

WELCOME!

Pre-Election Predictions Blog

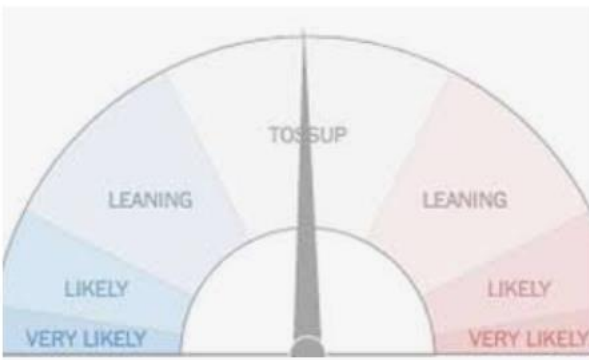
- **The Election** •
- **Presidential Race** •
- **Swing States** •

POLS 3310
2020-11-01



POLS 3310 – Blog Post #1- Pre-Election Predictions Blog

The Election – The United States presidential election happens this Tuesday November 3 which sees incumbent Republican President Donald Trump versus former Democratic Vice President Joe Biden. For many Americans, the importance of this vote cannot be overstated, as some feel with this election, ‘[democracy is at stake](#)’. Aside from the usual election cycle tensions, this will be the first major presidential race in modern history to happen during a global pandemic that has impacted campaigning, get out the vote initiatives and voting methods.



Although we will not see the infamous New York Times Election Needle, we will all be following the election results closely as they come in on Tuesday night.

[America's love-hate relationship with the New York Times election needle, explained](#)

Background - In the US, voters select the candidate they want to see win but the candidate does not become president by winning the popular vote. The US uses an electoral college system meaning the winner is the candidate who secures the most electoral votes. The ‘magic number’ to become winner is to secure 270 electoral votes. In this system, candidates can campaign strategically in states where they are more likely to secure votes and focus on ‘swing states’ where the race is so close they have a good chance to ‘swing’ the state in their direction as many states have a winner takes all system in regards to their electoral votes.

Prediction – Presidential Winner – Joe Biden

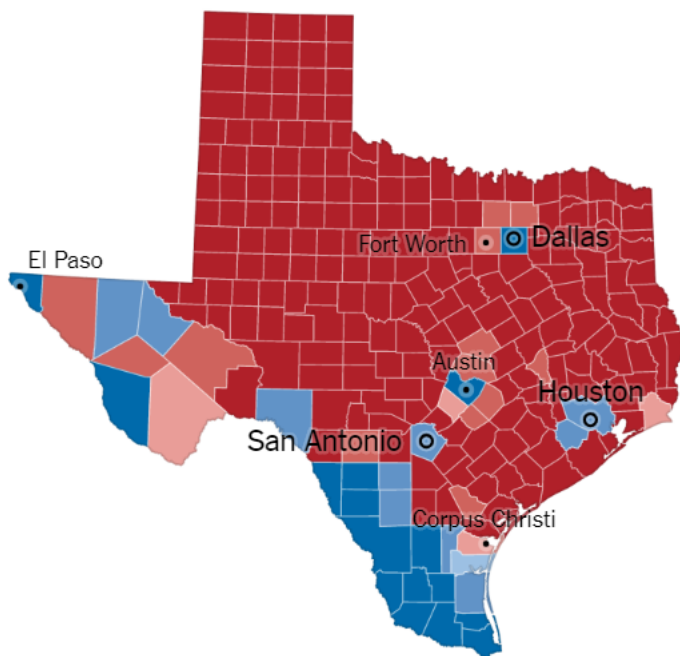
Biden is *favored* to win the election
UPDATED 2 HOURS AGO

Currently, polling site [fivethirtyeight.com](https://www.fivethirtyeight.com) 2020 election forecast projects Biden winning.

