

ISSUES DRIVING FINAL DAYS OF THE CAMPAIGNS

Will Pa. voters, reproductive rights, decide the election?

By Hanna Webster
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Reproductive rights were thrust to the forefront of many voters' minds following the U.S. Supreme Court's 2022 repeal of Roe v. Wade, a decision that triggered a patchwork of abortion access across the country. This November, the issue is on the ballot in 10 states.

As Election Day nears, the degree to which such concerns will propel voters to the polls remains unclear.

"It's a bit of a sleeping bear," said Debbie Walsh, director of the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University Ea-

gleton Institute of Politics. "Post-Dobbs, we've poked the bear."

For many, the notion that access to abortion, contraception and IVF treatments could be further restricted, she said, "is powerful." Those who want more restrictions on such procedures could be energized, too.

So how likely is it that this issue will determine the outcome of the presidential election — especially in a swing state like Pennsylvania?

Experts say that's tough to predict, but it's certainly a mobilizing force no matter party affiliation. And for those who aren't yet

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Associated Press photos
Vice President Kamala Harris, left, and former President Donald Trump are in their last campaign days.

Election 2024

INSIDE

- Harris campaigns across key city of Philadelphia, **A-4**
- Trump's NYC event turns ugly with racist insults, **A-4**

Election integrity will be at center in presidential race

By Steve Bohnel
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

When it comes to elections and how they're run, Thad Hall has had a fair amount of experience.

He's been deputy director of the Richland County Voter Registration and Elections department in South Carolina, and elections director in Coconino County, Ariz. He has been director of elections in Mercer County, a position he's held since August 2020. Before that, he researched election operations and systems for the Fors Marsh Group, University of Utah, and The Century

Foundation, since about 2000.

In recent cycles, the election process has come under more scrutiny. Former President Donald Trump and other Republicans have called the 2020 election rigged, including in Pennsylvania — and have said that Trump

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Justin Guido photos/For the Post-Gazette

Members of Richard Gottfried's family — from left, Carol Black, Peg Durachko and Debi Salvin — hug after lighting a candle during a commemoration ceremony for the Oct. 27, 2018 synagogue shooting, Sunday at the Jewish Community Center in Squirrel Hill.

'We will not forget'

Hundreds mark 6 years since massacre, mourn past, forge ahead

By Megan Guza
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The Jewish holiday of Simchat Torah celebrates the reading of the final section of the Torah and beginning of a new cycle — starting the Torah from the beginning with the first section of Genesis.

In essence, the story starts over.

The holiday this year fell on Oct. 24 and 25, days before Pittsburgh and its Jewish community marked six years since the deadly attack on the Squirrel Hill synagogue that housed the con-

SYNAGOGUE SHOOTING SIX YEARS LATER

gregations Tree of Life, Dor Hadash and New Light.

As the community came together Sunday to honor the 11 killed in the attack on the synagogue, Noah Schoen, of the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh, invited those gathered to think

SEE **CEREMONY**, PAGE A-2



Audrey Gilckman, a survivor of the 2018 Pittsburgh synagogue shooting, lights a candle for Cecil and David Rosenthal.

MIDEAST CONFLICT

2-day Gaza truce proposed

Egypt says deal would include hostage release

The Associated Press

RAMAT HASHARON, Israel — Egypt's president announced Sunday his country has proposed a two-day cease-fire between Israel and Hamas during which four hostages held in Gaza would be freed. There was no immediate response from Israel or Hamas as the latest talks were expected in Qatar, another key mediator.

President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi said the proposal includes the release of some Palestinian prisoners and the delivery of humanitarian aid to besieged Gaza. It aims to "move the situation forward," he said, adding that negotiations would continue to make the cease-fire permanent.

Talks in pursuit of a longer, phased cease-fire have repeatedly stalled. Hamas wants Israeli forces out of Gaza as a precondition, but Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said they will remain until destroying Hamas.

There hasn't been a cease-fire since November's weeklong pause in fighting in the earliest weeks of the war.

Israel's Mossad chief was traveling to Doha on Sunday for talks with Qatar's prime minister and the CIA chief in the latest attempt to end the fighting and ease regional tensions that have built since Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023 attack on southern Israel.

Those tensions now see Israel at

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Supreme Court ignites suits against regulations

By Tony Romm
The Washington Post

Major businesses and their lobbying groups have seized on a set of recent Supreme Court decisions that sharply limit the government's regulatory powers, aiming to advance dozens of lawsuits that could invalidate a vast array of federal climate, education, health

and labor rules.

The moves underscore the lasting significance of the justices' findings — and the risks to President Joe Biden's signature economic policies — ahead of an election in which the two candidates have presented starkly different visions for the future of federal regulations.

In a closely watched case last

term, the high court jettisoned a longstanding legal doctrine that had afforded agencies broad latitude to craft rules even without express instructions from Congress. The justices also restricted how certain federal watchdogs can pursue alleged wrongdoers, and they opened the door for some companies to launch new lawsuits over seemingly settled government

rules, some of them decades old.

Since then, the three separate yet intertwined rulings have influenced a groundswell of litigation, particularly from conservative and corporate interests that chafe at the power of the federal bureaucracy. Between June and mid-October, the cases have factored into

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Gil Cohen-Magen/Pool Photo via AP

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu places a wreath during a memorial ceremony Sunday for Israelis killed on the Hebrew calendar anniversary of the Hamas attack at the Mount Herzl military cemetery in Jerusalem, Israel.



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Weather

Mostly sunny.
Daytime high, 68;
tonight's low, 51.

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