

## Catch up: Trump seizes the advantage; Republicans win the Senate



Donald Trump won in North Carolina and Georgia, the first two swing states to be called in **America's presidential election**. He is leading in all of the other four key states in which counting is under way—Nevada is still to release early numbers. (For *The Economist's* fastest analysis of the results, see our [US in brief](#) page.) The former president also won again in Iowa, despite a poll over the weekend giving Democrats hopes of an upset. America's biggest states fell as expected. Mr Trump took Texas and Florida (the latter by a whopping 13 percentage points). Ms Harris prevailed in New York and California.

**Republicans** won control of the **Senate** after Deb Fischer retained her seat in Nebraska. Her victory gives Republicans 51 seats in the [100-seat chamber](#) with eight races still to be called. Ted Cruz also won re-election to his Senate seat in Texas. But in Maryland there was a rare moment of Democratic cheer: Angela Alsobrooks beat Larry Hogan to become the state's first black senator. The Republican majority will allow the party to confirm Mr Trump's federal appointments—should he win the presidency.

Police used foul-smelling “skunk” water and other extreme measures to disperse hundreds of protesters in **Tel Aviv**, reported local media. Demonstrators gathered in Israel’s second city after Binyamin Netanyahu, the prime minister, sacked [Yoav Gallant](#), the defence minister, citing a “crisis of trust”. They called for Israel Katz, Mr Gallant’s successor, to prioritise a hostage deal to return captives held in Gaza.

Shares in **AstraZeneca** fell by 8.4% on Tuesday, clocking their worst day since March. A report had found that dozens of the British-Swedish drugmaker’s senior executives in China—including Leon Wang, its China president—were being investigated for insurance fraud. China accounts for 13% of the pharma giant’s overall revenue.

Volodymyr Zelensky said a “new page of instability in the world” had been opened after his defence minister confirmed that the first “small engagement” between **Ukrainian** and **North Korean** troops had taken place. On Tuesday South Korea’s defence ministry said that more than 10,000 North Korean troops had arrived [in Russia](#), a “significant number” of whom were on the frontline.

Pedro Sánchez, **Spain’s** prime minister, promised €10.6bn (\$11.6bn) in aid for areas hit by [floods](#) last week. Mr Sánchez, who faced angry crowds when he visited the disaster-stricken region of Valencia on Sunday, said he would announce further funding soon. The government said that 217 people have died. Many are still missing.

**Japan** launched the world’s first wooden satellite as part of a study exploring whether timber could be used as a renewable building material in future space exploration. LignoSat weighs just 900g and arrived at the International Space Station, from where it will be released into orbit. Sensors on board will inform scientists how wood reacts to the environment in space.

**Figure of the day:** 92%, the proportion of election officials in America who have taken steps to improve security this year, according to the Brennan Centre for Justice. [Read the full story.](#)

# America's abortion vote



As well as choosing their next president, many Americans had their say on reproductive rights on Tuesday, with ten states voting on abortion measures. The first to declare was [Florida](#) where, despite 57% voting in favour of enshrining a constitutional right to an abortion until a fetus's viability at about 24 weeks, the measure failed. It required a 60% majority to pass.

Other states' ballot measures vary in scope, from New York's expansive equal-rights amendment to South Dakota's measure offering unfettered access to abortion only in the first 12 weeks of pregnancy. Those taking place in Midwestern states—South Dakota, Nebraska and Missouri—are expected to be tight. But none other than Florida's require a supermajority.

Only two more states with bans—Oklahoma and Arkansas—have provisions for citizen-led ballot initiatives. And given that a national law is unlikely to pass in Congress, the abortion environment is becoming calcified along regional lines.

# New world disorder



America's new president faces a forbidding world. Supporting Ukraine and Israel in two wars is straining its military stockpile; a potential third in Asia, across the Taiwan Strait or on the divided Korean peninsula, may well draw America directly into the fighting. The risk of a major-power conflict increases as [China](#), [Iran](#), [North Korea](#) and [Russia](#) grow closer. Nuclear threats are proliferating, too.

