

Spotted this week in media bias

Election 2020

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Election 2020: Supreme Court, Campaign Trail, Social Media

With just day to go until Election Day, Judge Amy Coney Barrett was [sworn in](#) to the nation's highest court – solidifying a major pre-election [partisan victory](#) for the Republican-controlled Senate. Undoubtedly, the drama in Congress began well before Barrett's nomination was formally announced, as Republicans and Democrats fiercely argued the political legitimacy in replacing Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's seat with a staunch conservative in an election year. With political tensions and heightened emotions in full gear, [left-leaning](#) publications emphasized that Barrett's confirmation – on a nearly party-line vote – was an attempt to distract the American voters from the rapidly worsening coronavirus pandemic. While [right-leaning](#) media framed Barrett's appointment to the Supreme Court as part of President Trump's lasting legacy that will extend far beyond his first term.

On the campaign trail, Trump and Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden hit crucial swing states in the run-up to Election Day. Both candidates [traveled extensively](#) this week, tailoring to voters who could cast potentially decisive ballots. As [national polls](#) show the democratic contender holding a [sizable lead](#) over Trump in 10 out of the 12 key battleground states – it's important to note that the election [polls](#) did get it [wrong](#) four years ago in the 2016 presidential elections. Nonetheless, [Georgia](#) – a traditionally Republican-leaning state – came as the biggest shocker to politicians as it emerged as a key swing state. As [democrats](#) argued that it's the Peach State's failure to keep up with its growing diverse population that is to blame, [Fox News](#) argued that the longtime red state could still be anyone's game – highlighting that the two candidates remain deadlocked at 45% on the latest polls.

The U.S. response to the coronavirus pandemic took over the political conversation, as many states reported a [sharp uptick](#) in new cases and hospitalizations. “He’s jealous of Covid’s media coverage,” said former President Barack Obama, fiercely [criticizing](#) his successor’s handling of the outbreak. As the U.S. set another [single-day](#) record, with over 97-thousand cases reported on Friday, [Dr. Anthony Fauci](#) warned the American people that a Covid-19 vaccine will not likely be available until next year. His remarks came as the White House released a statement [taking credit](#) for “ending the Covid-19 pandemic.” As Biden also took aim at the release, White House communications director Alyssa Farah attempted damage control telling [Fox News](#) that the statement sent from the White House science office was “poorly worded” – acknowledging that new cases are still on the rise. Nevertheless, President Trump continued to campaign through

[Midwestern battleground states](#) seizing on a message that the nation has “turned the corner” from the devastating outbreak. In sharp contrast, Biden took a more somber tone [warning](#) Americans of some “tough days ahead” with the country surpassing [9 million](#) total infections.

Meanwhile, social media giants [Facebook and Twitter](#) find themselves caught in the crossfire – yet again, in the presidential elections. Following mounting widespread pressure, Facebook announced it would [ban new ads](#) in the week before Election Day in an attempt to limit misinformation and curb harmful content. However, Facebook announced Thursday [admitting](#) that it “improperly” restricted some ads due to technical glitches. The Biden presidential campaign promptly [slammed](#) the social media giant, claiming that the glitch cost them \$500,000 in fundraising. Facebook said the technical issue affected both presidential campaigns. In other social media news, the New York Post can [tweet](#) again – Twitter lifted its suspension of the newspaper’s account after a weeks-long standoff following the outlet’s move to publish an explosive report about Hunter Biden. Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey got into a heated [exchange](#) with lawmakers over the company’s decision, as Republican Senator Ted Cruz [criticized](#) the tech giant for censoring content to the American people. As chief executives of the largest social media companies continue to face heavy scrutiny in their efforts to police misinformation during election season – it’s important to note, if such a rubric does not exist in how to handle this difficult and pivotal task – can tech companies alone take on the responsibility to impartially moderate content online?

Guest Post by Fox News Reporter Sharon Song

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