

Federal Election Results

Now that Former Vice President Joe Biden has become the projected winner of the Presidential election, the political apparatus that propelled his successful campaign has begun transforming into an operation focused on transition and governing in the coming years. However, this transfer of power will be unlike any past transitions given the unprecedented (or once in a century) public health, economic and political challenges that will require the full attention of the White House and Congress. Success in addressing these priorities will largely hinge on finding a way for the political infrastructure in Washington D.C. and the states to work together and collaborate on expeditious passage of key legislation.

The election results were notable for shattering voter turnout records with more than 160 million votes cast representing almost 70% of the eligible electorate. Looked at another way, it was the largest turnout since 1900, according to news analyses. When all the ballots are counted, recounted and certified, the President-Elect will likely tally a popular vote that may be 2 percentage points higher than President Trump's and garner around 300 Electoral College votes, exceeding the 270-vote threshold to win the White House.

To be certain, the demands for recounts, court challenges and other delays will likely persist in the weeks leading up to the formal casting of electoral votes, but when the Electoral College representatives meet in Washington in December, validation of the next occupant of the White House is expected.

In some respects, the election recalls Yogi Bera's insightful statement: It's déjà vu all over again. Divided government will continue to reign in Washington as voters decided to switch out the presidency but maintained Republican control of the Senate (pending runoff elections in Georgia) and reduced the House Democratic majority which may, in the final tabulations, deliver one of the slimmest majorities in memory. In the Senate, the status quo alignment has yet to be finalized. The two Georgia Senate races resulted in no candidate receiving 50% plus 1 of the votes. Therefore, run-offs are set for January 5, 2021. Depending on these races' outcomes, there is a possibility that the Senate could be divided 50/50 with Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris, in her capacity as the Senate President, casting tie-breaking votes, including the all-important vote on Senate leadership.