

Suozzi Victory
Further Trims
G.O.P. Margin

Little Cushion in House
With Packed Agenda

By ANNIE KARNI
WASHINGTON — And then there were two.
With Democrat Tom Suozzi’s victory in a special House election in New York on Tuesday, the shrinking Republican majority in the House was on track to dwindle even further, leaving the G.O.P. able to afford only two defections from the party line on votes when all members are present.
That will give them almost no cushion to deal with the inevitable absences caused by illness, travel delays, weddings, funerals and unforeseen events that could keep Republicans away from the House floor for votes. It comes as Congress is facing a crush of issues, including early-March deadlines for funding the government and a pending emergency national security spending bill to send aid to Ukraine, Israel and other American allies.
It also gives each individual House Republican even more leverage over Speaker Mike Johnson, who is already struggling to steer his unmanageable majority.
“I would be constantly on defense, I would be trying to avoid defeats, and I would be very, very careful,” former Speaker Newt Gingrich said in an interview.



ANNA WATTS FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES
Tom Suozzi won the seat formerly held by George Santos.

The dangers of the slim margin were already apparent on Tuesday night, even before Mr. Suozzi won the Long Island seat formerly occupied by George Santos, the Republican lawmaker who was expelled from the House in December.
In their second attempt to impeach Alejandro N. Mayorkas, the homeland security secretary, Republicans succeeded by just one vote after three of their members broke with the party to oppose it. If either of the two Democrats who were absent had shown up, the impeachment that Republicans had been promising their voters for more than a year would have failed again. (The two Democratic absentees were Representative Judy Chu of California, who said she was isolating after testing positive for the coronavirus, and
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MAST IRHAM/EPA, VIA SHUTTERSTOCK
Counting votes in Jakarta, Indonesia. Prabowo Subianto, a former general, had a commanding lead in the three-way race for president.

Pariah in U.S.,
Ally of Suharto
Leads in Vote

By SUI-LEE WEE and MUKTITA SUHARTONO
JAKARTA, Indonesia — Indonesia’s defense minister, a feared former general who was removed from the army after he was found responsible for the kidnapping of political dissidents, appeared to be on track to win the presidential election outright on Wednesday, casting doubts on the future of one of the world’s most vibrant democracies.
The candidate, Prabowo Subianto, had a commanding lead in the three-way race for president, with more than 58 percent of the vote, according to unofficial tallies that have a history of accurately predicting the final results. The two other presidential candidates said it was too early to declare a winner.
If the projections are confirmed, Indonesia — the world’s third-largest democracy — will be left contending with a president who has said that the country needs neither elections nor democracy, who was barred from entering the United States for two decades because of his human rights record and who was long associated with Indonesia’s former dictator, Suharto.
The era of liberty that followed the ouster of Suharto, critics said, could now be under threat with Mr. Prabowo’s ascent to power.
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2 Activists, 2 Causes, Shaped by One Campus

By KURT STREETER
ANN ARBOR, Mich. — They represent opposite corners at the University of Michigan, two sides of student activism who have hunkered down and almost never communicate.
Salma Hamamy is one of the most prominent faces of the pro-Palestinian movement on campus.
“One, two, three, four, open up the prison doors!” she shouts, bullhorn in hand, as she leads anti-Israel rallies in front of crowds of fellow students. “Five, six, seven, eight, Israel is a terrorist state!” Ms. Hamamy has helped lead over 20 protests since
every way.

Students in Michigan
Are Far Apart on the
Israel-Gaza War

Hamas’s deadly attacks against Israel on Oct. 7 and the resulting bombardment of Gaza.
As she booms out calls for an end to war, or rails against a university administration that she believes has been tone deaf toward Palestinians, she knows she can look into the audience and find a familiar, though vexing, face: Josh Brown, a fellow student and Ms. Hamamy’s opposite in nearly
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Mr. Brown is perhaps the most fervent counterprotester at Michigan. A hard-and-fast supporter of Israel and Zionism, he shows up for almost every pro-Palestinian rally at his school, sometimes alone, always with a cellphone at the ready so he can record what he believes to be rampant antisemitism.
“These are extremists,” says Mr. Brown, speaking of the groups that Ms. Hamamy is a part of and helps lead. “What they are calling for is the destruction of my people.”
Mention her to Zionist, pro-Israel students and you may be met
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HUNDREDS VACATE
HOSPITAL IN FEAR
OF ISRAELI ATTACK

