

# America's 2020 Elections: What do they mean for Germany and the Atlantic Relationship?

LIVE EVENT ON NOVEMBER 18, 2020 | STUTTGART, NEW YORK – AVAILABLE ONLINE  
<http://www.joeandyou.com/americas-2020-elections/>

SCOTT HORTON FOR  
AMCHAM GERMANY

270 TO WIN

306

232



✓ BIDEN

TRUMP

97% OF EXPECTED VOTE

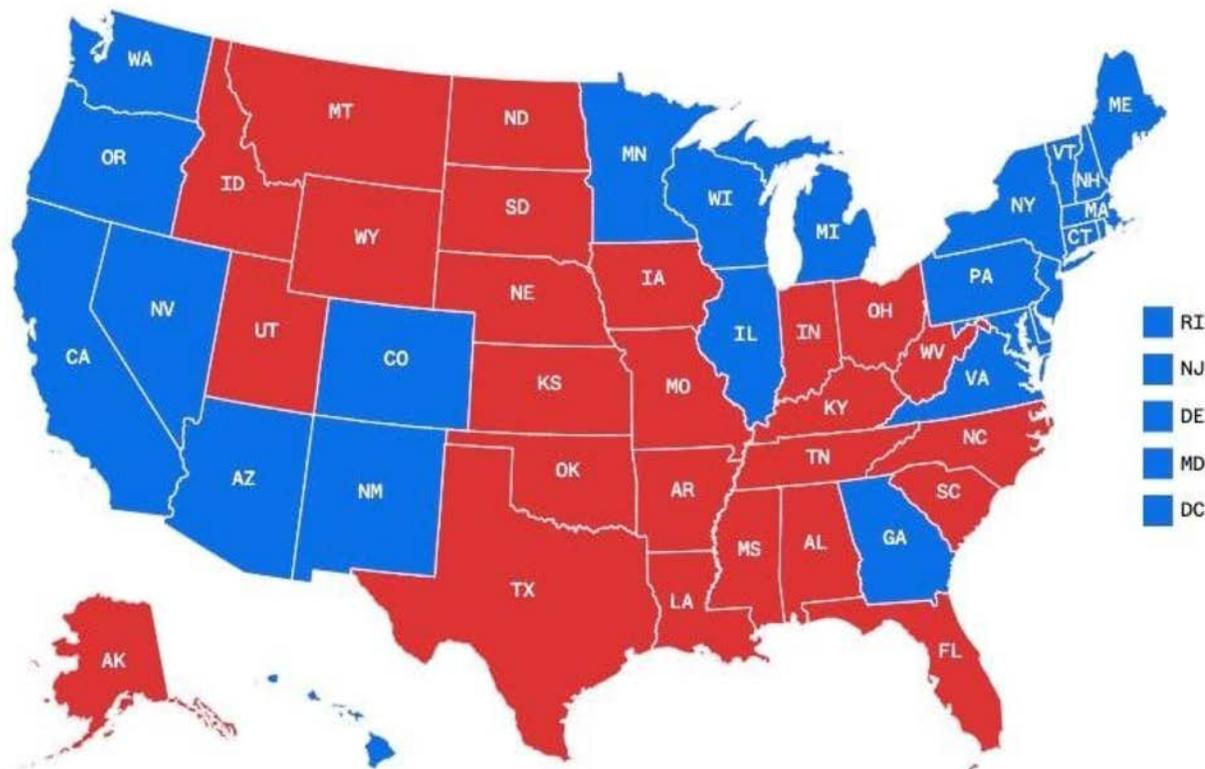


**BIDEN 50.8%**  
78,007,330

**TRUMP 47.4%**  
72,670,496

**OTHER 1.8%**  
2,766,381

Estimated remaining 5,052,633



# Neither a landslide, nor a cliffhanger

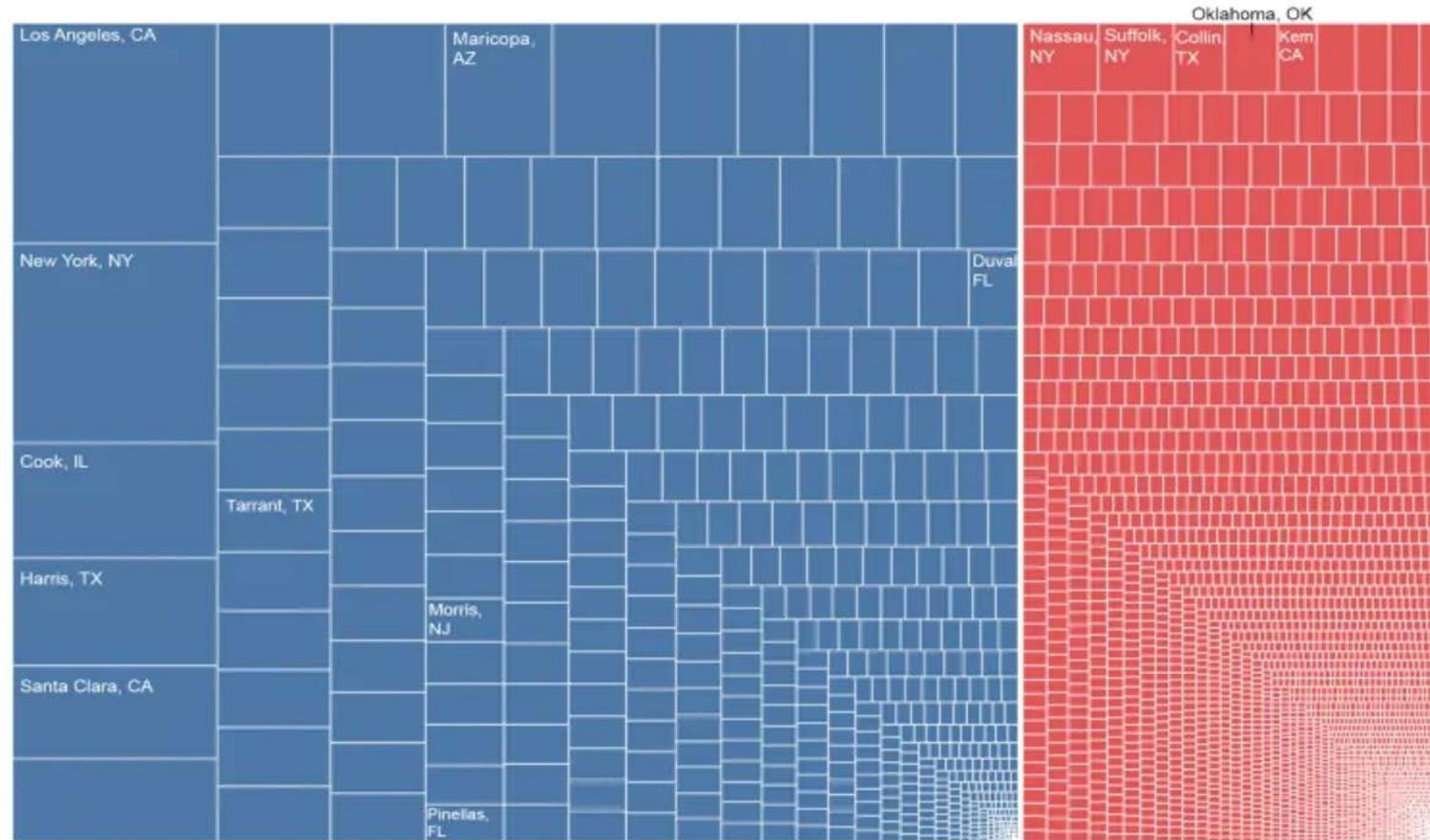
- Turnout of 160 million voters, 66.4% of those eligible
- Final vote: 80 m Biden, 74 m Trump, 6 million vote, 4% margin
- The votes of the Right are counted first, the votes of the Left last
- Biden flipped five states carried by Trump in 2016: AZ, GA, MI, PA, WI
- Biden won women, youth, non-white, suburban and college-educated voters while narrowing margins in small towns and rural areas
- Trump won men, whites without college education, rural areas

# Top Issues Identified by Voters

- 41%: Management of the Pandemic (voters broke for Biden)
- 28%: The economy (voters broke for Trump)
- 20%: Racial justice (concerns about police violence and unfairness of the criminal justice system)(voters broke for Biden)
- 9%: Healthcare (voters broke for Biden)
- 4%: Climate change (voters broke for Biden)

**Figure 1. Candidate's share of 2018 Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by county in the 2020 presidential election**

- The less-than-500 counties won by **Joe Biden** generated **70 percent** of America's GDP in 2018
- The more-than-2400 counties won by **Donald Trump** generated **29 percent** of America's GDP in 2018



Source: Brookings analysis of data from BEA, Dave Liep's Election Atlas, and The New York Times.



