



# The Walgreen Co.

## Political Action Committee

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### **It looks like 2020 saved a little bit of drama for the season finale.**

While we await the results of the presidential election and congressional races, there are some tremendous positives to come out of Election Day related to civic engagement. It looks like we will see record turnout for a presidential election, a feat that cannot be overstated given the difficulties posed by the pandemic. And despite fears to the contrary, it appears that the election was carried out in a smooth and orderly fashion without any significant unrest.

There will be much to unpack in the days and weeks ahead as results are finalized, but here is what we know right now:

**Votes are still being counted.** While there was an outside chance one of the candidates could secure 270 electoral votes on election night, it was always the case that many states would be counting for several days afterward due to the enormous volume of mail ballots. It is important to note that counting legally-cast ballots after Election Day is a regular part of every presidential election, and is in fact necessary in multiple states – including Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Michigan – where election officials could not start counting mail ballots until Election Day. This year, however, this post-Election Day counting is more visible due to the increased volume of mail ballots and the tightness of the race.

**The story of the night was President Trump again beating expectations.** Many pundits doubted Trump's chances, but it seems that his nonstop campaigning over the past few weeks successfully drove voter turnout. Ohio and Texas, which some experts thought were potential states for Biden to flip, both landed solidly in Trump's column. And his decisive victory in Florida demonstrated the inroads Trump made with Hispanic voters and gave him more potential paths to 270 electoral votes.

**With all that said, Joe Biden appears to be in a better position than Donald Trump at this point.**

Biden has an edge in the states that have already been called (253-214), and he also appears to be leading in Arizona and Nevada, the combination of which would push him over 270 electoral votes if he holds on. But those leads are not secure and could change as more ballots are counted. Additionally, there will likely be a recount in Wisconsin if the vote margin remains under 1 percentage point. The yet-to-be-counted ballots in Pennsylvania and Georgia give Biden a chance of winning there as well, but Trump victories in those states could re-elect the President if he also holds on in North Carolina and wins one of Nevada or Arizona.

**Republicans are likely to hold their majority in the Senate.** Democrats flipped 2 Senate seats in Arizona and Colorado while losing one in Alabama, and they were unable to clinch other potential pickup opportunities in Iowa, Montana, Texas, and Maine. Because we do not yet know the outcomes of races in Michigan, North Carolina, or Georgia, it is possible control of the Senate will not be officially determined until Georgia conducts its runoff elections on January 5.

**Democrats will likely retain control of the House,** but it is unclear whether their majority will contract. Each party appears to have flipped a handful of seats, but Republicans appear to have flipped more and there are still many races left to be called.

**There will now be two pharmacists in Congress.** Pharmacist Diana Harshbarger (R-TN) was elected to represent Tennessee's 1st congressional district. She will be the second pharmacist serving in Congress, serving alongside Rep. Buddy Carter (R-GA).

**There were no upsets in the gubernatorial races.** All 11 governorships that were up for election this year went to the candidate who was favored pre-election, which is unsurprising given 9 of them were incumbents. As for the other two states: Spencer Cox's win in Utah is similarly unsurprising since that state has not elected a Democratic governor since the 1980s. And while Montana, the final state, has had two consecutive Democratic governors, Republican Greg Gianforte was a slight favorite throughout this race.

**And what we know you're all waiting for... our Election Prediction Contest.** There are no winners yet, but we had tremendous participation – thank you! We will wait as long as necessary to see how everything shakes out, which may take another week or more.

**Stay tuned for more updates, and thank you for being a PAC member!**



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