

Brooklyn sidewalk aquarium paved over by NYC officials

The makeshift pond fed by a leaky fire hydrant drew residents and tourists for months. **In News**

NFL Week 8: Hail Mary rules in DC; NY Jets grounded

Meanwhile, Eagles' offense is flying high again. **Winners and Losers, In Sports**

Little Big Town is in a Christmas state of mind

Busy with holiday album and TV special, members of country group talk about Elvis and touring with Sugarland. **In Life**

USA TODAY

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SUZANNE CORDEIRO/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

US food recalls raising alarms

But experts don't see serious safety risks

Jeanine Santucci
USA TODAY

McDonald's burgers. Eggs. Green onions. Frozen waffles. The list of recalled food products in recent weeks has American consumers worried about the safety of their food.

The products have been recalled because of concerns over harmful bacteria that may be present. In some cases, the recalls were precautionary, but illnesses and even deaths have been linked to the outbreaks.

Since a massive recall of Boar's Head deli meat revealed serious violations of health and safety regulations at one of its plants, new recalls seem to be in the headlines every day. But experts have said people should not be overly concerned.

Though it's a tragedy when an outbreak causes illness and death, the U.S. food supply is still very safe, said Martin Bucknavage, a food safety specialist at the Pennsylvania State University Department of Food Science.



McDonald's Quarter Pounders are returning to some states after the company said it linked an illness outbreak to a supplier of onions.

MARIO TAMA/GETTY IMAGES

"Certainly when these issues come up ... we all get worried about our food supply, but our food supply is generally safe across the board," Bucknavage told USA TODAY.

In recent months, a slew of companies issued recalls after possible links to listeria and foodborne illnesses.

The most extreme case is a deadly listeria outbreak within Boar's Head deli meat linked to a single Virginia plant that was first reported in July. As of late September, 59 people had been hospitalized and at least 10 had died in cases linked to Boar's Head.

Since then, a slew of other recalls has caused alarm among consumers.

This month, the TreeHouse Foods company issued a voluntary recall on its frozen waffles and pancakes after discovering potential listeria contamination, though no reports of illness have been linked to the products.

Green onions linked to possible salmonella contamination were recalled after being sold in several U.S. and Canadian stores, including Trader Joe's. No illnesses have been reported. A listeria concern prompted the manufacturer BrucePac to recall millions of pounds of meat in packaged foods.

Costco announced a recall of products that include meat connected to the BrucePac recall. Some of the recalled items include Rana Chicken

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ELECTIONS 2024

Keeping the vote running smoothly



Tony Weatherly, a senior elections coordinator in West Bloomfield Township in suburban Detroit, picks up ballots from a drop box on Oct. 8. Weatherly does this every morning to stay on top of checking in the ballots of voting residents so he doesn't end up with a backlog as Election Day nears. PHOTOS BY ERIC SEALS/USA TODAY NETWORK

Election workers in swing states talk about how it's done

USA TODAY NETWORK

CASTING a ballot on Election Day has always been the backbone of democracy. It was also the snooziest. • Behind every polling station in school cafeterias, public libraries and YMCAs all over the country, tens of thousands of election officials, poll workers and watchers and volunteers have long ensured the process is accessible, transparent and accurate. • Delightful. Dull. And yet profoundly American. • But a once-monotonous job – counting votes – has become dangerous.

After Donald Trump lost in 2020, he has falsely cast the results as fraud and the election as stolen. This message has been amplified by conspiracy theorists who have peddled claims that the use of machines to count ballots allows results to be rigged. Election workers have been intimidated and threatened.

USA TODAY Network reporters spent time with election workers from Pennsylvania, Nevada, North Carolina, Arizona, Wisconsin, Michigan and Georgia.

This is what they told us.



The drop box ballots are organized by pickup date and remain inside the West Bloomfield Township offices.

Chester County, Pennsylvania

Chester County, Pennsylvania, Voter Services Director Karen Barsoum pops down to the equipment center in the basement of the county's government services center at least twice a day to check in with staff doing logic and accuracy testing on vote tabulators ahead of early voting and Election Day. It gives her a chance to see how the process of checking that every machine and its

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Undecided voters carry weight

They are not enthralled with Harris or Trump but may be deciding factor



Jacques Lemoyne, 69, right, of Erie, Pa., said he's still undecided about who to support for president. The golf club shop owner said he's "simply not happy" with either candidate. GREG WOHLFORD/USA TODAY NETWORK

Terry Collins
USA TODAY

The indecision weighs so heavily on Mike Hoekstra's mind that he sometimes can't sleep at night.

Jacques Lemoyne is "simply not happy" with his options.

And Kathryn Berrisford "can't find a clear path on who feels good at this point."

With a week before Election Day, this trio is among a group of voters across the country who remain undecided in their pick for president.

Dissatisfied for reasons ranging from candidates' lack of clear policies and potential threats to democracy to their personalities, these voters say they aren't content with either

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