

Election Results Recap: Biden Elected Next President of the United States

BY RICHARD T. MAHLE

THE RACE HAS ENDED for the next president of the United States of America, and despite most of us keeping a detailed track of this neck to neck race, it is my pleasure to state the results at the time they were announced.

Beginning on November 3rd, the race started with Trump winning Kentucky, which won the incumbent president eight votes. Then, Biden won Vermont which gave the competitor three votes. Afterwards, Trump won West Virginia netting him five votes. Funnily enough, the Virginia results came out right afterwards which gave Biden 13 more votes, pushing him on top. Yet another state was won by the sitting president Trump: South Carolina, which was worth nine electoral votes. Continuing Trump's winning streak, he won Alabama, which gave him an additional nine electoral votes. Then came the flood of blue for Biden, which was Delaware, three votes; Connecticut, seven votes; and Illinois, 20 votes; totaling up to 30 votes for Biden. Trump then went on to win Mississippi, six votes; and Tennessee, 11 votes; totaling 17 votes for the former president. After Trump's small victory, Biden swung hard leading to Maryland, ten votes; Massachusetts, 11 votes; and New Jersey, 14 votes; declaring Biden as their choice for the next U.S. president with a total of 35 votes.

From this point, Biden was in the lead with 81 votes to Trump's 48 votes. Continuing November third's results had Trump winning Oklahoma, giving Trump seven votes. Then, Biden won Rhode Island's four votes. Trump, still fighting, won Arkansas, which slotted another six votes. Trump then went on to win Indiana, 11 votes; Louisiana, eight votes; and North Dakota, three votes; which netted Trump 22 votes. Biden then won both New Mexico, five votes; and New York, 29 votes; which kept his lead going with 34 votes added to his pool. Trump then took South Dakota, three votes; Wyoming, three votes; and Nebraska, five votes; which net him 11 more votes.

Washington D.C. voted Biden for three votes. Colorado, following their example gave Biden nine more votes. Afterwards, Trump won Kansas which gave him six votes. He then went on to win Missouri, gaining 10 votes. Then Biden won California, which stomped out all of Trump's progress as it awarded Biden 55 votes. Trump retorted by winning Idaho, which is worth four votes. Biden's response is to take Oregon, seven votes; Washington state, 12 votes; and New Hampshire, four votes. This gave Biden another 23 votes. Trump then stole Utah's six votes, and that ended November third's voting, with Biden with 209 votes and Trump with 110 votes.

Biden started November 4 strong by taking the first state, Hawaii, and their four votes. Trump took Ohio, 18 votes; Montana, three votes; Iowa, 6 votes; and Florida, 29 votes, skyrocketing his position by 56 votes. Biden then won Minnesota's 10 votes, but Trump answered by winning Texas and their 38 votes. Biden took Maine,

four votes; Wisconsin, 10 votes; and Michigan, 16 votes. This gave Biden a total of 253 votes by the end of November 4th while Trump was close behind with 243 votes.

While it took a few days, Joe Biden was declared the winner of the 2020 presidential election after winning Pennsylvania and its 20 votes, pushing him over 270 total electoral votes, the amount needed to secure victory. Joe Biden is now the president-elect of the United States. Salt was added to the wound when Nevada was also declared for Biden later on. According to the AP Press, and as of November 10, the electoral votes from North Carolina, Alaska, and Georgia are still reporting.

Second Wave of COVID-19 in Europe

BY REBECCA BEASLEY

COVID-19 IS NO UNFAMILIAR topic. At the beginning of the pandemic, countries both in Europe and around the world found themselves short on information and equipment. Politicians often followed the opinions of their constituents rather than the advice of scientists as they were afraid of upsetting their voters. Epidemiologist Arnaud Fontanet, a member of the French government's scientific advisory council, says, "If the politicians didn't want to act then, it wasn't because they hadn't understood the situation, it was because they were convinced that French people weren't ready to hear difficult messages."

Europe is said to have entered the second wave of the pandemic with exponentially rising cases all across the continent. The regional director of Europe for the World Health Organization says that "Europe is at the epicenter of this pandemic once again." France re-entered lockdown on October 31 followed by Germany a day after. Meanwhile, a lockdown in the United Kingdom began on November 5. Over the summer, many European countries had lifted lockdowns, and students had gone back to school in September. This, combined with cold weather at the end of September, is why positive cases have been on the rise again and why countries have since returned to lockdown. Much like the United States, Europe ignored lockdown rules such as wearing masks and avoiding large gatherings in the summer, which gave citizens a feeling of security thus leaving them unprepared for a second wave in the winter. This is contrasted to countries in Asia, where lockdowns began early and stayed in place until positive cases went to zero.

Outbreaks tend to stay under the radar with the virus spreading silently until there is an explosive increase in cases. Lockdowns were put in place in order to slow the spread of COVID-19 while information about the new virus was gathered. Public health experts say that the initial lockdowns were necessary, though not perfect. The areas that implemented harsh and early lockdowns are shown to have less lives lost to the virus and more economic resistance according to reports by the International Monetary Fund.

Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany plans to do everything she can to prevent lockdown from looking the way it did in the spring. She wants to avoid shutting

down schools and instead focus on reducing contact made in restaurants and bars. Germany recognizes that an early lockdown could be short, whereas a late lockdown will last much longer.

Imperial College London performed a study and found that almost 100,000 people contract COVID-19 each day in the United Kingdom. The European Center for Disease Control says that the Czech Republic has the worst infection rate in Europe, with 1,448 cases per 100,000 people over a 2 weeks' time, although only in a partial lockdown. Unlike the United States, government officials in Europe are much more willing to return to a lockdown state and implement harsh measures to prevent the spread of the virus.

Although the United States has not yet entered the "second wave" of the pandemic, it can be argued that we never left the first wave. Increases in positive cases can be attributed to an abundance of testing, but there is no denying that, without a vaccine, this pandemic is not nearing an end.

Oil Tanker Hijacking

BY ERIKA SOUKUP

IN THE COVER OF DARKNESS, after a 10-hour standoff, British Naval Special Forces boarded the ship *Nave Andromeda* to take control of a suspected hijacking. At 8:16 on Sunday evening, special boat service commandos were lowered by ropes from a helicopter, and within minutes the suspects, seven Nigerian men who boarded the ship in Lagos, Nigeria, were in custody.

According to CNN, the *Nave Andromeda* first attracted attention on Sunday after failing to dock as expected in Southampton on the south coast of England at 10:30 a.m. GMT (6:30 a.m. ET) Sunday morning. The Ministry of Defense called the situation a "suspected hijacking," but a representative for the company that manages the vessel said it was not a hijacking and that the captain had remained in control of the tanker, according to *The New York Times*.

Navios Tanker Management, which operates the Liberian-registered vessel, said the ship's master became concerned for the safety of the crew due to the increasingly hostile behavior of the stowaways. The crew was able to find safety in the citadel and have been commended by BBC News UK since "it would not have been possible... if the crew had not followed a maritime drill enshrined in the manual called BMP5 - Best Management Practice 5th edition. Withdrawing to the ship's strong room known as 'the citadel' and locking themselves inside meant they were able to call for assistance from a secure space." With the crew able to reach safety, and the stowaways on board threatening violence, the captain of the ship called for assistance as the ship approached shore.

The seven Nigerian men who stowed away on the ship are believed to have been seeking asylum in Britain and boarded the Liberian flagged tanker in Lagos. Currently, the seven arrested men have been bailed in relation to the criminal investigation whilst investigators continue their inquiries but will now remain detained under Border Force powers, according to *The Guardian*.