If she succeeds President Joe Biden, Kamala Harris would offer continuity: reinforcing America's alliances and competing with China through industrial policy, protectionism and restrictions on technology transfers. Donald Trump, in contrast, generally regards autocrats as friends, and allies as a burden. He promises sweeping tariffs of 20% for all, and 60% or more on China, igniting a trade war with friends and foes alike.

Both probably want to end the current wars. But on what terms? Ms Harris is likely to keep supporting Ukraine; Mr Trump may impose terms quickly. On Israel, Ms Harris may be somewhat tougher than Mr Biden; Mr Trump perhaps more indulgent.

## Novo Nordisk's yo-yo effect



Europe's most valuable company will report its third-quarter results on Wednesday. Novo Nordisk was the first to sell a new generation of [weight-loss drugs](#) in 2021. But since then the Danish drugmaker has lost ground to Eli Lilly, an American pharma giant that launched Zepbound two years later. Lilly's revenue from sales of its slimming jab has already reached half of Novo's.

Novo is also facing a wave of cheaper alternatives from certain pharmacies, called compounders, which are allowed to produce versions of [brand-name drugs](#) during shortages. The company is pressing America's Food and Drug Administration to stop compounders from replicating its drug. [Generic drugmakers](#) pose another threat: the patent on semaglutide, the active ingredient in Novo's weight-loss medicine, expires in 2026 in big markets including China and India. To stay ahead, Novo has a pipeline of newer anti-obesity treatments. These include an oral pill and Cagrisema, an experimental drug that promises to help patients lose 25% of their body weight with fewer side-effects.



# Germany's coalition on the brink



In the last year warnings about the imminent collapse of [Germany's three-party coalition](#) were like the calls of the boy who cried wolf: repetitive, urgent and wrong. But last Friday the Free Democrats (FDP), a junior coalition partner, demanded changes to tax, climate and social policy that the other two parties will never accept. Many saw it as a pretext for the ailing FDP to quit the government, probably precipitating elections.

Olaf Scholz, the chancellor, is scrambling to find a compromise, not least as an early vote would probably remove him from office. But no one knows whether Christian Lindner, the FDP leader, wants a deal. The coalition could break up as early as Wednesday evening, when senior figures from the three governing parties meet. They may find a way to stagger on until the scheduled election next September. Still, the chances of Germany's government falling seem higher than ever. After all, the wolf eventually turned up.

## Hollywood goes south of the border



*¡Acción!* On Wednesday Netflix releases what it claims is the most expensive Mexican movie ever made: “Pedro Páramo”, its adaptation of Juan Rulfo’s brilliant (if baffling) magical-realist novel. It comes three days after Warner Bros Discovery launched a Mexican streaming series, “Like Water for Chocolate”, and two days before Amazon Prime Video drops a Mexican production of its own, “Every Minute Counts”, a drama series about the Mexico City earthquake of 1985.

Mexico has long offered cut-price production services to Hollywood. Now it is [making a creative mark](#), too. With their home market saturated, American streamers are trying to sign up more subscribers overseas; Latin America is a promising source of growth. As they commission more content for local tastes, countries like Mexico, long condemned to Hollywood clichés (novelas, Westerns, narco-dramas), are getting to tell more [original stories](#). They may find an audience north of the border, too.



# Daily quiz



*The Economist*

We will serve you a new question each day this week. On Friday your challenge is to give us all five answers and, as important, tell us the connecting theme. Email your responses (and include mention of your home city and country) by 1700 GMT on Friday to [QuizEspresso@economist.com](mailto:QuizEspresso@economist.com). We'll pick randomly from those with the right answers and crown three winners on Saturday.

**Wednesday:** Which E.M. Forster novel opens with a scene in a Florence boarding house?

**Tuesday:** What, according to a discussion between two characters in Pulp Fiction, do the French call a cheeseburger?

**92%**

*The proportion of election officials in America who have taken steps to improve security this year, according to the Brennan Centre for Justice.*

*[Read the full story.](#)*

**Inspiration is a guest that does not  
willingly visit the lazy.**

*Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky*