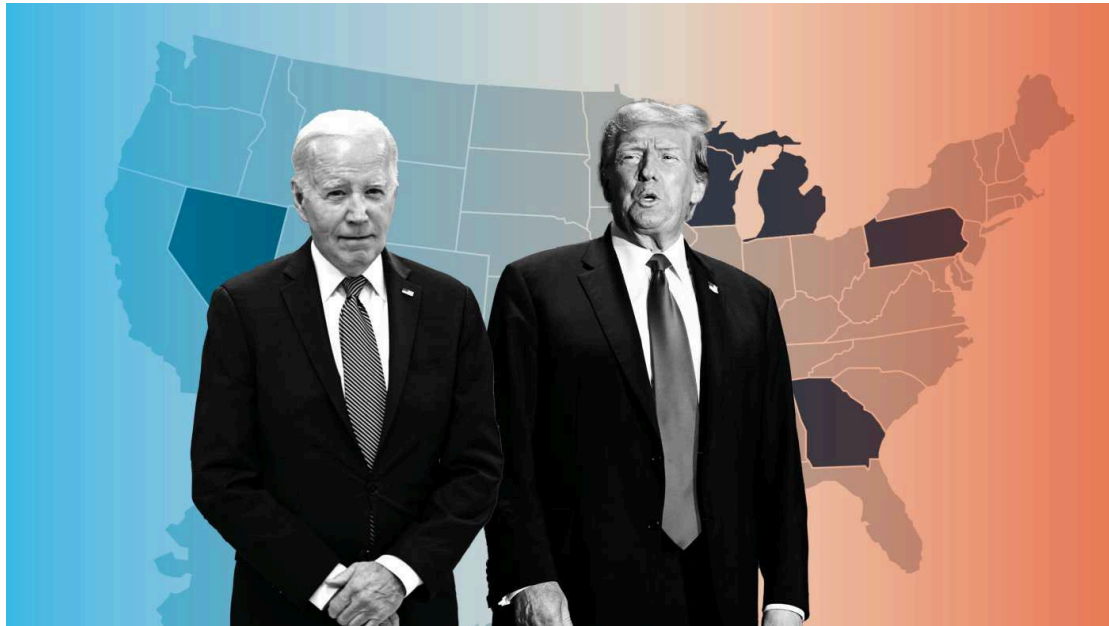


# An Overview of the 2024 Elections

*Prof. Aaron Weinschenk*



# 2024 Presidential Election: Rematch!



- General considerations
  - Unusual match up: Incumbent vs. former Incumbent (both well known)
    - Unlikely to be a lot of preference change
    - Small shifts in places like WI can have important effects in the election outcome due to Electoral College
      - Campaign activities typically have tiny effects but can matter in close states

# Likely Issues

- Economy: Unemployment rate, inflation, etc.
- Immigration
- Abortion
- Israel-Gaza War
- Russia-Ukraine War
- Future of American democracy/election integrity
- Candidate age
  - 86% of Americans think Biden is too old; 62% think Trump is too old
- Candidates should emphasize the issues where they are advantaged and downplay those where they are disadvantaged

# A Few Other Ideas

- This far out from Election Day, polls are not very predictive of the eventual outcome
- Although we are already getting attention from the candidates, there is a lot more campaigning to come
  - For example, last month Biden announced 44 campaign offices opening in Wisconsin
    - Can make a difference in battlegrounds like Wisconsin, Michigan, and Pennsylvania

# U.S. Senate Election in Wisconsin

- Tammy Baldwin (i) vs. Eric Hovde
- Will be one of the most competitive and expensive Senate races

## **Some considerations:**

- Name recognition (~85% haven't heard enough about Hovde to have an opinion)
- Baldwin emphasizes issues that connect with urban and rural Wisconsinites, (e.g., supporting agriculture, infrastructure, and keeping jobs in America).
- Hovde connected to Trump but also emphasizing compromise on issues like abortion
- Hovde well resourced

# Closer to Home (8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District)

- Congressman Gallagher leaving Congress in two days
- Open seat
- At least 3 Republicans have announced (one endorsed by Trump), 1 Democrat
  - Contentious primaries tend to produce nominees who do less well in the general election
- 8th district has definite Republican lean, but don't count Democrats completely out (esp. with the right set of conditions).

# State Legislature

- New Assembly and Senate Districts passed by Legislature and signed by Governor
  - Some retirements, people moving to new districts, etc.
  - Overall picture: In the Assembly, 49 seats lean Republican and 50 lean Democratic. In the state Senate, 16 seats lean Republican and 17 lean Democratic.
    - Of course, candidates, campaigns, issues conditions, etc. matter!
    - Likely GOP majority (esp. in Senate) but probably not as large as right now

# Wrap up

- Should be a fascinating (but also tiring) election season!
  - Interesting set of issues
  - New candidates entering politics
  - New legislative districts in Wisconsin
- Please reach out with questions or to chat more: [weinscha@uwgb.edu](mailto:weinscha@uwgb.edu)