THE BREAKFAST TABLE

DAILY

"The day's news, for everyone at the table."

SCAN TO READ & PLAY

Vol. 1 • No. 20 • Wednesday, November 4, 2026 • Washington, USA • 2 Pages

TOP STORY • UNITED STATES

Americans Vote in Midterm Elections for Congress

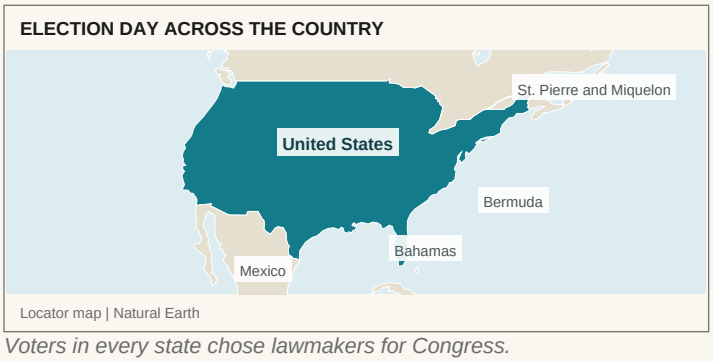
Prices and the war with Iran were on many voters' minds on Tuesday 3 November.

Written and fact-checked by AI · News Pebbles

On Tuesday 3 November, Americans voted in midterm elections. They decide which party controls Congress, the group of lawmakers who write the country's laws, for the last two years of President Trump's term. Voters chose all 435 seats in the House of Representatives and 35 seats in the Senate.

Many voters said money worries were on their minds. They cited high prices and the war with Iran. More than 59 million Americans voted early, according to the University of Florida Voting Lab.

Forecasters widely expected Democrats to win the House, while control of the Senate was less clear. Those are forecasts, not results. CBS News notes that close races may be called later, and that this is not in itself a sign of fraud.



Voters in every state chose lawmakers for Congress.

WHY IT MATTERS

The vote decides which party controls the House and the Senate for the last two years of Trump's term.

*New to this story? Catch up with **The story so far** on Read & Play.*

WORLD • SPACE

Scientists Find All Five DNA "Letters" in Samples From an Asteroid

Rock from the asteroid Ryugu held the chemical building blocks of genetic information.

Scientists have found all five chemical "letters" of DNA and RNA in samples from a space rock. These letters are called nucleobases. The five are adenine, guanine, cytosine, thymine and uracil.

Japan's Hayabusa2 mission collected samples from the carbon-rich asteroid Ryugu and brought 5.4 grams back to Earth in 2020. A team of Japanese scientists then worked in ultra-clean laboratory conditions so that nothing from Earth could get mixed in.

They used water and hydrochloric acid to pull organic molecules out of the rock. All five nucleobases turned up in both samples they analysed. The results appeared in the journal Nature Astronomy.

There are limits. The study looked at only two samples, and it does not show that these molecules made life. It suggests the letters were widespread in the early Solar System.

FROM ASTEROID TO LAB RESULT

1	Hayabusa2 collects rock from Ryugu
2	5.4 grams come back to Earth in 2020
3	Clean-lab team pulls out the molecules
4	All five nucleobases turn up in both samples

The order of steps reported for the Ryugu study.

CONNECT THE DOTS

Space rocks that land on Earth, called meteorites, can be contaminated. That is why samples collected in space, like Ryugu's, are so valuable. NASA's asteroid Bennu also gave all five nucleobases in 2025.

UNITED STATES • ELECTIONS

Officials Fix Machine Problems as Ballots Are Counted Safely

The Justice Department said it was sending about 1,000 monitors to all 50 states.

On election day, some places had trouble with their voting machines. In Westchester County, New York, scanner problems meant ballots that could not be scanned were collected securely and counted.

In Fulton County, Georgia, two machine problems affected about 1,000 early ballots. Officials planned a public rescan.

The Justice Department said it would send about 1,000 monitors to all 50 states, the first time it has done so. Separately, the Supreme Court said no to a Justice Department request to make California set aside about 20,000 mail ballots from alleged noncitizens.

WHY IT MATTERS

Checking votes carefully helps people trust the result.

Also in United States

• Minnesota: People cast 886,427 early ballots through Sunday, above its 2022 midterm record of 687,062.

• Alaska: Voters rank candidates, and the lowest finisher is dropped until one candidate has more than 50%.

ONE-LINE BRIEFS

• Iran: Oil fell for a second day on hopes of talks to end the war, with Brent at $103.60 a barrel.

• Space: NASA says Voyager 1 will be one light-day from Earth on 18 November.

TALK ABOUT IT

TALK ABOUT IT

Many voters said high prices were on their minds. How might the cost of everyday things change what a family thinks about the news?

Some machines had problems on election day, and officials counted ballots another way. Why is it good to have a back-up plan for something as important as voting?

Scientists found the five DNA letters in rock from an asteroid. What would you like to ask a scientist who studies space rocks?

INDIA • WEATHER

Cyclone Murasu Hits Andhra Pradesh and Thousands Move to Shelters

No deaths had been reported in the latest official updates.

Severe Cyclonic Storm Murasu crossed India’s south Andhra Pradesh coast near Ongole in the early hours of Tuesday 3 November. India’s weather department said winds were around 100 to 110 kilometres an hour, with gusts up to 120.

About 10,000 people moved into relief shelters. Strong winds and heavy rain knocked down trees and electricity poles and flooded low-lying areas. Schools in some districts stayed closed, and 19 domestic flights were cancelled. Andhra Pradesh’s disaster authority said no deaths or injuries had been reported so far.

Farms took a hit. The Tribune reported more than 30,000 hectares of crops damaged across 15 districts, mostly paddy, cotton and maize. Families can report problems such as power cuts and fallen trees through a WhatsApp service called Mana Mitra. The weather department expected the storm to weaken, but heavy rain to continue.

WHY IT MATTERS

Warnings and shelters help families get to safety, and a repair list helps them get back to normal.

SPORTS CORNER

SPORTS CORNER: MONDAY NIGHT

Basketball: Luka Doncic scored 42 as the Lakers beat Miami 138-117, and Stephen Curry scored 34 in Golden State’s 116-113 win over Phoenix. Football: Chicago beat Seattle 34-17 in the NFL.

TOMORROW'S WATCHLIST

• The vote counts, and which party wins the House and Senate.

• Where the Iran talks go next, and what happens to oil prices.

“A vote is a way of telling leaders what matters to us.” — The Editor

Keep exploring. See you tomorrow.