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Presidency hinges on tight races

WASHINGTON (AP) — The fate of the United States presidency hung in the balance Wednesday morning, as President Donald Trump and Democratic challenger Joe Biden battled for three familiar battleground states — Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania — that could prove crucial in determining who wins the White House.

It was unclear when or how quickly a winner could be determined. A late burst of votes in Michigan and Wisconsin gave Biden a small lead in those states, but it was still too early to call the race. Hundreds of thousands of votes were also outstanding in Pennsylvania.

The high stakes election was held against the backdrop of a historic pandemic that has killed more than 230,000 Americans and wiped away millions of jobs. Both candidates spent months pressing dramatically different visions for the nation's future and voters responded in huge numbers, with more than 100 million people casting votes ahead of Election Day.

But the margins were exceedingly tight, with the candidates trading wins in battleground states across the country. Trump picked up Florida, the largest of the swing states, while Biden flipped Arizona, a state that has reliably voted Republican in recent elections. Neither cleared the 270 Electoral College votes needed to carry the White House.

Trump, in an extraordinary move from the White House, issued premature claims of victory and said he would take the election to the Supreme Court to stop the counting. It was unclear exactly what legal action he might try to pursue.

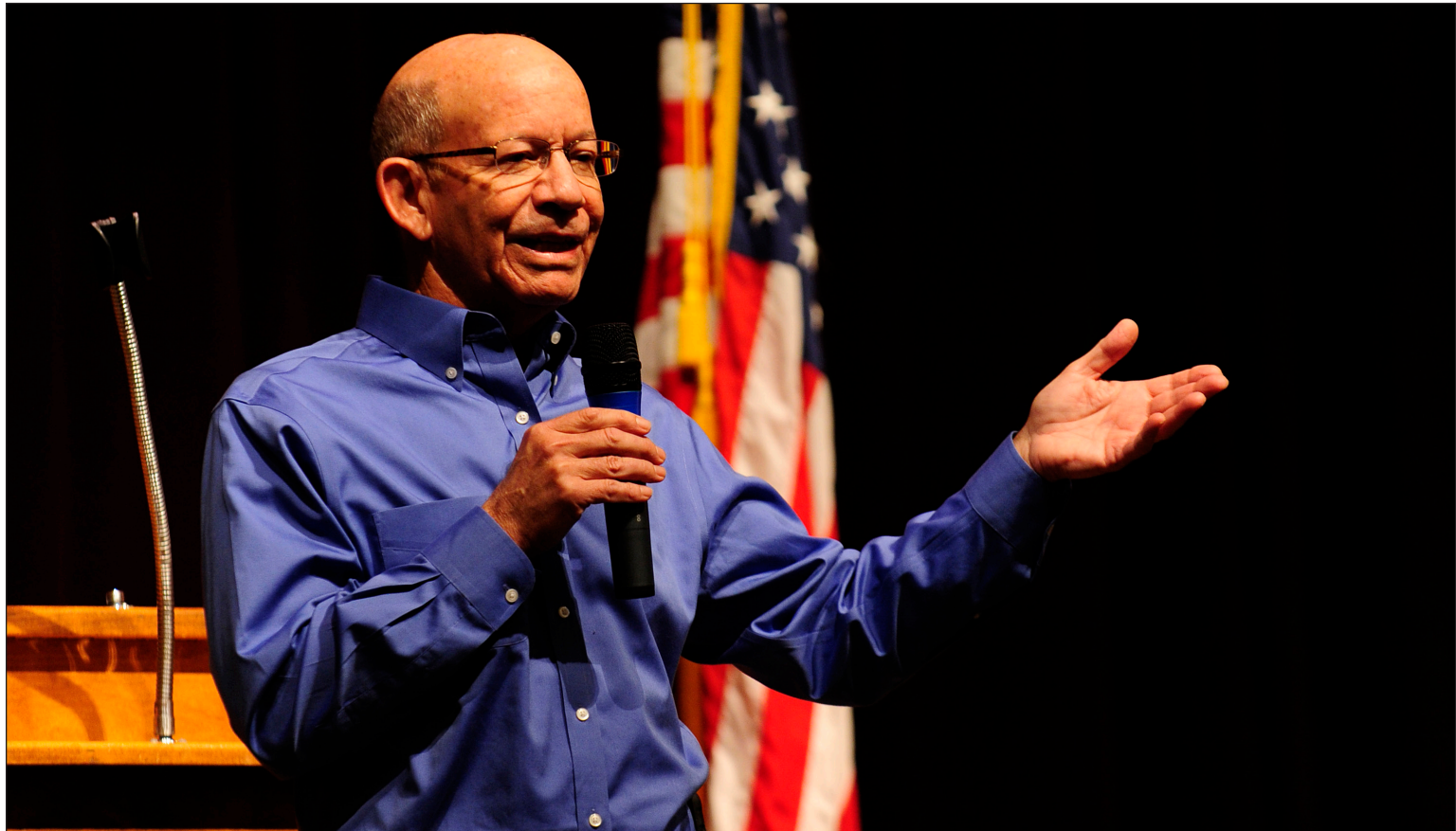
Biden, briefly appearing in front of supporters in Delaware, urged patience, saying the election "ain't over until every vote is counted, every ballot is counted."

"It's not my place or Donald Trump's place to declare who's won this election," Biden said. "That's the decision of the American people."

Vote tabulations routinely continue beyond Election Day, and states largely set the rules for when the count has to end. In presidential elections, a key point is the date in December when presidential electors met. That's set by federal law.

Several states allow mailed-in votes to be accepted after Election Day, as long as they were postmarked by Tuesday. That includes Pennsylvania, where ballots postmarked by Nov. 3 can be accepted if they arrive up to three days after the election.

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Rep. Peter DeFazio speaks to constituents at a townhall meeting at Marshfield High School in this 2017 file photo.

The World file photo

Merkley reelected to Senate

SALEM (AP) — Democrat U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley has won the Oregon seat that he was first elected to in 2008.

Merkley defeated Republican Jo Rae Perkins, who made national headlines this year for her support of the wide ranging and baseless QAnon internet conspiracy theory and "science denialism" during the pandemic.

"Tonight Oregonians have made their voices heard — loud and clear. Our Oregonians have rejected the politics of hate and division and they have chosen a path of hope and healing," Merkley said during the Democratic Party of Oregon's election night celebration. "I feel really honored that Oregonians have elected me to serve a third term for Senate."

The incumbent's win keeps Democrats holding both of the state's Senate seats, the other Democrat being Sen. Ron Wyden.

"Jeff is a leader on so many of the issues we care about — climate change, human rights and priorities that really matter to working families. He has been a wonderful partner in the United States Senate," Wyden said during the celebration.

Before Merkley's election to the Senate, he was a five-term member of the Oregon House of Representatives, serving as speaker of the house from 2007 to 2009.

Merkley said that having grown up in a blue-collar family "he never anticipated or imagined" serving the U.S. Senate.

"That is something that rich and powerful that connected people do. Not boys growing up in blue collar communities," Merkley said. "But, America affords opportunities that I think begin with good families, strong families and strong public schools."

Perkins, Merkley's challenger and a staunch supporter of President Donald Trump, ran for the Senate in 2014 and for the U.S. House in 2016 and 2018. She failed to win primary contests until this year when she won 49% of the Republican vote against three other challengers.

