



ANTWAEN JANKYNS rests at his encampment around the corner from Cahuenga Boulevard in Hollywood.

GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

L.A. CITY COUNCIL REPEALS BANS ON CAMPING

Vote covers zones that pushed out homeless in Hollywood, Silver Lake and Echo Park.

By SANDRA McDONALD

The Los Angeles City Council has rescinded camping bans on a dozen locations in Hollywood, Echo Park and Silver Lake at the urging of the area’s council member, who called the bans ineffective in addressing homelessness.

“Displacing our neighbors from block to block, or in many cases from district to district, doesn’t help them find housing,” said Councilmember Hugo Soto-Martínez in asking his colleagues to remove the camping ban. “In most cases, it makes it much harder for us to help them because they lose their belongings, they get fined, and many times they are arrested. To me, that is a policy that does not work.”

The motion was approved on a 10-3 vote at Tuesday’s council meeting, with Imelda Padilla, Traci Park and Monica Rodriguez dissenting.

Soto-Martínez said he believed it was the first instance of an encampment ban being rescinded.

Padilla accused Soto-Martínez of engaging in a double standard, asking the council to defer to his wishes in his district while opposing efforts by his colleagues to establish no-encampment zones in their communities.

“Is this a matter of supporting you because this is what you want, or should I just treat you the way you’ve been treating us?” Padilla asked.

Park, who represents part of the Westside, said she’s used anti-camping zones to keep former encampments from coming back.

“We do outreach. We offer beds and services, and we

[See **Camping**, A7]

Can Dodgers owner hold on to the team?

By STEVE HENSON, JENNY JARVIE, BILL SHAIKIN AND HAILEY BRANSON-POTTS

When the news broke last week that Mark Walter was selling the Lakers just one year after buying the storied basketball franchise, executives working for another crown jewel in his sports empire — the Dodgers — were quick to say the billionaire had no plans to sell the team.

The Dodgers have won three of the last six World Series and 12 division titles since an ownership group led by Walter bought the then-bankrupt team in 2012, and the Dodgers now are considered the most successful — and lucrative — franchise in Major League Baseball.

Yet, amid Walter’s financial difficulties, including a federal inquiry into his insurance empire regarding \$16 billion to \$21 billion in undisclosed loans to his own companies, questions remain over

whether the blowback will hit the Dodgers.

Walter has denied wrongdoing, and sports business experts say it’s far too soon to know whether the Dodgers will be in play. No charges have been filed against Walter or anyone associated with his businesses.

“If you’re judging on that — winning and revenue created — he’s been at the helm of all of that. ... He does truly look like a white knight as it relates to his ownership of the Dodgers,” said Patrick Rishe, executive director of the Sports Business Program at Washington University in St. Louis. Still, “we don’t know what the issues are, and we don’t know the severity and the magnitude.”

Aside from the [See **Walter**, A11]



MARK J. TERRILL Associated Press

THE DODGERS’ Clayton Kershaw with team owner Mark Walter in 2018.

New post for elections denier

Shasta County official wants to hire Colorado felon

By HAILEY BRANSON-POTTS

Tina Peters, the former Colorado elections official convicted of tampering with voting machines, was recently released early from prison amid a pressure campaign from President Trump.

Now the top elections official in a conservative California county with a long history of voting controversies is seeking to hire her to help run elections there.

Clint Curtis, the registrar of voters in Shasta County,

said on a local radio show Sunday that he planned to hire Peters as the assistant registrar next month, just weeks ahead of the November election.

“Tina Peters, she’s now available, so we’re going to pull her in. She has experience, and she’s able to take the rocks and arrows,” Curtis told the hosts of “Jefferson State of Mine,” a show hosted by leaders of the State of Jefferson secession movement.

When asked about Peters’ health, which her attorneys said had declined in prison, Curtis, himself a

longtime election denier, quipped: “Getting out of prison really helps your ability.”

In response to questions from The Times about the hiring process, Curtis said in an email Tuesday that “counties are very slow” in bringing in new staffers and that Peters would be brought on “as a consultant.”

“Her duties would be to assist with supervision of the November election,” Curtis wrote. “None of our consultants have access to the voting systems, so she

[See **Shasta**, A6]

State approves fire-safety rules for landscaping

Plants are restricted within ‘Zone Zero’ of a home, reshaping yards for millions.

By NOAH HAGGERTY AND HAYLEY SMITH

After nearly six years of debate and backlash, California’s Board of Forestry and Fire Protection voted unanimously Wednesday to adopt new landscaping requirements within five feet of homes — an area dubbed “Zone Zero” — for millions of Californians living in fire-prone areas.

The rules ban all plants within a foot of the home and require the first five feet around homes to be free of combustible materials such as firewood, fallen leaves and branches, and mulch or wood chips. They also prohibit wooden sheds in the zone and wooden fences where attached to the house.

