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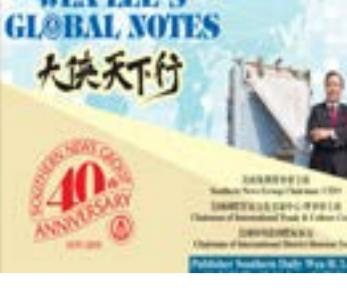
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Mr. Lee's Commentary and Dairy

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Inside C2

'You are no longer my mother': How the election is dividing American families



Bonnie Coughlin wears a protective mask at her home in Gilbertsville, Pennsylvania, U.S., October 26, 2020. REUTERS/Caitlin Ochs

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - When lifelong Democrat Mayra Gomez told her 21-year-old son five months ago that she was voting for Donald Trump in Tuesday's presidential election, he cut her out of his life.

Bonnie Coughlin wears a protective mask at her home in Gilbertsville, Pennsylvania, U.S., October 26, 2020. REUTERS/Caitlin Ochs

"He specifically told me, 'You are no longer my mother, because you are voting for Trump,'" Gomez, 41, a personal care worker in Milwaukee, told Reuters. Their last conversation was so bitter that she is not sure they can reconcile, even if Trump loses his re-election bid.

"The damage is done. In people's minds, Trump is a monster. It's sad. There are people not talking to me anymore,

and I'm not sure that will change," said Gomez, who is a fan of Trump's crackdown on illegal immigrants and handling of the economy.

Gomez is not alone in thinking the bitter splits within families and among friends over Trump's tumultuous presidency will be difficult, if not impossible, to repair, even after he leaves office - whenever that is.

In interviews with 10 voters - five Trump supporters and five backing Democratic candidate Joe Biden - few could see the wrecked personal relationships caused by Trump's tenure fully healing, and most believed them destroyed forever.

Throughout his nearly four-year norm-smashing presidency Trump has stirred strong emotions among both support-

ers and opponents. Many of his backers admire his moves to overhaul immigration, his appointment of conservative judges, his willingness to throw convention to the wind and his harsh rhetoric, which they call straight talk.

Democrats and other critics see the former real estate developer and reality show personality as a threat to American democracy, a serial liar and a racist who mismanaged the novel coronavirus pandemic that has killed more than 230,000 people in the United States so far. Trump dismisses those characterizations as "fake news."

Now, with Trump trailing Biden in opinion polls, people are beginning to ask whether the fractures caused by one of the most polarizing presidencies in U.S. history could be healed if Trump loses the election.

"Unfortunately, I don't think national healing is as easy as changing the president," said Jaime Saal, a psychotherapist at the Rochester Center for Behavioral Medicine in Rochester Hills, Michigan.

"It takes time and it takes effort, and it takes both parties - no pun intended - being willing to let go and move forward," she said.

Saal said tensions in people's personal relationships have spiked given the political, health and social dynamics facing the United States. Most often she sees clients who have political rifts with siblings, parents or in-laws, as opposed to spouses.

NEIGHBOR VS NEIGHBOR

Trump's election in 2016 divided families, tore up friendships and turned neighbor against neighbor. Many have turned to Facebook and Twitter to deliver no-holds-barred posts bashing both Trump and his many critics, while the president's own freewheeling tweets have also inflamed tensions.

A September report by the non-partisan Pew Research Center found that nearly 80% of Trump and Biden supporters said they had few or no friends who supported the other candidate.

A study by the Gallup polling organization in January found that Trump's third year in office set a new record for party polarization. While 89% of Republicans approved of Trump's performance in office in 2019, only 7% of Democrats thought he was doing a good job.

Gayle McCormick, 77, who separated from her husband William, 81, after he voted for Trump in 2016, said, "I think the legacy of Trump is going to take a long time to recover from."

The two still spend time together, although she is now based in Vancouver, he in Alaska. Two of her grandchildren no longer speak to her because of her support for Democrat Hillary Clinton four years ago. She has also become estranged from other relatives and friends who are Trump supporters.

She is not sure those rifts with friends and family will ever mend, because each believes the other to have a totally alien value system.



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Tuesday, November 3, 2020

Stay Home!

BUSINESS

Wear Mask!

**TODAY IS ELECTION DAY 2020!
GO CAST YOUR VOTE!!***Data From The US Elections Project Predicts A Record 150M Ballots, Representing 65% Of Eligible Voters, For This Election***U.S. 2020 Election Could Have The Highest Rate Of Voter Turnout Since 1908**

Voters wait in line on the first day of in-person early voting in Durham, North Carolina. (Photo/J. Drake/Reuters)

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

More than 50 million Americans have cast ballots in the US presidential election with 11 days to go in the campaign, a pace that could lead to the highest voter turnout in over a century, according to data from the US Elections Project on Friday. The eye-popping figure is a sign of intense interest in the contest between Republican Donald Trump and Joe Biden, his Democratic challenger, as well as Americans' desire to reduce their risk of exposure to Covid-19, which has killed more than 221,000 people across the United States. Many states have expanded in-person early voting and mail-in ballots ahead of election day on 3 November, as a safer way to vote during the coronavirus pandemic. The high level of early voting has led Michael McDonald, the University of Florida professor who administers the US Elections Project, to predict a record turnout of about 150 million, representing 65%

of eligible voters, the highest rate since 1908.

In Texas, the level of voting has already surpassed 70% of the total turnout in 2016. In Georgia, some have waited in line for more than 10 hours to cast their ballots. And Wisconsin has seen a record number of early votes, with 1.1 million people having returned their ballots as of this week. Voters in Virginia, Ohio and Georgia have also seen long lines at early voting sites.



