



GPG 2020 Election Polling Update

October 16, 2020



The Latest

With just 18 more days until election day, three narratives drove the week.

Pres. Trump's Health

- Since his recovery from COVID-19, the president has tweeted that he is immune to contracting it again and unable to pass it to others, which some health experts have disagreed with.
- Pres. Trump has hit the campaign trail hard this week with back-to-back rallies in Florida, Pennsylvania, Iowa, North Carolina and Georgia.

Competing Town Halls

- The second debate was canceled by the Commission on Presidential Debates last week, leading both candidates to make new plans.
- Joe Biden participated in a town hall on Thursday hosted by ABC; Pres. Trump participated in a separate, simultaneous town hall hosted by NBC.

The Supreme Court

- As confirmation hearings for Judge Amy Coney Barrett took place this week, Biden has said that he is "not a fan" of the idea of court packing but will take a clear position before election day.
- Only 1 in 5 voters favor increasing the number of seats on the Supreme Court, while nearly half oppose. Even among Democrats, only 1 in 3 support the idea.



Source: Washington Examiner/YouGov, 10/4/2020, n = 1,200 registered voters (<https://today.yougov.com/topics/politics/articles-reports/2020/10/07/supreme-court-packing-poll>); CNN, 10/11/2020 (<https://www.cnn.com/2020/10/11/media/trump-biden-town-halls/index.html>); Washington Post, 10/12/2020 (https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/trump-rally-covid-florida-biden/2020/10/12/00c10916-0c99-11eb-8a35-237ef1eb2ef7_story.html); Washington Post, 10/11/2020 (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2020/10/11/trump-says-hes-not-contagious-health-experts-say-thats-not-certain/>); CNN, 10/13/2020 (<https://www.cnn.com/2020/10/13/politics/joe-biden-court-packing-not-a-fan/index.html>); Yahoo/YouGov, 10/9-11/2020, n = 1,505 registered voters (<https://today.yougov.com/topics/politics/articles-reports/2020/10/13/support-court-packing-falls-among-dems>)

Supreme court confirmation hearings interplay with Senate election politics.

Voters are Warming to ACB

48%

say the Senate should vote to confirm Judge Barrett,

up 11 points

from when Trump first announced her nomination.



Sen. Graham may benefit from free TV exposure and excite his base by defending a conservative justice, but joking about the “good old days” of segregation on a national stage could also damage him.



Local news outlets in NC continue to mention **Sen. Tillis’** diagnosis and in-person participation in the hearings - highlighting a weakness with NC voters.



Sen. Ernst’s participation provides a chance to distance her message from the president’s and re-assert herself as an independent voice in the Senate, a trait she campaigned on six years ago.



The Battleground

Biden has maintained his 10-point lead nationally; betting odds continue to favor Biden.

