

The Pride Papers

- BERKELEY INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL -

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Election week + Thanksgiving edition

ELECTIONS 2020

THE MOST ANTICIPATED ELECTION OF THE DECADE?

Amanda Bolin

Electoral Votes:

264

Popular Vote:

74,744,772

News:

Biden attends BIDENHARRIS briefing on the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, and the state of the U.S economy - Twitter, WFLA, & Kentucky Today



Electoral Votes:

214

Popular Vote:

70,521,067

News:

Almost everything the Trump has said since election day has been wrong - CNN

Trump tries to sue two states

Trump tells States that are counting mail in ballots to: "STOP THE COUNT!" in a tweet. This leads to "stop the count" protests by Trump supporters. - Twitter & MSNBC

What's happening?

The US Presidential Elections, which occurs every 4 years, is scheduled for November 3rd, 2020. In the final running for the Presidency is current President Donald Trump of the Republican Party, and Former Vice President Joe Biden of the Democratic Party. Not to worry, these terms will be explained later.

As you all may have heard by now, the USA is holding its 59th Presidential Election for the position of President of America, an extremely important position to hold right now. As the multiple situations in America are raising concerns about the state of the American people, and whether situations need to be defused or reformed, the President has a large say in what could change. This election, in particular, is different than usual, as, amid the pandemic raging through America, voters will have to vote through the mail, rather than publicly. Covid regulations mean voters can't be situated in massive groups, and



polling places often draw in large crowds. While the vote-by-mail system raises worries of election tampering and fraud, we're only here to understand the elections in general, not everything going wrong with it.

What it means to be President of the US (A breakdown of the power in government)

People often assume that being president means having complete control or authority when in reality, the government system set up in the US is much more balanced than you think. There are three main sections to the government:

The Legislative (those who make the laws)

The Executive (those who carry out the laws)

The Judicial (those who interpret the laws)

Within the Legislative branch is the Congress of America, made up of the Senate and the House of Representatives. The Senate is the upper house, and the House of Representatives is the lower house. Both are made up of groups of elected members and can either be majority Democratic or majority Republican. Both the Senate and House work together with the President in a triangular balance of power to create and execute laws, as all three sections have veto power.

The President falls in the Executive branch, with their Vice President and Cabinet as secondary powers. Whereas the Senate and House can have members from both political parties, the president can only be from 1 party. Currently, the president is Republican, the Senate is majority Republican (53 out of 100 seats), and the House of Representatives is majority Democratic (232 out of 435).

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This means that, although the president seems to have much authority (being the elected leader of the executive branch), they are still slightly balanced by other systems set in place and aren't completely in control. It's up to you to decide whether or not the system is fair and balanced.

Why does it matter to us?

This must be the main question on everyone's mind. Coming from an international school, we're well aware that most of the people reading this (if anyone is at all) are from non-American backgrounds. This means that the Presidential Election of a country that's not even your own shouldn't be that significant, right? Then why is the whole world watching?

For those of you who are taking a class with Mr. Geoff, or have taken a class in the previous years, you may have learned about "Super Powers", as in superpower nations. The term is loosely classified as a nation that has immense control over the world, a country that, if you had on your side as an ally, would guarantee you win any conflict. Many consider America to be the last superpower in the world. How does this affect us?

It means that whoever becomes president of the last superpower nation in the world has immense decision making control over the world. While we've established that the president isn't able to just do whatever they want, as the Senate and House stop them from doing things like declaring war, that doesn't mean the president isn't a powerful figurehead. The world has become much more globalized, interconnected, and we've become more dependent on each other as nations and as people. We should care, because the actions of America affect the entire world, whether we like it or not.

General knowledge about the Presidential Election:

Now that we understand why exactly it's so significant for us to know what's going on, this will be a quick rundown of what exactly happens during the Presidential Election, and what the terms people are throwing around means.

Firstly, let's define some terms. What do Democratic and Republican mean? In America, there are 2 main parties that compete for the presidency. While there are independent candidates, like Bernie Sanders in the 2016 elections, most generally are Democratic or Republican. This website gives a very good comparison between the 2 parties, outlining their beliefs on certain topics:

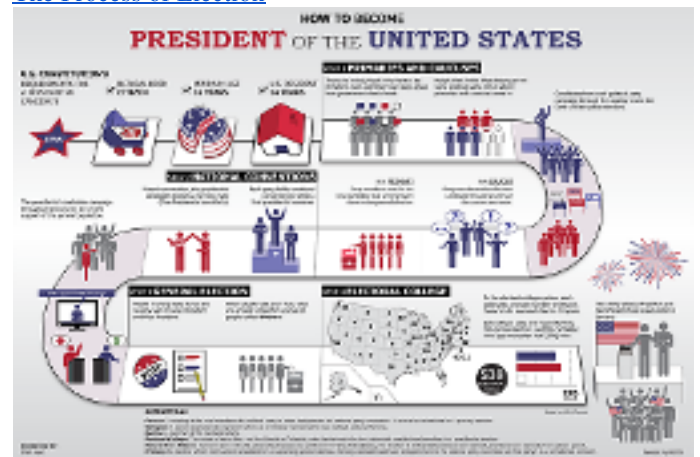
https://www.diffen.com/difference/Democrat_vs_Republican.

