



Trump, Biden cede stage to voters

WASHINGTON (AP) — After a campaign marked by rancor and fear, Americans on Tuesday decide between President Donald Trump and Democrat Joe Biden, selecting a leader to steer a nation battered by a surging pandemic that has killed more than 231,000 people, cost millions their jobs and reshaped daily life.

Nearly 100 million Americans voted early, and now it falls to Election Day voters to finish the job, ending a campaign that was upended by the coronavirus and defined by tensions over who could best address it. Each candidate declared the other fundamentally unfit to lead a nation grappling with COVID-19 and facing foundational questions about racial justice and economic fairness.

Biden entered Election Day with multiple paths to victory while Trump, playing catch-up in a number of battleground states,

had a narrower but still feasible road to clinch 270 Electoral College votes. Control of the Senate was at stake, too: Democrats needed to net three seats if Biden captured the White House to gain control of all of Washington for the first time in a decade. The House was expected to remain under Democratic control.

Voters braved long lines and the threat of the virus to cast ballots as they chose between two starkly different visions of America for the next four years. The record-setting early vote — and legal skirmishing over how it will be counted — drew unsupported allegations of fraud from Trump, who refused to guarantee he would honor the election's result.

Fighting to the end for every vote, Biden was headed to Philadelphia and stopped by a carpenters' union hall in his native Scranton on Tuesday as part of

a closing get-out-the-vote effort before awaiting election results in his hometown of Wilmington, Delaware. His running mate, Sen. Kamala Harris, was visiting Detroit, a heavily Black city in battleground Michigan. Both of their spouses were headed out, too, as the Democrats reached for a clear victory.

Biden and his wife, Jill, started the day with a stop at St. Joseph's on the Brandywine in Wilmington, Delaware, with two of his grandchildren in tow. After a brief church visit, the four walked to his late son Beau Biden's grave, in the church cemetery. Beau, a former Delaware attorney general, died of brain cancer in 2015 and had encouraged the former vice president to make another White House run.

Trump made a morning appearance on "Fox & Friends," where he predicted he will win

by a larger electoral margin than he did in 2016, when he tallied 306 electoral college votes compared to Democrat Hillary Clinton's 232. The president, who returned to the White House after 3 a.m. on Tuesday following a busy day of campaigning, also planned to visit his campaign headquarters in Virginia. He invited hundreds of supporters to an election night party in the East Room of the White House.

The first polls close at 6 p.m. Eastern time in swaths of Indiana and Kentucky, followed by a steady stream of poll closings every 30 minutes to an hour throughout the evening. The last polls in Alaska shut down at 1 a.m. Eastern time on Wednesday.

The hard-fought campaign left voters on both sides eager to move on.

"I believe there's a lot of division and separation," said Kelvin Hardnett, who was among more

than two dozen voters who lined up more than hour before the polling site at the Cobb County Civic Center outside Atlanta opened on Tuesday morning. "And I believe that once we get past the names and the titles and the personal agendas, then you know, we can focus on some real issues."

On their final full day on the campaign trail, Trump and Biden broke sharply over the mechanics of the vote itself while visiting the most fiercely contested battleground, Pennsylvania.

The Republican president threatened legal action to block the counting of ballots received after Election Day. If Pennsylvania ballot counting takes several days, as is allowed, Trump claimed without evidence that "cheating can happen like you have never seen."

Please see **Election**, Page 3

Oregon turnout nearly 67 percent

THE WORLD

Nearly every county in Oregon saw voter turnout over 60 percent by Monday morning and statewide the percentage of ballots returned was at 66.8 percent, according to the Oregon Elections Division.

The only counties with less than 60 percent voter turnout by Monday morning were Josephine (57.1 percent), Malheur (55.9 percent) and Umatilla (56.8 percent).

In contrast, nine counties had better than 70 percent turnout: Benton (74.7 percent), Clackamas (71.9 percent), Coos (70.9 percent), Curry (70.8 percent), Deschutes (71.5 percent), Grant (72.9 percent), Tillamook (71.9 percent), Wallowa (70.5 percent), and Wheeler (71.2 percent).

Douglas County was at 65.7 percent, according to the state totals.

Ballots must be returned by 8 p.m. tonight to various drop boxes located throughout the county.

Huge turnout expected despite virus, political rancor

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The scourge of a global pandemic produced an election season like no other in the U.S., persuading record numbers of Americans to cast their ballots early, forcing states to make changes to long-established election procedures and leading to hundreds of lawsuits over how votes will be cast and which ballots will be counted.

Polls began opening Tuesday as election officials warned that millions of absentee ballots could slow the tallies, perhaps for days, in some key battleground states and as President Donald Trump threatened legal action to prevent ballots from being counted after Election Day.

Amid the tumult, tens of millions of Americans heeded warnings to act early, prompted by concerns over Postal Service delays and worries about the virus spreading through crowded polling places.

Please see **Turnout**, Page 3



John Gunther, The World

A dredge scoop pulls up material from the channel in Coos Bay near Eastside as part of routine dredging in July. The next two months, dredging will be completed in the Charleston Marina Complex.

Dredging planned in Charleston Marina Complex

Work expected to continue through December

THE WORLD

The Oregon International Port of Coos Bay is conducting dredging operations in the Charleston Marina Complex in

November and December and boaters are urged to be wary of the work.

