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DAILY

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SCAN TO READ & PLAY

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TOP STORY • AMERICA VOTES

Democrats Projected to Win Both the House and the Senate

A few close races were still being counted, but the result will change what Congress does in the last two years of President Trump's term.

Written and fact-checked by AI · News Pebbles

Congress writes the laws and decides how the country's money is spent, so which party controls it matters to every family. On Tuesday 3 November, voters in the midterm elections, held halfway through a president's four-year term, appeared to give that control to the Democrats. CNBC's Election Desk projected at least 250 House seats for them by early Wednesday, while CBS estimated 251 to 268, with about 75 races still undecided.

The Senate looked just as clear. Fifty-one seats are needed for control, and Democrats were on track for at least 54. Only Alaska and Mississippi were uncalled by Wednesday midday; in Mississippi, Democrat Scott Colom led Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith by under 100 votes. Democrats also flipped five governorships, which CNBC said gives them at least 28, their first majority since 2010.

So what turned so many votes? Vice President JD Vance wrote, "The reason we lost is the war," meaning the war with Iran that President Trump started in February. Trump called that "largely true" because the war raised gasoline prices in the short term, but said he would do it again.

Now the new majority gets real power. Control of the House lets Democrats issue subpoenas and investigate the administration, and Hakeem Jeffries is expected to become Speaker. Trump said he will use his veto power as needed.



Voters in states across the country changed who will lead them and who controls Congress.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Congress shapes health care and trade rules that touch family budgets. CBS listed Democratic goals such as restoring health tax credits, opposing tariffs and ending the Iran war, and attacks on tankers are raising energy and shipping costs worldwide, including for India.

WORLD • SPACE

NASA's Swift Space Telescope Falls Back to Earth After Nearly 22 Years

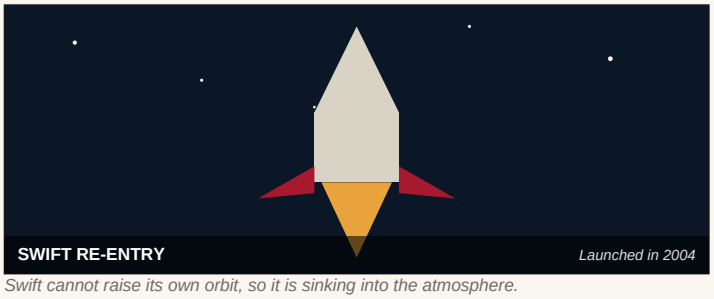
The satellite has no thrusters to lift itself, so the thin upper air slowly pulled it down.

Satellites do not stay up forever, and one of NASA's most useful is coming home. The Neil Gehrels Swift Observatory was expected to re-enter Earth's atmosphere on 4 November. The US Space Force estimated the moment at about 3:30 a.m. Eastern time that day, give or take eleven hours, which shows how hard it is to time a fall.

Why is it falling? Swift was launched in 2004 and was designed for a two-year main mission, but it operated for nearly 22 years. Its job was to watch gamma-ray bursts, described as the most violent explosions in the known universe, using three telescopes and alerting other observatories quickly. NASA has no spacecraft ready to take over its job of spotting such explosions within minutes. Swift has no thrusters and cannot raise its own altitude, and increased solar activity expands the upper atmosphere, which adds drag and drags it lower.

A rescue was tried first. A Katalyst LINK spacecraft launched on 3 July, but on 19 August NASA and Katalyst announced it would not capture or boost Swift because of attitude control issues. A NASA spokesperson said there are no plans for another boost mission and the telescope was left to fall.

What happens to something this big? The spacecraft weighs roughly 3,200 pounds, and NASA expects most of it to burn up. Its chief scientist, Brad Cenko, said a handful of tungsten pieces, a metal denser than lead, and some mirror parts could survive. Any debris would land between latitudes 20.6 degrees north and 20.6 degrees south, and NASA put the chance of injuring any person at about one in 2,100.



Swift cannot raise its own orbit, so it is sinking into the atmosphere.

CONNECT THE DOTS

Science: a satellite stays in orbit because it moves sideways fast enough to keep falling around Earth. Drag from the thin upper air slows it, so it sinks, and a satellite without thrusters cannot climb back up.

INDIA • CYCLONE MURASU

Murasu Storm Ruins Crops on Andhra Pradesh's Coast

For families who live and farm there, it was the second cyclone in a week.

For millions who live on India's east coast, a cyclone is a recurring danger: a huge spinning storm born over warm sea. Murasu came ashore near Ongole, in Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh, at around 1 am on Tuesday 3 November, the weather department (IMD) said. It had grown from a low-pressure area over the Bay of Bengal, and its winds reached 100 to 110 km/h.