Perkins, who has had a career as a real estate agent, personal banker, financial advisor and insurance agent, holds views that largely align with Trump's. She is in favor of expanding the U.S.-Mexico border wall and passing laws that limit or stop federal dollars to places that have declared "sanctuary" status on cooperating with federal immigration authorities.

She also supports the Second Amendment and is anti-abortion, receiving the endorsement of Oregon Right to Life PAC, a political action committee that raises money and makes contributions to campaigns of political candidates or parties.

Perkins made national headlines earlier this year for her references to QAnon in a

Peter DeFazio reelected

ZACK DEMARS
The World

Rep. Peter DeFazio was reelected by Oregon's Fourth District voters Tuesday. The long-time Democratic incumbent beat out Republican challenger Alek Skarlatos in one of the district's most contentious elections in recent history.

The Associated Press called the race Tuesday night for DeFazio, who was reporting 51.56% of the vote across the district to Skarlatos' 46.22% Wednesday morning.

Skarlatos conceded the race just before midnight.

"I want to thank my grassroots supporters all across Oregon and the country. This race would have never come this close without your support, and I am thankful for each and every one of you," he wrote in statement.

DeFazio has been the district's representative since 1987, and has become one of the House's top Democrats as the chair of a key transportation and infrastructure committee.

DeFazio, a Springfield resident and former Lane County Commissioner, thanked supporters in a statement late Tuesday.

"I am honored to have earned your trust once again to serve

the people of Southwest Oregon in the US House of Representatives," DeFazio wrote. "The citizens of Southwest Oregon spoke clearly tonight in favor of a system that works for the people, not wealthy special interests."

The district includes parts of seven counties. DeFazio succeeded with voters in Benton and Lane counties, while Skarlatos pulled ahead in Coos, Curry, Douglas, Josephine and Linn counties.

In Coos County, returns show that Skarlatos received 57.30% of the vote (20,600 votes), a knockout over DeFazio's 40.43% (14,535 votes).

The race was unusually intense in this election, with national attention focusing on the district that Republicans felt they could potentially pick up in the house. Skarlatos, a former Oregon National Guardsman who famously thwarted a Paris terrorist attack, outraised Defazio with millions in campaign donations, much of that coming from out of state.

Some also speculated that DeFazio might face trouble in the district's college towns of Eugene and Corvallis, where the students who tend to vote Dem-

Please see **DeFazio**, Page 2

Coos Bay retains Benetti, councilors

The World

COOS BAY — Voters retained the status quo in Coos Bay city hall Tuesday night, with incumbent mayor Joe Benetti and three incumbent councilors winning in final unofficial returns.

Benetti won easily in his bid for reelection, with 4,068 votes, or around 58.41%.

Benetti's challengers, Mark Daily and Steven St. Michael McSweeney, stood at 28.13% and 12.35%, respectively.

Current councilors Stephanie Kilmer, Drew Farmer and Lucinda DiNovo won with double-dig-

it percentage point margins. Kilmer led the slate with 26.78% of the vote (4,251 votes), while Farmer carried 22.20% of the vote (3,524 votes) and DiNovo carried 19.92% (3,163 votes).

Jim Kingsley, who positioned himself as a deeply conservative candidate, carried 1,729 votes, or 10.89% of those reported, and progressive challengers Cameron Langley and Cody Skoff, carried 1,619 votes (10.20%) and 1,400 votes (8.82%) respectively.

This story was updated with the county's final returns, which were published around 11 p.m.

City of Coos Bay			
Mayor			
Name	Votes	Pct.	
Joe Benetti	4068	58.41	
Steven Matthew McSweeney	860	12.35	
Mark Daily	1959	28.13	
Councilor (vote for 3)			
Name	Votes	Pct.	
Drew Farmer	3524	22.20	
Stephanie Kilmer	4251	26.78	
Lucinda DiNovo	3163	19.92	
Cody Skoff	1400	8.82	
Cameron Langley	1619	10.20	
Jim Kingsley	1729	10.89	

Engelke wins race for North Bend mayor

The World

Jessica Engelke beat James Rose in the race for North Bend mayor in the final unofficial results released by Coos County on Tuesday night.

With 4,811 votes in, Engelke led Rose 2,518 to 2,265 (52.34% to 47.08%).

The results also showed the three leaders for the city council all ahead of the lone incumbent on the ballot, Timm Slater.

Eric Gleason had 1,993 votes, Susanna Nordhoff 1,950 and Pat Goll 1,909. Slater was fourth among seven candidates with 1,885, while Jonathan Vinyard was fifth with 1,558.

City of North Bend			
Mayor			
Name	Votes	Pct.	
Jessica Engelke	2518	52.34	
James Rose	2265	47.08	
Councilor (vote for 3)			
Name	Votes	Pct.	
Levi Clow	1047	9.03	
Eric Gleason	1993	17.18	
Pat Goll	1909	16.46	
Ron Kutch	1950	16.81	
Timm Slater	1885	16.25	
Jonathan Vinyard	1558	13.43	
Susanna Noordhoff	1950	16.81	

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Oregon Health Authority

Coronavirus Update

healthoregon.org/coronavirus

Oregon goes over 700 COVID-19 deaths

The World

PORTLAND — Oregon dipped under 500 new confirmed and presumptive cases of COVID-19 for the first time in a few days, but just barely, the Oregon Health Authority reported Tuesday. The death toll also rose above 700 with nine new deaths reported.

The state had 495 new cases as of 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, bringing the total since the pandemic started to 46,460.

The new cases are in the following counties: Baker (8), Benton (9), Clackamas (56), Clatsop (8), Columbia (4), Coos (1), Deschutes (12), Douglas (10), Grant (4), Hood River (1), Jackson (70), Jefferson (1), Josephine (3), Klamath (7), Lane (26), Linn (21), Malheur (16), Marion (64), Morrow (1), Multnomah (61), Polk (13), Sherman (2), Tillamook (2), Umatilla (16), Union (8), Wallowa (2), Wasco (1), Washington (57), and Yamhill (11).

The nine new deaths raised the state’s death toll to 701.

Oregon’s 693rd COVID-19 death is an 87-year-old woman in Marion County who tested

positive on Oct. 28 and died on Oct. 29, in her residence. Presence of underlying conditions is being confirmed.

Oregon’s 694th COVID-19 death is a 63-year-old woman in Clackamas County who tested positive on Oct. 5 and died on Oct. 30 at Providence Portland Medical Center. She had underlying conditions.

Oregon’s 695th COVID-19 death is a 78-year-old man in Multnomah County who tested positive on Oct. 20 and died on Nov. 2 at Providence Portland Medical Center. Presence of underlying conditions is being confirmed.

Oregon’s 696th COVID-19 death is a 95-year-old woman in Marion County who became symptomatic on Oct. 21 after close contact with a confirmed case and died on Nov. 1, in her residence. She had underlying conditions.

Oregon’s 697th COVID-19 death is a 47-year-old woman in Jefferson County who tested positive on Aug. 5 and died on Oct. 30, in her residence. The death certificate listed COVID-19 disease or SARS-CoV-2

as a cause of death or a significant condition contributing to death. She had underlying conditions.

