

What To Watch for on Election Night

(all times EST)

Overall:

The News Stories:

- Turnout is going to be a big story. High turnout in diverse, educated places (Miami, Charlotte, Philadelphia, Atlanta, etc.) will be good for Clinton. High turnout in white, blue-collar areas is better for Trump. Latino turnout is also going to be very important for both candidates. The impact of early voting will be a story, as well as the potential for voter misinformation.
- Until we have actual ballots counted, expect to hear a lot of comparisons to past campaigns:
 - Trump is banking on getting more than Romney's 59% of whites, with more than 72% voter turnout. He wants to match Romney's 51% of all college grads.
 - Hillary wants to replicate Obama's 2012 numbers: African-Americans were 12% of the turnout, 93% of them voted Democrat. Hispanics were 10% of turnout with 71% voting Democrat. Millennials were 19% of the turnout; 60% voted Democrat.
 - Since WWII, the winner has averaged 385.4 electoral votes, the loser 145.1. 6 Times, a candidate had fewer than 100. Since 1984, no Democrat has gotten fewer than 111 (Dukakis, 1988), and no Republican has gotten fewer than 159 (Bob Dole, 1996).

Paths to Victory:

- Hillary wins if she wins:
 - All the typically blue states + Florida
 - All the typically blue states + Ohio
 - All the typically blue states + Pennsylvania + New Hampshire
- Trump has to win every single swing state.

The Senate

- In close Senate races, see how well the incumbent Republicans do in relation to Trump. Similarly, compare how Trump does in swing states compared to Romney in 2012.
- Democrats need to gain 5 of the 24 open Republican seats to gain control of the Senate. There are 10 open Democrat seats.

The House of Representatives

- In the House, there are 23 races that are considered battleground, and 14 more that are considered noteworthy. If Democrats win all 37 of those races (they won't), they would barely have a majority. The story here is how many seats can the Democrats add to their 186. The Republicans have 246.

Ballot Questions Around the Country:

Top topics for ballot questions across the country are: marijuana legalization, gun control, healthcare, minimum wage.

It's going to be a late night:

- There is a delay between when the polls close and when the official results come in. It can vary from county to county within a state. Unless it's a landslide, we probably won't know enough until 11:00 or 12:00.
- If Hillary wins, you won't want to miss her legendary victory speech.
- If Hillary wins, will Trump accept the results?

5:00 PM

Exit polls start coming out.

Listen for reports of turnout.

Nothing that is said on the news now is going to be important. You can probably turn it off.

7:00

Virginia (13, likely blue)

- This is the first of the swing states to be reporting results. If Hillary does well here, it will bode well for the rest of the night.
- The House race in the 10th District is one to watch. Incumbent Barbara Comstock (R) vs. LuAnn Bennett (D) may indicate the Trump impact on the down ballot.
- In 2012, Romney won 47% of the popular vote.

Georgia (16, likely red)

- Could be a closer race than previous years, although still will likely go red.
- Look for how large the nonwhite turnout is, as well as results from Atlanta suburbs.

Indiana (11, solid red)

- Important Senate race: Evan Bayh (D) and Todd Young (R); currently rated a toss-up, possibly leaning Republican, but Bayh was a late entry and has a lot of name recognition in the state. Anything could happen here.
- Republicans currently have the governor, house, and senate. Can they keep all three?
- Vigo County has backed every presidential winner since 1956, and wrong twice since 1888.

Vermont (3, solid blue)

- Democrats currently have the governor, house, and senate. Can they keep all three?
- Open Senate seat, likely to stay Democrat.

South Carolina (9, solid red)

Kentucky (8, solid red)

7:30

North Carolina (15, purple/swing)

- Raleigh and Charlotte will be important for Clinton. Obama won NC in 2008, but lost it in 2012.
- Senate race: Incumbent Richard Burr (R) and Deborah Ross (D); currently leaning Republican; Ross is doing better than expected. This is possibly the most important Senate race to watch.
- Republicans currently have the governor, house, and senate. Can they keep all three?
- The middle of the state tends to go Democratic, but the West tends to go Republican.

