



This week's big news



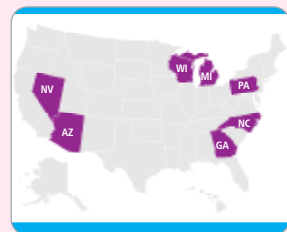
Kamala Harris



Donald Trump

WOW!
Since the last national election in 2022, more than 8 million young people will have turned 18, making them eligible to vote on November 5.

What are swing states?



Swing states, or battleground states, could “swing” to support either Democratic or Republican candidates. The list of swing states varies, but this year the focus is on seven states that were won by 3% or less during the 2020 election: Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina, Nevada, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.

Election moves into final phase

With the conclusion of the nominating conventions for the Democratic Party and the Republican Party, the race for the next US President is officially set. Vice President Kamala Harris, a Democrat, will face former President Donald Trump, a Republican, who served as the 45th President from 2017 to 2021. With early voting beginning in September, Harris and Trump are busy campaigning, fundraising, and preparing to debate each other.

What is happening?

New polls show that the race between Harris and Trump is extremely close. Since President Joe Biden endorsed Harris to be the Democratic nominee on July 21, a *New York Times/Siena* College survey found that Harris has pulled ahead slightly in three swing states (see the box above)—Wisconsin, Michigan, and Pennsylvania—while Trump has a narrow lead in Georgia. On August 23, an independent candidate, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., dropped out of the race and endorsed Trump.

Where are they campaigning?

Trump and Harris are hosting events across the US, especially in swing states, to try to connect with voters in the final phase of the campaign.

Harris has held three rallies in Wisconsin in four weeks, and she and her Vice Presidential nominee, Tim Walz, were set to launch a bus tour of Georgia on August 28. Trump and his Vice Presidential nominee, JD Vance, have appeared onstage multiple times in Pennsylvania and recently scheduled several stops across Michigan and Wisconsin. Both campaign teams, as well as other groups supporting each candidate, have also been creating TV ads, social media posts, and flyers to get their message out. Democrats have spent \$882 million on campaign ads, while Republicans have spent \$721 million.

When will the debates take place?

A televised debate between the two Presidential candidates has been scheduled for September 10. It will be hosted by ABC News and moderated by two of its broadcasters, David Muir and Linsey Davis. Trump, however, recently told reporters he might not participate in the debate because of disagreements between the Harris and Trump teams over whether a candidate’s microphone should be turned off when it is not his or her turn to speak. Walz and Vance are set to debate on October 1. Debates attract millions of viewers and allow voters to

assess how candidates answer challenging questions, so the candidates are preparing extensively before the events.

When will voting begin?

The general election is set for November 5, but millions of people will be able to cast their votes before that date. Forty-seven states and the District of Columbia offer early voting, which allows people who won’t be available on Election Day to cast their ballots early at a designated polling place. Many states also allow residents to vote by mail. Some counties in Pennsylvania will start making ballots available as early as September 16, while people in South Dakota and Virginia can begin early voting on September 20. Most other states will provide voting opportunities before the end of October. During this final stretch, volunteers for Republicans and Democrats are also racing to register new voters. The registration deadline varies by state but is generally no more than 30 days before Election Day.

What will happen next?

Both Trump and Harris will keep holding rallies while their campaigns work to build support for their candidate. Volunteers nationwide will continue registering eligible voters and encouraging people to go to the polls.

