

A SPLINTERED NATION IN SUSPENSE
AS MILLIONS OF VOTES ARE TALLIED



TEXAS A line in Houston on Tuesday as the nation sought to elect the 47th president. More than 80 million people had voted early.



MICHIGAN Receiving a ballot at a school in Dearborn. The state was one of the battlegrounds where the race was expected to be close.



WISCONSIN In another of the swing states, a voter and a companion emerged from a booth at Magnolia Town Hall, south of Madison.

Precincts Get Heavy Traffic as
U.S. Arrives at Crossroads

By JIM TANKERSLEY and MICHAEL LEVENSON

Millions of voters poured into polling stations around the United States on Tuesday as a divisive and chaotic campaign came to an end, and election workers began tabulating the ballots that would decide the 47th president.

To the end, nearly every poll in the seven battleground states showed the race to be a tossup between Kamala Harris — the Democratic vice president, who would be the first woman to win the office — and Donald J. Trump, the Republican former president, who has shattered the norms of American politics and would be the first occupant of the Oval Office with a felony record. Control of the House of Representatives and the Senate was also up for grabs and, like the presidency, had not been decided in the hours after polls closed.

Election precincts reported high traffic but relatively few issues with voting systems. Some were navigating challenging conditions, including the aftermath of Hurricane Helene in North Carolina. Poll workers set up tents in Yancey County, N.C., and voters from two precincts in Asheville were redirected because storm damage compromised access to their usual polling place.

Some officials were facing challenges of human origin. In Fulton County, Ga., home to Atlanta, five bomb threats prompted two polling locations to close briefly, the county elections director, Nadine Williams, said at a news conference. The F.B.I. said it was aware of bomb threats to polling locations in several states, “many of which appear to originate from Russian email domains,” though none of them were credible.

More than 80 million people had already voted before Tuesday with early ballots, either by mail or in person. There were fewer early voters this year than in 2020, when the coronavirus pandemic was raging, but it was still a significant turnout that showed how the pandemic might have forever altered American voting habits.

Ms. Harris, 60, who voted early, told an Atlanta radio station on Tuesday morning that she saw the race as “an inflection point in terms of, this is the moment where we have two very different visions of the future of our nation.”

Mr. Trump, 78, voted just before noon in Palm Beach, Fla., and told reporters that he was “very honored” to find out that lines at polling places were long.

When asked if he expected this would be his last campaign, Mr. Trump said, “Yeah, I would think so.” As reporters pressed him on whether he would concede if he lost, he said he would do so if he thought the election was fair, and “so far, I think it’s been fair.”

But later on Tuesday, he wrote on Truth Social, his social media site, that there could be “massive CHEATING in Philadelphia.” His false claims of potential cheating in recent weeks had election and

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ONLINE Find up-to-the-moment election coverage on the race between Vice President Kamala Harris and Donald J. Trump at nytimes.com.

In Rural Town,
Minding a Farm
And the Ballots

By JULIE BOSMAN

MAGNOLIA, Wis. — Graceann Toberman climbed out of bed at 3:50 a.m. on Tuesday, when the sky over her 120-acre farm in southern Wisconsin was inky black, the animals outside were sleeping and the only sound was the flapping of the American flag in the wind. Her to-do list was beckoning.

Feed cattle.
Feed chickens.
Check electric fence to make sure that the darned deer didn’t knock it over again.

And when the chores are done: Hurry over to the town hall in Magnolia and administer the presidential election.

Ms. Toberman, 61, is one of the more than 1,800 municipal clerks in Wisconsin, which has more local election officials than any other state.

For the last 21 years, if there were ballots to count, voters to register or elections to run in Magnolia, a rural farming community of 734 people, Ms. Toberman, who was elected to the non-partisan role, has been the woman in charge.

“I think we’re all ready,” she said, wearing jeans and rubber boots, hauling buckets of feed outside her chicken coop just before 5 a.m., one of her last chores before changing clothes and driving into

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Tense Electorate
Votes, Rattled
By Disruptions

By NICK CORASANITI and JIM RUTENBERG

Americans navigated a fraught voting landscape on Election Day as a largely smooth voting process early in the day was buffeted by bomb threats, widespread misinformation and unabated anxiety over the election outcome and aftermath.

Election officials across the country remained on guard in case problems arose at night, including once polls closed and the vote-counting process began.

The vast majority of Americans were able to cast their votes unimpeded. But bomb threats called into precincts across four states caused multiple polling locations to temporarily close. Among the areas affected were two key counties in Georgia, DeKalb and Fulton, which includes Atlanta (a judge later ordered the Fulton sites to extend voting hours).

In DeKalb County, the threats led to evacuations during the final hour of voting. The secretary of state in Georgia said the threats had come from Russia.

Election officials described the election process as generally smooth, safe and secure; long lines were present but not widespread, and most glitches caused by machines or human error were swiftly addressed.

Former President Donald J.

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