

Trump pulls off upset to win White House

NEW YORK (AP) — Donald Trump awakened a movement of angry working-class voters fed up with political insiders and desperate for change. On Tuesday, that movement propelled him to the White House.

Trump's stunning, come-from-behind victory over Hillary Clinton served as a symbolic raised middle finger to the political establishment from his fervent backers.

But to millions of others, the billionaire businessman's elevation to the presidency is a shocking, catastrophic blow that threatens the security and identity of a bitterly divided nation.

Many see the president-elect as a racist, a bigot and a misogynist unfit for the office.

"He scares the daylights out of me," said Wendy Bennett, a Democrat and government worker from Reno, Nevada, who cast her ballot for Clinton. "I think his personality is going to start World War III. He reminds me of Hitler."

Lisa Moore, a registered Republican from Glen Rock, New Jersey, crossed party lines to vote for Clinton, who would have been the nation's first female president.

"As a woman, in good conscience, and as the mother of a daughter, I can't vote for somebody who's so morally reprehensible," said Moore, an exercise instructor.

The 2016 election will go down as one of the most vicious in modern history, as Clinton tried to paint Trump as a reckless bully and Trump belittled his rival as a corrupt insider who belonged behind bars.

But the election also served as vindication for Trump, a former reality TV star whose appeal was underestimated from the start.

While pundits assumed his poll numbers would sink as soon as voters started taking the race seriously, Trump was drawing thousands each night to rallies packed full of angry, largely white supporters who felt ignored and lied to by Washington.

While statistics showed the U.S. economy improving overall, it didn't feel that way in places like upstate New York, Pennsylvania's coal country and former manufacturing towns across the Midwest devastated by outsourcing and globalization. Chaos abroad only added to the feeling that the country was sliding backward.

Together, those factors drove a yearning to return to a simpler time when America was the world's undisputed superpower and middle-class wages were on the rise.

"We have our fingers in too many baskets," said Joe Hudson, 49, an engineer and registered Republican from Virginia Beach, Virginia, who said he would be voting for Trump because "we're not taking care of our own people."

"We're trying to be too involved in world politics. And our country is imploding from within," he said. "We need a new direction, a new attitude, and people to stop arguing and letting the media affect how we feel."

Trump's vow was simple: He'd "Make America Great Again." His outsider status, coupled with his personal business success, lent credibility to a populist message that emphasized recapturing manufacturing jobs, restoring American strength abroad and curtailing legal and illegal immigration.

Trump, early on, painted his supporters as a "movement" larger than himself.

"This isn't about me; it's about all of you and our magnificent movement to make America great again all over this country. And they're talking about



Supporters of Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump cheer as they watch election returns during a rally Tuesday in New York.



Guests watch election results during Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton's election night rally in the Jacob Javits Center Tuesday in New York.

it all over the world," he said at a rally in Miami last week during the race's furious final stretch.

"There has never been a movement like this in the history of our country — it's never happened. Even the pundits, even the ones that truly dislike Donald Trump, have said it's the single greatest phenomena they have ever seen."

But as he worked his base into a frenzy and locked down one primary win after the next, Trump was also repelling large swaths of the populace — including women, college-educated whites and minorities — with his deeply divisive rhetoric.

Trump launched his campaign with a speech that accused Mexico of sending rapists and other criminals across the border.

He later questioned 2008 Republican nominee and former POW John McCain's status as a war hero, saying he preferred people who hadn't been captured. He mocked a disabled reporter.

And he called for a "total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States until our country's representatives can figure out what is going on" — a blanket religion test denounced by many as un-American.

After securing his party's nomination, Trump questioned a federal judge's ability to treat him fairly because of the judge's Hispanic origin, repeatedly insulted a Muslim-American family whose son had been killed in Iraq, and got into an extended spat with a former beauty queen, at one point instructing his millions of

"This isn't about me, it's about all of you and our movement to make America great again."

— Donald Trump, U.S. President-Elect

Twitter followers to "check out" her non-existent sex tape.

Again and again, Trump appeared poised to close the gap with Clinton, only to go off on a tangent that would send his poll numbers tumbling.

