



Welcome to the **Emory University November 5 Presidential Election Expert Insights**.

Our media relations team has identified dozens of Emory experts to discuss the November 5 presidential election. You are welcome to use all materials listed. A full list of election experts can be found at election.emory.edu. If you would like to be connected to one of our experts, please contact the media relations team at news@emory.edu.

High Stakes of Democracy, Voter Engagement, and Key Issues

Carol Anderson: The upcoming election is seen as a battle over democracy's future, with high stakes for rule of law, peaceful power transfer, and diversity. On one side is a vision of democracy, while the other foresees authoritarianism driven by revenge, eroding civil rights, and aligning with dictators. Voter turnout, particularly among women, has surged due to reproductive rights concerns post-Dobbs, fueled by misogynistic rhetoric. Key issues include immigration, the economy, reproductive healthcare, and racism, often distorted by misinformation. The U.S. economy has shown strong performance, yet ads fuel economic concerns, while Dobbs' impact has led to severe restrictions on women's health. Meanwhile, distrust in election integrity is amplified by partisan rhetoric, with false claims leading to tension, misinformation, and even violence, reminiscent of the January 6th aftermath. [View full text.](#)

Challenges Beyond the Presidency and Voter Turnout

Zachary Peskowitz: While the presidential election garners significant attention, control of both the Senate and House is also critical, as it will shape the federal government's stance on issues like tax policy, environmental regulations, and Supreme Court appointments. Higher-than-expected turnout is likely this year, potentially exceeding 2016 levels and possibly matching 2020's pandemic-driven surge in mail-in voting. Key issues driving voters include the economy, immigration, and abortion. Early voting data shows increased Republican participation in early and mail voting, signaling growing trust in these voting methods. Post-election rhetoric on election administration may further influence public trust in the electoral system. [View full text.](#)

Misinformation Threatens Trust

Pearl Dowe: The continuous spread of misinformation, especially on social media, poses a serious threat to both future elections and the allocation of essential resources like healthcare and education. Trust in

these systems is crucial, yet the divided perceptions of the Trump administration reflect how differently voters recall those years. For many women, the Dobbs decision's impact on healthcare is a significant concern, alongside broader worries about the rising cost of living. [View full text.](#)

Election Uncertainty Ahead

Bernard Fraga: The presidential election is likely to be very close, close enough that state and county-level differences in the ways voters can cast their ballots and the way those ballots can be counted could make the difference. Combined with a lot of uncertainty in key U.S. House elections, it's possible that we won't know which party will control the White House and the House of Representatives until well after election night. In addition, while voter turnout is likely to be higher than in 2016, some voters who voted in 2020 may stay home due to continued displeasure with Trump and Harris. While we will see some signs of which groups stayed home by the end of election night, we may not know the full story of what caused the 2024 results until weeks or even months after the election.

Swing States and Congressional Control

Alex Bolton: On election night, early returns from swing states like Georgia and North Carolina will provide initial insights into the presidential race. In addition to the White House, control of Congress is also at stake, with both the House and Senate outcomes influencing the next president's agenda. The current slim Republican majority in the House may shift by a few key seats, with competitive races in states like New York, California, and Pennsylvania. Republicans are seen as likely to gain a Senate majority, with strong chances of winning Joe Manchin's seat in West Virginia and targeting Democratic seats in Michigan, Montana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. Meanwhile, Democrats have slimmer hopes for Senate upsets in Texas, Nebraska, or Florida. [View full text.](#)

AAPI Voter Turnout and Impact

Chris Suh: In Georgia, 328,471 Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) voters are eligible to vote in the 2024 election, representing less than 5% of eligible voters but potentially decisive given their influence in 2020, when Biden won by fewer than 12,000 votes. In 2020, 55% of AAPI voters supported Biden, contributing to his narrow margin of victory. Their growing political engagement is bolstered by the recent formation of Georgia's Legislative AAPI Caucus, which includes 11 Asian American state legislators. However, AAPI voters may not uniformly support Harris, as some align with Trump's economic policies or hold conservative beliefs influenced by anti-communism and evangelical values. This diversity underscores the varied motivations within the AAPI electorate. [View full text.](#)

More Emory Experts

Robert M. Franklin, Jr., James T. and Berta R. Laney Professor in Moral Leadership, can reflect on the importance of moral leadership and the role it plays in uniting a divided nation.

https://www.cnn.com/2021/01/20/opinions/remedies-for-civic-life-after-america-division-franklin/index.html?cid=ios_app

Alicia Hughes, Emory law professor, can discuss voter rights and possible legal challenges to the election.

