



Photo from Bloomberg

2024 Presidential Election: Trump Wins Second Term

by Emilia Magwene Muniz, freshman

The 2024 presidential election was historic, with Donald Trump's victory making him the oldest president-elect and the second president to serve two non-consecutive terms. The race was predicted to be close, which led to high stakes for both political parties. Both Kamala Harris and Donald Trump were campaigning until the final minutes.

Key battleground states, including Pennsylvania, Georgia, and North Carolina, played pivotal roles in the race for both candidates. Pennsylvania, with 19 electoral votes – the highest number of electoral votes out of all the swing states– was fiercely contested based on polls in the state, even in the weeks leading up to Election Day. Both Harris and Trump visited Pennsylvania frequently in an attempt to win the state's votes. Ultimately, Trump won Pennsylvania. Meanwhile, high voter turnout in urban Georgia was especially important for Democrats, although Trump won the state. North Carolina, which hasn't voted majority Democratic since the 2008 presidential election, was another crucial state for the candidates, carrying 16 electoral votes, which Trump eventually won.

The state responsible for pushing Trump over the 270 electoral vote threshold needed to win was Wisconsin, which awarded him 10 electoral votes. Donald Trump also won the popular vote, with 51% of voters nationwide.

Voter Statistics

by Emilia Magwene Muniz, freshman

This year, over 82 million mail-in and early in-person votes were cast nationwide. Of these, 41% were from registered Democrats and 39% from registered Republicans.

Comparing exit poll data from both 2020 and 2024, we can see notable shifts in voting patterns across key demographics. One of the most significant changes was a 13% increase in Hispanic/Latino support for Trump, rising from 32% in 2020 to 45% in 2024. This shift was especially pronounced among Hispanic/Latino men, where Trump saw an 18% increase. This gain for Trump was mirrored by a drop in Hispanic/Latino support for the Democratic candidate; in 2024, Harris received 12% less support from this group than Biden did in 2020.

In the Black voting demographic, Harris maintained a strong lead, especially among Black women, but Trump made inroads, increasing his support from Black men by about 5.5 percentage points.

This election also revealed an unusual age-based voting shift. Trump gained more support from younger voters, who typically lean Democratic, while Harris made gains among older voters, a group that usually favors Republican candidates. Regarding geography, Trump regained ground among rural voters, who had leaned away from him in the 2020 election. Meanwhile, urban areas continued to vote largely Democratic, and suburban areas remained evenly split.

This election was one with high stakes for both parties and sets the stage for the future of American politics.

Sources:

- 1) "Early Vote," NBC News
- 2) "How Many Electoral College Votes Do the Seven Battleground States Have?" Newsweek
- 3) "Live Trump-Harris Election Updates," AP News
- 4) "How voting demographics changed between 2020 and 2024 presidential elections," NBC Washington
- 5) "Anatomy of three Trump elections: How Americans shifted in 2024 vs. 2020 and 2016," CNN
- 6) "The key swing states and counties that handed Trump the White House – a visual analysis," The Guardian
- 7) "Harris Won The College-Educated Vote—But Trump Gained Young And Latino Voters. Here's The Breakdown," Forbes

Donald Trump's Second Term Policy Plans

by Ruby Gentithes, senior

Four years since his last, Trump has now won another term in office. On January 20, he will become the 47th President of the United States. President-elect Donald Trump promises a more ambitious agenda this time around. With increased experience and understanding of the bureaucratic process from his last term, experts believe that President-elect Trump will be able to advance his policies more efficiently. Let's take a look at his policy plans and promises to Americans.

Immigration

Immigration is a topic that Trump has emphasized throughout his political career. He is focused on the US-Mexico border, where he plans to direct funding for detention camps, mass deportations, border agents, and border security. The goal of these objectives are to limit illegal border crossings. He also aims to reinstate a travel ban, which would restrict entry into the United States from countries that are largely Muslim.

Tariffs

President-elect Trump has stated that 'tariff' is "the most beautiful word in the dictionary." He plans to set higher tariffs on countries, asserting that tariffs will create more American jobs and decrease federal debt. However, Vox finds that Trump's plan "would raise consumer prices without aiding the broader economy." His plan is to enforce 10-20% tariffs on all countries and target China especially with tariffs as high as 60%.