Current National Average

Biden leads by 10 points

Joe
Biden

52%

President
Trump

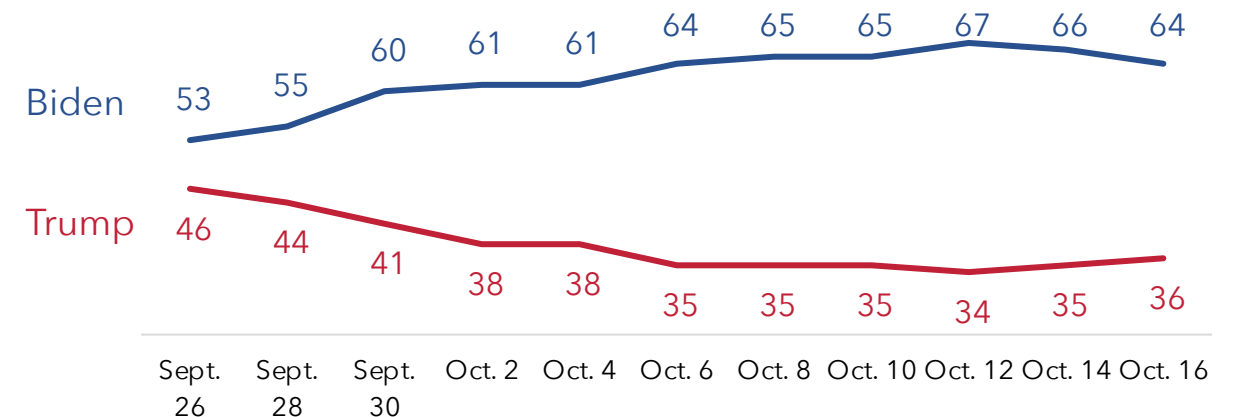
42%

*Based on aggregated polling from
September 29 - October 12*

This is consistent with the margin
one week ago.

Betting Odds

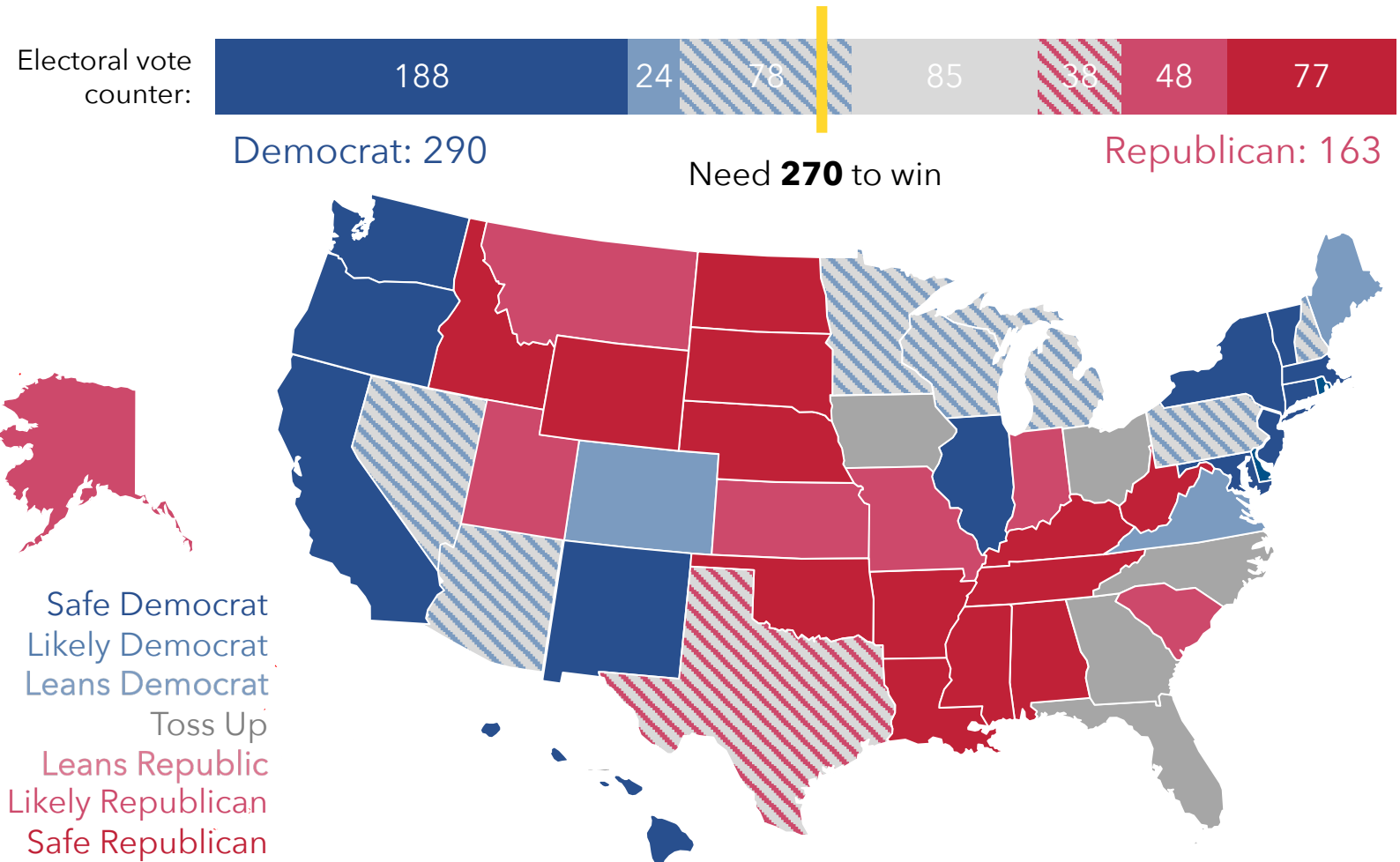
Biden's odds of winning have steadily
increased since the first debate.



