



CLINTON
1947, October 26
Born in Chicago, Illinois

1969
Earns a J.D. from Yale Law School. Meets Bill Clinton

1974-1975
Lawyer at the Children Defense Fund

1980
Birth of her only child, Chelsea

1993-2001
US First Lady

2001-09
Senator for New York

Aug 2008
Loses Democratic nomination to Barack Obama

2009-2013
US Secretary of State in the Obama Administration

Sep 11, 2012
Criticised for her management of security after the US diplomatic compound in Libya is attacked

March, 2015
Controversy over her use of private email server for official correspondence while Secretary of State

April, 2015
Candidate to become the Democratic presidential nominee

June, 2016
Becomes democratic presidential candidate

Nov 8, 2016
Faces Donald Trump in the US presidential election



US President Barack Obama, US first lady Michelle Obama and US Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton react on stage during a campaign event in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, US on Monday night. US Republican Presidential candidate Donald Trump addresses the final rally of his 2016 presidential campaign at Devos Place in Grand Rapids, Michigan.



PHOTO: REUTERS, AFP



TRUMP
1946, June 14
Born in New York

1964-1968
Receives bachelor's degree in economics from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania

1971
Takes over his father's real estate company

1977
First of three marriages

1978
Birth of Donald John Trump Jr., the first of his five children

1983
Builds the Trump Tower in New York

1987-99
Joins Republican Party

1999-2001
Joins Reform Party

2001-2009
Rejoins the Democrats

2004-2015
Hosts the TV reality show "The Apprentice"

2012
Returns to the Republicans

June 2015
Candidate to become the Republicans' presidential nominee

May 2016
Wins the Republican nomination

Nov 8, 2016
Faces Hillary Clinton in the US presidential election

Record 50m early voters boost Clinton

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A record number of Americans have voted ahead of Election Day, driven by soaring turnout from Latino voters which could help clinch the Presidency for former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

At least 43.2 million people have cast ballots by early voting — by mail or at polling stations, according to Associated Press data. Record levels have been reported in 23 states and the District of Columbia. Millions more ballots are still coming in.

The AP estimates that early votes could top 50 million. That comes to nearly 40 percent of all ballots in a presidential election expected to have high turnout overall due to intense public interest. In 2012, there were 46 million early votes, or 35 percent.

The latest numbers show declines in voting from blacks in North Carolina — a drop-off after historic levels for Barack Obama in 2008 and 2012. But higher turnout by Latinos, who often lean Democratic, may be buoying Clinton in Florida. Both are must-win states for Donald Trump.

The Hispanic vote is also surging in Nevada and Colorado, where Democrats are running near or above their successful 2012 pace. Trump could be holding an edge in Ohio and Iowa, but that won't be enough if Latinos drive Clinton to victories in other battleground states.

Trump's campaign acknowledges he can't win

without Florida and North Carolina. The political consensus is virtually unanimous: if Hillary Clinton wins North Carolina, Donald Trump has to win every other competitive state to take the White House.

Clinton has other paths to victory without North Carolina, but the state has been a focus for Democrats this cycle. She has led in most public opinion polling there since the summer. But early voting showed those data wrong.

In Florida, a record 6.4 million early ballots are already in, or more than three-fourths of the expected vote. Democrats are ahead, 39.9 percent to 38.5 percent. Democrats had slightly wider margins in 2008 and 2012. Obama narrowly won the state both years.

In North Carolina, more than two-thirds of the expected votes have been cast. Democrats lead in ballots submitted, 42 percent to 32 percent. But experts say it is not enough to maintain the lead on the voting day.

In Nevada, more than three-fourths of the likely vote has been cast. Democrats lead, 42 percent to 36 percent. Obama won the by 6 percentage points in 2012.

In Colorado, the two parties are virtually tied at 35 percent. More than 70 percent of the ballots are in. At this point in 2012, Republicans held an advantage.



Vote-swapping to prevent Trump!

