**The 2024 American elections JOURNALESE**

Make sure to identify what these acronyms mean

DEI, DOJ, NATO, WHO, ICE, DOGE, (super)PAC, GOP, …

Classify the following proposals into two groups:the Democratic political agenda and the Republican one

(beware, there are a few traps!)

a- raising the minimum wage and establishing paid family and medical leave

b- banning abortion at the federal level for all American women

c- slashing regulations on fossil fuel industries

d- proposing reforms including ethics rules for justices and term limits

e- dismantling federal healthcare programs like the Affordable Care Act

f- imposing new tariffs to boost American manufacturing (including a 60% tariff on goods from China)

g- strengthening the US-Mexico border security

h- focusing on creating clean energy jobs and holding polluters accountable

i- working on student debt relief and making higher education more affordable

j- expelling millions of migrants in the largest deportation program in American history

k- requiring all Americans to carry a national identity card embedded with their immigration and work status

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| **Kamala Harris’s agenda** | **Donald Trump’s agenda** |
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The campaign

For the first time in months, **despite his many legal entanglements** in New York and elsewhere, it was Trump, not his opponent, President Joe Biden, who seemed **to have been thrown off balance** as he whipsawed between the courtroom and the functions of his campaign.

Trump's first indictment and only conviction in the New York hush money trial **only bolstered his poll numbers and his fundraising**, solidifying his control over the Republican Party in the early stages of the primary campaign. Within 24 hours of his conviction, he raised over[$52.8 million](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/trump-fundraising-guilty-verdict-new-york-conviction/).

After Trump and Mr. Biden **clinched their respective nominations**, their debate, hosted by CNN, was scheduled for June 27. It became the most consequential debate in U.S. history when Mr. Biden's performance, **marred by gaffes, unfinished sentences and mumbling**, caused Democratic leaders and voters to question his ability to serve another term because of his age.

After his withdrawal from the race, Biden **came to grips with a diminished role on the campaign trail.** This wasboth due to the need to familiarize voters with Harris and to distance her from an **outgoing president** **whose approval rating had been underwater for much of his term** as the cost of living soared.

Kamala Harris chose Tim Walz as **her running mate** because he could help her **make inroads** in rural states. Even though only a fifth of Americans live outside the big towns and cities, the rightward drift of the American countryside over the past 25 years has been remarkable. But for Democrats, the rural vote is still worth fighting for, particularly **where even small gains in already tight states just might make the difference**.

A Republican senator from Ohio, **J.D. Vance is the author of a fine autobiography, “Hillbilly Elegy”,** in which he wrote:“**I identify with the millions of working-class white Americans of Scotch-Irish descent who have no college degree**. Americans call themhillbillies, rednecks or white trash.”

His comments about Haitian immigrants eating pets, based on **unsubstantiated internet rumours**, were repeated by Trump during the presidential debate and **caused huge upheaval** in Springfield, with critics arguing the VP was **stoking America’s political violence**.

By virtue of her identity, Kamala Harris **could make history**: as the first female president, the first female and black president, the first Indian-American president. Yet she has wisely **taken a page from Mr Obama** and introduced herself by emphasizing not her identity but her experience as a prosecutor, **the issues she is running on** and her ambitions for the whole country, rather than any group.

Some turning points

Mid-July was a turning point in the 2024 race, **upending** the presidential campaign.  On July 13, Trump survived an [assassination attempt](https://www.cbsnews.com/feature/trump-rally-shooting/) in Butler, Pennsylvania, when his ear was grazed by a bullet after a gunman fired several times at him **during a rally** just before the Republican convention.

**The threat of an immigration crackdown was a constant in** **all of three of Trump's bids for the White House**. He promised [mass deportations](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/trump-plan-deport-immigrants-cost/) for migrants and promised to establish the death penalty for any migrant who kills a U.S. citizen.

In the final week before the election, **Trump’s campaign was embroiled in controversy**. His rally at New York's Madison Square Garden was overshadowed by comments made by comedian Tony Hinchcliffe, who referred to Puerto Rico as a "floating island of garbage," among other racist jokes.

Elon Musk’s daily $1 million lottery for registered swing state voters who sign his super PAC’s petition falls into a legal gray area and could potentially violate election law, according to legal experts. The [petition](https://petition.theamericapac.org/), created by Musk’s America PAC, **comes amid** **the entrepreneur's larger campaign over the last week to register conservative voters in swing states.**

**THE KEY ISSUES**

Abortion rights.

Ten US states will vote for laws regulating abortion rights **as the issue looms large over the presidential race** between Kamala Harris and Donald Trump.

Online, people predicted the 2024 US election would be [Roevember](https://www.heyjane.com/vote). According to a 2024 Pew Research Center poll, [63%](https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/2024/05/13/broad-public-support-for-legal-abortion-persists-2-years-after-dobbs/) of Americans believe abortion should be legal in all or most cases, which is up four percentage points from 2021. **Many predicted it would mean huge numbers of women turned out in support of Kamala Harris and the Democrats.** That did not happen. In fact, exit polling indicates that while women of colour overwhelmingly voted for Harris, a [majority of white women](https://www.washingtonpost.com/elections/interactive/2024/exit-polls-2024-election/) voted for Donald Trump.

