

# Vacant city jobs face ax in L.A. budget

Analyst says council should limit hiring and remove unfilled posts as a shortfall looms.

By DAVID ZAHNISER

For more than a year, Los Angeles' political leaders have voiced alarm over the large number of vacant positions in city government, saying the situation has seriously hampered their ability to provide services to their constituents.

At one point, with the labor shortage affecting about a fifth of the city's positions, some on the City Council began exploring the idea of providing hiring bonuses to every new employee.

Now, a looming budget shortfall, one fueled in large part by new raises for public employees, could force council members to do an abrupt U-turn, slowing down hiring at many city agencies. In a seven-page report issued last week, City Administrative Officer Matt Szabo also recommended that the city prepare a plan to eliminate all of the city's unfilled "non-critical" positions.

Szabo, the city's top financial analyst, declined to say how many vacant positions would need to be cut from the budget. He said the city's general fund budget, which pays for basic services, currently has more than 2,100 unfilled civilian [See Budget, A6]

# Garvey didn't come out swinging

At first debate in Senate race, three Democrats tussled as ex-Dodger struggled.

MARK Z. BARABAK

When you agree 90% or more of the time with your political opponents, how do you differentiate yourself?



That was the challenge facing three Democrats who took the stage for the first statewide televised debate of California's highly competitive, vastly expensive U.S. Senate contest.

The answer: Seize on those relatively few differences and emphasize them loudly and repeatedly. Add a strong overlay of anecdote and personal narrative. Throw an occasional elbow, for good measure.

If you've closely followed the Senate race, you would have easily recognized the Democratic contestants who assembled Monday night on a red, white and blue soundstage on the campus of USC.

If you haven't, it didn't take long to get their gist. [See Barabak, A9]



DAVID GOLDMAN Associated Press

**THE FORMER PRESIDENT**, at an election night rally in Nashua, N.H., has urged Nikki Haley to drop out of the GOP race so he can focus on November. "The party is very united except for her," he said of Republicans.

# Trump keeps Haley at bay in New Hampshire primary

His victory effectively puts GOP nomination in his grasp again

By SEEMA MEHTA, FAITH E. PINHO AND DAVID LAUTER

CONCORD, N.H. — Donald Trump won the New Hampshire primary Tuesday, effectively putting the Republican presidential nomination in his grasp for the third time as he defeated his remaining rival, Nikki Haley, in the state where her fortunes appeared strong-

est. The Associated Press and television networks projected Trump's victory

shortly after polls closed, based on early returns and surveys of voters. With three-quarters of the vote counted, Trump led Haley 55% to 44%.

On the Democratic side, President Biden won easily, even though his name did not appear on the ballot because the party had decided to bypass New Hampshire and start its primaries next month in South Carolina.

But the president's supporters mounted an aggressive write-in campaign, and in partial returns, write-ins made up a large majority of

## Takeaways from the GOP primary

The nomination appears to be locked up, but many factors remain at play in the race. **NATION, A4**

the vote. State authorities said official results of the Democratic balloting may not be available until Wednesday because it will take more time to tally the write-in votes.

In a statement, Biden's campaign seemed eager to

shift voters' focus to the rematch that many Americans say they don't want.

"Tonight's results confirm Donald Trump has all but locked up the GOP nomination, and the election denying, anti-freedom MAGA movement has completed its takeover of the Republican Party," the statement said.

Although only two states have voted and only a small fraction of the delegates to this summer's nominating conventions have been allocated, Trump's victory in [See GOP primary, A5]

## OSCAR NOMINATIONS

# The 'Barbenheimer' runoff

Summer blockbusters vie for best picture. The physicist drama gets 13 nods and the doll epic has 8 (but 2 big snubs).

By JOSH ROTTENBERG

Girl power may have bested atomic energy at the box office in last summer's "Barbenheimer" showdown. But Tuesday's Academy Award nominations morning flipped the script, with Christopher Nolan's "Oppenheimer" dominating the field of competition with 13 nominations while "Barbie" fell short of expectations with eight.

Forever linked in pop culture's unlikely cinematic portmanteau, "Barbie" and "Oppenheimer" were jointly credited with helping to boost the film industry out of its post-pandemic doldrums. As expected, Oscar voters rewarded each with a best picture nomination, alongside a diverse pool of competition that ranged from Martin Scorsese's big-budget period epic "Killers of the Flower Moon" to smaller, more idiosyncratic fare like the searing Holocaust drama "The Zone of Interest" and the '70s-set dramedy "The Holdovers."

The kind of artistically ambitious, adult-oriented drama that has become as rare as uranium in today's [See Oscars, A9]



JAAP BUITENDIJK Warner Bros.

**"BARBIE" FILMMAKER** Greta Gerwig with Ryan Gosling on set. He's nominated for an Oscar, but she was passed over for directing.

## Stunning twists in the unfolding awards season

Neither Margot Robbie nor Leonardo DiCaprio received acting nods. Columnists Glenn Whipp and Mary McNamara react. **CALENDAR, E1**

## Militant attack in Gaza kills 21 Israeli soldiers

The military deaths could bolster calls for a cease-fire at a time when Israel's war goals appear increasingly divisive. **WORLD, A3**

## L.A. County rental units may get cooling mandate

Supervisors direct staff to draft an ordinance to require landlords to keep properties below a maximum temperature. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

## Times is laying off 115 newsroom workers

Owner says cuts were necessary to stem huge losses and sustain the organization as it builds readership. **BUSINESS, A8**

# MIXED REVIEWS FOR CSU FACULTY DEAL

The tentative pact, reached abruptly after a one-day strike, upset some who wanted to hold out for more.

By TERESA WATANABE, COLLEEN SHALBY AND HOWARD BLUME

A tentative labor agreement between California State University and its faculty, reached with lightning speed after a one-day strike, drew mixed early reviews — but union leaders said Tuesday that it provides major gains for the most underpaid instructors, among other benefits.

The abrupt end to Monday's strike by faculty members at the nation's largest four-year university system confused and disappointed some union members who were prepared for a one-week walkout intended to "shut down" campuses as they held out for better pay and benefits. The Monday-night agreement avoided a five-day disruption to the system's 23 campuses during what was for most the first week of the new term. Faculty members were to return to their classes Wednesday.

Charles Toombs, president of the California Faculty Assn., said raising minimum pay for the lowest-paid instructors, who make up more than half of the union's 29,000 members, was a "massive and historic" win. He also touted the 10% general raise over two years and other benefits such as extended parental leave, union support dealing with police and more access to gender-inclusive restrooms and lactation spaces.

The union initially had pushed for an across-the-board increase of 12% in one year.

"We think there are major gains for everyone here and that this agreement is responsive to the majority of our members," Toombs said.

CSU Chancellor Mildred Garcia also hailed the tentative agreement.

"I am extremely pleased and deeply appreciative that we have reached common ground with CFA that will end the strike immediately," she said in a statement. "The agreement enables the CSU to fairly compensate its valued, world-class faculty while protecting the university system's long-term financial sustainability."

Toombs said CSU officials tied the tentative agreement to an immediate end to the strike. Union leaders felt obligated to give members the right to vote on what could be the administration's last, best offer, he added. But Toombs said leaders would go back to the bargaining table if members reject the tentative agreement. No date has been set for a ratification vote.

The strike by professors, lecturers, counselors, librarians and coaches culminated months of increasing [See CSU, A7]

**Weather**  
Partly sunny and cool.  
L.A. Basin: 63/52. **B6**



Every story. Every section. Every feature.

Subscribers get unlimited app access. Download now.

