

After debate, Democrats stick by president

Biden, Trump take aim at what they hope are new battlegrounds

By Jim Puzzanghera
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — Fresh off Thursday night's debate, President Biden and Donald Trump headed to two states their campaigns say could be pivotal in November — and they're not among the usual suspects.

Biden held a rally Friday in North Carolina, where Democrats have been victorious just once — 2008 — in the past 11 presidential elections. Meanwhile, Trump held a rally of his own Friday in Virginia, which hasn't delivered its electoral votes to a Republican since 2004.

The post-debate events demonstrate how both campaigns hope to expand the battleground map from the six states that swung the 2020 election: Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. Polling averages show Trump with narrow leads in all those states and the national race a near dead heat.

In addition to an aggressive push for North Carolina, Biden is taking aim to a lesser extent at the

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MANDEL NGAN/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

President Biden and Jill Biden arrived at a campaign event in Raleigh, N.C., on Friday. Biden lost North Carolina by just 1.3 percentage points in 2020.

Shaken lawmakers focus on the message — not the messenger

By Jim Puzzanghera
and Sam Brodey
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — After a bad debate night for President Biden, it was not a good morning Friday for House Democrats as reporters swarmed them at the Capitol asking whether their party should find another nominee to take on Donald Trump.

Many rushed by without commenting before huddling in the House chamber in animated conversations. Those who did stop to talk acknowledged Biden had a poor performance. But none publicly called for him to abandon his candidacy.

At least not yet. "Nobody's in there jumping for joy saying that it was a great night last night," said Representative Gregory

Meeks, a New York Democrat. "Yeah, there's concern, because we know how important it is to make sure we win this election. So is angst up today? Yes. We've got to make sure the message gets out."

The message, rather than the messenger, was the preferred focus of Democratic politicians in Washington and Massachusetts, and around the country. Some insisted the halting version of Biden that voters saw on the debate stage was an anomaly.

"We see Joe Biden every single day. We know what he's like. We see him out in action. ... So I'm not going to judge an entire presidency on 10 minutes or 20 minutes of debate," said Representative Robert Garcia of California. "There's only one person in this

BIDEN, Page A7

'We can't just give up at the intersection.'

KEVIN MOSES, *Cambridge Bicycle Safety*

Where roadways meet, cyclists face more danger



CRAIG F. WALKER/GLOBE STAFF

A cyclist navigated through traffic on Mt. Auburn Street at the intersection of DeWolfe Street in Cambridge this week.

Even with bike lanes, intersections often put bikes and vehicles back in the same space

By Taylor Dolven and Spencer Buell
GLOBE STAFF

Back-to-back deaths of bike riders on Cambridge streets have advocates for road safety urging officials to take a closer look at the places where cyclists can be most vulnerable: intersections.

The crashes had several similarities, according to preliminary investigations. Both involved freight box trucks turning right across bike lanes. Neither truck had side guards, which are designed to protect cyclists in crashes.

The crashes underscore the fact that, as communities across Greater Boston work to add bike infrastructure, even the separated lanes favored by bike riders can only do so much to prevent serious injuries and deaths when they give way to crossroads where bikes

share the road with cars and, often, very large trucks.

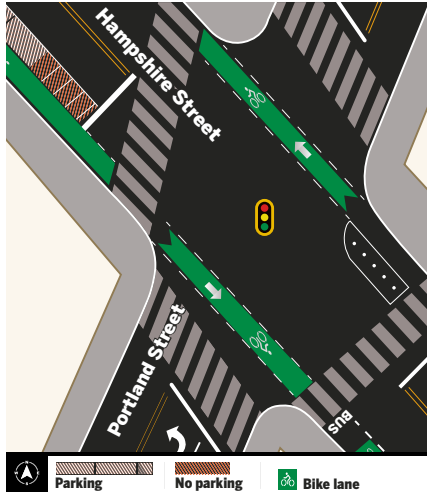
"We can't just give up at the intersection," said Kevin Moses, a strategy team member with the advocacy group Cambridge Bicycle Safety.

A vigil held Monday on the steps of City Hall drew hundreds of friends, family, and fellow cyclists to memorialize the two victims. One was Kim Staley, a 55-year-old visiting from Florida, who had been riding a rented Bluebike near Harvard Square. The other was Minh-Thi Nguyen, a 24-year-old MIT grad student who loved ones said was fond of adventuring around Greater Boston by bike.

A lot that is still unknown about the crashes, including how, exactly, the cyclists were killed, whether the drivers turned right on a

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A truck driver collided with a bike rider at this Cambridge intersection on June 21, killing the bike rider. It was the second fatal crash in two weeks involving a truck and a bike.



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VOL. 305, NO. 181

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Suggested retail price
\$4.00



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Outside pitch

Saturday: Sun early.
High: 75-80. Low: 68-73.
Comics and Weather, **D4-5**.
Obituaries, **C9**.

No verdict yet in Read trial

Jurors ended deliberations for the week hours after they told the judge they were deadlocked and were then instructed to continue deliberating. **B1**.

Japan's government protested to the US Embassy in Tokyo over at least two sexual assault cases involving American service members. **A4**.

A Haitian national charged with raping a 15-year-old girl in March at a

hotel being used as a shelter was released on \$500 cash bail. **B1**.

The New Hampshire attorney general is suing TikTok, alleging the company's practices harm children's mental health. **D1**.



Migrants can no longer camp at Logan

Governor's policy change set to take effect July 9

By Samantha J. Gross
GLOBE STAFF

The Healey administration said Friday that homeless and migrant families would no longer be allowed to sleep at Logan International Airport, its latest policy change intended to lessen the strain on state resources as the number of new arrivals continues to overwhelm the emergency shelter system.

The announcement, effective July 9, follows a trip by administration members to five Texas towns near the US-Mexico border to educate border officials and migrant families about "the lack of shelter availability in Massachusetts."

For months, sleeping bags, air mattresses, and blankets have become a familiar sight in the international terminal where families have been sleeping while awaiting placement in a state-run emergency shelter.

In a statement, L. Scott Rice, the state's emergency assistance director, said the administration's decision is "in the best interest of families and travelers and staff at Logan, as the airport is not an appropriate place for people to seek shelter."

"We are going to continue to spread the word

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