

At voke-ed schools, a tilt toward the elite

60%
Collective acceptance rate of the state's trade high schools

About 30,000 seats
Capacity of trade schools in Mass.

More than **8,500 middle-schoolers**
Students rejected last spring

Admissions often shut to the very students who would benefit most

By Mandy McLaren and Christopher Huffaker
GLOBE STAFF

GARDNER — As far back as he can remember, Aaron Perkins knew he wanted to work with his hands. Childhood photos foreshadowed his ambitions: A tow-headed toddler wielding a toy chain saw in one shot, the same tyke wearing floppy workman's gloves in another. By age 4, he's on his back under a jacked-up toy tractor, absorbed in imaginary play.

It seemed inevitable, then,

that Perkins — the great-grandson, grandson, and son of tradespeople — would attend his local vocational school when he reached the ninth grade.

But that never happened. He couldn't get in.

State data shows Perkins, a Gardner resident, is one of many who are finding the vocational school door shut.

This spring, more than 8,500 middle-schoolers out of roughly 20,300 applicants

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JONATHAN WIGGS/GLOBE STAFF

Aaron Perkins had wanted to attend Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical High School since he was a youngster. He did not get in.

Migrants rush to beat the election

Seeking legal status in case GOP wins

By Giulia McDonnell Nieto del Rio
GLOBE STAFF

CHELSEA — From her room in the emergency shelter at the former Chelsea Soldiers' Home, Stephanie Jean has been watching news clips on TikTok with a rising sense of dread: What will happen to her and her 4-year-old daughter, Cricia, if former president Donald Trump is elected in November?

Last week, as the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee seethed with anti-immigrant rhetoric, Jean, a migrant from Haiti, continued her frantic search for a lawyer. As a Haitian who fled violence in her home country, she has temporary permission to be in the United States, but it is set to expire in less than two years. She is determined to apply for

MIGRANTS, Page A13



JESSICA RINALDI/GLOBE STAFF

Junior Bruce, who recently arrived in Boston from Haiti, plans to apply for temporary protected status.

Trump prepares attack plan for Harris

By Maggie Haberman and Jonathan Swan
NEW YORK TIMES

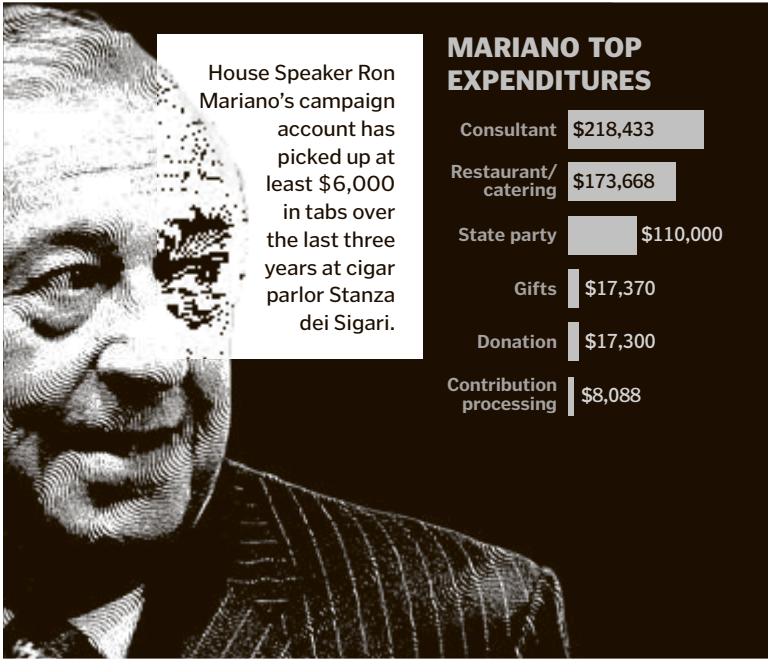
Donald Trump's campaign is preparing a major effort to attack Vice President Kamala Harris if President Biden steps aside as the Democratic nominee, including a wave of ads focusing on her record in her current office and in California, according to two people briefed on the matter.

The Trump team has prepared opposition research books on Harris, and has similar dossiers on other Democrats who could become the nominee if Biden drops out of the race.

But the bulk of the preparations so far have been focused on Harris, including a recently concluded poll testing her vulnerabilities in a general election contest, according to the two people. The Trump team's attention on Harris is based on its assumption that if Democrats were to bypass the first Black woman to serve as vice president, it would drive even deeper divisions in the party and risk alienating their base of Black voters.