Based on current ratings, Biden could win the Electoral College with D-leaning states alone.

If Biden wins all states where he is leading in the polls, he would win the Electoral College 375 to Trump's 163.

To stay in the game, Trump needs to win **all toss-up and R-leaning states** AND **pick up at least 22 votes** from states currently leaning Democrat.



Biden has the TV ad spending advantage in close toss-up states.



Florida

Average polling: **Biden +2**

TV ad spending advantage:
Biden +3.7M



Georgia

Average polling: **Biden +0.4**

TV ad spending advantage:
Biden +0.4M*



N. Carolina

Average polling: **Biden +3**

TV ad spending advantage:
Biden +0.7M



Iowa

Average polling: **Biden +1**

TV ad spending advantage:
Biden +0.6M*



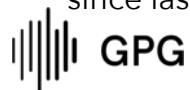
Ohio

Average polling: **Biden +0.6**

TV ad spending advantage:
Biden +1.1M

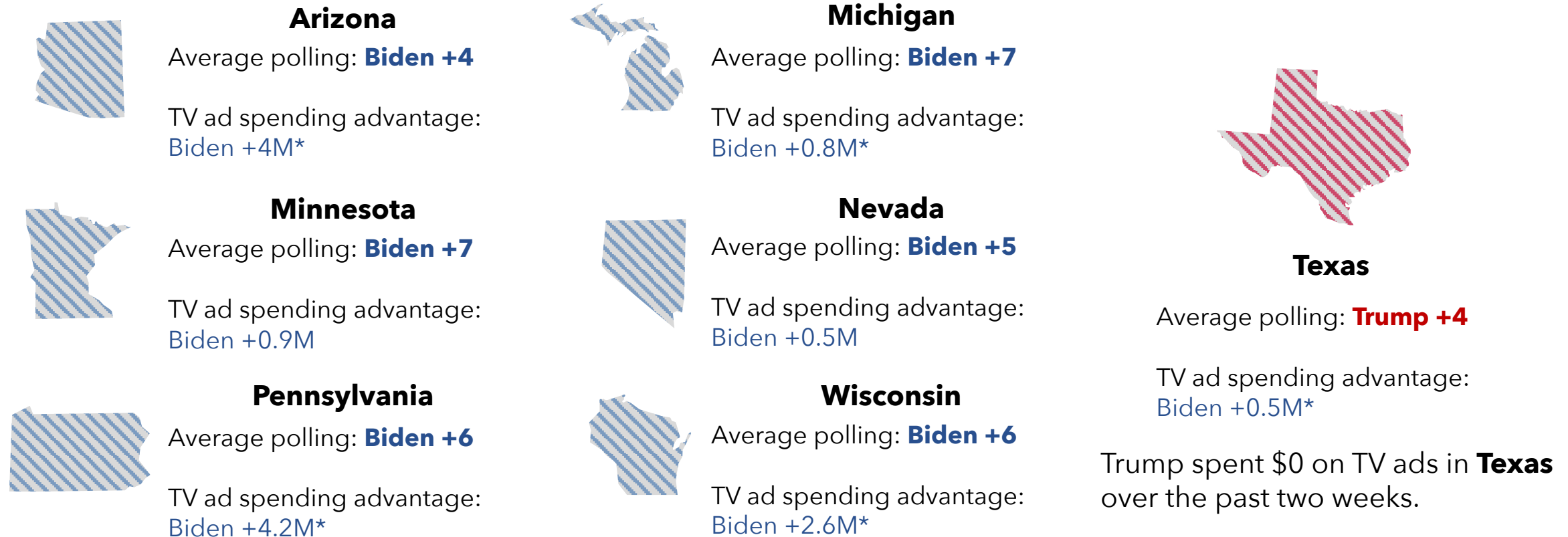
Trump spent \$0 on TV ads in **Ohio and Iowa** over the past two weeks.

