

‘Watch list’ flags public workers for firing purge

Conservative group targets bureaucrats deemed hostile to Trump

BY JONATHAN O’CONNELL,
LEIGH ANN CALDWELL
AND LISA REIN

An organization funded by the conservative Heritage Foundation has compiled an online “watch list” of federal employees it claims cannot be trusted to secure the U.S. border and should be fired, a sign that supporters of Donald Trump’s immigration policies are preparing to help him neutralize the administrative state they believe tried to thwart his first presidency.

The “DHS Bureaucrat Watch List” — a website unveiled in the final weeks of a presidential campaign in which immigration is a key issue — names 51 federal policy experts and high-ranking leaders, the majority of whom are career civil servants at the Department of Homeland Security and other agencies. The group identified them largely using public social media comments, prior work experience and campaign finance records.

Among the employees’ actions cited by the group are posts celebrating the legalization of same-sex marriage or lauding the contributions and successes of undocumented immigrants, as well as donations as little as \$10 to Democratic candidates. One employee union likened the effort to unearth the private views of public employees to Sen. Joseph McCarthy’s 1950s-era campaign to purge federal workers he accused of being communists.

The site’s founder, a former Republican congressional staffer named Tom Jones, told The Washington Post that he and his staff are seeking to add more names to the list and have sent emails to more than 500 federal employees asking for their help identifying colleagues who they believe are not committed to keeping undocumented immigrants out of the country.

Jones said his goal was to expose people whom he deemed had “long-standing and deep bias” on immigration policy. In addition to tracking social media

SEE LIST ON A7



MELINA MARA/THE WASHINGTON POST



TOM BRENNER FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Vice President Kamala Harris, top, campaigns Saturday in Atlanta, where she urged late-deciding voters to consider her vow to work with people who disagree with her. Former president Donald Trump takes the stage Saturday in Salem, Virginia. He also made multiple stops in North Carolina.

Harris projects optimism as a strident Trump scoffs

BY MAEVE RESTON
AND TYLER PAGER

Vice President Kamala Harris has spent much of the past two months portraying herself as the underdog in the effectively tied race against former president Donald Trump.

In recent days, however, the Democratic presidential nominee and her top aides have struck a somewhat more optimistic tone in public, conveying to supporters and the media that they

expect to win the race — albeit by narrow margins.

Trump’s campaign counters that the unusually large numbers of Republicans who have cast ballots early are a sign of the Republican nominee’s strength, and his aides have boasted that they remain on offense, with Trump visiting New Mexico and Virginia, two states that many observers believe are out of reach for Republicans, in the final week of the campaign.

But Harris’s significant finan-

cial advantage over Trump has allowed her to hire more staff, spend more on advertising and build a more robust digital and texting operation.

As recently as Wednesday, Future Forward, the top outside group supporting Harris, was privately warning that her chances had eroded. Internal reports dated Oct. 24 and Oct. 30 both said she had only a 37 percent chance of winning, down from 54 percent in early October,

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ELECTION 2024

Post-vote chaos may embolden foreign actors

PENTAGON GIRDS FOR PREINAUGURAL STRIFE

Russia, Iran, China, N. Korea among potential threats

BY MISSY RYAN,
ELLEN NAKASHIMA
AND DAN LAMOTHE

The Biden administration is on heightened alert for foreign attempts to threaten or destabilize the United States during the presidential transition period, as officials seek to ensure that efforts to exploit a vulnerable interval — made more perilous by America’s hyperpolarized politics — are unable to succeed.

Officials said preparations at the Pentagon are focused on potential post-election threats from nations including Iran, North Korea, Russia and China, along with extremist groups. Intelligence and law enforcement officials meanwhile are girding for continued efforts by the Kremlin — already blamed for significant influence and misinformation operations in the lead-up to Tuesday’s vote — and other adversaries to stoke discord and undermine confidence in the outcome.

