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Democracy Dies in Darkness

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2024 · \$5

Dawn of a new Trump era

BIG WIN MAY GIVE LICENSE FOR RADICAL CHANGE;
HARRIS SAYS ‘FIGHT THAT FUELED’ HER RUN ENDURES



Harris
226

270 to win



Trump
295

As of Nov. 6, 10:15 PM



President-elect Donald Trump and incoming first lady Melania Trump attend an election night party in West Palm Beach, Florida.

JABIN BOTSFORD/THE WASHINGTON POST

Names for top assignments are already being floated

This article is by Jacqueline Alemany, Josh Dawsey, Hannah Knowles, Marianne LeVine and Perry Stein

President-elect Donald Trump and his allies prepared Wednesday to take power after a decisive election victory that could hand Republicans unified control of government and give Trump a broad mandate to pursue an agenda of radical change.

Vice President Kamala Harris called Trump to concede and then addressed supporters in the afternoon, saying she told Trump she would help with his transition and “engage in a peaceful transfer of power.” Republicans took back the Senate majority; the race for House control is still unsettled, but the GOP is on track to retaining control.

Trump’s team has already zeroed in on some candidates for top appointments. Billionaire hedge fund investor John Paulson and economic adviser Scott Bessent are contenders for treasury secretary, according to multiple people familiar with the matter who, like others, spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe internal discussions. Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Florida), who was a finalist to become Trump’s running mate, and former acting director of national intelligence Richard Grenell are under consideration for secretary of state, people familiar with the deliberations said.

Another vice-presidential
SEE TRUMP ON AA9

Another swing fails to shatter glass ceiling

BY JOANNA SLATER
AND KARIN BRULLIARD

The chance to sweep away a barrier to women that is as old as the United States vanished as Donald Trump defeated Kamala Harris to become the nation’s 47th president, devastating voters who hoped she could make history.

Trump’s win, secured early Wednesday, means that the practice of electing a man to the nation’s highest office remains unbroken after more than 200 years.

For many American women — most of whom supported Harris — it was a defeat infused with bitterness and despair: A female candidate lost for the second time in eight years and just two years after abortion rights were stripped away in many states.

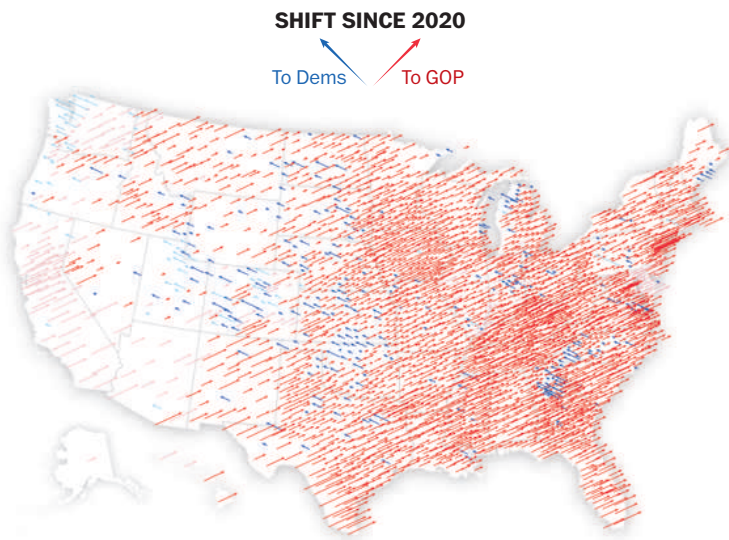
Particularly brutal was the victory of an opponent with a long and troubling history on
SEE WOMEN ON AA14

A historic realignment of electorate

BY YASMEEN ABUTALEB,
DAN KEATING,
SABRINA RODRIGUEZ
AND JOSH DAWSEY

Donald Trump’s return to the White House was powered by a historic realignment of the American electorate that upended decades of traditional coalitions as he maintained his majority support among men and White voters without college degrees but made dramatic inroads with Latinos, first-time voters and middle- and lower-income households, according to preliminary exit polls.

In key swing states that decided the election, Trump also cut into traditional Democratic strongholds: urban areas and high-income suburbs in Pennsylvania; Black voters in Wisconsin; and Arab voters in Michigan. And he dramatically expanded his margins in rural counties in Georgia and
SEE COALITION ON AA2



Most counties across the U.S. — urban, suburban and rural — swung rightward. Story, AA7

Economy: Anger over the effects of inflation propelled the vote. AA9

The Take: Will his second term be as dark as his campaign? AA3

Election denial: GOP’s claims go on hiatus with victory. AA10

Foreign policy: Trump could embolden allies and foes. AA12

Harris: Her loss is a stinging verdict for the left. AA15

Jan. 6: Jubilant defendants begin to angle for pardons. B1

D.C. suburbs: Vote-rich areas in Virginia inch toward Trump. B1

U.S. Capitol defender: Former D.C. officer awaits the worst. C1

Inside story: How Trump pulled it off

BY MICHAEL SCHERER,
JOSH DAWSEY,
ASHLEY PARKER
AND TYLER PAGER

Trump Force One was Michigan-bound this spring when the former president confronted one of his biggest political weaknesses: abortion.

Donald Trump bragged about his role in helping to overturn *Roe v. Wade*. Now some longtime advisers wanted Trump to sign on to a national 15-week ban, like the 20-week federal limit he had supported from the White House. His senior campaign team, however, had prepared a long presentation to stop him.

He needed to win voters, they argued, who supported state referendums on protecting abortion rights. If he backed a national ban like before, he would be limiting medical options in some states.
SEE CAMPAIGN ON AA4

Smith weighs how to end prosecutions

BY PERRY STEIN,
SHAYNA JACOBS,
HOLLY BAILEY
AND SPENCER S. HSU

As Donald Trump clinched his resounding presidential victory early Wednesday, the four criminal cases against him seemed to begin their march to dissolution.

The election win prompted special counsel Jack Smith to start discussing how to wind down the two federal prosecutions of the president-elect, according to a person familiar with the internal deliberations, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter. One case accuses Trump of hoarding highly classified documents after leaving the White House; the other charges him with trying to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election.

In New York, meanwhile, Trump’s lawyers were expected to
SEE TRIALS ON A2

IN THE NEWS

Pageant queen’s story lives on The grieving mother of a former Miss USA is talking about her daughter’s hidden battle with depression in hopes of helping others. A4

Decades-long fight The battle over Alaska’s Arctic National Wildlife Refuge — and the oil and gas that lie beneath it. Special section, F1

THE NATION
As temperatures rise, evaporation will become the dominant factor in droughts. A2
The Supreme Court appeared to be split over a lawsuit against Facebook. A3

THE WORLD
Lebanese first responders say they are increasingly targeted by Israeli airstrikes. A7
Israel’s new defense minister is described by analysts as a Netanyahu “yes-man.” A8

THE ECONOMY
Major stock indexes, cryptocurrencies and Tesla shares gained ground after Donald Trump’s victory in the presidential election. A9
Political spending by the cryptocurrency industry appeared to pay off as industry allies swept into office. A10

THE REGION
After bracing for unrest related to the election, the District entered an uneasy quiet between now and Inauguration Day in January. B1

STYLE
On Fox News, election coverage began with cautious optimism and ended with elation. C1

SPORTS
The Commanders’ trade for star cornerback Marshon Lattimore gives the team the chance to play more aggressively on defense. D1

LOCAL LIVING
A playground is a place where both children and parents need to be aware of the ground rules.

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