Foreign Relations

Donald Trump's foreign policy takes a more isolationist stance. It is likely that he will seek withdrawal from international agreements and organizations. President-elect Trump has repeatedly expressed skepticism towards NATO and has encouraged Russia "to do whatever the hell they want" with regard to NATO countries. He has stated he will end the Russia-Ukraine war in 24 hours, however, has not laid out any specific plans to do so.

Abortion

In the wake of Roe v. Wade being overturned, it is unlikely that President-elect Trump will seek federal legislation banning or restricting abortion. He posted on social media platforms that if a federal ban came across his desk, he would "veto it, because it is up to the states to decide based on the will of their voters."



Photo from Axios

Climate

In office, Donald Trump plans to support a resurgence of energy sources like coal-fired power plants and the production of oil and natural gas. While President Biden has worked to reduce fossil fuel use, Donald Trump makes an opposing pledge to return to carbon-intensive energy sources. It is also likely he will pull out of the Paris Climate Agreement, as he did during the 45th presidency. He argues high and efficient energy production will make the United States more competitive globally.

Education

Donald Trump aims to restructure the education system, defunding the Department of Education, moving their responsibilities to other agencies, and reducing funding for schools that teach certain race-related curriculum. He has also promised to dismantle Title IX, which impacts students' ability to express their gender identity (such as which bathrooms they can use and which sports teams they can play on). President-elect Trump does not plan to continue Biden's student loan initiatives, leaving some students fearful about the status of federal student aid, or FAFSA.

It is likely that President-elect Donald Trump's second term will look vastly different from his first. With the experience of four years in the Oval Office and an appointed staff in place to support his policy agenda, President-elect Trump may make a lasting impact over his upcoming presidency.

Sources:

- 1) "The Trump agenda..." Politico
- 2) "Donald Trump calls tariff 'the most beautiful word,'" Yahoo Finance
- 3) "What are Trump's policies on trade, immigration, and other key issues?" Reuters
- 4) "Trump favors huge new tariffs. How do they work?" PBS News
- 5) "Trump's second term will look nothing like his first," CNN
- 6) "How the second Trump presidency could reshape the world," Vox
- 7) "Trump says he would encourage Russia..." CNN
- 8) "Trump vows to veto any federal abortion ban..." Politico
- 9) "Elon Musk assures voters..." Vox



Photo from Instagram (@joshsteinnc)

Not Joshing Around: Josh Stein's Goals for NC

by Ainsley Buzby, senior

The evening of election night, Josh Stein addressed North Carolina after the Associated Press called him the winner of the governor race. In his victory speech, Stein called North Carolina "home to the best people." He highlighted the strength of North Carolinians and their ability to come together beyond political lines, citing the recent relief efforts to help Western North Carolina after Hurricane Helene as an example.

Stein's goals as governor center around families. As Attorney General, he pushed for better education policy, protecting worker's rights, and making necessities like housing and healthcare available for all. Stein looks to continue to work on these issues as governor of North Carolina and build on the policies that current Governor Roy Cooper has worked on.

Stein will have more veto power than Roy Cooper as Democrats won an additional seat in the state House, breaking the Republican supermajority. Without a supermajority, Republicans can no longer override the governor's vetoes, giving Stein more power to implement policies that align with his goals.

With his work as Attorney General, Josh Stein has proved to be a strong force in North Carolina politics. Stein now looks to make bounds as the state's first Jewish governor and continue to improve the state for everyone.

Sources:

- 1) "Josh's Priorities," joshstein.org
- 2) "Stein defeats Robinson in race for governor, talks about 'promise of North Carolina'" and "what breaking the supermajority means - and doesn't mean - for Josh Stein and NC Democrats | Opinion," News and Observer



Photo from mogreenfornc.com

A Green Check for Public Schools: Mo Green

by Phoebe Artin, junior

The Superintendent of Public Instruction is the elected head of the NC Department of Public Education, meaning they oversee funding and lawmaking surrounding public schools. Maurice 'Mo' Green was recently elected to this position. Mo served as the superintendent of Guilford County Schools for over seven years before running for state superintendent. His vision for NC's public schools is as follows:

- "Prepare each student for their next phase in life,
- "Invest fully in public education,
- "Revere public school educators,
- "Enhance parent and community support,
- "Ensure safe, secure learning environments,
- "Celebrate the good in public education."

