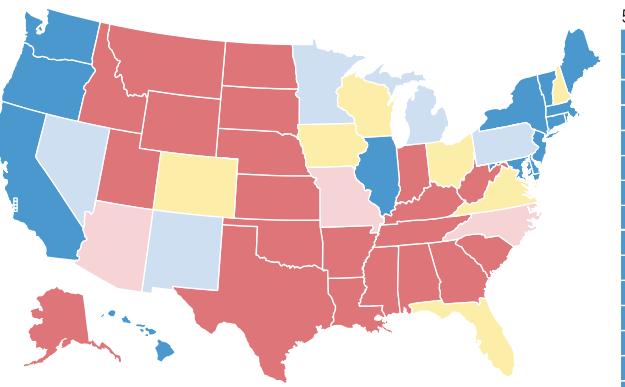
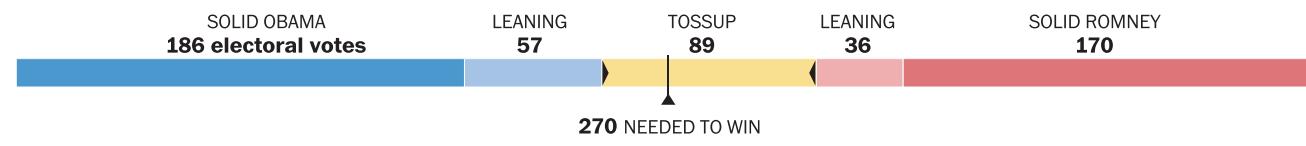



**ELECTION 2012**

# A guide to tonight's 538 electoral votes . . .

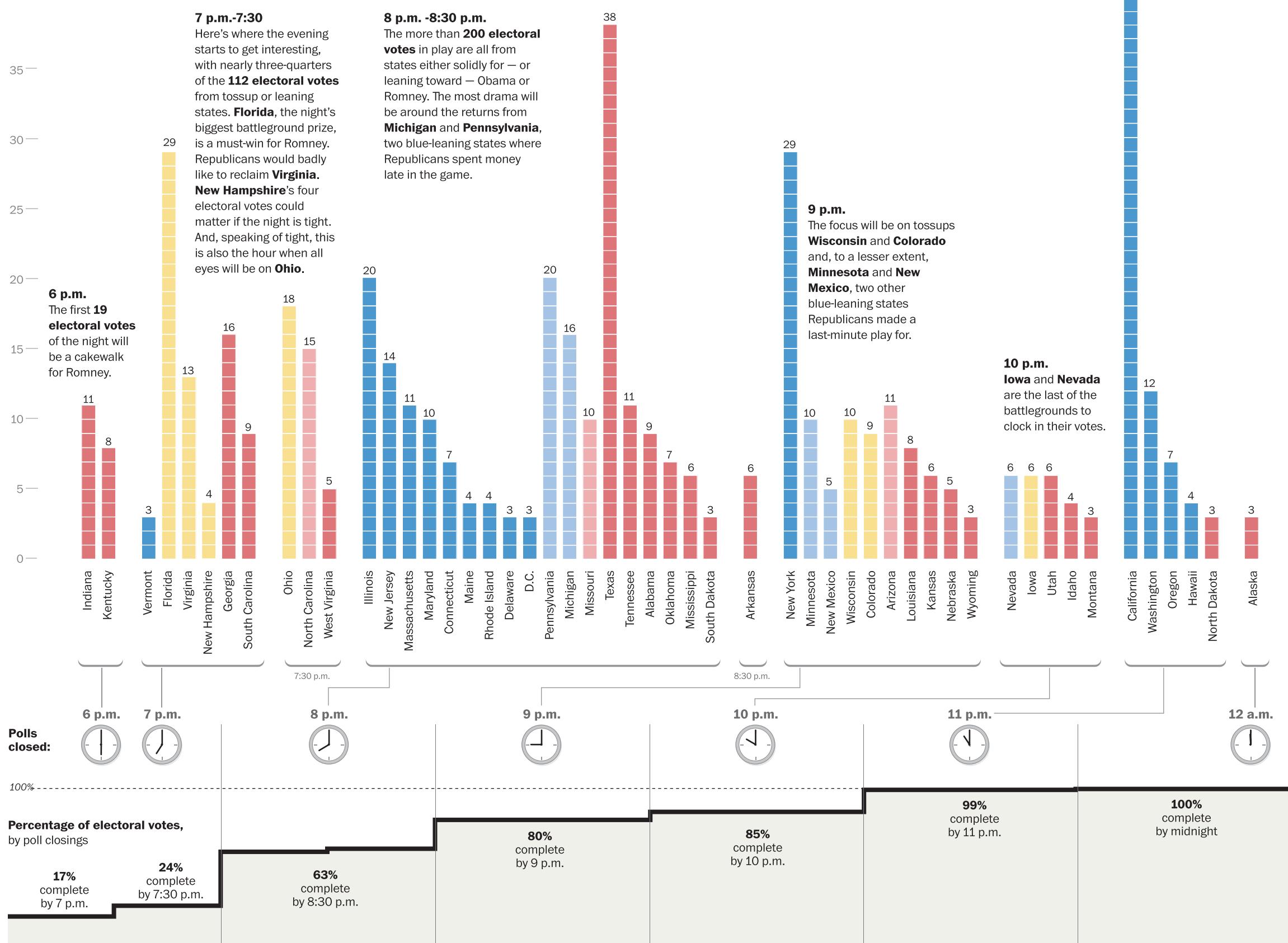
Election Day 2012 has finally arrived. After giving hundreds of stump speeches, glad handing thousands of supporters and spending millions on television advertising, President Obama and Republican nominee Mitt Romney can take a break from kissing babies and let voters do their job. A look at how the night will unfold:

— By Laura Stanton, Karen Yourish and Aaron Blake



**11 p.m.**  
Obama is likely to pick up **78** electoral votes.

Number of electoral votes, grouped by poll closing time. All times EST.



