

Supreme Court Agrees to Hear Immunity Case

Decision Helps Trump by Delaying a Trial

By ADAM LIPTAK

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Wednesday agreed to decide whether former President Donald J. Trump is immune from prosecution on charges of plotting to overturn the 2020 election, further delaying his criminal trial as it considers the matter.

The justices scheduled arguments for the week of April 22 and said proceedings in the trial court would remain frozen, handing at least an interim victory to Mr. Trump. His litigation strategy in all of the criminal prosecutions against him has consisted, in large part, of trying to slow things down.

The Supreme Court's response to Mr. Trump put the justices in the unusual position of deciding another aspect of the former president's fate: whether and how quickly Mr. Trump could go to trial. That, in turn, could affect his election prospects and, should he be re-elected, his ability to scuttle the prosecution.

The timing of the argument was a sort of compromise. Jack Smith, the special counsel overseeing the federal prosecutions of Mr. Trump, had asked the court to move more quickly, requesting that the justices hear the case in March.

Mr. Trump, by contrast, had asked the court to proceed at its usual deliberate pace and to consider the case only after he asked the full U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit to review the decision of a unanimous three-judge panel, which had rejected his claim of absolute immunity.

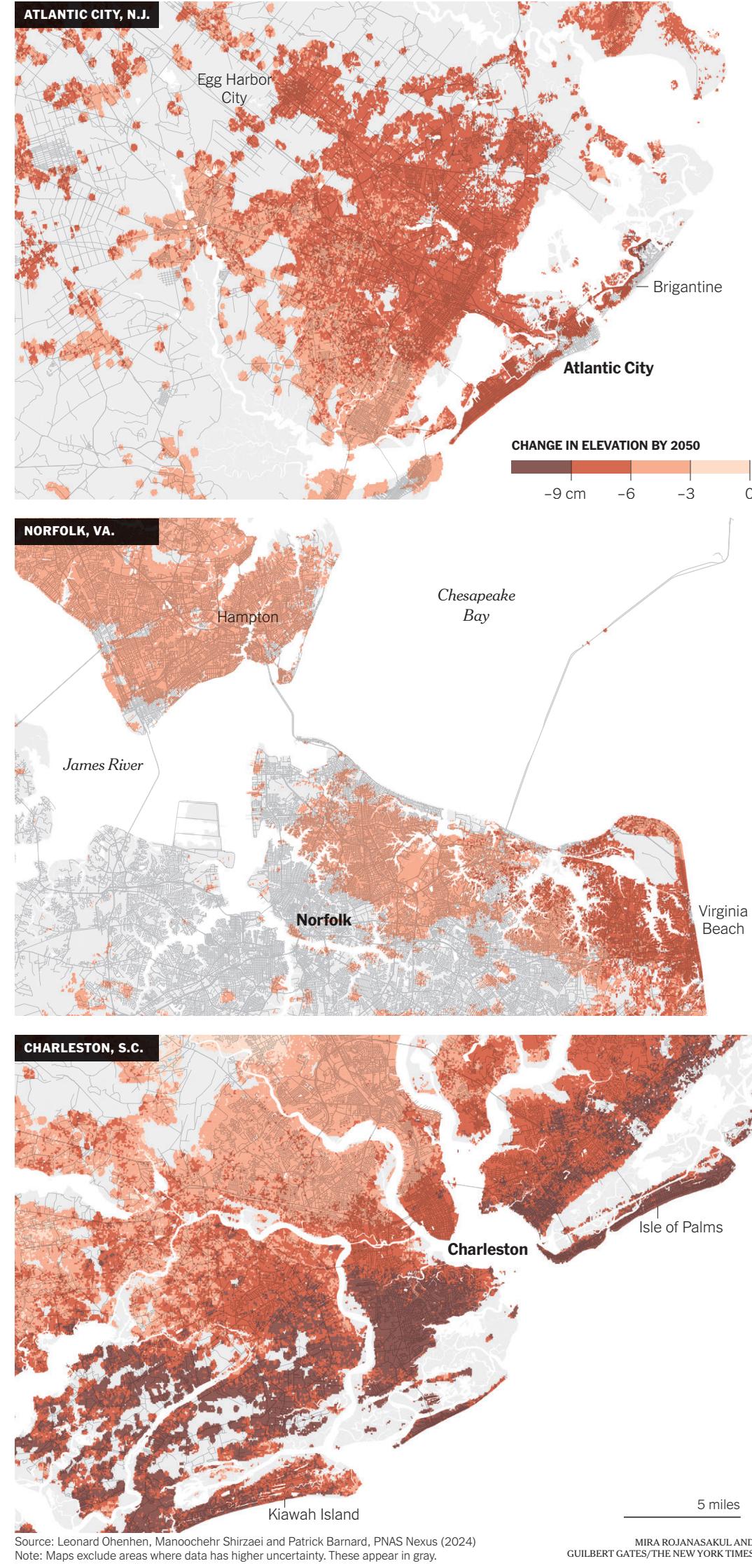
In settling on the week of April 22, the court picked the last three scheduled argument sessions of its current term and seemed to indicate that its decision would follow before the end of its current term, in late June.