*denotes a state where Biden's spending has increased since last week.

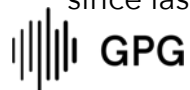


Source: Real Clear Politics, average polling from 10/16/2020 (https://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2020/president/ga/georgia_trump_vs_biden-6974.html; https://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2020/president/fl/florida_trump_vs_biden-6841.html; https://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2020/president/nc/north_carolina_trump_vs_biden-6744.html; https://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2020/president/ia/iowa_trump_vs_biden-6787.html; https://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2020/president/oh/ohio_trump_vs_biden-6765.html); GPG ad spending analysis

Biden has increased TV ad spending to shore up key Democratic leaning states.



*denotes a state where Biden's spending has increased since last week.



Source: Real Clear Politics, average polling from 10/16/2020 (https://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2020/president/pa/pennsylvania_trump_vs_biden-6861.html); https://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2020/president/mi/michigan_trump_vs_biden-6761.html; https://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2020/president/wi/wisconsin_trump_vs_biden-6849.html; https://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2020/president/mn/minnesota_trump_vs_biden-6966.html; https://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2020/president/az/arizona_trump_vs_biden-6807.html; https://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2020/president/nv/nevada_trump_vs_biden-6867.html; https://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2020/president/tx/texas_trump_vs_biden-6818.html); GPG ad spending analysis

Blue stripes denote states classified Lean Democrat and red strips denote states classified Lean Republican by Cook Political Report.

But Arizona and Nevada could be tipping point states if they break for Pres. Trump.

Arizona

Electoral votes: 11

2016 margin: **Trump +4**

Current average polling: **Biden +4**

How could Pres. Trump take AZ?

- ✓ **Older voters** defy polls and break for Pres. Trump again.
- ✓ **Maricopa county** leans more heavily in favor of Pres. Trump than polls suggest.
- ✓ Pres. Trump could pick off more of the 32% of the **Arizona electorate that didn't vote in 2016**, who currently lean Biden.

Nevada

Electoral votes: 6

2016 margin: **Clinton +2**

Current average polling: **Biden +5**

How could Pres. Trump take NV?

- ✓ He picks up the 6% of **Nevada's undecided voters**.
- ✓ **Unionized casino workers**, who have been more difficult to mobilize this year, don't show up.
- ✓ **COVID-19 cases decline** in coming weeks, and NV voters focus on Pres. Trump's economy messaging instead.



House and Senate Updates

Democrats maintain their advantage in Senate races; Cook predicts Dems pick up 7.

Solid Dem	Likely/Lean Dem	Toss Up	Likely/Lean Rep	Solid Rep
DE-Coons	MI-Peters	ME-Collins	AL-Jones	AR-Cotton
IL-Durbin	AZ-McSally	NC-Tillis	KS-Open	ID-Risch
MA-Markey	CO-Gardner	MT-Daines	KY-McConnell	LA-Cassidy
NH-Shaheen		IA-Ernst	TX-Cornyn	MS-Hyde-Smith
NJ-Booker		GA-Perdue	AK-Sullivan	NE-Sasse
OR-Merkley		GA-Loeffler		OK-Inhofe
RI-Reed		SC-Graham		SD-Rounds
VA-Warner				TN-Open
MN-Smith				WV-Moore Capito
NM-Open				WY-Open

72%

chance of Democrats taking the Senate based on current forecasts.

