

# SCHOOL-SCOUT.DE

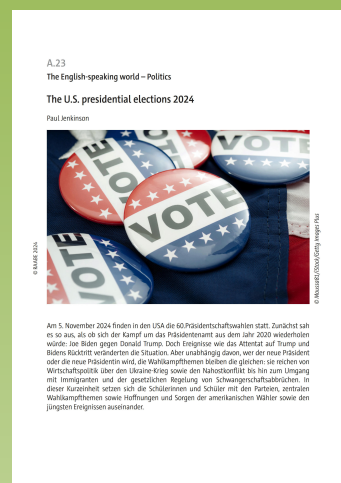
Unterrichtsmaterialien in digitaler und in gedruckter Form

## Auszug aus:

*The U.S. presidential elections 2024*

Das komplette Material finden Sie hier:

[School-Scout.de](https://www.school-scout.de)



## A.23

### The English-speaking world – Politics

## The U.S. presidential elections 2024

Paul Jenkinson



© RAABE 2024

© Maussa81/iStock/Getty Images Plus

Am 5. November 2024 finden in den USA die 60. Präsidentschaftswahlen statt. Zunächst sah es so aus, als ob sich der Kampf um das Präsidentenamt aus dem Jahr 2020 wiederholen würde: Joe Biden gegen Donald Trump. Doch Ereignisse wie das Attentat auf Trump und Bidens Rücktritt veränderten die Situation. Aber unabhängig davon, wer der neue Präsident oder die neue Präsidentin wird, die Wahlkampfthemen bleiben die gleichen: sie reichen von Wirtschaftspolitik über den Ukraine-Krieg sowie den Nahostkonflikt bis hin zum Umgang mit Immigranten und der gesetzlichen Regelung von Schwangerschaftsabbrüchen. In dieser Kurzeinheit setzen sich die Schülerinnen und Schüler mit den Parteien, zentralen Wahlkampfthemen sowie Hoffnungen und Sorgen der amerikanischen Wähler sowie den jüngsten Ereignissen auseinander.

---

## COMPETENCES

<b>Competences:</b>	1. Reading comprehension: understanding and analysing texts; 2. Writing: composing texts and expressing opinions; 3. Speaking: engaging in discussions and presenting results
<b>Methods:</b>	cartoon analysis, discussion, reading comprehension, research, text analysis, writing
<b>Themes:</b>	politics, presidential election, USA

---

### Facts – The unprecedented presidential election

A distinguishing factor of the 2024 presidential election began with the primary contenders being an incumbent president and his controversial predecessor. The focus of attention, therefore, was initially on Joe Biden and Donald Trump rather than the parties they represent. However, in the space of less than a month, a whole new ballgame erupted. Biden's TV debate with Trump turned into a debacle for him, an assassination attempt was made on Trump and after increasing pressure, Biden announced that he would not stand for re-election.

So, a new face for the Democrats will now fight an old one. However, the issues that are of concern for most Americans remain the same; and, for many of them, it is the money in their pockets which influences how they vote. During Joe Biden's term in office the economy has greatly improved, unemployment is at a record low, and inflation and fuel prices have decreased. Unfortunately, people do not recognise this. The Democrats' failure to achieve a feelgood factor among the electorate could prove costly.

Attitudes to equality might win or lose votes. In contrast to Democrats, Republicans tend to be anti-LGBTQ and anti-woke. This can alienate certain groups of people while being attractive to others. One contentious issue is the topic of abortion. The Republican Party are generally anti-abortion and managed to overturn a court ruling regarding the right to choose. Democrats might seize upon this point in the hope of attracting votes, whilst the Republicans will try to avoid the matter so as not to offend the more liberal conservatives. Trump might attempt to deflect attention from this issue by highlighting the Democrats' failure to resolve the immigration problem, which many Americans are concerned about.

The new president's stance regarding foreign policy is wide open. Donald Trump practises

an America First policy and intends to withdraw from NATO. There is the Israeli-Gaza conflict and an ongoing and costly war in the Ukraine to contend with, too. Finally, neither China's economic presence nor its attitude to Taiwan can be ignored. All these situations will be affected by the next president's policy.

Many people might also be swayed by the candidates' opinions toward climate change. A large percentage of the population want action, including 50% of Republicans in a recent poll. Donald Trump, however, does not believe that humanity is responsible for climate change and is against clean energy. Democrats take a contrasting view.

The USA has long been divided into two main political camps but since Trump's defeat in 2020 and his insistence that the election was rigged, an even greater polarisation has occurred. Instead of looking to better their country, voters now view their opponent's political camp as the enemy. The election campaign has inevitably become poisonous, and the outcome will be contentious if Trump loses, leaving the country further polarised.

### Notes on the material

This year, more than ever, all eyes are on the presidential election since inevitably the result will bring about changes in domestic and foreign policy; and it is the foreign policy that intrigues. The Middle East is a minefield waiting to be stumbled upon, the Israeli-Gaza conflict needs resolving, together with the war in Ukraine. **Topic 1** looks deeper into the foreign policy approaches that could occur including how world leaders were looking at the election outcome in different ways, prior to Biden's announcement of no longer standing for re-election.

It is easy to be judgemental from a European standpoint, therefore a look at how Americans view their presidential candidates is valuable. **Topic 2** concerns the opinions of six potential voters, Republicans and Democrats, and the concerns they have about their country. Included is a cartoon which reflects the race for the White House.

Events since June have greatly influenced how the campaigns go forward and who will be the Democrats' nominee. **Topic 3**, therefore, looks at issues such as how Biden's announcement was received, political violence in the USA and rhetoric used.

## Overview

---

### Topic 1: International interest in the election

**M 1** "U.S. election 2024: Why the world is watching so closely"

---

### Topic 2: Opinions from the electorate

**M 2** 2024 presidential election: "It's like 2020 all over again – with higher stakes"

---

### Topic 3: A whole new ballgame

**M 3** Worksheet – Turbulent times

# SCHOOL-SCOUT.DE

Unterrichtsmaterialien in digitaler und in gedruckter Form

**Auszug aus:**

*The U.S. presidential elections 2024*

Das komplette Material finden Sie hier:

[School-Scout.de](https://www.school-scout.de)