Oregon’s 698th COVID-19 death is an 85-year-old woman in Multnomah County who tested positive on Oct. 25 and died on Oct. 29. Place of death is being confirmed. She had underlying conditions.

Oregon’s 699th COVID-19 death is a 75-year-old man in Josephine County who tested positive on Sept. 28 and died on Oct. 29, at Asante Three Rivers Medical Center in Grants Pass, Oregon. Presence of underlying conditions is being confirmed.

Oregon’s 700th COVID-19 death is an 87-year-old woman in Clackamas County who tested positive on Oct. 21 and died on Oct. 31, at Providence Portland Medical Center. She had underlying conditions.

Oregon’s 701st COVID-19 death is a 94-year-old man in Washington County who tested positive Oct. 11 and died on Nov. 1, at Providence Portland Medical Center. Presence of underlying conditions is being confirmed.

President

From Page 1

Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf tweeted that his state had over 1 million ballots to be counted and that he “promised Pennsylvanians that we would count every vote and that’s what we’re going to do.”

Trump appeared to suggest those ballots should not be counted, and that he would fight for that outcome at the high court. But legal experts were dubious of Trump’s declaration.

“I do not see a way that he could go directly to the Supreme Court to stop the counting of votes. There could be fights in specific states, and some of those could end up at the Supreme Court. But this is not the way things work,” said Rick Hasen, a professor of law and political science at the University of California-Irvine.

Trump has appointed three of the high court’s

nine justices including, most recently, Amy Coney Barrett.

Democrats typically outperform Republicans in mail voting, while the GOP looks to make up ground in Election Day turnout. That means the early margins between the candidates could be influenced by which type of votes — early or Election Day — were being reported by the states.

Throughout the campaign, Trump cast doubt about the integrity of the election and repeatedly suggested that mail-in ballots should not be counted. Both campaigns had teams of lawyers at the ready to move into battleground states if there were legal challenges.

The tight overall contest reflected a deeply polarized nation struggling to respond to the worst health crisis in more than a century, with millions of lost jobs, and a reckoning on racial injustice.

Trump kept several

states, including Texas, Iowa and Ohio, where Biden had made a strong play in the final stages of the campaign. But Biden also picked off states where Trump sought to compete, including New Hampshire and Minnesota. But Florida was the biggest, fiercely contested battleground on the map, with both campaigns battling over the 29 Electoral College votes that went to Trump.

The president adopted Florida as his new home state, wooed its Latino community, particularly Cuban-Americans, and held rallies there incessantly. For his part, Biden deployed his top surrogate — President Barack Obama — there twice in the campaign’s closing days and benefitted from a \$100 million pledge in the state from Michael Bloomberg.

Democrats entered the night confident not only in Biden’s prospects, but also

in the the party’s ability to take control of the Senate. But the GOP held several seats that were considered vulnerable, including in Iowa, Texas and Kansas. The House was expected to remain under Democratic control.

The coronavirus pandemic — and Trump’s handling of it — was the inescapable focus for 2020.

For Trump, the election stood as a judgment on his four years in office, a term in which he bent Washington to his will, challenged faith in its institutions and changed how America was viewed across the globe. Rarely trying to unite a country divided along lines of race and class, he has often acted as an insurgent against the government he led while undermining the nation’s scientists, bureaucracy and media.

The momentum from early voting carried into Election Day, as an energized electorate produced long lines at polling sites

throughout the country. Turnout was higher than in 2016 in numerous counties, including all of Florida, nearly every county in North Carolina and more than 100 counties in both Georgia and Texas. That tally seemed sure to increase as more counties reported their turnout figures.

Voters braved worries of the coronavirus, threats of polling place intimidation and expectations of long lines caused by changes to voting systems, but appeared undeterred as turnout appeared it would easily surpass the 139 million ballots cast four years ago.

No major problems arose on Tuesday, outside the typical glitches of a presidential election: Some polling places opened late, robocalls provided false information to voters in Iowa and Michigan, and machines or software malfunctioned in some counties in the battleground

states of Ohio, Pennsylvania, Georgia and Texas.

The cybersecurity agency at the Department of Homeland Security said there were no outward signs by midday of any malicious activity.

With the coronavirus now surging anew, voters ranked the pandemic and the economy as top concerns in the race between Trump and Biden, according to AP VoteCast, a national survey of the electorate.

Voters were especially likely to call the public health crisis the nation’s most important issue, with the economy following close behind. Fewer named health care, racism, law enforcement, immigration or climate change.

The survey found that Trump’s leadership loomed large in voters’ decision-making. Nearly two-thirds of voters said their vote was about Trump — either for him or against him.

NORTHWEST STOCKS					
Closing and 8:30 a.m. quotes					
Stock	Close	8:30			
Intel	44.84	45.80	NW Natural	45.73	44.85
Kroger	32.75	32.36	Skywest	29.45	29.11
Microsoft	206.31	216.79	Starbucks	88.37	90.71
Nike	124.72	128.09	Umpqua Hldgs	13.31	12.55
			Weyerhaeuser	28.39	28.66
			Xerox	18.71	18.21
			Levi Straus	16.07	15.60
			Dow Jones closed at	27,475.17	
			NASDAQ closed at	11,154.84	
			S&P 500 closed at	3,368.10	
			Provided by Coos Bay Edward Jones		

LOTTERY			
MegaMillions Nov. 3 7-31-44-45-55 Megaball: 19 Multiplier: x3 Jackpot: \$142 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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Oregon voters approve four statewide measures

The World

Voters in Oregon approved all four statewide measures, including one that made the state the first to decriminalize hard drugs and another that legalizes therapeutic use of psilocybin mushrooms.

The other statewide measures increase Oregon’s cigarette tax and add a tax on electronic cigarettes and vaping products, and amend the Oregon Constitution to allow for the state, counties and cities to place limits on political contributions and expenditures while also requiring disclosure of campaign contributions and expenditures.

Voters in Coos County opposed the two drug-related measures and favored the other two.

Measure 110 changes how Oregon’s justice system treats people found with personal-use amounts of the hard drugs.

“Today’s victory is a landmark declaration that the time has come to stop criminalizing people for drug use,” Cassandra Frederique, executive director of the Drug Policy Alliance, which was behind the hard-drugs measure, told the Associated Press. “Measure 110 is arguably the biggest blow to the war on drugs to date.”

Statewide, the measure was passing 1,119,932 votes to 775,102 (59.10% to 40.90%). Coos County voters opposed the measure 17,169 to 14,424 (54.34% to 45.66%) in the first tallies released by the county.

Under Measure 110, instead of going to trial and facing possible jail time, a person would have the option of paying a \$100 fine or attending new “addiction recovery centers.”

The centers would be funded by millions of dol-

State Measures		
	Votes	Pct.
M107 Limiting Political Contributions		
Yes	1560089	78.12
No	437073	21.88
M108 Cigarette and Cigar Tax Increase		
Yes	1379344	66.26
No	702407	33.74
M109 Legalize Psychoactive Mushroom		
Yes	1166963	55.88
No	921437	44.12
M110 Provide Statewide Addiction/Recovery Services		
Yes	1215670	58.60
No	858858	41.40

lars of tax revenue from the legalized, regulated marijuana industry in the state that was the country’s first to decriminalize marijuana possession.