David Schweidel, Emory marketing professor, is available to discuss how social media will impact the elections. He can also discuss AI policies. Schweidel has also done extensive work on the impact of negative political advertisements. <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11129-021-09246-x>

Mike Lewis, Emory marketing professor, looks at fandom and has done research as well on political fandom. Professor Lewis says, “Donald Trump is the overwhelming Republican fan favorite. The use of fandom as the metric is critical, as his dominance is based on deep connections rather than momentary preferences.” His research on Republican Fandom and Trump’s VP Choice can be found here - <https://www.fandomanalytics.com/post/political-fandom-and-trump-s-vp>

Sahas Sridharan, Emory accounting professor, is available to discuss the political economy and how lobbying and campaign contributions influence policy making. https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3756443

Tom Smith is an economist who can discuss all policies surrounding labor, real estate, and cultural economics.

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Full Text

Carol Anderson: “This is an epic battle over the future of not only democracy but the United States, itself. The outcome of the election will determine if we have a nation governed by the rule of law, sanctity of the outcome of elections, and belief in the peaceful transfer of power. A democracy that values, supports, and builds upon the incredible diversity of this nation. Or, whether we'll have an authoritarian bent on revenge and retribution, who will use the powerful federal government to satisfy his grifting, pernicious, vindictive desires. Where the U.S. military will be used against Americans to silence once-protected First Amendment speech. Where the civil service will be destroyed to install loyalists solely obedient to the man in the Oval Office — not to the Constitution. Where rampant racism will become the operating code of this regime. A ruler that betrays our long-time pro-democracy alliances for dalliances with dictators. It will increase economic and political instability and leave the U.S. vulnerable under the guise of strength. That's what's at stake in this election.”

Voter Turnout: “Not only the record-setting turnout but the prominent gender gap is the story. The Dobbs decision and the gut-wrenching stories of those who have been denied lifesaving healthcare has sparked a wave of women going to the polls, outpacing men in most swing states by double digits. This has been buttressed by ads reminding women that their vote is private. The push to protect their rights through the vote has also been spurred on by a bevy of misogynistic comments about barren, childless cat ladies, that it's idiotic for women over 50 to care about abortion rights, that post-menopausal women's only value is to watch the grandchildren, and that an adjudicated rapist will be women's protector whether they like it or not.”

Key Issues: “Immigration, the economy, reproductive healthcare, and racism.

So much of these issues are based on lies. Immigrants commit fewer crimes than U.S. citizens, yet the fear mongering goes unabated. And, no, they are not eating dogs and cats, and the Venezuelans are not terrorizing Aurora, Colorado.

The U.S. economy is the strongest in and the envy of the world. Inflation is below 3%, unemployment is low, wages have outpaced inflation, and job creation has been strong for years. Yet, given the ads and the polls showing concern, one would never know that the Biden-Harris administration inherited a dumpster fire and developed policies that have the Economist and the Wall Street Journal raving about the success of the American economy.

While the man who appointed three of the justices to the U.S. Supreme Court who overturned Roe, says that everyone wanted that decision to happen, and Dobbs is a "beautiful thing." That's just not true. The fallout has been horrific. The tens of thousands of women and girls who have been raped and forced to carry the child of their assailants, is not beautiful. The doctors feeling hogtied by threats of prison if they treat a pregnant woman who has a dying fetus inside of her is not beautiful. Women who are charged with manslaughter for miscarrying — not beautiful. Cities and counties banning the use of highways for women who need to go out of state to access healthcare. None of these are beautiful.

The Madison Square Garden rally was an ode to racism and misogyny. The denigration of Puerto Rico, the hatred spewed about African Americans, Muslims, and Jews, and calling the Vice President the Anti-Christ who has pimp handlers put on full display the ugliness that is the alpha and omega of that movement. Hatred, venom, and disdain is what they bring. Seeing the response as Puerto Ricans

mobilized sent a strong signal that MAGA's white supremacist ethos will be countered with the power of the vote.”

Election Trust: “Trump and the RNC have worked overtime to sow distrust in the election results. The only ones they will accept are the ones where he wins. That's not democracy. His followers have drunk heavily from that Kool-Aid, though, and are a disruptive force, compelling election officials in Arizona to have snipers trained on the rooftops, police having to arrest those wielding a machete at voters and slapping poll workers, Brad Raffensberger debunking the lie about millions of non-citizens rushing across open borders and being registered to vote for Democrats (out of 8.2 million registered voters, 20 non-citizens were on Georgia's rolls, 18 were Republicans, 9 had voted), and numerous judges fending off a slew of baseless lawsuits that are filed not on merit but to give the aura of impropriety. To sell the lies that non-citizens voted in droves, that election officials received scores of absentee ballots when they weren't supposed to, that voter rolls have not been maintained, and other absurdities. The question about election integrity is hyper-partisan. It's the lie that led to the January 6th insurrection. Hyper-partisan.”

