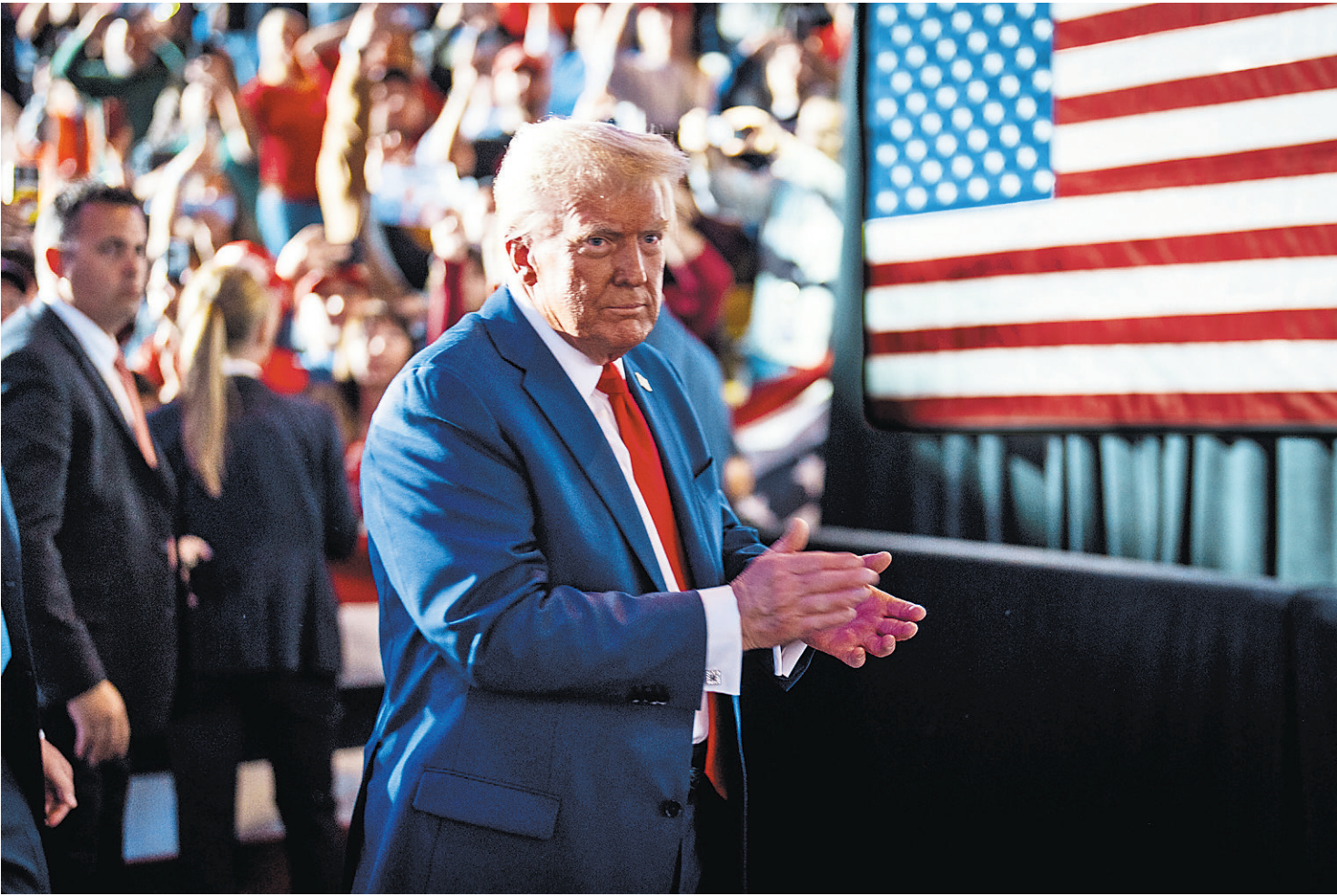


WORRY AND HOPE ON LAST DAY OF VOTING



“America is ready for a fresh start,” Vice President Kamala Harris said on Monday in Allentown, Pa., as she crisscrossed the state.



Former President Donald J. Trump on Monday in Reading, Pa., where the audience slowly dwindled as he spoke for 80 minutes.

Fears of Violence and a Sense of Uncertainty

By LISA LERER and KATIE GLUECK

In the American ideal, elections are moments of patriotism, a time for citizens to settle their differences at the ballot box, no matter how fiery the disagreements. In the reality of 2024, ballot boxes are, in some places, literally burning. So it goes in an election that has been darker than any in recent memory. The nation enters this Election Day on edge over possibilities that once seemed unimaginable in 21st-century America: political violence, assassination attempts and vows of retribution against opponents. For many voters, the anxiety that pervaded the last election, a socially distanced race that happened amid the coronavirus outbreak, has morphed into a far grimmer feeling of foreboding. In dozens of interviews over the final weekend of the campaign, Americans from across the political spectrum reported heading to the polls in battleground states with a sense that their nation was coming undone. While some expressed relief that the long election season was finally nearing an end, it was hard to escape the undercurrent of uneasiness about Election Day and what might follow afterward. Those worries reflect the fears of a country that has undergone a tumultuous four years, transformed by a devastating pandemic that killed more than one million Americans, a shocking siege on the nation’s Capitol that upended the nation’s bedrock tradition of a peaceful transition of power, the fall of a nearly half-century-old federal right to abortion and a surge in prices unseen for decades. Across the country, cities have felt the strain of the migrant crisis at the southern border. The presidential candidates themselves have framed the election as an existential battle for the nation’s character, its democracy and the safety of its residents. In their ads and at events, Democrats recount the graphic stories of women who almost died as a result of restrictive abortion bans. As they campaign, Republicans describe brutal crimes by foreign gang members in the country illegally, telling Americans they could be the next victims. Many voters expressed concerns about post-election violence.