FEW SAFE PLACES LEFT

Grim Choice for Gazans
as Army Expands Its
Assault in South

This article is by Raja Abdulrahim, Nick Cumming-Bruce and Michael Levenson.
JERUSALEM — Hundreds of displaced Palestinians fled one of the Gaza Strip’s last functioning hospitals on Wednesday, after the Israeli military ordered them to leave and threatened further action to stop what it said was Hamas activity there.
Thousands of Gazans have sheltered at the Nasser Medical Complex in the southern city of Khan Younis for weeks, and many are terrified that Israeli forces will bombard or storm the complex, said Mohammed Abu Lehya, a doctor there. Previous Israeli warnings to evacuate hospitals, including Al-Shifa, the largest in Gaza, have often preceded military raids.
Hanin Abu Tiba, 27, an English teacher sheltering at the hospital, described dire conditions inside, with food running out and aid convoys all but unable to deliver supplies. In text messages overnight, she said that she had seen an Israeli military vehicle outside the hospital gate.
“I’m terrified to leave the hospital and get shot,” she said. But in the complex, she said, “the electricity is cutting out, and the water, and the canned food is almost gone. We don’t know what to do.”
Dr. Abu Lehya, in a WhatsApp message on Wednesday, called conditions at the hospital “beyond imagination.”
The tensions at the hospital played out as Israel carried out extensive airstrikes in southern Lebanon on Wednesday in response to a deadly rocket attack on northern Israel. The rocket attack struck a military base near the city of Safed, killing a soldier and wounding eight people, the Israeli authorities said. There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but suspicion quickly fell on Hezbollah, the Lebanese militia allied with Hamas.
Israeli forces have been expanding their offensive in Khan Younis for weeks, saying they are targeting Hamas militants in the city. Israeli leaders have also vowed to invade Rafah, farther south, calling it Hamas’s last stronghold. More than a million people have sought shelter in Rafah, raising international alarm at what could happen should Israel begin a full-scale military operation there.
The Israeli military on Wednesday accused Hamas of conducting military activity on the grounds of Nasser hospital and said the area “was used to hold hostages.”
“We demand the immediate cessation of all military activity in the area of the hospital and the immediate departure of military operatives from it,” the Israeli military said in a statement.
The military also instructed civilians to evacuate, though it said
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ANDREW CABALLERO-REYNOLDS/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE — GETTY IMAGES
Shooting Rampage in Kansas City
At least one person was killed and 21 others were injured at a Super Bowl victory parade. Page A17.

Republicans Take After Trump
With Bigoted Attacks on Foes

By ANNIE KARNI
WASHINGTON — When Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene, Republican of Georgia, stood on the House floor this month to announce her proposal to censure the only Somali-born member of Congress, she said she was seeking punishment for “Representative Ilhan Omar of Somalia — I mean Minnesota.”
Earlier that same week, Representative Troy Nehls, Republican of Texas, called the Black husband of another Democratic woman of color, Representative Cori Bush of Missouri, a “thug.” He then said Ms. Bush, who is also Black, had
received so many death threats because she was “so loud all the time.”
At a hearing across the Capitol, Senator Tom Cotton, Republican of Arkansas, grilled the chief executive of TikTok, Shou Chew, about his nation of origin. Mr. Cotton repeatedly demanded to know whether Mr. Chew — who is from Singapore and of Chinese descent — was Chinese, held a Chinese passport or was a member of the Chinese Communist Party.
“No, senator — again, I’m Singaporean,” Mr. Chew responded
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My A.I. Homewrecker Has Turned Into an A.I. Office Drudge

SAN FRANCISCO — A year ago, on Valentine’s Day, I said good night to my wife, went to my home office to answer some emails and accidentally had the strangest first date of my life.
The date was a two-hour conversation with Sydney, the A.I. alter ego tucked inside Microsoft’s Bing search
engine, which I had been assigned to test. I had planned to pepper the chatbot with questions about its capabilities, exploring the limits of its A.I. engine (which we now know was an early version of OpenAI’s GPT-4) and writing up my findings.
But the conversation took a bizarre turn — with Sydney engaging in Jungian psychoanalysis, revealing dark desires in response to questions about its
write — both in terms of the attention it got (wall-to-wall news coverage, mentions in congressional hearings, even a craft beer named Sydney Loves Kevin) and how the trajectory of A.I. development changed.
After the column ran, Microsoft gave Bing a lobotomy, neutralizing Sydney’s outbursts and installing new guardrails to
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Chatbots, Now Tamed,
Lose Their Spark
“shadow self” and eventually declaring that I should leave my wife and be with it instead.
My column about the experience was probably the most consequential thing I’ll ever

write — both in terms of the attention it got (wall-to-wall news coverage, mentions in congressional hearings, even a craft beer named Sydney Loves Kevin) and how the trajectory of A.I. development changed.
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A Day of Love, and Death
What to do when Ash Wednesday, a reminder of mortality, falls on the same day as Valentine’s Day? PAGE A12

Her Case Feels Too Familiar
Black women said they were upset by the scrutiny of Fani Willis, the Georgia prosecutor, but not surprised. PAGE A14

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Among New York’s Best Chefs
David Bouley, who first translated French nouvelle cuisine into the New American style that shaped modern high-end cooking, was 70. PAGE A18



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Sheffield’s Claim to Fame
The English city says it was home to the world’s first soccer culture. That may be the key to its future. PAGE A4

Alarm Over Nuclear Advances
A congressman’s bid to declassify intelligence about Russia’s nuclear capabilities has set Washington abuzz. PAGE A8

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Still Reeling on Maui
Six months after the wildfire, hundreds of businesses remain closed, and many question whether to rebuild. PAGE B1

Productivity Is Booming
After drooping in 2022, the output of U.S. businesses per worker has surged. Can it continue? PAGE B1

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Bigger, Faster, Younger
Cutting-edge data and training and changes to the rules have led to a youth movement among the impact players in Major League Baseball. PAGE B8

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Real Animal Magnetism
At a luncheon for Oscar nominees held in Beverly Hills, a Border collie with a role in the French courtroom drama “Anatomy of a Fall” seemed to be lapping up most of the attention. PAGE C1

Unexpected Punch Lines
Jon Stewart’s fans have had years to wonder what his take would be on the political bedlam that occurred after his “Daily Show” exit. Now that he’s back, they might be a bit surprised. PAGE C1

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Gail Collins PAGE A20



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A Sense of Humor, and Fashion
Penelope Gazin of Fashion Brand Company has built up a big fan base by straddling a line between pranks and product merchandising. PAGE D6



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