

LMC News

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SPECIAL ISSUE: US ELECTIONS

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Elections in the time of covid-19 by Marion F. and Capucine M.

What did the candidates declare about covid-19 and healthcare ?

This year's presidential candidates have said different things concerning the coronavirus and healthcare in general.



On the Republicans' side : Donald Trump is not very invest concerning the protection of Americans against covid-19 . He never wore a mask before catching the coronavirus and he minimizes the importance of mass screening campaigns. He just worked on a vaccine a little bit (he asked from to work on it).

Futhermore, when he was the president , he does not established any rules to reduce the pandemic.

However concerning healthcare he spoke of :

- universal access to treatment,
- lowering the price of medecine,
- authorizing the importation of medecine from Canada ,
- reducing the cost of treatment .

What he says is different from what he would have done.

VS



On the Democrats' side : Joe Biden wants to establish free testing(for covid-19) for Americans, hire 100,000 people to create a national tracing program, speed up the manufacture of caregivers equipment and testing kits. He is favourable to wearing a mask.

His healthcare platform deals with :

- insure universal health coverage ,
 - Americans will not pay more than 8,5% of their monthly income for their health coverage ,
 - lowering the minimum age from 65 to 60 years old to benefit from health coverage for seniors (20 millions of Americans concerned).
- =Obamacare.

Biden has a lot of ideas but most of them relate only to Americans and the population in America is very diverse.

Election results, state by state

by Chanel Z. and Chirine B.

1. Difference between safe states and swing states

A swing state is a state for which voters are indecisive. For example, Ohio and Florida were swing states during the 4 last elections. Two times the swing states allowed Republicans to win and two more times they allowed Democrats to win.

On the contrary, a safe state is a state which people with traditions of voting for a particular party. For example, Maryland and Oregon voted for a long time in favor of Democrats. Contrary to Mississippi and Idaho who vote in favor of Republicans.

In 1960, New York and Virginia voted for the same party, the Democratic party. But since 1960 there have been changes, like Kansas and Texas which became Republicans in 1980.

Candidates shouldn't ignore swing states. Indeed, swing states can allow them to achieve victory. And therefore, candidates may prefer to do more in-depth campaigning among swing states than among states favorable to their party.

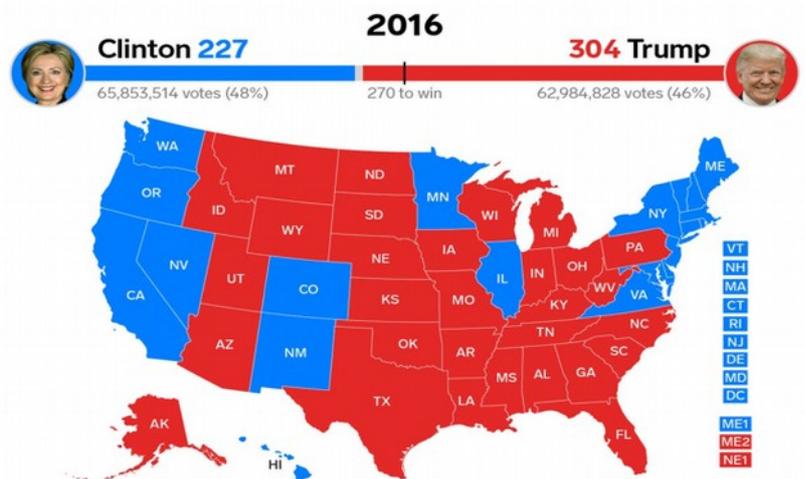
2. Difference between the results of the previous election and the 2020 election

The US elections have added a lot of stress to this crazy year that is 2020! Especially, the "Swing States" because of how indecisive they seemed to be, and this year Arizona, Florida, Texas, Ohio, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Colorado, Iowa and even Georgia were one of them. But how exactly do we know for sure which political party the swing states were and will be voting in the next years? Can we really ignore the fact that some states voted for the same political party as 2016?