“This is such a big step in moving to a health-based approach instead of criminal punishment, and we’re devoting significant new resources to help Oregonians who need it,” said Janie Gullickson, co-chief petitioner of Measure 110, in a story by The Associated Press.

Among those in support of the Oregon measure were the Oregon Nurses Association and the Oregon chapter of the American College of Physicians.

But two dozen district attorneys said the measure “recklessly decriminalizes possession of the most dangerous types of drugs (and) will lead to an increase in acceptability of dangerous drugs.”

Measure 109 allows the manufacture and controlled, therapeutic use of psilocybin, also known as magic mushrooms.

Statewide, voters were approving the measure 1,056,823 votes to 823,477 (56.21% to 43.79%).

Coos County voters opposed that measure 17,321 votes to 14,282 (54.81% to 45.19%).

Measure 108 increases Oregon’s cigarette tax by \$2 per pack and adds a 65% tax on electronic cigarettes and vaping products, which are not currently taxed. The funds would be used for public health programs including smoking prevention and cessation programs.

Statewide, the measure was passing 1,297,954 votes to 650,627 (66.61% to 33.39%). Coos County voters favored it by a narrower margin, 17,589 votes to 14,724 (54.43% to 45.57%).

And Measure 107, which allows the state, counties and cities to place limitations on political contributions and expenditures — currently there is no limit on contributions to candidates or ballot measures — was passing statewide 1,480,115 votes to 446,893 (76.81% to 23.19%). Coos County voters favored the measure 22,677 votes to 8,574 (72.56% to 27.44%).

Editor’s Note: The Associated Press contributed to this story.

Public health may be election loser as coronavirus surges

Regardless of the presidential election outcome, a vexing issue remains to be decided: Will the U.S. be able to tame a perilous pandemic that is surging as holidays, winter and other challenges approach?

Public health experts fear the answer is no, at least in the short term, with potentially dire consequences.

Donald Trump’s current term doesn’t end until Jan. 20. In the 86 days until then, 100,000 more Americans will likely die from the virus if the president doesn’t shift course, said Dr. Robert Murphy, executive director of the Institute for Global Health at Northwestern University’s Feinberg School of Medicine, echoing estimates from other public health experts.

As of Wednesday, the race was too close to call, with several key battleground states still counting votes.

The U.S. death toll is already more than 232,000 and the seven-day rolling average for new daily deaths is rising. Total confirmed U.S. cases have surpassed 9 million and new daily infections are increasing in nearly every state.

“Where we are is in an extremely dire place as a country. Every metric that we have is trending in the wrong direction. This is a virus that will continue to escalate at an accelerated speed and that is not going to stop on its own,” said Dr. Leana Wen, a public health expert at George Washington University.

Dr. Susan Bailey, president of the American

Medical Association, said there are things Americans can do now to help change the trajectory.

“Regardless of the outcome of the election, everyone in America needs to buckle down,” Bailey said.

“A lot of us have gotten kind of relaxed about physically distancing, not washing our hands quite as often as we used to, maybe not wearing our masks quite as faithfully. We all need to realize that things are escalating and we’ve got to be more careful than ever,” she said.

Polls showed the public health crisis and the economy were top concerns for many Americans.

They are competing issues that Trump and Democratic contender Joe Biden view through drastically different lenses.

Trump has ignored the advice of his top health advisors, who have issued increasingly urgent warnings in recent days about the need for preventive measures, instead holding rallies where face coverings were rare and falsely suggesting that the pandemic is waning.

By contrast, Democrat Joe Biden has rarely been seen in public without a mask and made public health a key issue. Whether his voice will carry much influence if Trump is declared the winner is uncertain.

“President Trump has already made clear what his strategy is for COVID-19, which is to pretend that there is not a contagious virus all around us,” Wen said. Trump has been touting treatments and

vaccines, which won’t be widely available to all Americans until at least mid-2021, she noted.

“There’s a lot of suffering that is going to happen before then, which could have been prevented,” Wen said.

Federal health officials have said they believe a vaccine could get emergency use authorization before the end of the year. The first limited supplies of doses would then be immediately distributed to the most vulnerable populations. Doses would then gradually become more widely available.

The timeline hinges on having a vaccine that’s shown to be safe and effective, which experts note is not yet a certainty. “The vaccine has to move at the speed of science,” said Dr. Joshua Sharfstein, vice dean for public health practice at Johns Hopkins University and former Maryland state health department chief.

On the treatment front, the makers of two experimental antibody drugs have asked the Food and Drug Administration to allow emergency use of them for people with mild to moderate COVID-19, and Trump, who received one when he was sickened last month, has said he wanted them available right away.

So far, the FDA has granted full approval to only one drug — the antiviral remdesivir — for hospitalized patients. Dexamethasone or similar steroids are recommended for certain severely ill patients under federal treatment guidelines.

Organizations rebuke Trump on results

(AP) - In a stunning scene in the middle of the night, news organizations rebuked President Donald Trump after he falsely said on live television that he had won reelection even as votes were still being counted.

With reporters and supporters gathered at the White House at 2:20 a.m. Eastern, the president said it was “a major fraud on our nation” that he hadn’t been declared the winner. “As far as I’m concerned, we already have won this,” he said.

The words were barely out of his mouth before television anchors rushed to refute him.

CBS News’ Norah O’Donnell said Trump was “castrating the facts” by “falsely claiming that he has won the election and disenfranchising millions of voters whose ballots have not been counted.”

“Donald Trump is losing right now both in the popular vote and the electoral vote and there are many states left to be called,” ABC News’ George Stephanopoulos said.

Said NBC News’ Savannah Guthrie, “The fact of the matter is we don’t know who won the election.” Guthrie had interrupted Trump’s speech to tell viewers that several of Trump’s statements were not true.

The Associated Press said that at the time of Trump’s statement, its count had Trump winning 213 electoral votes to Democrat Joe Biden’s 225. The AP has determined that it’s too early to declare a winner in several states, including Pennsylvania, Georgia and Michigan.

It was an explosive moment after a frazzled nation had sat through hours of uncertainty. Media outlets had warned for weeks that Americans would have to be patient waiting for a decision in the bitter campaign between Biden and Trump, and repeatedly drove that point home through their election night coverage.

Biden had spoken to supporters at 12:42 a.m. in Delaware, expressing confidence in his campaign and saying he wanted to see every vote counted.

“Keep the faith, guys, we’re going to win this,” Biden said.

Trump had immediately responded with a tweet saying “we are up BIG, but they are trying to STEAL the election. We will never let them do it.”

The president’s address, after he was ushered to a podium to the sound of “Hail to the Chief,” received criticism in what are normally friendlier outlets.

“This is an extremely flammable situation and the president just threw a match into it,” said Fox News Channel’s Chris Wallace.

His Fox colleague, former George W. Bush administration aide Dana Perino, said, “he just went a step too far.” Conservative commentator Ben Shapiro tweeted that it was “deeply irresponsible” for Trump to claim victory.

The president’s team was angry at Fox News Channel for striking out ahead of other news organizations in declaring that Biden had defeated Trump in the battleground state of Arizona. It would have been the first state to flip parties from 2016, and was crucial in the path to 270 electoral votes and victory.

