

“ This is the most important election in the history of our country. There has never been such a difference between two parties, or two individuals, in ideology, philosophy, or vision than there is right now. Our opponents believe that America is a depraved nation. We want our sons and daughters to know the truth: America is the greatest and most exceptional nation in the history of the world! Our country wasn't built by cancel culture, speech codes, and soul-crushing conformity. We are not a nation of timid spirits. We are a nation of fierce, proud, and independent American Patriots.^[1] ”

—Donald Trump (August 2020)^[2]



Donald Trump is the 45th and current president of the United States. He assumed office on January 20, 2017, and filed to run for re-election on the same day. He crossed the delegate threshold necessary to win the Republican nomination—1,276 delegates—on March 17, 2020. He was

formally nominated at the Republican National Convention on August 24, 2020.

Trump's running mate is Vice President Mike Pence.

Trump's re-election campaign has focused on the economy, jobs, immigration, and foreign policy.^{[3][4]} He described his platform, which he named *America First*, during his inaugural address: "Every decision on trade, on taxes, on immigration, on foreign affairs, will be made to benefit American workers and American families. We must protect our borders from the ravages of other countries making our products, stealing our companies, and destroying our jobs."^[5]

Key policy initiatives during Trump's first term include the United States withdrawing from the Iran nuclear deal, the passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 and First Step Act in 2018, reducing the size of the ISIS caliphate, and establishing the Space Force as an independent military branch.^{[6][7]} Trump has made more than 200 federal judicial appointments, including two U.S. Supreme Court justices.

2020 Presidential Election

Date: November 3, 2020

Presidential candidates

- Joe Biden
- Howie Hawkins
- Jo Jorgensen
- Donald Trump

Overviews

Important dates • Candidates on the issues • Battleground states

Debates

September 29 debate • October 7 debate • October 15 debate • October 22 debate • Democratic debates

Primaries

Democratic • Republican • Libertarian • Green • Constitution

Presidential election changes in response to the coronavirus pandemic

Sign up for Ballotpedia's Daily Presidential News Briefing.

Trump in the news

See also: Ballotpedia's Daily Presidential News Briefing and Editorial approach to story selection for the Daily Presidential News Briefing

This section features five recent news stories about Trump and his presidential campaign. For a complete timeline of Trump's campaign activity, [click here](#).

▪ **October 5, 2020:**

- Trump was released from Walter Reed Medical Center in the evening.

▪ **October 3-4, 2020:**

- Trump received several treatments for COVID-19, including dexamethasone, Regeneron's experimental antibody treatment, and remdesivir. Doctors said that Trump had experienced two drops in his oxygen levels but continued to improve. Dr. Brian Garibaldi said that "if he continues to look and feel as well as he does today, our hope is that we can plan for a discharge as early as tomorrow [October 5] to the White House where he can continue his treatment course."
- Trump posted two videos to Twitter discussing his condition and thanking his supporters. He also greeted supporters outside of Walter Reed Medical Center in a presidential motorcade .

▪ **October 2, 2020:**

- Trump was admitted to Walter Reed Medical Center in the evening.
- Trump announced that he had tested positive for COVID-19, along with First Lady Melania Trump. He earlier confirmed reports that White House adviser Hope Hicks, who traveled with him to the debate and a rally in Minnesota this week, had tested positive. Trump's rally in Florida was canceled. Trump said he would quarantine at home in the White House.

▪ **October 1, 2020:**

- The Trump campaign said that it would not support format changes to the remaining debates. Campaign officials also said the Commission on Presidential Debates was biased against Trump.
- The Republican Jewish Coalition spent \$3.5 million on a pair of pro-Trump ads in South Florida .

▪ **September 30, 2020:**

- Trump campaigned in Minneapolis and Duluth. This was his second visit to Minnesota in the past two weeks.
- Trump began airing an ad featuring Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett and calling on supporters to stand up for conservative values. The clip was part of an ad buy worth more than \$10 million.

- **September 29, 2020:** Trump and Biden debated in Cleveland, Ohio. The candidates discussed the Supreme Court vacancy, coronavirus pandemic, economy, race and violence, climate change, election integrity, and their political records.

