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Inside C2

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Make Today Different

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Trump agenda at stake as voters decide control of U.S. Congress

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Americans voted on Tuesday to decide whether Donald Trump's Republicans maintain their grip on the U.S. Congress, or if Democrats can slow the president's agenda after a divisive campaign marked by clashes over race, immigration and trade.

The first national elections since Trump captured the White House in a stunning 2016 upset is a referendum on the polarizing president and a test of whether Democrats can turn the energy of the liberal anti-Trump resistance into victories at the ballot box.

The Democrats have a good chance of winning at least the U.S. House of Representatives and slimmer hopes of gaining control of the Senate, opinion polls show.

If they do take the House, Democrats could launch congressional investigations into aspects of Trump's administration from his tax returns to possible conflicts of interest, challenge his overtures to Saudi Arabia, Russia and North Korea, and oppose him on immigration, tax cuts and trade. If Republicans hold onto both chambers of Congress, Trump likely would claim vindication for his polarizing style, a month after he secured a conservative majority on the Supreme Court when the Senate approved nominee Brett Kavanaugh after a fight over sexual misconduct accusations that split the nation.

Striking a dark tone at a rally in Indiana on Monday evening, Trump accused Democrats of "openly encouraging millions of illegal aliens to break our laws, violate our borders and overrun our country."

All 435 seats in the House, 35 Senate seats and 36 governorships are up for grabs in elections focused on dozens of competitive races that opinion polls show could go either way.

Democrats are favored by election forecasters to pick up the minimum of 23 House seats they need for a majority.

The first polling stations close at 6 p.m. Eastern time (2300 GMT) with early results expected shortly after but a full picture likely will not begin to emerge until late at night.

Republicans are expected to retain their slight majority in the Senate, currently at two seats, which would let them retain the power to approve U.S. Supreme Court and other judicial nominations.



People fill out their ballots at Philomont Fire Station, in Purcellville, VA, U.S., November 6, 2018. REUTERS/Al Drago

U.S. stocks ticked higher in thin trading on Tuesday, as investors awaited the election results.

Political gridlock between the White House and Congress could hinder Trump's pro-business agenda and raise concerns about U.S. political instability, but investors may have already priced this in.

Analysts expect pressure on stocks if Democrats

gain control of the House and a sharper downward reaction if they win the Senate, too. If Republicans hold their ground, stocks could gain further, with hopes of more tax cuts ahead.

In a last-minute controversy, NBC, Fox News and Facebook on Monday pulled an ad by Trump's campaign that critics have labeled racist. The spot featured courtroom video of an illegal immigrant from Mexico convicted in the 2014 killings of two police officers, juxtaposed with scenes of migrants headed through Mexico.

Georgians wait in line to cast their votes in U.S. midterm election in Georgia

Key governor races will shape future U.S. political landscape

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (Reuters) - Hotly-contested battles in Georgia and Florida pitting liberal black Democrats against white Republicans supported by President Donald Trump headline the three dozen governors' races being contested in Tuesday's U.S. elections.

In Georgia, Stacey Abrams is vying to become the nation's first black female governor. The 44-year-old Georgia politician and Andrew Gillum, the mayor of Tallahassee, Florida, would also be the first black governor in each of their states.

Abrams and Gillum, 39, are testing a new liberal path in Southern states where traditional, centrist Democrats have repeatedly lost. They seek to rally greater numbers of young voters and minorities, who typically

favor Democrats but often sit out elections in years when a presidential vote is not held.

Trump's reputation is on the line in Georgia and Florida after his endorsements helped Georgia Secretary of State Brian Kemp and former Florida congressman Ron DeSantis clinch the Republican nominations for their states' open gubernatorial seats. Accusations of race-baiting have dogged Kemp, 55, and DeSantis, 40. They deny the charges.

Gillum, joined by his wife and three young children, cast his ballot on a drizzly morning in Tallahassee, the capital of Florida. Afterward, he said his election would send a message to Trump "that the politics of hatred and of division, of separation, that they've come to an end."

"We're returning the politics of decency and what's right and what's common between all of us," he told reporters in a voice hoarse from campaigning. "We'll worry about history later, but today we're working to win."

DeSantis, after voting in Ponte Vedra Beach, told reporters: "We did as much as can be done and I'm happy. Let the chips fall where they may."

While much of the focus of Tuesday's elections is on which party wins control of the U.S. Congress, Republicans and Democrats are battling across the country for state-level power, which can help them support or resist Trump's agenda on issues such as healthcare, gun control and gay rights.



