

What to watch for as results come in

Either Mrs Hillary Clinton or Mr Donald Trump will become the next US president by winning 270 electoral votes. Each American state has a certain number of electoral votes, based on its population, out of a total of 538. Most states have a history of dependably backing the Republican or Democratic candidate so states where outcomes remain uncertain hold the keys to the White House. **Jeremy Au Yong** points out what to watch for as election results pour in from the various states this morning.

8am-11am (Singapore time)

Will the Democratic firewall hold?

State	Electoral votes	Polls close	Lead in opinion polls percentage points	Victory for	
				Trump	Clinton
Virginia	13	8am*	Clinton +5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Hampshire	4	9am	Clinton +0.6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pennsylvania	20	9am	Clinton +1.9	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wisconsin	10	10am	Clinton +6.5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michigan	16	10am	Clinton +3.4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Colorado	9	10am	Clinton +2.9	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

NOTE: *7pm EST

If Mrs Clinton carries all of these states, she clinches the White House. Adding these closely contested states to those that are solidly Democratic will put her past the 270 electoral votes needed to win. But if one or more of these states go to Mr Trump, then the race could go his way. That would make for a long, nail-biting night as the results trickle in.

11am-1pm

The three big prizes

State	Electoral votes	Polls close	Lead in opinion polls percentage points	Victory for	
				Trump	Clinton
Ohio	18	8.30am	Trump +3.5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
North Carolina	15	8.30am	Trump +1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Florida	29	9am	Trump +0.2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Each of these three battleground states, which has the most number of electoral votes among such states, could be decisive. Mr Trump needs to sweep them all if he is to win. Mrs Clinton can afford to lose all three and still win the election, provided the other states back her up.

Throughout morning

Is Trump outperforming polls?

State	Electoral votes	Polls close	Lead in opinion polls percentage points	Victory for	
				Trump	Clinton
Georgia	16	8am	Trump +4.8	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arizona	11	10am	Trump +4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Iowa	6	11am	Trump +3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nevada	6	11am	Trump +0.8	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Mr Trump's most viable path to victory involves a sweep of all toss-up states. So, if Mrs Clinton takes these states, which were leaning Republican, then Mr Trump is in real trouble.

11am onwards

Will the loser concede?

Major TV networks tend to predict the winner well before an official announcement. In previous elections, this has happened as early as 9am. In the past three elections, the winner was declared between noon and 12.30pm. But if the result is contested, it could even take weeks, like in 2000 when Mr George W. Bush and Mr Al Gore were locked in a close battle. Given the bitter race and talk of a rigged election this year, watch if this happens.