

Democrats See
Profound Loss
In Registration

Bleeding Voters Across
Red and Blue States

By SHANE GOLDMACHER and JONAH SMITH

The Democratic Party is hemorrhaging voters long before they even go to the polls.

Of the 30 states that track voter registration by political party, Democrats lost ground to Republicans in every single one between the 2020 and 2024 elections — and often by a lot.

That four-year swing toward the Republicans adds up to 4.5 million voters, a deep political hole that could take years for Democrats to climb out from.

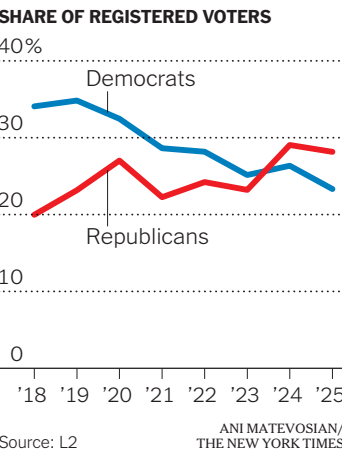
The stampede away from the Democratic Party is occurring in battleground states, the bluest states and the reddest states, too, according to a new analysis of voter registration data by The New York Times. The analysis used voter registration data compiled by L2, a nonpartisan data firm.

Few measurements reflect the luster of a political party's brand more clearly than the choice by voters to identify with it — whether they register on a clipboard in a supermarket parking lot, at the Department of Motor Vehicles or in the comfort of their own home.

And fewer and fewer Americans are choosing to be Democrats.

In fact, for the first time since 2018, more new voters nationwide chose to be Republicans than Democrats last year.

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FINBARR O'REILLY FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Russia Taking Territory While It Can

A Ukrainian woman evacuated from the eastern region of Donetsk after her village was attacked by the Kremlin's forces. Page A7.

Lining Up to Be a One-Stop Shop for Streaming

40% Jump in Viewers Who Get Services via Solo Provider

By JOHN KOBLIN

Millions of Americans are gravitating toward a new way to subscribe to streaming services — and tech, media and cable companies are lining up to take advantage.

Facing a chaotic maze of apps, payments and passwords, people are increasingly signing up for multiple streaming services through a single provider.

Amazon, by far the leader in this growing trend, urges users of its Prime Video service to sign up for and watch HBO Max, Paramount+ and other services through its app. Apple, Roku and YouTube encourage the same — as do cable providers like Comcast.

The number of new subscriptions purchased through one of these third-party apps has jumped 40 percent over the past

two years, according to research from Antenna, a subscription research firm. Nearly 30 percent of all new subscriptions are bought this way.

Signing up directly — like through a company website — still remains the most popular way to get a new streaming subscription. But the sudden popularity of signing up through a third party signals the emergence of a new kind of cable bundle, a development that media executives have predicted for many years but that had not yet become much of a reality.

The shift could help reshape the

consumer experience. Viewers can go to one platform and find a single interface with shows and movies that are available on a wide array of services, or channels. It also has set off a fight between media, tech and cable companies to try to be the dominant one-stop shop.

“You could almost call this the next chapter of the streaming wars,” said Jonathan Carson, the chief executive of Antenna.

“The winners of that battle will effectively become the equivalent of what the cable providers were for the linear era,” he said.

Consumers have complained for years that the streaming era requires them to hopscotch from one app to the next to get a sense of what to watch. Amazon said 77 percent of its viewers wanted their streaming apps consolidated into one place, according to

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Trump Shrinks Student Access From Overseas

By ANEMONA HARTOCOLLIS

Many Iranians are not going to American universities this fall. Students from Afghanistan are having trouble getting to campus.

Even students from China and India, the top two senders of international students to the United States, have been flummoxed by a maze of new obstacles the Trump administration has set up to slow or deter people entering the country from abroad.

Between the federal government's heightened vetting of student visas and President Trump's travel ban, the number of international students newly enrolled in American universities seems certain to drop — by a lot.

There were about a million international students studying in the United States a year ago, according to figures published by the State Department. Data on international student enrollment is not expected to be released until the fall. But higher education is already feeling the pain and deeply worried about the fallout.

Many schools have seen the number of international students grow in recent years. But a survey

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THE GLOBAL PROFILE KEVIN WOODS

Ireland's Last Leprechaun Whisperer Hunts His Own Pot of Gold

By MARK LANDLER

CARLINGFORD, Ireland — On a clear morning 36 years ago, Kevin Woods was taking his boxer for a walk on a mountain behind his house in rural Ireland. He claims to have come upon three tiny men, sitting on a rock, chatting. The dog and its owner were frozen by the sight, until the men — leprechauns, in his telling — vanished under the rock.

