



JOSH EDELSON For The Times

MAYORS London Breed, left, and Karen Bass both said their identities as Black women have shaped their experiences as politicians.

A tale of two mayors: Bass, Breed approach vital issues differently

The Black women leading California’s marquee cities discuss the challenges they face

BY HANNAH WILEY, DAKOTA SMITH AND ANABEL SOSA

SAN FRANCISCO — Karen Bass and London Breed each made history when they were elected, shattering glass ceilings in their respective cities as the first female mayor of Los Angeles and first Black woman to lead San Francisco.

They share many other similarities as powerful Democrats leading California’s marquee cities: a promise to reduce homelessness; plans to mitigate an opioid overdose crisis; an electorate concerned about crime. But the ways the two mayors are attacking those urban problems reveal some surprising differences between them. Breed, 49, has backed a tough-on-crime statewide ballot

initiative that Bass, 70, does not support. The San Francisco mayor has also worked to toughen criminal penalties for fentanyl dealers and require drug screening and treatment for certain welfare recipients — issues the Los Angeles mayor has not weighed in on with financial assistance overseen by the county. And they are split over a high-profile Supreme Court case that could make it easier for cities to

clear homeless encampments: Breed has welcomed the high court’s review while Bass warned against a ruling that “could embolden those who wish to criminalize unhoused Angelenos.” “Homelessness is the reason I ran,” Bass said during a discussion Monday at the civic engagement cafe Manny’s in San Francisco. “The main thing is getting people off the street ASAP because people

Fraught moment for Biden’s fundraiser with stars

Hollywood’s pricey event Saturday will present double-edged sword, analyst says.

BY SEEMA MEHTA

In what is likely one of President Biden’s last major Hollywood fundraisers before the November election, the Democrat will sweep into town Saturday for a star-studded event in downtown Los Angeles that is expected to raise at least \$28 million — the largest one-night Democratic haul in history. The state, the city and the entertainment industry have long been the financial backbone for Democratic candidates across the nation. But Saturday’s gathering, which will include appearances by former President Obama and actors George Clooney and Julia Roberts, is taking place at a fraught time for the incumbent.

The war between Israel and Hamas is front of mind in a city that is home to the nation’s second-largest Jewish community, though it is not monolithic about the ongoing violence in the Gaza Strip. The latest conflict was ignited by Hamas’ brutal attack on Israel on Oct. 7, which killed about 1,200 and prompted a relentless Israeli bombardment that has killed more than 37,000 Palestinians in Gaza. And while statistics about unemployment, inflation and job creation show that the nation’s economy is steadily improving, voters are still feeling pain at the grocery store and the gas pump.

So a glittery event where the top-ticket package costs \$500,000 creates a double-edged sword for Biden, said Jessica Levinson, an election law professor at Loyola Law School. “The concern is that he looks out of touch with where Americans are with respect to how much you could ever pay to attend a high-dollar dinner when a lot of people are suffering to put food on table, and during an international crisis

Food for thought: Do you return your shopping cart?

A woman whose post sparked backlash and debate cites safety issues in parking lots.

BY HANNAH FRY

Of all the decisions faced during a trip to the grocery store — paper, plastic or reusable bags; self-checkout or human interaction — one has emerged as the most contentious. Where do you leave your cart at the end of the shopping trip? It has become a cart conundrum.

Leslie Dobson, a Los Angeles clinical and forensic psychologist, shared her answer in a video posted in late May on TikTok and Instagram that had generated more than 11.9 million views as of Friday and a litany of backlash. “I’m not returning my shopping cart, and you can judge me all you want. I’m not getting my groceries into the car, getting my children into the car and then leaving them in the car to go return the cart. So if you’re going to give me a dirty look, f— off,” Dobson said using an expletive. The internet went off.

People accused her of being an “entitled mom” and called her “lazy.” Others called her a “Karen,” and some questioned why she doesn’t take her kids with her to return the cart or lock the car with them inside while she puts the cart away. “Oof this is embarrassing for you,” a mother of two wrote on Instagram. “It’s said that returning the cart is a litmus test of sorts, and girlie, you failed.” But Dobson said the video didn’t tell the whole story. She explained in an



GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

A WORKER at a 99 Cents Only store in Santa Monica gathers shopping carts in April. People apparently feel strongly about whether shoppers return carts.



MICHAEL ORDENANA Natural History Museum

IT HAS BEEN a decade since the mountain lion P-22 surprised the world by appearing in Griffith Park. He was captured and euthanized in late 2022.

The outlook for a new puma in Griffith Park

If a recently spotted cougar stays in the area, he’ll face same challenges as P-22.

BY LILA SEIDMAN

A sleek mountain lion filmed from behind the wheel of a Tesla on the edge of Griffith Park last month triggered a collective double take in Los Angeles. Not long ago, the park’s long-reigning king — the cougar known as P-22 — stalked the same hills. Though P-22’s stint in Hollywood brought him fame and devotion — land-

ing him on T-shirts and culminating in a sold-out memorial — it also came with deadly trappings inherent to his urban-adjacent environment. Rat poison and car collisions battered him from the inside out. He was captured and euthanized in late 2022, deemed too sick to return to the wild because of injuries and infection. A mountain lion living in Griffith Park today would probably suffer a similar fate. “Has anything changed, in some respects, in Griffith Park? No,” said Beth Pratt of the National Wildlife Federation, a vocal booster for

Mexico’s new leader toes line

President-elect hints she’s beholden to López Obrador by backing his judicial overhaul. **WORLD, A3**

Bump stock ban overturned

The Supreme Court’s 6-3 decision wipes out a Trump-era regulation on firearms. **NATION, A5**

Kershaw’s rehab ahead of pace

Dodgers star will pitch in a minor league game next week and could return to the lineup quicker than expected. **SPORTS, B12**

Weather Mostly sunny.

L.A. Basin: 84/63. **B8**

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