

Elections Edge

A 2024 Elections Weekly Snapshot

6 Weeks Until Election Day | Tuesday, September 24, 2024

AZ **Trump +2.2** | GA **Trump +2.0** | MI **Harris +1.7** | NC **Trump +0.4** | NV **Trump +0.2** | PA **Harris +0.7** | WI **Harris +1.2**

★ The Week in Brief ★

Early Voting Begins in Three States

Voters cast the first in-person ballots of the 2024 election on Friday as early voting began in Minnesota, South Dakota and Virginia. Several more states will kick off early in-person voting in October, including the key swing states of Arizona, Nevada and Ohio. Cook Political Report currently predicts that Minnesota and Virginia are likely to vote for Vice President Harris while former President Trump is expected to easily win South Dakota.

Trump Proposes Ending SALT Deduction Cap

In a reversal from his signature 2017 tax package, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA), former President Trump has pledged to sunset the current state and local tax (SALT) deduction cap. Independent estimates suggest ending the cap would increase the cost of TCJA renewal by approximately \$1.2 trillion. Trump's comments on the SALT cap are the latest in a series of tax policy announcements by the Trump campaign, which have also included calls to eliminate taxes on tips and Social Security benefits.

Harris Campaigns in Swing States This Week

Last week at major rallies in Georgia and Wisconsin, Harris focused on reproductive rights and state limits on abortion. She currently maintains a slim polling edge in Wisconsin, while the pivotal swing state of Georgia is a coin flip. Vice President Harris will campaign in Pennsylvania, Arizona, California and Nevada this week.



Current Forecast



White House

219

93

226

270 needed to win



Senate

51

2

47

51 needed for majority (or 50 + VP)



House

208

24

203

218 needed for majority



Election Timeline

October 1	Vice presidential debate
October 8	OH early voting begins
October 9	AZ early voting begins
October 12	NV early voting begins



The Race for the White House

★ National Average ★

Harris: +2.2

Harris: 49.4%

Trump: 47.2%

★ The State of the Race ★

On November 5, Americans will head to the polls to decide whether Vice President Kamala Harris and Gov. Tim Walz (D-MN) can maintain Democratic White House control or if former President Trump and Sen. J.D. Vance (R-OH) can repeat 2016 for a Trump second term.

Seven battleground states – Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin – will decide the next President of the United States. Polls show a virtual dead heat, with Vice President Harris and former President Trump holding slim leads within margins of error, following a tumultuous campaign that has featured now two assassination attempts against former President Trump and the withdrawal of incumbent President Joe Biden from the Democratic ticket.

Tariffs and trade, the economy, energy policy, immigration, national security, reproductive rights and healthcare are the top issues driving the presidential contest, as Vice President Harris and former President Trump each strive to replicate their electoral coalitions from 2020 and 2016, respectively.

Issues at a Glance

Tariffs and Trade

Vice President Harris is expected to continue many Biden-era trade policies, including refraining from pursuing new free trade agreements and maintaining strong support for workforce development and pro-labor initiatives. Additionally, she may accelerate the administration’s efforts to use trade tools to address climate change and support initiatives aimed at reconstituting the World Trade Organization’s appellate body.

In contrast, former President Trump has pledged to increase universal baseline tariffs on imports into the United States and to increase China tariffs 50-60%. He may seek to do so through existing authorities such as the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, Section 301, or Section 232. Such actions could lead to legal challenges and retaliatory tariffs by other nations. His approach to China may be similar to his first term, imposing tariffs first before potentially initiating negotiations.

Arizona



Trump +2.2

Trump: 48.7%

Harris: 46.5%

Georgia



Trump +2.0

Trump: 48.1%

Harris: 46.1%

Michigan



Harris +1.7

Harris: 49.3%

Trump: 47.6%

Nevada



Harris +0.2

Harris: 47.0%

Trump: 46.8%

North Carolina



Trump +0.4

Trump: 47.8%

Harris: 47.4%

Pennsylvania



Harris +1.0

Harris: 48.5%

Trump: 47.5%

Wisconsin



Harris +1.2

Harris: 49.3%

Trump: 48.1%





The Race for the Senate

Generic Congressional Ballot
46.3% Democrats | 44.3% Republicans

Democrats +2.0

★ The State of the Race ★

The Senate map heavily favors Republicans, with 23 Democrat-held seats up for reelection compared to just 11 current Republican seats. Three of the contested Democratic Senate seats are in states that former President Trump won in 2016 and 2020: Montana, Ohio, and West Virginia.

