



DEMONSTRATORS show their support for birthright citizenship outside the Supreme Court on Wednesday. GRAEME SLOAN/BLOOMBERG

Justices skeptical of birthright citizenship limits

High Court seems poised to reject Trump push to end right for some babies.

By DAVID G. SAVAGE

WASHINGTON — With President Trump watching in the courtroom, the Supreme Court justices gave a mostly skeptical hearing on Wednesday to his claim that he may revise the Constitution to end birthright citizenship for babies born in this country to parents who were here unlawfully or temporarily.

Solicitor Gen. D. John Sauer said birthright citizenship “rewards illegal aliens,” and he urged the court to rule that the children of temporary visitors and unlawful immigrants should not be deemed as citizens at birth.

But most of the justices said the Constitution had been understood for more than a century to promise citizenship to “all persons born” here, regardless of the status of their parents.

Justices Neil M. Gorsuch and Amy Coney Barrett said the 19th century debates over citizenship focused on newborns, not the legal status

of their parents. “It’s striking that in none of the debates do we have parents discussed,” Gorsuch said. “The focus is on the child, not on the parents.”

Barrett questioned why Sauer focused his argument on whether parents had an “allegiance” to the United States.

The framers of the 14th Amendment, which grants citizenship to those born or naturalized in the United States, including former slaves, “don’t focus on the parents. It’s the child,” she said.

Gorsuch and Barrett were appointed by Trump, but voted in February to strike down his sweeping tariffs.

Liberal Justice Elena Kagan told Sauer he was seeking a major revision in longstanding American law.

“Birthright citizenship has been the rule for a very long time,” she said. Given [See Citizenship, A5]

Trump attends oral arguments

Presidents have historically steered clear of proceedings at Supreme Court. NATION, A5

TRUMP ISSUES THREAT TO LEAVE NATO

President signals a desire for ceasefire in the Iran war, which Tehran rejects.

By ANA CEBALLOS AND KEVIN RECTOR

WASHINGTON — President Trump signaled Wednesday that the United States is eyeing an off-ramp in its war with Iran, as he also raised the possibility of a major shift in U.S. alliances, including a potential withdrawal from NATO.

Trump indicated in a social media post that Iran’s president wanted a ceasefire, and that the United States would be open to doing so, if Iran agrees to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, a vital oil shipping route that has been affected during the monthlong conflict.

“Until then, we are blasting Iran into oblivion or, as they say, back to the Stone Ages!!!” Trump wrote.

The remarks appeared to outline a possible diplomatic opening with Tehran, but hours later Iranian officials said that Trump’s claims about being close to a deal were “false and baseless” and that the waterway remained “firmly and decisively under the control” of the Islamic Republic’s [See Iran, A5]

President Trump was scheduled to address the nation about the Iran war Wednesday night. Scan this code for full coverage at latimes.com.

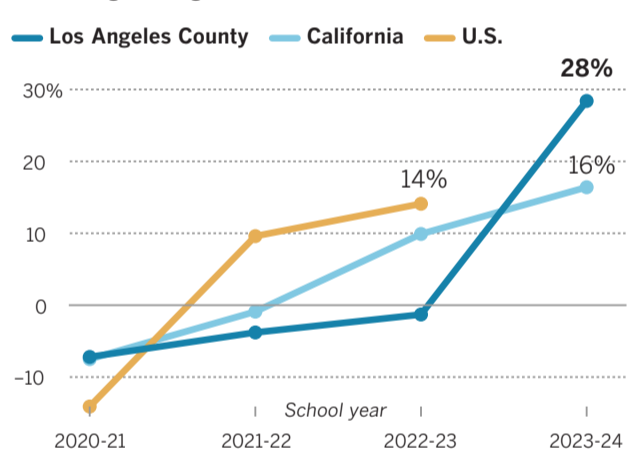
L.A. County experiences jump in homeless students

Latinos made up nearly 76% in a recent year, UCLA studies show

By Ruben Vives

Student homelessness in L.A. County surged, outpacing state and national trends

Percentage changes in number of homeless students



Data derived from CDE, 2024b; U.S. Department of Education, 2023. National data for school year 2023-24 were not available. UCLA

LORENA INIGUEZ ELEBEE/Los Angeles Times

The number of homeless students in Los Angeles County is surging, with thousands more unhoused in the span of a single school year.

The number of students experiencing homelessness in the county rose by 28% — to 61,249 in the 2023-24 school year from 47,689 in 2022-23 — according to a pair of studies from the UCLA Center for the Transformation of Schools. It is the largest increase the county has experienced in the last five years, according to researchers.

The jump exceeded California’s homeless student rate, which rose by 16% over the same school year to 286,853 from 246,480.

