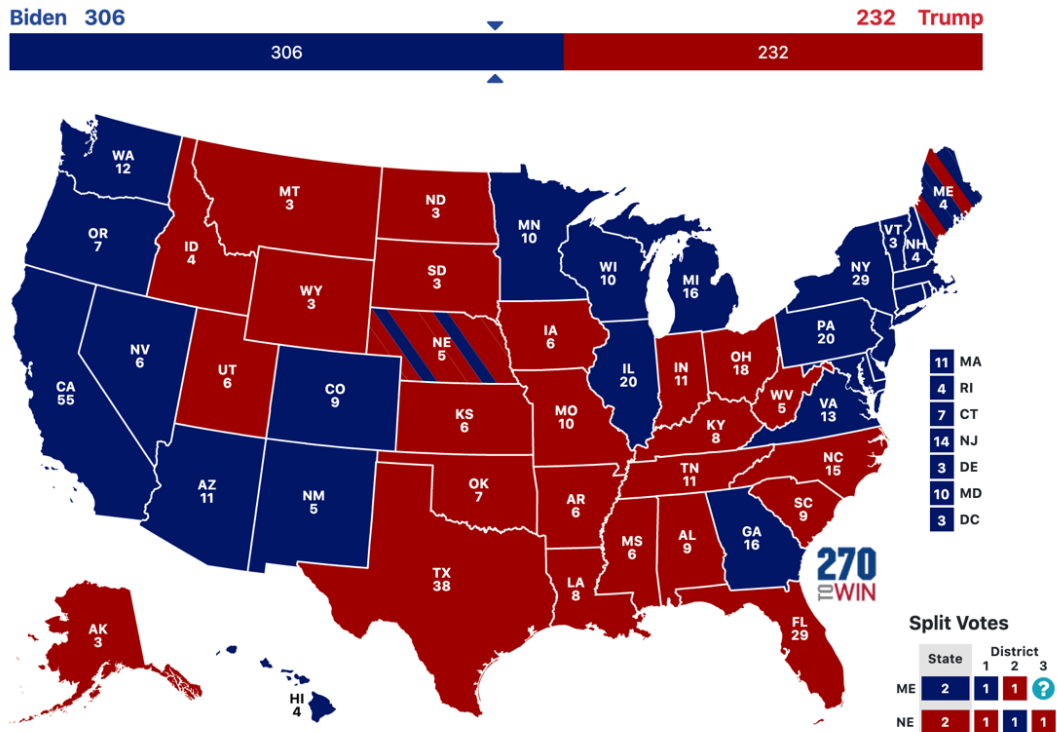


POLS 3310 Post-Mortem Election Blog

Presidential Election Results Overview



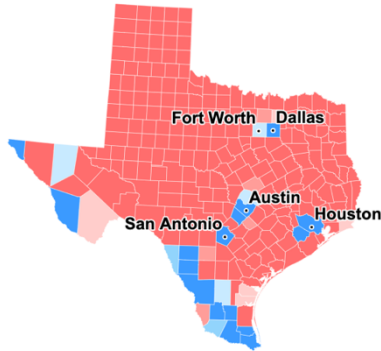
Source: [270 to Win Presidential Election Live Results](#)

In the aftermath of an election day – election week, rather – that kept the country and the world in suspense, former Vice President Joe Biden was declared the 46th president-elect of the United States. It was an anxiety-inducing election, to say the least. Personally, I spent several days fixated to my television screen, waiting for the magic number ‘270’ to appear.

As mentioned in my pre-election blog, I was paying close attention to swing states and how they would influence the ultimate results and reaction of the American people. In the end, several swing states flipped from their results in 2016 – favouring Biden and the Democratic party who received 306 electoral college votes compared to Trump’s 232. However, in this pivotal election that was impacted by a global pandemic, mail-in ballots and voter fraud were a major topic of discussion.

