**The situation in the morning**

**Why a lot speaks for Biden now**

By [Sebastian Fischer](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/impressum/autor-9c4e5259-0001-0003-0000-000000000166) , head of the SPIEGEL capital city office

Dear reader, good morning,

Today we are dealing with the (hopefully) final of the decision between US President Donald Trump and challenger Joe Biden, the reluctance of the federal government and a virtual CDU party conference.

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**Progress is a snail**

Yes, actually, they still count. And hour by hour the race comes to a head. It all depends on four states: **Georgia, Pennsylvania, Arizona and Nevada** .

A Republican election observer while counting votes in Pennsylvania

Photo: Mary Altaffer / AP

In Arizona (11 votes in the electoral college) and Nevada (6) **Joe Biden is just ahead** , in Georgia (16) and Pennsylvania (20) he has caught up over the last few hours, **the lead of the president is melting** (Pennsylvania) or has **already melted together** (Georgia).

Biden (so far 253 votes out of 270 certain) now has **several paths to success** , Donald Trump (214) **only one** . And that leads through **Pennsylvania** . There they have counted the night, are nearing the end and Trump's previous 10 percentage point lead has fallen to below one percentage point.

Trump's legal attacks on the continuation of the count **have so far remained without consequences** . The count continues.

* [Status of the counts: So it is in the key states](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/ausland/us-wahl-stand-der-auszaehlungen-joe-biden-holt-in-mehreren-staaten-auf-a-d638279f-eee4-4a3d-9c9e-4ca0ef8b29d7)

**The bizarre president, part two**

While you were sleeping, Donald Trump spoke up in the White House after two days of abstinence from cameras. It was **the continuation of his weird, anti-democratic appearance on election night** . "If you count the legal votes, I won easily," he said. And more nonsense.

President Trump

Photo: Evan Vucci / AP

This time Trump looked more dull when he was lying than two days ago, tired and exhausted. **It was the words of an autocrat, but the sound of a loser** .

Presidential niece Mary Trump, who published an exposé book about her uncle prior to the election, commented: "This is what it looks like when a loser loses."

Biden, on the other hand, struggled a few hours beforehand with his runner-up, Kamala Harris, to make a presidential appearance as possible. Democracy is sometimes a bit chaotic, said Biden, **"sometimes it takes a little patience"** . But this patience has been rewarded in a good 240 years of the USA "with a system of government that attracts the envy of the world".

Well, not like that in the end. But we stay tuned.

* [US election: Trump again makes baseless accusations of fraud](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/ausland/us-wahl-2020-donald-trump-behauptet-erneut-gewonnen-zu-haben-a-8dea65e4-4ab1-45c1-bacb-cf923bf05615)

**How do you react to the anti-democrats?**

Even the lying appearance of Trump on election night remained **without a major response from the Chancellery** . It can be assumed that this will remain the case with his appearance from last night.

Two days ago, Angela Merkel had announced through her government spokesman Steffen Seibert alone that the federal government had confidence "in America's democratic tradition and constitutional institutions". As long as there is no final result, the government is following **"everything closely** " but does not comment on it.

The Chancellor is likely to remain silent until the winner has been determined. Why get involved in skirmishes beforehand.

**Yes why not?**

Ex-Foreign Minister Gabriel

Photo: M. Popow / imago images / Metodi Popow

Criticism is now igniting the German reluctance. Former SPD leader and ex-foreign minister **Sigmar Gabriel** demands a clear position on the US election from the federal government: "We should make it clear that the legitimacy of governments for us depends on their **acceptance of the basic principles of democracy** , and that is a majority and minority, "he told SPIEGEL.

The federal government is allowed to express itself publicly. "You don't have to associate that with attacks on Donald Trump," said Gabriel, who is now head of the Atlantic Bridge, "but that we assume that all democracies feel bound by these principles **is an appropriate remark** ."

