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Trump heads to Palm Beach in aftermath of voter rebuke

Blame for election losses directed at the president

Antonio Fins
Palm Beach Post
USA TODAY NETWORK

President Donald Trump is expected to return to his Palm Beach enclave at Mar-a-Lago this weekend for a post-election sojourn as he faces his own political mortality.

Speaking to Fox News on election night, the president acknowledged the country will now prepare for life after Trump as its president.


Trump

"I don't want to talk about individuals 'cause it's still a little bit too soon to do that," he said of the potential next Republican standard-bearer. "But I guess it's gonna be time now, you know?"

Ravi Agrawal, editor in chief of Foreign Policy, wrote that the election results are a "moment of historic tumult" — what polls had been pointing to all along was proven correct by vote totals.

"Americans were linking their dissatisfaction over those matters directly to Trump's policies, including the Iran war and tariffs," he wrote. "Voters are realizing that the people who wanted to blow up the system — the Trumpists, if you will — don't have the answers to our problems."

The president suffered a devastating national midterm election rebuke in which rival Democrats took control of Capitol Hill as well as more than a score of governorships and state

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ANALYSIS


Florida Republican gubernatorial candidate Rep. Byron Donalds speaks during an event at the Freedom Tower in Miami on Aug. 25.
JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES

Registration advantage helped keep Florida red

John Pacenti
USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

Florida Democrats showed the party can be relevant again, coming within percentage points of joining the "blue tsunami" that crested from coast to coast.

While the party got out of the super minority in the state House, it came up short — within a few percentage points — of winning the governorship, a U.S. Senate seat and major cabinet posts.

Aubrey Jewett, a political science professor at the University of Central Florida, said Florida remains a red state, a breakwater that stopped the Democrats' insurgent wave so it never reached the high-water mark it did in Republican strongholds of Texas, Kansas and Iowa.

Republicans came to the polls in droves on Election Day and ended up casting 730,000 more votes than Democrats — a little bit more than what Democrat David Jolly lost by in the gubernatorial election.

"There were multiple reasons they turned out," Jewett said.

A lot was made of the GOP's 1.5 million-voter registration advantage in Florida, built over the COVID-19 pandemic, and those voters came through in the end for the GOP. "They were able to squeak over the finish line," Jewett said.

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Inside

Impeachment fights loom in House. **2A**

Mississippi, Alaska too close to call. **3A**

Vance blames Iran war for GOP midterm losses. **4A**



A for-sale sign in Port Orange's Waters Edge community on Wednesday, Nov. 4. Florida Realtors say Amendment 3 to lower property taxes will make homes more affordable. But cities and counties could raise fees to offset lost revenue. The amendment passed in Tuesday's election and takes effect Jan. 1, 2027. CLAYTON PARK/USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

More affordable?

Realtors cheer passage of Amendment 3, but will tax cut benefit homeowners?

Clayton Park
USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

Florida Realtors are cheering the passage of Amendment 3 to lower property taxes saying it will help make homes more affordable.

But some experts warn the amendment, which takes effect Jan. 1, 2027, could raise costs in other ways if cities and counties raise fees to offset lost tax revenues. It could also cause public services to be reduced or eliminated.

"Until it actually goes into effect and we see the actual revenue changes, it's all speculation," said Brenden Rendo, an Orlando area Realtor with NextHome Neighborhood Realty. He supported Amendment 3, which Florida voters approved by a 62% to 38% margin.

"This Election Day, Florida homeowners chose property tax relief," said Chuck Bonfiglio Jr., president of the Florida Realtors association and broker/owner of AAA Realty Group in Plantation. "Voters seized the opportunity to keep more of their own hard-earned money, taking a meaningful

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