The race was close on Tuesday night, with Mo Green ultimately beating his opponent, Republican Michelle Morrow, by just over 120,000 votes.

Sources:

- 1) mogreenfornc.com
- 2) er.ncsbe.gov
- 3) dpi.nc.gov

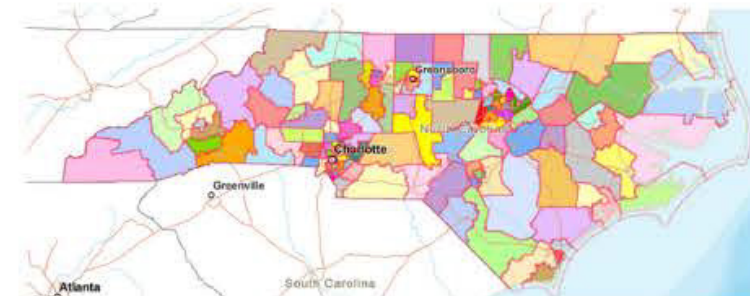


Photo of NC House Districts
from ncleg.gov

Democrats Win Down the Ballot

by Curtis Berzofsky, junior

Last Tuesday, North Carolina awarded its 16 electoral college votes to Former President Donald Trump after his 3-point victory in the state over Vice President Kamala Harris. Despite this, North Carolina Democrats were able to pull out wins in several anticipated races. Democratic Governor candidate Josh Stein won the position of Governor by 14 points over his opponent, the current Lieutenant Governor Mark Robinson, whose campaign was shrouded in controversy. Here are the results from the rest of the North Carolina elections.

Lieutenant Governor

Democrat Rachel Hunt defeated Republican Hal Weatherman by almost 2 points in the Lieutenant Governor race. In North Carolina, this is the only position that has power in both the legislative and executive branches of the state government. The Lieutenant Governor of NC is designated as the president of the state Senate, a member of the state Board of Education, and serves as governor in the event of the governor's absence.

Attorney General

Democrat Jeff Jackson won the Attorney General race over Republican Dan Bishop by almost a 3-point margin. This position is responsible for representing state agencies in legal matters, advising other state officials and prosecutors, and serving as the head of the North Carolina Department of Justice.

Secretary of State

Elaine Marshall, the Democratic candidate, was elected Secretary of State by a 2-point margin over Republican Chad Brown. Marshall has held this position since 1997. The Secretary of State keeps the official journal of the North Carolina General Assembly, oversees land records, and works to strengthen the economy.

Superintendent of Public Instruction

Democratic candidate Maurice ‘Mo’ Green flipped the position when he won by a 2-point margin over Michele Morrow. The superintendent serves as the head of the NC Department of Public Instruction and oversees the public school systems throughout the state. Along with that, they are the secretary of the North Carolina Board of Education and a member of the North Carolina Council of State.

Auditor

Republican Dave Boliek defeated incumbent Jessica Holmes, a Democrat, by a slim 1-point margin to take over the position of state auditor. The position conducts audits and investigations, works to improve government services, identifies wasteful spending, and oversees health, education, and economic programs.

Republican candidates won the positions of Agriculture Commissioner, Insurance Commissioner, Labor Commissioner, and Treasurer. These races were won by 8, 4, 6, and 6-point margins, respectively.

North Carolina State House of Representatives and Senate

Republicans have won the majority in both the state House of Representatives and state Senate, despite more total votes for Democrats. They claim 31 seats in the State Senate and 71 seats in the State House of Representatives. The Democrats, on the other hand, have won 19 seats in the state Senate and 49 in the state House. While the Republicans will keep their supermajority in the Senate, Democrats have broken their supermajority in the House by gaining one seat. This supermajority would have allowed for state Republicans to pass their own legislation, overriding the governor’s vetoes.

