



ROBERT HAIGHT surveys his destroyed house in Fort Myers, Fla. He said he saw the tornado that “sucked the whole roof off.”

CHANDAN KHANNA AFP/Getty Images

Florida feels Milton’s might

On heels of Helene, second monster storm shows perils of climate change



REBECCA BLACKWELL Associated Press

RON ROOK walks through wind and rain on a deserted street in downtown Tampa, Fla. He said he was looking for people needing help as Milton approached.

By GRACE TOOHEY AND SANDRA McDONALD

Hurricane Milton moved into Florida on Wednesday evening, as forecasters warned that the once-in-a-generation storm was expected to bring life-threatening storm surge, destructive winds and flooding.

The biggest concern was for Tampa Bay, which is expected to see devastating storm surges and winds. There were already reports of major damage to structures along Florida’s west coast, including in Sarasota and Naples.

“The storm is here. It’s time for everybody to hunker down,” Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said.

“This could be the worst storm to hit Florida in over a century,” President Biden said Wednesday. “God willing, it won’t be, but that’s what it’s looking like right now. ... My priority is to increase the size and presence of our [federal personnel] ... as we prepare for another catastrophic storm about to make landfall.”

The storm, which was downgraded to a still-powerful Category 3 hurricane late Wednesday afternoon, comes less than two weeks after Hurricane Helene devastated communities across the Southeast.

“This is going to be a serious storm, one that could forever change communities that are still recovering from Helene,” Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator Deanne Criswell said at a briefing Wednesday.

But despite facing back-to-back large-scale disasters, officials said the federal agency is prepared for Hurricane Milton, having positioned food and water resources for millions.

[See [Milton](#), A9]

Candidates appear on unconventional forums to win votes

Harris and Trump go on television, radio, podcasts and social media to reach different audiences.

By SEEMA MEHTA

The viewers of “The View” talk show and the listeners of Howard Stern’s satellite radio program couldn’t be more different: older women who watch daytime television for the former versus young and middle-aged white men who have long constituted the fervent followers of the once-vaunted stylings of the latter.

Yet within the span of a couple of hours Tuesday, Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris traveled between their studios in Manhattan to sit down for lengthy interviews, an odd juxtaposition of a television show initially viewed as a

ladies-who-lunch klatch and a radio host who became famous because of pornographic, misogynistic and at times racist diatribes that led to millions of dollars in indecency fines from the federal government.

Historically, serious political candidates would never have appeared on either; Barack Obama was mocked by fellow Democrats for being the first sitting president to appear for an interview on “The View.”

But both programs, which have millions of followers, have evolved: “The View” is one of the most popular stops for presidential candidates of both parties, and Stern has transformed into a therapy-touting, inquisitive interviewer. And both represent a bipartisan strategy as candidates of both parties including former President Trump court voters through the exponentially growing network of broadcast, radio, podcast and social media venues

[See [Campaigns](#), A6]



WALLY SKALIJ Los Angeles Times

TUESDAY EVENING’S debate in Glendale saw Democrat Adam B. Schiff, left, and Republican Steve Garvey clash over former President Trump and more.

Garvey and Schiff’s showdown for Feinstein’s Senate seat turns testy

By KEVIN RECTOR AND LAURA J. NELSON

The only head-to-head debate this fall in California’s high-stakes U.S. Senate race between Rep. Adam B. Schiff and former Dodger Steve Garvey was dominated on Tuesday by con-

tentious exchanges on a host of national and international political issues — including immigration, the economy, expanding conflict in the Middle East, reproductive healthcare and global warming.

The sharpest exchanges, however, related to the two candidates’ vastly different

stances on former President Trump.

Schiff, a Burbank Democrat with more than 20 years of experience in the House and a commanding lead in polls, cast Garvey as an inexperienced Trump backer who would push conservative rather than California

[See [Garvey-Schiff](#), A7]

Harris keeps sizable lead in state

New poll shows vice president well ahead of Trump, but support from Latinos lags behind 2020 numbers.

By NOAH BIERMAN

Vice President Kamala Harris maintains a commanding lead over former President Trump in California, but Trump’s gains among the state’s Latino voters highlight a troubling sign for Democrats at the national level, according to a new poll.

Harris’ 57%-35% overall lead in California over Trump is little changed from her August margin of 59% to 34%, according to the survey by UC Berkeley’s Institute of Governmental Studies, co-sponsored by The Times.

The state’s streak of voting Democratic in every presidential election since 1988, when President George H.W. Bush beat Michael Dukakis, is unlikely to be broken. Its 54 electoral votes — the largest prize on election day — are all but certain to go to Harris.

Harris’ lead among Latinos in the state is similar to her overall margin, 54% to 35%. But that represents a sharp decline from President Biden’s margin in 2020, when exit polls showed he beat Trump 75% to 23% among California Latinos.

That new poll jibes with other national and swing state surveys that show an erosion in Democratic support from a group of voters who have been a core segment of the party’s coalition in recent decades. That shift began in 2020, when Biden lost ground among Latino voters compared with Hillary Clinton, the Democratic nominee in 2016.

Harris leads Trump by an average of 2 to 3 percentage points in national polls, but the race for electoral votes is seen as a toss-up.

[See [Poll](#), A6]

Padres aim to eliminate L.A.

Read Wednesday night’s NLDS result at [latimes.com/sports](#) and in our Playoffs Extra at [latimes.com/enewspaper](#).

Southland’s year of earthquakes

Recent seismic activity is a reminder that three decades of relative quiet won’t last forever. [CALIFORNIA, B1](#)

County plans to buy skyscraper

Supervisors take big step toward purchase of the Gas Company Tower in downtown L.A. [BUSINESS, A8](#)

Weather

Morning clouds. L.A. Basin: 81/59. [B6](#)

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