# Biden won the future American economy, Trump won yesterday's economy

## 21 of Top 25 States for Biden

RANK	STATE	RANK	STATE
1	Massachusetts	11	Minnesota
2	Colorado	12	Connecticut
3	California	13	Pennsylvania
4	Maryland	14	New Jersey
5	Washington	15	N. Carolina
6	Utah	16	Texas
7	New Hampshire	17	Arizona
8	Virginia	18	New Mexico
9	Delaware	19	Michigan
10	Oregon	20	Illinois

21	New York
22	Georgia
23	Rhode Island
24	Ohio
25	Wisconsin

## STATE TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE INDEX



Overall Rankings

2020

## 21 of Bottom 25 States for Trump

RANK	STATE	RANK	STATE
26	Idaho	36	Alaska
27	Indiana	37	Hawaii
28	Vermont	38	Nebraska
29	Montana	39	Wyoming
30	Kansas	40	Tennessee
31	Missouri	41	North Dakota
32	Alabama	42	South Dakota
33	Florida	43	Maine
34	Iowa	44	Kentucky
35	S. Carolina	45	Oklahoma

46	Nevada
47	Louisiana
48	Arkansas
49	West Virginia
50	Mississippi

■ Won by Biden  
■ Won by Trump



# Divided Government?

- Senate: 48 D, 50 R, still open: 2
- Control of the Senate is to be decided on Jan 5
- House controlled by Democrats with a reduced majority
- Republicans retain control of state legislatures



# Democrats' Institutional Agenda

- Eliminate Electoral College through the Compact
- Change Congress through admission of new states (DC, PR, VI, AS, GU)
- Undo gerrymandering with election districting commissions
- Undo Republican stacking of judiciary
  - Add federal judgeships
  - Restructure Supreme Court



# Who made up the 2020 electorate?

- Democrats achieved their 'Blue Wave' target of 80 million for overall turnout
- Republicans substantially overperformed expectations, making inroads with Hispanic voters (especially Cubans, Venezuelans)
- White Evangelicals, core GOP constituency, are 15% of pop but 23% of voters
- Demographic shift: core GOP constituencies are shrinking as a part of US electorate, core Democratic constituencies are growing. TX, GA, VA, AZ are examples that reflect these shifts.

# Biden's Foreign Policy

- Top priority (security): reassuring historical allies, rebuilding the alliances
- Top priority (commercial): step back from tariffs directed towards allies
- Building a joint strategic plan on China with allies
- Reduce US level of engagement in Middle East/North Africa; increase level of engagement with East Asia
- Rejoin the Paris Agreement on climate change on Jan 20
- Rejoin the Iran Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action
- Rejoin WHO, coordinate pandemic policy with allies and others

# EU Policy

- US supports the EU and the development of its institutions
- Brexit is a bad thing
- No-deal Brexit would, if done in a way that disrespects the Good Friday Agreement, be very harmful and would damage US-UK relations
- Particularly with the departure of UK, German leadership in the EU a given
- Authoritarian drift (H, PL) presents difficulties
- Joint US-EU policies on China covering trade and security issues

# NATO Policy

- Reaffirmation of commitment to NATO an early priority, stressing avoidance of unilateralism and need to build consensus for action using the old frameworks
- 2% commitment of GDP is desirable, but not 'make or break'
- Turkey is growing problem due to its expansionist tendencies, reach to military solutions, and a joint posture to address Turkey-in-NATO issues is needed
- Afghanistan, Iraq: quickly revisit unilateral steps taken by Trump

# US-German Relations

- Strong admiration for Angela Merkel ('greatest German leader since Adenauer')
- Support, encouragement for German regional leadership
- Germany viewed as the 'anchor' and 'stabilizing power' in Europe (not GB, F)
- Sanctions issues not properly coordinated in the past, but Nord Stream 'still a problem'
- Counterterrorism coordination in a new light (US-German violent right-wing groups)
- Quick reassessment, pull back from punitive tariffs