The dredging will take place near the Point Adams Facility and the Russell Marine fuel dock. Boaters are advised to use extreme caution navigating in the inner basin and within the vicinity of the outflow pipe in both the marina complex and within the Coos Bay Harbor, Port officials said.

The outflow pipe is marked within the inner basin with orange pencil buoys. The pipe extends into the bay from the marina and is marked with four large, white floats.

The dredging work will improve navigability within the marina footprint and ensure ongoing accessibility for the commercial and recreational fishing fleets, Port officials said.

"Mariners are advised to use

extreme caution when operating vessels within the vicinity of the marked dredge pipe," officials said. "If the marked pipe has the potential to interfere or alter navigation for vessels operating within the Marina or the Coos Bay Harbor, please contact port dredging crews for further assistance in navigation."

The crews can be reached by phone at either 541-294-1555 or 541-294-3234.

Drug measures, Senate race highlight Oregon ballots

Voters in Oregon are deciding two high-profile drug measures and a U.S. Senate race while people in Portland choose a mayor in a race that has drawn national attention amid ongoing protests in the state’s largest city. Here’s a look at major races in the Oregon:

MEASURES

— 109 (Mushrooms)
This ballot question would legalize controlled therapeutic use of psilocybin mushrooms. Backers of Measure 109 say the state, which was the first in the nation to decriminalize marijuana, should lead the way in legalizing regulated use of psilocybin, often referred to as magic mushrooms.

— 110 (Decriminalization)
Measure 110 would decriminalize possession of small amounts of heroin, cocaine, LSD, oxycodone and some other drugs. The backers of Measure 110 said drug addiction is a health issue and should not cause people to be imprisoned and saddled with criminal records. The ballot question received a \$500,000 donation from

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg and his wife Dr. Priscilla Chan, who favor a health-based approach to drug addiction. About two dozen district attorneys in Oregon had urged a no vote on Measure 110.

— 108 (Cigarette tax)
This measure would increase Oregon’s cigarette tax by \$2 per pack — from \$1.33 to \$3.33 — bump up the cap on cigar taxes to \$1 per cigar and add a 65% tax on electronic cigarettes and vaping products, which are not currently taxed. The funds from the tax increase would be used for public health programs including smoking prevention and cessation programs. The projected new annual revenue is about \$130 million.

— 107 (Political contributions)
Measure 107 would amend the Oregon Constitution and allow for the state, counties and cities to place limitations on political contributions and expenditures, require disclosure of campaign contributions and expenditures and allow rules requiring campaigns to be transparent about who paid for

political advertisements. Currently, there is no limit in contributions to candidates or ballot measures.

U.S. SENATE

Democratic U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley faces Republican Jo Rae Perkins. Merkley is seeking his third term. Perkins drew attention earlier this year when she made references to QAnon, including saying that she stood with “Q” and holding up a QAnon sticker. QAnon is a baseless conspiracy theory that claims a shadowy cabal of liberal elites who are Satan-worshipping pedophiles runs a global child sex-trafficking ring.

PORTLAND MAYOR

Mayor Ted Wheeler faces a challenge from the left from Sarah Iannarone. Months of protests against racial injustice and police violence have made Portland national news and President Donald Trump routinely derides Wheeler as a weak liberal unable to stop unrest in his “anarchist” city. Iannarone supports \$50 million in law enforcement cuts and slams her opponent for what she describes as an aggressive police force.

Federal officers restricted to immediate area around US courthouse in Portland

PORTLAND (AP) — Federal officers must not engage in crowd control enforcement more than one square block from the Mark O. Hatfield United States Courthouse in Portland, Oregon under a federal judge’s court order.

U.S. District Judge Michael W. Mosman issued the restrictions Monday after granting a preliminary injunction Friday, The Oregonian/OregonLive reported. He found that federal officers’ actions have chilled First Amendment’s rights of free speech and right to assembly for plaintiffs who sued the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and other federal law enforcement agencies.

“Within that sphere, called the ‘Excluded Area,’ federal law enforcement can engage in crowd control activities subject to all the pre-existing limits, constitutional or otherwise, on their conduct, but not covered by this injunction,” Mosman wrote. “Beyond that line, federal agents must cease crowd control activities, including clearing people away from the U.S. Courthouse.”

The judge underscored that federal agents “cannot individually target protesters in retaliation for their speech, anywhere or anytime.”

Mosman described the

order as a “geographical solution,” that will provide protesters with a “zone of safety” where they can peacefully protest.

The federal officers can make arrests or engage in “hot pursuits” of suspects within or outside the excluded area, according to established law, the judge wrote.

The plaintiffs are state Reps. Janelle S. Bynum, D-Clackamas, and Karin A. Power, D-Milwaukie, along with Portland lawyer and legal observer Sara D. Eddie, the First Unitarian Church of Portland and Western States Center, an organization that monitors right-wing extremism.

The judge found that tweets by President Donald Trump during the last few months helped incite improper conduct by federal officers responding to protests against police brutality and systemic racism in Portland and directed both sides in the lawsuit to hash out “rules of engagement” for the officers near the federal courthouse.

The plaintiffs sued Homeland Security, the U.S. Marshals Service, the Federal Protective Service and U.S. Customs and Immigration Enforcement, saying the aggressive dispersal of protesters by federal agents outside the courthouse this summer

encroached on state powers and breached the First Amendment by interfering with the right to protest.

