

Backlash to Moulton symptom of divided party

Identity politics only one issue in debate over casting blame for Democrats’ loss

By Samantha J. Gross and Anjali Huynh  
GLOBE STAFF

As Democrats across the country continue to mourn their Election Day loss and examine what went wrong, much of the soul-searching in Massachusetts has been dominated by the furor over comments made by US Representative Seth Moulton, who blamed identity politics for the party’s Election Day loss.

Moulton’s remarks — in which he said Democrats hurt themselves by failing to consider how everyday Americans feel about issues such as trans student athletes competing in women’s sports — and the heated debate that followed amount to a microcosm of the wider argument and finger-pointing unfolding within Democratic circles.

Elsewhere, party leaders have blamed the war in Gaza, or Harris’s inability to break from President Biden’s support for Israel; Biden’s decision to run for a second term, and that he waited months to drop out; the Harris campaign’s inability to convince voters that she’d ease the economic pain so many working-class voters are feeling.

And yes, some Democrats have blamed the party’s allegiance to identity politics, and also the Harris campaign’s choice to leave unanswered the deluge of anti-trans ads that came from the Trump campaign.

“For the losing side, elections are a Rorschach test,” said Alexander Theodoridis, a political science professor at UMass Amherst. “You are basically reinforcing what you believed in advance.”

MOULTON, Page A7

Fall River, once a blue bastion, turned red in ’24

Economic fears cited as GOP presidential candidate wins city for first time in a century

By Matt Stout and Omar Mohammed  
GLOBE STAFF

FALL RIVER — In 2012, this post-industrial city voted like many of Massachusetts’ urban Democratic strongholds, with three of every four voters casting a ballot for then-President Barack Obama. Legislative incumbents cruised to reelection in both the city and nearby towns. Half of Fall River’s registered voters were Democrats themselves.

That blue bastion is now something else: Trump country.

Former president Donald Trump’s victory last week in Fall River was the first for a GOP presidential candidate since Calvin Coolidge exactly a century ago and just one of several on the South Coast, helping add to Republicans’ unexpected gains around New England.

That sudden right turn in the results exposed what residents and officials say has been a long-gestating shift in communities on Cape Cod’s doorstep. The growing economic frustration that helped lift Trump around the country is felt acutely in Fall River, one of the state’s poorest cities and one where the electorate is shifting, too. In inter-

SOUTH COAST, Page A7

Trump taps Zeldin for EPA

Stefanik gets nod for UN post; Rubio seen as likely secretary of state pick

NEW YORK TIMES

President-elect Donald Trump began to shape his second administration Monday with a series of announcements of choices for key positions, including selecting former representative Lee Zeldin to lead the Environmental Protection Agency, a position that is expected to be central to Trump’s plans to dismantle landmark climate regulations.

Also late Monday, Trump was leaning toward naming Senator Marco Rubio of Florida as his nominee for secretary of state,

according to three sources familiar with his thinking.

Trump campaigned on pledges to “kill” and “cancel” EPA rules and regulations that combat global warming by restricting fossil fuel pollution from vehicle tailpipes, power plant smokestacks, and oil and gas wells.

In particular, Trump wants to erase the Biden administration’s most significant climate rule, which is designed to speed a transition away from gasoline-powered cars and toward electric vehicles.

A former member of Con-

gress from Long Island who ran unsuccessfully for governor in 2022, Zeldin, 44, is an avid Trump supporter who voted against certifying the results of the 2020 election.

Trump’s statement misidentified the name of the agency Zeldin was picked to lead, labeling it the Environmental Protective Agency.

Zeldin’s choice was one of several revealed Monday, either directly by the president-elect or sources.

Trump reportedly selected longtime adviser Stephen Miller, an immigration hardliner, to be deputy chief of staff in his new administration and named Rep-

TRUMP, Page A6



Clockwise from top left: Stephen Miller, Representatives Michael Waltz and Elise Stefanik, and Senator Marco Rubio.

A SON IS REMEMBERED



ANDREW HARNIK/GETTY IMAGES

Kevin Herrmann, a retired Marine Corps colonel, knelt at the grave of his son, Lieutenant Colonel Kevin Herrmann, in Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va., on Monday. The younger Herrmann, along with four other Marines, was killed in an aviation accident over the coast of Japan. In Massachusetts, veterans were honored at the State House. **B2.**

‘You may have to reach out to a far greater range of folks than previous candidates.’