While the parties usually have shared beliefs, some of the differences can be very contrasting.

You may have heard of other terms, such as left and right-leaning, or liberal and conservative. While many people assume that these words are synonymous with each other, they actually aren't. For the purpose of this article, we'll stick to a basic explanation. Left and right are ideologies of a wide spectrum, with liberal and conservative ideas often leaning on the right side (Social liberalism is considered to be leftist). Liberals want progressiveness, thinking that change would be better. Conservatives want to preserve the past and history. Yes, this is extremely simplified, but all that's necessary to know is that many liberals are on the Democratic side, while many conservatives are on the Republican side. Obviously, this isn't always the case, but a major simplification.

Now that terms are essentially done, the actual process can be explained. There are multiple steps to becoming President of the US, including the Primaries and Caucuses, the General Election, and the Electoral College. Here's a link to a video simplifying the main steps:

[The Process of Election](#)



Obviously, it's okay if you don't completely understand the election process, as most of us aren't even of age or have the qualifications to vote. However, it's still important to have an idea of how exactly a person gets into power. Hopefully, knowing more about this election, its significance, and its process, has shown you why exactly the entire world is watching this moment, and why you might want to watch it too.

THE RACE TO SPEAK FIRST, AND HOW IT AFFECTS THE RACE TO 270

Alicia Galarza

The national voting day in the U.S has passed, and ballots are still being counted. In anticipation of the next presidential election of the United States, we should once again, take a look thanks our candidates: Donald Trump and Joe Biden. The first presidential debate had taken place on the 30th of September, of this year, with the second taking place on the 16th of October, and the third and final one taking place on the 23rd of October, all taking place from 8-9:30 am (Indochina time).

While COVID-19 induced turmoil in countries all over the world is experienced, the U.S. experiences the highest peaks daily, with CNN reporting 80,000 new coronavirus infections recorded in the U.S on the 23rd. With the large outbreaks within the U.S, precautions like social distancing, limited crowds, and even plexiglass being installed at the vice-presidential debate (an extra precaution taken, after the covid diagnosis of the president) have been taken to make sure both candidates are safe during the debate. With the President testing positive for COVID-19 on the 2nd of October, it was later decided that the second presidential debate would be canceled, and arrangements for President Trump to participate virtually at the event had been denied by the Trump administration. This had caused Biden's team to set up a one and a half-hour town hall style interview with ABC on the 15th of October, and 8 pm (Eastern Time, U.S), and upon hearing the announcement of the event, Trump's team then set up an hour-long event with NBC on the same day, starting at 8 pm (Eastern Time, U.S). Both of these events had taken the place of the presidential debate, and had allowed the public, as well as news sources and press, to compare and contrast the candidates, and the topics discussed.

The first of the three (technical) debates had been the most obstreperous of them all. With both candidates, leaning more towards Trump, interrupting each other. This led to the commentator telling both candidates to be quiet multiple times, with specific instances being directed at the president. The debate had consisted of discussing COVID within the U.S, with Trump saying that he only wears his mask when he sees fit. Biden laughs along with this. The little 'speech' ends with Trump commenting that "every time you see" Biden, "he's got a mask," and could be "200 feet away from it, and he shows up with the biggest mask I've ever seen". It was announced two days later that President Trump, and the first lady had contracted the virus.

Throughout the duration of the debate, Trump repeatedly takes jabs at Biden, commenting on his intelligence, his loss of the left when talking about Health care, and personal matters, such as his family. After multiple interruptions, Biden bounces back with the quick to be made viral quote, "Will you shut up man?", followed by Biden's personal commentary, with saying "this is so un-presidential."

The second (technical) debate had taken place in two separate places. In Trump's town hall event, he had discussed and defended topics like his handling of the coronavirus, while denying certain accusations, such as his failing of condemning white supremacy. Biden himself talked about his opinion of the then nominee, Amy Coney Barrett, for the open position within the Supreme Court, after the passing of long serving Judge, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, in which he admitted he is "not a fan". Biden had also talked about vaccination for the coronavirus, and should there be a safe and effective vaccine, while it would be difficult, we should think about making vaccination against the virus mandatory.