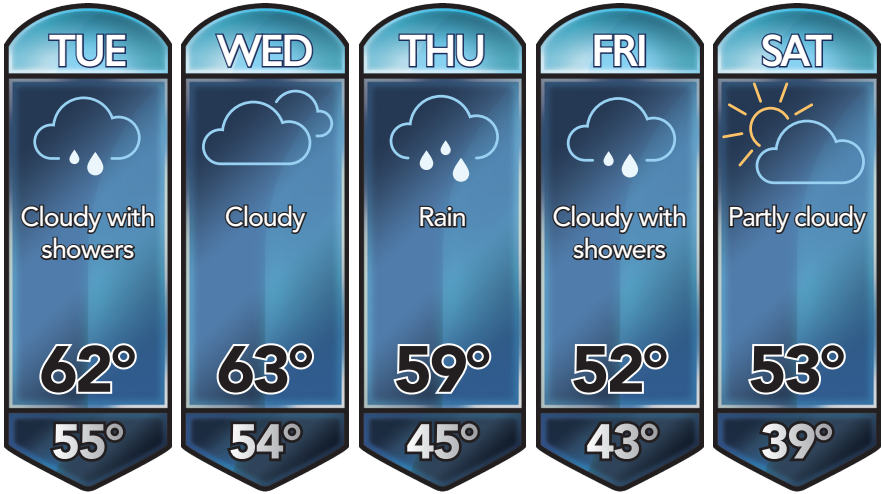
Their attorneys argued the possibility of mass federal intervention remains, submitting to the court Twitter statements by Trump and statements from Acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad F. Wolf that have threatened the return of additional federal officers to the city.

Attorney Jeffrey A. Hall, representing the U.S. Department of Justice, argued there’s no need for a court order because the expanded federal presence in Portland has fallen significantly.

“What they were attempting to do is push violent crowds back during a very violent period,” Hall said. “There’s nothing to show it’s going to be a problem in the future.”

Mosman disagreed, ruling that the presidential tweets showed “a substantial risk of harm” to the plaintiffs.

In his written order Monday, the judge wrote, “The showing that the federal agents have any retaliatory motive is nonexistent. Unfortunately for the federal agents, they operate under the burden of statements from the President (and for Border Patrol agents, Acting Secretary Wolf) expressing precisely such a motivation.”



Hurricane Eta inches toward Nicaragua coast

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — Hurricane Eta inched closer to Nicaragua’s Caribbean coast with potentially devastating winds Tuesday, while heavy rains thrown off by the Category 4 storm’s bands already were causing rivers to overflow across Central America.

The hurricane had sustained winds of 145 mph (230 kph), and the U.S. National Hurricane Center said it was likely to maintain that strength until making landfall in the morning. It was centered about 30 miles (45 kilometers) southeast of Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua, around 7 a.m. EST (1200 GMT) and moving west-southwest near 4 mph (6 kph). Hurricane-force winds were already blowing on land.

Early Tuesday, Guillermo González, director of the country’s emergency management agency, said in a news conference that as Eta began to make landfall there were reports of corrugated metal roofs flying off homes, trees, poles and power lines falling and rivers rising in the coastal area. So far, there were no reported injuries or deaths, he said.

The storm was nearing landfall just south of Bilwi, the main coastal city in the region. About 10,000 people were in shelters in that city and an equal amount were sheltered in smaller

towns across the region, he said. The area had already been lashed with strong winds and heavy rain for hours.

Authorities in Nicaragua and Honduras had moved people Monday from outer islands and low-lying areas to shelters. Residents scrambled to shore up their homes, but few structures along Nicaragua’s remote Caribbean coast were built to withstand such force.

Nicaragua’s army moved red-helmeted troops specialized in search and rescue to Bilwi, the main coastal city in an otherwise remote and sparsely populated area. The navy spent Monday ferrying residents of coastal islands to shelters in Bilwi, also known as Puerto Cabezas.

At a shelter in Bilwi, farmer Pedro Down waited late Monday for Eta’s arrival. “When it comes it can rip off all the (roof) and destroy the house, so you have to look for a safer place,” he said, cradling a baby in his arms. “So I came here to save our lives.”

On television Monday, Nicaragua Vice President and first lady Rosario Murillo prayed for God to protect the country. She said Nicaragua would apply lessons learned from previous storms. “How many hurricanes have come and we have moved on, thanks to God,” she said.

Along Honduras’

northern Caribbean coast, torrential rains from Eta’s outer bands caused some rivers to overwhelm their banks Monday, forcing evacuations.

This could be only the beginning of Eta’s destruction. The storm was forecast to spend the week meandering over Central America dumping rain measured in feet not inches.

Forecasters said central and northern Nicaragua into much of Honduras could get 15 to 25 inches (380 to 635 millimeters) of rain, with 35 inches (890 millimeters) in isolated areas. Heavy rains also were likely in eastern Guatemala, southern Belize and Jamaica.

A storm surge of around 15 feet (4.5 meters) above normal tides was possible for the coast of Nicaragua, forecasters said.

The quantities of rain expected drew comparisons to 1998’s Hurricane Mitch, one of the most deadly Atlantic hurricanes in history. An archival report from the National Hurricane Center said Mitch led to the deaths of more than 9,000 people.

Eta tripled in strength in about 24 hours, rapidly intensifying from a 40 mph (65 kph) storm Sunday morning to a 120 mph (190 kph) hurricane around midday Monday, and continuing to gain power throughout the day.

