

# Election 2024: What's at Stake for the Future of Early Care and Education

Aaron Loewenberg  
October 23, 2024



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## Who Am I?

- Former pre-K and kindergarten teacher in D.C.
- Currently working at New America, a non-partisan, non-profit think tank in D.C.
- Election enthusiast since 2000



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### Webinar Overview

- Election basics
- Recent polling
- ECE plans of the presidential candidates
- Identifying disinformation
- Q & A




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### Poll Question 1

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### Election Day: What's at Stake?

- Tuesday, November 5 (only 13 days away!)
- President
- Senate (33 seats out of 100)
- House of Representatives (all seats)
- State legislatures (44 states)
- Governors (11 out of 50 states)
- Ballot measures (160 in 41 states)

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# The Senate



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## Current Make-Up of the Senate

100 members in all

→ 51 Democrats, 49 Republicans

If Senate vote is a tie, the Vice President casts the deciding vote

→ VP Harris has now done this 33 times



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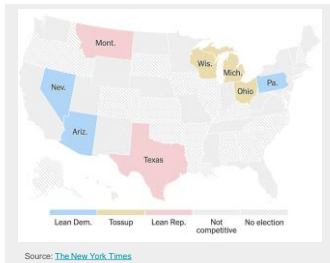
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## Key Senate Races to Watch



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# The House of Representatives



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# Poll Question 2

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# Current Make-Up of the House

435 members in all

→ 220 Republicans, 212 Democrats, 3 vacancies

Democrats need to gain 4 seats for a majority



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### Key House Races to Watch

DEMOCRAT TOSS UP	REPUBLICAN TOSS UP
12 Dem - 0 Rep 0 Ind	0 Dem - 14 Rep 0 Ind
AK-01 Peabole	AZ-01 Schweikert
CO-08 Caraveo	AZ-06 Ciscomani
ME-02 Golden	CA-13 Duarte
MI-07 OPEN (Storkin)	CA-22 Valadao
MI-08 OPEN (Kildee)	CA-27 Garcia
NC-01 Davis	CA-41 Cabert
NM-02 Valquez	CA-45 Steel
OH-13 Styles	IA-01 Miller-Meeles
PA-07 Wild	IA-03 Nunez
PA-08 Cartwright	NE-02 Bacon
VA-07 OPEN (Spanberger)	NY-04 D'Esposito
WA-03 Perez	NY-17 Lawler
	NY-19 Molinaro
	OR-05 Chavez-DeRemer

Source: Cook Political Report

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### Ballot Measures



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### State Ballot Measures

160 statewide ballot measures in 41 states

Major issues

- State constitutional right to abortion (10 states)
- Bans on noncitizen voting (6 states)
- Minimum wage increase (4 states)
- Marijuana legalization (4 states)
- School choice (3 states)
  - Colorado, Kentucky, Nebraska



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### Local Early Ed Ballot Measures

Travis County, Texas

- Property tax increase (increase of \$126 annually for average homeowner)
- Goal: generate over \$75 million to expand affordable child care and after-school programs

St. Paul, Minnesota

- Property tax increase
- Goal: create a \$20 million city-funded child care program for low-income families

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### Local Early Ed Ballot Measures

Sonoma, CA

- Would impose a 0.25% sales tax
- Goal: generate about \$30 million/year to
  - Maintain & fix child care facilities
  - Create scholarships/stipends to help families afford child care
  - Expand access to children’s health programs

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### Latest Polling & Projections



Illustration by FiveThirtyEight

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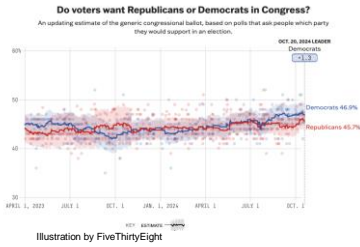
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## Control of Congress




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## Plans for Early Education



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## The Biden/Harris Record

- Build Back Better Act (2021)
  - Proposed a \$390 billion investment in child care and pre-K
  - Limits child care costs to 7% of family income for families earning up to 250% of the state median income, universal pre-K
- President Biden's FY25 budget proposal
  - Cap child care spending at \$10/day for lower income families

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### The Biden/Harris Record

- American Rescue Plan (2021)
  - Included \$39 billion in dedicated child care relief funding
- April 2023 Executive Order
  - February 2024 rule: limits amount CCDF families can pay to 7% of their household income, makes it easier to eliminate copayments for poorest families

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### Harris on the Campaign Trail

- Wants to limit child care costs to 7% of income for working families
- Advocates for \$6,000 tax credit for parents of newborns
  - Also wants to bring back the pandemic-era expanded Child Tax Credit

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### The Democratic Party Platform

- Child care for less than \$10-a-day per child for millions of working families, free for low-income families
- Restore the expanded Child Tax Credit
- Strengthen Head Start

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### The Trump Record

- Expanded the child tax credit from \$1,000 to \$2,000 as part of the 2017 tax cut package
- 2017: proposed a \$95 million cut to the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) program
  - Eventually signed legislation that raised CCDBG spending by \$2.37 billion, a historic increase

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### Trump on the Campaign Trail

- Wants an expanded child tax credit
- No details about child care plan, but claims that expanded tariffs will help pay for it
- Vance: suggested that relatives help care for children

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### The Republican Party Platform

- No mention of child care
- Advocates for permanently expanding the Child Tax Credit

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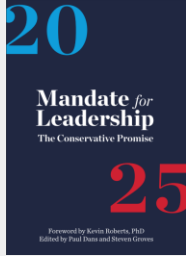
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## Project 2025



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## What Is Project 2025?

- Overseen by the conservative Heritage Foundation
- Has been disavowed by Trump, but many former Trump officials were involved in its creation

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## Specific Plans in Project 2025

- Eliminate Head Start

**OFFICE OF HEAD START (OHS)**

- **Eliminate the Head Start program.** Head Start, originally established and funded to support low-income families, is fraught with scandal and abuse. With a budget of more than \$11 billion, the program should function to protect and educate minors. Sadly, it has done exactly the opposite. In

Project 2025, Page 482

- Phase out Title I funding for schools with low-income students

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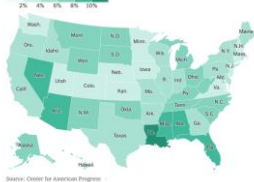
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## Specific Plans in Project 2025

Thousands of teachers would be at risk of losing their jobs if Title I were eliminated

Title I provides federal funding to low-income public schools. Without it, the entire country could lose around 6% of its teacher work force, affecting over 3.8 million students.

Share of teachers at risk of losing jobs



Source: Center for American Progress

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## Identifying Disinformation



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## Recent Headlines

IDEAS + POLITICS

### An AI Deepfake Could Be This Election's November Surprise

5 MINUTE READ

FACE THE NATION

**Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas says election disinformation is "extremely damaging"**

### How A.I., QAnon and Falsehoods Are Reshaping the Presidential Race

Three experts on social media and disinformation share their predictions for this year's chaotic election.

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### Examples of Disinformation

- Fake news stories



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### Examples of Disinformation

- AI-generated images and videos



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### Best Practices

- Go straight to a credible independent fact-checking site: PolitiFact, AP Factcheck, etc.
- Be skeptical of emotionally charged and scandalous content
- Check multiple sources about a story (don't rely on social media)
- Think before you share

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