Bold denote ratings that have shifted since last week.



Source: Cook Political Report 10/7/2020 (<https://cookpolitical.com/ratings/senate-race-ratings>; <https://cookpolitical.com/analysis/senate/senate-overview/almost-100-days-out-democrats-are-favored-take-back-senate>); FiveThirtyEight, 10/16/2020 (<https://projects.fivethirtyeight.com/2020-election-forecast/senate/>); Jessica Taylor, 10/13/2020 (<https://twitter.com/JessicaTaylor/status/1315991309526720513>)

A number of traditional Republican strongholds are extremely close.

Georgia

Incumbent: **David Perdue** (R)
 Challenger: **Jon Ossoff** (D)
 Average recent polling: **Perdue +2**



Georgia Special

Incumbent: **Kelly Loeffler** (R)
 Top Challenger: **Raphael Warnock** (D)
 Recent polling: **Warnock +4**



Maine

Incumbent: **Susan Collins** (R)
 Challenger: **Sara Gideon** (D)
 Average recent polling: **Gideon +4**

South Carolina

Incumbent: **Lindsey Graham** (R)
 Challenger: **Jaime Harrison** (D)
 Recent polling: **Graham +6**



Iowa

Incumbent: **Joni Ernst** (R)
 Challenger: **Theresa Greenfield** (D)
 Average recent polling: **Greenfield +5**



Montana

Incumbent: **Steve Daines** (R)
 Challenger: **Steve Bullock** (D)
 Average recent polling: **Daines +3**



North Carolina

Incumbent: **Thom Tillis** (R)
 Challenger: **Cal Cunningham** (D)
 Average recent polling: **Cunningham +4**



*denotes polling within the margin of error



Sources: Real Clear Politics IA Senate race averages, 10/16/2020 (https://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2020/senate/ia/iowa_senate_ernst_vs_greenfield-7072.html); Real Clear Politics ME senate race averages, 10/16/2020 (https://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2020/senate/me/maine_senate_collins_vs_gideon-6928.html); Real Clear Politics MN senate race averages, 10/16/2020 (https://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2020/senate/mt/montana_senate_daines_vs_bullock-7063.html); Real Clear Politics GA senate race averages, 10/16/2020 (https://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2020/senate/ga/georgia_senate_perdue_vs_ossoff-7067.html); Real Clear Politics senate NC senate race averages, 10/16/2020 (https://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2020/senate/nc/north_carolina_senate_tillis_vs_cunningham-6908.html); WXIA/SUSA, 10/8-12/2020, n = 677 likely GA voters (<http://www.surveysusa.com/client/PollReport.aspx?g=b396b793-781d-4382-9ada-fc4cc50dacb6>); NYT/Siena, 10/9-15/2020, n = 605 likely SC voters (<https://int.nyt.com/data/documenttools/sc100920-crosstabs/7b3ac01b2be42e57/full.pdf>)

Analysts give Democrats a 99% chance of keeping the House.

Lean Dem		Toss Up			Lean Rep	
AZ-1 O'Halleran	NJ-7 Malinowski	CA-21 Cox	UT-4 McAdams	NY-24 Katko	AK-AL Young	MT-AL Open
CA-48 Rouda	NV-03 Lee	FL-26 Mucarsel-Powell	VA-2 Luria	OH-1 Chabot	AR-2 Hill	NC-8 Hudson
GA-6 McBath	OR-4 DeFazio	IA-1 Finkenauer	AZ-6 Schweikert	PA-10 Perry	CO-3 Open	NC-11 Vacant
GA-7 Open	PA-8 Cartwright	IA-2 Open	CA-25 Garcia	TX-21 Roy	FL-15 Open	NY-1 Zeldin
IA-3 Axne	PA-17 Lamb	MN-7 Peterson	IN-5 Open	TX-22 Open	IL-13 Davis	PA-1 Fitzpatrick
MI-8 Slotkin	SC-1 Cunningham	NM-2 Torres Small	MO-2 Wagner	TX-24 Open	MI-3 Open	TX-3 Taylor
MI-11 Stevens	TX-23 Open	NY-11 Rose	NE-2 Bacon	VA-5 Open	MI-6 Upton	TX-10 McCaul
MN-2 Craig	VA-7 Spanberger	NY-22 Brindisi	NJ-2 Van Drew		MN-1 Hagedorn	
NJ-3 Kim	WI-3 Kind	OK-5 Horn	NY-2 Open			