United States House of Representatives

Four of North Carolina’s fourteen seats in the U.S. House of Representatives were won by Democrats. Democratic candidate Don Davis was able to win in the 1st District, the only competitive House race in NC. The other ten seats were easily won by the Republican candidates.

Sources:
 1) “North Carolina Election Results,” The New York Times
 2) “Lieutenant Governor,” NC.gov
 3) “NCDOJ Duties & Responsibilities,” ncdoj.gov
 4) “NC SOS,” sosnc.gov
 5) “About DPI,” dpi.nc.gov
 6) “NC Auditor,” auditor.nc.gov
 7) “Democrats break Republican supermajority in North Carolina General Assembly,” WRAL.com

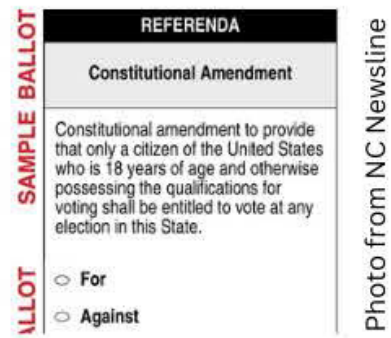


Photo from NC Newsline

New NC Constitutional Amendment

by Emmy Grigoni, senior

North Carolinian voters have passed House Bill 1074 to alter the language of the state constitution’s Article 6 to require citizenship status to vote in elections.

HB 1074 passed Amendment 1, which prohibits all non-citizens from voting in state and local elections and appeared on North Carolinians’ ballots for the general election.

The amendment reads, "constitutional amendment to provide that only a citizen of the United States who is 18 years of age and otherwise possessing the qualifications for voting shall be entitled to vote at any election in this State."

The amendment won nearly 78% of votes. Out of NC’s 100 counties, Durham and Orange County were the only ones with a majority voting against the amendment. The majority was slim, with about 53% of each county’s voters opposing it.

Non-US citizens are prohibited from voting in federal elections by federal law, but the decision of who can vote in local and state elections is largely up to individual states. Currently, non-citizens cannot vote in state elections, but Amendment 1 prevents North Carolina from passing laws that grant non-citizens the right to vote in future state and local elections. Local politics play a vital role in impacting Americans’ everyday lives.

Debates over the equity and necessity of the amendment range between NC Democrats and Republicans. Some Republicans suggest that clear language is important to avoid the possibility of non-citizens voting, while Democrats claim that the exclusive language isn’t needed to establish what is already stated by federal law, and the amendment pushes an anti-immigrant narrative around political participation.

Statistically, non-citizens are much less likely to vote, yet the NC GOP attempted to highlight the voter registration of potential non-citizens. Democrats claim this was a political strategy to spread fear through anti-immigration sentiments and increase Republican voter turnout.

Amendment 1 was added to Section 1, Article 6 of the NC State Constitution and can be found at ncleg.gov.

Sources:
 1) “What’s the deal with the NC ballot question about noncitizen voting?” Carolina Public Press
 2) “North Carolina voters to pass ‘citizens-only’ amendment,” ABC11
 3) “North Carolina Constitutional Amendment 1,” Washington Post
 4) “North Carolina Constitutional Amendment H1074/S630 Election Results,” New York Times

Election Word Search

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- GUN CONTROL
- RESULTS
- SUPREME COURT
- AMENDMENT
- VOTERS
- INDEPENDENT
- CAMPAIGN
- REPUBLICAN
- SUPERINTENDENT
- TARIFFS
- POLLS
- SWING STATES
- EDUCATION
- GOVERNOR
- BILL
- ELECTION
- POLICY
- TRUMP
- BALLOT

