

## FIDELIO & FGS GLOBAL US ELECTION CHAIR BRIEFING

### KEY INSIGHTS



#### AN ELECTION ON A KNIFE EDGE

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Just a week before one of the most consequential elections in U.S. history, the race is simply too close to call.

During the recent US Election Chair Briefing, co-hosted by Fidelio and FGS Global, the BBC's Justin Webb and FGS Global's North America Co-Chair Mike Feldman's provided insights into the state of the race and American politics, and shared a detailed view of what Board Chairs can expect in the coming months. We capture the highlights below:

#### 5 KEY TAKEAWAYS

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##### POLLING DATA IS ALMOST CERTAINLY WRONG.

1. Voter turnout is going to be critical in a race this tight. Relatively strong Republican early voting vs. 2016 means Harris has to do more to motivate the Democratic base in urban Pennsylvania and Michigan. If the couch wins, Trump wins.

##### WE MAY NOT KNOW THE OUTCOME FOR WEEKS.

2. Both sides have already lined up hundreds of lawsuits to contest results. Unless one candidate surprises with a dominant win, expect this not only to be the most consequential but also the most contested election in U.S. history.

3.

**STATE ACTORS ARE LIKELY TO TRY TO SOW CHAOS.**

Even in the case of a dominant win, foreign actors and agitators can be expected to stoke discontent prior to Inauguration. Both sides are susceptible to this and the possibility of further political violence is real.

4.

**THIS IS ULTIMATELY A “CULTURE WAR” ELECTION.**

With Biden out of the race, this is no longer a referendum on age. Americans are voting for the political culture where they feel they belong, rather than for/against a candidate. This election will do nothing to resolve deep social tensions across the country.

5.

**A MANDATE ISN'T ALWAYS A MANDATE.**

If Harris wins, she is unlikely to view her support as a decisive mandate to govern from the Left. But Trump could potentially view a narrow vote win as a fully-fledged MAGA mandate.

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**FOLLOW UP & ABOUT FIDELIO**

Fidelio was delighted to collaborate with FGS Global, a leading communications public affairs advisor to c-suites and Boards, in hosting this event. If you have any questions on any of the content discussed please reach out to [Joe Palombo](#), Partner and Head of Political Diligence or [Dorothy Burwell](#), Head of Board and Governance Services at [FGS Global](#).

Fidelio's focus is building high performing Boards and navigating geo-political risk has become a core Board skill for many organisations. [Fidelio Partners](#) has an international track record in advising Chairs, building Boards, creating value for shareholders and stakeholders and effecting change through:

- **Chair Advisory**
- **Board Performance Review**
- **Board & Executive Search**
- **Development & Succession**

For further information about how Fidelio can support your Board, please get in touch.

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