

## For voters, some issues register, some don't

Climate change gets no traction on trail

By Sabrina Shankman  
and Erin Douglas  
GLOBE STAFF

It has been hard to ignore climate change this year, between the devastation in North Carolina and the Florida coast from hurricanes fueled by warmer seas and the nearly 8 million acres that have burned so far in wildfires on the West Coast and beyond. That's to say nothing of New England's winter-that-wasn't, the flash floods in Vermont, and the high tides lapping ever higher above Boston's sea walls.

The consequences of a warming planet have been everywhere — except on the campaign trail.

As the presidential candidates crisscross the United

### ELECTION 2024

States, repeatedly addressing everything from a crisis at the border to a crisis in democracy, climate change rarely takes the stage.

Vice President Kamala Harris's appeal to moderate voters has included concessions on climate change, including her flip-flop in support of fracking after pledging in 2019 to ban it. Former president Donald Trump, meanwhile, has said he wants clean air and clean water, but denies the science of climate change and has threatened to claw back unused federal funds from a Biden administration climate, **Page A7**



JESSICA RINALDI/GLOBE STAFF

Arthur Paquette of Leicester described his perception of Donald Trump's first term: "No wars during his administration, stable economy, good stock market."

### The key factor

"It all comes down to turnout" may be a cliché, but this time it's likely to be true. **A6.**

### Dueling rallies

Harris and Trump focus on North Carolina, 50 miles away from each other. **A6.**

Not all local Trump backers love him, but they're sure he'll make things better

By Matt Stout  
GLOBE STAFF

Some are "100 percent Trumpers," others not so much. They love him, or think he's arrogant and narcissistic. They gladly support "King Trump," but also hold their nose while doing it.

Meet the 32 percent of Massachusetts voters who have remained committed, if not always happily, to former president Donald Trump.

Since his first run in 2016, Trump has maintained a nearly immovable base of support in the state despite accusations he plotted to overturn his 2020 loss, an unprecedented conviction on 34 felony counts, and various

other indictments. Yet, while Trump once said he values loyalty above "everything," it's not blind fealty that keeps many of his supporters in his column.

In interviews, a dozen people who told Suffolk University pollsters they're voting again for Trump say they remember the state of the country fondly when he was in office and want it back. They're now hurting financially, their personal downturn coinciding with President Biden's time in office. Or they have more global concerns, be it about the economy or immigration, and believe — like they did eight years ago, and again four years ago, **TRUMP VOTERS, Page A7**

'Assisted living residences in Massachusetts are kind of the Wild West.'

JOHN FORD, director of the elder law project at the Northeast Justice Center in Lynn



JESSICA RINALDI/GLOBE STAFF

Jack MacMaster received an eviction notice last year, claiming he owed about \$8,700 in unpaid "ancillary fees."

## FEES BRING QUESTIONS ON ASSISTED LIVING HOMES

Suit alleges property manager has drained seniors' funds; AG plans new protections

By Jason Laughlin  
GLOBE STAFF

The one-bedroom apartment at Prospect House, a Revere assisted living facility, was initially a god-send for Jack MacMaster and his wife, Kathleen, when they moved there three years ago.

Caring for his wife, who has dementia, had become impossible for MacMaster, 76, on his own, and Prospect House's accommodations for low-income residents made it affordable

for them to leave their Melrose home and receive excellent support, he said.

So it came as a shock when MacMaster received an eviction notice last November, claiming he owed about \$8,700 in unpaid ancillary fees. MacMaster had no idea the home charged fees in addition to his rent, he said, and still doesn't know what services they covered. The fees, which he began paying, left him nearly penniless.

"I don't deserve it," he said. "I worked my whole life supporting my kids. I guess I'm dis-

appointed with what I'm left with, to be honest with you."

MacMaster is one of three named plaintiffs in a class action suit filed this month against Prospect House's property manager, Norwood-based HallKeen Management and related companies, claiming the company illegally charged low-income residents hundreds a month in "ancillary fees" tailored to claim all but \$100 or less from each resident.

The suit, filed in US District Court in Boston, **ASSISTED LIVING, Page A9**

## Fallout from abuse scandal challenged O'Malley

Retiring cardinal helped church heal, but some victims say he fell short

By Brian MacQuarrie  
GLOBE STAFF

In 2002, the Archdiocese of Boston was reeling, battered by a devastating sexual abuse crisis, its face that of an aloof cardinal, Bernard F. Law, whose obstructionist response to the scandal seemed as out of touch as his palatial mansion in Brighton.

Law resigned in disgrace, replaced in summer 2003 by Archbishop Sean O'Malley, an introspective Capuchin friar whose plain appearance and humble demeanor offered a striking contrast to his strong-willed, regal predecessor.

The jarring optics carried a message for the faithful: A forceful, dismissive prince of the church had been succeeded by a quiet, empathetic man dressed simply in brown robe and sandals.

"I know how surprised people were, beginning with myself, when a scruffy bearded Capuchin in his bare feet was not exactly what people were suspecting," O'Malley said at a fundraiser for archdiocesan priests in September.

The 80-year-old O'Malley is now retiring as head of the archdiocese, his last day Thursday. Beyond the abuse crisis, his two-decade tenure was tested by other daunting threats: the archdiocese's finances were in the red and dwindling congregations forced the closure of numerous parishes and schools. The church in this heavily Catholic city was shrinking.

And though much of O'Malley's skills as a **O'MALLEY, Page A9**



LANE TURNER/GLOBE STAFF/FILE 2018

Cardinal Sean O'Malley, whose successor will be installed Thursday, has served over two decades as archbishop.

### Casting a spell

**Thursday:** Very warm. High 75-80. Low 62-67.

**Friday:** More of the same. High 74-79. Low 44-49.

High tide: 11:14 a.m., 11:41 p.m.  
Sunrise: 7:17 Sunset: 5:38

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**A 73-year-old leader of a Mattapan tenant organization celebrated** what she considered to be a legal victory in an eviction battle. **B1.**

**Flash floods in Spain turned streets into rivers and killed at least 95 people** in the worst natural disaster to hit the country in years. **A4.**

**House Speaker Mike Johnson pledged "massive reform" of the Affordable Care Act** if Donald Trump is elected president. **A2.**

**Heart patients are better off replacing failing valves immediately,** a trial found. **A8.**



ADOBE STOCK

## A key ingredient?!? It's beyond bay leaf. Isn't it?

By Beth Teitell  
GLOBE STAFF

Who am I to question a bay leaf? I'm the person who contributes paper goods to a potluck. But as bay leaf season tightens its grip, I'm not the only one asking: Do they actually . . . do anything? Or, as skeptics and even some bay leaf hostages suspect, are they a scam?

On one hand: Who cares. You're never forced at leafpoint to add one to a recipe. Let the bay leaf enthusiasts bow to the dogma, and the rest of us can go on our merry way, \$5.99 ahead of the game. (Or \$800 ahead of the game, which was the size of a colleague's ER bill after a bay leaf hiding in a spinach

pie lodged itself in one of her tonsils.)

The problem is that bay leaves, not unlike wrinkle cream, can play with your mind. As a layperson — especially one not versed in global cuisines — you have no way to judge efficacy. Has that leathery thing I dutifully tossed in truly added subtle notes of pine and eucalyptus to my stew? Is my home being perfumed with a reputation-enhancing aroma? Or am I under the spell of a placebo?

So there I was on a recent morning, making chicken soup and also frantically trying to leave for work, when I discovered that the jar of bay leaves I keep for show (in case someone

**BAY LEAVES, Page A8**



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