Let us start by presenting the swing states of 2016 and compare them with ones in this election: they were the same as this year, obviously, but there were also the states of Michigan and Virginia.

As you can see in the map on page 1, Colorado, Minnesota, Virginia voted Democrats in 2016 while Georgia, Florida, Texas, Ohio, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Iowa, Michigan and

Arizona chose Republicans. The majority of the Swing States chose the red side, but it all changed in 2020 with only Florida, Iowa, Ohio and North Carolina that apparently loved Trump's visions of politics...



A few examples of Popular Vote in 2016:

	Texas	Pennsylvania
Republican Party	52.23%	48.18%
Democratic Party	43.23%	47.46%

2020 :

	Texas	Pennsylvania
Republican Party	52.06%	48.84%
Democratic Party	46.48%	50.1%

Sources: DDHQ; Federal Election Commission

*As of November 18, 2020 at 11:20 a.m. ET.

INSIDER

Divisions in the US? by Dounia H. and Alice P.

Was there any instance of intimidation ? Were any violent groups involved ?

Firstly, we could say there was an instance of intimidation during the presidential election period, with each party trying to intimidate each other. They also used several ads to show the « bad » sides of the opposite party. The intimidation was especially strong when Trump and Biden had a debate, Donald Trump didn't really let Biden speak, he was heckling him every now and then, and it seemed like he was trying to intimidate him.

Besides that, a bus for Biden's campaign was forced to cancel their campaign because Trump supporters were trying to run them off the road. Not long after that incident people who were marching for the Black Lives Matter movement got pepper sprayed. Donald Trump supporters were trying to intimidate Joe Biden and his supporters, some people even say he has emboldened his supporters to act like that.

Furthermore, a lot of violent groups were involved, we remember the riots from before the elections that showed a divided country. Nonetheless Biden tries to convey a calm and mature image whereas Trump yearns for a more provocative image. Perhaps that is why his supporters seem so aggressive.

Eventually, that is why many stores barricaded their storefronts, because they were scared that the results of the elections might cause excessive violence. When Biden was announced as the winner of the elections Trump supporters' anger could be felt and they claimed that the results were rigged.

How did this election show deep divisions in the US society ?

This election showed deep divisions in the US society. Indeed, during this election, the country was divided along ideological, geographic, racial and economic lines.

First, the population was divided into two ideologies : the Republican ideology and the Democratic ideology. People who voted for the Republican party included well-off people, Hispanics, and people who believe in “small government”. On the contrary, people who voted for the Democratic party included minorities such as the LGBTQ+ community, Native Americans communities, as well as people who believe in “big government”.

By looking at each party's supporters, we saw a division in term of racial, ideological and economic categories. People with lower incomes tended to vote for the Democratic party meanwhile people with higher incomes tended to vote for the Republican party, even though there are notable exceptions.

Who is Joe Biden?

by Camille V. and Amélie R.

Joe Biden whose full name is Joseph Robinette Biden Junior, is An american politician. Born in 1942 in Pennsylvania, he is now 78 years old, which leaves many years to tell. Joe Biden is from the democratic party and supports its values and ideas.



After he obtained a BA degree at the University of Delaware where he studied history and political sciences, he got a higher degree in the university of Syracuse, with a law degree. Before starting politics, he worked as a lawyer.

You may know Joe Biden as a politician but you must have heard about his tragic personal life. He first got married to Neilia Hunter with whom he had 3 children. Unfortunately, his first wife and his little girl died in an accident.

In 1977 Joe Biden got married to Jill Tracy Jacobs, now Jill Biden, who will be our next FLOTUS.They had a daughter together.

His first son Beau Biden died of cancer in 2015. Joe Biden has two children: Hunter Biden and Ashley Biden.

Joe Biden has been through a lot in his life and this has given him the strength to fight.

He began a political career by becoming a member of Newcastle County Council until 1972, when he was elected to the Senate of the US. He remained a Senator until his election as vice president in 2008. Joe Biden is from the democratic party and supports its values and ideas. Joe Biden was president for two consecutive terms along with Barack Obama.