Ohio (18, purple/swing; leaning red)

- Look for Hillary's margins in Hamilton County (includes Cincinnati) and Franklin County (includes Columbus). She needs to carry Cuyahoga County (includes Cleveland) by at least 160,000 votes.
- In 2012, Romney won 48% of the popular vote.
- No Republican has ever won without Ohio.
- The split is big cities (D) vs. suburban and rural areas. (R)

- Ottawa and Wood counties have voted for the overall winner since 1964 and 1976, respectively.
- Keep an eye on the Senate race: incumbent Rob Portman (R) vs. Ted Strickland (D) could flip blue, but not likely; race is tighter than expected.

West Virginia (5, solid red)

8:00

Florida (29, purple/swing)

- This is a must-win state for Trump. If Hillary wins here, it's all over. Late polling has it leaning red.
- Typically slow to report results, so don't jump to conclusions; Hillsborough County (includes Tampa) is usually a bellwether for the state and country. They have voted for the presidential winner every time since 1960, except one.
- In 2012, Romney won 49% of the popular vote.
- Watch the I-4 corridor. Those counties will indicate how the state will go.
- The Panhandle, which is on Central time and thus votes later, tends to go red.
- Important Senate race: Incumbent Marco Rubio (R) vs. Patrick Murphy (D); it's currently considered a toss-up, or maybe leaning Republican.
- House races: 7th District (currently R), 18th District (currently D), 26th District (currently R) are all toss-ups.
- There is a Ballot question to legalize medical marijuana.

New Hampshire (4, purple/swing; leaning blue)

- Important Senate race: Incumbent Kelly Ayotte (R) vs. Maggie Hassan (D); polling has the candidates tied going into election day
- In 2012, Romney won 47% of the popular vote.
- House race: 1st District (currently R), could flip to D

Pennsylvania (20, likely blue)

- Watch the Philly suburbs- Bucks County, Chester County. If Hillary does well here, it could swing the state. She has been polling well here.
- In 2012, Romney won 47% of the popular vote.
- If Hillary gets PA, it could protect her if Trump wins Nevada or Iowa
- Important Senate race: incumbent Pat Toomey vs. Katie McGinty; leaning slightly Republican
- House race: 8th District (currently R)

Delaware (3, solid blue)

- Democrats currently have the governor, house, and senate. Can they keep all three?
- Both the Governor and Lieutenant Governor's races are notable.
- The one and only House seat is up for grabs, but expected to remain Democrat.

Illinois (20, solid blue)

- Very Important Senate race: Incumbent Mark Kirk (R) vs. Tammy Duckworth (D); currently leaning Democratic
- House race: 10th District (currently R)

Maine (4, solid blue, but can split electoral votes)

- One of the districts that decides its own electoral vote is leaning red. This would be the first time ever that Maine has actually split its electoral votes.
- House race: 2nd District (currently R)
- Ballot questions to legalize marijuana, and increase the minimum wage.
- Ballot question to overhaul their voting system, changing it to a system where voters will rank their choices in multiple rounds until someone wins with a majority

Missouri (10, likely red)

- Not as close as it often is.
- Important Senate race: incumbent Roy Blunt (R) vs. Jason Kander (D); currently rated a toss-up, but leaning Republican. This race is closer than it was expected to be.
- Governor seat is up for election.

New Jersey (14, solid blue)

- House race: 5th District (currently R)

District of Columbia (3, solid blue)

Massachusetts (11, solid blue)

- There is a Ballot question to legalize marijuana.

Alabama (9, solid red)

Connecticut (7, solid blue)

Maryland (10, solid blue)

Mississippi (6, solid red)

Oklahoma (7, solid red)

Rhode Island (4, solid blue)

Tennessee (11, solid red)

8:30

Arkansas (6, solid red)

- There is a Ballot question to legalize medical marijuana

9:00

If Hillary is going to have a historic sweep, we'll know it in this hour. If Trump is going to take the Rust Belt, we'll know that, too.

Colorado (9, purple/swing; leaning blue)

- Hillary is polling well, but Trump has been trying to make a late play for it.
- Historically slow to count votes- up to 10% don't get counted on election night.
- Keep an eye on the Latino turnout and how it compares to 2008 and 2012. Young voters will also be important.
- Important House race: 6th District incumbent Mike Coffman (R) vs. Morgan Carroll. Coffman has distanced himself from Trump because it's a big Latino area.
- In 2012, Romney won 46% of the popular vote.
- Ballot questions to increase the minimum wage and related to healthcare.

