

ELECTION 2024

Outsize impact for swing state voting laws

Depending on party in charge, casting a ballot will be easier or harder

BY PATRICK MARLEY

Voting in Michigan will be easier for many people this fall than it was four years ago. There will be nine days of early voting. All mail ballots will have prepaid return postage. And every community will have at least one drop box for absentee ballots because of a measure adopted by voters with the support of the state's top Democrats.

Those casting ballots in North Carolina, where Republicans enjoy a veto-proof legislative majority, will see dramatic changes in the opposite direction. For the first time in a presidential election, voters there will have to show an ID. More votes are expected to be thrown out because of new absentee ballot return deadlines. And courts will soon decide whether to allow a law to go into effect that would reshape the state's elections boards and could result in fewer early-voting sites.

The two states illustrate how much voting has changed since the last presidential election. But whether Americans will have an easier or harder time casting a ballot than they did in 2020 will depend on where they live and, often, whether Democrats or Republicans have been in charge.

"It's really kind of a tale of two democracies," said Liz Avore, a senior adviser at the Voting Rights Lab.

States across the partisan  
SEE VOTE ON A5

China's green ambitions raise specter of trade war

BY CHRISTIAN SHEPHERD

CHENGDU, CHINA — A decade ago, Tongwei Group was a maker of fish food and livestock feed. Today, the company, based in this famously overcast corner of southwest China, is the world's largest producer of solar cells, the components of panels that turn sunlight into electricity.

At its \$2.8 billion facility on the outskirts of Chengdu, robotic arms stacked the delicate cells on autonomous carts that zipped between production stages. Productivity has gone up 161 percent — and the number of workers down by 62 percent — thanks to 5G equipment from homegrown technology giant Huawei, the company says.

Tongwei now has even grander ambitions: It is rapidly expanding and upgrading six production facilities and, by the end of this year, aims to churn out 130 gigawatts' worth of cells annually — four times the total solar capacity installed in the United States in 2023.

China — through solar companies like this — will be without doubt the "main force leading the global energy transition," said Liu Hanyuan, Tongwei's founder and chairman.

Tongwei encapsulates how China has come to dominate  
SEE CHINA ON A20

In states with bans, women often take abortion pills with no one to guide them



DESIREE RIOS FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Afraid and alone, post-Roe

BY CAROLINE KITCHENER

Angel tucked two white pills into each side of her mouth, bracing herself as they began to dissolve. Her deepest fears and anxieties took over.

The pill could be fake. Maybe the website I ordered from was sketchy. What if I shouldn't take this with my other medication? Could I get in trouble with the law?

Angel had wanted to talk to a doctor before she took the pills to end her pregnancy, worried about how they might interact with medication she took for her heart condition.

Angel, 23, had wanted to talk to a doctor before self-managing her abortion, afraid that the pills might interact with her heart medication. In Oklahoma, though, she didn't have that option.

Answers: What to know about abortion pills. A12

But in her home state of Oklahoma, where almost all abortions are banned, that wasn't an option.

The pain kicked in after about an hour, around midnight on a Sunday in January, eventually becoming sharp enough that the 23-year-old said she struggled to stand. While Angel would be fine by the next morning, she worried that something might be very wrong as she lay on the cold bathroom tile, her body racked by some of the worst pain she could remember.

When Angel's fiancé came in to check on her, she was having diarrhea  
SEE ABORTION PILLS ON A10



POOL/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

O.J. Simpson in 1994 in Superior Court in Los Angeles, where he later would be acquitted of murdering his ex-wife and her friend.

O.J. SIMPSON 1947-2024

Gridiron great descended into infamy

BY RICK MAESE, GLENN FRANKEL AND MATT SCHUDEL

O.J. Simpson, the football superstar who became a symbol of domestic violence and racial division after he was found not guilty of murdering his ex-wife and her friend in a trial that riveted the nation and had legal and cultural repercussions for years afterward, died April 10. He was 76.

The cause was cancer, according to a post from his family on the social media platform X. Ad-

ditional details were not immediately available.

Mr. Simpson had served nine years of a 33-year sentence for kidnapping and armed robbery unconnected to the death of his ex-wife before he was released in October 2017 from the Lovelock Correctional Center outside Reno, Nev.

It was a stunning downfall for a man who had risen from a poor neighborhood in San Francisco to become one of the greatest running backs in football history, an actor in more than 20 Hollywood

movies, a corporate pitchman — sprinting through airports for Hertz Rent-a-Car in his most memorable television commercials — and a TV sports commentator. He had good looks, a warm smile and a poised manner that made him a popular sports media personality long after his playing  
SEE SIMPSON ON A6

Not guilty: Reactions to the 1995 verdict exposed deep racial rifts. A8

Highs and lows: Simpson always had the camera's attention. C1

IN THE NEWS

Trump's new doctor The ex-president relies on a physician who is a member of his New Jersey golf club to vouch for his health. A4

California monuments President Biden plans to expand two nature areas in the Golden State at the behest of conservation groups, legislators and Native American tribes. A3

THE NATION The Justice Department set rules to require background checks for more gun sales. A3 A liberal justice will retire, affecting the race for control of Wisconsin's Supreme Court. A8

THE WORLD A court in Vietnam sentenced a real estate tycoon to death in a fraud case. A14 Three mariners were rescued from a Pacific islet after spelling out "help" in leaves. A14

THE ECONOMY YouTube is the most consequential tech in the U.S., coming in at No. 1 for music and video listening. A16 The economy, still running hot despite a raft of rate hikes to cool it, is perplexing experts and complicating plans for cuts this year. A16

THE REGION Opioid deaths in D.C. surpassed 500 last year, even as tens of millions in funding to address the crisis rolls in. B1 Authorities will investigate a potential coverup in the probe of a Newport News teacher's shooting last year. B1

STYLE Relationship guru Esther Perel, an extremely popular podcaster, takes her advice on the road. C1

WEEKEND Find out how to track down a little self-care in the D.C. area without having to take out a second mortgage.

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