In the lead up to election day, the polls have consistently favoured Biden to win, but anyone who followed the 2016 presidential race knows this is no guarantee. The 2020 race has been even more polarized than 2016. In addition to political divisions, there

has been a significant push by mainly the Republican side in voter suppression tactics. These tactics have focused on using the court system to disrupt the vote. Also, there have been several voter intimidation incidents across the country. Although Republicans have pushed hard to stifle the vote, I predict Joe Biden will win the presidential race. Due to the anticipated legal challenges in vote counting, I predict this win will be by a narrow margin in electoral votes, a wide margin in the popular vote and the results will be quickly contested by Trump.

Swing States – Predictions – Texas and Wisconsin



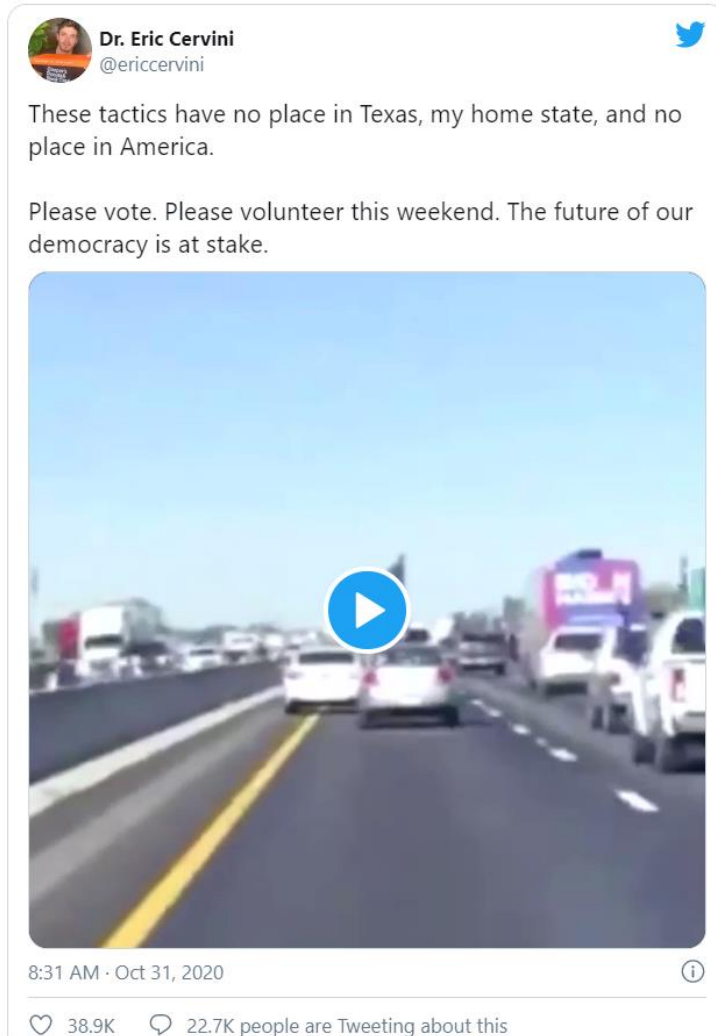
Texas – Prediction Trump / Republican Wins

Texas map displays [2016](#) presidential results.

In the lead up to the election, there has been a significant amount media attention on the state of Texas. In 2016, Trump won Texas with 52.2% of the vote versus Clinton with 43.2%. Beto O'Rourke, former House Rep, has been campaigning hard for Biden and the Democrats in the state. Texas has been known as a state that has made it exceedingly

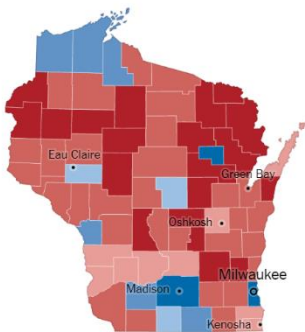
difficult for voters to exercise their right to vote. There is no on-line voter registration and allegations of, "voter intimidation pervades much of Texas". In the week prior to the election, the Republicans have doubled down on voter suppression efforts. In Harris county, which Clinton won in 2016, Republicans have gone to court attempting to have over 100,000 ballots rejected. As of submitting this post, the "[Texas Supreme Court rejected a request by several conservative Republican activists and candidates to pre-](#)

