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ELECTION 2024

Biden gets heat as Democrats point fingers

By Jim Puzzanghera
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — President Biden walked out to the sun-splashed Rose Garden on Thursday to a standing ovation from staffers and Cabinet members, took off his aviator sunglasses, and promised to do what his predecessor — now also his successor — did not do for him.

“I will do my duty as president. I’ll

Some say his missteps led to Harris’s loss but others think it runs deeper

fulfill my oath and I will honor the Constitution,” Biden said as the sounds from the construction of the nearby inaugural parade viewing platform drifted across the White House grounds. “On January 20th, we’ll have a peaceful transfer of power here in America.”

In his first public address since the

election, Biden took the high road even as he became the center of the blame game among fellow Democrats for Vice President Kamala Harris’s resounding loss to President-elect Donald Trump.

Blame for seeking a second term as the oldest president ever after strongly suggesting in 2020 he would not, short-

circuiting a wide-open Democratic primary. Blame for defiantly resisting pressure for more than three weeks to drop out after his disastrous debate performance in June, leaving Harris only about 100 days to sell her candidacy. And blame for dragging her and the party down with his brutal job approval

ratings stemming from Americans’ frustration with high prices.

“Joe Biden left us all out to dry and the Democratic Party protected and enabled him until it was too late,” 2020 Democratic presidential candidate Andrew Yang wrote on X. Alex Shephard, senior editor of The New Republic, wrote that “Harris obviously deserves blame here, but it’s Biden who deserves

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ANNA ROSE LAYDEN/NEW YORK TIMES

President Biden pledged Thursday to assist Donald Trump with the transition, saying, “I will do my duty as president.”

Mass. leaders get ready to fight back if worse comes to worst

By Matt Stout and Anjali Huynh
GLOBE STAFF

With the reelection of Donald Trump, Massachusetts’ Democratic leaders quickly scrambled into a fighting posture, vowing to push back against what they called an “antidemocratic presidency” and parry the perceived threats a second Trump administration poses to the deep-blue state.

The defensive front echoed the stances Massachusetts officials took beginning eight years ago, when then-attorney general Maura Healey promised to — and often did — challenge Trump in court, positioning the state as a liberal bulwark and lifting her political profile in the process.

MASSACHUSETTS, Page A7

‘Democrats cannot take these groups for granted anymore.’

RICHARD PARR, senior research director at the MassINC Polling Group

Economy was key for Latinos backing Trump

By Esmy Jimenez
GLOBE STAFF

The second-largest racial voting bloc in the country surprised Democrats this week, breaking heavily from the left and helping to send President-elect Donald Trump back to the White House. The sprawling Latino vote looked past some of the Republican’s more inflammatory rhetoric to focus on one thing in particular: the economy.

“Latinos clearly hated inflation and they remember that Trump was in charge when prices

were not what they are now,” Luis Jimenez, an associate professor of political science at the University of Massachusetts Boston, said in an email. “I don’t think it’s anything more complicated than that.”

While it appears a majority of Latino voters still leaned left toward Vice President Kamala Harris, election data and multiple exit polls show a decline in support for the Democrat both nationally and in Massachusetts.

A Globe analysis of town-by-town results shows that among

communities with significant Latino populations, Trump saw gains in support from 2020. In Lawrence, for example, which is more than 80 percent Latino, Trump received a nearly 16 percentage point increase in vote share. And in Chelsea, where Latinos make up 67 percent of the population, Trump gained 9 points. Both cities also have poverty rates almost double the statewide average.

Nationally, a CNN exit poll showed 52 percent of Latinos

LATINOS, Page A8

Campaign manager named chief of staff

Wiles would be first woman in the role

By Hannah Knowles, Josh Dawsey, and Marianne LeVine
WASHINGTON POST

President-elect Donald Trump on Thursday announced that Susie Wiles, his campaign manager, would serve as White House chief of staff, as leading contenders emerged for other Cabinet roles such as attorney general in a second Trump administration.

“Susie Wiles just helped me achieve one of the greatest political victories in American history, and was an integral part of both my 2016 and 2020 successful campaigns,” Trump said in a statement that called Wiles “universally admired and respected.”

She would be the first female White House chief of staff.

Wiles, 67, has led Trump’s operation since 2021 — when he was widely viewed as a pariah after the Jan. 6 assault on the US Capitol by a mob of his supporters. Unlike some advisers, she has rarely battled with him and has maintained a close rapport.

The announcement from Trump is the first key appointment as his transition.

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Susie Wiles has led Donald Trump’s operation since 2021.

Plenty of hope
Many women of color were disappointed by Harris’s loss, but see better days ahead. **B1.**

DCF mismanaged mental health care for kids, report says

By Jason Laughlin
GLOBE STAFF

Massachusetts’ child protection agency failed to properly manage the care of children in its custody with serious mental health conditions, the state auditor found, a systemic oversight that included missed or delayed therapy sessions for 35 percent of children whose cases were reviewed, and several others who received antipsychotic medications without proper authorization.

Virtually all the Department of Children and Families cases examined in the audit released Thursday had information missing from their files, making it more difficult for doctors and nurses to safely and effectively treat those children. The audit also determined the cases of four children who received antipsychotic medication should have been reviewed by a judge.

“It is very concerning,” Auditor Diana DiZoglio said in an interview, “especially following the pandemic shutdown period where we know mental health challenges increased significantly among the children of the Commonwealth.”

DCF, Page A9

STILL OUT OF CONTROL



NOAH BERGER/ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Mountain Fire, northwest of Los Angeles, continued to burn Thursday after destroying dozens of homes, and some 3,500 structures in areas around Camarillo in Ventura County were potentially at risk. An expected break in the winds may help. **A2.**



Shine of the times

Friday: Still quite warm. High 62-67. Low 38-43.

Saturday: A bit cooler. High 52-57. Low 34-39.

High tide: 3:39 a.m., 3:46 p.m.

Sunrise: 6:27 Sunset: 4:29

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Public school educators in Beverly and Gloucester plan to go on strike starting Friday as contract talks stalled. **B1.**

Federal Reserve officials cut interest rates, their second reduction of 2024 and the latest sign inflation may be coming under control. **B5.**

The Israeli military said it hit dozens of sites in Lebanon, part of its widening offensive. **A4.**

Boston’s business community came up short on a ballot question again. **B5.**