Arizona (11, likely red)

- Leans red, but growing numbers of Latinos are trying to turn the state purple.
- Typically doesn't release votes until around 10pm.
- In 2012, Romney won 54% of the popular vote.
- Keep an eye on the Senate: incumbent John McCain (R) vs. Ann Kirkpatrick; could flip blue, but not likely
- Keep an eye on the House race: 1st District is likely to stay Democrat, but could flip
- Ballot questions to legalize marijuana and to increase the minimum wage

Michigan (16, likely blue)

- Trump is trying to make this state more competitive. A flip to red would be a big win for him.
- In 2012, Romney won 45% of the popular vote.
- House race: 1st District (currently R), likely to stay R

Minnesota (10, likely blue)

- House race: 2nd District (currently R)

Nebraska (5, solid red, but can split electoral votes)

- In 2008, Nebraska split its electoral vote for the first time; the 2nd District (includes Omaha) went to Obama. It was the first Democratic electoral vote for NE since 1964.
- House race: 2nd District (currently D)

New Mexico (5, likely blue)

- Typically blue.

New York (29, solid blue)

- House race: 19th District, 22nd District, (both currently R)

North Dakota (3, solid red)

- Republicans currently have the governor, house, and senate. Can they keep all three?
- There is a Ballot question to legalize medical marijuana.

South Dakota (3, solid red)

- There is a Ballot question to *lower* the minimum wage.

Texas (38, likely red)

- Leans red, but growing numbers of Latinos are trying to turn the state purple.
- In 2012, Romney won the popular vote by 57%.
- House race: 23rd District (currently R)

Wisconsin (10, likely blue)

- Trump is trying to make this state more competitive. A flip to red would be a big win for him.
- Important Senate race: incumbent Ron Johnson (R) vs. Russ Feingold (D); toss-up, leaning Democrat

Kansas (6, solid red)

Louisiana (8, solid red)

Wyoming (3, solid red)

10:00

Iowa (6, purple/swing; leaning red)

- One of the last battleground states.
- Trump's most likely swing state.
- House race: 1st District (currently R)

Montana (3, solid red)

- Governor seat is up for election.
- Ballot question to legalize medical marijuana

Nevada (6, purple/swing)

- One of the last of the battleground states.
- Early voting is leaning towards Hillary, despite polling indicating a closer race.
- In 2012, Romney won 46% of the popular vote.
- Very Important Senate Race for Harry Reid's successor: Joe Heck (R) vs. Catherine Cortez Masto (D); Democrats need to keep this seat; races in this state are historically very close.
- House races: 3rd District (currently R), toss-up; 4th District (currently R), leaning D
- Ballot questions related to healthcare and to legalize marijuana

Utah (6, likely red)

- This state is typically a Republican stronghold.
- If Evan McMullan takes this state, he'll be the first 3rd party candidate to win a state since 1968.
- A loss here would be a blow to Trump.
- Republicans currently have the governor, house, and senate. Can they keep all three?

11:00

California (55, solid blue)

- Look for some House seats to turn from red to blue in growing Latino and college-educated districts.
- House races: 7th District (likely to stay D), 25th District (toss-up, currently R) 48th District (toss-up, currently R)
- Ballot questions related to healthcare, to legalize marijuana, to ban plastic shopping bags, and to require porn actors to wear condoms during filming

Oregon (7, solid blue)

- Democrats currently have the governor, house, and senate. Can they keep all three?
- Special election for governor: Gov. Kate Brown (D) is running to complete the remainder of John Kitzhaber's term. He resigned in February 2015.

Washington (12, solid blue)