The increase is due to several factors, including a shortage of affordable housing and a lack of federal funding for school districts, that disproportionately affect communities of color in which students are already struggling with economic hardship.

“A shortage of housing, economic instability and other barriers [are] making [See Students, A6]

LASD fined for safety lapses

State cites ‘willful’ violations at agency over grenade that killed 3 detectives.

By RICHARD WINTON AND SALVADOR HERNANDEZ

A state investigation into how three Los Angeles County sheriff’s bomb squad detectives were killed by a grenade in a department parking lot has found a series of “willful” safety violations, including failure to provide effective training and explosives that were left unattended leading up to the incident last year.

A California Division of

Occupational Safety and Health investigation into the July 18 blast resulted in eight citations and more than \$350,000 in fines, according to records from the state agency reviewed by The Times. The Sheriff’s Department said it has appealed the findings.

Beyond the Cal/OSHA investigation, which has not previously been detailed publicly, attorneys for the state allege the Sheriff’s Department has impeded the workplace safety inquiry and refused to hand over vital documents, according to court filings in an ongoing dispute between the two agencies.

The explosion at the Biscailuz Center Training

Academy killed Dets. Victor Lemus, Joshua Kelley-Eklund and William Osborn.

Kelley-Eklund and Osborn had recovered two grenades from a Santa Monica apartment complex. The following day, at least one of the grenades was taken to the facility when it detonated. The whereabouts of the second grenade is unknown.

In a statement, a sheriff’s spokesperson maintained the department was complying with Cal/OSHA to the extent allowed under the law as other investigations remain ongoing.

“The Sheriff’s Department is continuing to cooperating with CAL OSHA’s in- [See Grenades, A7]

Red meat not healthier, despite fed advice

By CORINNE PURTILL

In an earlier era, the American Heart Assn. and the U.S. federal government were very closely aligned on what the American public should eat and why.

Dietary guidelines from the cardiovascular research nonprofit largely mirrored those published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. American Heart Assn. representatives advised the government on the science behind its die-

tary advice.

But as is the case with many public health issues these days, the distance between the policies recommended by established medical groups and those endorsed by Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. appears to be growing wider.

On Tuesday, the American Heart Assn. released its updated guidelines for a heart-healthy diet. Like the new federal dietary guidelines released in January, the

document cautions against processed foods and refined sugars.

But the group pressed back on some nutrition claims that Kennedy and Make America Healthy Again influencers have touted in public statements and written into federal policy.

Unlike the new federally authorized inverted food pyramid, which gives top billing to an enormous cut of steak, a tray of ground meat, a hunk of cheese and a carton of whole milk, the Ameri-

can Heart Assn. urges plant-based proteins over red meat, and low- or nonfat dairy products over whole-fat options.

In contrast to Kennedy’s declaration in January that the U.S. was “ending the war on saturated fat,” the heart association continues to recommend unsaturated fat sources over saturated ones for the sake of cardiovascular health.

The heart association also pushes back on Kennedy’s well-publicized pas- [See Health, A6]

Californians see democracy at risk

Most think system is under attack and want state to bolster voter protections, poll finds.

By PHIL WILLON

SACRAMENTO — Strong majorities of California voters believe American democracy is under attack and, in the wake of U.S. Supreme Court rulings narrowing federal protections, support enacting a new state Voting Rights Act to prohibit discrimination and efforts to suppress the ability to cast a ballot, a new poll showed.

The survey showed a sharp partisan divide over increasing voting rights protections, with Democrats and political independents overwhelmingly in favor and a majority of Republicans opposed. Fears that American democracy was either

under attack, or at the very least being “tested,” were shared across political allegiances, according to the poll released Thursday by the UC Berkeley Institute of Governmental Studies.

“I think that it suggests that the California voters, especially Democrats and independents, are very worried about some of what they’ve seen going on in Washington, both the court decisions and the Trump administration,” said Eric Schickler, the institute’s co-director. “They see it as threatening kind of core American values.”

That anxiety comes after years of baseless claims by President Trump that the 2020 election was stolen from him, as well as Republican-led efforts to restrict the use of mail-in ballots and impose new requirements for voters to show identification and proof of citizenship.

Trump this week signed [See Poll, A6]



JIM WATSON/AFP/Getty Images

NEXT STOP: THE MOON

NASA launches Artemis II at Cape Canaveral, Fla., the first lunar mission with humans since 1972. A flyby is expected on Monday. NATION, A7

Rebuilding drags on in Altadena

Construction for Eaton fire victims is being slowed by planning and permitting delays. CALIFORNIA, B1

Weather Sunny and cloudy. L.A. Basin: 74/56. B6

Markets A10 Opinion Voices A12

Hollywood’s AI future implodes

Columnist Michael Hiltzik writes about Disney and OpenAI’s fiasco. BUSINESS, A10

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