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The blurred fabric of America

ADOBE STOCK

Trump built a sprawling new coalition propelled by immigration and the economy

By Emma Platoff, Sam Brodey, and Elizabeth Koh
GLOBE STAFF

READING, Pa. — It was the dairy farmer in rural Wisconsin who believes that Donald Trump will be better for the economy, tariffs be damned. It was the 48-year-old North Carolina restaurant employee who voted for some Democrats down ballot but went for Trump hoping for cheaper gas and groceries. It was the Haitian American college student here in Reading who four years ago believed he would “never in a million years” support someone he considered a “racist bigot.”

This year, all three pulled the lever for Trump, part of a sprawling new coalition that reshaped the electoral map as it returned the former president to power.

“In 2020, I voted against Trump. This year, he changed my mind,” Chris Dolce, the student, said in an interview in this Latino-majority city

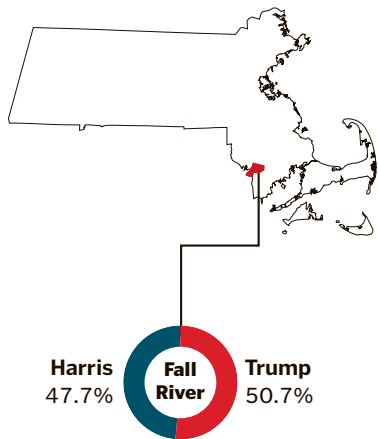
Friday, as he picked up cheesesteaks from a bodega that still featured both a Trump sign and a Kamala Harris sign on an outside railing.

“I still have a feeling, where people will be more openly racist if he’s in power,” Dolce said. But under Trump, he said, “I feel the economy will be in a better place.” His friend group of younger Black men, he said, largely backed Trump for the same reasons.

The 22-year-old Dolce was among the voters who moved Berks County further into the red by more than 2 percentage points from 2020 — a modest gain that, added to similar movement in practically every county in Pennsylvania, helped flip this swing state back to Republicans. That pattern was repeated across the country, including in every other battleground state called so far, and explains how Trump earned such a decisive victory.

FABRIC, Page A10

Fall River, which saw a **61 percent** increase in the Latino population between 2010 and 2019, according to a UMass Boston study, voted for a Republican presidential candidate for the first time in decades.



Among immigrants old and new, a mix of relief, unease

By Giulia McDonnell Nieto del Rio
GLOBE STAFF

Juan Wilner Saint Louis woke up on Wednesday morning feeling anxious. As he checked the news on his phone, he heard the other immigrants at the state shelter in Cambridge where he’s been staying for the last two months echoing his thoughts aloud. *It’s Trump*, they told one another. *What’s going to happen?*

Saint Louis, his wife, and their 5-year-old son waited seven months in Mexico for permission to enter the

United States through a Biden administration humanitarian program. But Saint Louis fears his legal status won’t matter now.

“For this president,” he said in Spanish, “I am illegal.”

Other immigrants, however, rejoiced last week at the promise of another Donald Trump presidency, and agree with him that immigration has gotten out of control.

“There are a lot of concerns with immigration issues,” said Wei Han, co-founder of the Chinese American Net-

IMMIGRATION, Page A8

Justices’ fate

Some on the right want Alito and Thomas to retire so Trump can pick younger judges. **A8.**

Abortion

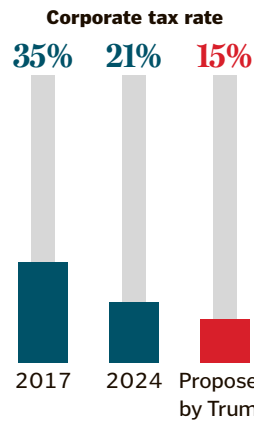
Foes say they will quickly dismantle some of Biden’s policies with Trump in office. **A9.**

Meeting set

Following tradition, Biden has invited Trump to meet him in the Oval Office on Wednesday. **A2.**

Mass. ballot

Voters’ approval of Questions 1 and 2 sent a message to state lawmakers. **B1.**



As he did in his first term, Trump will seek to run the economy “hot,” powering growth by extending his 2017 tax cuts that expire next year and reducing the corporate tax rate to **15 percent** from 21 percent; it was 35 percent when Barack Obama left office.

Promises aside, Trump II holds risks for local businesses

By Larry Edelman
GLOBE STAFF

The Massachusetts economy had a good run when Donald Trump was last in the White House.

During his first three years as president — before COVID upended everything in 2020 — unemployment in the state fell to near record lows, and the typical Massachusetts family saw its income surge 21 percent. No one was complaining about inflation.

That was then. But what about now?

Trump is dusting off his first-term

playbook — tax cuts, deregulation, sharp curbs on immigration, and steep increases to tariffs. It’s a strategy fraught with potential risks for the economy in Massachusetts and throughout New England.

That’s because, as business leaders and economists warn, the world is a lot different than it was eight years ago.

“The problem of 2016 was the sluggish economy after the Great Recession,” said Mark Melnik, director of economic and public policy re-

ECONOMY, Page A12

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\$6.00



I’ll leaf you to it

Sunday: Partly sunny.
High: 56-61. Low: 51-56.
Monday: Breezy, mild.
High: 64-69. Low: 47-52.
Complete report, **B10.**
Deaths, **C18-22.**



As the holiday season gets underway, the options for entertainment abound. From performances to holiday markets, see our suggestions in the Holiday Arts Guide. **SundayArts, N1.**

Scores of long COVID patients reached out to the Globe after a recent story on possible new treatments. **B1.**

Western Australia offers beautiful beaches, innovative street art, and adorable wildlife, writes Christopher Muther. **SundayTravel, N19.**

A night of BC hockey honoring Matthew and Johnny Gaudreau was just the kind of night the brothers would have loved, writes Tara Sullivan. **C1.**

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THANK YOU, VETERANS

This Veterans Day, Eastern Bank recognizes the dedication of those who have bravely served, and we are grateful for the sacrifices they have made to protect our freedoms. To all our Veterans, thank you for your unwavering commitment to our country.

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