Bold denote ratings that have shifted left since last week.



Source: Cook Political Report, 10/08/2020 (<https://cookpolitical.com/ratings/house-race-ratings>); The Economist, 10/16/2020 (https://projects.economist.com/us-2020-forecast/house?utm_medium=pr&utm_source=inf-a)

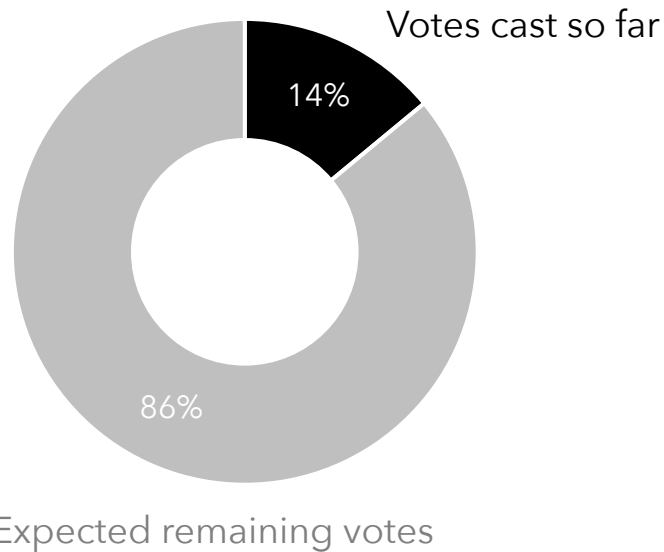


Looking Ahead

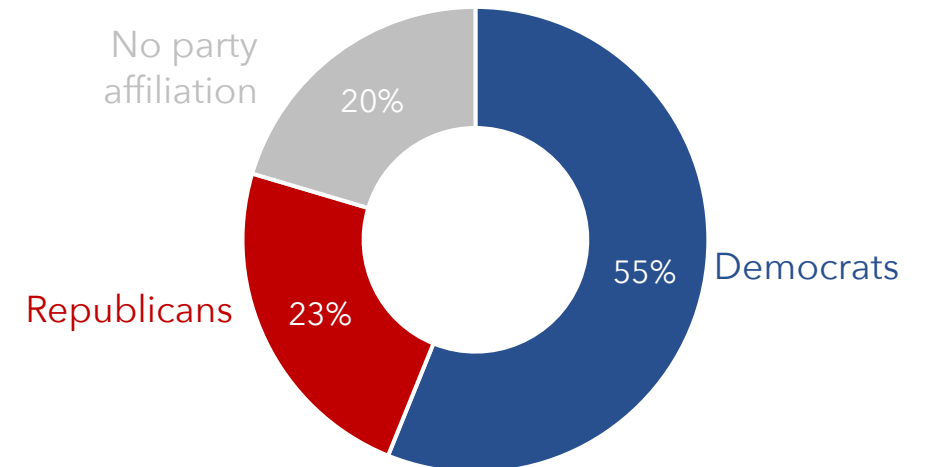
Voting in 2020 already looks much different compared to 2016.

So far, **over 21 million votes have been cast in the 2020 election**, compared to only **1.4 million this point in 2016**.

There are still many more votes expected to be cast.