He could have run for president in 2016 if it hadn't been for the death of his first son . But he came back stronger and ran for the presidential as you can read in our previous articles : he will become the 46th president of the United States with a woman as vice president by his side named Kamala Harris.

Recently, Biden has announced his first economic nominations and appointments.

They want to build the economy back during this crisis.

This team is composed of more women than men which give a good first preview of change. We will come back to choose his team 100 days after the beginning of his mandate, to see if Joe Biden made the right choice.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT-ELECT

PRESIDENT-ELECT BIDEN ANNOUNCES FIRST ECONOMIC NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

JANET YELLEN
SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

NEERA TANDEN
DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

WALLY ADEYEMO
DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

CECILIA ROUSE
CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

JARED BERNSTEIN
MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

HEATHER BOUSHEY
MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

Who is Kamala Harris? by Tülin M. and Lucile D.

Colors? Origins? Whatever...!

More information about her...!

The politician was born on October 20, 1964 in Oakland, California. She was born to a Jamaican father, Donald J. Harris, and an Indian immigrant mother, Shyamala Gopalan, who came to live in the United States. Her first name, Kamala, means "lotus flower" in Sanskrit, which also refers to a Hindu deity.

When she was in Washington, she got a certain degree, a degree in Political Science. This diploma was awarded to her in his school: Howard University. In addition to this, in the city of San Francisco she receives a second degree of Juris Doctor. At that moment she was studying at the Hasting School of Law. A few years later, in 1990, she joined the California bar.



Why are we talking about her a lot these days?

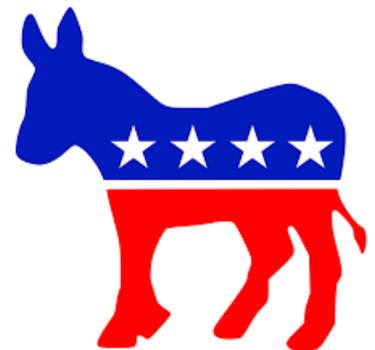
Kamala Harris is an American politician. She is currently in the headlines as she is in the process of being elected Vice President of the United States in 2020. Her nomination is so important because she is the first woman to have this job. Not only is she a woman, but she is an African-American and Indian-American woman.

On the other hand, she has not been officially elected yet, indeed for her to be elected she will have to be formally elected by the vote of the Electors on the December 14, 2020. In addition, to be elected by the latter, it must in January 2020 be confirmed by the Congress.

Which political party does she belong to?

Kamala Harris belongs to the Democratic Party.

If she is elected in the above manner, she will take office on January 20, 2021.



Was she involved in politics before?

- Yes, she has held various political functions until now, including the attorney for the city of San Francisco in 2003.
- From 2011 to 2017 she was Attorney General of California. During that year, 2017, she served as a Senator.
- From now on she will occupy the post of Vice President of the United States.

A few touching words...

At the end of one of her speeches she was able to say that « If I'm the first woman to hold this position, I won't be the last. For every little girl watching television tonight, knows that in this country, anything is possible ».

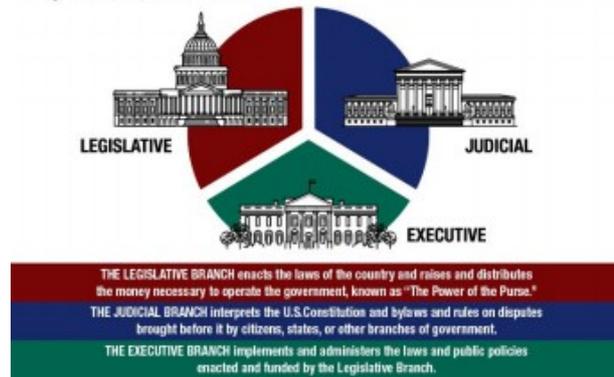
Who is in the 117th Congress?

by Clémence D., Maëlle R., Hymeline A. and Antoinette S.

