

Updated Presidential Election Numbers as a Few Uncalled States Work to Finalize Their Vote Tabulations

A few states across the country have continued to finalize their vote tabulations from last week's presidential election in preparation of the certification of results. The uncalled battleground states of Arizona, Georgia, and North Carolina are nearing the completion of counting all of their ballots, while Alaska recently became the latest state in the race to be called, with its three electoral votes being awarded to President Trump. Due to the relatively close margin between the two candidates there, the state of Georgia is planning on conducting a by-hand recount. In Arizona however, where President-elect Biden leads by a similar-sized advantage as he does in Georgia, the chances for a recount are slim because the state has a higher standard for triggering them – for this to happen the difference in the number of votes would have to be 0.1% or less which is unlikely considering that Biden leads by around 0.3% with the count nearly finished. In the end, the recounts are not expected to change the outcomes in any of the statewide races since the gap between President-elect Biden and President Trump is in the tens of thousands in even the tightest margin ones.

The latest update from Arizona shows President Trump reducing the deficit to Biden, but not quickly enough or by a margin large enough to alter the outcome of the race. Biden is ahead by just over 11,600 votes after the latest round of votes were counted. There are now less than 25,000 votes left to be counted statewide, and President Trump would need the lion's share of these to even make the race competitive. Decision Desk HQ, a non-partisan outlet dedicated to determining the winners of elections nationwide, projected on Wednesday evening that Biden would win the state. President Trump's campaign filed a lawsuit challenging Arizona's voting process, alleging that voters had been turned away on election day. However, Arizona's Republican Secretary of State said these claims were baseless, and there was no evidence of mass voter fraud in the state.

In Georgia, the latest round of counted ballots left Biden with a 14,000-vote lead. Georgia's urban counties of Fulton and Gwinnett have been the catalyst behind Biden's surprise lead in the state, with the Democrat running up his margin of victory to offset President Trump's strong performance in rural areas. Due to the tightness of the race, Georgia's Secretary of State has ordered a statewide recount of all votes by hand. Georgia law also mandates that a full audit of the election take place, and Secretary of State Brad Raffensberger confirmed that would occur. However, it is highly unlikely that the recount and audit alter the result of the election. The Trump campaign has also made baseless claims of voter fraud in Georgia, and both U.S. Senators from the state sent a letter to Raffensberger demanding he resign over alleged irregularities. The claims made by President Trump and his surrogates are completely unfounded, and an attempt to save face over Biden's surprise victory in the state. The Trump campaign has also had a court case in Georgia dismissed over lack of evidence after it alleged that late-arriving ballots were improperly mixed with valid ballots.

In recent days, North Carolina has drawn the president's ire on social media over its delay in announcing a winner. President Trump currently holds a roughly 70,000 vote lead in the state with around 110,000 provisional and absentee ballots yet to be counted. Based on these numbers, the president's victory in North Carolina seems assured and he has been leading in the state since Election Day. According to North Carolina law, a candidate can request a recount when the margin is either 0.5% or less than 10,000 votes, whichever is lower. Under its law, the state will also certify its final results to both candidates by November 24th. However, the final county canvass occurs on November 12th, at which time media outlets are expected to have enough information to project a winner.