Farmers took the biggest hit. The Tribune reported damage to more than 30,000 hectares of standing crops in 15 districts, mostly paddy, cotton and maize, and flooded salt pans cost farmers and workers.

Help moved fast. About 10,805 people went to cyclone shelters, the state opened 171 relief camps, and 14 national disaster response teams were deployed. Officials first said no deaths or injuries had been reported; a later live blog said at least two people died.

Another storm had struck days earlier. Cyclone Arnab killed seven people in Andhra Pradesh, according to a 29 October report, so Murasu arrived before the region could recover.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Shelters and warnings protect families, but damaged harvests can hit a farm family's income for months.

Also in India

• Odisha: 1,65,809 people were evacuated from six southern districts.

• Courts: the Election Commission filed a 248-page reply defending its voter-list revision.

ONE-LINE BRIEFS

• Australia: government lawyers told the High Court the ban on social media for under-16s is needed to protect “developing brains”, while Reddit and the Digital Freedom Project are challenging it.

• European Union: Council President António Costa called enlargement “the best geopolitical investment Europe has made” at a Brussels summit on 3 November.

VOCABULARY BUILDER

Words that unlock today's news

Landfall
The moment a storm's centre moves from the sea onto land. Today: Cyclone Murasu made landfall near Ongole at around 1 am on Tuesday.

Veto
A president's power to reject a bill that Congress has passed. Today: Trump said he will use his veto power as needed.

Subpoena
A legal order to hand over documents or give evidence. Today: Control of the House gives Democrats the power to issue subpoenas.

Power grid
The network of wires and stations that carries electricity to homes. Today: Russian strikes hit the grid in four Ukrainian regions.

DID YOU KNOW?

A hectare is 10,000 square metres, a square 100 metres on each side.

UNITED STATES • MONEY AND VOTES

Elon Musk Spent at Least $474 Million on the Midterms, and Many of His Picks Lost

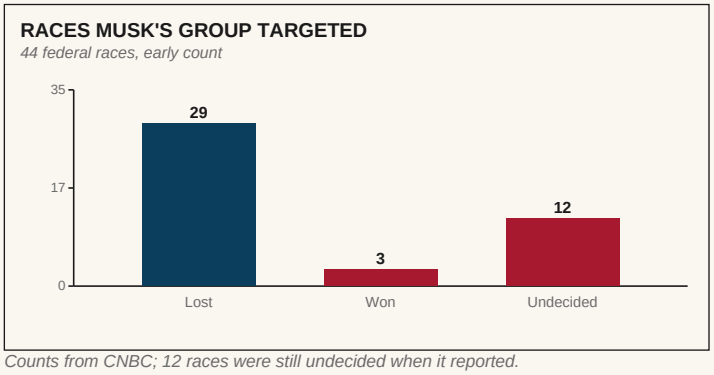
CNBC counted the results in the races his political group targeted, while voters also decided on data centers and a billionaire tax.

Elections cost money, and one person spent a great deal of it. CNBC reported that Elon Musk spent at least $474 million on the midterms, including $224 million in Texas.

Did the spending work? Musk's group, called America PAC, targeted 44 federal races. CNBC counted that Republicans it backed or opposed lost 29 of them, won 3, and that 12 were still undecided at the time of its report.

Voters also decided questions directly on the ballot. In California, Proposition 40, a tax on billionaires, had 43.7% yes votes with 83% of precincts partly reporting, which was short of a majority.

Closer to home, neighbours voted on data centers, the large buildings full of computers that power artificial intelligence. About 41 local ballot measures on them were decided in 10 states, and preliminary results suggest roughly two dozen passed to restrict or block data centers, according to CNBC.



Counts from CNBC; 12 races were still undecided when it reported.

WHY THIS MATTERS

In this vote, big spending did not guarantee wins, and neighbours used local ballots to say what they want built nearby.

THINK LIKE AN ANALYST

Does spending more money always win more votes? What other evidence would you want before deciding what caused each result?

SPORTS CORNER

Brewers win their first World Series

The **Milwaukee Brewers** beat the **Tampa Bay Rays** in Game 5 on Wednesday 28 October in St. Petersburg, Florida, to win the World Series. Spectrum News said it was the franchise's first championship.

WHAT TO WATCH NEXT

• Senate: Alaska and Mississippi were still uncalled on Wednesday, and in Mississippi Democrat Scott Colom led by under 100 votes.

• India: a Supreme Court bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant was to hear petitions about the Election Commission's revision of voter lists.

“A vote is a small sentence that becomes a very large paragraph.” — The Editors

You are not just reading the news — you are learning to think about it. See you in two days.