

ELECTION **2024** **FORECAST**

JULY FIRST EDITION

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HUSCH BLACKWELL STRATEGIES



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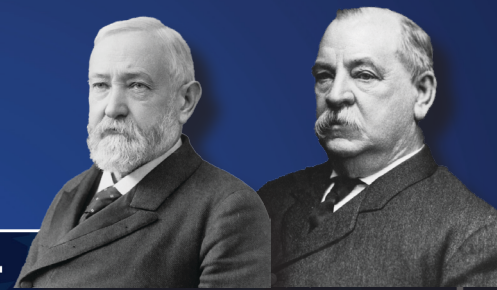
The 2024 national campaign has already been one for the political record books and predicting its conclusion is a difficult task. The only point that appears certain is that we will see a bevy of close elections.

The presidency, Senate, and House are all up for grabs and the razor thin margins we see in both national legislative chambers will likely remain, but which side will claim the majority in each body remains a question mark. In a partisan context, it is very possible that we could see all three legs of the legislative stool: president, Senate, and House flip, yet still have divided government continue.

PRESIDENT

The rematch between President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump, the first time two Presidents have opposed each other since 1892 when Grover Cleveland would successfully win the White House after losing his re-election bid four years earlier, appears even more contentious and could potentially end with an even closer result than we saw in 2020.

In the 2024 version of the presidential rematch, we see a country largely evenly divided along ideological lines, and at least 42 of the 51 voting entities already locked into a perennial voting pattern.



In 1892, Grover Cleveland ran for his second non-consecutive term as President of the United States, making him the only president to serve two non-consecutive terms. Cleveland, a Democrat, faced off against the Republican incumbent Benjamin Harrison, whom he had previously lost to in the 1888 election. The 1892 election was marked by Cleveland's strong stance on issues such as tariff reform and the gold standard, contrasting sharply with Harrison's policies. Cleveland ultimately won the election with 277 electoral votes, becoming the 24th President of the United States.



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Today, the 26 entities that previously voted for Biden would produce 303 electoral votes. This means, he can yield three swing states to Trump: Arizona, Georgia, and Nevada, yet still win the election.