Yet simultaneously, because abortion had become politically toxic for Republicans, Trump [distanced himself](https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/watch-harris-denounces-trump-abortion-bans-supports-restoring-roe-v-wade) from **the bans that had swept the nation**. He insisted abortion regulation was now exclusively a state matter. After months of questioning, **Trump indicated he would** [**veto a federal abortion ban**](https://edition.cnn.com/2024/10/01/politics/trump-federal-abortion-ban/index.html)(**a promise few** [**put any stock in**](https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2024/10/trump-vance-abortion-ban/680157/)).

**Donald Trump's tactic of delivering ambiguous statements on the subject paid off**. The results of the November 5 elections showed that it remained central to the concerns of a majority of voters, but that abortion **no longer functioned as an effective springboard for the Democratic candidates also on the ballot**. Two Republican strongholds passed measures protecting abortion while otherwise massively supporting Trump in the presidential race: Missouri and Montana, with over 58% of the vote.

Mass deportation.

Trump will most likely have **to secure more funding from Congress to make good on his promises for mass deportations.** He pledged in his inaugural address to deport “millions and millions” of immigrants back to their home countries. **But** [**ICE is already short $230 million**](https://www.nbcnews.com/investigations/ice-budget-shortage-delay-trumps-mass-deportation-plans-rcna184677) **to fund its current level of deportations**, which removed over 230,000 migrants last year.

On his first day in office, President Trump [**issued an order that seeks to end birthright citizenship**](https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/protecting-the-meaning-and-value-of-american-citizenship/) **for children born in the United States to undocumented immigrants**. That right has been enshrined in the Constitution for more than 160 years by the Fourteenth amendment, and experts say that **stripping it away** would require a constitutional amendment.

The economy.

The economy **ranks** as the most important of 22 issues that U.S. registered voters said influenced their choice for president. it’s **the pinch of high food and housing costs** that seems to be shaping their sentiment rather than the robust growth and low unemployment.

Trade.

The former president **brought** the era of US free trade **to a halt** when he first became president, but his tariffs on Chinese imports were largely retained and even expanded by Joe Biden. This time around he has proposed new 10-20% tariffs on most foreign goods **with imports from China bearing the brunt at 60%**. It is part of his attempt to promote homegrown manufacturers and stop outsourcing, but some economists have warned this could push up prices for consumers.

Israel – Gaza war.

Trump has positioned himself as **a staunch supporter** of Israel and condemned pro-Palestinian supporters on US college campuses.

Ukraine.

The Republican has **an isolationist foreign policy** and wants the US to disentangle itself from conflicts elsewhere in the world. He has pledged to end the war in Ukraine “within 24 hours” through a negotiated settlement with Russia, **a move that Democrats say would embolden Vladimir Putin**.

**THE RESULTS**

After defeating Kamala Harris—and not just narrowly, but **by a wide margin**—America’s 45th president will become its 47th.

**In what was supposed to be a knife-edge election**, **Mr Trump carried most of the battleground states**. Thanks to big swings in states that were never in doubt, including Florida, New Jersey and New York, he also won the popular vote. As the polls predicted, **he enjoyed a big surge in support** from [Latino men](https://www.economist.com/united-states/2024/11/06/hispanic-men-helped-propel-donald-trump-back-to-the-white-house). But women, whom Ms Harris had expected to move to her, **also swung towards Mr Trump**.

[Exit polling](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/exit-polls-2024-presidential-election/) shows Trump won overwhelmingly among White voters without a college education and **made inroads with Black and Latino men**.

In yet another blow to Democrats, [Donald Trump](https://time.com/7172052/how-donald-trump-won-2024/) will begin his presidency with **a trifecta of Republican control in** [**Washington**](https://time.com/7172137/how-trump-would-change-washington-if-elected-president-second-term/). The GOP not only regained control of the White House and the Senate but also managed **to hold onto a narrow majority in the House**. While **their priorities are still being outlined**, Republicans will be positioned to confirm Trump’s appointees, pass tax reform, fund border security, overhaul the Affordable Care Act, and legislate other parts of their agenda.

**American presidential transitions are unusually fraught**, in part because they are lengthy. For more than 70 days the world’s greatest power is in **a twilight zone** between two presidents: one in power but with **dwindling influence** (the ‘lame duck’ president); the other triumphant but not yet at the Resolute Desk (the president-elect).

**SOME EXPLANATIONS**

Trump **ran hard on immigration** — as he has for nearly a decade — and vowed at nearly every campaign event that he'd carry out mass deportations if he's reelected. Exit polling showed that voters believed Trump would do a better job of confronting illegal immigration at the southern border.

Biden **did not manage to tout the US’s good economic data**, even if Bidenomics was working. When he took office in 2021, the pandemic was raging and **the economy was reeling**. Today, the U.S. has the highest economic growth rate, leading the world economies since the pandemic.

