by mail in your state.

### How to return a mail ballot

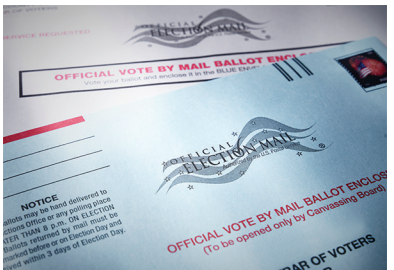
- By mail: In some states and territories, ballots come with a prepaid return envelope. In others, you need to add postage to your envelope before putting it in the mail. Be sure to completely fill out your return envelope before sending.



Early voting



Voting in person



Voting by mail and absentee voting

- Drop box or in person: You don't need a stamp if you return your ballot to your local election office or an official ballot drop box. Many use drop boxes, but their location and availability may vary. Check with your local election office to find your nearest drop box.

## GUIDE TO VOTING AND ELECTIONS

**Do you have to vote for the party you are registered with?**  
In general elections, you do not have to vote for the candidate from your party. Depending on your state, rules for voting in primaries or caucuses may be different.

**Do you have to choose a political party to vote?**  
Your state may give you the opportunity to declare your political party affiliation on your voter registration card.

- You do not have to declare a political party or vote for the party you are registered with in a federal, state, or local general election.
- Depending on your state's rules, you may only be allowed to vote for the political party you are registered with. This may apply when you vote in:
  - o A presidential primary or caucus
  - o Congressional or local office primaries

**Who can and cannot vote**  
Learn if you meet the qualifications to vote in federal, state, and local elections.

### Who can vote?

- You can vote in U.S. federal, state, and local elections if you:
- Are a U.S. citizen (some areas allow non-citizens to vote in local elections only), including:
    - o U.S. citizens living outside of the United States. Learn more from the U.S. Department of State about voting as a U.S. citizen abroad.
    - o U.S. citizens who were born abroad and have never lived in the United States. Your eligibility to vote is based on the state where your parents last lived or were registered to vote. Find out what states may permit you to vote absentee.
    - o Dual citizens living in the United States or abroad
  - Meet your state's residency requirements
  - o You can be experiencing homelessness and still meet these requirements.



- Are 18 years old on or before Election Day
  - o In almost every state, you can register to vote before you turn 18 if you will be 18 by Election Day.
  - o Some states allow 17-year-olds who will be 18 by Election Day to vote in primaries.
  - Are registered to vote by your state's voter registration deadline. North Dakota does not require voter registration.
- Who cannot vote?**
- Non-citizens, including permanent legal residents, cannot vote in federal, state, and most local elections.
  - Some people cannot vote after being convicted of a felony or if they are currently serving time for other types of crimes. Rules are different in each state. Check this guide from vote.gov to understand the laws in your state.
  - Some people who have a mental disability may not be able to vote. Learn about your voting rights. Rules vary by state.
  - U.S. citizens residing in U.S. territories cannot vote for president in the general election. - usa.gov

## Learn more about voting

### Learn about your ballot

Learn how your vote affects your community so you can make an informed decision.

Many election offices post sample ballots online. Some also provide information online or by mail about candidates and ballot measures. Check your state or local election website for more information.

### Voter ID requirements

Each state and territory sets its own voter ID rules. In most states, you must bring your identification to vote in person and provide ID information when you vote by mail. Check your state's voter ID requirements.

You can get an ID card at your state motor vehicle office, even if you do not drive. You will need to pay to get an ID card, but there are organizations that may be able to help you with ID-related fees.

You do not need a voter registration card to vote.

### Language support

If English isn't your primary language and you want to vote in a different language, you can ask for help. Contact your state or local election office to find out what kind of support is available in your language, such as:

- Voting information and materials (such as ballots) in your language
- A poll worker who can communicate with you in your language (including American Sign Language)
- A family member or friend who can help translate for you at your voting location

### Accessibility accommodations

If you have a disability, you have a legal right to accessible voting materials, such as ballots in large print or audio formats. If you are voting in person, you also have a right to accessible voting equipment and an accessible voting location.

If your state's election website or voting location is not accessible, you have options to request accessibility accommodations. Reach out to your state or local election office if:

- You're having trouble accessing your state's election website
- You do not have the accessibility accommodations you need at your voting location

If you believe that you were discriminated against based on a disability while voting, report your experience to the Department of Justice (DOJ).

### Federal laws protect your right to vote

Learn about the federal laws that protect your ability to vote in the Know Your Rights Voting Guide from the Department of Justice (DOJ). The guide is also available in Spanish.

You can report a complaint to the DOJ if you experience any of the following while exercising your right to vote:

- Someone questions your right to vote
- You live in an area that is required to provide voting materials in certain languages, but don't receive those materials
- You don't receive reasonable accessibility accommodations

Source: vote.gov

## Attorney General Bonta and Secretary of State Weber remind Californians of voting rights and advise law enforcement of laws to protect voters

LOS ANGELES — In advance of the Tuesday, November 5, 2024 General Election, California Attorney General Rob Bonta and Secretary of State Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D. held a press conference on October 3 to remind Californians about their voting rights and to advise law enforcement agencies about laws protecting the integrity of the electoral process. The Secretary of State is California's top election official, and the Attorney General is dedicated to enforcing California's election laws to ensure free and fair elections.

"Secretary of State Weber and I encourage Californians to exercise their right to vote on or before November 5. As Californians head to the polls, we want to remind voters of their rights and advise law enforcement agencies about laws that protect the integrity of our electoral process," said Attorney General Bonta. "California's election laws provide the backbone for a free and fair election, and Californians can be confident that Secretary of State Weber and I will do everything in our power to protect voters."

## REDUCING US PASSPORT PROCESSING TIMES

Today, the State Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs is reducing processing times for passports to 4-6 weeks, down from our prior commitment of 6-8 weeks. This announcement comes after months of issuing passports well under the 6-8 week commitment and showcases our progress to continuously improve the efficiency, equity, and accessibility of the U.S. passport application process. The updated 4-6 week processing time applies to both applications submitted by paper or online.

Source: U.S. State Department



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Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

— Proverbs 3:5-6





• PEOPLE • PLACES • EVENTS • ENTERTAINMENT •

• People • Events •

**National Children's Center 65th anniversary**

Celebrate the 65th anniversary of the National Children's Center as they continue to create opportunities for individuals of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities. On October 10, their largest fundraising event of the year, the 65th Anniversary Gala, promises an unforgettable evening with a cocktail reception, seated dinner, and lively entertainment! Don't miss this night of fun and purpose! at 6:00PM at Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC 20229, United States

**The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee**

Broadway Center Stage presents The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, a charmingly witty Tony Award®-winning musical on October 11-20 at the Eisenhower Theater!

A group of six mid-pubescent compete in the title championship, spelling their way through vexing vocabulary while sharing hilarious and poignant personal stories. With music by two-time Tony® winner William Finn and a book by Tony® winner Rachel Sheinkin, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is a fast-paced and funny D-E-L-I-G-H-T.

**The Philadelphia Orchestra at the Carnegie Hall**



Conductor Yannick Nézet-Séguin

Over the course of six stunning movements and approximately 100 minutes, the birth and cosmic evolution of the natural and metaphysical worlds become grand stories captured in sound. It all culminates in one of music's most overwhelmingly powerful climaxes. Conductor Yannick Nézet-Séguin calls Mahler's Third one of his top-three favorite symphonies. "From the creation of the world, to the eternity of the last movement, it is designed to embrace and embody the entire universe ... Every time I conduct this, I cannot hold [back] my tears."

Don't miss this grand event on Tuesday, October 15 at 8:00 PM at Carnegie Hall's Stern Auditorium on the Perelman Stage.

**Riyadh Book Fair 2024**

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia --The Literature, Publishing & Translation Commission, part of the Saudi Ministry of Culture, has revealed that the Riyadh Book Fair 2024 is its largest edition yet, featuring a diverse range of translated international books. With more than 2,000 local, Arab, and international publishers participating, the Fair has strengthened its position as a leading cultural event in the Arab world. This year's edition promotes Saudi



Riyadh International Book Fair 2024 (PRNewfoto/Literature, Publishing & Translation Commission)

Arabia's cultural openness and supports the spread of cross-border knowledge.

**Neon City Festival releases full talent lineup for inaugural event, November 22-24**

Neon City Festival (NCF) has announced 23 acts that will join its inaugural lineup alongside headliners Alison Wonderland, Neon Trees, Russell Dickerson and Seven Lions. Taking place in downtown Las Vegas November 22-24, 2024, the first-of-its-kind music, art and culinary event is free for all ages and will feature local food and beverage vendors, art shows and fireworks.

"Neon City Festival will be a great way for music lovers of all genres to come together in a thrilling environment," said

Jeff Victor, CEO of Neon City Festival. "The lineup includes everything from rock to hip hop, country and EDM – on every corner, there will be an incredible artist performing a free show."

Created by downtown Las Vegas casino owner Derek Stevens – with support from the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority (LVCVA) – and overseen by appointed Neon City Festival CEO Jeff Victor, the event was conceived to show appreciation for Las Vegas locals and visitors alike.

**Join Bernhard Fibich for a singalong concert at the Kids Euro Fest**

Join the Austrian Cultural Forum Washington at Kids Euro Fest 2024 for a singalong concert in English by the famous Austrian children's singer-songwriter Bernhard Fibich, on October 19 at the MLK Library, 901 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001.

With his funny and lively sing-along songs, Bernhard Fibich is one of Austria's best-known children's singer-songwriters. The stars in Bernhard Fibich's entertaining concerts are the children themselves - they are encouraged to take an active part and are even invited on stage.

At Kids Euro Fest, Bernhard will give two performances: one in the morning from 10:30 to 11:30 AM and one in the afternoon from 12:00 to 1:00 PM.

Bring the whole family to the MLK Library in Washington DC on 19 October for a day filled with performances, crafts, and workshops by European artists. Featuring: Bulgarian dance, Austrian music, Italian children's tales, Estonian recycled crafts, Cypriot puzzles, German wheel of fortune, Spanish jeopardy, climate educational workshops, and more! Admission is free, but registration is required.

**BERNHARD FIBICH**  
CHILDREN'S SINGER & SONGWRITER

**KIDS EURO FEST**

OCTOBER 19, 2024  
MLK LIBRARY

**Love the Philippines' campaign receives Japan expo special award**

TOKYO – Department of Tourism (DOT) Secretary Christina Frasco welcomed the growing international recognition of the "Love the Philippines" campaign, which received the Jury's Special Award at Tourism EXPO Japan 2024 on Sept. 26.

The award acknowledged the campaign's outstanding efforts in promoting the Philippines' cultural richness, natural beauty and commitment to sustainable tourism through a collaborative approach.

"This jury citation reflects the shared passion and commitment of Filipinos to showcase the best of our nation to the world, aligning with President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s vision for the tourism industry," Frasco said. "Through the Love the Philippines campaign, we continue to highlight our rich history, stunning landscapes and the warmth of our people, resonating with travelers globally."

Tourism EXPO Japan 2024, jointly organized by the Japan Association for Tourism Promotion, Japan Association of Travel Agents and the Japan National Tourism Organization, is one of the most significant international travel events, featuring participants from more than 80 countries and regions.



LOVE THE PHILIPPINES. The Department of Tourism's "Love the Philippines" campaign receives the Jury's Special Award at Tourism EXPO Japan 2024 on Sept. 26, 2024. Tourism Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco on Sunday (Sept. 29, 2024) welcomed the growing international recognition of the campaign. (Photo courtesy of DOT)

**Olivia Rodrigo honors her Filipino heritage by partnering with Jhpiego to support women's health and empowerment during her first-ever show in the Philippines**

MANILA, Philippines, -- 3x Grammy-award winning artist Olivia Rodrigo made her long-awaited debut in the Philippines and is using this historic moment to give back to the community that has played such a pivotal role in her life.

As a proud Filipino American, through her Fund 4 Good initiative, Rodrigo will donate all net proceeds from her sold-out Philippines concert to Jhpiego, a global leader in women's health with decades of lifesaving work in the Philippines. With tickets priced at just \$26, this contribution underscores Rodrigo's deep commitment to improving health care access and uplifting Filipino women and girls.

Olivia's great-grandparents emigrated from the Philippines, and her family has proudly maintained Filipino traditions, culture, and cuisine. This concert, taking place during her GUTS World Tour, is not only a celebration of her chart-topping success but a heartfelt tribute to her Filipino heritage. - PRNewswire



Olivia Rodrigo visits Jhpiego Philippines headquarters in support of maternal health

**"EXPERIENCE MORE AT SEA™" WITH NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE**

MIAMI -- Norwegian Cruise Line (NCL) the innovator in global cruise travel with a 57-year history of breaking boundaries, recently unveiled its new brand positioning, "MORE," reinforcing and extending its legacy of delivering more onboard offerings, more places to discover and more value with the launch of its all-new upgraded 'More At Sea' package.

NCL is upgrading its popular 'Free At Sea' package to 'More At Sea,' which will provide even more benefits and premium inclusions.

Guests can take advantage of this new and more inclusive package for voyages beginning Jan. 1, 2025.

'More At Sea' will feature an expanded offering of guest-favorite amenities, such as an extensive variety of globally sourced and recognized premium beverage brands across every spirit category. - PRNewswire

2 Thessalonians 3:16 KJV  
**NOW THE LORD OF PEACE HIMSELF GIVE YOU PEACE ALWAYS BY ALL MEANS. THE LORD BE WITH YOU ALL.**

**IMMIGRATION UPDATE**

HOSTED BY AWE E ABAYARI

**JACK GOLAN**

50 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN U.S. IMMIGRATION LAW

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

# PRESIDENTIAL 2024 ELECTION

YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE

## Who can vote?

- You can vote in U.S. federal, state, and local elections if you:
  - Are a U.S. citizen (some areas allow non-citizens to vote in local elections only), including:
    - U.S. citizens living outside of the United States.
    - U.S. citizens who were born abroad and have never lived in the United States. Your eligibility to vote is based on the state where your parents last lived or were registered to vote .
    - Dual citizens living in the United States or abroad
  - Meet your state's residency requirements
    - You can be experiencing homelessness and still meet these requirements.
  - Are 18 years old on or before Election Day
    - In almost every state, you can register to vote before you turn 18 if you will be 18 by Election Day.
    - Some states allow 17-year-olds who will be 18 by Election Day to vote in primaries.
  - Are registered to vote by your state's voter registration deadline. North Dakota does not require voter registration.

## Who cannot vote?

- Non-citizens, including permanent legal residents, cannot vote in federal, state, and most local elections.
- Some people cannot vote after being convicted of a felony or if they are currently serving time for other types of crimes. Rules are different in each state.
- Some people who have a mental disability may not be able to vote.
- Rules vary by state.
- U.S. citizens residing in U.S. territories cannot vote for president in the general election.

Check with your state or local election office for any questions about who can and cannot vote.

Source: USA.GOV