ELECTORAL COUNT

BIDEN	270
TRUMP	268



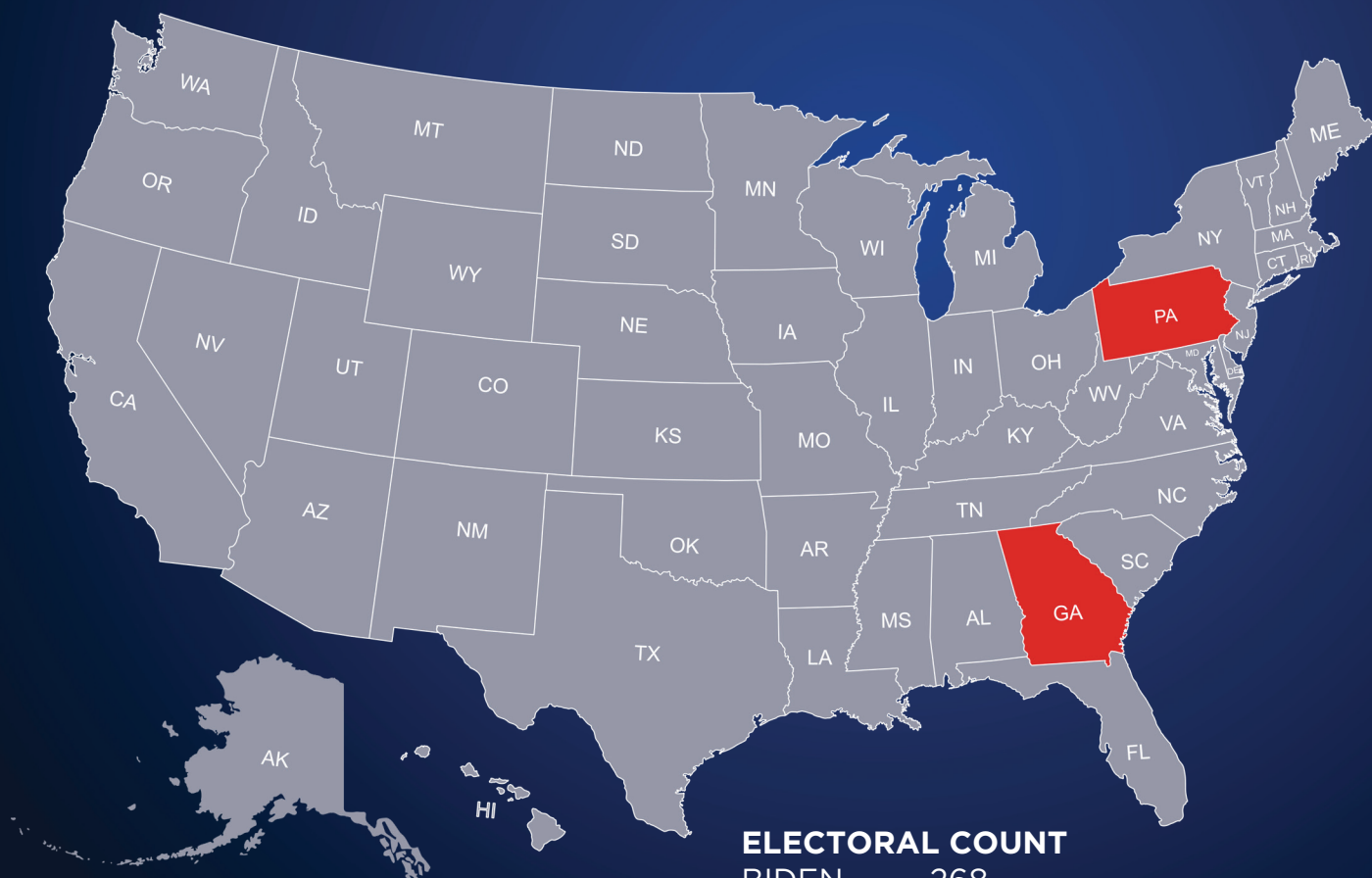
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For Trump to win, he must convert some combination of states that equal 35 electoral votes while maintaining all 25 states that voted for him twice. Of that contingent, North Carolina is the former President's weakest entity and will certainly become a Biden offensive target. For Trump to win, however, all 25 states must again reside in his column.

The election largely revolves around Georgia and the three swing states that touch a Great Lake: Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. The easiest Trump victory path would be the Georgia-Pennsylvania combination. Those two states would give Trump the 35 votes he needs to reach the magic 270 electoral vote plateau necessary to deliver a national victory.

TRUMP CARDS FOR THE WIN

Trump's easiest path is to convert Georgia and Pennsylvania. Doing so, along with the places he previously won twice, would give him exactly 270 electoral votes to clinch the election.



ELECTORAL COUNT

BIDEN	268
TRUMP	270

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If he doesn't win in Pennsylvania, then Trump must take Michigan along with Georgia. Upon doing this, he would then need to carry either Arizona or Nevada. Should Mr. Trump fail in both Pennsylvania and Michigan, then he would need to pair Wisconsin with Georgia. In this scenario, he would also have to carry Arizona. All of these options would deliver Mr. Trump a 2024 national victory.

On the outskirts, because of Ranked Choice Voting, the states of Maine and Alaska could be in play. Should the statewide winner fall below the 50% threshold, then the Ranked Choice system takes effect, which could alter the outcome. Though with longshot odds, it is potentially conceivable that Trump could be alive in Maine, and Biden in Alaska.

The bottom line is that some combination of the aforementioned states will largely determine the outcome of the 2024 presidential contest. Today, based upon swing state polling, it appears that Mr. Trump would reclaim the White House. But, the election is not today, and much time remains for close margins to change.

Ranked Choice Voting (RCV), also known as instant-runoff voting, is a system where voters rank candidates in order of preference rather than selecting just one. In a typical RCV election, if no candidate receives an outright majority of first-preference votes, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated, and their votes are redistributed based on the next preference of those voters. This process continues until one candidate receives a majority of the votes.

