Los Angeles Times

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2024

latimes.com

Political shift to right has its limits

Elements of Trump's vision for second term could clash with what his supporters thought they were voting for.

By David Lauter

WASHINGTON — With his victory, President-elect Donald Trump has reshaped American politics, putting together a conservative, working-class coalition, including a number of Black and Latino voters, which has the potential to hold a majority for years.

With a Republican-controlled Senate, probably the House as well, and a 6-3 conservative majority on the Supreme Court, he now has the opportunity to shift public policy significantly to the right.

Or he could impulsively drive the whole thing into the ditch.

In his victory speech early Wednesday, Trump claimed voters had given him a "powerful mandate." They did, but for limited purposes.

What voters want

The campaign showed, and exit polls confirmed, that a broad swath of voters mostly want Trump to do two things — ensure against another bout of inflation and reduce the number of immigrants entering the U.S.

There's much less reason to think voters long to hand broad government authority over to Elon Musk or give Robert F. Kennedy Jr. control of federal health policy.

On other topics, there's strong evidence of what might be called an anti-mandate. Even in conservative

[See **Analysis,** A6]

Photographs by WALLY SKALIJ Los Angeles Times

BRADLEY SELLER, left, hugs next-door neighbor Tim Francis for helping save his Camarillo house from the Mountain fire. Francis couldn't save his mother's house at right from the fast-moving blaze, which destroyed more than 130 structures in less than 24 hours.

How the Mountain fire exploded

'You're in a bad dream. You just want to wake up'

By Clara Harter, Noah Haggerty, Grace Toohey and Hannah Fry

Residents in the foothills above Camarillo who returned to their neighborhoods days after fleeing the Mountain fire were greeted by nothing more than devastation.

More than 130 structures were lost, most of them houses, when flames marched through the area, cementing the fire as one of the most destructive a Southern California neighborhood has seen in years.

[See **Destruction,** A8]

BURNED cars sit in front of a gutted house in Camarillo. "It happened so fast," said a resident who was abruptly advised to evacuate.

Volatile conditions dovetail to create one of area's most ferocious blazes in years.

By Grace Toohey, Noah Haggerty and Sandra McDonald

The warnings Wednesday morning were dire: Southern Ventura County was primed to be hit with the region's most ferocious Santa Ana wind event in years, creating extremely critical fire weather in the area.

And the conditions lived up to the billing, with 60- to 80-mph gusts slamming the foothills of Moorpark and Camarillo. Alone, the winds were dangerous. But once a small fire ignited in the wilderness north of Somis, the seeds for disaster were firmly planted.

[See **Mountain,** A8]

JULIA DEMAREE NIKHINSON Associated Press

UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT Volodymyr Zelensky meets in September with Donald Trump, who has been a detractor in Kyiv's ongoing war with Russia.

Ukraine awaits 'surprise box' of another Trump presidency

By Sabra Ayres and Laura King

KYIV, Ukraine — The war is never distant. In the skies above the Ukrainian capital, the buzz of drones is the stuff of urban nightmares. Glide bombs smash without warning into apartment blocks in Ukraine's east and south. Military funerals are a daily staple.

As the carnage raged, Donald Trump boasted he could end the fight in Ukraine in 24 hours. Now that he's the president-elect, Ukrainians are grimly gaming out the next move in their country's nearly three-year war with Russia, in which the United States has been Kyiv's prime backer.

In his victory speech early Wednesday, Trump appeared to allude at least

partly to Ukraine when he declared: "I'm not going to start wars. I'm going to stop wars."

For many Ukrainians, the principal worry is whether their government — faced with a potential choking off of vital military aid in a few short months — would be forced to accede to a negotiated settlement giving up parts of their country to

[See **Ukraine,** A4]

USC president says she plans to retire in 2025

Carol Folt is credited with cleaning up scandals she inherited in 2019 but faulted for handling of protests.

By Teresa Watanabe, Jaweed Kaleem and Ryan Kartje

USC President Carol Folt, who sought to reset the scandal-plagued university with major initiatives to boost athletics, expand

computing programs and widen student access — but also drew criticism for her handling of pro-Palestinian protests — will retire in July, she announced Friday.

"After more than twenty years of leadership at three great universities," Folt wrote to the USC community, "I am excited to embrace the freedom that comes with a next big leap, and to pass the baton to the next president who will be able to build upon our accomplishments and create a new chapter for this extraordinary institution."

Folt, 73, will remain at USC as a tenured professor. Her future had been in doubt after the USC Board of Trustees in July offered her an extension on her five-year contract — but would not disclose the length or terms — as they reviewed her performance. She took the helm July 1, 2019, with a contract that compensated her at the same level as former President Max Nikias. Rick Caruso, then USC board chairman, said at the time he had hoped she would serve for 10 years.

[See **Folt,** A10]

S. Korea talks of nuclear weapons

Atomic arms proponents say Seoul should not rely on U.S. for protection. Trump's win gives a boost. **WORLD, A3**

Drama over new LAPD chief's pay

Offer is lowered to $450,000 from $507,509 after a police commissioner raises budget concerns. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

SUSAN WALSH Associated Press

BEYONCÉ is up for the Grammys' album of the year and song of the year.

Beyoncé makes Grammy history

The "Cowboy Carter" singer's 11 nominations bring her career total to 99, the most ever for an artist. **CALIFORNIA, B2**

Weather

Sunny and mild. L.A. Basin: 76/51. **B8**

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