

ELECTION DAY 2024



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CHRISTINA HOUSE Los Angeles Times

With the White House, control of the House and Senate, and thousands of offices and issues at stake nationwide, remaining voters turned out Tuesday, clockwise from top left, in Drummond, Mont., San Francisco and downtown Los Angeles; as poll workers in Chester County, Pa., bottom left, processed mail ballots in the swing state. See [latimes.com/2024election](#) and [latimes.com/enewspaper](#) for updates on results.

Back to the office with still-fluid mandates

In a culture scrambled by the pandemic, bosses and employees have different views about on-site work.

By ROGER VINCENT

Since Cynthia Clemons' employer announced in September that she was required to be in the office two days each week, the switch from remote work hasn't been smooth.

The self-described extrovert, who works as an organizer for the nonprofit Abundant Housing LA, said she so far hasn't "gotten into a rhythm of being productive at a desk again."

"I feel like I'm back in grade school and being forced to sit down and do my homework," she said. "Maybe it's a matter of getting used to it."

More than four years after the COVID-19 pandemic scrambled work culture by closing offices and forcing people to work from home, friction between bosses and their employees over the terms of their return shows no signs of abating.

About 80% of organizations have put in place return-to-office policies, but in a sign that many managers are reluctant to clamp down on the flexibility employees have become accustomed to, only 17% of those organizations actively enforce their policies, according to recent research by real estate brokerage CBRE.

"Some organizations out there have 'mandated' something, but if most of your organization is not following that mandate, then there is not too much you can do to enforce it," said [See [Mandates](#), A11]

Norwalk defies California housing rules

City has passed a ban on new homeless shelters; the state has sued, while the unhoused wonder where they'll sleep

By LIAM DILLON

Along the concrete bed of the San Gabriel River in southeastern Los Angeles County, Sean Diaz recalled one of his worst nights in his many years of homelessness.

He'd found an abandoned building to sleep in and didn't realize another person had already claimed the spot. Diaz said he awoke to a baseball bat bashing his head, causing wounds that required 10 stitches to heal. Had there been space in a shelter that night, Diaz said, he might not have gotten hurt.

That's why Diaz was astonished to learn that Norwalk, the city where he was born and raised, had banned new homeless shelters and supportive housing developments.

"You'd think they'd want to open more," said Diaz, 36, on a recent afternoon as he walked past riverbed encampments under the 105 Freeway. "That would keep us off the streets."

In August, the Norwalk City Council approved one of California's [See [Norwalk](#), A8]



JASON ARMOND Los Angeles Times

**NORWALK** has voted to ban new homeless shelters and supportive housing projects. Above, people live along the San Gabriel River.

After decades, LAX's rail system is finally on track



GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

**A TRAVELER** at LAX. The people mover is expected to be operational before the World Cup and Olympics.

Set to open in 2026, driverless train is expected to ease airport traffic and ripple relief into L.A.

By COLLEEN SHALBY

Gerardo Ramirez flew into Los Angeles from Mexico City recently and was surprised to learn that he couldn't easily access a rail line from the main airport of a major city — something he's come to expect in his travels.

"I've been in many cities around the world, where public transportation is well

connected," said Ramirez, 24. "It's my first time here in L.A., and I don't know why I can't find public transit to connect me to a train."

This has been the city's transit riddle for decades.

In the 1970s, as L.A. County's population boomed and its traffic became infamous, civic leaders began pushing for a light rail system to connect the sprawling region. With ever more passengers pouring through Los Angeles International Airport, planners saw it as an obvious destination as workers broke ground for the first line — the Blue Line between Long Beach and downtown — in 1985.

Nearly 40 years later, as [See [Metro](#), A6]

Politics stoke urge to move abroad

Firms that facilitate relocations have seen a rise in interest. 'I just want to be where I feel safe,' a man says.

By ANDREA CASTILLO

WASHINGTON — Mykel Dicus, 54, is finished with the United States.

In September, the Hayward, Calif., resident toured Spain with a company that specializes in scouting trips for Americans looking to move abroad. Now he's pursuing a specialized Spanish visa offered to remote workers, also known as a digital nomad visa, with a goal of moving within three years.

"If a regime like MAGA should win this election, I'm very scared," he said. "I just feel like it's time to enjoy a life that's free from any American worry."

In the months leading up to this election, some agencies that specialize in helping Americans relocate abroad have noticed a surge in interest. Some clients are ready to leave the country, while others are looking for a contingency plan in case their preferred presidential candidate loses.

In France, for instance, a real estate agency is holding a webinar Thursday titled "Moving to France post U.S. elections."

Travel YouTube creators have posted videos, such as "Where to move abroad if Kamala Harris wins."

[See [Relocate](#), A8]

Fear vs. hope for swing state voters

At the polls, Harris and Trump supporters share anxiety over the nation's character. **NATION, A5**

Angelenos eyeing downballot races

Local voters turn out for historic election despite little chance to sway the top race. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Mansion draws true crime fans

Crowds swarm home in Beverly Hills where the Menendez brothers killed their parents in 1989. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

UCLA and USC open with wins

Bruins showcase depth in hoops against Rider. Trojans rout Chattanooga as Musselman era begins. **SPORTS, B10**

Harris, Trump on podcasts

Candidates' presence on the platforms indicates how the media ecosystem has fragmented. **BUSINESS, A10**

Weather Partly sunny. L.A. Basin: 77/51. **B5**

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