

# Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

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FINAL

## French election yields deadlock

Left, center and right all fail to gain majority

By John Leicester, Lori Hinnant and Sylvie Corbet  
Associated Press

PARIS — A coalition of the French left won the most seats in high-stakes legislative elections, according to final results early Monday, beating back a far-right surge but failing to win a majority. The outcome left France facing the stunning prospect of a hung parliament and threatened political paralysis in a pillar of the European Union and Olympic host country.

That could rattle markets and the French economy, the EU's second largest, and have far-ranging implications for the war in Ukraine, global diplomacy and Europe's economic stability.

In calling the election on June 9, after the far right surged in French voting for the European Parliament, President Emmanuel Macron said sending voters back to the ballot boxes would provide "clarification."

On almost every level, that gamble appears to have backfired. According to the second-round results tallied early Monday, a leftist coalition surged to take the most seats in parliament, with 182. Mr. Macron's centrists have 168 seats and the unpopular president will have to form alliances to run the

SEE **FRANCE**, PAGE A-7

## HURRICANE BERYL

# Texas coast told to evacuate

Power outages, flooding expected from storm

By Mark Vanleave and Valerie Gonzalez  
Associated Press

MATAGORDA BAY, Texas — Beryl strengthened and again became a hurricane late Sunday as it heads toward southern Texas, where its outer bands lashed the coast with rain and intensifying winds as residents prepared for the powerful storm that has already cut a deadly path through parts of Mexico and the Caribbean.

Although Beryl remained a tropical storm Sunday as it churned toward Texas, it threatened to potentially regain hurricane strength in the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico before making landfall early Monday. The storm was projected to come ashore in the middle of the Texas coast around Matagorda Bay, an area about 100 miles south of Houston, but officials cautioned the path could still change.

Texas officials warned the storm would cause power outages and flooding but also expressed worry that not enough coastal residents and beach vacationers in Beryl's path were heeding warnings to leave.

"One of the things that kind of trigger our concern a little bit, we've looked at all of the roads leaving the coast and the maps are still green," said Texas Lt. Gov.

SEE **BERYL**, PAGE A-6



President Joe Biden, left, takes a photo Sunday with volunteers at a campaign office in Philadelphia.

Manuel Balce Ceneta/Associated Press

# DEEPENING DIVIDE

While Biden campaigns in Pa., more Democrats say he should step aside

The Associated Press

HARRISBURG — President Joe Biden urged his supporters to stay unified during a series of stops in critical Pennsylvania on Sunday, even as some leading congressional Democrats privately suggested it was time for him to abandon his reelection bid because of intensifying questions about whether he's fit for another term.

Addressing a rousing church service in front of stained glass windows bathed in sunshine at Philadelphia's Mount Airy Church of God in Christ, the 81-year-old Biden joked, "I know I look 40" but "I've been doing this a long time."

"I, honest to God, have never been more optimistic about America's future if we stick together," he said.

There and during a subsequent rally with union members in Harrisburg, Mr. Biden offered short speeches that touched on familiar topics. But he

SEE **BIDEN**, PAGE A-4

## Region's Black, Latino voters debating over Biden, Trump

Low turnout in November is a growing concern

By Anna Rubenstein and Elena Eisenstadt  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Demetrius Ivy couldn't hold back his laughter when remembering Joe Biden's performance in the first presidential debate.

"It's hard to know if Joe knew where he was," he said. "He was bad on the issues."

But Mr. Ivy, 57, a Black voter in Pittsburgh, is still planning to stick with the Democratic ticket when he votes in November.

"Not for Biden, for social programs," he said. He believes if it isn't Mr. Biden, another Democrat will support programs like the child tax credit, which helped his son.

William Matthews, a Latino voter in Pittsburgh, is leaning toward voting for Republican Donald Trump.

He said he respected when Trump went for "rebuttals," but when Mr. Biden did so, "it kind of made me lose respect for him. I never respect somebody who would rebuttal with insults."

Black and Latino voters are considered a key demographic by both parties in the 2024 race.

In the aftermath of the debate, those voters locally are grappling with how they're going to vote in November's election — or whether to participate at all, which increasingly worries local community leaders.

SEE **VOTERS**, PAGE A-4



Justin Guido/For the Post-Gazette

**A PLEA FOR HOSTAGES** Sari Cohen, of Squirrel Hill, holds a sign during a rally in Squirrel Hill on Sunday that called for the release of hostages taken during the Hamas attack on Israel. The event marked nine months since the hostages were taken captive. Story, **A-11**.

## Former graffiti artist turned detective retires

Alphonso Sloan sees the writing on the wall after 20 years of this 'cat and mouse game'

By Megan Guza  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

After nearly a decade of arresting ghosts of himself, Pittsburgh's last remaining graffiti detective is retiring.

"I'm the happiest I've ever been in my career," Alphonso Sloan, a longtime detective, said last week surrounded by half-packed boxes and paperwork. "I'm actually leaving out at the happiest point in my career. It's kind of bitter-sweet, you know, but I'm leaving on my terms."

The artist-turned-officer, who joined the Pittsburgh police in 1995, knows his expertise inside and out — Detective Sloan is, after all, a former graffiti tagger himself.



Sloan

"Never arrested," he said, adding that there "could have been worse things to be doing at that age."

He said the graffiti crew that he ran with when he was a kid is the same type that he has been investigating off and on now for nearly 20 years. He's still an artist himself, and he has a deep appreciation for the graffiti style and the art behind it.

"I know the mindset of the guys and their inspiration. A lot of people say, 'Why did they do that?' I know

SEE **SLOAN**, PAGE A-2



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**Weather**  
Mostly sunny and hot.  
Daytime high, 92;  
tonight's low, 68.  
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