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# **INTELLIGENCE REPORT**



# US ELECTIONS OVERVIEW

The U.S. election race is a high-stakes, multi-faceted contest that significantly impacts both domestic and global politics. The race, as is the case now, generally begins well before the official election date, (5th Nov) with candidates from the Democrats and Republicans announcing their campaigns, participating in debates, and vying for their countries support.

As the general election approaches, the focus shifts to a few battleground states—often called swing states—where the outcome is uncertain and could tilt the Electoral College in favour of one candidate. States like Florida, Pennsylvania, and Ohio are frequently pivotal, with candidates spending considerable time and resources to win over undecided voters.

The election is also marked by intense scrutiny of policy issues, ranging from the economy and healthcare to national security and climate change. Candidates must address these issues while also responding to real-time developments, such as international crises or economic shifts. The role of media, including social media, is increasingly significant, shaping public perception and influencing voter turnout. In recent years there claims to be irrefutable evidence of social media interference from foreign nations who, for their own purposes, wish to influence the American public towards one candidate or another.

Ultimately, the U.S. election race is a dynamic and unpredictable process, reflecting the diverse and often polarized nature of American society.

**WHO IS RUNNING?**



# DONALD TRUMP

There is very little new rhetoric from the ex-US President, as his policies are exactly the same as his last tenure... Basically, America first!

Since launching his third bid for the White House, former President Donald Trump has vowed to reverse many of the policies enacted since he left office. His successor's sweeping climate change agenda, new restrictions on guns and protections for transgender people would all be on the chopping block.

In rolling back the calendar to before January 2021, Trump also wants to pick up where his administration left off on many of his first-term priorities, and his ideas will sound familiar to anyone who paid attention to his first campaign eight years ago. He has said he plans to finish building the wall between the US and Mexico that he first promised in 2016, remove all undocumented individuals, implement more tariffs on imports and increase American energy production. His quest to pick up new support has also led him to dangle promises to specific audiences, including proposing in Las Vegas to eliminate income taxes on tipped wages. He has also floated ambitious but vague ideas to position America for the future by embracing, amongst other things, cryptocurrency.

The big concern for global stability will be the stance he takes on the horrific events still burning in Gaza and Ukraine.



## WHO IS RUNNING?



# KAMALA HARRIS

There are many obvious differences between Ms Harris and Mr Trump's policies, the most obvious being their stance on abortion, gun control, climate change, and healthcare.

Kamala Harris is a staunch advocate for women's reproductive rights and access to abortion. She has condemned the Supreme Court's 2022 decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* and supports federal legislation to protect abortion rights. On gun control, Ms Harris supports universal background checks, a ban on assault weapons, and the closure of loopholes in gun sales, such as the gun show loophole. She has also advocated for red flag laws, which allow the temporary confiscation of firearms from individuals deemed a threat. The climate change issue is a simple one. Kamala Harris is a big advocate of green energy, whereas Mr Trump wishes America to maintain, or even increase production of traditional fuels, creating more jobs in that sector.

There are, surprisingly, some areas of crossover in their policies. Both support infrastructure investment: Additionally, both express concerns over U.S.-China relations, with Trump imposing tariffs and Harris supporting a tough stance on human rights and trade issues. However, their approaches and broader policy goals diverge greatly.



# FINANCIAL MARKET FOCUS

## GOLD CONTINUES TO SHINE

It is hard to believe that since the autumn of 2018, gold has more than doubled in price, from \$1,023 to over \$2,600 per Troy ounce! For many a year, until December 2023 to be exact, There was a psychological barrier from a technical traders perspective at the \$2,000 level, having failed around that price level on several occasions.



There are a number of reasons for this recent rally into the stratosphere. This shiny precious metal has always been used as a flight to safety trade by investors when the global economy or political climate looks precarious. The initial move up back from 2018 was fuelled by the Covid 19 Pandemic, but what caused the push through the psychological \$2,000 level? First of all we saw the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and an outbreak of any conflict of this magnitude always see a rally in Gold. The buying continued when we witnessed the tragic situation in Gaza escalate. Add to this the uncertainty surrounding the outcome of the US elections, then there was plenty of fuel to add to the fire.

There is one other reason, which is somewhat linked to all of the above. Gold is priced in US Dollars. And with the election seeing the greenback devalue against most other major currencies, Gold actually becomes cheaper for anyone holding the British Pound, the Euro or the Japanese Yen and so on. There will be a pullback in price at some point as no market continues in a straight line, even if the overall price forecast is still positive.

When this will happen remains to be seen.