Throughout his two-year campaign, Trump hammered President Biden, and later Harris, on inflation and the economy. It's **a message that resonated with voters**, whose views on the economy are more negative now than they were in 2020, despite the pandemic that brought the economy to a halt during his presidency. Nationally and across the battleground states, on the question of whether voters are better off now than they were four years ago, **more voters said they are financially worse off**.

Presidenting is still seen as **a manly occupation**. Some 30% of Americans think Ms Harris’s sex **will hurt her chances of winning**. She therefore downplayed her sex, while Mr Trump has **doubled down** on projecting traditional masculinity.

Republican vice presidential nominee Sen. JD Vance’s criticism of prominent Democrats as “childless cat ladies” **has unleashed fury** among women, with **many now reclaiming the age-old sexist trope[[1]](#footnote-1) as a call to action this election season**. Vance was already facing scrutiny as former president Donald Trump’s newly minted running mate, in part for [his stance on various family policies](https://www.npr.org/2024/07/25/nx-s1-5051873/the-family-politics-behind-j-d-vances-childless-cat-ladies-comment). He has called falling U.S. birth rates a “civilizational crisis,” and advocated in recent years that adults [without children should pay higher taxes](https://x.com/KamalaHQ/status/1816907404090495131) and [have fewer voting rights](https://www.msnbc.com/the-reidout/reidout-blog/jd-vance-parents-more-votes-childless-rcna163670).

The Biden administration promoted **a view of culture that is out of step with most Americans**, especially on sex and gender, which featured in a lot of Trump campaign ads. Most damaging of all, voters throughout the country were infuriated by the Democrats’ failure to stop people crossing the southern border illegally. The party **compounded its errors** by covering up Mr Biden’s disqualifying frailty until it was undeniable. By then they had no time to find a political talent capable of beating Mr Trump.

**NEW PARTNERS**

TikTok faces an **eternal uphill battle** to convince Washington that it’s not controlled by the Chinese Communist Party. Even in so-called free speech havens such as America, the lords of media and tech in Trump’s age are expected to bow and kiss the ring. Social media companies **kowtow** to Trump.

Tiktok realized **the advantage of bowing to autocrats**. The tech barons at Trump’s inauguration **are following suit**.

**Corporate America is now cosying up to Trump**. From Silicon Valley’s biggest names to streaming giants, the US election **has prompted the nation’s business behemoths to change their tune.**

In an unexpected display of fealty, the tech industry **curried favor with the president-elect**, **jockeying** through brandished checks and compliments for the President-elect.

Concerns

**Whatever guardrails were in place from Congress and Trump’s Cabinet in his first term have been lowered**. Many critics now fear **the rule of law may be imperiled**.

Trump **returns to the White House with new muscle**, notably through the court’s decision **shielding him from prosecution** for any challenged conduct taken during official acts.

Biden [said](https://www.cnn.com/2025/01/20/politics/joe-biden-preemptive-pardons/index.html) the Jan. 6 committee members and others “do not deserve to be the targets of unjustified and politically motivated prosecutions.” He restated his belief in the rule of law and his optimism “that **the strength of our legal institutions will ultimately prevail over politics**,” even as he acted in a way that reflected neither that belief nor that optimism.

The second election of Mr. Trump **will hearten authoritarians** abroad and should be **a wake-up call** for the rest of the world.

**On Trump’s watch** [America is likely to be **spendthrift**](https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2024/11/06/the-return-of-trumponomics-excites-markets-but-frightens-the-world), as he and his party push through tax cuts, which will further widen the budget deficit.

An irascible, transactional president also frightens allies—particularly if **he is intent on levying tariffs of 10-20% on all countries, friend or foe**.

In the uncertain period before the next administration takes over, **America’s allies are scrambling to mitigate some of the risks that may arise** from the election of a president who regards allies as a burden and approaches mutual defence with the calculus of a gangster. “They want protection, they don’t pay us money for the protection,” Mr Trump has said. Europe’s response will be **to try to Trump-proof aid to Ukraine** and to **bolster the region’s ability to defend itself** without American help.

**President-elect** Donald Trump opened the possibility that the U.S. may leave NATO during his incoming administration, renewing an issue from his first term in office when he threatened to leave the military alliance over issues with other allies’ defense spending. Some might feel that under Trump, Americans **can get on with their lives** **free from the weight of foreign responsibilities**.

Inauguration day

Trump’s **executive order marathon** was mostly just political theater.

The Trump administration **ordered that officials overseeing diversity, equity and inclusion efforts across federal agencies be placed on leave**.

As Trump's team settles in, other officials who worked under the Biden administration **are expected to continue leaving in droves**.

**President Trump's** **plan to roll back the constitutionally protected right to birthright citizenship** is just one of several executive actions that are likely to face pushback from judges and could be struck down by the Supreme Court.

1. cats — coded as passive and associated with the home, as opposed to more active, masculine dogs — were a symbol of [anti-suffragist propaganda](https://www.nps.gov/articles/womens-suffrage-and-the-cat.htm#:~:text=Anti%2Dsuffrage%20organizations%20in%20Britain,cats) in the 19th and early 20th century. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)