Swing States

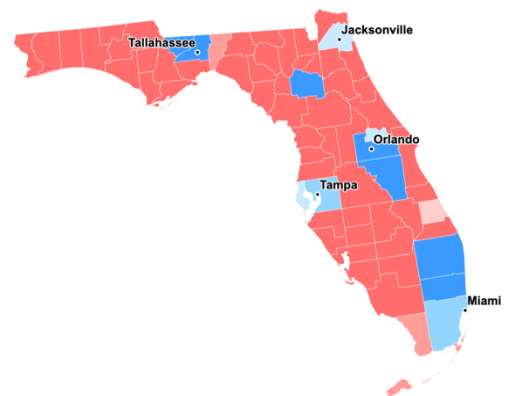
Texas



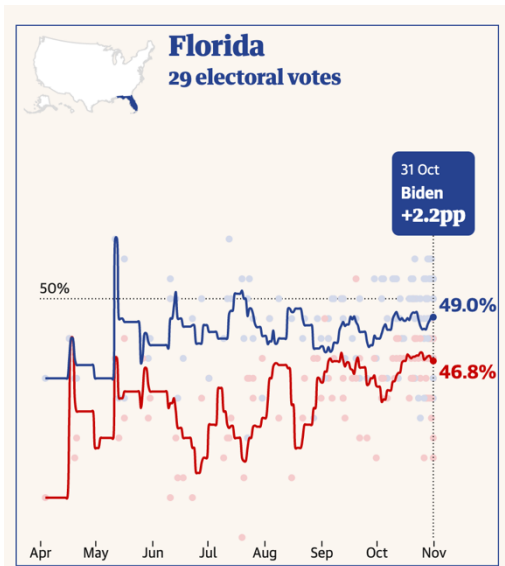
As mentioned in my pre-election blog, there were several swing or battleground states that were given considerable attention this election. One of these states was Texas, which has the second-most electoral college votes at 38 and has typically been a majority-Republican state. I predicted that the state would remain a red, as it did in 2016. In [South Texas counties](#) made up of largely Hispanic voters, Trump was favoured. In two of these counties alone, Hidalgo and Cameron, Trump received 41 to 43 per cent of the vote, in comparison to the 28 to 32 per cent he received in 2016. In addition to Trump's support from many Hispanic voters, Trump remained favoured in rural areas of Texas. Despite the fact that Biden received more votes in Texas than Clinton did in 2016 in addition to his popularity in the urban areas of the state, such as Houston and Dallas, Trump was able to hold onto Texas with [52.1 per cent of the vote](#).

Florida

Florida was another swing state that was one to watch on election night. The state is often seen as *the one* to win since a [Florida victory often translates into an overall victory](#); “between 2000 and 2016, Florida voted for the winning presidential candidate 100 percent of the time” (para 4). Ultimately, my prediction that Biden would flip the state and its 29 electoral votes from its Republican stance in 2016 was incorrect.



At the time that I wrote my pre-election blog in the first week of November, just days before the polls closed, Biden was leading by [a narrow margin](#) in the state. [The Guardian](#) reported prior to election day that, in 2016, the polls in the swing states (including Florida), undercounted Trump supporters. As well, this article alleged that polls often over-count Democratic support since people often say that they will support the party but do not vote the same way.



Source: [The Guardian, November 3, 2020 Florida poll](#)

With 99 per cent of the votes counted as of November 21, Trump is the projected winner of the state with [51.2 per cent of the vote](#) – once again, with a loyal base largely in rural areas of the state. My prediction of a Biden win was based on the latest polls at the time, the promise of the Hispanic vote, and a growing intolerance for the Trump administration based on his coronavirus response (Florida being a coronavirus epicentre). Much like Texas, however, Biden underperformed with Hispanic voters. As explained in an [AP News article](#) discussing the Florida results, “democratic candidates have suffered a string of high-profile setbacks in the state in recent years amid an increasingly divisive political environment” (para 28).

Flipped States

This year, there were several states that [flipped their electoral college votes from 2016](#). The flipped states were all battleground states leading up to the election results being called and they were as following: Arizona, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, and Georgia. I correctly predicted that Biden would win Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Arizona. At the time of the pre-election blog, I was unsure about Georgia’s results as it seemed that the state could swing either way despite it typically always being Republican.

In Arizona – a traditionally red state – Biden’s win was the [second time in more than seven decades that a Democrat won the state](#). This victory was tied to an increase in Latino Democratic voters, more people from liberal states like California and Illinois moving to the state, and decreased support for Trump in suburban areas.

Allegations of Voter Fraud & Trump's Refusal to Concede

With allegations and arguments regarding mail-in ballots, voter fraud, and a “fixed” election, current President Donald Trump has refused to formally concede the election. Amid a projected Biden win during election week, the Trump campaign [filed numerous lawsuits](#) to contest the results in swing states that they lost – alleging that the election was fraudulent and demanding recounts. The lawsuits were filed in Pennsylvania, Nevada, Georgia (a recount that has since still declared Biden as the winner), and Michigan and they “demand better access for campaign observers to locations where ballots are being processed and counted and raise absentee ballot concerns” (para 2). Additionally, the Trump campaign has announced that it will ask for a recount in Wisconsin. It is very interesting to look at these states and their results as there is notably a pattern – the Trump campaign is contesting the results in battleground states that *he* lost, [citing irregularities](#) in counting, double voting, and ballots sent in by deceased individuals. Why hasn't he contested the results in Florida or Texas? The answer is simple: because he was victorious in these states. If there is any inconsistency and bias in this year's election, it is how the Trump campaign has approached its lawsuits in the swing states.