



National news

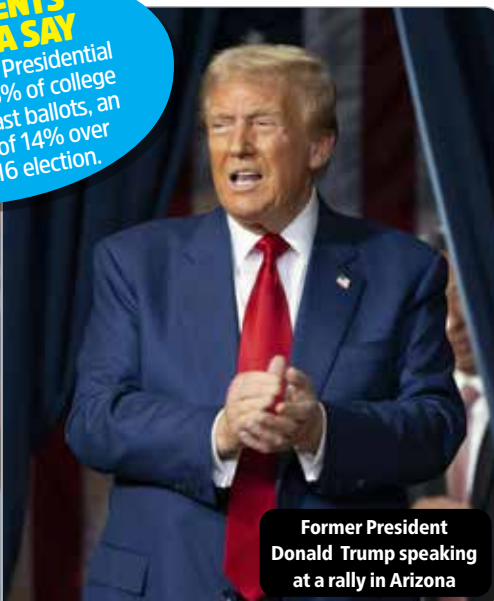


STUDENTS HAVE A SAY

In the 2020 Presidential election, 66% of college students cast ballots, an increase of 14% over the 2016 election.



Vice President Kamala Harris campaigning in North Carolina



Former President Donald Trump speaking at a rally in Arizona

Voting from space



US astronauts aboard the ISS (lab that orbits 254 miles above the Earth's surface) are able to vote in the election by absentee ballot. NASA, the US space agency, has a communications service that transmits the astronauts' ballots to Mission Control Center in Texas, where they get sent to the voting district where the astronauts live.

Candidates make final appeal to voters

With polls showing a very tight race for US President, the candidates—Vice President Kamala Harris, the Democrat, and former President Donald Trump, the Republican—are trying to reach as many voters as possible in the remaining time before Election Day on November 5.

What is happening?

Harris and Trump are traveling across the US to convince key groups of people, such as undecided voters, to cast ballots for them. They are focusing their attention on the "swing states" that are most likely to decide the election: Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. They are also spending tens of millions of dollars on TV commercials, social media campaigns, and other kinds of ads to reach voters.

What is Harris doing?

Harris has raised more than \$1 billion since entering the race for President in late July. Her campaign promises include making housing more affordable, increasing opportunities for all Americans, and protecting women's rights. She recently appeared on several TV shows and was set to be interviewed by Fox News on October 15. Former Presidents Barack Obama and Bill Clinton have spoken at her events. Harris's candidate for Vice President, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, has also been campaigning to meet voters.

What is Trump doing?

In addition to visiting swing states, Trump has campaigned in states likely to vote for Harris, including California and Colorado.

In his remarks, he has vowed to stop illegal immigration and to improve the economy. On October 14, Trump was set to participate in a town hall with an all-female audience to discuss women's issues. Elon Musk, the founder of Tesla and SpaceX, appeared onstage at a recent Trump rally to support him. Trump's running mate—JD Vance, a US Senator from Ohio—has also been making campaign stops.

What will happen next?

Early voting has begun in 42 states, and nearly 55 million Americans have requested absentee ballots to vote by mail or to drop off at voting centers. Young people ages 18 to 24 are expected to have a strong turnout at the polls. Harris and Trump will continue to try to persuade voters to support them.



WORD OF THE WEEK

BAT

The nocturnal flying mammal we call a "bat" was originally known as a "back." This early name had been borrowed into English from a Scandinavian language. It was changed to "bat" in the 16th century. The other "bat," used for hitting a ball, is a different word we adopted from French.



THE WEEK IN HISTORY

October 26, 1825

Erie Canal opens in New York

On October 26, 1825, the Erie Canal, the longest artificial waterway in North America, opened in New York. It took eight years to build the 363-mile-long canal, which connected the cities of Albany and Buffalo and provided a direct water route from the East Coast to the Midwest. This made it easier to deliver goods that came into New York City's busy seaport to other parts of the country.

An illustration of the Erie Canal in 1842

