

The polls are clear: Kamala Harris's honeymoon period is over

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Where will the 2024 election be decided? In short, everywhere. A new batch of polls came out this week, with a little less than one month to go in the presidential election. ***Kamala Harris's "honeymoon" surge is now officially over.***

Donald Trump is on the rise. A new Quinnipiac poll of *Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Michigan* this week showed him leading in the latter two; RealClearPolitics's polling average now has him ***ahead for the first time in months*** in the state of Michigan, a state which spurned Hillary Clinton in 2016 but flipped back to Democratic control in 2020.

But what's really clear — what Quinnipiac's poll and every other survey of the race indicates this week — is how close the race is in every state. ***No candidate has a lead higher than the low single digits*** in more than a half dozen states, all of which will play a significant role in the Electoral College.

What does that mean? It ***means we have no idea what the Electoral College result is actually going to look like*** right now. A swing of just 1-2 points in a state or two could change the race's dynamics completely over the next few weeks — ***Trump could see his lead in the midwest evaporate, or Harris could see hers collapse in Pennsylvania.*** The former president could lose control of North Carolina. It's truly anyone's ballgame.

The Senate is a different story. ***The path Democrats will need to tread to keep the upper chamber is looking more and more difficult by the day.***

A Marist poll on Thursday found vulnerable Republican candidates in Florida and Texas, Rick Scott and Ted Cruz, treading water. ***Both are still in danger, but holding on*** — for now. In a NYT/Siena poll, both races were ***trending even further in Republicans' favor.***

Meanwhile, Tim Sheehy is pulling away with it in Montana, ***endangering the future of incumbent Democrat Jon Tester*** — one of the few remaining Blue Dogs in the Senate. With a presumed loss of Tester's seat, coupled with the loss of West Virginia's Senate seat, ***GOP control of the upper chamber is looking very likely.***

Democratic Senate candidates are still leading in Maryland, Wisconsin, Ohio Pennsylvania, Nevada and Arizona, but ***still may be faced with a 51-49 GOP Senate*** next January, thanks to an unfavorable map. Democrats have a few reasons to be frustrated right now. Beyond a very possible loss of control in the Senate, ***there's a broader issue here: Kamala Harris and her campaign, as well as the Democratic Party as a whole, have not seen their massive advantages in fundraising and volunteer signups*** translate into convincing polling advantages. And with the debates likely over, there are now comparatively few opportunities to move the polls in a big way between now and Election Day.

Keep an eye out over the next few weeks as Trump and Harris try their respective Hail Marys. October is already a third over; both candidates should be feeling desperate.

Trump's may already be revealed. On Wednesday, he announced plans to host a ***mega-rally at Madison Square Garden in New York***; running mate JD Vance said he'd be attending on Thursday. The event is being billed by the Trump campaign as an effort to make a play for New York — but more likely, it's just a chance to boost the normal audience size and media coverage of what would otherwise be a typical campaign rally. Harris, meanwhile, is deploying Tim Walz — ***who had disappeared from view for several weeks*** — out to Wisconsin for a series of events on Monday.