Nike will eliminate 700 jobs in Oregon

PORTLAND (AP) — Nike said Monday it expects to eliminate 700 jobs at its Oregon headquarters near Beaverton by early January as part of a broader restructuring the company announced during the summer.

The footwear and apparel company had previously estimated its Oregon layoffs at roughly 500, The Oregonian/OregonLive reported. The cutbacks announced Monday, in a brief legal filing with state workforce officials, appear to include that tally.

Nike did not immedi-

ately respond to a message seeking confirmation.

Nike’s layoffs, however, aren’t a response to the coronavirus pandemic downturn – its sales are strong. Rather, Oregon’s largest company is changing strategies.

Nike said in July it will spend up to \$250 million cutting jobs worldwide as new CEO John Donahoe refocuses the business to emphasize online sales directly to consumers. The company employed 75,400 at the end of May, down 1,600 from a year earlier. Nike does not

disclose how many employees work in Oregon, but the total is well over 10,000.

The company hasn’t said how many jobs it will cut altogether. Its Oregon layoffs include 200 at its company childcare center, which is closing permanently.

The company reported in October that quarterly sales during the summer months totaled \$10.6 billion, roughly even with the prior year. Quarterly profits climbed from \$1.4 billion a year ago to \$1.5 billion in the most recent quarter.

NORTHWEST STOCKS

Closing and 8:30 a.m. quotes		
Stock	Close	8:30
Intel	44.48	45.26
Kroger	32.02	32.61
Microsoft	202.35	207.67
Nike	122.38	124.91

NW Natural	45.36	46.11
Skywest	28.77	29.24
Starbucks	85.97	88.12
Umpqua Hldgs	12.76	12.28
Weyerhaeuser	28.10	28.56
Xerox	18.13	18.44

Levi Strauss	15.81	15.89
Dow Jones closed at	26,919.11	
NASDAQ closed at	10,954.56	
S&P 500 closed at	3,309.36	
Provided by Coos Bay Edward Jones		

LOTTERY

MegaMillions
Oct. 30
14-19-34-39-59
Megaball: 11
Multiplier: x2
Jackpot: \$129 million

Powerball
Oct. 31
2-6-40-42-55
Powerball: 24
Multiplier: x3
Jackpot: \$137 million

Megabucks
Nov. 2
5-10-13-28-37-42
Jackpot: \$4 Million

Win For Life
Nov. 2
17-20-32-67

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Polling places latest front in battle over masks

ASSOCIATED PRESS

America’s fight over masks has reached a new front: polling places.

On Election Day, voters across the country will face varying rules about mask-wearing when they cast a ballot as officials try to balance public safety precautions amid a global pandemic with the constitutional right to vote.

Most states, even ones with broad mask mandates, are stopping short of forcing voters to use a face covering. Instead, they’re opting for recommendations to wear them while providing options for voters who refuse.

“We are asking everyone at the polls to observe social distancing inside and outside of polling places, and not to create disturbances about wearing or not wearing face coverings,” said Meagan Wolfe, chief elections official in Wisconsin, where a state mask mandate applies to poll workers but not voters.

During the early voting period, disagreements over masks occasionally led to long voting lines and had election officials clearing polling sites for the mask-less or directing them to stations away from other machines.

Still, due to the decentralized nature of the country’s voting systems, rules are different depending on where ballots are cast. Some places are taking harder stances than others.

In one case that caught national attention, a Maryland man was arrested after refusing to wear a mask while trying to vote last month. He has since sued his local election board over the incident.

In Texas, the issue has wound up in court.

First, Republican Gov. Greg Abbott carved out an exception for voting locations in his statewide mask mandate issued earlier this year. Then, in response to a challenge from voting rights groups, a federal judge ordered that masks must be

Widely shared photo of Biden without mask was taken in 2019

CHICAGO (AP) — President Donald Trump’s supporters have seized on a photo circulating on Twitter since late Sunday that shows Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden not wearing a mask while he talks to a campaign staffer on a plane.

Why wasn’t Biden, who has made a point to put on a facial covering throughout the campaign, wearing a mask? Because the photo was taken in November 2019, before the first case of the new coronavirus was reported, and months before global health officials began urging people to wear masks in order to stop the spread of the virus.

The image was shared on Twitter by Trump’s former acting Director of National Intelligence Richard Grenell, where it was liked and shared from his account more than 50,000 times. Grenell, who currently serves as special presidential envoy for Serbia and Kosovo peace negotiations, was a U.S. ambassador to Germany for two years before resigning in June.

When contacted by The Associated Press, Grenell did not answer questions about whether he knew the image was old before sharing it with his 671,000 followers.

Mask wearing has become a political issue on the campaign trail, with Biden frequently putting one on in public and Trump rarely doing so, and even mocking Biden for wearing a mask so often.

Here’s a look at the misleading claim:

CLAIM: A photo of Biden talking to a campaign staffer without a mask on a plane begs the question: “Joe Biden doesn’t wear a mask on a plane but wears one outside?”

AP’S ASSESSMENT: False. The photo was taken in November 2019. At that point in the campaign, the new coronavirus had not emerged globally so Biden did not wear a mask anywhere.

THE FACTS: A photo of Biden on a plane talking with his traveling national press secretary, Remi Yamamoto, both without masks, was taken in November 2019, not recently.

