



# This week's big news



Susie Wiles



Lee Zeldin



Elise Stefanik

## About Grover Cleveland



Grover Cleveland, a Democrat, was the 22nd and 24th US President. He was governor of New York when he won his first Presidential term in 1884. In his 1888 bid for reelection, he won the popular vote but lost in the Electoral College. He was elected President again in 1892 and took office in 1893.

# President-elect chooses staff

Following his Election Day win, former President Donald Trump began preparing to return to the White House. When *The Week Junior* went to press on November 12, he had started selecting his top advisers.

## What was the final electoral count?

To win the Presidency, a candidate needs 270 votes in the Electoral College (the system used to elect Presidents in the US). Trump, a Republican who served as the nation's 45th president from 2017 to 2021, won 312 electoral votes. His opponent, Vice President Kamala Harris, a Democrat, won 226. Trump won all seven "swing" states, which had been expected to decide the election: Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. At press time, at least 11 states were still counting votes, but Trump already had enough to ensure his victory.

## How was voter turnout?

Although overall voter turnout is still being calculated, it is expected to be the second-highest in the past 100 years. In the 2020 Presidential election, 154.6 million people voted. At press time, more than 148 million

people had voted in this year's election. Trump had 75.1 million votes compared to 71.8 million for Harris. This means that in addition to winning the Electoral College vote, Trump also won the popular vote (the number of individuals who vote for a candidate).

## What did Harris say?

Harris upheld the long-standing tradition of congratulating the winner after the election, calling Trump the next day. She also gave a concession speech on November 6 at Howard University, the historically Black university in Washington, DC, where she received her bachelor's degree. Harris said, "A fundamental principle of American democracy is that when we lose an election, we accept the results." She also said she will keep working on issues that are important to her supporters. "While I concede this election, I do not concede the fight that fueled this campaign," she told them. "You have the capacity to do extraordinary good in the world."

## How is Trump preparing to take office?

Incoming Presidents must fill about 4,000 positions in their administration, including their cabinet (group of top government

officials). Trump made several announcements starting on November 7. He appointed his chief campaign adviser, Susie Wiles, to be White House chief of staff, making her the first woman to hold that position. He also nominated Elise Stefanik to be US ambassador to the United Nations. Stefanik, who is from northern New York, currently serves in the US House of Representatives (one half of Congress), where she is chair of the House Republican Conference. Former Representative Lee Zeldin, also from New York, was nominated to lead the Environmental Protection Agency. Trump selected Kristi Noem, governor of South Dakota, to take charge of the Department of Homeland Security. Stefanik, Zeldin, and Noem will need to be confirmed by the Senate (other half of Congress), but Wiles will not.

## What will happen next?

Trump will be the second US President to serve a non-consecutive second term. Grover Cleveland was the first (see box above). President Joe Biden said on November 7 that he will ensure a "peaceful and orderly transition" of power to Trump and will host him at the White House on November 13 to discuss the details. Trump will be sworn in on Inauguration Day, January 20, 2025, in Washington, DC.

**SECOND IN COMMAND**  
Until 1804, the candidate who came in second place in US Presidential elections served as Vice President.