REUTERS, New York

Sophy Warner wanted to vote for third-party U.S. presidential candidate Jill Stein. But she worried that her ballot, cast in the swing state of Ohio, might help Republican Donald Trump capture the White House.

Through the website "Trump Traders," the 20-year-old biology student at Cleveland State University got in touch with Marc Baluda, 44, a Republican corporate lawyer in California who opposes Trump's candidacy and planned to vote for Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton.

The two strange bedfellows made a deal worthy of congressional horse-trading: Warner would vote for Clinton in Ohio, where polls show a tight race, while Baluda would cast a ballot for the Green Party candidate Stein in California, where Clinton is assured of winning the state's electoral votes.

Tens of thousands of voters, the vast majority seeking to prevent a Trump presidency, have signed up on "vote-swapping" exchanges in advance of Tuesday's Election Day. There is no way to verify the ballots are cast as agreed, though some people are taking "ballot selfies" in states where such photos are legal.

Trump Traders had matched 40,000 voters as of Monday, according to co-founder John Stubbs. Although that may be a small fraction of the electorate, a few hundred votes could make a difference in a state where the race is close.



US Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton fills out her ballot at the Douglas Grafflin Elementary School in Chappaqua, New York, US yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Clinton has 90pc chance of winning

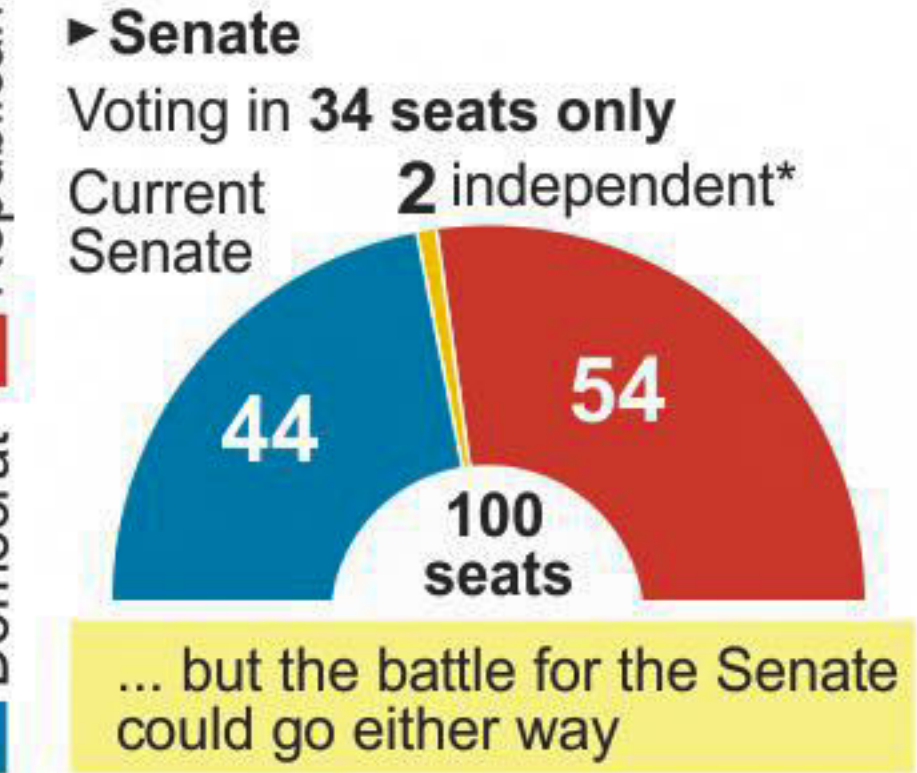
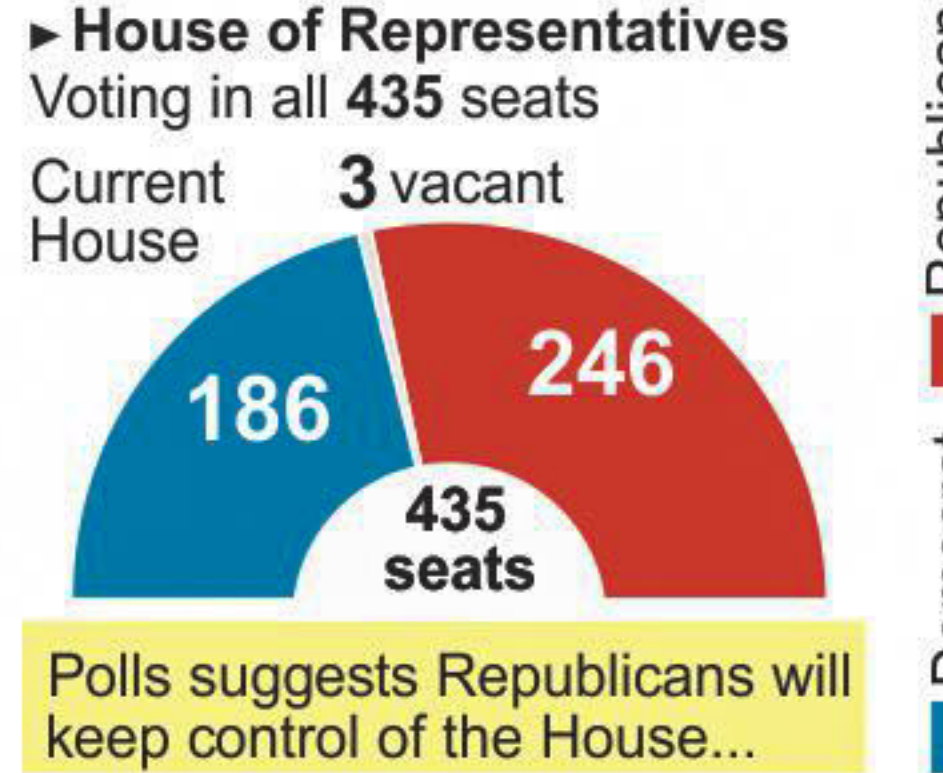
REUTERS, New York