Maine and Alaska have been at the forefront of implementing RCV in recent years. Maine became the first state in the U.S. to adopt RCV for statewide elections in 2016. Since then, it has successfully used RCV in several elections, including presidential primaries and general elections. In Alaska, a ballot initiative passed in 2020 introduced RCV for general elections and primary elections for state and federal offices. For the 2024 election, both Maine and Alaska are expected to utilize RCV, allowing voters in these states to rank their preferences for presidential candidates.



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SUMMERTIME PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL



BIDEN 39%
May 1 – May 23, 2024

TRUMP 39%
May 28 – June 3, 2020

OBAMA 47%
June 25 – July 1, 2012

BUSH 48%
June 21 – 23, 2004

CLINTON 52%
June 27 – June 30, 1996

BUSH 69%
June 15 – June 17, 1990

REAGAN 53%
June 29 – July 2, 1984

CARTER 31%
June 27 – 30, 1978

GALLUP

SENATE

Today, the US Senate partisan division favors the Democrats in a 51-49 margin, but the electoral break is already effectively 50-50. West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin, now an Independent after recently exiting the Democratic Party, leaves his former colleagues with little chance of defeating his state's new Republican Senate nominee, Gov. Jim Justice.

As we know, Senators have six year terms and one-third of the Senate comes before the voters every two years. In 2024, the map greatly favors the Republicans and is a political playing field the GOP must maximize because the next two election cycles, in 2026 and 2028, are advantageous for the Democrats. In our current election year, Democrats must defend 23 of the 34 in-cycle seats and Republicans only eleven. The most important advantage the Republicans have in 2024 is that none of their 11 defensive seats are particularly vulnerable.

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2024 SENATE DEMOCRATIC SEATS



CA
OPEN



CT
MURPHY



DE
OPEN



HI
HIRONO



MA
WARREN



ME
KING



MN
KLOBUCHAR



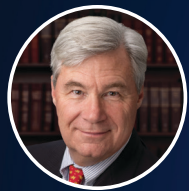
NJ
OPEN



NM
HEINRICH



NY
GILLIBRAND



RI
WHITEHOUSE



VA
KAINE



VT
SANDERS



WA
CANTWELL



MD
OPEN



AZ
OPEN



MI
OPEN



PA
CASEY



WI
BALDWIN



MT
TESTER



NV
ROSEN



OH
BROWN



WV
OPEN

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2024 SENATE REPUBLICAN SEATS



FL
SCOTT



IN
OPEN



MO
HAWLEY



MS
WICKER



ND
CRAMER



NE
FISCHER



NE
RICKETTS



TN
BLACKBRUN



TX
CRUZ



UT
OPEN



WY
BARRASSO

Democrats and the media will point to Texas and Florida. The Lone Star State Democrats haven't won a major statewide office since 1994. And, with the Biden energy and border policies, 2024 is not the year they will reverse that trend. In 2018, when Sen. Rick Scott (R-FL) won his seat by just over 10,000 votes, more voters were registered as Democrats than Republicans. Today, the Florida Republican registration advantage exceeds 906,000. Therefore, upsetting Sen. Scott in a presidential election year will be very difficult especially for a likely Democratic nominee who failed to hold her congressional seat for more than one term.

The most vulnerable Democratic seats are Montana and Ohio, where, for the first time, Sens. Jon Tester (D-MT) and Sherrod Brown (D-OH) face strong political wins. The last time they were on the ballot, in 2018, we saw a wave Democratic year, and the time before, President Obama was running for re-election. This year, both face an electorate that will vote strongly for Mr. Trump. This enhances the odds for GOP challengers Tim Sheehy (MT) and Bernie Moreno (OH).

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Other states that will likely be considered top tier challenge opportunities Michigan, Nevada, and surprisingly Maryland. All of these states are clearly in play and will remain so until the election. Winning any one of these five will give the Republicans an absolute majority.

Other states that are competitive but favor the Democrats are Arizona, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. A great deal of money will be spent in these states, as well in Florida and Texas, but the realistic odds are strong that the current incumbent party will retain all of the second tier contests.

