

\$3.66 DESIGNATED AREAS HIGHER © 2024

Trump, Harris focused on fears of voters

Crisscrossing the U.S., presidential hopefuls speak to the broad anxiety that many feel about nation's future.

BY KEVIN RECTOR

In the final stretch of a tight presidential race, Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Trump are targeting people's fears as they barnstorm across the country to eke out wins in seven battleground states where polls show razor-thin margins.

Trump, who has raised dire warnings about crime and border security since the start of the 2024 race, has more recently dumped millions of dollars into a barrage of swing-state ads that seek to stoke fear around transgender people — playing to the notion that Harris, a longtime supporter of the LGBTQ+ community, is a “woke” Californian and too progressive to be president.

Harris, who has for months flagged concerns about Trump's fitness for office, has ratcheted up messaging about his penchant for dictatorial pronouncements, his election denial and role in the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection, and the warnings from several of his former military advisors that he is a threat to national security.

The fear-based messages have saturated campaign advertising in swing states, where voters in past presidential contests were met with messaging on regional issues such as farming or manufacturing.

“Politics has just become so nationalized that some of these more drilled-down strategies aren't showing up as much as you would have expected in years past,” said Robert Alexander, a political science professor at Bowling Green State University in Ohio and author of the 2019 book “Representation and the Electoral College.”

[See Election, A10]



ALFREDO MOYA Associated Press

A STATUE outside the Pan-American stadium in Guadalajara, Mexico, honors the Dodgers icon, who died last week at the age of 63. In his hometown of Etchohuaquila, there is no public monument to the player.

Mourning, memories in a baseball icon's hometown

For many people in a small Mexican community, Fernando Valenzuela remains a vivid presence

By Patrick J. McDonnell | REPORTING FROM ETCHOHUAQUILA, MEXICO

It's no Field of Dreams, this bumpy patch of sun-baked earth with faded chalk lines, no bleachers, not a blade of grass and a drooping line of wire separating the outfield from houses where scraggly canines lurk. Yet this is where the dream took hold.

It's where Mexico's own The Natural honed his skills, his delivery featuring the signature skyward tilt, as if seeking heavenly intervention for his offerings from the mound.

“El Zurdo learned to pitch here,” recalled Filiberto Velázquez. “It's hard to believe, no?”

“El Zurdo — ‘The Lefty’ — would be Fernando Valenzuela, the youngest of 12 children from this desert hamlet in northwestern Mexico who would corral a blend of ineffable talent and gritty determination to electrify Southern California



JOSE GALVEZ Los Angeles Times

VALENZUELA visited less often after the deaths of his parents, Hermenegilda and Avelino, pictured at the family home in 1981.

and the baseball universe.

His last days and word of his death Tuesday were big news in Mexico, where the media followed his condition daily and plaudits poured in from athletes, politicians and others. “I think all Mexicans are sad for the passing of Valenzuela,” President Claudia Sheinbaum said at her daily news conference, which ended with a video tribute to the hurler. “Our solidarity with his family and with all of Mexico.”

Though the stadium in Hermosillo, the Sonora state capital, has long been named after Fernando Valenzuela, here in Etchohuaquila — population maybe 500 — there is no public monument to the native son, now more than four decades after the heady summer of Fernandomania.

The other evening, a group of young people out-

NEWSOM THROWS LIFELINE TO FILM STUDIOS

Proposal to increase the cap on tax credits to \$750 million aims to help Hollywood compete with rivals.

BY SAMANTHA MASUNAGA AND CHRISTI CARRAS

Gov. Gavin Newsom unveiled a proposal Sunday to more than double the annual amount of money allocated to California's film and TV tax credit program as Hollywood struggles to compete with other production hubs dangling lofty incentives.

The governor declared his intent to expand the annual tax credit to \$750 million, up from its current total of \$330 million, which would make California the top state for capped film incentive programs, surpassing even New York. If approved by the Legislature, the increase could take effect as early as July 2025 and span five years.

Newsom announced his plans during a news conference Sunday at Raleigh Studios in Hollywood. He was joined by Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, legislative leaders and union officials, including representatives of the Directors Guild of America and the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.

Standing in front of a lectern with a blue sign reading “Lights, Camera, Jobs,” Newsom said the state “needed to make a statement and to do something that was meaningful.”

“We're in a position where we can afford this, and we need to do this,” he said. “It's about recognizing the world we invented is now competing against us.”

The announcement comes as Newsom and other elected officials have been under increasing pressure to act as Hollywood has struggled to rebound since the pandemic and last year's dual strikes by writers and ac-

[See Tax credits, A10]

Gascón struggling to keep D.A. job

The ‘godfather of progressive prosecutors’ has lost a lot of support

BY CONNOR SHEETS AND JAMES QUEALLY

It's a Saturday morning in late September, and Los Angeles County Dist. Atty. George Gascón's voice is hoarse as he struggles to film a TikTok video.

A staffer rushes to grab a water bottle as Gascón alternates between explaining his position on the death penalty and repeatedly trying to sync his voice and awkwardly gesticulate along with a viral audio snippet as

one of his campaign's teenage interns captures it all on her cellphone camera.

“This is one of the most difficult parts. If my kids ever see this, they will laugh,” he says during a break in filming before he speaks at SEIU Local 2015's headquarters in Rampart Village.

Public speaking, whether for social media or to a room full of supporters, isn't Gascón's strong suit. The “godfather of progressive prosecutors” has been in the public eye for more than a

decade through three terms as district attorney in San Francisco and L.A., but he's always maintained a nervous, at times combative presence in front of crowds — swallowing words, glowering over pointed questions and laughing at his own jokes before the punchlines.

In 2020, Gascón's idiosyncratic public presence mattered little compared with his vision for the district attorney's office. Preaching criminal justice reform and police accountability in the

[See D.A., A8]



GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

L.A. COUNTY Dist. Atty. George Gascón is trailing his challenger.

CAMINOS DEL SOUTHWEST

For N.M. farmers, it's about survival

For some of those working the land, there are more pressing issues than Trump versus Harris

GUSTAVO ARELLANO

ALONG INTERSTATE 25, N.M. — In New Mexico, nothing is a straight line. Roads curve when they're not undulating. Agricultural communities pop up like emeralds in a landscape of brown. Brilliant blue skies worthy of an Instagram filter open up in seconds, unleashing torrential rains.

“Latino” in New Mexico is daily life, not a concept. It's the state with the highest percentage of Latinos — nearly 49% — many with roots here going back centuries.

The L.A. antiquarian Charles Fletcher Lummis called it the Land of Poco Tiempo in his 1893 book of the same name, depicting it as a real-life territory of lotus eaters, of indolent pleasure. It's a stereotype long thrown at Latinos and especially laughable when applied to rural New Mexico.

Here, those who work the land are those who survive. That's why I wanted to check in with growers along Interstate 25 — America's unofficial Chile Highway. Agriculture is an underrated barometer of where a region and its people are

[See Arellano, A16]

Dodgers 'banking on' Ohtani to play

After star left Game 2 of World Series with shoulder injury, team is optimistic he'll be in lineup for Game 3. **SPORTS, D1**

Tariff threatens a danger to Mexico

Economists warn the sweeping measures proposed by Trump would hurt an economy bound to the U.S. **WORLD, A3**

VA appeals housing order

A judge ruled the Department of Veterans Affairs must build housing on its West L.A. campus. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Weather
Not as warm.
L.A. Basin: 70/54. **B6**

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