Then came the release of jarring old video footage from an "Access Hollywood" bus in which Trump bragged about being able to grope women because he was famous. The video's release was followed by a string of allegations from women who said Trump sexually harassed or assaulted them.

Trump denied the accusations, at one point threatening to sue the women.

But one October surprise was followed by another: a letter from the FBI director informing Congress that the bureau had found a new trove of emails potentially relevant to its investigation into Clinton's use of a private email server a secretary of state. While the FBI eventually announced that there was nothing in the emails to merit criminal prosecution, the damage appeared to have been done.

Election results rattle markets as shares, U.S. dollar tumbles

HONG KONG (AP) The rising prospect of a Trump presidency jolted markets around the world Wednesday, sending Dow futures and Asian stock prices sharply lower as investors panicked over uncertainties on trade, immigration and geopolitical tensions.

At one point, Dow futures plunged more than 4 percent and Japan's major index nosedived more than 6.1 percent, its largest drop in years. The Mexican peso likewise tumbled and investors looking for safe assets bid up the price of gold.

During the campaign, Trump threatened to rip up trade deals like the North American Free Trade Agreement. He pledged to greatly restrict immigration to the U.S. and to build a wall along the United States' southern border and force Mexico to pay for it.

But the lack of clear policy details has left many worldwide uneasy over the

future direction of the U.S. economy. Share prices began tumbling as soon as Trump first gained the lead in the electoral vote count.

The Federal Reserve had been considered all but sure to raise interest rates at its next meeting in mid-December, reflecting a strengthened U.S. economy. But a Trump victory could make a rate hike less likely — especially if financial markets remain under pressure.

Trump's strong talk on trade also has left many in Asia deeply worried.

Top officials from Japan's central bank and finance ministry met Wednesday to discuss how to cope with the gyrations in financial markets. The Nikkei 225 stock index closed 5.4 percent lower. Hong Kong's Hang Seng slumped 2.7 and South Korea's Kospi shed 2.4 percent.

The Shanghai Composite index fell 0.2 percent to 3,141.87 and Australia's S&P ASX/200 in sank 1.9 percent to 5,156.60.

GOP keeps Senate control as Democrats fall short

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans held onto their slim Senate majority Wednesday, a stinging blow to Democrats in a night full of them. Democrats had been nearly certain of retaking control but saw their hopes fizzle as endangered GOP incumbents won in Missouri, Indiana, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and even Democrat-friendly Wisconsin.

GOP-held New Hampshire remained too close to call in the early morning hours Wednesday, but even if Democrats eked out a win there it would not make a difference.

Republicans started the night with a 54-46 majority in the Senate and were on track to end up with at least 52 seats, presuming they win a December run-off in Louisiana, as expected.

The outcome added to a debacle of a night for Democrats, who lost the presidency and faced being consigned to minority status on Capitol Hill for years to come.

Republicans celebrated their wins, already looking ahead to midterms in 2018 when Democrats could see their numbers reduced even further with a group of red-state Senate Democrats on the ballot.

As the night wore on, Democratic operatives struggled to explain why their optimistic assessments of retaking Senate control were so mistaken. Some blamed unexpected turnout by certain segments of white voters, or FBI Director James Comey's bombshell announcement that he was reviewing a new batch of emails connected with Democrat Hillary

Clinton.

In Pennsylvania, GOP Sen. Pat Toomey won a narrow victory for his second term over Democratic challenger Katie McGinty. It was a race Democrats expected to win going into the night — and one that many Republicans felt nearly as sure they'd lose.

The story was the same in Wisconsin, where GOP Sen. Ron Johnson, written off for months by his own party, won re-election against former Democratic Sen. Russ Feingold in a rematch.

In Missouri and North Carolina, where entrenched GOP incumbents Roy Blunt and Richard Burr faced unexpectedly strong challenges from Democrats, both prevailed in the end.

Democrats did grab a Republican-held seat in Illinois, where GOP Sen. Mark Kirk lost to Democratic Rep. Tammy Duckworth, a double-amputee Iraq war vet.

The other bright spot for Democrats was in Nevada, where Minority Leader Harry Reid's retirement after five terms created a vacancy and the one Democratic-held seat that was closely contested. Reid maneuvered to fill it with his hand-picked successor, Catherine Cortez Masto, Nevada's former attorney general who spoke often of her family's immigrant roots in a state with heavy Latino turnout.

