

## **Official Vote Count Continues Nationwide as Donald Trump Falsely Claims a Win From The White House**

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As state and local election officials continue to count ballots across the country and with the fate of most battleground states still up in the air, President Donald Trump delivered a short, disjointed speech from the East Room of the White House, appearing to claim that he had prevailed over former Vice President Joe Biden and vowing to fight official election results in the courts.

Millions of ballots in battleground states remain uncounted. The Associated Press has not yet projected a winner of the race and states will not complete their exhaustive counts for several days.

"Any attempt to call the election before votes have been counted should not be taken seriously," says Joanna Lydgate, national director of the Voter Protection Program, a bipartisan group working to support state and local election officials. "All votes need to be counted and no candidates get to try and steal the election by calling the winner before that happens."

Speaking from behind a podium in the East Room of the White House after 2AM Eastern Time on Wednesday, Trump said, "We were getting ready to win this election," Trump said. "Frankly, we did win this election." Trump also baselessly claimed the election is "a fraud on the American public" and touted a win in states, including North Carolina and Georgia, where he is leading in early results, but had not yet been called to win by the Associated Press. Trump said he would fight election results in court. "We'll be going to the U.S. Supreme Court," he said. "We want all voting to stop. We don't want them to find any ballots at 4 o'clock in the morning and add them to the list, ok?" Trump added: "We will win this. And as far as I'm concerned, we already have won."

Trump's claims are both flawed and dangerous, multiple election experts say. Because Democrats are more likely than Republicans to cast a ballot by mail this year, many of the remaining ballots that have yet to be counted in states such as Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin - which didn't get an early start on processing absentee ballots - are likely to skew blue.

Meanwhile, ballots left to be counted in states, including Florida and Ohio, that have already been called for Trump, did get early starts on mailed ballots and may

disproportionately favor Republicans.

In a speech from Wilmington, Del., after midnight on Nov. 4, former Vice President Joe Biden projected confidence in the system. “We knew this was going to go long,” Biden said, acknowledging that election results would not be immediately forthcoming. “We feel good about where we are. We really do.”

The winner of the Presidential election remains unclear.

Pandemic or no pandemic, the vote counts on Election Night are always unofficial. Even in a normal election year, states do not immediately certify results. Election officials spend days and weeks counting and certifying every single ballot. In past cycles, organizations like the Associated Press, which has been calling races for over 150 years, have been able to determine a projected winner based on the votes that are already in. **But this year, with more voters than ever expected to cast their ballots by mail**, which typically take longer to process and tabulate, it was widely expected that a winner would not be immediately apparent.

“The process of getting the results is going to take a little longer than usual because of the increase in absentee ballots,” Wisconsin Attorney General Josh Kaul, a Democrat, told reporters on Monday. “If counting those ballots goes early into the morning after election day and even a day or two after election day, it’s not a sign anything is going wrong with the process. It’s a sign the process is working.”

There are certain, rare situations, in which this process is thrown into **flux**. But the system is built for those as well. “Even in the worst case scenarios that can cause great alarm there are rules and procedures that can and must govern what happens,” says Vanita Gupta, president of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and a former Obama Administration official. “Neither the president nor Joe Biden can determine the outcome of the election,” Gupta added. “The voters do.”