[emptively throw out early balloting from drive-thru polling sites in the state's most populous, and largely Democratic, county."](#)



In recent days, tensions have continued to escalate in the state. Dr. Eric Cervini, a historian working with the Biden/Harris campaign, posted a [thread to Twitter](#) that he had to contact 911 as a convoy of Trump supporters surrounded the Biden/Harris campaign bus and attempted to run a vehicle off the road. Currently, [fivethirtyeight.com](#) is indicating Trump as slightly favored to win election in Texas ([64 in 100](#)). In light of the voter suppression tactics and now overt voter intimidation on display, I predict the state of Texas will be won by Trump.

Wisconsin – Prediction Biden / Democrat Wins



Wisconsin map displays [2016](#) presidential results.

In preparation for this blog, I watched the television program Frontline episode titled [Whose Vote Counts](#). It was hosted by Jelani Cobb and focused on voter suppression, voter fraud and the impact of COVID-19 in voting. The program used the state of Wisconsin as a case study to outline and explain the challenges in voting which are applicable across the country. Shortly after finishing the program, a US Supreme Court decision was announced that mail-in votes will not be counted after election day in

Wisconsin. Considering the Supreme Court decision, I predict Wisconsin will be a very tight race. Wisconsin is an interesting state because the election results were so close in 2016. Trump won 47.2% of the vote versus Clinton winning 46.5%. This means Trump won the state by just over 22,000 votes. Currently, fivethirtyeight.com has Biden clearly favoured to win Wisconsin ([94 in 100](#)). Although the forecast makes it appear it could be a Biden landslide, the court challenges could greatly impact the votes that are counted, therefore, I predict a narrow Biden win in Wisconsin.

References

Bianco, W. T., & Canon, D. T. (2019). *American Politics Today* (6th ed.). New York, NY: W. W. Norton & Company.

Cervini, Dr. Eric. [@ericcervini] (2020, October 30). I flew down to Texas to help with the Biden/Harris bus tour, intended to drum up enthusiasm at polling locations. Instead, I ended up spending the afternoon calling 911. 1/ [Tweet Thread] Retrieved from: <https://twitter.com/ericcervini/status/1322336226792321025?s=19>

Cobb, J. (2020, October 20). Frontline – Whose Vote Counts Video. *Frontline PBS*. Retrieved from <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/whose-vote-counts/>

Lind, Dara. (2018, July 11). America's Love-Hate Relationship with The New York Times Election Needle, Explained. *MSN News*. Retrieved from <https://www.msn.com/en-ie/news/world/america%E2%80%99s-love-hate-relationship-with-the-new-york-times-election-needle-explained/ar-BBPqAya?li=AA54um&%253Bocid=spartandhp>

Liptak, A. (2020, October 27). Supreme Court Won't Extend Wisconsin's Deadline for Mailed Ballots. *New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/10/26/us/supreme-court-wisconsin-ballots.html>

McCullough, J. (2020, November 1). Texas Supreme Court rejects Republican-led effort to throw out nearly 127,000 Harris County votes. *The Texas Tribune*. Retrieved from <https://www.texastribune.org/2020/11/01/texas-drive-thru-votes-harris-county/>

Salam, E. (2020, September 18). Texas is a 'voter suppression' state and one of the hardest places to vote. Will it help Trump win?. *The Guardian*. Retrieved from <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/sep/18/texas-voting-restrictions-rights-coronavirus>

Silver, N. (2020). FiveThirtyEight - 2020 Election Forecast. *ABC News Internet Ventures*. Retrieved from <https://fivethirtyeight.com/>

Texas Election Results 2016. (2017, February). *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/elections/2016/results/texas>

Wisconsin Election Results 2016. (2017, February). *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/elections/2016/results/wisconsin>

All images include hyperlinks.