

Catch up: Trump wins America's presidential election; the world reacts



Donald Trump won [America's presidential election](#). The Republican candidate promised to heal the country and hailed the “greatest political movement of all time” in his victory speech in Florida. After winning Pennsylvania, the most important battleground state, his victory in Wisconsin pushed him over the line, securing him 277 electoral college votes, with 270 required to win.

Mr Trump claimed four of the seven swing states. His victories in **Pennsylvania** and **Wisconsin** followed wins in **North Carolina** and **Georgia**. The former president also won again in **Iowa**, despite a poll over the weekend giving Democrats hopes of an upset. **Kamala Harris** is expected to concede her election loss in a speech at Howard University, her alma mater, at 4pm ET.

International leaders raced to [congratulate Mr Trump](#). **Israel's** prime minister, [Binyamin Netanyahu](#), called the victory “history's greatest comeback”. **India's** Narendra Modi called him a “friend”. The leaders of **France**, **Britain** and **Italy** expressed hopes of

working together; far-right European allies cheered. **Ukraine's** president, Volodymyr Zelensky, offered muted praise: "I appreciate President Trump's commitment to the 'peace through strength' approach".

American stock futures, treasury yields and the **dollar** rose on the news of Mr Trump's victory. Bitcoin surged to a record high and shares in [Truth Social](#), the future president's social-media company, as well as Tesla, co-founded by Elon Musk, a major Republican donor, climbed (before falling back a little). But the euro and peso fell on the news. India's rupee and Iran's rial reached record lows.

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.

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.

Spanish police [seized](#) a record amount of **cocaine**—13 tonnes—hidden in a shipment of Ecuadorian bananas. They also arrested one person working for the company that was receiving the shipment. Police said the drugs would have been distributed across the continent. Cocaine is the second most popular illicit drug in Europe, after cannabis; supply of the white stuff has been increasing for several years.

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.](#)

New world disorder



Donald Trump, America's next president, faces a forbidding world. Supporting Ukraine and Israel in two wars is straining America's 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.

Mr Trump boasts that he will end the conflict in Ukraine in a day. In the Middle East, however, he says he is prepared to let the fighting drag on, giving Israel a free hand to pursue its enemies. On [Taiwan](#), he is more ambiguous—partly because he likes to be unpredictable. He generally regards autocrats as friends, and allies as a burden. He promises [sweeping tariffs](#) of 20% for all, and 60% or more on China. Expect renewed trade war with friends and foes alike.

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 varied in scope, from New York's expansive equal-rights amendment (which passed) to South Dakota's measure offering unfettered access to abortion only in the first 12 weeks of pregnancy (which didn't). A slim-majority of Missourians threw out the state's complete prohibition. None other than Florida's required a supermajority.

More than two-fifths of Americans have now voted on abortion since 2022. 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.

Novo Nordisk's yo-yo effect



Europe's most valuable company released its third-quarter results on Wednesday. Novo Nordisk reported a 23% rise in sales, in line with analyst expectations. But the Danish drugmaker which was the first to sell a [new generation of weight-loss drugs](#) in 2021, has been losing 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. Senior figures from the three governing parties will meet on Wednesday for crisis talks. Donald Trump's triumph, which has made European leaders anxious that America could wind down its support for Ukraine, may spur them to stagger on until the scheduled election in September. But Germany's government still seems more fragile 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. 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