While Republicans need only flip one seat to control the Senate, Democrats are hopeful that incumbents will successfully defend key, swing state seats, including Nevada, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.

Current Forecast



51

2

47

51 needed for majority (or 50 + VP).



Arizona



Gallego +4.6

Gallego (D): 48.0%

Lake (R): 43.4%

Maryland



Alsobrooks +6.8

Alsobrooks (D): 48.3%

Hogan (R): 41.5%

Michigan



Slotkin +5.1

Slotkin (D): 48.5%

Rogers (R): 43.4%

Montana



Sheehy +5.2

Sheehy (R): 50.0%

Tester (D): 45.0%

Nevada



Rosen +8.8

Rosen (D): 48.8%

Brown (R): 40.0%

Pennsylvania

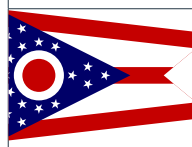


Casey +4.9

Casey (D): 48.4%

McCormick (R): 43.5%

Ohio



Brown +3.6

Brown (D): 46.3%

Moreno (R): 42.7%

Wisconsin



Baldwin +4.6

Baldwin (D): 50.6%

Hovde (R): 46.0%





The Race for the House

Generic Congressional Ballot

46.3% Democrats | 44.3% Republicans

Democrats +2.0

★ The State of the Race ★

While Republicans have an edge for the Senate majority, the opportunity to protect the current slim majority is more daunting for House Republicans. Following significant changes in membership, including the resignation of former Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA), House Republicans hold a narrow 220 to 212 majority in September 2024. Last week, House Democrats announced an August 2024 fundraising haul of \$22.3 million, nearly \$8 million more than August 2022, highlighting strong momentum with six weeks remaining before election day.

Redistricting offers Democrats with key pick-up opportunities in Alabama and Louisiana but has limited projected impact in key states like New York. Currently, 18 House Republicans represent districts President Biden won in 2020, while only eight House Democrats hold districts won by former President Trump.

The Cook Political Report estimates the Republicans holding 208 "solid," "likely," or "lean" seats compared to 203 for Democrats, with 24 toss-up districts expected to decide which party will control the lower chamber. Whether it is a Republican or Democratic House majority, a slim majority is projected for the 119th Congress.

★ Races to Watch ★

Lean Democrat	
CA-47: OPEN	NY-22: Williams
CT-05: Hayes	OH-09: Kaptur
IL-17: Sorenson	OR-06: Salines
IN-07: Mrvan	PA-17: Deluzio
MN-02: Craig	TX-34: Gonzalez
NV-03: Lee	VA-07: OPEN
NY-18: Ryan	
Democrat Toss-ups	
AK-AL: Peltola	NM-02: Vasquez
CO-08: Caraveo	OH-13: Sykes
ME-02: Golden	PA-07: Wild
MI-07: OPEN	PA-08: Cartwright
MI-08: OPEN	WA-03: Perez
NC-01: Davis	
Republican Toss-ups	
AZ-01: Schweikert	NE-02: Bacon
AZ-06: Ciscomani	NJ-07: Kean
CA-13: Duarte	NY-04: D'Esposito
CA-22: Valadao	NY-17: Lawler
CA-27: Garcia	NY-19: Molinaro
CA-41: Calvert	OR-05: Chavez-DeRemer
CA-45: Steel	
Lean Republican	
IA-01: Miller-Meeks	PA-10: Perry
IA-03: Nunn	VA-02: Kiggans
MI-10: James	WI-03: Van Orden

Current Forecast



208

24

203

218 needed for majority.



Sources: Polling averages and generic congressional ballot provided by RealClearPolitics. Race ratings provided by Cook Political Report. Candidate favorability ratings provided by FiveThirtyEight. (Last updated September 23, 2024).

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