Back home, few believed Mr. Woods. No matter: A few weeks later, on the same walk, he says he encountered another man, scarcely 18 inches tall and named Carraig, who told him the legend of the 236 leprechauns left in Ireland. He asked Mr. Woods to spread the word that these creatures still existed.

Now a hale 81, Mr. Woods calls himself Ireland's last leprechaun whisperer, a title that reflects the weekly conversations he says he still carries on with them. But he's more precisely a leprechaun promoter, building a tidy business from books, merchandise and guided tours of the cozy leprechaun cavern he dug in a small park in front of his home, in the coastal town of Carlingford, north of Dublin.

“Look, there's people that don't believe,” Mr. Woods says equably



PAULO NUNES DOS SANTOS FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Kevin Woods at the leprechaun cavern he dug near his home in Carlingford, a coastal Irish town.

as he shows a visitor around the cave twinkling with red and white lights, which he says is connected by a tunnel to another cavern under the mountain, where the leprechauns live. “But there's people that don't believe in God.”

Mr. Woods's little friends have inspired a new animated TV series, “Carlihauns,” which its backers hope to debut in up to 160 countries next year, after pitching it to companies including Disney and Netflix. Mr. Woods is a shareholder in the

venture and acts as its adviser and creative conscience. Except that these cartoon leprechauns are not the aging, bearded, red-haired, green-hatted men that Mr. Woods says he communes with.

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After Battle to Get to the Top, Why Did She Sell Paramount?

By JAMES B. STEWART

Shari Redstone, the 71-year-old daughter of the billionaire mogul Sumner Redstone, spent much of her adult life trying to take control of her father's media empire, which became known as Paramount Global, and the Redstone family legacy. Along the way, she was often belittled and dismissed by her father, underestimated by his top executives and sidelined by his romantic companions.

She succeeded, finally, and in December 2019 became the controlling shareholder of a company then valued at over \$25 billion. Ms. Redstone, it seemed, had achieved her life's goal.

But just five years later, Ms. Redstone decided to give it all up. On July 7, 2024, Paramount announced it would sell itself to Skydance Media, a young Hollywood



MIKE BLAKE/REUTERS

Shari Redstone first took control of Paramount in 2019.

studio founded by David Ellison, the 42-year-old son of Larry Ellison, the billionaire co-founder of Oracle. Skydance would pay \$8 billion for the company, about a third of the company's value when

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Homeless Veterans at Risk

The administration is ending support for Housing First, the approach behind a V.A. success story. PAGE A10

Redistricting Maps Advance

Republicans in Texas took a major step toward giving President Trump the gerrymander he requested. PAGE A20

INTERNATIONAL A4-9

Virility Aids Pose Health Risks

Unregulated sexual stimulants claiming to be herbal remedies or pharmaceuticals are flooding West Africa. PAGE A4

Hong Kong Curbing Discontent

Officials have warned the “soft resistance” they see lurking is nothing short of a national security threat. PAGE A5

BUSINESS B1-5

Seeking Fed Governor's Ouster

The Trump administration accused an official, Lisa Cook, of mortgage fraud and said that it would refer the matter for criminal investigation. PAGE B1



ARTS C1-6

Quite the Captive Audience

In “Arborlogues,” a climate-themed play, each participant performs a 15-minute monologue for a tree. PAGE C6

New Fans Discover Deftones

The band emerged in the '90s nu metal scene. Now it sits at the nexus of heavy music and nostalgia. PAGE C1

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How Fast Should Kids Throw?

Parents of talented pitchers wrestle with a child's desire to be the best and also the safety issues that come with the pursuit. PAGE D5

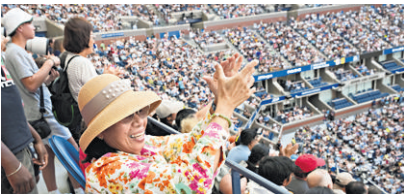
OBITUARIES B11-12

Created 007's Signature Logo

Joe Caroff, a prolific but overlooked graphic designer who created hundreds of posters for movies including “West Side Story,” was 103. PAGE B12

OPINION A18-19

Amy Klobuchar PAGE A18



SPORTS B6-10

Fan Week Gets a Makeover

What used to be a free preview of low-key qualifying matches at the U.S. Open was reinvented to feature some of the biggest names in tennis. PAGE B6

