



## United States Mission to the OSCE

# **On the results of the General Elections held in the United States of America on 5 November 2024**

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Katherine Brucker  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
November 7, 2024

On Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, Americans went to the polls in large numbers. Some 143 million citizens cast ballots; 83 million of these during early voting. This compares to 155 million in 2020, which set a turnout record.

Elections in the United States are organized by state, each of which has its own rules, including regarding the validity of mail-in ballots. For example, in some states a mailed ballot must be received by election day; in other states the ballot need only be postmarked by election day.

While the Presidential race is decided, votes are still being counted. When I last checked, some 38 races for seats in the House of Representatives are still open.

This election has shown the vibrancy of our democracy and how seriously Americans take their civic duty.

Most focus, understandably, has been on the presidential election.

But – in our system of separate but equal branches, Congressional elections are important, including because of the Senate's role in confirming judges and Presidential appointees, and both chambers' responsibility to pass laws and set funding levels.

Similarly, in a federalist system, state and local elections are also important. In fact, this wasn't just a single election, but multiple elections across all 50 states and territories.

In this election season we've also seen a vigorous public debate of issues, and a wide range of news and opinions; that freedom of expression and diversity of opinion reflect our values and our strengths.

Over the coming months it is important to remember that there is just one President and one administration at a time. The new President will only take office at noon on January 20, 2025, at which time we will witness another cherished aspect of our democracy: the peaceful transfer of power.

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