Trump allies have also begun examining the records of Democratic governors who

HARRIS, Page A12

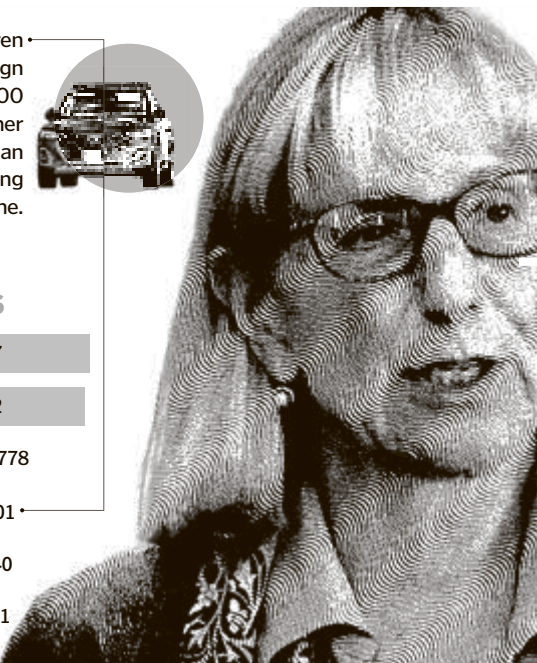
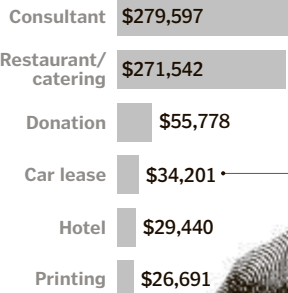


House Speaker Ron Mariano's campaign account has picked up at least \$6,000 in tabs over the last three years at cigar parlor Stanza dei Sigari.

Senate President Karen E. Spilka's campaign covered the \$800 monthly payments for her Audi Q5 and \$2,900 for an electric vehicle charging station at her home.

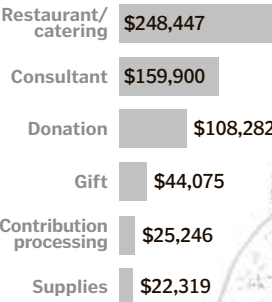


SPILKA TOP EXPENDITURES



Representative Aaron Michlewitz has roughly \$1.1 million in campaign funds.

MICHLEWITZ TOP EXPENDITURES



At least 15 times in the last 2½ years, he reported spending \$1,000 or more at various restaurants.



9
How many contested primaries Mariano, Michlewitz, Spilka, and Rodrigues have faced in their combined 97 years on Beacon Hill

SOURCE: A Globe analysis of data from the state Office of Campaign and Political Finance Expenditures, from 2022 - May 2024

ASHLEY BORG/GLOBE STAFF, PHOTO ILLUSTRATIONS/GLOBE STAFF

Smoke-filled rooms and the perks of power

Campaign cash for swanky outings helps legislators consolidate hold on the top

By Matt Stout and Samantha J. Gross
GLOBE STAFF

On a Monday night every January, some of Massachusetts' most powerful state lawmakers migrate to Hanover Street in the North End, descend a dark stairwell, and duck into the dimly lit, leather-upholstered bar at Stanza dei Sigari.

They go there for cigars and drinks, familiar company, the national college football championship game — and, no doubt, proximity to power.

Their host epitomizes clout on Beacon Hill: House Speaker Ron Mariano, whose campaign account has picked up at least \$6,000 in tabs over the last three years at a spot that doesn't serve food but where cigars cost as much as \$85 a pop, and the drinks list runs long with beer, cocktails, and \$480 pours of Remy Martin XIII.

It is, quite literally, a smoke-filled room where a select corps of state lawmakers ostensibly does some sort of public business. All of it paid for with political donations.

At some of the best restaurants and bars across town, **LEGISLATORS, Page A15**

Kate Pierson of the B-52s lives on Cape Cod, a place that she said “opened up a whole new vista, and my brain just popped.” **SundayArts, N1.**

The Nevada in York, Maine, is now a sleek, 21-room escape by the sea. **SundayTravel, N11.**

Vineyard Wind said it was deploying additional resources to recover the remains of a damaged turbine blade off Nantucket. **B2.**

Outside pitch

Sunday: Partly sunny. High: 85-90. Low: 64-69.
Monday: Mostly sunny. High: 78-83. Low: 68-73.
Sunrise: 5:26 Sunset: 8:14
Complete report, **A22.**
Deaths, **A16-21.**

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