- Ballot questions related to healthcare to increase the minimum wage

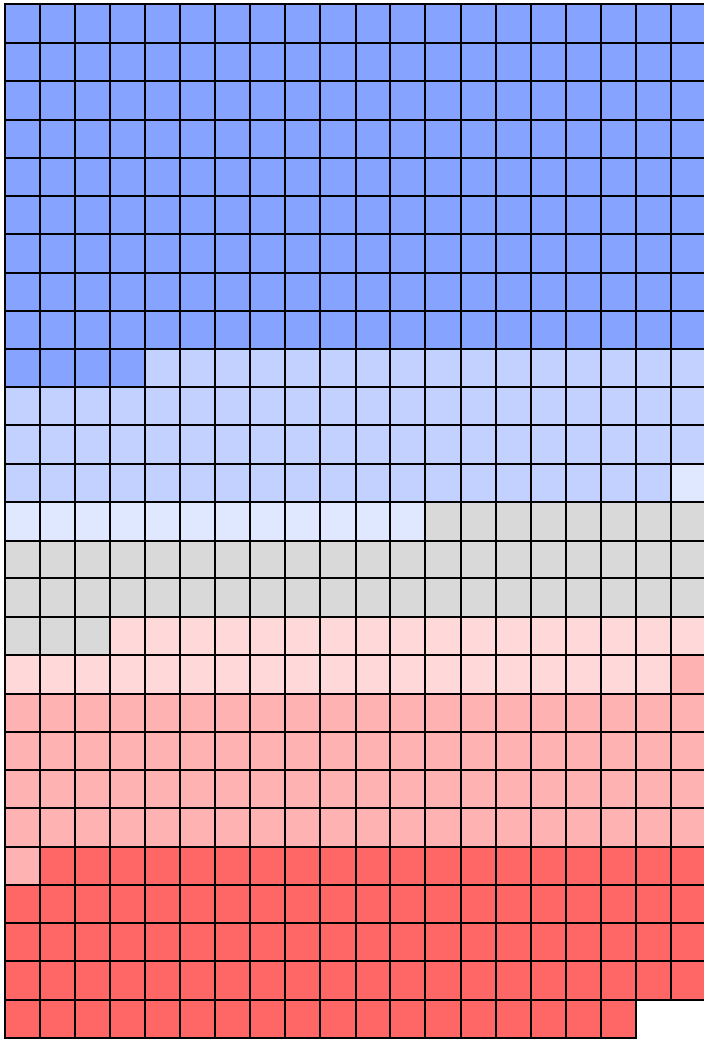
Hawaii (4, solid blue)

Idaho (4, solid red)

1:00am

Alaska (3, likely red)

Electoral Votes



583 total, 270 needed to win.

184 Solid Hillary (DC, MD, VT, HI, MA, CA, NY, RI, IL, ME 1st, WA, DE, NJ, CT, OR)

75 Likely Hillary (ME, NM, MN, VA, WI, MI, PA)

13 Leans Hillary (CO, NH)

51 Toss Up (NV, NC, FL, ME 2nd)

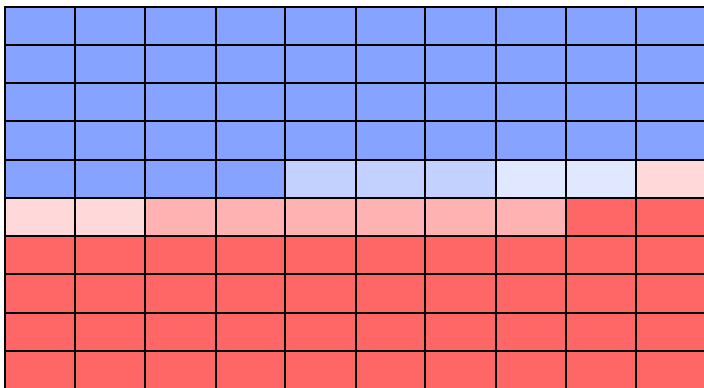
36 Lean Trump (AZ, OH, IA, NE 2nd)

82 Likely Trump (GA, SC, AK, TX, MO, UT)

97 Solid Trump (IN, TN, KS, MS, MT, LA, SD, NE 1st, KY, AR, NE, ID, AL, ND, OK, WV, WY, NE 3rd)

Senate Races

100 total



44 Democratic Safe or Not Up

3 Likely Democratic (CO, WI, PA)

2 Leans Democratic (NV, NH)

3 Leans Republican (MO, IN, NC)

6 Likely Republican (LA, FL, KY, GA, AZ)

42 Republican Safe or Not Up

Resources

<http://fivethirtyeight.com/features/senate-update-the-last-week-has-been-very-kind-to-democrats-hopes-for-a-majority/>, 10/21/16

<http://www.bostonglobe.com/news/politics/2016/10/20/stranger-things-about-expanding-electoral-college-map/mlKhPVX0Q8ruv95r4zrvIL/story.html> 10/21/16

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<http://www.ctvnews.ca/world/it-all-comes-down-to-math-what-to-watch-for-on-election-night-1.3147557> 11/5/16

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“The ‘Is It Tuesday Yet’ Edition.” Slate’s Political Gabfest, 11/3/16.

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<http://fivethirtyeight.com/features/what-x-factors-could-affect-tuesdays-vote/> 11/5/16

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