DANIEL COX, *American Enterprise Institute, on the use of social media and podcasts in campaigns*

Trump avoided the mainstream media — and won the election

By Aidan Ryan  
GLOBE STAFF

Just hours before officially clinching a second term in the White House, Donald Trump ceded his victory speech podium to Ultimate Fighting Championship CEO Dana White, who praised the president-elect before quickly pivoting to deliver thanks.

He didn’t choose to first thank volunteers, campaign workers, or even the 74 million-plus voters who cast ballots for Trump. Instead, he thanked “the Nelk Boys, Adin Ross, Theo Von, ‘Bussin’ With The Boys,’ and last but not least, the mighty and powerful Joe Rogan” — a group of podcasters, influencers, and independent media personalities that

Trump gravitated toward to reach potential voters ahead of the election.

In a shift from prior presidential campaigns, Trump’s victory came despite his largely eschewing interviews with mainstream news outlets such as The New York Times, ABC, and NPR, and instead em-

MEDIA, Page A6

Cases of overexertion tied to State Police Academy

Before trooper death, injuries eased but attrition rates high

By Dan Glaun  
GLOBE STAFF

In addition to sprains, fractures, and other injuries associated with a rigorous training regime, at least two recruits in the Massachusetts State Police Academy in recent years suffered from rhabdomyolysis, the potentially lethal breakdown of muscles from overexertion that also hospitalized nine Tufts University lacrosse players participating in an intense workout session in September.

The Boston Globe obtained data on injuries and dropout rates at the academy through a public records

request, after a recruit died from traumatic injuries suffered during a physical training exercise two months ago. The data also show that over the past four recruitment classes, the Massachusetts academy has had very high attrition rates, with anecdotal evidence from some dropouts blaming the intensity of the physical training.

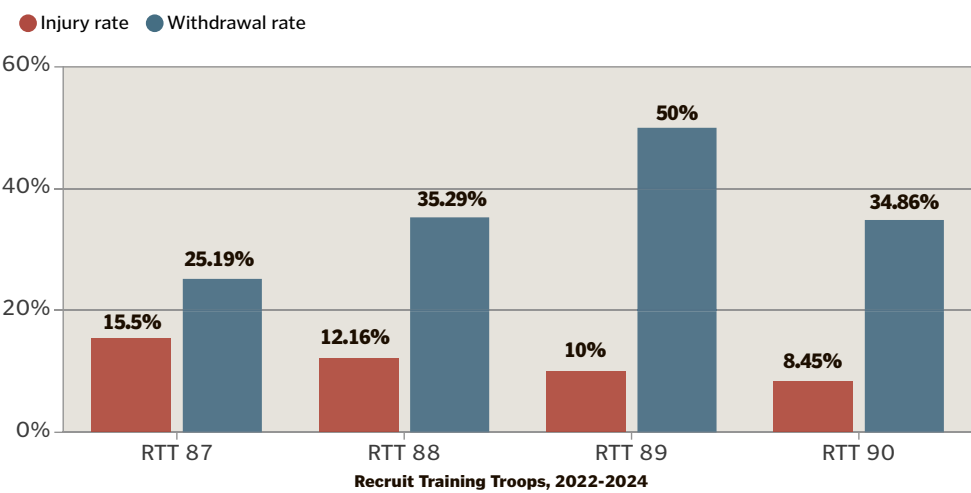
The death of recruit Enrique Delgado-Garcia is the subject of an independent investigation and has triggered concern among some law enforcement analysts and state legislators about the State Police’s bootcamp-style training that inflicts intense physical and psychological stress on recruits to prepare them for the job.

Overall, according to the data, in-

STATE POLICE, Page A4

Injury and dropout rates at the State Police Academy

Injury rates at the State Police Academy fell in the years before the death of recruit Enrique Delgado-Garcia.



SOURCE: Massachusetts State Police data

JOHN HANCOCK/GLOBE STAFF

**Boston Children’s Hospital must pay nearly \$2 million to an ex-employee.** A jury found that it retaliated against a woman by firing her after she filed a gender discrimination lawsuit. **B1.**

**Federal consumer protection agencies are likely to be curbed in a new Trump administration,** as they were in his previous term. **D1.**

**Haiti’s international airport was shut down after gunmen opened fire at a commercial flight from the United States landing in Port-Au-Prince.** **A3.**

**The girls flag football movement is booming,** from youth leagues to the Olympics. **C1.**

Just chill

Tuesday: Sunny, cooler. High 50-55, low 30-35.

Wednesday: More sunshine. High 44-49, low 32-37. Sunrise: 6:32. Sunset: 4:24. Obituaries, **C9.** Comics and Weather, **D5-6.**

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