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Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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## U.S. midterm elections: How America casts and counts its votes

Oct 17 (Reuters) - Misinformation online and false claims of election fraud by former President Donald Trump and his allies have sharply eroded public trust in the integrity of U.S. elections. How Americans vote — and the equipment they use — varies widely, and some methods are more vulnerable to efforts to shake that trust.

Heading into the 2022 midterms, election experts say the move in most states to hybrid voting systems — paper ballots tallied by electronic machines — could give voters greater confidence.

### ELECTRONIC VOTING MACHINES

The United States invested hugely in paperless electronic voting machines after the contested presidential election between Democrat Al Gore and Republican George W. Bush in 2000 shook election officials' confidence in paper ballots.

By 2006, the share of registered voters using paperless machines had surged, though hand-marked paper ballots that are later scanned by electronic tabulators remained the most popular. For the next decade, about a third of all votes were cast on direct recording electronic machines.



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- The Honorable Wea H. Lee, ITC, Founder
- The Honorable Gezahegn Kebede, ITC, President
- Lee Cook, Founder, Phonoscope, Excellence in Business Award
- Elaine Chao, Former, 18th United States secretary of transportation, First Asian American woman ever to serve in a presidential cabinet, Zenith Award
- Bibi Hilton, Publisher, Im a Guest Here, Global Impact Award

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Midterm election results boost Biden 2024 hopes, strategists say  
Arizona, Nevada election officials count ballots under high security  
Tropical Storm Nicole takes aim at Florida's Atlantic coast  
These electronic voting machines store the votes in their memory. The lack of a physical record to back up the electronic vote means election officials must trust that the machines do not malfunction and change or lose a vote, that poll workers do not inadvertently alter votes, or that the machines are not hacked, said Douglas Jones, a retired University of Iowa computer science professor who spent decades studying the use of computers in elections.

In 2016 about 22% of registered voters were living in jurisdictions that used electronic voting machines without paper trails, according to data from Verified Voting, a U.S. nonprofit that promotes the use of secure technology in election administration.

By 2020 fewer than 9% of registered voters nationwide were living in jurisdictions that used electronic voting machines without paper trails for all voters — the smallest number since data was first available in 2006. This shift reflected election officials' growing concerns about foreign interference in elections and the need to have some way to audit tallies.

For the November midterms, that number is expected to dwindle to about 5%, according to data from Verified Voting.

Counties in six states still use paperless voting machines. Most lie in solidly Republican or

Democratic congressional districts, which decreases the likelihood of a contested election.

However, there are six congressional districts that are considered at least somewhat competitive and are using electronic voting machines without paper records: the second, third, fifth and seventh districts in New Jersey; Indiana's first district; and Texas's 15th district.

### PAPER BALLOTS

The United States, like many countries, mostly uses paper ballots to vote. Nearly 70% of registered voters live in jurisdictions that primarily use hand-marked paper ballots, according to data from Verified Voting.

About 23% of registered voters live in jurisdictions that primarily use machines called ballot-marking devices. These allow voters to make their selections electronically and also produce a paper record that can be scanned by another device.

The extent to which voters use digital technology to cast their ballots has shifted over time. Paperless electronic voting, touted for its ability to tally votes quickly and accurately, largely decreased in popularity in the United States and European countries from the mid-2000s onward.

Countries have turned to paper as the most secure way to audit their elections and detect potential vote tampering. To be sure, machines are still integral to the election process even when votes are cast on paper ballots. Optical scan tabulators count the results.

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# WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

11/09/2022

## Asian Americans Arouse Passion In The Midterm Election

Millions of voters went to the poll stations to cast their votes in the midterm election on Tuesday with the hope of expressing their opinions and dissatisfaction with the votes.

The results showed that Texas Governor Greg Abbott still won a big victory. Many Republicans still took the lead in the Texas races.

Asian candidates, including State Representatives Hubert Vo and Gene Wu and Ft. Bend County Judge J. P. George, were all re-elected.

This midterm election was the first time we set up a voting poll location at the Chinese Civic Center. Recently our community



hosted many events there to support the candidates and most of the attendees were

first-time voters.

We have repeatedly called on our community to go out and vote and to exercise our right.

Today we are facing many challenges. We should take hold of our own future and destiny and just not wait for our participation.



