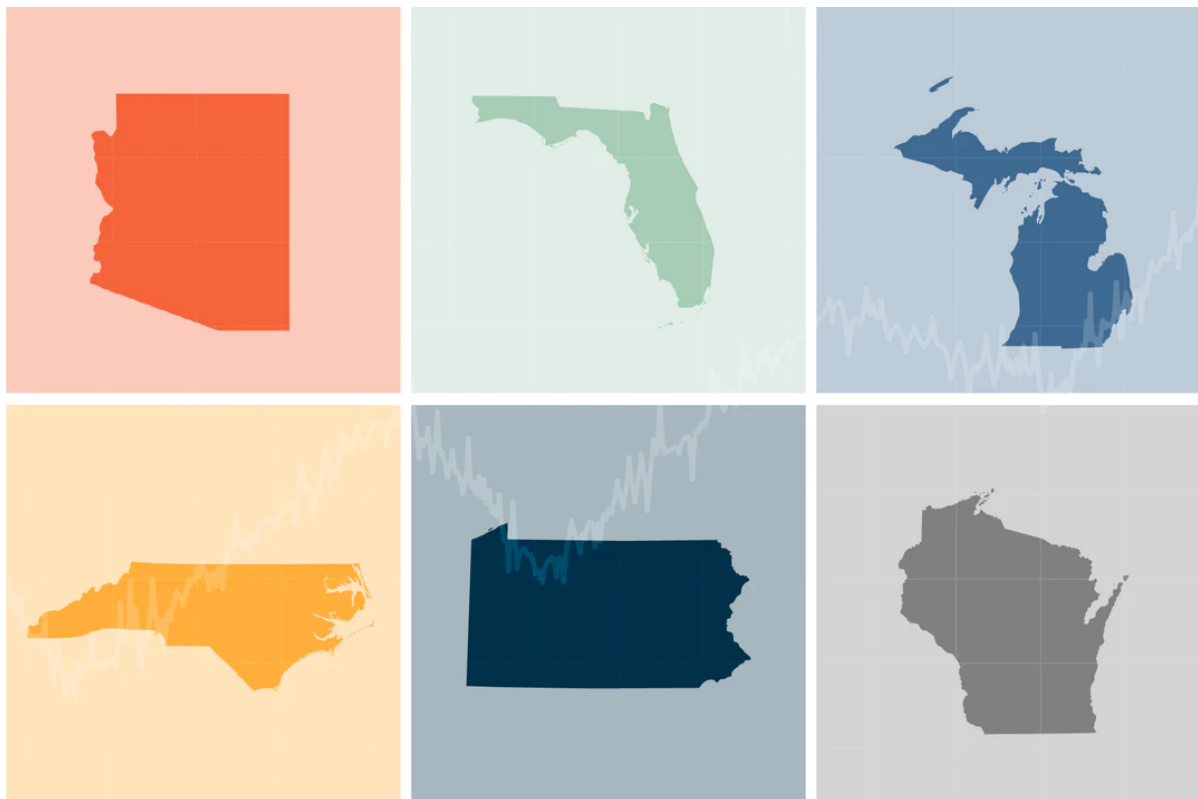



Battleground of the Battlegrounds: Jobs in the Swing State Suburbs

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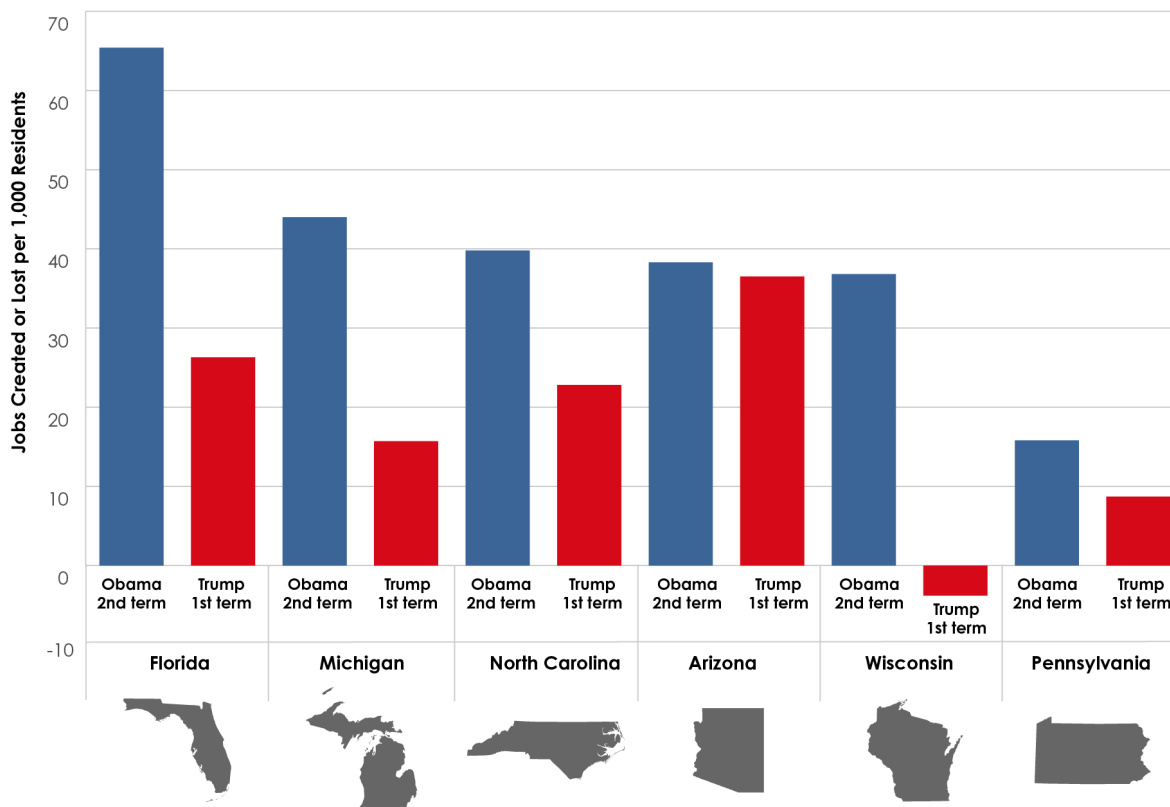
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Ahead of November, the suburbs in six states are shaping up to cast the presidential election's deciding votes. Arizona, Florida, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin are very different states with different demographics and economic conditions—but all are united in faring better under President Obama in his 2nd term than President Trump in his first, even pre-pandemic.

Our analysis focuses on jobs, the core unit of economic stability and chance to thrive in America. Looking at the numbers, the Obama 2nd term presidency served swing state suburbanites far better than Trump's first four years—even **excluding** the months since the Coronavirus recession hit.

Obama Outperformed Trump in Swing State Suburbs

Excluding pandemic, Obama's 2nd term trounces Trump's job growth



Source: Third Way calculations based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Local Area Unemployment Statistics monthly county-level data. President Obama's second term spans from January 2013 through January 2017. President Trump's first term excluding the Coronavirus pandemic spans January 2017 through February 2020, including the pandemic spans through August 2020. Data for July and August 2020 is preliminary and subject to change. County area types are based on the National Center for Health Statistics area classification system. County population is based on Census' American Community Survey 5-year estimates for 2018.

As it stands, it is no contest. The following state-by-state fact sheets dig deeper into the numbers, comparing job performance in urban centers, suburban counties, and rural swaths in each of the six swing states. Our analysis compares the entirety of Obama's second term, from January 2013 to January 2017, to Trump's first term withholding the pandemic, from January 2017 to February 2020, as well as the entirety of Trump's first term, with the recession included, through August 2020. Even excluding the fastest labor market collapse in modern history, exacerbated by the current president's failed leadership, President Obama's job performance is superior. When factoring in the COVID recession, the results are not even close.

Millions of jobs were lost in the past seven months, and one party shows far better promise to recover and rebuild the ruins of the COVID-19 economy in 2021 and beyond.