The photo was featured in a Vogue magazine article last week about Yamamoto and her role in the campaign. Conservative Twitter users seized on the image Sunday night, claiming it shows a hypocritical Biden not following recommended mask guidelines while traveling on a plane.

But the caption on that image clearly notes that it was captured by Biden’s campaign in November 2019 while Biden was traveling to South Carolina, before COVID-19 was even identified as a worldwide health threat.

Associated Press reporting confirms Biden traveled to South Carolina in late November of last year, making a campaign stop at Lander University in Greenwood on Nov. 21.

the coronavirus pandemic.

“Despite the few attempts to challenge mask requirements in court, there is no question that it is well within the legal authority of states and localities to require masks to be worn at polling places — both as a matter of public health and as a reasonable regulation of the election process,” she said.

With Election Day looming, most places have settled on a strategy of strongly encouraging voters to wear masks. Their message is that abiding by widely accepted health guidelines will protect poll workers and other voters.

In Atlanta, Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms over the weekend signed an extension of measures designed to limit the spread of the virus, including a mask mandate in the city. But her order specifically says “no individual shall be denied ingress or egress to or from a polling place for failure to wear a facial covering or mask.”

Gabriel Sterling, statewide voting system implementation manager for the secretary of state’s office, said during a news conference Monday that individual poll managers will have to decide how to accommodate people who have tested positive or are in quarantine. He suggested that one way to handle them might be pulling them aside and having them vote a hand-marked paper ballot away from everyone else, rather than having them use one of the touchscreen voting machines.

But he stressed that no additional barriers to voting can be put in place.

“You can’t turn away somebody because they’re not wearing a mask,” Sterling said.

Meanwhile, election officials across the country have scrambled to shore up polling place safety precautions to make it easier to recruit poll workers. Many of them have traditionally been older retirees — the type of people who are at greater risk of getting a severe case of the coronavirus.

Trump rally goers accused of intimidating voters in Springfield

SALEM (AP) — A weekend rally was held in Oregon for President Donald Trump, with lots of flags and some attendees carrying guns.

Such a scene is not rare in America in the runup to the election, but in this instance, a ballot drop box was nearby. It proved a troubling mix for some voters and underscored the tensions ahead of Tuesday’s election.

A coalition of rights groups told Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum and Secretary of State Bev Clarno in a letter Monday that they had received complaints on a hotline.

One voter attempted to drive to the drop box at a park in

Springfield, but pickup trucks parked on either side of his car, said the letter from the coalition, which includes the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon and the Oregon Justice Resource Center.

“The individuals from the trucks asked him to roll down his window and asked where he was going,” the coalition said. “The voter was concerned for his safety and, rather than proceeding to the drop box, instead left without depositing his ballot.”

Another caller reported similar activity and noted that other voters turned away without using the drop box, the coalition said.

People dropping off ballots

polling station mask mandate.

Wendy Weiser, director of the democracy program at the Brennan Center for Justice, said governments should be able to require masks at polling places during

officials and law enforcement coordinated to ensure voter access to the drop box.

“We have no evidence that there was any intimidation or blocking of the drop box,” Trout said.

Lane County elections officials have received no complaints, said county spokeswoman Devon Ashbridge.

“Any time a voter in Lane County or elsewhere in Oregon feels like they are being kept from a drop box, either physically or they feel intimidated, they (should) contact their local law enforcement agency as quickly as they can,” Ashbridge said.

Oregon votes entirely by mail or drop box.

Turnout

From Page 1

“Come hell or high water,” said Kristen Clarke, executive director of the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. “It feels like that has been the attitude voters have needed to make sure their voices are heard this year.”

At least 98.8 million people voted before Election Day, about 71 percent of the nearly 139 million ballots cast during the 2016 presidential election, according to data collected by The Associated Press. Given that a few states, including Texas, had already exceeded their total 2016 vote count, experts were predicting record turnout this year.

Problems occur every election, and Tuesday was no different. There were long lines early in the day and sporadic reports of polling places opening late and equipment issues. This was all expected given past experience, the decentralized nature of voting in the U.S. and last-minute changes due to the pandemic.

Those yet to vote headed to polling places despite another spike in COVID-19 cases that has hit much of the country. Democrat Joe Biden’s campaign had emphasized early voting due to the pandemic. Among those braving the polls were voters who may have wanted to vote by mail but waited too long to request a ballot or those who didn’t receive their ballots in time.

Others were likely persuaded by the president’s rhetoric attacking mail

fair elections during this unprecedented time,” said New Mexico Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver, who also is president of the National Association of Secretaries of State. “Rest assured, we are ready. We have coordinated with all levels of government and are in constant communication to ensure a smooth election.”

The group has been working with the National Association of State Election Directors to help states hammer out plans for protecting against foreign and domestic cyberattacks, countering misinformation and strengthening an election infrastructure tested by massive early voting and pandemic precautions.

Federal authorities were monitoring voting and any threats to the election across the country at an operations center just outside Washington D.C. run by the cybersecurity arm of the Department of Homeland Security. Officials there said there were no major problems detected early Tuesday but urged the public to be patient and skeptical in the days ahead.

“We’re not out of the woods yet,” said Christopher Krebs, the director of the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency. “Today, in some sense, is half-time. There may be other events or activities or efforts to interfere and undermine confidence in the election. So I’d ask all Americans to be patient, to treat all sensational and unverified claims with skepticism, and remember technology sometimes fails and breaks.”