Satellite spending

Satellite spending, commonly referred to as *outside spending*, describes political spending not controlled by candidates or their campaigns; that is, any political expenditures made by groups or individuals that are not directly affiliated with a candidate. This includes spending by political party committees, super PACs, trade associations, and 501(c)(4) nonprofit groups.^{[19][20][21]}

This section lists satellite spending in this race reported by news outlets in alphabetical order. If you are aware of spending that should be included, please email us.

- **American Bridge 21st Century** spent \$15.7 million on independent expenditures against Trump, as of July 8, 2020.^[22]
- The pro-Trump **America First Action** spent \$10 million on an ad campaign attacking Joe Biden for comments he made about China. The ads aired in Wisconsin, Michigan, and Pennsylvania in April 2020.^[23] America First Action also announced a \$22 million ad buy in Florida, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Ohio set to run from September 2020 through Election Day. The ads focused on protests in Wisconsin and other states, Biden's mental acuity, and calls to defund the police.^[24]
- **Committee to Protect the President** spent \$255,000 on a television and digital Spanish-language ad in Nevada criticizing Biden on immigration in February 2020.^[25]
- **Lincoln Project** spent \$720,000 on pro-Biden ads and \$3.1 million on anti-Trump ads, as of July 7, 2020.^[26] The group launched a \$4 million ad campaign during the Republican National Convention in Arizona, Florida, Texas, North Carolina, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.^[27]
- **Preserve America**, a pro-Trump super PAC, began a \$30 million ad campaign in battleground states in September 2020.^[28]
- **Priorities USA Action** spent \$24.7 million against Trump, as of July 8, 2020.^[29]
- The **Republican National Committee** spent \$1 million on an advertising campaign in April 2020 praising Trump's handling of the coronavirus pandemic.^[30]
- **Republican Voters Against Trump** announced it would spend \$8 million targeting 450,000 independent and Republican voters in Florida as part of a general election campaign called Project Orange Crush.^[31]

Campaign ads

This section shows advertisements released to support or oppose this candidate. This section is updated as advertisements are released. If you are aware of advertisements that should be included, please email us.

Support



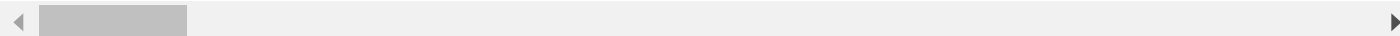
"Commander in Chief" - Trump campaign, August 13, 2020



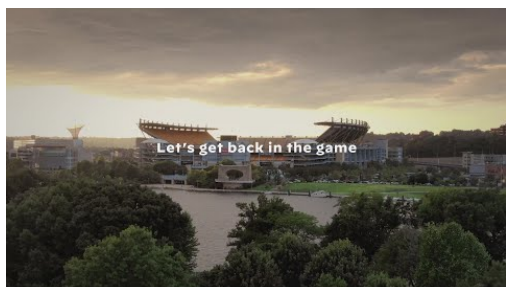
"Cards" - Trump campaign, August 3, 2020



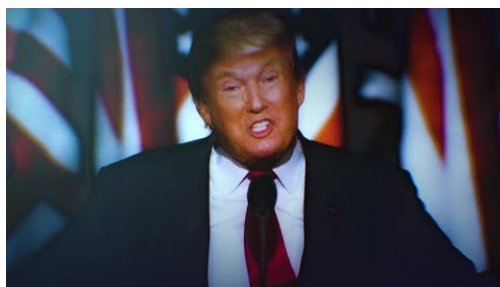
"Break In" - Trump campaign, 2020



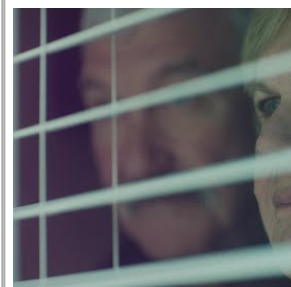
Oppose



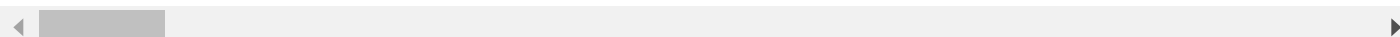
"Anthem" - Biden campaign ad, August 28, 2020



"I Alone" - Biden campaign ad, August 26, 2020



"Swing" - Biden campaign, 2020



Policy positions

The following policy positions were compiled from the candidate's official campaign website, editorials, speeches, and interviews.

