

# [***Joe Biden's Chances of Beating Donald Trump in Critical Swing States: Polls***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6BVB-S241-DY68-13NS-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Highlight:** While the president has been making gains in national polls, the race will likely be decided in just a few key states.

**Body**

A close look at recent polling in five critical swing states shows a tight race, with President [*Joe Biden*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/joe-biden?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) appearing to trail former President [*Donald Trump*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/donald-trump?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) in three, and more or less a draw in two others.

Although Biden has [*made gains against Trump*](https://www.newsweek.com/joe-biden-gets-good-news-americas-most-accurate-pollster-1890082?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) in some recent national [*and state-level polls*](https://www.newsweek.com/joe-biden-crushes-donald-trump-pennsylvania-poll-swing-state-presidential-election-1886838?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships), the 2024 presidential election will likely be determined in just a handful of key states.

In 2016, Trump managed to flip Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania, which had all gone for former President [*Barack Obama*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/barack-obama?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) in 2012. Then Biden managed to win them back for [*Democrats*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/democrats?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) in 2020, while also narrowly flipping Georgia and Arizona, which had previously been seen as solidly [*Republican*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/republican?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) in presidential elections.

As presidential elections are [*decided by the Electoral College*](https://www.newsweek.com/what-electoral-college-popular-vote-warren-1368509?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships), which awards each state a certain number of electoral votes. A presidential candidate needs to secure 270 electoral votes for victory, and winning the national popular vote does not guarantee success.

Notably, Trump lost the popular vote in 2016, as did former President [*George W. Bush*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/george-w.-bush?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) in 2000. With most states leaning solidly Republican or Democrat, the Electoral College gives a few swing states outsized influence in deciding the ultimate winner.

Here's a closer look at where things stand in these five critical states with a little more than six months until Election Day on November 5. *Newsweek* reached out to the Trump and Biden campaigns via email for comment.

**Arizona (11 electoral votes)**

Biden narrowly defeated Trump in Arizona in the 2020 election, carrying the state by just 0.3 percent of the vote (49.4 percent to 49.1 percent). This marked the first time a Democratic presidential candidate won the state since 1996.

Currently, the polling appears to favor Trump in Arizona. The Real Clear ***Politics*** average shows Trump ahead by about 4.5 points (49 percent to 44.5 percent)

A poll of 600 likely Arizona voters conducted by The Tyson Group from April 10 to 11 showed Trump leading Biden by 6 points, 39 percent to 33 percent. The survey included third-party candidates [*Robert F. Kennedy Jr.*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/robert-f-kennedy-jr?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) (12 percent), [*Cornel West*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/cornel-west?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) (2 percent) Jill Stein (2 percent) and Lars Mapstead (1 percent). The margin of error was plus or minus 4 percentage points.

In late March, RABA Research carried out a poll in the southwestern state showing Trump at 39 percent and Biden at 36 percent. The survey included 503 registered voters with a margin of error of plus or minus 4.4 points.

Notably, no Arizona poll carried out this year has shown Biden leading Trump thus far.

**Georgia (16 electoral votes)**

Similar to Arizona, Biden edged out Trump in Georgia in 2020, flipping the state for Democrats for the first time since 1992. He beat Trump by a margin of 0.2 percent (49.5 percent to 49.3 percent).

However, things look like they could reverse in 2024, with the polling showing Trump ahead. The Real Clear ***Politics*** average currently has Trump at about 49.7 percent compared to Biden's 45.5 percent.

The most recent poll carried out by [*Fox*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/fox?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) News/Beacon Research/Shaw & Company Research from April 11 to 16 shows Trump leading Biden by 6 points. The Republican has the support of 51 percent of registered Georgia voters compared to 45 percent who back the Democratic incumbent. The survey included 1,128 registered voters with a margin of error of plus or minus 3 points.

Polling data from *The Wall Street Journal*/Fabrizio, Lee & Associates/GBAO in late March showed Trump leading as well. In that survey, Trump was at 42 percent and Biden was at 38 percent, with [*third party candidate*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/third-party-candidate?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships)s in the mix. Mapstead was at 4 percent and Stein had 2 percent. With 600 registered voters surveyed, the poll had a margin of error of plus or minus 4 points.

As with Arizona, every poll this year has shown Trump leading Biden in Georgia.