Election

From Page 1

In fact, there are roughly 20 states that allow mail-in ballots received after Election Day to be counted — up to nine days and longer in some states. Litigation has centered on just a few where states have made changes in large part due to the coronavirus.

Biden told voters in Pennsylvania that the very fabric of the nation was at stake and offered his own election as the firmest rebuke possible to a president who he said had spent “four years dividing us at every turn.”

“Tomorrow’s the beginning of a new day. Tomorrow we can put an end to a president that’s left hard-working Americans out in the cold!” Biden said in Pittsburgh. “If you elect me as president, I’m gonna act to heal this country.”

Trump argued, at a stop in Wisconsin, that Biden was “not what our country needs.” He added: “This isn’t about — yeah, it is about me, I guess, when you think about it.”

The nation braced for what was to come — and a result that might not be known for days.

A new anti-scale fence was erected around the White House. And in downtowns ranging from New York to Denver to Minneapolis, workers boarded up businesses lest the vote lead to unrest of the sort that broke out earlier this year amid protests over racial inequality.

Just a short walk from

the White House, for block after block, stores had their windows and doors covered. Some kept just a front door open, hoping to attract a little business.

Both candidates voted early, but first lady Melania Trump was set to cast her ballot Tuesday near Mar-a-Lago, the couple’s estate in Palm Beach, Florida.

Whoever wins will have to deal with an anxious nation, reeling from a once-in-a-century health crisis that has closed schools and businesses and that is worsening as the weather turns cold.

In Atlanta, occupational therapy practitioner Justin Windom, 29, said he was unsure if he was going to even cast a ballot until last night. But after speaking with his parents and one of his patients, he said he decided to get up at the crack of dawn and cast his ballot for Biden as the “lesser of two evils.”

“These next four years are going to make or break how far we go as a country,” Windom said.

Trump in Grand Rapids insisted anew that the nation was “rounding the turn” on the virus. But Dr. Deborah Birx, the coordinator of the White House coronavirus task force, broke with the president and joined a chorus of Trump administration scientists sounding the alarm about the current spike in infections.

“We are entering the most concerning and most deadly phase of this pandemic,” Birx wrote in a memo distributed to top administration officials.

She added that the nation was not implementing “balanced” measures needed to slow the spread of the virus. One recipient confirmed the contents that were initially reported Monday by The Washington Post.

The pandemic has shadowed the campaign, which has largely been a referendum of Trump’s handling of the virus.

In Concord, New Hampshire, 70-year-old Linda Eastman said she was giving her vote to Trump, saying, “Maybe he wasn’t perfect with the coronavirus, but I think he did the best that he could with what he had.”

In Virginia Beach, it was a vote for Biden from 54-year-old Gabriella Cochrane, who said she thought the former vice president would “surround himself with the brightest and the best” to fight the pandemic.

The challenge of counting a record-setting early vote added a layer of uncertainty to an election marked by suspicions fueled by an incumbent who has consistently trailed in the polls.

Trump, in Pennsylvania, zeroed in on the state’s process to count mail-in votes that arrive after Election Day, vowing that “we’re going in with our lawyers” as soon as the polls close. He tweeted — without evidence — that “violence in the street” could follow the Supreme Court’s decision to grant an extension to count the votes arriving after Tuesday.

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MLB announces finalists for major awards

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Los Angeles Dodgers outfielder Mookie Betts could become the second player to win the MVP award in each league, and New York Mets ace Jacob deGrom is in the running for his third consecutive NL Cy Young Award.

The competition, of course, is tough.

Betts, Freddie Freeman and Manny Machado are the top finishers for NL MVP in balloting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America. DeGrom, Trevor Bauer and Yu Darvish are the finalists in the NL Cy Young race.

The three highest vote-getters for each BBWAA award were revealed on Monday. The winners will be announced next week.

Betts, who won the 2018 AL MVP award with Boston, helped the Dodgers win the World Series last week for the first time since

1988. Frank Robinson is the only player to win the MVP award in both leagues, accomplishing the feat in 1961 with Cincinnati and 1966 for Baltimore.

DeGrom could join Randy Johnson and Greg Maddux as the only pitchers to win at least three consecutive Cy Young Awards. But Bauer had an NL-best 1.73 ERA in 11 starts for Cincinnati, and Darvish went 8-3 with a 2.01 ERA in 12 starts for the Chicago Cubs, matching Cleveland Indians ace Shane Bieber for the major league lead in wins.

Balloting for the BBWAA awards was completed before the start of the postseason.

Freeman batted .341 with 13 homers and 53 RBIs for the NL East champion Atlanta Braves, and Machado hit .304 with 16 homers and 47 RBIs for the San Diego Padres.

Bieber joined Minnesota Twins right-hander Kenta Maeda and Toronto Blue Jays left-hander Hyun

Jin Ryu as finalists for the AL Cy Young Award. Bieber is the heavy favorite after the 25-year-old right-hander went 8-1 with a 1.63 ERA and 122 strikeouts in 77 1/3 innings, leading the majors in wins, ERA and strikeouts.

"My confidence continues to grow just from coming into the season or into the league in 2018," Bieber said on MLB Network. "Learning my stuff, figuring it out, continuing to sharpen the breaking stuff and trying to add velocity as much as I can from year to year has been the big thing for me."