Democrat Hillary Clinton has about a 90 percent chance of defeating Republican Donald Trump in the race for the White House, according to the final Reuters/Ipsos States of the Nation project.

Her chances are roughly similar to last week's odds, and any upset by Trump on Tuesday depends on an unlikely combination of turnouts of white, black and Hispanic voters in six or seven states, according to the survey released on Monday.

The former secretary of state was leading Trump by about 45 percent to 42 percent in the popular vote, and was on track to win 303 votes in the Electoral College to Trump's 235, clearing the 270 needed for victory, the survey found.

Trump's chances rest with his performance in Florida, Michigan, North Carolina and Ohio, which were too close to call on Sunday, when polling ended, and Pennsylvania, where Clinton enjoyed a slim lead of three percentage points. For Trump to win, he will have to take most of those states.



Senate, Congress races remain too close to call

FBI's email probe hurts Democrats big time

REUTERS, Washington

As voters head to the polls in Tuesday's US election, hopes have dampened among Democrats that they will make major gains in the US Congress, even if their nominee, Hillary Clinton, wins the presidency.

Enough wind may have come out of Clinton's sails to slow the Democrats' Senate and House of Representatives headway because of the FBI's startling announcement last month that reignited the controversy about her email practices, congressional aides and analysts said.

If that is the case, they said, Republicans will likely defend their House majority and may be able to retain some Senate seats long seen as vulnerable to Democratic capture.

Americans will be voting to choose Clinton or Republican Donald Trump for president, and to fill 34 of the 100 Senate seats and all 435 House seats. Both the House and Senate are now controlled by the Republicans.

Polling website RealClearPolitics was reporting no clear trend in polling in key

House and Senate races on Monday, with Republicans up in some swing states and Democrats in others.

An analysis of Senate races issued on Monday by political scientist Larry Sabato's "Crystal Ball" project at the University of Virginia projected the election would end with Democrats and Republicans each holding 50 seats.

