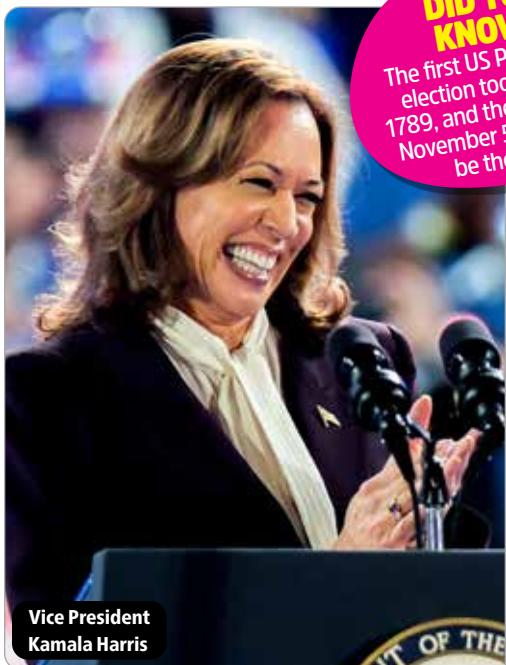




This week's big news



Vice President
Kamala Harris



Former President
Donald Trump

DID YOU KNOW?
The first US Presidential election took place in 1789, and the election on November 5, 2024, will be the 60th.

How political polls work



In a political poll, experts contact a random sample of people across the US by phone or online, asking about their views and intentions. The poll respondents typically include people of different political parties, ages, genders, and education levels. The data is used to predict how a larger number of Americans will vote.

Candidates sprint to finish line

As Election Day approaches, the two main candidates for President—Vice President Kamala Harris, a Democrat, and former President Donald Trump, a Republican—are making their final case to voters. The last major poll before the November 5 election, conducted by *The New York Times* and Siena College, found the candidates tied at 48% of the vote.

What is happening in the US Presidential race?

Harris and Trump are focusing their efforts on the “swing states” (Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin), where the race is tightest and the election is most likely to be decided. The candidates are crisscrossing these battleground states to hold events and speak to voters while also flooding TV, radio, newspapers, and social media with ads. In a race that is widely predicted to be very close, campaign staff members as well as thousands of volunteers are trying to increase voter turnout and help undecided voters make up their minds. Between October 1 and October 16, the amount the two candidates spent on their campaigns exceeded \$500 million.

What other races are happening?

Many other elections are taking place across the US, including races for the US Senate and House of Representatives (both halves of Congress, the branch of government that makes laws). All 435 seats in the House and 34 of the 100 seats in the Senate are up for election. In addition, 11 states will elect governors, and dozens of states will choose officials for other top statewide roles, including attorney general (state’s top lawyer). Elections will be held for 5,807 state lawmaker positions in 44 states. And voters in 41 states will consider 159 statewide ballot measures, which are essentially laws that are approved or rejected by the people. Mayors will be chosen in many cities, including Portland, Oregon; San Francisco, California; Las Vegas, Nevada; and Baltimore, Maryland.



How is early voting going?

Every state except Alabama and Mississippi offers the opportunity to vote before Election Day, November 5. When *The Week Junior* went to press on October 29, more than 66 million people had requested mail-in ballots and more than 49 million people had voted, either by casting a ballot in person or by filling out an absentee ballot and mailing or hand-delivering it. Experts said these

numbers were high and reflected strong interest in participating in the election. In Georgia, 2.8 million people voted in the first 12 days of early voting—more than half of the 5 million total who voted in the state in 2020. North Carolina set an early voting record, tallying more than 353,000 votes on the first day polls opened. More Democrats typically vote early than Republicans, but states such as Nevada are showing higher percentages of Republicans voting early this year. Meanwhile, election officials at the national, state, and local levels are working to ensure that voting equipment, facilities, and software are functional and secure so votes are counted accurately.

What will happen next?

When *The Week Junior* went to press, Harris was set to deliver her final major speech of the campaign in Washington, DC. Trump was expected to attend several additional rallies. Polls will be open on November 5 from 6 or 7 a.m. until as late as 8 or 9 p.m., depending on the state. Major media outlets will cover the Presidential race on election night and will make predictions as voting results come in. To become President, a candidate needs to win 270 electoral votes. The final results of the election could be announced that night or could take longer.