John McCain, at age 80, won his sixth term in quite possibly his final campaign. The 2008 GOP presidential nominee was re-elected without much difficulty despite early predictions of a competitive race.

GOP wins two more years of House control, Dem gains minimal

WASHINGTON — Republicans retained their lock on the House for two more years early Wednesday as GOP candidates triumphed in a checkerboard of districts in Florida, Virginia and Colorado that Democrats had hoped Donald Trump's divisive comments about women and Hispanics would make their own.

Democrats who had envisioned potentially big gains in suburban and ethnically diverse districts instead were on track for disappointingly modest pickups. Republican contenders were buoyed by Trump's startlingly strong White House bid against Democrat Hillary Clinton and appeal to white working-class voters.

Expectations were low that Democrats would win the 30 seats they had needed to capture House control. But both sides had anticipated they'd cut the historic GOP majority by perhaps a dozen seats, which seemed possible but unlikely. Republicans currently hold a 247-188 majority, including three vacant seats, the most the



House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wis. waves to supporters at a campaign rally Tuesday.

GOP has commanded since their 270 in 1931.

By Wednesday morning, Republicans had at least 232 seats — guaranteeing control — and just five of their incumbents had lost. The GOP retained seats in Minnesota, New York, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Iowa and Wisconsin that Democrats sought to grab, and Republicans prepared to build on their current six-year run of House control.

"This could be a really good night for America," House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., who won a 10th term, told supporters back home in Janesville, Wisconsin.

It was initially unclear what impact the marginally smaller size of the GOP majority would have on Ryan, who'd angered some Republican lawmakers by refusing to campaign for Trump.

While one member of the

hard-right House Freedom Caucus was defeated, several newly elected Republicans could bolster it. That would increase conservatives' leverage to demand their way on issues like curbing spending and government regulations.

In Florida, freshman GOP Rep. Carlos Curbelo won a race that underscored how Trump's damage to Republicans would be limited. With around 7 in 10 of the Miami-area district's voters Hispanic, Democrats targeted it and the race became one of the country's most expensive with an \$18 million price tag. But Curbelo distanced himself from his own party's nominee and held on.

Virginia freshman Rep. Barbara Comstock kept her seat in the Washington, D.C., suburbs despite Democrats' attempts to lash her to Trump. The two sides spent more than \$20 million in a district of highly educated, affluent voters that both sides had viewed as vulnerable to a Democratic takeover.

Democrats defeated two Florida GOP incumbents,

but that seemed due to local circumstances.

Rep. John Mica, 73, a 12-term veteran from the Orlando area, was criticized by GOP strategists for a lackluster campaign and lost to Democrat Stephanie Murphy, a political neophyte. Democrat Charlie Crist, once the state's Republican governor, defeated Rep. David Jolly in a St. Petersburg district redrawn to favor Democrats.

Democrats spent \$4 million and beat GOP Rep. Scott Garrett, a Freedom Caucus member from New Jersey's suburbs of New York City. Also defeated was Rep. Bob Dold, a GOP moderate from outside Chicago, and Republican Rep. Cresent Hardy from Nevada.

No Democratic incumbent had lost by early Wednesday.

Both parties' candidates and outside groups spent nearly \$1.1 billion combined on House campaigns, shy of the \$1.2 billion record in 2012, according to the Center for Responsive Politics, a nonpartisan research group.

Republicans had only a slight financial edge.

Even with the Ryan-led House GOP's current formidable advantage, work has stalled this year on spending bills after hitting objections from conservatives.

Moving into 2017, Congress faces a fresh round of budget legislation plus the need to renew the government's borrowing authority or face an economy-jarring federal default. Those are never easy to pass.

Ryan, 46, has said he wants to be speaker in the new Congress and has expressed confidence in doing so. But he is not immune to ire from the Freedom Caucus, which chased former Speaker John Boehner from Congress last year, and other Republicans upset over his frigid treatment of Trump.

Just a handful of disgruntled conservatives could possibly block Ryan from the 218 votes he'd need to retain his post. That would be an embarrassing setback for the GOP's 2012 vice presidential candidate, who may harbor White House aspirations.