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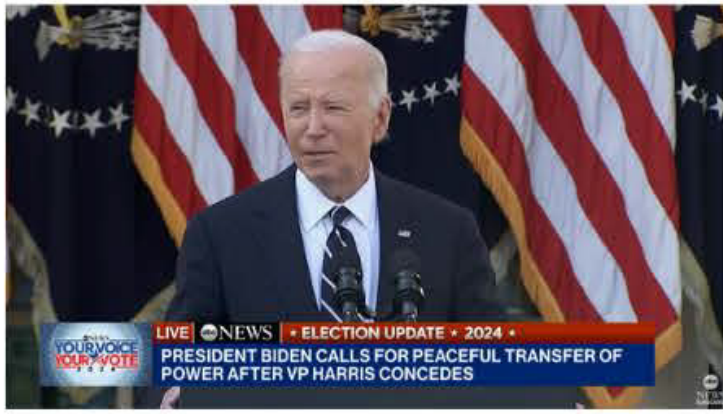


Photo from ABC News Youtube Channel

President Biden's First Address After the Election

by Curtis Berzofsky, junior

On November 7, two days after Election Day, President Joe Biden gave a six-and-a-half minute speech in the White House Rose Garden. This was Biden's first address following Donald Trump's victory in the 2024 Presidential Election.

Biden began by assuring viewers that his administration would work with Trump's team to have a peaceful and orderly transfer of power. He continued by explaining his hopes that voters can "lay to rest the questions about the integrity of the American electoral system." Worries about a peaceful transfer of power and questions about election integrity both stem from lies and frustration resulting from Trump's loss in the 2020 election.

After congratulating Trump, Biden spoke about his Vice President, Kamala Harris, calling her campaign "inspiring" and saying how "everyone got to see something that I learned early on to respect so much—her character." Biden expressed how proud of Harris he is, assuring her and her team that they should feel the same.

Biden recognized the distress many voters are feeling at this time, yet he spoke with optimism and strength. He sees this as simply another part of the democratic process, and recognizes that not all battles can be won. "Remember a defeat does not mean we are defeated. The America of your dreams is calling you to get back up." This is similar to the statements of other Democratic leaders, including Harris herself, calling for people to stand up and shape their own tomorrow, for themselves and their children.

A lasting goal of Biden's presidency has been to end the political hate and division that continues to make itself clear. He said that the outcome of this election should not change the way anyone sees others. "Something I hope we can do no matter who you voted for is see each other, not as adversaries, but as fellow Americans." Political violence has become a greater fear among Americans throughout the past few years, largely as a result of the growing division.

For the rest of the days that he has remaining in office, Biden called for him and his administration to make all the time they have count. For them, this is no time to slow down, and Biden hopes this loss will fuel some final efforts for progress. He also gave a special thanks to his staff, cabinet members and, jokingly, "all the people who have been hanging out with [him] for the last four years."

Biden complimented himself and his team for the work they have put in throughout his "historic" presidency. Confidently, he stated how all the hard work that has been put in "will be felt over the next ten years." All the progress that Biden feels has been made will finally begin to show throughout the next couple months, he claimed.

It is not a time for Americans to turn their back on the country they desperately want to see change in, Biden continued, "you can't love your country only when you win." This is the continuous pattern that the country has and will continue to follow as long as democracy is kept. "We're gonna be okay, but we need to stay engaged, we need to keep going, and above all, we need to keep the faith."

Source:

"FULL SPEECH: Joe Biden's addresses the nation after President-elect Trump's Victory," ABC News

A Note from the Editors

Dear reader,

Thank you for checking out our special issue of the Falcon Post, covering all things regarding the 2024 election! Putting together this issue was challenging for us. We've worked hard to provide you with objective, informative reporting on the election results, not just in the presidential race but in the other consequential races down the ballot that will affect us in Durham.

We recognize how the results of the election are incredibly divisive – they have a large impact on our lives, and it feels like a lot is at stake.

The past couple days have been full of celebration or grief, and even a mix of both, depending on your political beliefs. However, we would like to encourage the Jordan community to come together at this time. While voting is a great way to make your voice heard, progress in our nation doesn't stop on Election Day. If there are other changes you would like to see, volunteer and advocate for what you care about. As high schoolers, we are the future of our country, and at Falcon Post, we want to encourage you to work towards the future you want to see.

With love,
Ainsley, Curtis, Phoebe, and Ruby
Editors-in-Chief and Managing Editors




If you have any feedback for us or topics you'd like for us to cover, let us know by filling out the form at the QR code!



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The Falcon Post

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