

# US Electoral Democracy: Dollars, Rigged Votes, and Bullets. Kamala Harris vs. Donald Trump

By [Manlio Dinucci](#)

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Region: [USA](#)

Theme: [Law and Justice](#)

*The director of the US Secret Service, Kimberly A. Cheatle, has resigned from her position due to her demonstrated inability to protect Donald Trump from the attack. In the congressional hearing, she refused to say how many agents were assigned to protect Trump and why the Secret Service did not guard a nearby warehouse complex, from whose roof the attacker fired despite the complex being guarded by local police. Cheatle did not even explain how it was possible that, when several rally participants warned the Secret Service and police agents of the presence of an armed man on the roof, no one moved. All of this casts a dark shadow over the entire affair, making the official version that the attack was the work of a single person less credible: a twenty-year-old, who had also shown poor skills in his high school shooting class, was killed immediately by police snipers who could have instead stopped him with a non-fatal shot so that he could be questioned in the investigation.*

Having emerged alive from the attack, Donald Trump seemed to be the winning candidate in the next presidential elections. However, President Biden's withdrawal and the entry into the field of vice-president Kamala Harris have given the Democrats new breathing space. In a single day, they collected over 50 million dollars in online donations, the largest in recent years. Making the situation even more uncertain is the US electoral system itself. Over 20% of voters live in jurisdictions that use electronic voting machines without paper trails. These electronic voting machines, operated by private companies, store the votes in their memory.

"The lack of a physical document to support electronic voting means that election officials have to trust that the machines won't malfunction and change or lose a vote, or that poll workers won't inadvertently alter votes, or that the machines haven't been hacked," warns Douglas Jones, a computer science professor at the University of Iowa who has spent decades studying how computers are used in elections.

What's more, a record number of voters, more than 65 million, are sending their ballots by mail. Post offices are being clogged with some 130 million mailings of voters' ballots. Because there are not enough staff, the majority of ballot counting is done by private companies outside the office. That leaves much room for data manipulation, allowing votes to be fraudulently moved from one candidate to another.

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