Democratic gubernatorial candidate for Georgia Stacey Abrams speaks as Republican candidate Brian Kemp looks on during a debate in Atlanta

Democrats, playing catch-up after a net loss of 13 governorships and more than 900 state legislative seats during the eight-year

Obama administration, are fielding their largest slate of legislative candidates in more than three decades.

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Poll worker directs racist language at a north Houston

A poll worker shouted racist statements at a Houston woman after confusion over her voter registration. When Rolanda Anthony tried to vote at her polling location at Iglesia Bautista Libre in north Houston, a poll worker said there was an issue with her address in the system. She was told she had to fill out a form to fix it. That's when Juanita Barnes, the assistant election judge, ran over and told her it was illegal for her to try to change her address on Election Day. The two argued. "If I were to wear my blackface make up, maybe you would under-

stand what I'm telling you," Barnes said to Anthony. Barnes is white and Anthony is black. Anthony says she tried to walk away at that point but Barnes followed her through the polling place and kept yelling at her. Anthony told her she was calling the police. Anthony said Barnes then threatened her saying the police would arrest Anthony because she's black. Edith Randle, the presiding election judge, intervened, separating Barnes from Anthony. One of the poll workers, Pristina Stucky, quit in protest over Barnes' comments now at risk of being separated from their families.



Harris County sheriff's deputies filed a criminal assault charge against poll worker Juanita Barnes on Tuesday after a black voter reported that Barnes made racist remarks and assaulted her at a polling place.

UTMB takes over old Bay Area Regional hospital, holds job fair

University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston is seeking employees through a series of job fairs to staff its new campus at the former Bay Area Regional Medical Center in Webster, according to a UTMB spokesman. Jobs are available at the newly named UTMB Clear Lake Campus Hospital, which is expected to open in the spring, according to a UTMB press release. At the job fairs, the company is recruiting current UTMB employees, former Bay Area Regional Medical Center workers and new nursing graduates as well as members of the public seeking other clinical roles. Staff members at the fairs will be available to answer questions and conduct on-site interviews, according to UTMB's career website page. The job fairs are scheduled for Nov. 6, 8, 9, 15 and 16, with two more scheduled for Dec. 3 and 4.

On Nov. 6, 8 and 9, job fairs will be held from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. each day on the first floor of the 191-bed hospital campus at 200 Blossom St., Webster. On Nov. 15 and 16 and Dec. 3 and 4, job fairs will be conducted from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at salons A, B and C at the Hilton Galveston Island Resort, 5400 Seawall Blvd., Galveston. Each job fair date is designated for specific types of applicants: Nov. 6 is only for current UTMB employees. Nov. 8 and 9 is only for former Bay Area Regional Medical Center employees. Nov. 15 and 16 is open to job seekers from the general public for other clinical roles. Dec. 3 and 4 is for summer 2018 nursing graduates only. UTMB, one of the largest health care providers in the region, signed a letter of intent in August to complete negotiations on a 15-year lease of the existing Webster medical center,

and on Oct. 25 officially took possession of the former hospital. UTMB is working with area physicians to determine staffing requirements and is deciding what services to provide at the facility, a statement from UTMB said. The opening would occur in phases. BARMC abruptly closed May 4 after opening four years earlier and spending \$200 million in construction and operation. CEO Stephen K. Jones Jr. then told employees in an email provided to the Houston Chronicle that the company "was not able to overcome significant hurdles with managed-care companies." An estimated 900 employees immediately lost their jobs, but a hospital spokeswoman later said that 342 of the workers whose jobs were cut are now employed at other hospitals in the Houston area. The hospital anticipates adding staff and

having the opportunity to hire back some of the people who previously worked at the facility, said Becky Korenek, senior vice president of strategic and business planning at UTMB, has said.



Advertisement for the 2018 Houston Travel Shopping Guide. It features a collage of images including a newspaper page with travel tips, a brochure for George Ranch Historical Park, and a colorful map of Houston. Large text reads '請至本報社 免費取閱' (Please come to our newspaper office for free pickup) and '2018休斯頓 旅遊購物指南 HOUSTON TRAVEL SHOPPING GUIDE'. A large red graphic says '已經' (Already).

2018休斯頓 旅遊購物指南 HOUSTON TRAVEL SHOPPING GUIDE 發行

Editor's Choice



Jason Dytyniak holds his skateboard as he waits in line to cast his ballot at a church used as a voting place for the midterm election in Detroit



Voter Rene Burciaga casts his ballot in the midterm elections at Sunueva Laundromat in Chicago



Democratic congressional candidate Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez arrives to cast her vote for the midterm election in the Bronx



A woman arrives to vote in the 2018 midterm elections in Baisden, West Virginia



Karissa Anderson and Amy Michell show their support for Democratic congressional nominee Richard Ojeda in the 2018 midterm elections in Logan, West Virginia



A vote sign points people to a local polling location during midterm elections in Newport Beach, California



U.S. Democratic Congressional candidate Jahana Hayes greets supporters at a voting station for midterm elections in Waterbury, Connecticut



Voters cast their ballots in Dubuque, Iowa during midterm elections

In 1895, in his early 20s, Wong Kim Ark returned to the United States, the place of his birth.