Continued Republican dominance in Congress could stymie any legislative agenda put forth by Clinton. A Trump victory, along with a Republican Congress, could mean a swift end for Democratic President Barack Obama's Obamacare health reforms.

To win control of the Senate, Democrats would have to score a net gain of five seats. Republicans currently hold 54 Senate seats to 44 Democratic seats and two independents who align themselves with Democrats.

For months, political analysts were projecting Democrats would pick up anywhere from four to seven Senate seats.

Clinton wins first battle

AFP, Dixville Notch

The US presidential election got under way -- on a small scale -- with the seven voters of a tiny New Hampshire village who cast the nation's first ballots at the stroke of midnight.

Dixville Notch has had the honor of launching the voting, symbolically, since 1960.

Clay Smith was the first of the seven residents, including five men and two women, to vote as Tuesday's long awaited election day began. An eighth person voted by absentee ballot.

The tally was announced in a matter of minutes: the Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton beat out her Republican rival Donald Trump, four to two.

Libertarian candidate Gary Johnson won one vote, and there was a write-in vote for Mitt Romney, the Republican who lost to incumbent President Barack Obama in 2012.

New Hampshire may be one of the smallest US states but Clinton and Trump worked until the last minute to woo voters here. Clinton held a rally in New Hampshire on Sunday, and Trump did so on Monday. They are neck and neck in New Hampshire as they battle for its four electoral votes.

Win or lose, 'Trumpism' will leave its mark

AFP, Washington

Even if, as most polls predict, he loses Tuesday's US presidential election, Donald Trump's populist charge will leave its mark on the American body politic.

The 70-year-old billionaire tycoon is the Republican flag-bearer even though part of the Grand Old Party's establishment has rejected him, and others are voting for him while holding their noses.

But Trump has managed to craft his own political brand, building a movement among the party's disaffected rank-and-file.

Asked whether Trump or House Speaker Paul Ryan, the highest-ranking Republican elected official, better represent the party's values, 51 percent of members choose Trump and 33 percent favor Ryan.

As the presidential race comes down to the wire, and the right faces the prospect of Democrat Hillary Clinton in the White