Tonya Swain votes in Norwalk, California, while wearing a coat that mimics one worn by Melania Trump

in 2018 which read, 'I really don't care. Do u?' Photograph: Frederic J Brown/AFP/Getty Images

The pandemic has upended campaign traditions and its effects are still being felt. Americans may find themselves waiting days or weeks to know who won as election officials count tens of millions of mail-in votes. Democrats are encouraging supporters to vote early – either in person or by mail – amid fears that the United States Postal Service (USPS) may not have the capacity to deliver mail-in ballots to election officials on time.

Ongoing Republican efforts to restrict which votes are counted and how have also worried voting rights advocates. This week, the supreme court allowed Alabama officials to ban curbside voting. The Iowa supreme court also upheld a Republican-backed law that could prevent election officials from sending thousands of mail-in ballots, by making it more difficult for auditors to correct voter applications with omitted information.



Michael Herron, a government professor at Dartmouth and Daniel A Smith, a political scientist at University of Florida, calculated that thousands of ballots in the swing states of Florida and North Carolina have been flagged for potential rejection due to signature defects. "Racial minorities and Democrats are disproportionately more likely to have cast mail ballots this election that face rejection," they wrote in the media outlet the Conversation.

Trump and Biden met on Thursday night for a final debate ahead of election day, with Snap polls taken afterwards showing a majority of viewers believed Biden had the better showing.

Lagging in national polls, the president has been keeping a busy schedule of ral-



GO VOTE

lies, although with many voters having cast their ballots already, it's unclear what effect the push will have.

On Friday, the president held events in the battleground state of Florida, where opinion polls show a tight race and over 4 million votes have already been cast, approaching half the total four years ago. When Trump asked the crowd how many had voted, "nearly every hand" went up, reported NBC's Shannon Pettypiece, who was at the event.



Boxes of vote-by-mail ballot envelopes await processing at the King county election headquarters in Renton, Washington. Photograph: Ted S Warren/AP

Next week Trump will head to Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin and, somewhat surprisingly, Nebraska. He won Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin by less than 1 point in 2016, and recent polls show Biden pulling several points ahead in the battleground states.

Biden, meanwhile, delivered a speech in his home state of Delaware on his plans for leading a recovery from the pandemic. Biden's speech comes as the US has hit its highest single-day coronavirus case count since late July, reporting 71,671 new cases yesterday.

"This president still doesn't have a plan," Biden said. "He's given up. He's quit on you. He's quit on America."

Echoing his comments during Thursday night's debate, Biden said he would not shut down the country in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

"I'm not going to shut down the country. I'm not going to shut down the economy. I'm going to shut down the virus," Biden said in Wilmington. (Courtesy /www.theguardian.com/)

WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES**11/02/2020****CORONAVIRUS DIARY****Please Go Vote Today**

Ni Hao. This is Wea Lee, CEO of Southern News Group in Houston, Texas, writing on behalf of the Asian-American Democrats of Texas.

Tomorrow is Election Day 2020. Please vote for the candidate who will stand up for our community and our values of kindness, honesty and hard work.

Today our nation is facing many challenges, not only with the coronavirus pandemic, but also racial unrest and the economic downturn. We as citizens of the international community have as our goal to be united and to build a peaceful and prosperous nation.

This election is not just related to our future alone, but also is related to the

rest of the world. Many people are expecting our help and a positive result for the election.

Please go to MyTexasVotes.com to look



Publisher Southern Daily Wea H. Lee

Editor's Choice



A general view of a metro that crashed through a stop block and landed on a whale tail sculpture at De Akkers subway station in Spijkenisse, near Rotterdam, Netherlands. REUTERS/Eva Plevier



President Trump is seen between pumpkins during a campaign rally at Pittsburgh-Butler Regional Airport in Butler, Pennsylvania. REUTERS/Carlos Barria



Joe Biden pulls down his face mask as he speaks during a campaign event in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque



Supporters wait for the rally of President Trump at Hickory Regional Airport in Hickory, North Carolina. REUTERS/Hannah McKay



Law enforcement officers spray protesters shortly after a moment of silence during a Get Out The Vote march in Graham, North Carolina. Anthony Crider/via REUTERS



A man looks at his house buried under the pile of rubble and sand following flash floods brought by Typhoon 'Goni' in Barangay Busay, Daraga town, Albay province, Philippines. REUTERS/Nino N. Luce



Elif Perincek, a three-year-old survivor, holds the thumb of a rescue worker as she is carried out of a collapsed building after an earthquake in the Aegean port city of Izmir, Turkey. Serkan Oktar/Istanbul Fire Department



President Trump kisses his daughter Ivanka at the end of a campaign rally at Dubuque Regional Airport in Dubuque, Iowa. REUTERS/Carlos Barria

Tuesday, November 3, 2020

COMMUNITY

Experts Are Predicting That As Many As 12 Million People Could Vote In Texas This Year

Early Voting Numbers In Texas Persist, With Largest Overall Turnout Predicted In Years



Voters wait in line to cast their ballots at the Sunland Park Mall in El Paso on the first day of early voting. Credit: Ivan Pierre Aguirre for The Texas Tribune

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

The unusually large voter turnout in Texas has persisted through the first 10 days of the early voting period, leading experts to predict that the state could reach overall turnout levels unseen so far this century. According to the latest data from the Texas secretary of state, 6.4 million Texans — 37.6% of registered voters — had already cast their ballots through Thursday. Nearly 90% of those have been cast in person. With a full week left, that's surpassing the total percentage turnout for early voting in 2012, though still a couple of percentage points short of 2016's early voting turnout. Early voting in 2012 and 2016 had about one less week.