

Trump Ahead  
In 3 Key States  
Across Sun Belt

Poll Reports an Edge in  
Areas Lost in 2020

This article is by Adam Nagourney, Ruth Igielnik and Camille Baker.

Voters across the Sun Belt say that Donald J. Trump improved their lives when he was president — and worry that a Kamala Harris White House would not — setting the stage for an extraordinarily competitive contest in three key states, according to the latest polls from The New York Times and Siena College.

The polls found that Mr. Trump has gained a lead in Arizona and remains ahead in Georgia, two states that he lost to President Biden in 2020. But in North Carolina, which has not voted for a Democrat since 2008, Ms. Harris trails Mr. Trump by just a narrow margin.

The polls of these three states, taken from Sept. 17 to 21, presented further evidence that in a sharply divided nation, the presidential contest is shaping up to be one of the tightest in history.

Arizona, Georgia and North Carolina are on the roster of seven battleground states where the focus of both the Trump and Harris campaigns has been since Labor Day. Ms. Harris has shown relative strength in several key states across the Midwest and, most critically to her hopes of becoming president, Pennsylvania.

But Arizona, which Mr. Biden won by just over 10,400 votes in 2020, now presents a challenge for the Harris campaign. Mr. Trump is ahead, 50 percent to 45 percent, the poll found. A Times/Siena poll there in August found Ms. Harris

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G.O.P. Suggests  
U.S. Ties Aided  
China’s Military

By ANA SWANSON

WASHINGTON — A House committee focused on threats from China argues in a new report that U.S. federal research funding had helped to advance Chinese technologies with military applications, fueling a potential national security rival to the United States.

The report argues that Chinese partnerships with U.S.-funded researchers and universities have helped to propel Beijing’s advancements in fields like hypersonic and nuclear weapons, artificial intelligence and semiconductors and that these developments may one day influence how the two nations perform on the battlefield.

The report — put out by the Republican members of the House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party and the House Committee on Education and the Workforce — also recommends stricter guidelines around federally funded research, including significantly curtailing the ability of researchers who receive U.S. grants to work with Chinese universities and companies that have military ties.

Part of the report focuses on several joint China-based institutes between Chinese and American universities, including one by the University of California, Berkeley, and another with the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Berkeley and Georgia Tech disputed many of the report’s findings. But in a statement to The New York Times on Friday, Berkeley said it had decided to terminate its ownership in the Chinese institute, in part because of its lack of visibility into research be-

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AZIZ TAHER/REUTERS

Israeli warplanes struck hundreds of sites across Lebanon on Monday, targeting Hezbollah areas.



MOHAMMED ZAATARI/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lebanese residents in Sidon fleeing airstrikes on Monday. Israel had warned civilians to leave.

Inquiry of N.Y. Mayor Said to Involve 6 Countries

This article is by William K. Rashbaum, Dana Rubinstein and Michael Rothfeld.

Federal prosecutors investigating whether Mayor Eric Adams conspired with the Turkish government to funnel illegal foreign donations into his campaign have recently sought information about interactions with five other countries, people with knowledge of the matter said.

The demand for information related to the other countries — Israel, China, Qatar, South Korea and Uzbekistan — was made in expansive grand jury subpoenas issued in July to City Hall, the mayor and his campaign, the people said. The prosecutors’ focus on

A Federal Investigation  
Over Campaign Ties  
to Turkey Expands

the other five countries has not been previously reported.

The full scope of the inquiry into the mayor is not publicly known, and it remains unclear why investigators were seeking information about the additional countries or whether Mr. Adams has had dealings with them. But the investigation has focused at least in part on whether, in exchange for illegal donations, Mr. Adams pressured the Fire Department to approve a

new, high-rise Turkish Consulate in Midtown Manhattan despite safety concerns. Investigators have also examined free flights and flight upgrades the mayor received from Turkish Airlines.

The New York Times first reported on the July subpoenas last month, weeks before a burst of investigative activity focused on five of the mayor’s highest-ranking aides.

On Sept. 4, federal agents conducted searches and seized the phones of the police commis-

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LONG WEEK New commissioner dealt with a police shooting and searches of his homes. PAGE A20



LAUREN DeCICCA FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Where Soccer Is a Refuge for Refugees

Dozens of women who fled Myanmar for Thailand found an escape from life’s troubles. Page A6.

Hundreds Are Killed  
In Lebanon in Attacks  
By Israel on Hezbollah

NEWS ANALYSIS

Clock Ticking, Biden  
Strains for a Deal

By DAVID E. SANGER

WASHINGTON — Israel’s ferocious assault on Hezbollah, its most violent exchange with the Lebanese militant group since 2006, is not only a major widening of the war but also a significant widening of the breach between President Biden and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

For a year now, Mr. Biden has warned publicly and privately about the need to avoid a regional war, one that could easily escalate into direct conflict between Israel and Iran. His caution was a major topic of conversation when he traveled to Israel days after the Oct. 7 attack by Hamas, both to promise Israel that America would stand by it and to caution against making the same mistakes the United States made after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Mr. Biden even held on to hope for the transformative peace deal for the Middle East that he thought was within grasp a year ago, believing it could survive even as the war between Hamas and Israel tore at its foundations.