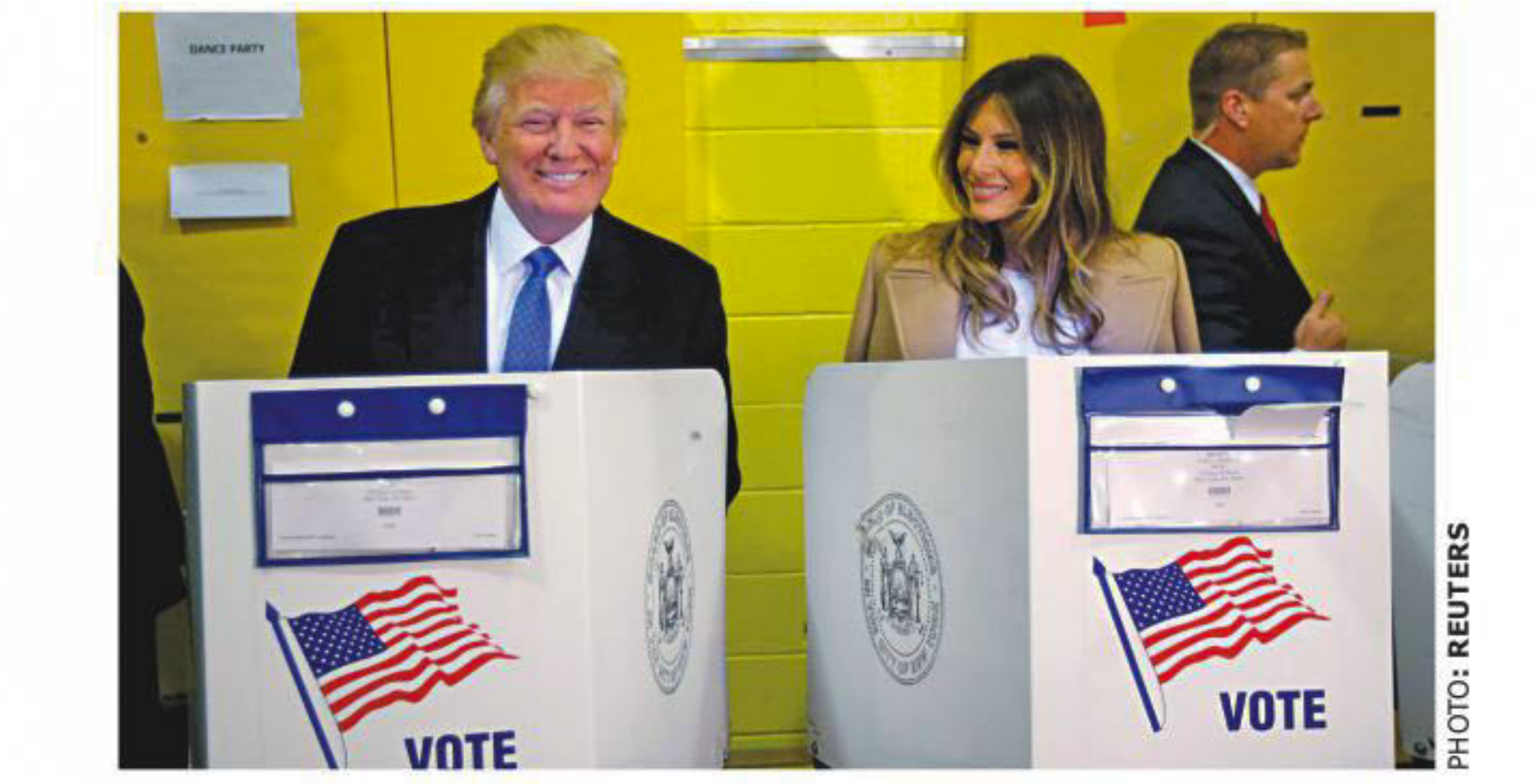
House, some party leaders are coming back to the fold.

But Trump has divided the party, both with his brash style and by overturning conservative orthodoxy with his opposition to free trade, isolationist foreign policy and flexible stance on welfare and deficits.

The maverick newcomer has even campaigned for paid parental leave, anathema to the small-government conservative right.

"Basically, the Republican leadership hates Trump," Robert Shapiro, professor of political science at Columbia University, told AFP.

"He would like his supporters, but his supporters are attached to Trump," he warned, predicting that the phenomenon Trump calls his "movement" will continue after Election Day.



Donald Trump and his wife Melania Trump vote in New York yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Trump's chances of presidency mathematically improbable

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If one is to believe the latest polls, then the race to decide the next president of the United States is incredibly tight.

But national polling is meaningless when it comes to Election Day, because as Al Gore discovered in 2000, the winner of the presidential election is not the candidate who receives the most votes. In fact, on four different occasions (1824, 1876, 1888, and 2000), the person who won the election received fewer votes than their "losing" opponent.

The winner of the presidential election is the candidate who wins an absolute majority of votes in the US Electoral College. There is a total of 538 votes at stake in the Electoral College. To win the presidency, a candidate needs to win an absolute majority, or half plus one. The magic number therefore is 270.

Public polling is outdated, and frequently wrong. In November 2012, the

Voting from space!

AFP, Miami

In a US presidential election that's already been out of this world, the lone American astronaut in outer space has cast his vote, Nasa said Monday.

Shane Kimbrough became the latest astronaut to join in a long tradition of voting while floating above the Earth, inside the orbiting International Space Station.

US astronauts have been able to vote from space since 1997, under Texas law. Most astronauts live in the Houston area, home to Nasa's mission control and Johnson Space Center.

The first American to vote from space was David Wolf, who cast his ballot from the Russian space station Mir.