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**Southern DAILY** Make Today Different

## Editor's Choice



Democratic candidate for Governor of Georgia Stacey Abrams delivers her concession speech in Atlanta, Georgia. REUTERS/Carlos Barria



Supporters react as they watch news of projected victory for Democratic candidate for Governor Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro at the midterm election night party for Democratic U.S. Senate candidate John Fetterman, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. REUTERS/Quinn Gablicki



Republican Ohio U.S. Senate candidate J.D. Vance arrives with his wife Usha to declare victory at his midterm party in Columbus, Ohio. REUTERS/Gaelen Morse



Republican candidate for Arizona Governor Kari Lake reacts as she speaks at the Republican Party of Arizona's 2022 midterm election night rally in Scottsdale, Arizona. REUTERS/Brian Snyder



Republican Florida Governor Ron DeSantis waves from stage with his wife Casey and children during his midterm elections night party in Tampa, Florida. REUTERS/Marco Bello



The moon and a statue are seen during a lunar eclipse in San Salvador, El Salvador. REUTERS/Jose Cabezas

# BUSINESS

## SPECIAL REPORT

### The World Has Entered A New Age Of Epidemics

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



Illustration above depicts the world in a Petri dish.

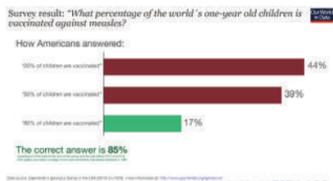
In the 1950s, 400–500 Americans died every year from measles and another 100 from chicken pox. In the last major outbreak of rubella — in 1964–’65 — some 11,000 pregnant American women lost their babies and 2,100 newborns died.

- **The 1960s vaccine revolution** all but wiped out these diseases by 2000. But now they are back — in the U.S. and around the world.
- **Much onus for this regression** so far has been laid on the global anti-vaccination movement. But experts blame much more sweeping reasons, primarily a tectonic change in how humans live now as opposed to three, four and five decades ago.
- **At the top of the list:** we are living closer together in ever-swelling cities, trading and traveling much more, creating climate change, migrating in big numbers — and failing to keep vaccination levels high enough for “herd immunity.”
- **“What changed is that society changed,”** Jeremy Farrar, an expert on infectious disease and director of the U.K.-based Wellcome Trust, tells Axios.
- **Driving the news:** Disease was un-

der control for a few decades, but now the environmental circumstances under which they were contained have utterly changed. So new answers have to be found.

**The big picture:** For 2019, U.S. officials have confirmed 481 measles cases in 16 states as of Saturday, according to the website Precision Vaccinations. The Centers for Disease Control confirms 151 cases of mumps for January and February in 30 states and the District of Columbia. And Kentucky alone has an outbreak of 32 cases of chickenpox as of last week. Measles cases will “certainly” surpass 2018 due to lack of vaccinations

**Europe, too, has had a surge of mumps, pertussis, rubella and tetanus** over the last two years, reports the World Health Organization. Measles alone killed 72 people in Europe last year, among 82,596



who contracted the disease, according to the agency.

- In the U.S., the outbreaks are often concentrated in tight-knit communities like former Soviet immigrants in Clark County, Washington.
- Three states — New York, Texas and Washington — are the “leading measles hot-spots” in the U.S., per Precision Vaccinations.
- The diseases are often brought into these communities by travelers returning from countries like Israel, Madagascar, the Philippines and Ukraine.

**How the revolution happened:** The vaccine against measles was licensed in 1963, chickenpox in 1995, mumps in 1967, and rubella in 1969. Jonas Salk’s polio vaccine — igniting the vaccine revolution — came into use in 1955, and the oral version, created by Albert Sabin, was commercialized in 1961.

**But the revival of these once-unavoidable, disfiguring and sometimes deadly diseases is only part of the new age of epidemics — they are a component of the general breakdown of the decades-old political and social order.**

- **This is particularly apparent in the anti-vaccination movement,** what has been rebranded “vaccine hesitancy.” “People wonder, ‘Why am I still getting vaccinated if disease no longer exists?’ It’s not a stupid question,” Farrar said.
- **But the trend includes the other social factors as well:** climate change, migration, urbanization and elevated travel, which are spreading disease-carrying species such as mosquitoes, bats and rats.

**What’s next:** Farrar is pressing for governments to create a commercial impetus for companies to figure out how to navigate the new age. But to get started, says Peter Hotez, dean at the Baylor College of Medicine and author of “Vaccines Did Not Cause Rachel’s Autism,” they need to separate out the various factors.