Fox’s Bret Baier, noting the network was taking “incoming,” put decision desk chief Arnon Mishkin on the air. He explained that with the bulk of uncounted votes in Arizona cast early and thus more likely for Biden, Trump would not be able to catch up to the Democrat’s lead in that state.

“I’m sorry, but we’re not wrong in this particular case,” Mishkin said. The AP eventually called Arizona for Biden at 2:52 a.m.

Millions of people following election coverage on the East Coast went to bed before all the drama, and without knowing the answer to the question they had waited hours for: Who’s going to be in the White House for the next four years?

The president also expressed anger at news organizations for not declaring him the winner in Georgia and North Carolina, where he held leads. CNN’s John King explained that there was still doubt given there were votes still to be counted in regions where Biden was expected to do well.

It was emerging that the presidency hinged on the Midwest battlegrounds of Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania.

“We’ve been saying for a long time that anything could happen, this is a very competitive race and that ... it really was going to come down to these three states,” said CNN’s Jake Tapper. “That’s happening, and yet it still feels like people didn’t hear it when we were telling them that the previous three weeks.”

Prior to the appearances by the two candidates, the night’s mood ebbed and flowed like a tide, and almost as predictably. Experts had said voters would be confused by the vast amount of early votes that were more likely to support Biden, and the different practices of states in when they would count them and the Election Day votes that favored Trump.

That proved to be the case when initial leads for Biden in Ohio and North Carolina that briefly heartened his supporters were suddenly erased. When Trump gained the lead in the Midwest battlegrounds, the question became whether Biden could overcome him when all early votes were counted.

On the television networks, it put the spotlight on numbers geeks like CNN’s John King and MSNBC’s Steve Kornacki. MSNBC kept a “Kornacki cam” on their man as he studied voting data.

DEAR ABBYBy Abigail Van Buren

RECENTLY MARRIED WOMAN CAN'T STOMACH HUSBAND'S NEGATIVITY

DEAR ABBY: I am a 39-year-old woman who has been in a relationship for five years and married for two. Abby, I am consumed with regret for marrying this man. He's loyal and has a good job, but he spends most of our money on food (eating out at work, drinking expensive beers, buying tools, etc.) and he is probably the most negative person I know. His negativity is so overwhelming it has pulled me down closer to his level than where I started when we met.

I feel trapped. I don't want to be single at 40, and I know somewhere in there I love him, so I'm working on my own energy so it won't affect me so much. He just makes everything so miserable with his attitude. He exudes bad energy. He pouts, throws temper tantrums, is rude, condescending, and EVERYONE around him can feel his bad moods. He has only recently started therapy and I want to be patient, but I have this loop playing in my head -- "I hate his guts!" I know it's not true, but I am so resentful and remorseful for marrying him. Is there anything I can do to save my marriage? Is it even worth it? -- SECOND THOUGHTS IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR SECOND THOUGHTS: There is something you can do, and I sincerely hope you will take it to heart. Recognize that "pouting, temper tantrums, condescension and (constant) negativity" is hostile and abusive. I am glad your husband is receiving professional help to improve his behavior and attitude. Now it's time for you to do the same. If you do, it will help you to clear your head and your soul.

P.S. Saving your marriage will have to be a joint effort. This is not something you can do on your own.

DEAR ABBY: I've been dealing with some emotional stress for well over a year. I've recently found out my wife's ex was much more well-endowed than I am. I understand that's not the most important thing, but it is messing with me mentally. One reason is, a long time ago when she was drunk, she asked me why it was so small. When I came across pictures of him, it all came back.

I feel like we need to talk about it, but I don't know how to start. I know she will get mad and I don't think she would tell me the truth. A lot of things go along with these feelings, which is part of why it bothers me so much. I probably need to just let it go, but it continues to haunt me. We have been married a long time and have had our share of problems. How do I get past this? Any help or guidance would be greatly appreciated. -- NOT MEASURING UP IN ALABAMA

DEAR NOT MEASURING UP: What, exactly, is the "truth" you are afraid your wife will conceal if you bring this out in the open? If she thought you couldn't satisfy her needs, she wouldn't have married you. The question I would like answered is where those old photos were when you stumbled across them.

Were you going through her belongings because you feel insecure about things other than your anatomy? This does need to be discussed when you are both sober, because if you remain silent, your insecurity will only grow worse. Please don't wait to do it.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

eEdition

Bandon, Lakeside, Powers mayors reelected

The World

The mayors in Bandon, Lakeside and Powers won reelection in final unofficial results in final unofficial results from Coos County on Tuesday night, while Myrtle Point and Coquille will have new mayors.

In Bandon, Mary Schamehorn beat challenger Nancy Evans, 1,059 votes to 756 (57.34% to 40.93%).

In the race for the three seats on the Bandon City Council, Brian Vick had the most votes with 887, followed by Patrick Salandro with 828 and Geri Prochetto with 765. Geoffrey Smith was fourth with 728 votes and Robin Boyan fifth with 688.

In Coquille, Sam Flaherty beat Matt Rowe in the race for the open mayor’s seat. Flaherty had 1,243 votes (63.03%) and Rowe 715 (36.26%).

In the race for the three council seats, Jay Westrum led with 1,243 votes, while John Cooper had 1,228 and Julie Nighswonger 1,225. They all were far ahead of the fourth contender, Paul Recanzone, who had 658 votes.

In Lakeside, James Edwards kept his mayoral seat, with 649 votes to

424 for Michael Lendahl (59.87% to 39.11%).

Kenneth Ireland led the City Council vote with 716 votes, while Thomas Miller had 676 and Donald Nuss 586. Michael Armstrong, the other candidate, had 462 votes.

In Myrtle Point, Mike West beat incumbent Mayor Bill Schaefer, 627 votes to 501 (54.86% to 43.83%).

Only three candidates were running for the three council seats, Mike Wood, Michael Hogan and Gary Sullivan.

And in Powers, incumbent Robert Kohn was reelected as mayor, with 227 votes to 114 for Michael Maffei (60.53% to 30.40%).

There were just three candidates for the three council seats, Wanda Blanton, James Clauson and Ben Drake.

In Port Orford, Pat Cox was unopposed for mayor. Gary Burns (514 votes), Tim Pogwizd (451) and Gregory Tidey (446) earned spots on the City Council, far ahead of Kim Nye (268).

In Reedsport, all positions were unopposed. Linda McCollum was reelected Mayor and the three incumbent councilors also were reelected, Jeffrey Vanier, Deedee Murphy and Jeff Liedtky.

