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This week, Former President Donald Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris have been rounding out the campaign trail as the United States gears up for Election Day 2024 on Tuesday. Both candidates have been holding a series of final rallies across the country, with many of these taking place in important swing states that will determine the outcome of the election. Recent polling shows that the presidential race is neck and neck, with Trump and Harris engaging in last minute campaign stops in an effort to vie for any remaining undecided voters and try to appeal to contested demographics and constituencies.

On Sunday, Trump hosted a rally at New York City's Madison Square Garden which drew criticism for various controversial remarks from event speakers, most notably comedian Tony Hinchcliffe and Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani. Hinchcliffe included a reference to Puerto Rico as a "floating island of garbage," while Giuliani disgracefully claimed that Palestinians are taught to kill Americans "at 2 years old." The reprehensible comments garnered widespread condemnation, and overshadowed the rally. They also elicited speculation from election forecasters on whether or not they may hurt Trump in the upcoming election. Battleground states like Pennsylvania have a sizable population of Puerto Rican descent, while others like Michigan have an especially noteworthy population of Palestinian-Americans. Since the rally, the Trump campaign has attempted to distance itself from the comedian Hinchcliffe in particular, but what transpired has left some wondering what – if any – fallout there might be come Election Day.

Although any loss of support could end up being crucial in this election, it may not be so much that as it is an increased likelihood that certain voters will not sway towards the Republican presidential candidate, as stateside Puerto Ricans are the only ones eligible to vote and tend to lean towards the Democratic Party. [According to a 2022 poll by the Pew Research Center](#), 58% of stateside Puerto Ricans believe that the Democratic Party represents them while 36% say that Republicans do. This can also be seen in other stateside institutions, as all 3 Puerto Rican-Americans in the U.S. House of Representatives are New York Democrats. However, analysts have pointed out that the backlash could still have a negative effect on Trump's support within the broader Hispanic and Latino-American communities – a major demographic contended for by both candidates in this election.

On Tuesday night of this week, Vice President Harris held a rally at The Ellipse in Washington D.C. on the site where Former President Trump addressed the crowd that stormed the United States Capitol on January 6th, 2021. An estimated 75,000 people were in attendance, according to the Harris campaign. Harris's message at the rally centered around unity and collaboration, duty to the country, and calls for Americans to "turn the page" on Trump, with Harris describing him as "unstable, obsessed with revenge, consumed with grievance, and out for unchecked power." A major issue for the Harris campaign has been clearly distinguishing herself from President Biden, particularly regarding her economic policies; something Trump has been shown to be leading on. At the rally, Harris attempted to address this by detailing her plan to lower housing costs, expand child tax credit, and place a cap on grocery price gouging. [According to Blueprint](#), the economy remains a key motivating factor for voters in battleground states, which are predicted to determine the winner of this election. Thus, relaying a successful message on this issue is likely to be crucial.

In regards to polling placement, Harris holds a 1.4% lead against Trump, [according to some of FiveThirtyEight's latest poll results](#). Trump still maintains a lead as being the favored candidate for economic and immigration issues. Meanwhile, Harris's campaign – as made evident by Tuesday's rally – has been focusing on the issue of political extremism, and polls 40% to Trump's 38% on who has approached this issue better. Both candidates' gaps are within the average of the polls' margin of error, meaning that either may be potentially in the lead, and most polls have been demonstrating similar results. In the key swing states, both Trump and Harris remain within the margin of error as well. The leads in all seven of the most important battleground states that will determine the outcome of the election – Arizona, Nevada, Michigan, Wisconsin, Georgia, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina – are minimal, highlighting that they are “anyone's game” and that both Trump and Harris possess multiple paths to securing the presidency which will finally play out next week.