That does not mean the trial would start right away if Mr. Trump lost. Pretrial proceedings, currently paused, must first be completed. By some rough calculations, the trial could be delayed until late September or October, plunging the proceedings into the heart of the election.

Mr. Trump's emergency application asking the Supreme Court to intervene had been fully briefed since Feb. 15, and the court's delay in addressing it suggested that the justices differed about how to pro-

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BUMP STOCKS The court seemed split over whether the government should have been able to ban the gun accessory. PAGE A14



Source: Leonard Ohnen, Manoochehr Shirzaei and Patrick Barnard, PNAS Nexus (2024)

Note: Maps exclude areas where data has higher uncertainty. These appear in gray.

MIRA ROJANASAKUL AND
GUILBERT GATES/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Tired of Israeli Political Strife, These Soldiers Have a New Mission

By ISABEL KERSHNER

JERUSALEM — Gathered this month around a campfire on the edge of a forest in central Israel, the soldiers planned their next mission: saving their deeply divided country from itself.

Like many of the thousands of Israeli reservists called to fight in Gaza, the soldiers left for war amid a sudden surge of national unity after the Oct. 7 Hamas-led attacks on Israel.

But as the military has withdrawn soldiers from Gaza in recent weeks and the troops have returned home, they have found their country less like it was after Oct. 7 and more like it was before: torn by divisive politics and cultural clashes.

Now, as these bitter divisions re-emerge, disillusioned reserv-

ists are at the vanguard of movements demanding a political reset, seeking unity and repudiating what many view as extreme polarization.

"I first came out in December and was shocked to see that nothing had changed," said David Sherez, a special forces commander and start-up entrepreneur, on leaving his base near Gaza.

Mr. Sherez, one of the soldiers who gathered around the campfire in the woods, is a founding member of Tikun 2024, a new nonpartisan organization led by reservists intent on preserving the spirit of cooperation brought on by the war.

"You put on the news and look at social media, and it's as if Oct. 7 didn't happen," Mr. Sherez said. "Everyone needs to do some soul-searching."

Members of the small but rapidly growing movement cited contentious government moves that have divided the country, including a proposed overhaul of the judiciary, talk of resettling Gaza, criticism of the families of hos-

tages who have called for a ceasefire and a proposed budget that benefits the far-right and ultra-Orthodox fringes at the expense of the national economy.

Israel's military, in which serv-

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SERGEY PONOMAREV FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES
Members of Tikun 2024, a movement of Israeli reservists.

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Learning and Making History

A candidate for enshrinement himself, Ichiro Suzuki has made several trips to the Baseball Hall of Fame. PAGE B10

New on Netflix: Rafael Nadal

He will return from injury on hard-courts, first in an exhibition, instead of on clay as many had expected. PAGE B8



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Macron Rattles NATO Allies

The French leader's remarks on sending troops into Ukraine were aimed at Russia, but alarmed the West. PAGE A6

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Levi's for the Whole Wardrobe

Under a new chief executive, the brand, known for jeans, is aiming to be a full outfitter. PAGE B1

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Leading Man of Antiques

Bruce Newman helped stage Broadway and Hollywood. He was 94. PAGE B12

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I.V.F. Protection Bill Blocked

A Republican senator blocked quick passage of a measure that would establish federal protections for I.V.F. and other fertility treatments. PAGE A16

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President's Son Testifies

Hunter Biden used his opening statement to condemn Republicans' efforts to impeach his father, saying their inquiry was fueled by lies. PAGE A15

COURT REJECTS TRUMP'S BOND

The former president, who is appealing the penalty in his civil fraud case, had offered a bond of only \$100 million to pause the judgment. PAGE A18

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Gutsy Fashion Choices

At the first stop on Olivia Rodrigo's world tour, fans added punk accents to feminine butterflies and bows. PAGE D1

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Putting Diversity on Display

Asian artists are receiving more recognition from museums and galleries in California and beyond. PAGE C1

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Catching Abe Lincoln's Ear

A play featuring Mary Todd Lincoln as a frustrated cabaret singer may seem like a real stretch. But maybe not. PAGE C4

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