The new requirements apply only to Californians living in some of the worst fire hazard zones designated by Cal Fire — specifically, State Responsibility

Areas and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones in local responsibility areas, applying to an estimated 2 million homes. Local areas will have some flexibility to tailor the regulations to their communities.

After the formal rule-making process is complete, most likely in September, Californians will have up to five years to comply. New constructions will have to adhere immediately.

Board chair Terrence O’Brien acknowledged that the plan has been controversial but said it is necessary to “address the crisis of wildfire in our communities.”

“The regulations will make our communities safer,” he said during the meeting. “Waiting and postponing is not, in my opinion, an option.”

Zone Zero is only one line of wildfire defense required by the state in areas with significant fire hazard.

Other defensible space requirements have been on the books for decades, and dictate how homeowners must manage their yard through the spacing of trees, the removal of dead vegeta-

[See **Fire**, A7]

More in state fear midterm meddling

Californians are less concerned over voter fraud and noncitizens voting, poll finds.

By KEVIN RECTOR

Californians are more concerned about the Trump administration interfering in the state’s midterm elections than they are about voter fraud, noncitizens voting illegally or foreign interference, according to a new poll.

A majority of voters — 61% — identified potential federal interference as a “major concern” heading into November, slightly more than the 59% who cited possible foreign interference as such, according to the poll from the UC Berkeley Institute of Governmental Studies, co-sponsored by The Times.

By comparison, 41% of California voters identified voter fraud and 37% identified noncitizens voting as major concerns, the poll

found. The polling reflects the liberal leanings of the state, where registered Democrats outnumber registered Republicans by a nearly 2-1 margin, as well as the nation’s hyperpartisan divide on voting issues and vulnerabilities.

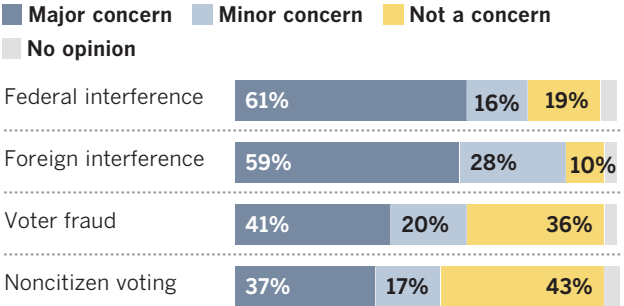
That divide has been driven for years by President Trump’s relentless criticism of U.S. elections, particularly in large blue states such as California, and recently by his administration’s attempts to wrest control over voting processes from the states based on unverified claims of widespread fraud and the fierce pushback against those claims from California Democrats and other liberal leaders around the country.

The White House has dismissed concerns about interference and accused Democrats of obstructing its efforts to protect American elections from fraud, including through the proposed SAVE America Act — which would enforce strict

[See **Poll**, A6]

Focus on election integrity

More are worried about federal interference in the midterms than voter fraud.



The Berkeley IGS/Times poll findings are based on a survey of 4,207 California registered voters, 2,310 of whom are considered likely voters, online in English and Spanish from Aug. 3-9. Responses have a sampling error of about +/- 2.5 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

LORENA INIGUEZ ELEBEE, AVA HU Los Angeles Times

Progressive wins Florida primary

A democratic socialist advances in the Senate race, while Trump’s candidates struggle. **NATION**, A4

Charges against officer reduced

LAPD whistleblower now faces misdemeanor counts, not felonies, D.A. says. **CALIFORNIA**, B1

Weather

Mostly sunny; warm. L.A. Basin: 91/70. **B6**

Markets **A11**
Opinion Voices **A12**

They’re bringing the know-how

Former NFL stars give back by coaching teams at the high school level. **SPORTS**, B10

For the latest news, go to **latimes.com**.



CDC chief urged to fix ‘zombie’ programs

By MIKE STOBBE

NEW YORK — The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention still has an Alzheimer’s disease program. Congress appropriated \$41 million to it this year. There’s just no one staffing it.

Then there’s the agency’s Office on Smoking and Health. Congress allocated \$246 million for that. Its staffers were cut too.

Same for the epilepsy program. Its sickle-cell disease data collection operation. Its rape prevention unit.

Think of them as the CDC’s zombie programs — they appear to be alive, at least according to legislation and congressional appropriations. But functionally they are dead or nearly dead, because the CDC experts who did the work were laid off by President Trump’s ad-

ministration or remain on leave — paid but not allowed to do their jobs.

The Atlanta-based CDC is charged with protecting Americans from preventable health threats. When Dr. Erica Schwartz became the agency’s latest director last week, she inherited these zombie programs and congressional pressure to bring some of them back to life.

In Schwartz’s confirma-

tion hearing, Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.) pressed her to restart the smoking office’s dormant activities.

“This is an office that is in statute, and it’s an office that receives congressional appropriations,” Kaine said. “Will you follow the law if we appropriate money for this mission and the CDC?”

“I will always follow the law,” Schwartz replied.

[See **CDC**, A5]