



PAUL BEATY Associ

**BOTH FRAMING** Tuesday's election as presenting an existential choice for the nation, Donald Trump and Kamala Harris are still pressing for votes in swing states this weekend. Polls indicate they've been essentially tied since she took over as the Democratic nominee in July.

# What still divides Americans in final weekend of 2024 race

WASHINGTON — A campaign that has featured a felony conviction, a televised assassination attempt and a late withdrawal of a sitting president has reached its final weekend with the same chasm that has dominated American politics for the last decade: between voters who fear former President Trump will destroy the country and those who believe it has already lost its way.

"We have a wonderful system of government," said Susan Markowitz, a 72-yearold attorney from Doylestown, Pa., who showed up at a recent event for Vice President Kamala Harris. "That is in danger if Mr. Trump gets back into office."

"He's not the status quo," said Dave Duncan, a 58-year-old salesman from Macomb Township, Mich., who supports Trump. "And I think that's a lot of times the thing that people like about him." This presidential campaign has seen a remarkable number of twists. But even now, it remains a referendum on Donald Trump.

By Noah Bierman and Faith E. Pinho Trump and Harris are spending the last campaign weekend pressing voters to turn out for what both say is an existential choice. Polls show the race is essentially tied, within a margin that has budged little since Harris replaced President Biden as the Democratic nominee in late July.

It's an unusual race, and not just because Biden, 81, withdrew with fewer than four months to go due to growing concerns that he wasn't up to the job at his age.

Trump could become the first president elected as a felon, and the first who tried to overturn an election and incite an insurrection — the rare candidate, in any democracy, who has openly threatened to use the military and the courts to go after political foes he calls "the enemy from within." Yet he has managed to turn those normally disqualifying deeds on their [See Election, A7]

## Gascón still far behind in latest polling

Hochman's 25-point lead is slightly down, but he retains a clear edge in race for D.A.

By James Queally and Connor Sheets

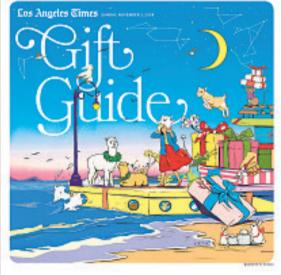
With two days left before election day, a new poll shows Los Angeles County Dist. Atty. George Gascón has cut slightly into challenger Nathan Hochman's lead in the race for the incumbent's seat.

But Gascón is still down 25 points in the closely watched contest. While that's an improvement over the 30-point deficit he was staring down in the same poll on Oct. 8, it's still no better than the 25-point margin he faced in the survey on Aug. 18.

If the election were held today, 50% of likely voters would vote for Hochman, a former federal prosecutor, and 25% would cast a ballot for Gascón, a former LAPD assistant chief who swept into office in 2020 on a progressive platform of criminal justice reform.

That leaves 25% undecided, according to the poll of 1,205 likely L.A. County voters from the UC Berkeley Institute of Governmental Studies, co-sponsored by The Times.

The poll comes near the end of a period of intense politicking by both candi-[See D.A., A7]



QIANHUI YU For The Times

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#### A Texas upset, this time?

Democrats are hopeful (again), Mark Barabak writes, as Colin Allred tries to unseat Sen. Ted Cruz. NATION, A5

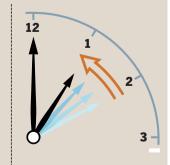
### Robots on the fast-food circuit

"Innovation is not easy," says head of a Pasadena firm betting big on its French fry machine. **BUSINESS**, **A12** 

Weather Mostly sur

Mostly sunny. L.A. Basin: 76/54. **B10** 

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**Timely reminder**Daylight saving time ended Sunday at 2 a.m.

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#### BATTLEGROUND STATES

## In Arizona, two issues lead the way

A final push on abortion rights and immigration in a razor-thin race

By Faith E. Pinho

PHOENIX — Vice President Kamala Harris thinks she can win the election on an abortion rights message. Former President Trump thinks he can win on immigration.

In Arizona, they'll find out who was right.

out who was right.

None of the seven swing states puts the two campaigns' top issues in such stark relief. Arizona is the only border state among the battlegrounds and the only one where abortion access is on the ballot as a potential amendment to the state Constitution.



GINA FERAZZI LOS Angeles Times

ARIZONA residents wait in line to vote early at the

Trump and Harris have been emphasizing those messages as they made a final swing through the West last week.

Trump found an eager audience for his tough bordertalk at an event with conservative broadcaster Tucker Carlson in Glendale on Thursday, telling a crowd of roaring supporters that he considered immigration "the single biggest issue."

"They were destroying this country at the border, I mean millions and millions of people. I'm sure we have some in here tonight with us," Trump said as the audi-

ence rippled with laughter. [See **Arizona**, A9]

## Economic anxiety high for Nevada voters

Indian Bend Wash Visitor Center in Scottsdale.

Many feel 'hangover' from pandemic's toll on tourism, concerned about cost of living.

Ву Ѕеема Мента

LAS VEGAS — Retiree Madonna Raffini recently shopped for groceries for herself and her 96-year-old mother.

"I went into Walmart, of all places, and looked at the meat — little teeny steaks. Two of them, less than a quarter-inch thick, \$18.99. That's outrageous," said the former Wells Fargo employee. "We can't afford to eat beef anymore, or chicken for that matter. So that's my No. 1 beef" in the 2024 elec-

tion.

Audrey Dempsey, a semiretired small-business owner, and her husband still

work at the photography and travel company they founded three decades ago. They are the only workers remaining at the firm that employed nine people before the pandemic decimated their business.

"It went in the toilet, without a doubt. We didn't know how we were going to pay the bills," Dempsey said, leaning on a cane because of the physical toll of working the prior night. Despite the

nation's economic recovery, she said many of their former clients have not returned. "Social Security helps us to pay the bills, but we still have to work."

The 72-year-old Democrat supports Vice President Kamala Harris and Sen. Jacky Rosen, arguing that the Democrats will stop Republicans from gutting Social Security and Medicare and will provide relief for [See Nevada, A9]



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