He'd grown up in San Francisco, the son of Chinese immigrants, and was a cook by trade. His parents had returned to their own homeland in 1890, and he'd gone with them — but in the time since he'd established a transnational lifestyle.

He'd started a family in China, but repeatedly made trips back to the US to work. In fact, he'd just met his first child, conceived on an earlier trip, and gotten his wife pregnant with a second.

Such arrangements were not uncommon for Chinese-American men, as the Chinese population in the US was overwhelmingly male.

The US was in the grips of intense anti-Chinese sentiment, and Chinese immigration had been cut off in 1882. But since he'd been born in the US, he was able to return by showing the documents required by local customs officials, including testimony from white people that he was a US citizen.

Or at least that's how it had worked for him before. In 1895, it was different.



San Francisco, California, circa 1895.

Wong was denied entry by a stridently anti-Chinese customs collector, on the grounds that he was not in fact a US citizen, owing to his parents' status as Chinese immigrants at the time of his birth. Then he was held on ships for months as he fought the case — with legal help from the "Six Companies," a Chinese-American organization that had made a point of standing up for Chinese civil rights in thousands of court cases.

Eventually it was decided, on the basis of an earlier appeals-court precedent, that his US birth made him a citizen. But the US attorney general decided to push the issue further, and his case ended up at the Supreme Court.

That court's ultimate decision is back

Chinese Man Is the Reason America Grants Birthright Citizenship

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



Wong Kim Ark. (Courtesy Records of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service)

in the spotlight now. In an interview released early this week, President Trump announced a plan to take on "birthright citizenship" via executive order. This is the rule under which just about everyone born in the USA — including the children of illegal immigrants — is automatically granted citizenship, and the rule that Wong helped make US law.

It's important to understand the situation Wong was born into. Between 1860 and 1880, the Chinese-American population tripled, topping 100,000 by the end of that period and concentrated largely in California. In 1868 a treaty explicitly welcomed these migrants — though they were not eligible for naturalization. And while Chinese-Americans made up small percentage of the overall American population, the tide shifted after repeated economic recessions, fueling a racist backlash.



President Trump announced a plan to take on "birthright citizenship" via executive order.

In theory, Wong's case posed a rather narrow question: Whether he was covered by the 14th Amendment clause granting citizenship to "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof."

Today, most courts would carefully parse those words, check dictionaries as needed, consult legal texts to see if the phrase was a term of art, and perhaps read up on the legislative history as well, to see what the people who actually wrote the words intended to convey.

Back then, however, the Supreme Court took a different path. In a 6-2 ruling, it touched on the text and history of the actual amendment only lightly and decided to cement the definition of citizenship we'd inherited from English common law, where everyone born in the country is treated as a natural subject. The same rule had applied to whites in the US since the country's founding, the Court said, and the amendment had extended the rule to everyone else.

This is how Wong got his citizenship. And it's why birthright citizenship presents such an enormous hurdle for those that oppose it.

Opponents of birthright citizenship today aren't trying to prevent legal immigrants from re-entering the country if they visit their homelands, though, or to exclude entire racial groups.

Rather, they primarily fear — quite sensibly — that immediately granting citizenship to the children of people who came here illegally serves as a magnet, or at least a reward, for crossing our borders without authorization.



'Birthright' Babies Outnumber Births in 16 States.

dent.

Today's Supreme Court could certainly reconsider the issue and consult a wealth of evidence that the 1898 Court mostly ignored, including the debates surrounding the 14th Amendment. But there is strong evidence from those debates that the amendment was, in fact, meant to confer citizenship on virtually everyone born here, with just a handful of exceptions (such as the kids of foreign ambassadors). There are respected legal scholars who disagree — advancing a theory that "jurisdiction" requires allegiance to and the consent of the US — but a challenge to birthright citizenship would require all five conservative justices to read the historical evidence in a very specific way and break with decades upon decades' worth of precedent and standard practice.

Wong Kim Ark eventually returned to China for good. His legacy will remain a part of America for far, far longer. (Courtesy newyorkpost.com)

MARITIME JOB FAIR advertisement for San Jacinto College, including date (Tuesday, Nov. 13) and location (Maritime Training and Technology Center).

