

# Trump closing in



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## GOP is set to take control of Senate

By Jim Puzzanghera and Tal Kopan  
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — Republicans will win control of the Senate on Tuesday night, the Associated Press projected, capitalizing on an extremely advantageous set of races this year to return to the majority for the first time since early 2021.

The House remained too close to call.

The Senate projection came after Republicans flipped seats in West Virginia and Ohio, and held off Democrats in their best pick-up opportunities.

The GOP will control the agenda next year in a chamber charged with confirming presidential nominees for executive branch offices and the judiciary, including any Supreme Court vacancies that arise. If Republican Donald Trump wins, having his party in charge of the Senate will make it easier for him to fill his Cabinet and shape the courts. If Democrat Kamala Harris wins, the Senate looms as potential major roadblock for her nominees and her agenda.

CONGRESS, Page A8

## A long night but momentum seems to be going his way

By Jim Puzzanghera and Tal Kopan  
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — Once again, a bitter presidential election in a politically fractured nation appeared to be headed into overtime.

Vote-counting in several battleground states continued late into the night in an extraordinary race that was still too close to call, with Vice President Kamala Harris and former president Donald Trump locked in a contest as close as polls predicted for months. As midnight passed, however, the momentum appeared to shift in Trump's direction. Though there were many votes left to count, Harris was on track to fall short of Joe Biden's vote shares in key jurisdictions in his successful 2020 campaign.

Four years ago, it took four days for Joe Biden to be declared the winner. Trump unsuccessfully tried to overturn those results, losing multiple legal challenges over several tumultuous weeks that culminated in the violent Capitol insurrection on Jan. 6, 2021, and two criminal cases against him.

This year, Trump and his allies have laid the groundwork for another contested election if he loses again, falsely claiming they've been well ahead in polls that for months showed a virtual dead heat in the crucial battleground states. But Democrats have said they're prepared to counter any attempt to overturn the results if Harris wins, and Congress changed the way electoral votes are challenged to try to prevent another attempt at interference by lawmakers in the certification process.

Much of the campaign was fought in seven battleground states: Arizona, Georgia, Nevada, North Carolina, and the so-called Democratic "blue wall"

PRESIDENT, Page A6

## Voters poised to kill MCAS requirement

By Deanna Pan  
GLOBE STAFF

Three decades after Massachusetts dramatically overhauled its K-12 public education system, with increased funding, higher standards, and greater accountability for students and teachers, voters appeared poised to dismantle a key provision of the landmark law that helped make the state's schools the best in the country.

Returns showed Question 2 — the teachers union-backed ballot initiative abolishing the state's only uniform high school graduation requirement — with a healthy lead early Wednesday morning. If Question 2 passes, high-schoolers would no longer need to pass their subject-matter tests under the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System, or MCAS, to receive their diplomas. Students would only need to complete coursework that their districts certify meets the state's academic standards.

The referendum on the MCAS was

QUESTION 2, Page A9

### Ballot questions

Voters made big statements on education policy, working conditions, and drug use.

WON	LEADING	LEADING	BEHIND	LOST
QUESTION 1	QUESTION 2	QUESTION 3	QUESTION 4	QUESTION 5
Authorize the state auditor to audit the Legislature 75% reporting	Remove MCAS tests as high school graduation requirement 82% reporting	Allow transportation network drivers to unionize 75% reporting	Legalize psychedelic substances 73% reporting	Increase minimum wage of tipped employees 75% reporting

### Where the race will be won

Of the 50 states, just seven served as a referendum on the direction of the country.

● Electoral College votes

**Arizona**  
It's all about Maricopa County in a state that put Biden over the top

**Georgia**  
Trump flips state that went to Democrats in 2020

**Michigan**  
Blue wall state that seesawed in the past two elections

**Nevada**  
Important bulwark for Democrats in recent cycles

**North Carolina**  
Trump wins again; Democrats haven't won here since 2008

**Pennsylvania**  
Barrage of last-minute campaigning has voters exhausted

**Wisconsin**  
Expecting a rerun of the nail-biter in the prior two elections

### Warren wins

The Massachusetts senator was elected to a third term, beating Republican John Deaton. **B1.**

### The mood

Millions of New England voters could agree on one thing: the stakes felt incredibly high. **B1.**

### Abortion

A Florida measure that would have protected abortion rights in the state constitution failed. **A4.**

### Few problems

Despite nightmare scenarios about issues at the polls, the voting ran mostly smoothly. **A5.**

### A close call

**Wednesday:** Summer returns. High 74-79. Low 57-62.  
**Thursday:** Still warm. High 66-71. Low 44-49.  
**Weather and Comics, G6-7. Obituaries, C11.**

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