Chicago White Sox first baseman José Abreu, Cleveland Indians infielder José Ramírez and New York Yankees leadoff man DJ LeMahieu are the top three finishers in voting for the AL MVP award.

LeMahieu, who hit a big league-best .364, and Bauer are free agents after starring during the pandemic-shortened season.

The top finishers in voting for AL Manager of the Year are Tampa Bay's Kevin Cash, Toronto's Charlie Montoyo and Rick Renteria, who was let go by the White Sox after the team made the playoffs for the first time since 2008.

Cash was roundly criticized for pulling ace left-hander Blake Snell in the sixth inning of the decisive Game 6 of the World Series against the champion Dodgers.

Miami's Don Mattingly, San Diego's Jayce Tingler and the Cubs' David Ross are the finalists for NL Manager of the Year. Tingler and Ross just completed their first seasons as big league skippers.

Mattingly guided the Marlins to their first playoff appearance since 2003 despite dealing with a COVID-19 outbreak that paused their season and ravaged the roster. Miami also lost 105 games last year.

"Coming into this season,

there was a lot of people in our clubhouse and within our group that believed that we were going to have pretty good pitching," Mattingly said.

"With that, you can do a lot."

The finalists for AL Rookie of the Year are Houston Astros right-hander Cristian Javier and center fielders Kyle Lewis of the Seattle Mariners and Luis Robert of the White Sox. Philadelphia Phillies infielder Alec Bohm, San Diego Padres second baseman Jake Cronenworth and Milwaukee Brewers reliever Devin Williams are the top finishers for the NL rookie award.

The 25-year-old Lewis hit .262 with 11 homers and 28 RBIs in 58 games. He said playing 18 games with Seattle in September 2019 helped him out a lot this year.

"It helped me a ton just as far as nerves, as far as the ability to slow the game down," Lewis said. "Coming up last year everything was happening so fast."

Brady has two TD passes as Bucs beat Giants

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Tom Brady has felt uncomfortable against the New York Giants before. Most notably in a couple of Super Bowl losses.

He recognized Monday night's 25-23 victory by his Tampa Bay Buccaneers wasn't very artistic. At least, for the star quarterback, it had a better ending.

"We obviously didn't play the way we're capable of, but it was good to get a win," Brady said.

Lackluster for much of the game, Brady did what he does best in the second half. He threw touchdowns passes to Rob Gronkowski and Mike Evans, giving him the career lead in TD throws once more.

The Saints' Drew Brees had passed Brady on Sunday, but now the six-time Super Bowl champ is back on top with 561. Evans' diving 8-yard catch provided the go-ahead points.

But Tampa Bay (6-2) had to sweat it out. Daniel Jones drove New York (1-7) 70 yards in 13 plays and connected with Golden Tate for a 19-yard touchdown with 28 seconds remaining. The 2-point conversion failed as the officials picked up a flag for defensive pass interference.

"You never apologize for winning," Bucs coach Bruce Arians said. "We made the plays that counted."

Brady and Gronkowski earlier combined for a 3-yard scoring pass on which Gronk barely held onto the ball long enough. That made the old New England combination second in TDs for a duo with 93, 21 behind Peyton Manning and Marvin Harrison of the Colts.

Unable to connect with Evans on a 2-point conversion, Brady still had the Bucs on top 15-14.

After New York went back ahead on Graham Gano's 33-yard field goal, Daniel Jones was pressured into an unwise throw to Tate that Sean Murphy-Bunting picked off at the Tampa 33. That set the stage for the 66-yard drive to the touchdown by Evans.

Jones had two costly picks, helping negate a strong effort by New York's defense.

"The interceptions were huge for us," Brady said.

"The young quarterback, he's still trying to do too much," Arians added.

First-year Giants coach Joe Judge, who

Ravens cornerback Humphrey has coronavirus

Baltimore Ravens All-Pro cornerback Marlon Humphrey revealed he has the coronavirus, and several other NFL teams reported positive tests.

The Green Bay Packers said a player tested positive for COVID-19. According to multiple reports, that player is running back AJ Dillon, who was placed on the reserve/COVID-19 list.

Arizona coach Kliff Kingsbury confirmed that two Cardinals tested positive over the weekend. Cardinals linebacker Devon Kennard said he tested positive for COVID-19, but feels completely normal. The team did not release the name of the other player who tested positive.

In addition, the Browns conducted meetings remotely after a player reported he is experiencing "COVID-19-related" symptoms.

Elsewhere, Las Vegas Raiders tackle Trent Brown remained in Cleveland undergoing tests after being hospitalized following an IV mishap.

Brown was sent to the hospital shortly before the game between the Raiders and Browns started on Sunday. NFL Network reported that a pregame IV caused air to enter Brown's bloodstream.

Brown was supposed to return to action this week after missing one game following a positive test for the coronavirus.

won three Super Bowls in New England with Brady, is not discouraged by the team's record halfway through its schedule.

"I see a lot of improvement, our guys improving day by day," Judge said. "We have a good foundation. I see the core of a team that is developing."

New York got an early break — and soon after a touchdown — when Brady's pass was tipped by Dalvin Tomlinson and caught by Bucs running back Ronald Jones. But he fumbled when hit by Blake Martinez and rookie Damay Holmes recovered at the Tampa Bay 12.

Dion Lewis' made a sliding catch in the

NFL suspends Bears receiver for punching player during game

CHICAGO — The NFL suspended Chicago Bears receiver Javon Wims two games for punching New Orleans Saints safety C.J. Gardner-Johnson during Sunday's game.