General Communication Inc. advertisement featuring Dish, Xfinity, Comcast, and Summer Energy services with various promotional offers.

General Chennault Flying Tiger Academy advertisement for pilot training, featuring a large image of a biplane and contact information.

Poverty In Texas Drops To Lowest Levels In More Than A Decade

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

Overview
With poverty down and incomes up, 2017 proved to be a solid year of economic improvement for Texas even though Texans of color continue to be left behind

A Hispanic or black child in Texas is three times as likely to live in poverty than a white child. Hispanic and black households face a gap of tens of thousands of dollars between their median incomes and those of white and Asian Texans. And families living in the Rio Grande Valley are still burdened with poverty at a rate that's double the state figure. Despite the grim, long-standing realities of income inequality in the state, 2017 proved to be a year of solid economic improvement for Texas with ongoing gains that are reflective of the state's post-recession bounce. The overall poverty rate and child poverty rate dropped to their lowest levels in more than a decade, and incomes continued to rise across the board.

The latest estimates released Thursday by the U.S. Census Bureau put the state's poverty rate at 14.7 percent, down from a high of 18.5 percent in 2011. Roughly one in five Texas children — 20.9 percent — lived in poverty last year — a significant decrease from a recent high water mark set in 2011, when almost 27 percent of children were poor.

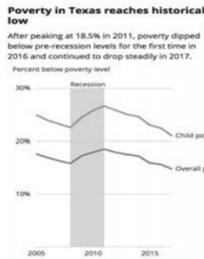


That progress, though, was dimmed at the local level. The poverty rate either increased or barely budged in a third of the state's 25 metro areas, and the share of residents living in poverty in half of those areas surpassed the state figure

with poverty concentrated in places like South Texas, where the poverty rate is double the state rate.

South Texas' metro areas, home to predominantly Hispanic communities, have for years ranked as the poorest areas of the state. They are also home to the highest rates of child poverty in the state.

Poverty in Texas reaches historical low
After peaking at 18.5% in 2011, poverty dipped below pre-recession levels for the first time in 2016 and continued to drop steadily in 2017.

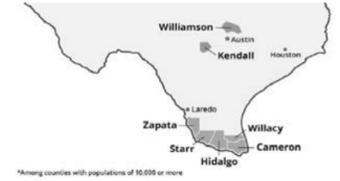


Despite improvements from previous years, the McAllen area had the highest rate — 42.4 percent — of children living in poverty. The Brownsville-Harlingen metro area claimed the second-highest rate at 39.2 percent. In Laredo, which had the highest overall poverty and child poverty rates in 2016, 37 percent of children were living in poverty — down from a high of 45 percent the year before.

The Census Bureau determines poverty based on income and family size. For example, an individual is classified as living in poverty if he or she makes less than \$12,752 a year. A family of four with two children would be classified as poor if its income is less than \$24,858. Those economic improvements have done little to ease the poverty chasm between white residents and Texans of color.

Border cities among poorest in Texas
Poverty continued to drop in 2017, but

predominantly Hispanic communities along the border — and especially families with children — continue to struggle.



(Courtesy <https://www.texastribune.org>)

With poverty rates twice as high as those for white Texans, Hispanic and black residents are disproportionately burdened by poverty, with Hispanics making up more than half of the state's poor population even though they're far from the majority of the state's population.

That gap is also reflected in household earning. In 2017, median household incomes increased for all of the state's major racial and ethnic groups. But black and Hispanic households, whose median household incomes just this year crossed the \$45,000 line, fall far behind the household incomes for white and Asian Texans — at \$72,361 and \$84,100, respectively — which easily surpassed the state figure.

A mixed picture in Texas cities

The U.S. Census Bureau released new estimates of poverty, median income and the percentage of the population without health insurance in 2017.*

	Percent living in poverty	Percent without health insurance	Median household income
Houston	23.8%	28.9%	\$42,877
San Antonio	19.9%	21.7%	\$42,613
Dallas	25.3%	31.2%	\$40,585
Austin	20.3%	21.0%	\$49,987
El Paso	22.0%	26.2%	\$40,702

Source: U.S. Census Bureau *Figures are for Texas' five largest cities, not metropolitan areas. Houston Chronicle

The median household income in Texas last year hit \$59,206 — up almost 5 percent from 2016. That puts Texas behind 22 other states with higher median household incomes, but leaves it fairly close to the national figure.

Rising incomes for women helped to decrease a wage gap between Texas women and men that had barely budged in recent years. But Texas women are still far from reaching income parity. (Courtesy [texastribune.org](https://www.texastribune.org))



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