Immigration

Donald Trump's campaign website says, "President Trump has enforced immigration laws to protect American communities and American jobs. Upon entering office, President Trump called on Congress to fully fund a wall along the Southern border, to close legal loopholes that enable illegal immigration, to end chain migration, and to eliminate the visa lottery program. Under President Trump's leadership, the Department of Homeland Security took action to wind

down the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program in an orderly fashion, following the assessment of the Department of Justice (DOJ) that DACA lacks legal authorization. The Department of Homeland Security launched the office of Victims of Immigration Crime Engagement (VOICE). The President released his immigration reform proposal which calls for the transition to a merit-based immigration plan." [source]

Healthcare

Donald Trump's campaign website says, "President Trump has worked to improve access to affordable quality health care. As part of the landmark Tax Cuts and Jobs Act President Trump repealed the individual mandate, which forced people to buy expensive insurance and taxed those who couldn't afford it. President Trump signed a six-year extension of CHIP to fund healthcare for 9 million. President Trump has mobilized his entire administration to address drug addiction and opioid abuse by declaring the opioid crisis a nationwide public health emergency." [source]

Energy and environmental issues

Donald Trump's campaign website says that "President Trump has approved the infrastructure and provided the resources needed to unleash oil and gas production in the U.S. The administration approved the Keystone XL and Dakota Access pipelines, supporting an estimated total of 42,000 jobs and \$2 billion in wages. President Trump rescinded President Obama's costly Clean Power Plan and instead has proposed the Affordable Clean Energy Rule. In addition to the Clean Power Plan, the Trump administration has rescinded many costly Obama-Era regulations." [source]

Trade

Donald Trump's campaign website says, "President Trump has kept his promise to crack down on trade cheaters and to promote fairer and equal trade for all Americans. In his first year in office, President Trump took action to protect America's critical steel and aluminum industries, which were harmed by unfair trade practices and global excess capacity. One of President Trump's first actions was to withdraw the United States from the Trans-Pacific Partnership, advancing his agenda to protect American workers. The Trump Administration successfully litigated WTO disputes targeting unfair trade practices and protected our right to enact fair trade laws." [source]

Economy

Donald Trump's campaign website says, "President Trump is unleashing economic growth and jobs. Since his election, the Trump administration's pro-growth policies have generated 6 million new jobs, the unemployment rate has fallen to its lowest point in 50 years, and wages have grown at more than 3% for 10 months in a row. Under President Trump's leadership, Congress passed historic tax cuts and relief for hard-working Americans. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. U.S. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth has soared under President Trump, topping 3% in 4 quarters under his administration." [source]

Education

Donald Trump's campaign website says, "President Trump's proposed budgets have made school choice a priority. The Trump Administration successfully implemented the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) to empower states with the flexibility they need to educate their students. The Trump Administration implemented the year-round distribution of Pell grants, instead of limiting these grants to the spring and fall semesters. The Trump Administration brought in financial experts to modernize the way FSA offers and services student loans." [source]

Gun regulation

Donald Trump's campaign website says, "The Second Amendment to our Constitution is clear. The right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed upon. Gun and magazine bans are a total failure. The right of self-defense doesn't stop at the end of your driveway. That's why I have a concealed carry permit and why tens of millions of Americans do too. That permit should be valid in all 50 states." [source]

Criminal justice

Donald Trump's campaign website says, "President Donald J. Trump and the Department of Justice are working with local law enforcement to protect American communities. The Department of Justice announced more than \$98 million in grant funding through the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services COPS Hiring Program to allow 802 additional full-time law enforcement officers. The Trump Administration expanded Project Safe Neighborhoods to encourage U.S. Attorney's to work with communities to develop customized crime reduction strategies. The Department of Justice returned to their longstanding charging policy for federal prosecutors, trusting them once again to charge the most serious, readily provable offense." [source]