Now, Mr. Biden’s aides say, the president is beginning to acknowledge that he is simply running out of time. With only four months left in office, the chances of a cease-fire and hostage deal with Hamas look dimmer than at any time since Mr. Biden laid out a plan at the beginning of the summer. And the risk of a wider war has never looked greater.

In public, at least, administration officials insist they have not given up. They say they simply cannot move ahead while missiles are bringing death and destruction to northern Israel and southern Lebanon. And they are clinging to the hope that even

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Deadliest Day Since  
2006 as Civilians  
Flee Strikes

This article is by Patrick Kingsley, Euan Ward, Aaron Boxerman and Michael Levenson.

JERUSALEM — Dozens of Israeli fighter jets bombed Hezbollah targets in southern and eastern Lebanon on Monday, killing hundreds and wounding more than a thousand others, Lebanese officials said, in the deadliest attacks in the country since 2006, when Israel and Hezbollah fought their last all-out war.

As Israeli warplanes raced through Lebanon’s skies, Hezbollah, the powerful Lebanese militia backed by Iran, launched its own barrage at Israel. Air-raid sirens there rang out repeatedly as roughly 165 rockets and other munitions crossed the border, according to the Israeli military. Most of the projectiles were intercepted by Israel’s antimissile defense system, and there were no immediate reports of deaths or serious casualties.

The widespread airstrikes in Lebanon — and warnings by Israel to Lebanese to flee areas where it said Hezbollah was stashing weapons — set off fear and confusion among civilians. Many pulled their children from school and left home. Cars clogged main roads to Beirut, the capital, as people fled cities, towns and villages in southern Lebanon, where many of the heaviest strikes landed, witnesses said.

Lebanon’s health ministry said the bombardment had killed at least 356 people, including 24 children, and injured more than 1,200. The ministry did not say how many of the dead were Hezbollah fighters.

The single-day death toll was about a third of the total toll in Lebanon in the 2006 Israel-Hezbollah war, which lasted 34 days.

Israeli leaders said they were intensifying their attacks on

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Hidden in Organic Farm’s Soil,  
Sludge of ‘Forever Chemicals’

By HIROKO TABUCHI

DURHAM, N.H. — Allison Jumper’s family was a picture of healthy living. Active kids. Wholesome meals. A freezer stocked with organic beef from her in-laws’ farm in Maine.

Then in late 2020, she got a devastating call from her brother-in-law. High levels of harmful “forever chemicals” had been detected on their farm and in their cows’ milk, and they were getting shut down.

At first, Mrs. Jumper worried only about her in-laws’ livelihoods. But soon, her mind went somewhere else: to her own children’s mysterious health issues, including startlingly high cholesterol levels.

“Then it hit me,” she said at her home in Durham, N.H. “Could it be the beef?”

Unknown to them, her family’s beloved organic farm had been fertilized decades earlier with sewage sludge tainted by a dangerous class of chemicals linked to certain cancers, liver disease and a host of other health problems. Their cattle had grazed on contaminated pastures, making the beef and milk too dangerous to eat. Yet her family had been eating it for several years.

The ordeal has transformed the Jumper family and the Dostie farm into one of the earliest and



GRETA RYBUS FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Egide Dostie Sr. with a milking meter used on his family’s organic farm in Maine.

clearest test cases of the health consequences of eating food that came from farmland contaminated by fertilizer sludge laced with these dangerous chemicals, known collectively as PFAS. The Dosties are now working with the state of Maine on a host of research into how much of the chemicals are getting into farm produce, for example, as well as possible ways forward for farmers affected by PFAS contamination.

The crisis of contaminated

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Avoiding a Silent Killer

Diets high in processed and sugary foods are linked to chronic inflammation. There are better options. PAGE D7

The Dodo Bird, Reconsidered

A study gives insights into the behavior of the extinct creature. Below, remains of a dodo at Oxford University. PAGE D5



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A Long Hike for a Pint

The Old Forge on a rugged peninsula in Scotland is a meeting point for locals and visitors — at least those willing to trek across the wilderness. PAGE A4

A Push for More Arms to Kyiv

As the U.N. meets, allies are pressuring President Biden to allow Ukraine to use longer-range weapons. PAGE A11

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Inside Musk’s Security Shell

As threats to his safety have amassed, the world’s richest man is shielded by a mini-Secret Service. PAGE B1

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Leniency on Stop-and-Frisk

The N.Y.P.D.’s discipline for illegal street detentions is lax at every level, according to an extraordinary review ordered by a federal judge. PAGE A21

Blow to Trump in Nebraska

The Omaha area will keep its electoral vote as a G.O.P. state senator rejected a winner-take-all system. PAGE A17

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Widow of Famous Crooner

Kathryn Crosby, an actress who married Bing Crosby, put aside her career at his urging. She was 90. PAGE B10

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An Unsettling Vision

In Brandon Ndife’s sculptures, now on view in his New York show, nature shows its ungovernable power. PAGE C1

The Octagon Inside the Sphere

An Ultimate Fighting Championship spectacle became the first live athletic event at the Las Vegas venue. PAGE C5



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The N.F.L.’s Best Division?

In the N.F.C. North, the Vikings are surprising and the Packers are humming without Jordan Love. PAGE B8

One More Moment of Misery

In a loyal White Sox neighborhood, some couldn’t watch their team suffer a record-tying 120th defeat. PAGE B7

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