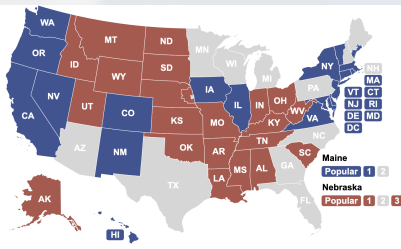


Civics is all around us. There is a lot to know about the government and how “We the People” interact with the government and each other. Let’s help each other expand our civic literacy.



Remember, all 50 states contribute to the election of a president. Some states traditionally and consistently vote Democrat (‘blue states’) or Republican (‘red states’). Other states are considered ‘purple states’ because the parties have an equal chance at winning.

These states are called **battleground states** or ‘**swing states**’, and they play a huge role in presidential campaigns. On this election night, let’s look closer at a few of these battleground states. Keep in mind that when people vote in a presidential election, they are actually telling their state electors who they should vote for in the **Electoral College**. In order to win the presidency, a candidate must gain a majority of Electoral College votes, which would be 270 of those 538 votes.

To Think and To Do: While you watch the election results, keep an eye out for updates from the four battleground states below. For each state, read the background information and answer the questions.

Questions to Consider

- What are the 2020 presidential results for each state?
- If the race has not been called, what information do you know?
- Is the result different from the latest polling data?
- Was the voter turnout higher or lower than expected?
- Are there any notable voting or ballot issues?
- Are there any trends across the four states?
- Does anything stand out to you?



ARIZONA

Quick Facts: 3,262,000 registered voters, 11 Electoral College Votes
Recent Elections: 2016 - Trump (R) won AZ; 2012 - Romney (R) won AZ
Latest Poll: Average 2020 Presidential Polls as of October 23 from **270toWin**: Biden 47.9% Trump 45.6%
Number of Early Voters: 1,605,338 as of October 24
Voting information: In **Arizona**, mail-in and in-person voting begins 27 days before Election Day. **Arizona law** requires voters to have approved identification in order to vote. **Mail-in ballots** received before October 27th are tabulated before Election Day.

FLORIDA

Quick Facts: 9,435,000 registered voters, 29 Electoral College Votes
Recent Elections: 2016 - Trump (R) won FL; 2012 - Obama (D) won FL
Latest Poll: Average 2020 Presidential Polls as of October 26 from **270toWin**: Biden 49.4% Trump 47.4%
Number of Early Voters: 6,018,430 as of October 26
Voting information: By law in Florida **early voting** must be held for at least 8 days before the election with county supervisors of elections having the option for two additional early voting days. **Florida law** also requires voters to have approved identification in order to vote. Mail-in ballots must be received by 7:00pm on November 3 in order to be counted for the 2020 election. Ballots begin to be **processed** 22 days before election day.

PENNSYLVANIA

Quick Facts: 6,469,000 registered voters, 20 Electoral College Votes
Recent Elections: 2016 - Trump (R) won PA; 2012 - Obama (D) won PA
Latest Poll: Average 2020 Presidential Polls as of October 26 from **270toWin**: Biden 50% Trump 45%
Number of Early Voters: 1,712,017 as of October 26
Voting information: Due to a recent Supreme Court **ruling**, mail-in ballots will be counted that are received three days after Nov 3. This is an extension of the previous rules that **mail-in ballots** must be returned by 8:00pm on Election Day. Ballots begin to be **processed** at 7am on Election Day.

WISCONSIN

Quick Facts: 3,129,000 registered voters, 10 Electoral College Votes
Recent Elections: 2016 - Trump (R) won WI; 2012 - Obama (D) won WI
Latest Poll: Average 2020 Presidential Polls as of October 26 from **270toWin**: Biden 52.8% Trump 43.4%
Number of Early Voters: 1,344,535 as of October 26, 2020
Voting information: Early voting, called **absentee in-person voting**, is taking place October 20 - November 1. Mail-in ballots must be received by 8:00pm on November 3. Ballots begin to be **processed** at 7am on Election Day. **Wisconsin** has same-day registration, new voters may register and vote at their polling place on Election Day.

**Tracking Election Results?
Visit:**

- [270towin.com](https://www.270towin.com)
- [FiveThirtyEight.com](https://www.fiftythreeeight.com)
- [C-SPAN Campaign 2020](https://www.c-span.org/campaign2020)

Lou Frey Institute