Foreign policy

Donald Trump's campaign website says, "President Trump has gone around the globe working to restore America's prominence in global diplomacy. South Korea and Japan pledged to build closer defense collaboration with the United States, and the President underscored the commitment of the United States to providing advanced military equipment. In Saudi Arabia, President Trump pushed for a coalition of nations to confront Iran and attended the opening of the Global Center for Combating Extremist Ideology. President Trump followed through on his promise and recognized Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Israel and directed the relocation of the U.S. Embassy. Under President Trump, the United States has worked tirelessly to combat extremism and stick up for religious minorities." [source]

Impeachment

In a statement before the press, Donald Trump said, "They took nothing and brought me to a final vote of impeachment. That's a very ugly word to me. It's a very dark word. Very ugly. They took nothing. They took a phone call that was a totally appropriate call—I call it a perfect call because it was—and they brought me to the final stages of impeachment, but now we have that gorgeous word. I never thought a word would sound so good. It's called total acquittal. Total acquittal." [source]

Labor

Donald Trump's campaign website does not include a statement about labor. ^[source]

Abortion

Donald Trump's campaign website says, "The President has kept the promises he made in 2016 to the pro-life community and has delivered unprecedented victories for the pro-life movement: He took executive action to stop taxpayer money from flowing to Planned Parenthood, the largest abortion business in the country. He reinstated and expanded the ban on Americans' tax dollars paying for abortions in foreign countries. He is standing with the Catholic nuns known as the Little Sisters of the Poor, defending them from Obama-era regulations forcing them to violate their religious beliefs by providing health insurance that covers abortifacients." ^[source]

Supreme Court vacancy

Donald Trump said he would nominate a woman to replace Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg by September 26, 2020. He tweeted, "We were put in this position of power and importance to make decisions for the people who so proudly elected us, the most important of which has long been considered to be the selection of United States Supreme Court Justices. We have this obligation, without delay!" ^[source]

Other policy positions

Click on any of the following links to read more policy positions from the 2020 presidential candidates.

Abortion

- 2020 presidential candidates on abortion

Criminal justice

- 2020 presidential candidates on criminal justice
- 2020 presidential candidates on policing

Economy

- 2020 presidential candidates on coronavirus recovery
- 2020 presidential candidates on the economy

- 2020 presidential candidates on Social Security
- 2020 presidential candidates on the minimum wage
- 2020 presidential candidates on paid leave
- 2020 presidential candidates on taxes

Education

- 2020 presidential candidates on education
- 2020 presidential candidates on student loan debt

- 2020 presidential candidates on charter schools and voucher programs

Energy and environmental issues

- 2020 presidential candidates on energy and environmental issues
- 2020 presidential candidates on climate change
- 2020 presidential candidates on the Green New Deal

Foreign policy

- 2020 presidential candidates on foreign policy
- 2020 presidential candidates on China
- 2020 presidential candidates on Russia
- 2020 presidential candidates on North Korea
- 2020 presidential candidates on the Middle East and North Africa
- 2020 presidential candidates on South and Central America

Gun regulation

- 2020 presidential candidates on gun regulation

Healthcare

- 2020 presidential candidates on healthcare
- 2020 presidential candidates on the Affordable Care Act

- 2020 presidential candidates on Medicare for All
- 2020 presidential candidates on prescription drugs costs

Immigration

- 2020 presidential candidates on immigration
- 2020 presidential candidates on border security
- 2020 presidential candidates on DACA and Dreamers
- 2020 presidential candidates on immigration enforcement

Impeachment

- 2020 presidential candidates on impeachment

Labor

- 2020 presidential candidates on labor policy
- 2020 presidential candidates on Janus v. AFSCME
- 2020 presidential candidates on public-sector unions
- 2020 presidential candidates on unionization and organization
- 2020 presidential candidates on the right to strike