- **Malaria in Greece and Italy** have been blamed on climate change, but Hotez

says human migration and re-emerging poverty may also be at fault.

- **In Texas, the appearance of Zika and dengue** may be attributable to any or all the same factors. “We don’t know,” he said. (Courtesy axios.com)

**Related**  
**Measles outbreak is bringing vaccine exemptions into spotlight**  
 The federal government may try to take action if states don’t tighten their vaccine exemption laws and measles continues to spread in sections of the U.S., FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb tells Axios.

**Driving the news:** Overall case numbers of measles remain low in the U.S. but the disease is growing in areas of high non-vaccination rates. Some states like Washington are considering tightening their exemptions even as they continue to face a more organized anti-vaccination movement.

**Background:** The highly contagious disease can only be controlled if there’s a large vaccination rate in the population, which the World Health Organization says should be 93%–95% of people.

- States are allowed to adopt their own rules over what types of exemptions are allowed for vaccines. All of them allow exemptions for medical reasons, but many also provide exemptions on religious and/or philosophical grounds.
- These pockets of unvaccinated people are transmitting measles in the U.S., which is particularly dangerous to those who can’t get vaccinated, including babies under 12 months and people with susceptible immune systems.
- Gottlieb says the vaccine is one of the most effective ones (97% with 2 doses) created so far, and for one of the most contagious viruses.
- Measles can cause various complications, including pneumonia, brain damage and sometimes death, and it has been

linked to longer term immune problems.

**What’s happening now**  
**WHO reported last week** that measles cases tripled globally in 2018 from the prior year, and current reports show multiple deadly outbreaks in the Philippines, Ukraine, Israel and Madagascar.

**In Washington state,** the number of confirmed cases has more than doubled since Gov. Jay Inslee declared a state of emergency on Jan. 25, to 54 as of Feb. 13.

- Clark County, where a majority of the Washington cases are located, reported a 70% MMR vaccination rate for 19–35 month olds. But since the outbreak, there was an almost 450% increase in vaccination rates in January compared with the same month the prior year.

**In New York,** there is an outbreak in Rockland County, Monroe County and New York City, and Texas reported 8 cases in 5 different counties as of Feb. 14.

**“It’s a self-inflicted wound,”** says Peter Hotez, dean at Baylor College of Medicine who published a study last year showing possible U.S. “hotspots” of measles due to vaccine exemptions, that he says is already proving to be true.

- Pro-vaccination groups are “losing the battle” to anti-vaccination groups, who’ve been very active on social media and forming at least one PAC to promote their message, he says.
- **The other side:** Barbara Loe Fisher, co-founder and president of the nonprofit National Vaccine Information Center often labeled as anti-vaccination, tells Axios that 100 cases of measles in a population of 320 million “is not a public health emergency.”
- “[It] should not be used to justify eliminating the legal right to exercise informed consent to vaccination, which is protected by the inclusion of flexible medical, religious and conscientious-belief vaccine exemptions in public health laws,” she says. (Courtesy axios.com)



“It’s an avoidable tragedy,” Gottlieb, who says he’s usually a proponent of state rights, tells Axios. “Too many states have lax laws.”



who contracted the disease, according to the agency.

## Southern DAILY Make Today Different

# COMMUNITY

### Malaria Drug Helps Virus Patients Improve In A Small Study



A group of moderately ill people were given hydroxychloroquine, which appeared to ease their symptoms quickly. The study, which has not yet undergone peer review, was small and limited to patients who were mildly or moderately ill, not severe cases. Photo/John Phillips/Getty Images)

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

The malaria drug hydroxychloroquine helped to speed the recovery of a small number of patients who were mildly ill from the coronavirus, doctors in China reported this week.

Cough, fever and pneumonia went away faster, and the disease seemed less likely to turn severe in people who received hydroxychloroquine than in a comparison group not given the drug. The authors of the report said that the medication was promising, but that more research was needed to clarify how it might work in treating coronavirus disease and to determine the best way to use it.

The study was small and limited to patients who were mildly or moderately ill, not severe cases. Like many reports about the coronavirus, it was posted at medRxiv, an online server for medical articles, before undergoing peer review by other researchers.

But the findings strongly support earlier studies suggesting a role for the drug, Dr. Schaffner said.



“I think it will reinforce the inclination of many people across the country who are not in a position to enter their patients into clinical trials but have already begun using hydroxychloroquine,” he said.