In relation to the cancellation of the second official presidential debate, Trump had said he wasn't sure if he was tested before the first debate, on the 29th of September, as he is tested "all the time". When Biden was asked about whether he thinks the third, and final, debate will take place, and whether he would demand that Trump is to be tested beforehand, he replies by saying that "it's just decency to be able to determine whether or not you're clear," and that he expects "to be there".

The third debate had been much more civil, as a good time for the candidates' PR teams, with Biden's team working throughout the debate, with multiple tweets being posted, in correlation with the topics being discussed at the moment, along with paraphrasing his standings on each topic, along with quotes mixed in, while Trump's PR team live-streaming the debate on his Twitter. The continuation of personal jabs was present, with the conversations revolving around family, personal income, and tax returns. Once again, Trump was questioned about his tax returns. Biden had told Trump at one point to "show us your tax returns". Trump had claimed that he had "prepaid" his tax return, and the aforementioned \$758 from the first debate, was a tax return filing fee. This can be suspicious, as the IRS does not charge a "filing fee". Other problematic comments, and inconsistencies on Trump's part would be calling Obama/Biden Care "socialist", saying that the reason as to why America has so many cases is due to the accuracy of COVID testing, not properly addressing the question of understanding how Black and Brown people in America have to tell their children about systematic racism, and finally, the nail in the coffin, comparing himself to Abraham Lincoln, in saying that he has been the president that has done more for the black community in America with the "possible exception" of Abraham Lincoln. At the post-debate analysis and commentary, one CNN commentator stated that while Trump was more behaved, he still lied like Pinocchio.

In relation to how the debates and Trump testing positive for COVID in the past will affect the election, experts, like political scientist Yanna Krupnikov, say that people have already decided who they're voting for. Other experts, like the Professor of Government, Christopher Wlezien, say that while some people count the first debate as the most important one, it's hard to be able to divide how it's had an effect on the public polls. The contraction of COVID by Trump, and multiple members of the Trump Administration could also have more effect than the debates. While it seems unclear how it will affect the election in the long run, as the President has tested negative for the virus as of now, it did raise controversy as the diagnosis put a spotlight on the President's previous claims of the virus, as well as claiming it is easy to overcome. In response, a lot of the public, and even medical experts, had replied through social media, saying that it is easy when you are as privileged as he is.

THANKSGIVING: A BRIEF HISTORY LESSON

Anna Sophia Tanta-Nanta

Now that November has rolled around, it's almost time for Thanksgiving. So, before Thanksgiving day arrives, I'd like to talk a bit about Thanksgiving and its traditions.

Thanksgiving day is always celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November every year. We celebrate it on the fourth Thursday because initially, George Washington proclaimed November 26 as a day of thanksgiving. Abraham Lincoln then established it as a tradition in his Thanksgiving proclamation of 1863. Since then, Thanksgiving has become a holiday celebrated on a much larger scale than just in the US. However, other countries celebrate it as more of a harvest celebration than a day to give thanks for their blessings, and celebrate the first harvest instead.

No matter how skint this holiday may seem from the outside, many native Americans do not celebrate Thanksgiving. They celebrate the National Day of Mourning, in protest to the genocide and the assaulting of their people. The holiday has been romanticized over time and formed into a day of celebration for the pilgrims and the founding of Thanksgiving.

Another holiday with a similar story to that of Thanksgiving is Columbus day or also known as Indigenous People's day. Many believe that since the Native Americans were on the land before the settlers and Christopher Colombus, it is unfair to celebrate Thanksgiving and Columbus Day, especially because of the atrocious things that happened to the Indigenous people after the arrival of the Europeans.

Although it is fun to celebrate holidays and eat lots of food, it is important to remember the suffering and sacrifices of those that have played big parts in the shaping of history. Many times, the voices of the few will be silenced and put down, so it is important that you do your part in helping to preserve the cultures of those such as the Native Americans. Something as little as keeping them in your mind while you celebrate is enough to keep their flame burning.

TO conclude this article on a more positive note, here is a surprising fact. Did you know that Thanksgiving is the number one holiday for house fires? Don't worry, it's usually just a burned turkey and spoiled dinner. So, if you are planning on making any turkey for Thanksgiving, make sure you keep an eye on it!

President Abraham Lincoln's Proclamation of Thanksgiving Issued October 3, 1863

THE year that is drawing toward its close has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever-watchful providence of almighty God.

