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## Maine's middle ground may be slipping away



Representative Jared Golden shifted his gun stance last year.

### After Lewiston tragedy, Rep. Golden fights to keep seat in pro-Trump district

By Matt Stout  
GLOBE STAFF

FRYEBURG, Maine — Skip Works was the type of voter who helped make Jared Golden a rarity in Congress.

A registered Democrat, Works says he actually leans Republican because of the Second Amendment. He voted for former president Donald Trump in 2020, and plans to again this year. He's been a Golden

voter, too, backing the Lewiston Democrat in New England's only congressional district to vote for Trump four years ago, and one of only a handful of Trump-won districts represented by a Democrat in the US House.

"I liked the idea that he's an old-fashioned Democrat," Works, 68, said as he lounged on a bench at the Fryeburg Fair this month. He spoke in the past tense because, Works

said, he *was* a Golden voter — until the third-term congressman reversed his stance on an assault weapons ban following a deadly mass shooting in Lewiston.

"I'm a sportsman," the Fairfield resident said. "I love my guns."

No stranger to tough elections, Golden is confronting new pressures as he seeks a fourth term in Maine's Second Congressional District, one of a few around the country that could tip the balance of power on Capitol Hill.

Gun rights groups, once neutral  
**GOLDEN, Page A7**

## Puerto Ricans express ire at Trump

### Some see election impact after community reacts to comedian's rally comments

By Tal Kopan  
GLOBE STAFF

PHILADELPHIA — When Councilwoman Quetcy Lozada welcomed Vice President Kamala Harris on Sunday to her local Puerto Rican community in North Philadelphia, she still had some lingering reservations about the Democrat's level of support in the local Latino community.

Then Donald Trump held a rally in New York and a comedian opening for him referred to Puerto Rico as a "floating island of garbage in the middle of the ocean."

"Anything I was concerned about before is now no longer an issue for me," Lozada said in a Monday interview. "Last night took care of all of the things that we were concerned about."

While Democrats have traditionally had stronger support from Latino and Hispanic voters than their Republican counterparts, Trump has seemed to make inroads with the demographic in polling, threatening a key base that Harris likely needs to best the former president in the election. That's one of the reasons she spent part of her Sunday swing through Philadelphia visiting a local Puerto Rican community.

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## Gen Z voters aren't reading this paper

### From TikTok memes to Twitch livestreams, they follow the election online

By Aidan Ryan  
GLOBE STAFF

When Israel announced it had killed the leader of Hamas in mid-October, 23-year-old Ruth Bristol turned not to mainstream news, but instead to the streaming platform Twitch for updates from a progressive political commentator popular among Gen Z.

Before tens of thousands of viewers, 33-year-old Hasan Piker wove headlines and videos to discuss the death and life of Yahya Sinwar, adding that Palestinians don't want to live under a "cruel, ruthless, brutal, military occupation of a settler colony."

A Somerville resident, Bristol said she frequently turns to Piker for news about the war in Gaza and politics because his "pro-Palestine stance" largely aligns with her own and is one that she cannot find in traditional media outlets.

Her experiences reflect how the youngest generation of voters today has grown up in a new era

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## FIRES SPARK CONCERNS



JESSICA RINALDI/GLOBE STAFF

Over the past three days, about four dozen wildfires have been reported across the state, with many, such as this one in Salem, still burning on Monday. Fire officials urged residents to use caution around potential ignition sources as the drought leaves woods and fields parched. In the Salem blaze, firefighters used a helicopter to make a series of water drops. **B1.**

'I'm sad to say that the rats are in every ward now.'

ROBERT FERRI, candidate for mayor in Cranston, R.I.

## Rats emerge out of gutters and into a R.I. mayoral race

### For Cranston voters, recent rampant rise of rodents the dominant campaign issue

By Edward Fitzpatrick  
GLOBE STAFF

CRANSTON, R.I. — On summer evenings, Jake Taraksian likes firing up his grill, pouring a glass of wine, and settling beneath the canopy in his yard in Cranston's Arlington

neighborhood. But all too often, he's had some unwanted dinner guests.

"All of a sudden big rats are running through the yard," Taraksian said. "They run along the corner of the garage on the crushed stone, right in back of our chairs."

This summer, it got so bad that Taraksian and his girlfriend, Sandy Antoni, began eating in a screened-in area, and her daughter, Aura, wouldn't eat outside at all. "I don't blame her," he said.

The proliferation of rats has emerged as an issue in the mayoral race here in one of Rhode Island's largest cities. But Cranston's battle against the beady-eyed rodents re-

flects a far larger fight — one that has left cities such as Boston, New York, and Providence eyeing rat birth control and options beyond traps and poisons.

The overpopulation of rats took center stage during an Oct. 8 debate between Cranston's Democratic mayoral candidate, Robert Ferri, and Republican Mayor Kenneth J.

**RATS, Page A10**

## On the market: lighthouse with a tradition and twist\*

### Owner looks to pass the torch to local buyer who will keep it accessible (\*may have ghosts)

By Matt Juul  
GLOBE STAFF

As a lifelong "fanatic" who has photographed nearly every lighthouse in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, Kevin Ferias wanted to do something special with his wife for their 25th wedding anniversary in 2017.

Initially he tried to book a stay at the Rose Island Lighthouse in Newport, but "they were completely sold out," he said. By chance, a Google search brought him to another piece of maritime history right here in Massachusetts: Borden Flats Light. Little did he know that their anniversary trip would lead to him owning the now 143-year-old lighthouse located at the mouth of the Taunton River in Mount Hope Bay.

Built in 1881 and nestled between Fall River and Somerset, the "sparkplug-style" lighthouse is registered with the National Register of Historic Places. It's still in operation, serving as an aid to navigation for the Coast Guard, which maintains

**LIGHTHOUSE, Page A10**



JONATHAN WIGGS/GLOBE STAFF

Kevin Ferias (left) is seeking a new owner who will keep the Borden Flats Light off Fall River open to guests.



### Overcast a spell

**Tuesday:** Clouds, rain late. High 54-59, low 49-54.

**Wednesday:** Some sun. High 68-73, low 56-61.

Sunrise: 7:14. Sunset: 5:41.

Weather and comics, **D5-6.**  
Obituaries, **C9.**

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**North Korean soldiers were moving toward Russia's western Kursk region,** much of which Ukraine holds after its raid in August, US officials warned. **A4.**

**The top Republican in the State House again blocked a sweeping climate bill** from advancing, saying it should be voted upon in a formal session. **B1.**

**The Patriots are set to trade linebacker Joshua Uche** to Kansas City for a draft pick. **C1.**