Previous reports from China and France that the drug seemed to help patients, along with enthusiastic comments from President Trump, have created a buzz around hydroxychloroquine and the closely related chloroquine, which are decades-old drugs used to treat malaria and autoimmune diseases like lupus and rheumatoid arthritis. A resulting spike in demand has led to hoarding and shortages, and left patients who rely on the drugs for chronic diseases wondering whether they will be able to fill their

prescriptions.

With no proven treatment for the coronavirus, many hospitals have simply been giving hydroxychloroquine to patients, reasoning that it might help and probably will not hurt, because it is relatively safe.

Among health officials who declined to endorse the drugs, and who called for clinical trials, were some members of the president’s coronavirus task force — including Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and Dr. Stephen Hahn, commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration.



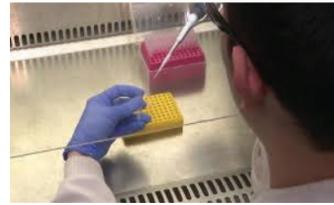
**Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases**

The new study, of 62 patients with an average age of about 45, did have a control group. It was conducted at the Renmin Hospital of Wuhan University, in Wuhan, China. The patients were carefully chosen to exclude people with medical problems that could be made worse by hydroxychloroquine, like abnormal heart rhythms, certain eye diseases, and liver or kidney problems. Half the subjects — the controls — received just the usual care given to coronavirus patients, and half had usual care plus hydroxychloroquine. The usual care included oxygen, antiviral drugs, antibiotics and other treatments.

Their disease was considered mild, even though all had pneumonia that showed up on CT scans. After giving informed consent, they were assigned at random to either the hydroxychloroquine or the control group. They were treated for five days, and their fevers and coughing were monitored. They also had chest CT scans the day before the study treatment

began, and the day after it ended. Coughing and fever eased a day or so earlier in the patients who received hydroxychloroquine, and pneumonia improved in 25 of 31, as opposed to 17 of 31 in the controls.

The illness turned severe in four patients — all in the control group.



Two patients had minor side effects from hydroxychloroquine: One had a rash and another had a headache.

If the drug is helping, it is not clear how. There are two possible ways. In laboratory studies, it can stop the virus from invading cells. But hydroxychloroquine can also dial back an overactive immune system, which is why it can treat autoimmune diseases. And a powerful immune reaction to the coronavirus is suspected of playing a role in some of the severest cases of the disease.

“We don’t know which of the pharmacologic aspects of hydroxychloroquine are most active, the antiviral part, or the immunomodulatory part,” Dr. Schaffner said. “We don’t know, but it does reinforce the notion, as the authors say briefly, it reinforces the thinking about the nature of many of these pneumonias we are seeing, which seem to have an immune basis, as opposed to being secondary bacterial pneumonia, which we see so often in influenza.” (Courtesy https://www.nytimes.com/)

**Related**  
**Hundreds of Scientists Scramble to Find a Coronavirus Treatment**

**A worker checking the production of**

**chloroquine phosphate in China last month. There has been “anecdotal evidence” that chloroquine, a drug used to treat malaria, might work against the coronavirus. Two dozen of the medicines are already under investigation. Also on the list: chloroquine, a drug used to treat malaria.** (Photo/FeatureChina, via Associated Press)

One drug on the list, chloroquine, kills the single-celled parasite that causes malaria. Scientists have long known that it can also attach to a human cellular protein called the sigma-1 receptor. And that receptor is also the target of the virus.

Chloroquine has been much in the news this past week, thanks to speculation about its use against the coronavirus — some of which was repeated by President Trump at a news briefing at the White House on Friday.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, followed the president’s remarks with a warning that there was only “anecdotal evidence” that chloroquine might work.

Only well-run trials could establish whether chloroquine was safe and effective against the coronavirus, Dr. Fauci said.

On Wednesday, the World Health Organization announced it would begin a trial on chloroquine, among other drugs.

**World Health Organization**

And on Sunday, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo of New York announced that the state had obtained large amount of chloroquine and the antibiotic azithromycin to start its own drug trial. Nevan Krogan, a biologist at the University of California, San Francisco, who led the new study, warned that chloroquine might have many toxic side effects, because the drug appears to target many human cellular proteins.

“You need to be careful,” he said. “We need more data at every level.” (Courtesy https://www.nytimes.com/)