A senior defense official who, like others, spoke on the condition

of anonymity to discuss the government’s plans, said the Pentagon is preparing for “a range of scenarios” that could occur between Election Day and the next president’s inauguration Jan. 20.

“We’re thinking about who might try to take advantage of this period of time, checking signals with allies and partners in the different regions, checking where we have playbooks or break-glass

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Election special report

Near the moment of truth, the race is on a knife’s edge. **Section AA**

The Sunday Take: On losing side, it will feel like an apocalypse. **A2**

Women’s March: Thousands rally in D.C. in support of Harris. **C1**

Election workers are exhausted, abused and ready for their moment

BY AMY GARDNER

RENO, NEV. — Andrew McDonald joined the staff of the Washoe County Registrar of Voters five months ago not fully realizing what he had gotten himself into.

Since then, he has witnessed the county board’s refusal to certify primary election results, an attempted citizen’s arrest of a board member and an announcement that his boss would be taking a leave of absence just weeks before the November election, leaving him temporarily in charge.

In a swing region of a swing state — Washoe is home to Reno,

one of Nevada’s largest cities — McDonald is scrambling seven days a week, dealing with a daily flood of misinformation and baseless accusations of wrongdoing, trying to hold it all together for his staff.

Somehow, the 48-year-old thinks it’s working.

As the clock ticks to Election Day, election professionals are under historic strain to get everything right: to allow for transparency so suspicious members of the public can see how it all works; to count ballots with no mistakes; to protect the rights of legally registered voters while ensuring that no one who is

SEE WORKERS ON A18

As AI data centers boom, so do consumers’ electric bills

Straining power grids’ burdens fall on everyday people, documents show

BY EVAN HALPER
AND CAROLINE O’DONOVAN

Consumers in some regions of the country are facing higher electric bills due to a boom in tech companies building data centers that guzzle power and force expensive infrastructure upgrades.

Companies such as Google and Amazon have ramped up construction of new data centers as they race to compete in artificial intelligence. The facilities’ extraordinary demand for electricity to power and cool computers inside can drive up the price local utilities pay for energy and require significant improvements to electric grid transmission systems.

As a result, costs have already

begun going up for customers — or are about to in the near future, according to utility planning documents and energy industry analysts. Some regulators are concerned that the tech companies aren’t paying their fair share, while leaving customers from homeowners to small businesses on the hook.

In Oregon, electric utilities are warning regulators that consumers need protections from rising rates caused by data centers. From Virginia to Ohio and South Carolina, companies are battling over the extent of their responsibility for increases, attempting to fend off anger from customers. In the Mid-Atlantic, the regional power grid’s energy costs shot up dramatically, and data centers are cited as among the root causes of rate increases of up to 20 percent expected in 2025.

“A lot of governors and local political leaders who wanted economic growth and vitality from these data centers are now

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One family risks it all in harrowing trek to reach the U.S.

But their futures hang in the balance amid an election teeming with tensions over immigration



PAUL RATJE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Ingrid Orasma, 47, with her sons Marvin, 10, left, and Diego, 15, at an El Paso shelter in June.

BY ARELIS R. HERNÁNDEZ

The Orasma family is from San Fernando de Apure, a lush metropolis on the banks of a winding river in Venezuela.

For many years, Ingrid and her children enjoyed a solidly middle-class life. She worked as a teacher at a primary school, dyed her hair platinum blond and manicured her nails. Her school often had leftover cafeteria food that she would donate to poor families.

Things started to change a decade ago. Venezuela’s once lucrative oil sector was collapsing. Corruption and crime were mounting. The abundance that the family once took for granted began to disappear. Ingrid’s salary no longer covered their basic needs as inflation rose. They started to go hungry.

Earlier this year, Ingrid, 47, decided there was only one

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Elon Musk: He may have faced visa issues under Trump’s policies. **A15**

FALL BACK

Sooner sunsets, more sleep: Daylight saving time ended at 2 a.m.

METRO

What a Trump term could mean for Metro and getting around D.C.



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