



# The Walgreen Co.

## Political Action Committee

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### 2020 Election Enters the Final Stretch

There is little doubt that the 2020 election will leave a lasting imprint on our nation. The confluence of a pandemic, economic turmoil, the movement for racial equity, and civil unrest mean the political stakes are unusually high.

Fortunately, it appears that civic engagement will be robust despite the adverse circumstances. Early voting is underway in many states across the country, most states that provide mail-in ballots have begun distributing those to eligible voters, and citizens are contributing to political candidates and organizations at a record-setting clip.

We will share a few of our insights below, but what is most important is that **we strongly encourage you to make a voting plan and act on it.** You are among the most politically engaged at Walgreens, and we're counting on you to make your voice heard in this election.

### The Presidency

As it stands, former Vice President Joe Biden holds a strong lead in the polls. The forecasting model at [FiveThirtyEight](#), which assesses the probability of each candidate winning the Electoral College, gives Biden an 85% chance of winning the presidency. This is due to his [current polling leads](#) in the battleground states most likely to tip the election – states like Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Florida, Michigan, and Arizona. These probabilities and averages can and will move as we approach Election Day – nothing is set in stone, especially considering the effects of the President's COVID-19 diagnosis and the remaining debates.

The debates began in a chaotic fashion, leading the Commission on Presidential Debates to [consider format changes](#). Now, in light of the President's diagnosis, the Commission has announced that the town hall debate scheduled for October 15 will be a [virtual event](#). These debates, plus a third on October 22, will be an important component in shaping narratives and determining who will reach the necessary 270 votes in the Electoral College and win the presidency.

It is also important to acknowledge that we may not know who won the election on the night of November 3, and that is not worrisome. Many states allow mail-in ballots to be counted for several days after the election, and it is likely that there may be recounts or legal disputes that delay states' ability to certify their elections. Patience with the process will be critical.

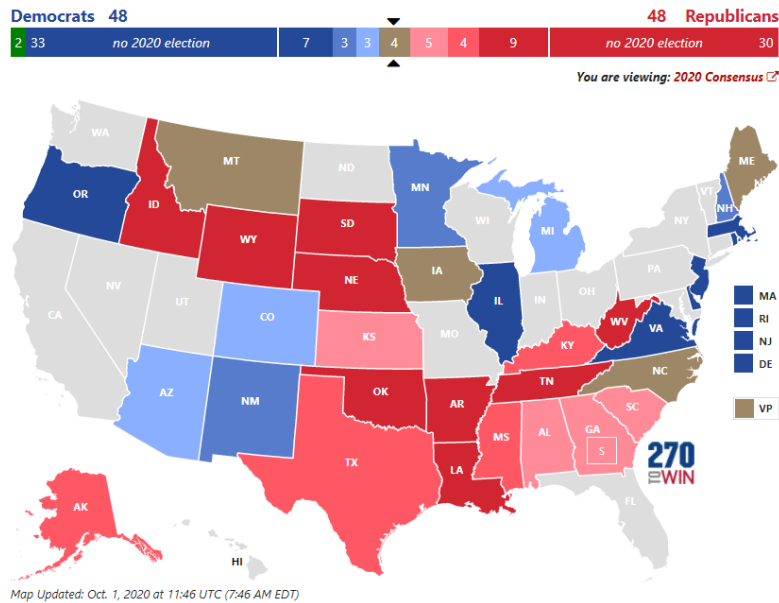
## **The Senate**

The race for control of the U.S. Senate will dictate how effective the next president will be in achieving his policy goals.

Currently, the Senate is comprised of 53 Republicans and 47 Democrats, including two independents who caucus with the Democrats. Democrats must win 4

seats to take control of the chamber, or 3 seats if Biden wins the presidency and the newly elected Vice President Kamala Harris can cast the tie-breaking vote in a 50/50 Senate.

Unlike in 2018, Republicans are playing defense in 2020. There are 35 Senate seats up for election this year, of which 23 are held by the GOP. Several of these include senators who are in danger of losing their seats: Joni Ernst (R-IA), Steve Daines (R-MT), Thom Tillis (R-NC), Cory Gardner (R-CO), Martha McSally (R-AZ), and Susan Collins (R-ME) are the most obvious pickup opportunities for Democrats. Meanwhile, Democrats have few expected losses other than the likely defeat of Doug Jones in Alabama.



The political climate has evolved significantly since these senators last faced voters. Most notable is Susan Collins, the stalwart from Maine with a reputation for crossing party lines. In an era of increased polarization, she has seen her popularity fall – instead of being viewed favorably as a moderate, she is seen as not quite conservative enough to energize Republicans and not quite liberal enough to peel away Democrats. Maine is a unique state and she could still find a path to victory, but her race may tell us about the viability of

campaigning as a moderate in purple states going forward.

## The House

Forecasting results for each of the 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives is far trickier, but it appears likely that Democrats will continue to control the chamber when the next session begins in January 2021. There are currently 232 Democrats in the House – whether they have more or fewer than that will likely depend on how the presidential race affects voter turnout and votes for downballot races.

The 2019 freshman class of the House was the most diverse class in history, including more women, women of color, openly LGBT members, and millennials serving in the House than ever before. Those gains were largely made by the Democrats, but these trends are being realized this cycle by the Republicans as well. This year, there are a record 94 Republican women candidates on the ballot for the House, shattering the previous record of 53. Regardless of the partisan breakdown, it is likely that the House will build on the diversity gains made in the last election and continue to better reflect the population.

## Make a Voting Plan

Hopefully you saw the [election communication](#) on September 25 from Hillary Leisten and Lisa Badgley. To develop a voting plan, we recommend that you:

- Verify your [voter registration status](#)
- Decide if you will vote [in person](#) or by [mail/absentee ballot](#)
- Familiarize yourself with voting deadlines in your [state or county](#)
- Locate your [polling location](#), ballot drop box or nearest U.S. Postal Service (USPS)

mailbox

- Check with your manager to schedule time to vote

[Visit \[vote.gov\]\(https://www.vote.gov\) for more info](https://www.vote.gov)

**Good luck, stay safe, and thank you for being a PAC member!**



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