This cycle is the Senate Republicans' to lose. It is probable that they will obtain at least a 51-49 majority, but with the coming electoral maps the GOP must reach a majority level of 53 or even 54 Republican Senators. For the Democrats, if they can hold the GOP to 50 or 51, then their prospects brighten as the political calendar turns to 2026 and 2028.

HOUSE

The House outlook has changed the most in recent weeks. Earlier, it appeared Democrats had the inside track to reclaiming the majority they lost in 2022, but the second round of redistricting did not result in the type of projected gains that most observers believed would occur.

Eight states were under some type of court order to redraw all or parts of their congressional maps. A ninth, North Carolina, had been embroiled in a decade long feud over the congressional and state legislative maps with the legislators on one side and the state Supreme Court on the other, but an electoral change brought the pair together. In North Carolina, the Governor has no role in redistricting.

With Republicans gaining a majority on the state Supreme Court in the 2022 election, a perspective agreement has now formed between the legislature and court. This means Republicans will assuredly gain three seats in the Tar Heel State delegation, a huge development for 2024 GOP majority prospects.

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The Florida and South Carolina maps ended without being redrawn. Partisan gerrymandering claims were not agreed to in New Mexico, and not heard in Wisconsin. Cumulatively, these resolutions likely save the Republicans as many as seven seats.

The New Mexico situation preserves the Democrats' 3D-OR map, but the state's 2nd District remains politically marginal. Alabama and Louisiana have been redrawn, and Democrats will gain one seat in each state. The Georgia map was also redrawn, but it will result in no net gain for either party.

The New York circumstances ended with the Republicans getting their best case scenario map, but it is still possible for Democrats to regain three more seats they lost in the 2022 election. A fourth has already been won. When the House expelled Rep. George Santos (R), Democratic former Congressman Tom Suozzi reclaimed the seat for his party.

Another key place that will help determine the House majority is California. There, like New York, Republicans hold four seats where the electorate typically favors Democrats. How many of these seven Democratic seats that Republicans will hold in New York and California goes a long way toward determining majority control in the next Congress.

Additionally, in Arizona, Colorado, Iowa, Michigan, and Nevada, multiple districts could potentially change hands.

At this writing, it is unclear which party will control the House in the 119th Congress, but we can be assured that the end result will yield another close partisan division.



★ After months of legal and legislative skirmishes around the country,
★ much of the redistricting drama of the 2024 election cycle is behind us.
★ And it has ended pretty close to where it began: Just a handful of seats
★ could determine which party controls the US House of Representatives,
★ where Republicans now hold a threadbare majority.



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ANDY BLUNT

EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



As a founding partner, Executive Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Husch Blackwell Strategies, Andy has helped build a trusted national brand for federal and state lobbying with revenues and a client base to match. While Andy is leading the firm with its remarkable growth trajectory, clients continue to turn to him for help managing a crisis, polishing a brand, and understanding how government works and how to make it work for them.

Andy's political success has earned him a national reputation as a trusted strategist. He has served as an advisor to two Presidential campaigns, managed multiple winning statewide campaigns, as well as several state House and Senate campaigns.

Andy advises top executives in boardrooms across the country and political candidates and elected leaders at all levels of government. He is a trusted advisor nationally whose extensive network of personal relationships is built on his lifelong immersion in politics and public policy.

A tireless advocate, Andy has helped companies of all sizes successfully navigate complex legislative and regulatory environments and is consistently recognized as one of Washington's "Top Lobbyists" by national media. Andy earlier served as Chief Operating Officer of HBS and established one of the largest networks of state lobbyists in the country from the ground up – effectively opening new policy fronts and opportunities for the firm's clients in each of its offices in nine state capitals.

Andy and HBS COO Gregg Hartley founded the firm in 2018 with Bloomberg recognizing their success as it named HBS its Top New Startup. Nationwide, the firm employs more than seventy government affairs professionals today who represent over 300 clients.

Andy is a Missouri native and earned a Juris Doctor from the University of Missouri – Columbia and dual-bachelors from Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Missouri.



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