

Following Compiled from several media sources

According to the Bipartisan Policy Center:

- 1. Roughly 244 million Americans will be eligible to vote in 2024. The 2020 election saw record turnout of 66.6% of eligible voters. If we see turnout that high again, more than 162 million ballots will be cast by November.
- 2. Ballots for the 2024 general election must be finalized by early September. This deadline is firm, even as BPC expects litigation on various issues to last beyond that date
- Election results are not going to be final on Election Day—and they never are. States' certification deadlines range from two to 29 days post-Election Day. It is imperative that ballots are <u>tabulated quickly and accurately</u>, as the period between the close of polls and tabulation of sufficient results to confidently call the race is a prime window for misinformation.

## Presidential elections are always consequential.

## (According to Domenico Montanaro in article for NPR)

Presidents can affect social policy, through the courts and legislation, that can reshape the country. They can start wars or end them, embrace a role of leadership on the world stage – or retreat from it.

Domestically, there is a particular volatility roiling American society. The country is undergoing significant change, from economics and technology to culture and politics.

Undergirding this 2024 presidential election is a fight to own the outcome of the latest realignment in American politics.

## What will America become?

At its heart, this election is about what it means to be American, which values will win out for the future of what this country will be.

The country is sharply divided on that. America has always been split on who should lead it. A presidential candidate, for example, hasn't gotten more than 53% in an election since 1984.

Just four times since the popular vote has been tracked, dating back to 1824, has a candidate gotten above 60%, and the last time it happened — 1972 — that president, Richard Nixon, wound up resigning in disgrace.

Today, partisanship and ideological sorting are more acute than arguably at any time since the Civil War.

<u>Americans are fractured by politics and at odds over the issues</u> — from guns and global warming to immigration, abortion rights, education and beyond.

Conservatives see a country changing, not for the better. They see the culture as too liberal, weak and enabling — with too many who talk down the good qualities of the country.

Those left of center see their values, the marginalized and democracy itself in direct threat because of leaders who have given license to intolerance and conspiracy, while not having the majority of the country on their side. They're tired of what they see as minority rule. Democrats have won seven of the last eight popular votes in presidential elections, but only five presidencies in that time.

## The Leadership Conference August 6th Observation

Today marks the 59th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 — a pivotal milestone in our fight for civil rights and equal justice. This landmark legislation was designed to guarantee every citizen's right to vote and to have that vote counted, but we know that our journey is far from over.

The Supreme Court's 2013 decision in *Shelby County v. Holder* weakened the VRA's protections, allowing discriminatory practices to reemerge with a vengeance. States and localities throughout the country have enacted voter restrictions that threaten to silence our voices. The need to safeguard our voting rights has never been more urgent.

And now, we face a new threat with Project 2025 — a plan that jeopardizes the very principles of equality and justice and is driven by those who seek to erode civil rights protections. This extremist agenda threatens to undermine our democracy and represents a stark departure from the values of inclusivity and equity that we have fought so hard to uphold.

Your vote is your voice, and the stakes are higher than ever to protect our democracy. In honor of the Voting Rights Act anniversary, we are doubling down on our commitment to empower and mobilize voters through our And Still I Vote campaign. We urge you to make a plan to vote now.