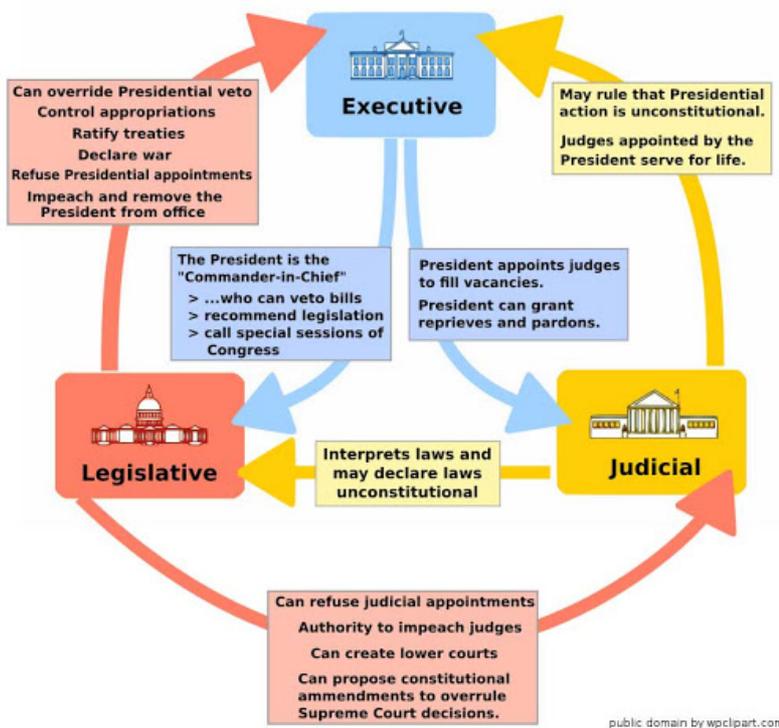
What is Congress?

Congress is the legislative branch of the federal government that represents the American citizens and makes the nation's laws. Congress was created on March 4th in 1789 and is composed of the Senate (the upper chamber) and the House of Representatives (the lower chamber). There are 100 Senators and 435 Representatives. Each chamber has a power which is divided into three branches: the legislative, the judicial, and the executive branches.

Separation of Powers



US Government Checks and Balances



What are the checks and balances?

Power is separated so that no branches can be too powerful. The checks and balances are an example of this separation, it is a sort of measure that helps to maintain a balance between branches, indeed, each of the three branches can limit the powers of the others. For example, checks and balances are represented when laws are created, each branch communicate with the others to see if a bill can be useful for the country, if it is, the bill becomes a law. Look at the US Government Checks and Balances plan for more accuracy.



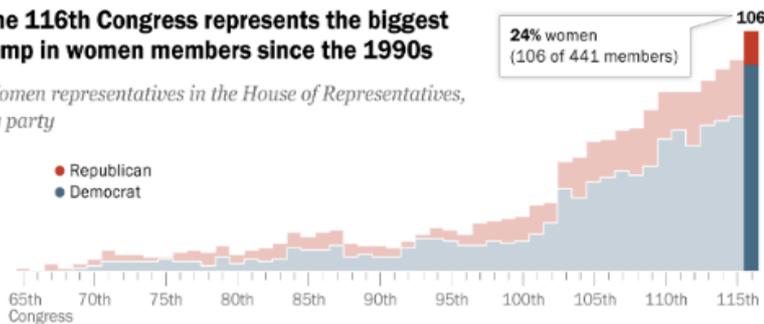
The LGBTQ+ (Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer/ Questioning) community's representation in politics has grown more and more over the years. In Congress, LGBTQ+ presence is fresh: the first openly lesbian person elected is Tammy Baldwin to the U.S. Senate, Gerry Studds was the first openly LGBT person to win election to Congress in 1984, the list goes on...