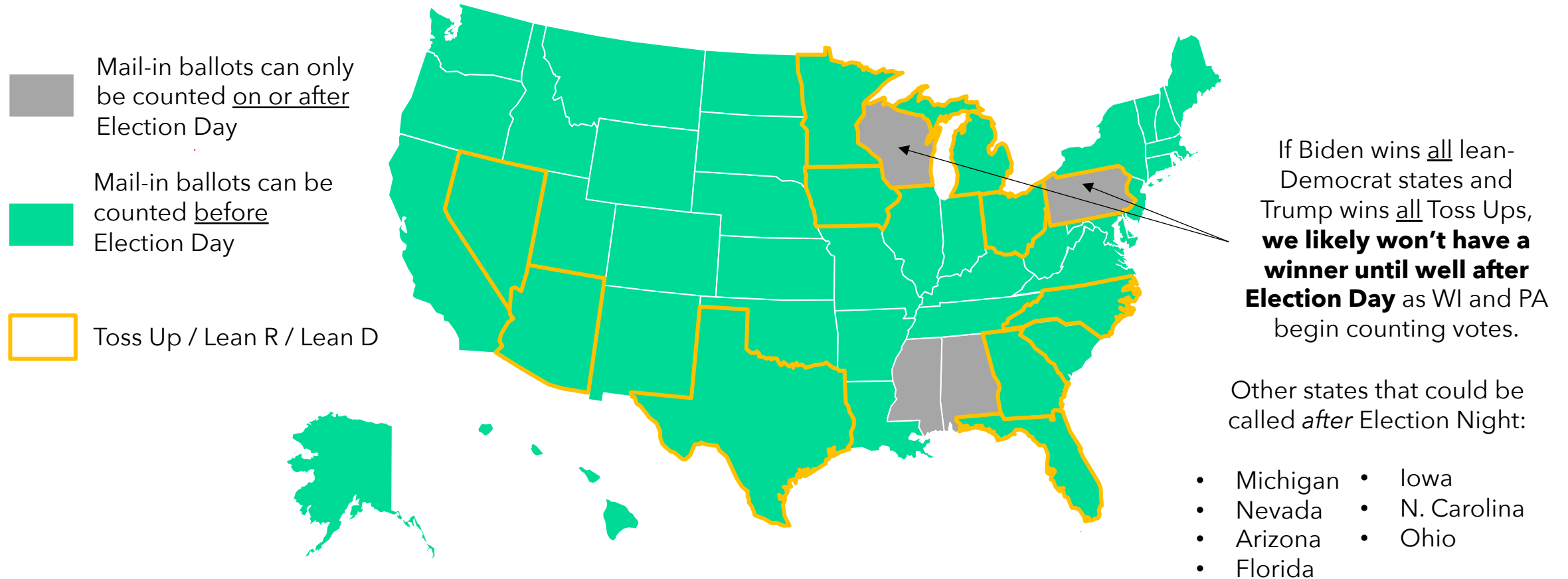


So far, most mail in ballots have been cast by Democrats.*



*Only 9 states report party registration data: CA, FL, IA, MD, NC, NJ, OK, PA, SD

On election night, it's unlikely we'll know results from Wisconsin and Pennsylvania.



What's Ahead: Final Presidential Debate

NEXT EVENT: FINAL PRES. DEBATE

*Scheduled for Thurs., Oct. 22
9-10:30pm ET
Belmont University, Nashville, TN*

Format is six 15-minute segments covering:

- Fighting COVID-19
- American Families
- Race in America
- Climate Change
- National Security
- Leadership



OCTOBER

SCOTUS CONFIRMATION

- Judiciary Committee plans to reconvene on Oct. 22 for a vote.
- If approved, the nomination would go to the full Senate for a vote, likely on the week of Oct. 26.

NOVEMBER

ELECTION DAY

- Tuesday, Nov. 3.

STATES TALLY MAIL-IN BALLOTS

- Expected to continue into the weeks after Nov. 3.

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