Zachary Peskowitz: “While the presidential election receives the bulk of media and public attention and will have large policy impacts, the Senate and House majorities are also both in play. Whether the federal government has divided or unified government in January will have a large effect on the future path of tax policy, energy and environmental regulations, possible Supreme Court confirmations, and other high-profile issues.

Early voting data and public opinion polling on intention to vote suggest that the national turnout percentage will most likely be higher than in the 2016 election. It will be interesting to see if turnout matches or exceeds the level of 2020, when the Covid-19 pandemic motivated many states to provide easier access to vote by mail.

The economy, immigration, and abortion are some of the major issues that are influencing voters' perceptions of the presidential candidates.

Data from who has participated in early voting in Georgia and nationwide suggest that Republican voters have increased their acceptance of early voting either in person or by mail. This may reflect increased Republican faith in the integrity and security of convenience voting. Elite rhetoric on election administration in the days after the election could have an impact on citizens' trust in the electoral system.”

Pearl Dowe: Regardless of the results of the election, the impact of continuous and targeted misinformation cannot be understated. The preponderance of false information constantly promoted via social media is a threat not only to future elections but to the processes that allocate resources such as health care, education, public utilities, etc. All of these require a level of trust that what is being received is appropriate and necessary.

Voters on both sides have a memory of the Trump administration in which some voters see those four years as a favorable time while others do not want a repeat of Trump's unorthodox leadership style. Of course, for many women the impact of the Dobbs decision on their health care cannot be minimized and voters are seriously concerned about their pocketbook and the increased cost of living.

Alex Bolton: “In the presidential race, I’ll be closely watching the early returns from swing states. Georgia and North Carolina’s early results (polls close at 7 and 7:30, respectively) should give us a sense of whether we are seeing a break toward one of the candidates or are in for a late night (or long week)!

While most of the attention will be on the presidential race, partisan control of both the House and the Senate are also on the line Tuesday. The outcomes of these races will have considerable consequences for the ability of the winning presidential candidate to achieve their goals.

The current House Republican majority is razor-thin and the next one (whether it is Republican or Democratic) likely will be too. Control of the chamber will come down to a handful of competitive seats, many of which are not in presidential swing states. I’ll be looking in particular at races in New York, California, and Pennsylvania.

Senate control is also on the line, and the Republicans are in my opinion the favorites to end up in the majority. They are likely to win the West Virginia seat being vacated by Democrat Joe Manchin and will be looking to pick up one or more Democratic seats in competitive races in Michigan, Montana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. On the other hand, Democrats’ best opportunities for flipping a Republican seat are relative long shots, as they hope for upsets in Texas, Nebraska, or Florida.”

Chris Suh:

The numbers

There are 328,471 Asian American & Pacific Islanders (AAPI) eligible to vote in Georgia in the 2024 election. While this number represents less than 5% of the eligible voters in Georgia, AAPI voters can make a huge difference in this election just as they did in 2020.

Back then, Biden defeated Trump in Georgia by fewer than 12,000 votes, and 126,815 AAPI voters cast a ballot (a 64.6% turnout rate). With 55% of AAPI voters (73,355) voting for Biden, with 45% (53,460) voting for Trump and other candidates, AAPI voters played a pivotal role in shaping the outcome of the election (among AAPI voters, Biden received 19,895 more votes than all other candidates combined, and that number is really important considering his margin of victory for the whole state was just 12,000 votes).

Many AAPI voters in Georgia know that they can play this important role in this election, so I expect there to be a similar turnout this election.

AAPI Political Representation at the State Level

In addition to their awareness of what happened in the 2020 presidential election, one of the reasons why AAPI voters have been energized is that they now have a significant number of AAPI-identifying politicians at the state level representing their communities.

In fact, Georgia currently has 11 members of the state legislature who identify as Asian American. In 2023, they inaugurated the state’s first formal Legislative Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Caucus: 9 Democrats and 2 Republicans.

This is very large. For context, California has 14 state legislators identifying as Asian American, even though it has a much, much bigger AAPI population than Georgia.

Race v. Economics

That being said, we cannot assume that AAPI voters will choose Harris over Trump because she would become the first Asian American president (and because Trump has deployed anti-Asian rhetoric). As I mentioned in my interview with another NBC news reporter, <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/asian-america/georgia-gwinnett-seoul-of-the-south-rcna176566>, some Asian American voters plan on voting for Trump because they came to the US with conservative views based on their anti-communism and evangelicalism. Furthermore, there are Asian Americans who believe that the economy will be better under a second Trump term.

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