The 116th Congress

The 116th Congress was until then the most diverse congress in US history. Congress has seen an improvement in the representation of the American population in Congress; however, a strong inequality remains, with the under-representation of women (25% in Congress with a percentage of women in the US is around 50%) and Hispanics (9% in Congress, while the percentage of Hispanics in the US is around 18%), but also in the over-representation of white men. So, we can say that even though progress was made through the years in terms of representation, there is a long way to go.

The 116th Congress represents the biggest jump in women members since the 1990s

Women representatives in the House of Representatives, by party

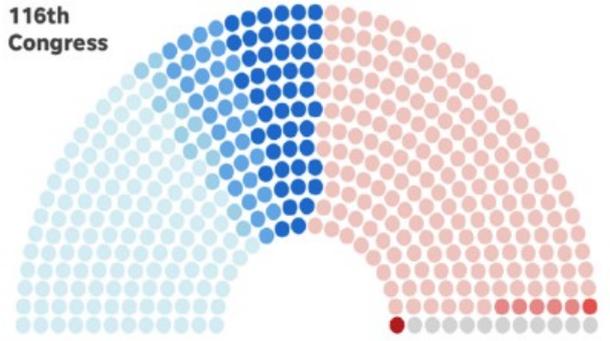


Sources: Biographical Directory of the United States Congress; U.S. House of Representatives, Office of the Historian; Women in the United States Congress, 1917-2014 (Congressional Research Service, Oct. 31, 2014); CQ Roll Call.

Pew Research Center

The most diverse Congress in U.S. history

116th Congress



- White Democrats
- Asian/other Democrats
- Hispanic Democrats
- Black Democrats
- Vacant/undecided
- White Republicans
- Hispanic Republicans
- Black Republicans
- Asian/other Republicans

SOURCE Flourish data visualization

ELECTIONS

USA TODAY

What about the 117th Congress?

In the 117th Congress which will be first assembled in January 2021, the Democrats will lead the House of Representatives however the Senate, which is going to be led by the vice president, Kamala Harris, will not be predominantly Democrat but Republican. It is such a major issue. Indeed, the Republican party can decide to turn down and reject the Democrat's decision, it already happened during Barack Obama's presidency.

The new U.S. Congress for 2021 is going to be the queerest in History with an increase of 21 percent compared to the previous congress according to LGBTQ Victory Institute's report. Indeed, Democrat Mondaire Jones is going to be the first gay Black candidate elected to Congress as well as Democrat Ritchie Torres, who will be the first Afro Latino gay person elected to Congress. These elections results are also a great kickoff for the transgender representation since Sarah McBride will be the first transgender state senator. Taylor Small was elected to the Vermont House of Representatives and will be the first transgender person to serve in the state Legislature. The new congress for 2021 will have a great impact on the coming years because representation is perhaps one of the most important things in this world, the minorities must be represented so that they know that they are capable of a lot of things



What comes next? by Fanny L. and Justyna K.

The 2020 United States presidential election was the 59th quadrennial presidential election, held nominally on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. Two principal parties were the Democratic party and the Republican party. The Democratic party is led by Joe Biden and Kamala Harris ; the Republican party was led by Donald Trump and Mike Pence. In November 2020, Joe Biden won the election with 306 electors against 232 electors votes for Donald Trump.



Now, after his victory, Joe Biden will officially become he president of the US on the day of the Inauguration Ceremony. This Inauguration Ceremony is a ceremony to mark the beginning of the new president for the next four years, and this ceremony will take place on the 20th of January at 12pm in Washington. In this ceremony, The new president Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, will have to take an oath in front of a crowd.

It's approximately at this time that Joe Biden will be starting living in the White House, the house that all the president live in. The future lady of the United States will be Jill Biden, Joe Biden's wife since 1997. Joe Biden and his wife will be living in the white house for the second time, because they already was the second lady of the USA ; when her husband, Joe Biden, was the vice president from 2009, to 2017 when Barack Obama was elected president. She is 69 years old and she is a teacher. She will be pushing her husband to change some things in the educationnal system.

Stay tuned for our next issue in January 2021!

Coordination and preliminary editing by Ms. Délen. Final editing by the students.