

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.

Early race results on Tuesday night, called by the Associated Press, had no major surprises. Mr. Trump won Florida for the third time. Ms. Harris took Maryland and several Northeastern states.

Representative Andy Kim of New Jersey, a Democrat, will become the first Korean American senator after he won the seat held by Robert Menendez, who was convicted in a bribery case. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, Democrat of New York, was re-elected.

Gov. Jim Justice, the Republican governor of West Virginia, won the Senate seat held by Joe Manchin III, who is retiring. His victory put Republicans within sight of gaining control of that chamber, with several critical races yet to be called.

In North Carolina, the state attorney general, Josh Stein, a Democrat, will become governor after defeating Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson, a fiery Republican who was discovered to have made offensive comments on a pornographic website, which he denied.

And a ballot measure failed that would have enshrined abortion rights in Florida’s constitution, falling short of the 60 percent of “Yes” votes required for passage.

More than 80 million people in

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DOUG MILLS/THE NEW YORK TIMES

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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Disruptions Put
Tense Electorate
Further on Edge

By NICK CORASANTINI
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 disinformation and unabated anxiety over the election outcome and aftermath.

A vast majority of Americans were able to cast their votes unimpeded on Tuesday. But threats of violence — largely made through dozens of bomb threats, many in Democratic strongholds — proved a constant reminder of what risks becoming an edgy new normal for voting in America.

Among the areas affected were DeKalb and Fulton, two key Democratic counties in Georgia with large populations of Black voters. Fulton County, which includes Atlanta, saw a total of 32 bomb threats alone (judges later ordered the Fulton and DeKalb sites to extend voting hours). The secretary of state in Georgia said the threats made early in the morning had come from Russia. Six other states — Maine, Arizona, Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Ohio — also reported receiving bomb threats.

Election officials described the election process as generally smooth, safe and secure; long lines were present but not widespread.

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