Trade

- 2020 presidential candidates on trade
- 2020 presidential candidates on tariffs
- 2020 presidential candidates on NAFTA and USMCA

Response to the coronavirus pandemic

See also: Documenting America's Path to Recovery

On August 10, 2020, the White House released a document outlining Trump's response to the coronavirus pandemic. It listed the following key takeaways:^[32]

- “
- Took early action to cut off travel from China
 - Built the world’s leading testing system from nothing
 - Enacted mitigation measures to slow the spread
 - Mobilized public and private sectors to secure needed supplies
 - Took action to protect vulnerable Americans
 - Launched effort to deliver a vaccine and therapeutics in record time
 - Provided support to workers and businesses
 - Paved way for reopening to get America working again
 - Surged resources to hot spots as they arose
 - Confronted China as origin of the virus while Democrats and media cowered^[1]
- ”

This document also provided a list of Trump's comments, distribution of resources, and executive actions related to the coronavirus pandemic:

“ **At the outset, President Trump took action to stop travel from China to stem the spread to the United States as long as possible.** ”

- While Democrats were focused on their impeachment sham, President Trump took swift and decisive action to stop travel from China in January and enhanced airport screenings to help stop cases from coming into the United States as long as possible.
- In his February 4th State of the Union address, President Trump pledged to “take all necessary steps to safeguard our citizens from the virus,” while the Democrats’ response made not a single mention of the virus or even the threat of China.

President Trump built the world’s leading testing system from nothing, based on a virus we have never faced before.

- In order to accurately trace and combat this virus, President Trump set out to build the world’s best testing system, and that’s exactly what he did.
- We have already conducted more than 65 million tests. far

Potential Supreme Court nominees

On September 9, 2020, Trump released a new list of 20 potential nominees to the Supreme Court.^[33]

Trump campaign legal adviser Jenna Ellis said in a press release, "President Trump’s list of Supreme Court nominees shows once again his firm commitment to protecting our fundamental rights, including religious freedom and the right to life for every precious unborn child. Originalist judges are necessary to protect and preserve our constitutional republic, built on the truthful recognition that our rights are God-given, not government-given."^[34]

The following individuals were named:

- Bridget S. Bade, U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit
- Daniel Cameron, Kentucky attorney general
- Paul Clement, former solicitor general of the United States
- Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.)
- Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas)
- Stuart Kyle Duncan, U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit
- Steven Engel, Office of Legal Counsel, DOJ
- Noel Francisco, former solicitor general of the United States
- Sen. Josh Hawley (R-Mo.)
- James Ho, U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit
- Greg Katsas, U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit
- Barbara Lagoa, U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit
- Christopher Landau, U.S. ambassador to Mexico
- Carlos Muñoz, Supreme Court of Florida
- Martha Pacold, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois
- Peter Phipps, U.S. Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit
- Sarah Pitlyk, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri
- Allison Jones Rushing, U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit
- Kate Todd, deputy White House counsel
- Lawrence VanDyke, U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit

Trump has released three other lists since 2016.^[33] Previously announced candidates include the following officials and judges:^[35]

- Amy Coney Barrett of Indiana, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit
- Keith Blackwell of Georgia, Supreme Court of Georgia
- Charles Canady of Florida, Supreme Court of Florida
- Steven Colloton of Iowa, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit
- Allison Eid of Colorado, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit
- Britt Grant of Georgia, Supreme Court of Georgia
- Raymond Gruender of Missouri, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit
- Thomas Hardiman of Pennsylvania, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit
- Brett Kavanaugh of Maryland, U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit
- Raymond Kethledge of Michigan, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
- Joan Larsen of Michigan, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
- Mike Lee of Utah, United States Senator
- Thomas Lee of Utah, Supreme Court of Utah
- Edward Mansfield of Iowa, Supreme Court of Iowa
- Federico Moreno of Florida, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida
- Kevin Newsom of Alabama, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit
- William Pryor of Alabama, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit

- Margaret Ryan of Virginia, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces
- David Stras of Minnesota, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit
- Diane Sykes of Wisconsin, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit
- Amul Thapar of Kentucky, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
- Timothy Tymkovich of Colorado, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit
- Robert Young of Michigan, Supreme Court of Michigan (Ret.)
- Don Willett of Texas, Supreme Court of Texas
- Patrick Wyrick of Oklahoma, Supreme Court of Oklahoma

Campaign themes

Trump released the following list of core priorities for his second-term agenda on August 23, 2020.^[36]

“ Building on the incredible achievements of President Donald J. Trump’s first term in office, the President’s re-election campaign today released a set of core priorities for a second term under the banner of ‘Fighting for You!’ President Trump’s boundless optimism and certainty in America’s greatness is reflected in his second-term goals and stands in stark contrast to the gloomy vision of America projected by Joe Biden and Democrats. ”

President Trump will further illuminate these plans during his acceptance speech Thursday at the Republican National Convention. Over the coming weeks, the President will be sharing additional details about his plans through policy-focused speeches on the campaign trail.

President Trump: Fighting for You!

JOBS

- Create 10 Million New Jobs in 10 Months
- Create 1 Million New Small Businesses
- Cut Taxes to Boost Take-Home Pay and Keep Jobs in America
- Enact Fair Trade Deals that Protect American Jobs

Archive of Political Emails

The Archive of Political Emails was founded in July 2019 to compile political fundraising and advocacy emails sent by candidates, elected officials, PACs, nonprofits, NGOs, and other political actors.^[37] The archive includes screenshots and searchable text from emails sent by 2020 presidential candidates. To review the Trump campaign's emails, click here .

Social media

Accounts

- [Donald Trump on Facebook](#)
- [Donald Trump on Instagram](#)
- [Donald Trump on YouTube](#)

Twitter feed

Tweets by [@realDonaldTrump](#)



Donald J. Trump

[@realDonaldTrump](#)

Did anyone get to see that absolute “Joke” of a Town Hall interview that Joe Biden did with Comcast [@NBCNews](#) , hosted by Lester Holt? What a disgrace to our Country that FREE public airwaves can be used that way. All SOFTBALLS. A big FIX. Time should be paid by the corrupt DNC!

7m



Donald J. Trump

[@realDonaldTrump](#)

REPEAL SECTION 230!!!

[Embed](#)

[View on Twitter](#)

Ballot access

See also: Ballot access for presidential candidates

In order to get on the ballot, a candidate for president of the United States must meet a variety of complex, state-specific filing requirements and deadlines. These regulations, known as ballot access laws, determine whether a candidate or party will appear on an election ballot. These laws are set at the state level. A presidential candidate must prepare to meet ballot access requirements well in advance of primaries, caucuses, and the general election.

There are three basic methods by which an individual may become a candidate for president of the United States.

1. An individual can seek the **nomination of a political party**. Presidential nominees are selected by delegates at national nominating conventions. Individual states conduct caucuses or primary elections to determine which delegates will be sent to the national convention.^[38]
2. An individual can run as **an independent**. Independent presidential candidates typically must petition each state to have their names printed on the general election ballot.^[38]
3. An individual can run as a **write-in candidate**.^[38]

Ballotpedia's Daily Presidential News Briefing

See also: *Ballotpedia's Daily Presidential News Briefing*

The following section provides a timeline of Trump's campaign activity beginning in January 2019. The entries, which come from Ballotpedia's Daily Presidential News Briefing, are sorted by month in reverse chronological order.

2020

October 2020 (click to collapse)



October

▪ **October 3-4, 2020:**

- Trump received several treatments for COVID-19, including dexamethasone, Regeneron's experimental antibody treatment, and remdesivir. Doctors said that Trump had experienced two drops in his oxygen levels but continued to improve. Dr. Brian Garibaldi said that "if he continues to look and feel as well as he does today, our hope is that we can plan for a discharge as early as tomorrow [October 5] to the White House where he can continue his treatment course."
- Trump posted two videos to Twitter discussing his condition and thanking his supporters. He also greeted supporters outside of Walter Reed Medical Center in a presidential motorcade .

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