City of Bandon

Mayor		
Name	Votes	Pct.
Mary Schamehorn	1059	57.34
Nancy Evans	756	40.93

Councilor (vote for 3)		
Name	Votes	Pct.
Gei Prochetto	765	19.35
Brian Vick	887	22.44
Patrick Salandro	828	20.95
Robin Boyan	688	17.40
Geoffrey Smith	728	18.42

City of Coquille

Mayor		
Name	Votes	Pct.
Matt Rowe	715	36.26
Sam Flaherty	1243	63.03

Councilor (vote for 3)		
Name	Votes	Pct.
Paul Recanzone	658	14.90
Julie Nighswonger	1225	27.75
John Cooper1228	27.81	
Jay Westrum	1243	28.15

City of Lakeside

Mayor		
Name	Votes	Pct.
James Edwards	659	59.87
Michael Lendahl	424	39.11

Councilor (vote for 3)		
Name	Votes	Pct.
Thomas Miller	676	27.50
Donald Nuss	586	23.84
Kenneth Ireland	716	29.13
Michael Armstrong	462	18.80

City of Myrtle Point

Mayor		
Name	Votes	Pct.
Bill Schaefer501	43.83	
Mike West	627	54.86

Councilor (vote for 3)		
Name	Votes	Pct.
Michael Hogan	787	33.89
Garry Sullivan	735	31.65
Mike Wood	756	32.56

City of Powers

Mayor		
Name	Votes	Pct.
Robert Kohn	227	60.53
Michael Maffei	114	30.40

Councilor (vote for 3)		
Name	Votes	Pct.
Ben Drake	131	14.80
James Clauson	238	26.89
Wanda Barton	250	28.25

City of Port Orford

Mayor		
Name	Votes	Pct.
Pat Cox	541	93.44

Councilor (vote for 3)		
Name	Votes	Pct.
Tim Pogwizd	451	25.35
Gregory Tidey	446	25.07
Gary Burns	514	28.89
Kim Nye	268	15.06

City of Reedsport

Mayor		
Name	Votes	Pct.
Linda McCollum	1544	94.61

Councilor (vote for 3)		
Name	Votes	Pct.
Jeffrey Vanier	1409	97.71
Deedee Murphy	1519	97.75
Joe Liedtky	1425	98.07

Democrats losing paths to Senate majority

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hopes fading for Senate control, Democrats had a disappointing election night as Republicans swatted down an onslaught of challengers and fought to retain their fragile majority. Several races remained undecided into Wednesday and at least one headed to a runoff in January.

It was a jarring outcome for Democrats who had devised an expanded political map, eager to provide a backdrop against President Donald Trump and his party’s grip on the Senate. The races attracted an unprecedented outpouring of small-dollar donations from Americans apparently voting with their pocket-books to propel long-shot campaigns.

The voters’ choices will force a rethinking of Democratic Party strategy, messaging and approach from the Trump era.

While Democrats picked up must-win seats in Colorado and Arizona, they suffered a setback in Alabama, and Republicans held their own in one race after another — in South Carolina, Iowa, Texas, Kansas and Montana, dramatically limiting the places where Democrats hoped to make inroads.

“You wasted a lot of money,” said White House ally Sen. Lindsey Graham in Columbia, South Carolina, after defeating Jamie Harrison, despite the Democrat’s stunning \$100 million haul for his upstart campaign. “This is the worst return on investment in the history of American politics.”

Trump loomed large over the Senate races as did Democratic rival Joe Biden. The Trump administration’s handling of the COVID-19 crisis, its economic fallout and the nation’s uneasy mood all seemed to be on the ballot.

Voters ranked the pandemic and the economy as top concerns, according to AP VoteCast, a national survey of the electorate.

“It’s time for a different approach,” said Democrat John Hickenlooper, a former governor who unseated Republican Sen. Cory Gardner in Colorado, during a live

video message posted on Facebook.

Yet voters, for the most part, stuck with the status quo.

Securing the Senate majority will be vital for the winner of the presidency. Senators confirm administration nominees, including the Cabinet, and can propel or stall the White House agenda. With Republicans now controlling the chamber, 53-47, three or four seats will determine party control, depending on who wins the presidency because the vice president can break a tie in the Senate.

Democrats contested seats from New England to the Deep South and the Midwest to the Mountain West, reaching deep into GOP strongholds. But by early Wednesday, the tally was not too different from before Election Day.

The Democrats’ gains were in Colorado and Arizona, where former astronaut Mark Kelly beat GOP incumbent Martha McSally. But they couldn’t hold on in Alabama: Former college football coach Tommy Tuberville defeated Sen. Doug Jones.

Several battlegrounds broke for Republicans: In South Carolina, Graham survived the race of his political career against Harrison in Texas, Sen. John Cornyn turned back former Air Force helicopter pilot MJ Hegar in Iowa, Sen. Joni Ernst defeated Democrat Theresa Greenfield in a race seen as a toss-up in Montana, Sen. Steve Daines routed Gov. Steve Bullock and in Kansas, Rep. Roger Marshall prevailed over state Sen. Barbara Bollier, a former Republican who energized Democrats in a state that hasn’t elected a Democrat to the Senate since 1932.

The final breakdown awaited the outcome of races in Alaska, Maine, Michigan, North Carolina and Maine.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell acknowledged the uncertainty still ahead even after he secured a seventh term in Kentucky, fending off Democrat Amy McGrath, a former fighter pilot in a costly campaign.

“We don’t know which party will control the Senate,” McConnell said from Louisville. “But some things are certain already. We know grave challenges will remain before us, challenges that could not care less about our political polarization. We know our next president will need to unite the country, even as we all continue to bring different ideas and commitments to the table.”

North Carolina Republican Sen. Thom Tillis has struggled against Democrat Cal Cunningham, despite the married challenger’s sexting scandal with a public relations strategist.

And in Maine the race between GOP Sen. Susan Collins and Democrat Sara Gideon could be another one that pushes later into the week. If no one in the multi-candidate field breaks the 50% threshold in the first-round votes, then there are additional tabulations in which last-place finishers are eliminated. Under the state’s rank-choice system the tabulations continue until a candidate achieves a majority.

In Georgia, two seats were being contested and at least one is headed to a runoff after no candidate reached the 50% threshold to win.

GOP Sen. Kelly Loeffler will face Democrat Raphael Warnock, a Black pastor at the church where the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. preached, in the Jan. 5 runoff special election for the seat Loeffler was tapped to fill for retired Sen. Johnny Isakson.

In the other, GOP Sen. David Perdue, the former business executive Trump calls his favorite senator, tried to stave off Democrat Jon Ossoff, another candidate who has benefited from the “green wave” of campaign donations. It, too, could go to a runoff.

Republicans were on defense in most states. But in the presidential battleground of Michigan, Republicans made an aggressive push for John James, a Black Republican businessman who stood by Trump at a rally late Monday, against Democratic Sen. Gary Peters.

In South Carolina, Graham eventually caught up with Harrison’s fundraising as the Senate Judiciary Committee chairman led the confirmation of Trump’s Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett, sometimes making pleas for cash during appearances on TV.

Harrison energized voters, among several Black candidates for Senate including Warnock, drawing an outpouring of national support in a year of racial reckoning.

“We didn’t get the result at the ballot box that we wanted, but we showed courage and determination,” Harrison said on Twitter. “We brought hope back to South Carolina.”

Stuck in Washington as McConnell rushed the Senate to confirm Barrett a week before Election Day, senators quickly fanned out — some alongside the president — for last-ditch tours, often socially distanced in the pandemic, to shore up votes.

Democrats tried to win over voters promising to protect access to health care and provide a plan to reserve the COVID crisis. Republicans promoted their alliance with Trump, and their success in confirming conservative judicial nominees, including three to the Supreme Court.

The political landscape is quickly changing from six years ago, when most of these senators last faced voters. It’s a reminder of how sharply the political climate has shifted in the Trump era. Or not.