In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign states to invite and provoke their aggressions, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere, except in the theater of military conflict; while that theater has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union.

Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defense have not arrested the plow, the shuttle, or the ship; the ax has enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege, and the battle-field; and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom.

No human counsel hath devised, nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the

Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy.

It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American people. I do, therefore, invite my fellow-citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens. And I recommend to them that, while offering up the ascriptions justly due to him for singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to his tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners, or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the almighty hand to heal the wounds of the nation, and to restore it, as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes, to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility, and union.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington, this third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the independence of the United States the eighty-eighth.

Abraham Lincoln

By the President: WILLIAM H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.

CRYPTOCURRENCIES

Ennio Lamari



What is a cryptocurrency?

A cryptocurrency is a digital currency that is secured by cryptography which makes it nearly impossible to counterfeit. Most cryptocurrencies are decentralized networks (network that eliminates the need for one central entity and allows multiple nodes/servers to act together to complete a specific task) based on blockchain technology - a distributed ledger technology that allows data to be stored globally on thousands of servers which makes it nearly impossible to cheat, hack, or change the system.

What can you buy with Cryptocurrencies?

As of today, most people see those virtual currencies as an investment more than as a mode of transaction. However, cryptocurrency spending could become more popular over time as they become increasingly used. It should be noted that online retailers are the only ones who accept cryptocurrencies at this point.

Benefits of cryptocurrencies

1. These virtual currencies are generally not issued by any central authority, rendering them technically immune to any government interference or manipulation
2. Cryptocurrencies can be sent directly between two parties via the use of private and public keys. Since there are no mediums, these transfers can be done with minimal processing fees.
3. There are over 1200 unique cryptocurrencies in circulation worldwide which gives you a large number of choices to invest in.
4. The strong encryption techniques employed throughout the blockchain and the cryptocurrency transaction process make it safe for users against fraud, account tampering, and consumer privacy.
5. Approximately 2 billion people worldwide do not have access to a bank account. Many of these people, however, do have a mobile phone which can be used to make crypto transactions

Things to know before investing in Cryptocurrencies

1. **There are a lot of uncertainties:** Cryptocurrencies are relatively new and are largely unknown by the population as only a few people in the world understand the mechanisms and know how to operate it. It's important to really understand what you are investing your money in.
2. **Cryptocurrencies are highly volatile:** Remember the Bitcoin bubble that happened in 2017? The value of Bitcoin swung between \$900 and \$20000. It should therefore be said that investing in such currencies is risky.
3. **Unproven rate of return:** Due to the unregulated standards of cryptocurrency transactions, trading cryptocurrencies is like gambling. There is no pattern to the rise and fall of its value and you can't predict changes or calculate returns as you would do with stocks.
4. **The uses of cryptos vary:** These currencies are widely known for funding illegal transactions as they are not regulated by any banks or financial institutions, yet legal businesses also accept cryptos for transactions. Cryptocurrency transactions cannot be frozen by anyone once they are placed because only an owner with a private key to the wallet has access to the asset.

My watchlist:

- In terms of cryptocurrencies, my favourite one is Ethereum. This currency has seen large gains since its introduction in 2015 and is currently trailing only Bitcoin in terms of market capitalization. Many experts see a huge potential in Ethereum, and some predictions even suggest that between 2023 and 2025, Ethereum's potential high might be \$50,000 while its potential low might be \$3,500.
- Another one of my favourites is of course Bitcoin. The father of the cryptocurrency is the first and most well known digital currency on the market and also benefits from the largest market cap.
- Lastly, keep an eye on Litecoin as it remains actively traded and is constantly one of the top 10 cryptocurrencies when measured by market cap. It also boasts a faster transaction time than Bitcoin since it uses a different algorithm.

Pride Papers

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Be part of the Pride Papers! Contact one of our staff members, or Ms. Sylvia, if you're interested.

email: syarresola@berkeley.ac.th

Humans exploiting and destroying nature on unprecedented scale - report

THIS! (Be worth it!) Strike for Climate

TRALK KLIMATYCZNY RÈVE CLIMATIQUE 기후 기후 파업 KKLIMAT (Kkjalhavi) 氣候

CLIMATE STRIKE

CLIMATE CRISIS

SAVE THE ICEBERGS

Facebook suspends enviro groups despite vow to fight misinformation

380 whales dead in worst mass stranding in Australia's history

YOU LIE AND DIE

YOU CAN IGNORE US BUT YOU WILL REGRET IT.

EU's farm animals produce more emissions than cars and vans combined

Climate: Australian school suppression of environmental issues getting worse

st 1% could double CO2

JOIN US.

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