**Michigan (15 electoral votes)**

While Biden beat Trump in Michigan in 2020, the former president narrowly flipped the state in 2016. Trump garnered 47.5 percent of the vote compared to former Democratic presidential candidate [*Hillary Clinton*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/hillary-clinton?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships)'s 47.3 percent.

Trump presently appears to be favored over Biden in Michigan. The RealClear ***Politics*** average has the former GOP president at about 47.4 percent versus the incumbent Democrat's 44.1 percent.

The recent [*Fox News*](https://www.foxnews.com/official-polls/fox-news-poll-trump-maintains-advantage-over-biden-in-2024-georgia-rematch) poll from April 11 to 16 showed Trump ahead by 3 points. The Republican was at 49 percent compared to Biden's 46 percent in the state.

Polling of 600 likely Michigander voters by [*Marketing Resource Group (MRG)*](https://irp.cdn-website.com/5bb41925/files/uploaded/michigan-poll-presidential-election_FINAL_Press%20Release.pdf)conducted from April 8 to 11 showed Trump ahead as well. In that survey, Trump was at 37 percent and Biden had 34 percent. Third party candidates were also included, with Kennedy Jr. at 13 percent, Stein at 2 percent and West at 1 percent. The survey had a margin of error of plus or minus 4 points.

A few Michigan polls earlier in the year showed Biden narrowly ahead of Trump or tied.

**Pennsylvania (19 electoral votes)**

Like Michigan, Pennsylvania flipped in favor of Trump in 2016, but then went to Biden in 2020. Prior to 2016, [*Republicans*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/republicans?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) hadn't carried the state in a presidential election since 1988.

Biden currently appears to be very narrowly leading Trump in Pennsylvania, which is notably the state where he was born. The RealClear ***Politics*** average has the Democratic incumbent ahead of his Republican challenger by 0.5 percent. Biden is at 46.5 percent versus Trump's 46 percent.

Meanwhile, the [*Fox News*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/fox-news?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) poll carried out earlier this month had the two candidates tied at 48 percent in Pennsylvania.

A survey by Franklin & Marshall College Center for Opinion Research showed Biden 2 points ahead, with third-party contenders in the mix. The poll showed Biden with 42 percent, Trump with 40 percent, Kennedy Jr. at 9 percent and Stein at 3 percent. The poll of 430 registered voters was carried out from March 20 to 31 with a margin of error of plus or minus 5.7 points.

**Wisconsin (10 electoral votes)**

Like Michigan and Pennsylvania, Wisconsin narrowly went for Trump in 2016 and then went for Biden in 2020. Before the Republican upset in 2016, the midwestern state had gone for Democratic presidential contenders in every election since 1984.

Trump currently looks to be narrowly leading Biden in Wisconsin. The RealClear ***Politics*** average has Trump ahead by 1 point, 48.4 percent to 47.4 percent.

Fox News' April poll showed Biden and Trump tied in Wisconsin, both at 48 percent.

Another April poll, by Marquette University Law School, showed Trump ahead at 41 percent compared to Biden's 40 percent. The survey included third-party contenders with Kennedy Jr. at 13 percent, Stein at 3 percent and West at 2 percent. With 814 registered voters included in the poll, the margin of error was 4.8 percent.

**Other Potential Swing States?**

Some political analysts also believe Florida, North Carolina, Nevada and Minnesota could be competitive in the 2024 election. However, Florida and North Carolina are expected to lean Republican, whereas Nevada and Minnesota have historically gone for Democrats. North Carolina and Florida went for Trump in 2016 and 2020, while Nevada and Minnesota went for the Democratic candidates in both of those elections.

The current RealClear ***Politics*** average show Trump leading Biden in Florida, North Carolina and Nevada, with Biden ahead in Minnesota.

[*Link to Image*](https://d.newsweek.com/en/full/2381257/joe-biden-v-donald-trump-2024.jpg)

**Graphic**

Joe Biden v. Donald Trump 2024

Kyle Mazza/Anadolu/Scott Olson via Getty Images

Above to the left, President Joe Biden delivers remarks at a campaign event in Scranton, Pennsylvania on April 16. Above to the right, former President Donald Trump speaks to guests at a rally on April 2 in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Recent polling in several critical swing states currently shows Trump ahead or roughly tied with Biden in the 2024 presidential race.

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