* [US election: Sigmar Gabriel demands clear positioning of the federal government](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/politik/us-wahl-sigmar-gabriel-verlangt-klare-positionierung-der-bundesregierung-a-9a6063ef-0b34-47a1-8111-b7a6a484b18d)

**Christian-Digital Union**

At the Christian Union they would like to finally elect their new party leader. But firstly because the country is already **firmly in the grip of the corona pandemic** and secondly, the CDU has not had it so far with **digitization** , improvisation now has to be done . After all, a candidate for chancellor is needed soon. And how nicely should the CDU go into negotiations with the CSU if it doesn't even have a new chairman?

My colleagues Florian Gathmann and Veit Medick are writing today about the latest idea of ​​the CDU: The delegates should meet virtually for the **digital party congress** in January and **elect** the party leader and the rest of the board **online** . At the end of the day, all election results would have to be confirmed again in a **written final vote** , i.e. by postal vote.

Candidates Röttgen, Merz. Lash

Photo: Adam Berry / Getty Images

But now the crucial question: **Would that be legally secure?** After all, this is not about, shall we say, the FDP chairmanship. It's about a position that could promote the holder to the Chancellery. The Union parliamentary group has asked the Interior Ministry for an assessment - and according to SPIEGEL information, the matter is already there. We keep our fingers crossed.

By the way: **The three CDU presidency candidates have a full program today** . Friedrich Merz presents his **book on the election campaign** via zoom conference (virtual!) : "New Times. New Responsibility". It will be presented by Christian Lindner (sorry, FDP boss is of course an important position). In the afternoon, Merz and rival Armin Laschet meet at the congress of the local political association of CDU and CSU (again virtually!), Whose motto can match Merz's book title: "Shaping structural change."

The CDU day ends with a round of introductions by **Merz, Laschet and competitor Norbert Röttgen at the Saxon Union** in Chemnitz - the party base is allowed to ask questions (of course: virtually).

* [Digital party congress: CDU wants clarification from the Interior Ministry for their election as chairman](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/politik/deutschland/cdu-parteitag-mit-wahl-des-vorsitzenden-innenministerium-soll-rechtssicherheit-bestaetigen-a-c7ffdaa5-9152-4a00-b5b9-b3ef959c25c3)

**Winner of the day ...**

... is **Mike Mohring** . The 48-year-old, who was replaced as Thuringian CDU leader after the election debacle in 2019 and the no less debaculous consequences, receives **a second political chance** .

CDU politician Mohring (in March)

Photo: Martin Schutt / DPA

His CDU nominated him as a **candidate for the Bundestag** in one of the eight Thuringian constituencies, including Jena. Mohring beat the previous member of the Bundestag Johannes Selle with 23 to 15 votes. According to SPIEGEL information, however, the Selle camp is now considering contesting the election.

Looks familiar these days.

**The latest news from the night**

* **More than 70 dead from tropical storm "Eta":** Extremely high levels of precipitation caused landslides and floods in Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama. [Dozens of people have already died and the number of victims could continue to rise](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/panorama/gesellschaft/guatemala-nicaragua-costa-rica-und-panama-dutzende-tote-durch-tropensturm-eta-a-716dbe00-a2a2-408f-92f5-7dc7a9122e03)
* **Mandatory fingerprints on identity cards:** two fingerprints, digital photos, an "X" on the passport for people who do not assign themselves to any gender: [the Bundestag has decided to change identity cards and passports](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/politik/deutschland/personalausweis-bundestag-beschliesst-aenderungen-fingerabdruck-pflicht-kommt-a-314b8525-51b0-4585-91e2-c45a5fe72bc6)
* **Barricaded in the ministry:** Because of a corona contact, Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer went into quarantine at the beginning of the week. [But instead of isolating herself at home, the defense minister sits in her ministry. Can she do that?](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/politik/deutschland/verbarrikadiert-im-ministerium-a-1113e0c0-0e47-4ede-8e8b-4d2fe9c0b0a6)