In Alaska, newcomer Al Gross, a doctor, broke state fundraising records in part with viral campaign ads as he took on GOP Sen. Dan Sullivan.

The Senate will welcome some newcomers as others retire. In New Mexico, Democrat Ben Ray Lujan, a member of House leadership, was elected to the seat held by Democrat Tom Udall. Tennessee Republican Bill Hagerty won the seat held by Republican Lamar Alexander. Republican Cynthia Lummis, the former congresswoman from Wyoming, won the Senate seat being vacated by Republican Mike Enzi.

Curry County Voting

President		
Name	Votes	Pct.
Donald J. Trump (Republican)	11103	73.21
Joseph R. Biden (Democrat)	3715	24.50
Jo Jorgensen (Libertarian)	221	1.46
Howie Hawkins (Pacific Green)	41	0.27
Dario Hunter (Progressive)	16	0.11

U.S. Senator		
Name	Votes	Pct.
Jo Rae Perkins (Republican)	17537	54.69
Jeff Merkley (Democrat)	13601	42.41
Ibrahim A Tahner (Pacific Green)	380	1.19
Gary Dye (Libertarian)	535	1.67

U.S. Representative 4th District		
Name	Votes	Pct.
Peter DeFazio (Democrat)	5965	41.08
Alek Skarlatos (Republican)	8233	56.69
Daniel Hoffay (Pacific Green)	321	2.21

Secretary of State		
Name	Votes	Pct.
Nathalie Paravicini (Pacific Green)	329	2.31
Kyle Markley (Libertarian)	360	2.52
Kim Thatcher (Republican)	8299	58.20
Shemia Fagan (Democrat)	5266	36.93

State Treasurer		
Name	Votes	Pct.
Michael P Marsh (Constitution)	370	2.61
Tobias Reed (Democrat)	5431	38.37
Chris Henry (Independent)	509	3.60
Jeff Gudman (Republican)	7842	55.41

Attorney General		
Name	Votes	Pct.
Ellen Rosenblum (Democrat)	5781	40.81
Michael Cross (Republican)	8073	56.99
Lars DH Hedbor (Libertarian)	301	2.12

State Senator District 1		
Name	Votes	Pct.
Dallas Heard (Republican)	8540	65.40
Kat Stone (Democrat)	4498	34.45

State Representative District 1		
Name	Votes	Pct.
Calla Felicity (Democrat)	11955	32.42
Davie Brock Smith (Republican)	24871	67.44

State Measures		
Votes	Pct.	
M107 Limiting Political Contributions		
Yes	10557	75.20
No	3482	24.80
M108 Cigarette and Cigar Tax Increase		
Yes	8584	59.50
No	5842	40.50
M109 Legalize Psychoactive Mushroom		
Yes	7144	50.25
No	7074	49.75
M110 Statewide Addiction/Recovery Services		
Yes	7453	52.46
No	6755	47.54

Main, Simms win bids for reelection

The World

Coos County Commissioner Bob Main and Treasurer Megan Simms won reelection in their races in the final unofficial results for the county released late Tuesday night.

Main beat Katy Eymann 17,610 votes to 14,010 (55.44% to 44.11%).

Simms beat challenger Steve Scheer 16,577 votes to 11,942 (57.91% to 41.72%).

“I would just like to thank everyone for their support and I look forward to being Coos County’s treasurer,” Simms said by text Wednesday morning.

In countywide measures, a proposed Charleston area tax on short-term lodging fell in a tight race, 17,098 votes to 16,226 (51.31% to 48.69%).

Meanwhile, the proposed Second Amendment Sanctuary Ordinance also lost, 18,022 votes

to 15,159 (54.31% to 45.69%).

Bandon’s school bond won by a wide margin, 2,783 votes to 1,493 (65.08% to 34.92%).

Myrtle Point’s proposed tax for recreational marijuana sales won 793 votes to 499 (61.38% to 38.62%).

A pair of Lakeside ordinances involving ATV access had opposite results. Measure 6-182, which would allow ATV access in the city, lost 698 votes to 567 (55.18% to 44.82%). Meanwhile, Measure 6-183, which continues ATV access to the dunes approved by the City Council in June, passed 772 to 470 (62.16% to 37.84%).

A Coquille measure that would allow people to qualify for ballots through a nomination fee failed badly 1,569 votes to 388 (80.17% to 19.83%).

Marijuana taxes also

passed in both Reedsport and Port Orford.

Reedsport’s measure passed 1084 votes to 823 (56.84% to 43.16%).

Port Orford’s measure passed 428 votes to 316 (57.53% to 42.47%).

In Curry County’s races for countywide office, John Herzog unseated County Commissioner Sue Gold, with Herzog received 6,836 votes to 5,970 for Gold (53.19% to 46.45%).

Renee Kolen won reelection as county clerk overwhelmingly, with 9,144 votes to 3,222 for Emma DeRock (73.77% to 25.99%).

Terry Hanscam won the race to replace retiring Treasurer Debbie Crumley. Hanscam had 6,544 votes to 5,351 for Elizabeth Neketin (54.84% to 44.85%).

Sheriff John Ward was unopposed in his reelection bid.

Republicans leading in South Coast state legislature races

The World

Republican Boomer Wright has beaten Cal Mukumoto in the race to represent House District 9, while the state senate race between Dick Anderson and Melissa Cribbins for District 5 is too close to call, state results show.

Wright leads with 57.49% of the vote over Mukumoto’s 42.41%.

Wright was leading in the portions of Coos, Douglas and Lane counties that make up the district, while Mukumoto held a significant lead in the Lincoln County portion of the district.

In an email less than an hour after the initial results, Wright’s campaign declared victory in the race.

“I am deeply honored by the trust and confidence placed in me by the voters of House District 9,” Wright said in an announcement from Wright’s campaign. “I will do everything I can to humbly and sincerely represent our strong coastal voices.”

Wright, a former teacher and school administrator, would increase Republicans’ representation in a solidly Democratic state legislature. The District 9 seat has been held since 2012 by Democrat Caddy McKeown, who announced she wouldn’t be running for reelection.

Across the four counties, Wright’s received 21,341 votes to Mukumoto’s 15,744.

Oregon Senate District 9 still too close to call

In the senate race, Dick Anderson had a slight

State Races			
State Senator District 1			
Name	Votes	Pct.	
Dallas Heard (Republican)	50510	68.61	
Kat Stone (Democrat)	22984	31.22	
State Senator District 5			
Name	Votes	Pct.	
Dick Anderson (Republican)	37182	49.32	
Shauleen Higgins (Pacific Green)	3010	3.99	
Melissa Cribbins (Democrat)	35125	46.59	
State Representative District 1			
Name	Votes	Pct.	
Calla Felicity (Democrat)	12502	31.04	
David Brock Smith (Republican)	27711	68.80	
State Representative District 9			
Name	Votes	Pct.	
Cal Mukumoto (Democrat)	15744	42.41	
Boomer Wright (Republican)	21341	57.49	

lead over Cribbins, with 49.32% of the vote to her 46.59%. Pacific Green party candidate and Lakeside city councilor Shauleen Higgins had just under 4% of the vote.

