

Trump’s promises face GOP opposition

Lawmakers have other ideas on some of his plans

By Jim Puzzanghera
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — A key provision of the sweeping 2017 tax law that was Donald Trump’s signature legislative accomplishment as president limited the amount of state and local taxes people could deduct on their federal returns.

But at a recent campaign stop in the New York City suburbs where the cap is unpopular, Trump said he’ll remove the limit he signed into law if voters elect him again.

That promise, like some of his others recently, has a major problem: It’s unpopular among his fellow Republicans in Congress. Most of them enthusiastically supported the \$10,000 cap, which saves the government tens of billions of dollars annually and hits hardest in high-tax, Democratic-run states like New York, New Jersey, and Massachusetts.

“In some cases they’re throwing some stuff up against the wall to see what sticks. And I get it. It’s the crazy time of the year,” said Senator Mike Rounds, a South Dakota Republican, adding he’d require some convincing to support increasing the deduction limit, let alone eliminating it. “We’ll wait and see what happens after the election as to what actually gets put together in a proposal with enough support to become law.”

Candidates can get desperate in the final weeks of a close race, offering campaign promises that

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Watched by all, election clerks struggle to keep doing their jobs

By Samantha J. Gross
GLOBE STAFF

SOUTHBRIDGE — In September, local election clerks received an email that purported to be from a reputable national organization that helps to ensure voting integrity. The message asked clerks to fill out a survey and include their personal cellphones and home addresses.

But the URL behind the sender was not for the cybersecurity group the Elections Infrastructure Information Sharing & Analysis Center, or EI-ISAC. Instead, it led to a website, election-crimebureau.com, with an image of a grinning Mike Lindell, the MyPillow CEO-turned-high-profile-election-denier who continues to believe former president Donald Trump won the 2020 election.

The faux email, say Massachusetts election clerks, is just the latest example of the deluge of threats, interference, misinformation, and burdensome requests coming at them as they approach what many fear will be one of the most daunting elections yet.

Burnout and frustration after the 2020 election and the subsequent storm of misinformation sparked massive turnover within the ranks of local elections officials. Those who stayed faced cybersecurity threats and emails sent by bad actors.

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After storm, hospitals guard IV supply

Hurricane closes country’s biggest producer indefinitely

By Kay Lazar
GLOBE STAFF

Hospital leaders raced to shore up stocks of IV fluids after Hurricane Helene severely damaged a plant in North Carolina that produces much of the country’s supply, laying bare the precarious system for manufacturing and distributing critical medicines.

Flooding from the storm damaged the plant in the Blue Ridge Mountains town of Marion that

produces 60 percent of the country’s IV supply, forcing its parent company, Baxter International Inc., to shut it.

For now, local hospitals say they have not had to curtail procedures, but are taking small steps to manage their current supply, such as giving some patients other fluids when possible. However, it’s unclear when the North Carolina plant would reopen, or if other suppliers would fill the void, making it uncertain whether hospitals will be able to stretch their stockpiles long enough.

While hospitals have contended with previous drug shortages, this

disruption is particularly challenging, doctors said.

“What’s really tricky about this shortage, and has got me worried, is how ubiquitous these products are,” said Dr. Kimi Kobayashi, chief quality officer of UMass Memorial Medical Center in Worcester, the academic hospital for the largest health care system in central Massachusetts. “We use IV fluids everywhere. It’s in our ICU, in our surgical units, in pediatrics, and in every patient care floor.”

Intravenous fluids are life-saving, sterile solutions widely used in hospitals to hydrate patients through a

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‘What’s really tricky about this shortage, and has got me worried, is how ubiquitous these products are. We use IV fluids everywhere.’

DR. KIMI KOBAYASHI, chief quality officer of UMass Memorial Medical Center

A JOYOUS AND SOMBER NEW YEAR



LEON NEAL/GETTY IMAGES



ERIN CLARK/GLOBE STAFF

Celebrations for Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, continued on Thursday but the upheaval in the Middle East, as the Oct. 7 anniversary of the Hamas attack on Israel nears, cast a long shadow over the holiday. Above, a man blew a shofar, a traditional horn, at a beach in Tel Aviv. At left, Northeastern students Devon White and Ethan Handel made preparations. A3, B1.

Spreading the wealth on new liquor licenses

This time, Boston is working to ensure people of color aren’t shut out

By Shirley Leung
GLOBE COLUMNIST

A decade ago, Boston gave 10 restaurant owners what amounted to a golden ticket: a liquor license worth hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The lawmakers who first pushed for those new licenses intended them to go to underserved neighborhoods and entrepreneurs of color. Instead, most went to established business owners in bustling neighborhoods such as the North End and the Back Bay. One even went to an international chain: Earls Kitchen + Bar at the Prudential Center.


Now as city officials prepare to give out a big new batch of liquor licenses, they don’t want to repeat the mistakes of the past. The stakes are high because the city rarely has new licenses to give out, unless the state gives it more. In the weeks since the Legislature allowed Boston to issue 225 more licenses, including

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KAYLA BARTKOWSKI FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

Jose Villafranca (left), owner of the Peruvian Taste restaurant in Charlestown, has been unable to afford a liquor license. He was joined by manager Yoana Pleitez.



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