# . . . and key Senate, House and governor races



**SENATE:** Indiana state Treasurer **Richard Mourdock** (R) is a slight underdog against Rep. **Joe Donnelly** (D) after Mourdock's controversial rape comments. Florida Sen. **Bill Nelson** (D), an early GOP target, is favored against Rep. **Connie Mack** (R). And **Tim Kaine** (D) looks to have a late edge over **George Allen** in Virginia.

**HOUSE:** In Florida, Democrats are likely to unseat embattled Rep. **David Rivera**, and they have a shot at beating freshman Reps. **Allen B. West**, **Daniel Webster** and **Steve Southerland II**. New Hampshire's two GOP incumbents, Reps. **Charles F. Bass** and **Frank C. Guinta**, are both vulnerable.

**GOVERNOR:** Indiana Rep. **Mike Pence** (R) is favored to beat John Gregg (D). In New Hampshire, **Maggie Hassan** (D) is a slight favorite against **Ovide Lamontagne**.



**SENATE:** Ohio Sen. **Sherrod Brown** (D) is likely to prevail. Connecticut Rep. **Christopher S. Murphy** (D) is favored against **Linda McMahon** (R). **Elizabeth Warren** (D) has a slight lead over Sen. **Scott Brown** (R-Mass.). And GOP Rep. **Todd Akin**'s remarks about rape have put Missouri Sen. **Claire McCaskill** (D) in the lead.

**HOUSE:** In North Carolina, Republicans could take as many as four seats currently held by Democrats, including those of Reps. **Brad Miller** and **Heath Shuler**. Illinois Democrats hope to pick up as many as five seats. Democratic Reps. **Mark S. Critz** (Pa.) and **John F. Tierney** (Mass.) are trying to survive.

**GOVERNOR:** Republican **Pat McCrory** is favored in North Carolina. Missouri Gov. **Jay Nixon** (D) appears set for a second term and West Virginia Gov. **Earl Ray Tomblin** (D) has to beat down a challenge from businessman **Bill Maloney** (R).



**SENATE:** In Arizona, Democrat **Richard Carmona** is running tight with Rep. **Jeff Flake** (R) for retiring GOP Sen. Jon Kyl's seat. Meanwhile, Nebraska Republican **Deb Fischer** is favored to take the seat of retiring Democratic Sen. Ben Nelson (though former senator **Bob Kerrey** (D) has closed the gap). In Wisconsin, former governor **Tommy Thompson** (R) and Rep. **Tammy Baldwin** (D) remain locked in the race for retiring Sen. Herb Kohl's (D) seat.

**HOUSE:** Republicans are trying to defeat Rep. **Ron Barber** (D-Ariz.) for the seat formerly held by Gabrielle Giffords. In Colorado, Rep. **Mike Coffman** (R) is in a tight race after redistricting. Minnesota freshman Rep. **Chip Cravaack** (R) is trying to survive in a Democratic-leaning district. Upstate New York is a major battleground, with six seats on the line, including those held by Reps. **Ann Marie Buerkle** (R), **Nan A.S. Hayworth** (R) and **Kathy Hochul** (D).



**SENATE:** Montana's race between Sen. **Jon Tester** (D) and Rep. **Denny Rehberg** (R) could be the purest tossup on the Senate map. In Nevada, appointed Sen. **Dean Heller** (R) is a slight favorite against Rep. **Shelley Berkley** (D).

**HOUSE:** The race between Iowa Reps. **Leonard L. Boswell** (D) and **Tom Latham** (R) is one of two races in the nation where a Democratic incumbent is up against a Republican incumbent. In Nevada, Republican **Danny Tarkanian** may pull an upset in the newly created and Democratic-leaning 4th District. And, in Utah, **Mia Love**, perhaps the most-hyped House candidate in 2012, appears to be a slight favorite to unseat Rep. **Jim Matheson** (D) in his redrawn district.

**GOVERNOR:** **Rick Hill** (R) and **Steve Bullock** (D) are in a close contest to succeed term-limited Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer (D).



**SENATE:** Rep. **Mazie K. Hirono** (D) is favored to beat former Hawaii governor **Linda Lingle** (R) in the race for retiring Sen. Daniel K. Akaka's (D) seat. **Heidi Heitkamp** (D), North Dakota's former state attorney general, is virtually tied with Rep. **Rick Berg** (R-N.D.) in the race to succeed retiring Sen. Kent Conrad (D).

**HOUSE:** In Washington state, former representative **Jay Inslee** (D) and state attorney general **Rob McKenna** (R) are in a competitive race to succeed Gov. Chris Gregoire (D). And, in California, an independent redistricting commission that overhauled the state's congressional map left behind upwards of a dozen competitive races. Seats to watch include those held by GOP Reps. **Brian P. Bilbray**, **Dan Lungren**, **Jeff Denham** and **Mary Bono Mack**, and Democratic Reps. **Lois Capps** and **Jerry McNerney**.



**HOUSE:** Rep. **Don Young** (R) is likely to hold onto Alaska's lone congressional seat.