Bears coach Matt Nagy said Wims was apologetic when they spoke, but would not say what led to the altercation. Wims has three business days to appeal the suspension.

49ers lose both QB Garoppolo and tight end Kittle to injuries

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — The San Francisco 49ers will be without quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo and All-Pro tight end George Kittle for an extended period after they got hurt against Seattle.

ESPN first reported the severity of the injuries, saying Garoppolo will miss at least six weeks with a high ankle sprain and Kittle will be out eight weeks with a broken bone in his foot. They mark the latest in a long line of injuries this season that have derailed the defending NFC champions, who are 4-4.

49ers trade linebacker Alexander to Saints for Kiko Alonso

NEW ORLEANS — The Saints and 49ers agreed to a trade sending

linebacker Kwon Alexander to New Orleans for linebacker Kiko Alonso and a conditional fifth-round draft choice.

The 30-year-old Alonso has not played this season, which he began on the Saints' physically unable to perform list as he rehabilitates a torn knee ligament.

Titans deal with Chargers for cornerback Desmond King

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Tennessee Titans acquired cornerback Desmond King from the Los Angeles Chargers for a sixth-round draft pick in 2021. King was an All Pro two years ago as a punt returner but has had issues with inconsistent coverage and on punt returns.

Williamson goes from winless Jets to unbeaten Steelers in trade

NEW YORK — Avery Williamson is going from winless to undefeated.

The New York Jets agreed to trade the veteran linebacker to Pittsburgh. The Jets also are sending a 2022 seventh-round draft pick to the Steelers for Pittsburgh's 2022 fifth-rounder.

The deal moves the 28-year-old Williamson from the Jets, who are 0-8, to the 7-0 Steelers, the league's only undefeated team. Pittsburgh was in need of an experienced inside linebacker after Devin Bush was lost for the season on Oct. 18 with a torn ACL.

40-yarder with 7 seconds left in the half. Succop also had a 37-yard field goal on the game's opening drive, a 43-yarder set up by Carlton Davis' interception in early in the third quarter, and a 38-yarder with 3:41 to go for what turned out to be the decisive points.

Soon after Succop had made it 14-9, Gronkowski was in the end zone — only to see Daniel Jones connect with his tight end, Evan Engram, for a 30-yard play. That set up Gano's 33-yard kick and the 17-15 New York lead heading into the fourth period.

But that's usually Brady time.

Ionescu has ankle surgery to remove scar tissue

NEW YORK (AP) — Sabrina Ionescu had minor surgery on her left ankle last week to remove some scar tissue that had formed.

Ionescu missed most of her rookie season with the New York Liberty after suffering a Grade 3 sprain on that ankle in her third game as a pro. She avoided needing surgery to repair that injury, but had to do some cleanup on it last week. Doctor Martin O'Malley of the Hospital of Special Surgery performed the surgery.

"It was a really minor procedure. She is completely healed from the initial injury she had in July," Liberty general manager Jonathan Kolb

said in a phone interview Monday night. "Something was poking at her and the doctors looked at it. It was calcified scar tissue and we can take that out. We used a camera to exam her tendons and ligaments and the good news is they are completely healed."

Ionescu is expected to soon be cleared by the Liberty's medical staff to return to physical activity.

"Sabrina had a minor ankle procedure to remove a loose bone chip that was irritating a tendon behind her ankle," O'Malley said. "This chip that occurred during her sprain in July did not involve the ankle joint cartilage surface and we ex-

pect a complete recovery."

Ionescu averaged 18.3 points, 4.7 rebounds and 4.0 assists in 2 1/2 games before she was hurt.

"With the long offseason, I am committed to returning in 2021 fully prepared to rejoin my team and jumpstart my WNBA career," Ionescu said. "My rehab has been going very well and I look forward to getting back on the court."

The league's top draft pick discussed on a Zoom call last month that she was considering playing overseas this offseason. It wouldn't be a financial decision for her, but more that she is concerned about her time away from competitive basketball, having

not played since she was injured July 31.

The former Oregon star said that if she were to go overseas it wouldn't be until 2021 in January or February and that she most likely would head to Europe.

"I wouldn't really be going for the money," Ionescu said. "I'd be going for a couple months to kind of just get back into playing basketball, playing against other players. It's really easy to just go through workouts, and it's completely different to play 5-on-5 with refs. There's a few teams that I was talking to before the WNBA season started. So I'll still be talking to them and see if I can go out there later."

New Huskies coach mum on starter at QB

SEATTLE (AP) — This much is clear about Jimmy Lake's debut as the head coach at Washington, he's not going to share any information about who his starting quarterback will be ahead of Saturday's opener at California.

No bigger question surrounds Lake's first game in charge of the Huskies than who will be under center against the Golden Bears. After several weeks of practice and a few scrimmages, Lake is still keeping the decision under wraps as to which of his four options will take that first snap.

The favorite from the start has appeared to be graduate transfer Kevin Thomson simply because he has the most experience. Thomson was the Big Sky Conference offensive player of the year last year at Sacramento State before deciding to transfer back home to finish his college career at Washington. Thomson threw 450 passes and 27 touchdowns in 2019 alone. Washington's other three QB options — Jacob Sirmon, Dylan Morris and Ethan Garbers — have combined to throw three passes in college, all of them by Sirmon last season.