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Pennsylvania Key Prize in Harris vs. Trump

This article is by Katie Rogers, Jonathan Weisman and Michael Gold.

ALLENTOWN, Pa. — Donald J. Trump and Kamala Harris closed out their campaigns on Monday in much the same way they started them: The former president claimed that the country was on the brink of ruin even as his rally crowds appeared to dwindle, and the vice president promised a more united future as her supporters chanted, “We’re not going back,” alongside her. In stop after stop, the presidential rivals essentially offered up two competing versions of reality in the final hours before Election Day. Mr. Trump repeatedly raised the specter of unchecked immigration and the dangers of Democratic policies to crowds in North Carolina and Pennsylvania, with another stop planned in Michigan. With a comparatively more optimistic message, Ms. Harris opted to crisscross Pennsylvania, which holds 19 electoral votes that could decide the race. At stops in Scranton and Allentown, with evening rallies planned in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, Ms. Harris talked about bolstering the economy and restoring federal abortion rights. She asserted that Americans were “exhausted” and ready to move on from the politics of the past decade. “America is ready for a fresh start,” she said to supporters on a college campus in Allentown, “where we see our fellow Americans not as an enemy but as a neighbor.” About 30 miles to the southwest, Mr. Trump was broadly portraying undocumented immi-

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2024 ELECTION



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Trump Pledges New Power Era For Christians

By ELIZABETH DIAS

As voters head to the polls on Tuesday, Donald J. Trump’s ambitions for America’s future are almost impossible to miss. He has sworn an era of “retribution” for his enemies. Vowed to deport millions of immigrants. Fueled concerns about rising fascism. But he is making another promise that may be overlooked, but equally transformative: He will champion his followers’ brand of Christianity across American life and government. Publicly, the former president has avoided boasting about the main accomplishment that made him a hero to conservative Christians: ending Roe v. Wade. And he has distanced himself from Project 2025, the conservative blueprint for a Trump presidency. Instead, his support for “my beautiful Christians,” as he calls them, leans heavily into their fears about losing power in a secularizing and pluralist country — where a majority of women support Vice President Kamala Harris. In his final campaign events with conservative Christian activists and politicians, Mr. Trump is promising to elevate not only their policy priorities but also their ideological influence. He says he

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In First Contest, Harris Showed Tactics of 2024

By ERICA L. GREEN

WASHINGTON — It was the week before Labor Day in 2003 when Rebecca Prozan got a call from a tenacious 38-year-old lawyer making her first run for elected office. The lawyer had a challenge: She wanted Ms. Prozan to manage the final stretch of her campaign to defeat the sitting San Francisco district attorney. She was unknown to the public, polling in single digits. And she had just 70 days to turn it around. “If you get me to the runoff, I can win,” Kamala Harris told her, Ms. Prozan recalled. Ms. Prozan, fresh out of law school and planning to start a job at a firm, was doubtful about Ms. Harris’s chances. But she decided to take the risk on the scrappy prosecutor. And she watched in awe as Ms. Harris managed to persuade tens of thousands of San Franciscans to take the same risk. Ms. Harris kept her promise and delivered a stinging upset to the incumbent, becoming the first Black district attorney in California’s history. Two decades later, as Ms. Harris concludes another barri-

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QUINCY JONES, 1933-2024

Thrilling Arranger Who Moved Listeners and Shook an Industry

By BEN RATLIFF

Quincy Jones, one of the most powerful forces in American popular music for more than half a century, died on Sunday night in his home in the Bel Air section of Los Angeles. He was 91. His death was confirmed in a statement by his publicist, Arnold Robinson, who did not specify the cause. Mr. Jones began his career as a jazz trumpeter and was later in great demand as an arranger, writing for the big bands of Count Basie and others; as a composer of film music; and as a record producer. But he may have made his most lasting mark by doing what some believe to be equally important in the ground-level history of an art form: the work of connecting. Beyond his hands-on work with score paper, he organized, charmed, persuaded, hired and validated. Starting in the late 1950s, he took social and professional mobility to a new level in Black popular art, eventually creating the conditions for a great deal of music to flow between styles, outlets and markets. And all of that could be said of him even if he had not produced Michael Jackson’s “Thriller,” the best-selling album of all time. Mr. Jones’s music has been sampled and reused hundreds of times, through all stages of hip-hop and for the theme to the

“Austin Powers” films (his “Soul Bossa Nova,” from 1962). He has the third-highest total of Grammy Awards won by a single person — he was nominated 80 times and won 28. (Beyoncé’s 32 wins is the highest total; Georg Solti is second with 31.) He was given honorary degrees by Harvard,

Princeton, Juilliard, the New England Conservatory, the Berklee School of Music and many other institutions, as well as a National Medal of Arts and a National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Master fellowship. His success — as his colleague in arranging, Benny Carter, is said

to have remarked — may have overshadowed his talent. In the late 1950s and early ’60s, Mr. Jones led his own bands and was the arranger of plush, confident recordings like Dinah Washington’s “The Swingin’ Miss ‘D’” (1957), Betty Carter’s “Meet Betty

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Quincy Jones in 2013. He earned 28 Grammy Awards, the third-highest total by a single person.