Anderson was ahead in the Coos, Douglas, Lane, Polk, Tillamook and Yamhill county portions of that district, while Cribbins was ahead in the Lincoln County portion.

Anderson, the mayor of Lincoln City, beat Cribbins in Coos County with 53.92% of the vote to her 41.44%, despite Cribbins’ local name recognition as the chair of the Coos County board of commissioners.

The seat is currently held by Arnie Roblan, a Democrat who also announced he wouldn’t be running for reelection, and could be another pick-up

for Oregon Republicans.

Republican incumbents win in Curry County

The incumbents in the two races in the southwest corner of the state easily won reelection.

In State Senate District 1, Dallas Heard, a Republican, had a big lead on Kat Stone. Heard had 50,510 votes and Stone 22,984 (68.81% to 31.22%).

And in House District 1, Republican David Brock Smith had a similarly big lead on Democrat Calla Felicity, 27,711 votes to 12,502 (68.80% to 31.04%).

The two races include parts of Curry and southern Coos counties, as well as parts of Douglas and Josephine counties.

This story was updated with the latest results at 8 a.m.

Coos County			
Commissioner			
Name	Votes	Pct.	
Katy Eymann	14010	44.11	
Bob Main	17610	55.44	
Treasurer			
Name	Votes	Pct.	
Steve Scheer	11942	41.72	
Megan Simms	16577	57.91	
Local Measures			
Votes		Pct.	
6-181, Second Amendment Sanctuary			
Yes	15159	45.69	
No	18022	54.31	
6-185 Charleston Area Lodging Tax			
Yes	16226	48.69	
No	17098	51.31	
6-187 Coquille Nomination Fee			
Yes	388	19.83	
No	1569	80.17	
6-182 Lakeside ATV Access			
Yes	567	44.82	
No	698	55.18	
6-183 Lakeside Continuation ATV Access			
Yes	772	62.16	
No	470	37.84	
6-184 Myrtle Point Marijuana Tax			
Yes	772	62.16	
No	470	37.84	
Curry County			
County Clerk			
Renee Kolen	9144	73.77	
Emma DeRock	3222	25.99	
Commissioner			
Sue Gold	5970	46.45	
John Herzog	6836	53.19	
Sheriff			
John Ward	10165	95.93	
Treasurer			
Elizabeth Neketin	5351	44.85	
Terry C. Hanscam	6544	54.84	
Local Measures			
Votes		Pct.	
City of Port Orford marijuana tax			
Yes	428	57.53	
No	316	Q42.47	

Charleston lodging tax, gun rights ordinance fail

The World

Voters weighed in on a number of controversial ballot measures across Coos County Tuesday, including a gun rights ordinance and tax measure which failed, and more city measures which succeeded.

Second Amendment Sanctuary Ordinance fails

The Second Amendment Sanctuary Ordinance is lagging in Coos County, final unofficial returns show. The measure was receiving only 44.60% support from County voters.

Supporters say the measure would have prohibited county officials from enforcing state and federal gun laws, while opponents said it would have been difficult to enforce and may have caused confusion for law enforcement.

A similar measure in Columbia County was also lagging after initial returns, while one in Umatilla County was leading handily.

Lakeside keeps ATVs on route, but not on all city streets

Voters supported a Lakeside city ordinance that would maintain an ATV route through the city, while a ballot measure that would have allowed ATV use on all city streets is behind in initial returns.

The ordinance to allow city-wide ATV use, 6-182, received only 44.31% support. The other ballot measure, 6-183, which would maintain the status quo of a designated ATV use route through the city to the Spinreel Dunes received 61.02% support, according to the county’s final results.

Charleston lodging tax a close fail

County voters narrowly rejected a measure authorizing a tax on short-term lodging in Charleston. The measure, 6-185, only received 49.07% support, the final unofficial results show.

That measure would have imposed a 9.5% tax on lodging any guests at hotels, motels, RV parks and other short-term accommodations in Charleston and nearby areas. The revenue would’ve gone primarily to promoting tourism in the area.

Bandon school bond appears to pass

Bandon voters supported a bond measure for the Bandon School District, with final returns showing the measure passing by a strong 65.41% of the vote.

The measure will allow the district to issue \$4 million in bonds, which will give the district a matching \$4 million grant from the state. The funds will be used for building security improvements, construction of a bus barn, improvements to lighting and HVAC systems and track resurfacing, among other improvements.

Marijuana tax measures passing in three cities

Taxes on recreational marijuana purchases were passing in Reedsport, Port Myrtle Point and Port Orford, according to ballot returns. Measures in those cities had 56.84%, 61.26% and 57.53%, respectively.

Those measures allow each of the cities to tax the sale of recreational marijuana for up to 3% of the purchase price, the amount allowed by the state law which legalized the sale of the product.

Quake toll rises to 116 in Turkey; rescuers search

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — The death toll in last week’s Aegean Sea earthquake rose to 116 on Wednesday as rescuers in the Turkish city of Izmir finished searching buildings that collapsed in the quake.

All but two of the victims were killed in Izmir, Turkey’s third-largest city. Two teenagers died on the Greek island of Samos, which lies south of the epicenter of Friday’s earthquake. The U.S. Geological Survey registered the quake’s magnitude at 7.0,

although other agencies recorded it as less severe.

Mehmet Gulluoglu, head of Turkey’s Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency, said search and rescue operations had been completed at 17 buildings that fell in Izmir. The rescue operation has been roaring at full tilt since Friday, pulling 107 survivors from the rubble.

Of the 1,035 people injured in the quake, 137 remained hospitalized on Wednesday, the agency added.

Following a Cabinet

meeting on Tuesday evening, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan pledged not to give up until the final person was recovered. Rescuers’ spirits were raised Tuesday when they pulled a 3-year-old girl from the wreckage of her family home 91 hours after the quake.

The tremors were felt across western Turkey, including in Istanbul, as well as in the Greek capital of Athens. Some 1,700 aftershocks followed, 45 of which were greater than 4.0 magnitude.

U.S. leaves Paris Agreement

BERLIN (AP) — The United States on Wednesday formally left the Paris Agreement, a global pact forged five years ago to avert the threat of catastrophic climate change.

The move, long threatened by U.S. President Donald Trump and triggered by his administration a year ago, further isolates Washington in the world but has no immediate impact on international efforts to curb global warming.

There are 189 countries that remain committed to the 2015 Paris accord, which aims to keep the increase in average tem-

peratures worldwide “well below” 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit), ideally no more than 1.5C (2.7 F), compared to pre-industrial levels. A further six countries have signed, but not ratified the pact.

Scientists say that any rise beyond 2 degrees Celsius could have a devastating impact on large parts of the world, raising sea levels, stoking tropical storms and worsening droughts and floods.

The Paris accord requires countries to set their own voluntary targets for reducing greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide.

The only binding requirement is that nations have to accurately report on their efforts.

The United States is the world’s second biggest emitter after China of heat-trapping gases such as carbon dioxide and its contribution to cutting emissions is seen as important, but it is not alone in the effort. In recent weeks, China, Japan and South Korea have joined the European Union and several other countries in setting national deadlines to stop pumping more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

Darsch was the inaugural coach of the New York Liberty in 1997. She helped the team reach the WNBA Finals that first season when they lost to the Houston Comets.