

NATION & WORLD

 **ELECTION 2024** | VICE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

Walz, Vance go after each other’s running mates

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Associated Press

NEW YORK — Tim Walz and JD Vance on Tuesday went after each other’s running mates in a vice presidential debate that opened with a discussion of burgeoning domestic and international troubles — a hurricane that ravaged much of the Southeast U.S. and growing fears of a regional Middle East war.

Both Walz, the Democratic governor of Minnesota, and Vance, a Republican senator from Ohio, focused many of their largely cordial attack lines on the top of the tickets, as is traditional for VP debates. They each pointed to the crises of the day as reasons for voters to choose Vice President Kamala Harris or former President Donald Trump.

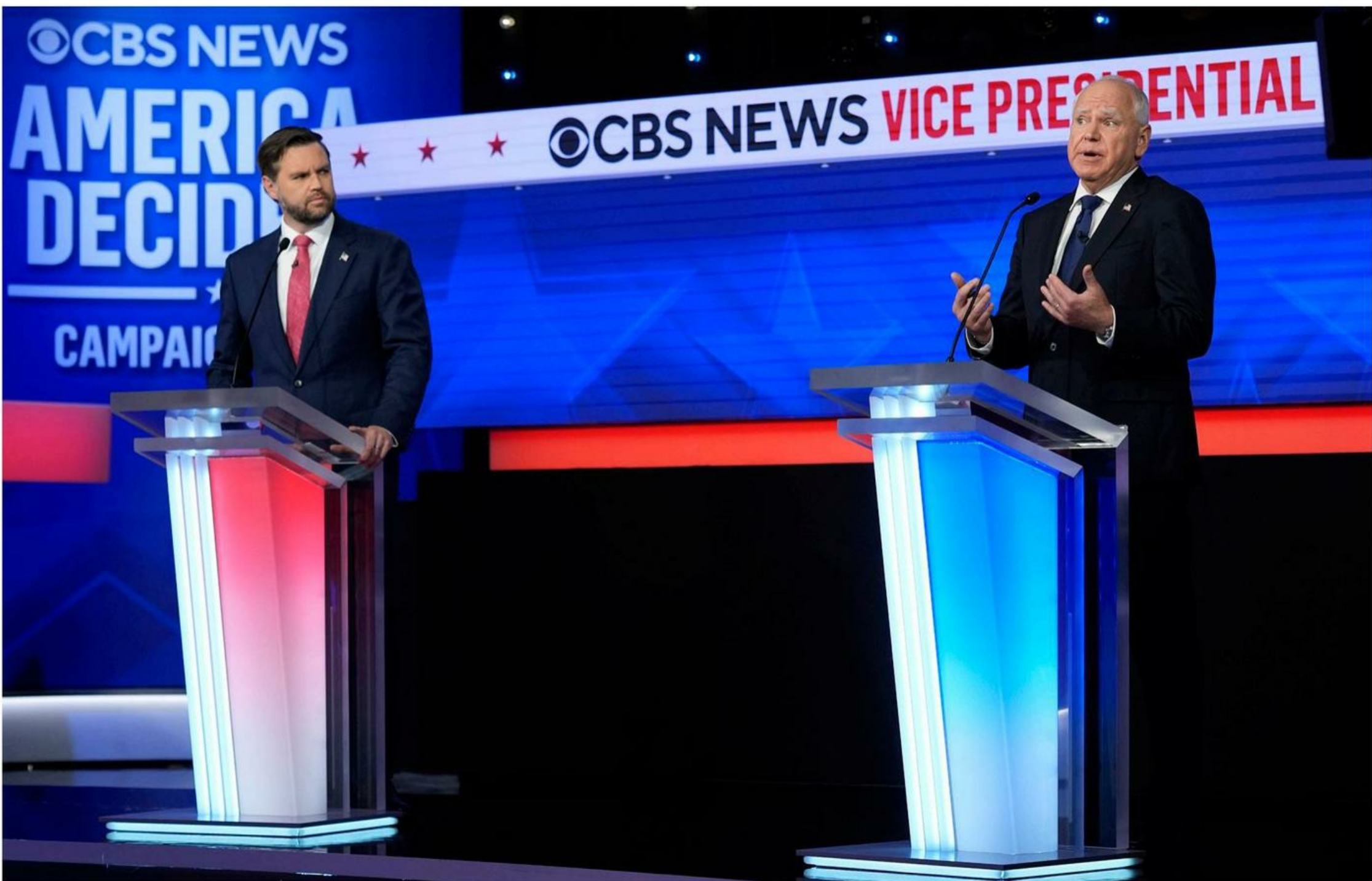
The debate unfolded in a campaign defined by harsh, personal attacks and historic convulsions, including a candidate dropping out and two attempted assassinations. Polls have shown Harris and Trump locked in a close contest as early voting begins across the country.

The heated tone of the campaign was mostly replaced by deep policy discussions, with the candidates sometimes saying they agreed with each other — even as they outlined vastly different visions about the future of the country.

In one raw moment when Walz said his teenage son witnessed a shooting at a community center, Vance expressed empathy.

The former president, who sought the spotlight himself Tuesday by posting live commentary online during the debate, was a central focus as both Walz and Vance argued over whether Americans should return him to the Oval Office.

Walz depicted Trump as wrong on the issues and a chaotic leader. Vance rebuffed him with every



MATT ROURKE, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Republican vice presidential nominee Sen. JD Vance, R-Ohio, and Democratic vice presidential nominee Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz participate in the vice presidential debate hosted Tuesday by CBS News in New York.

answer and made the case for the man he once heavily criticized.

“What’s fundamental here is that steady leadership is going to matter,” said Walz, the Democratic governor of Minnesota, said in response to a question about the situation unfolding in the Mideast. “And the world saw it on that debate stage a few weeks ago, a nearly 80-year-old Donald Trump talking about crowd sizes is not what we need in this moment.”

Vance argued that Trump is an intimidating figure whose presence on the international stage is its own deterrent.

“Gov. Walz can criticize Donald Trump’s tweets, but effective smart diplomacy and peace through strength is how you bring stability back to a very broken world,” he said.

The debate in New York hosted by CBS News opened with a so-

ber tone that reflected growing domestic and international concerns about safety and security, but it gave way to sharper attacks from both Walz and Vance.

Walz accused Vance and Trump of villainizing legal immigrants in Vance’s home state. He pointed to the fact that Republican Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine had to send in extra law enforcement to provide security to the city’s schools after Vance tweeted about and Trump amplified false claims about Haitians eating pets.

“This is what happens when you don’t want to solve it, you demonize it,” Walz said, saying not doing so would allow people to “come together.”

Vance said the 15,000 Haitians in the city caused housing, economic and other issues that the Biden-Harris administration was ignoring. When the debate moderators pointed out that the Hai-

tians living there had legal status, Vance protested that CBS News said its moderators would leave the onus of fact-checking to the candidates. As Vance continued and the moderators tried to move on, his microphone was cut and neither man could be heard.

The two Midwesterners struck a friendlier tone than the matchup between Trump and Harris — or, earlier this year, the showdown between Trump and President Joe Biden before the latter dropped out of the race following a disastrous performance.

When they first turned to immigration, one of the most heated topics of the campaign, the two men credited each other with having good intentions.

“I believe Sen. Vance wants to solve this, but by standing with Donald Trump and not working together to find a solution, it becomes a talking point and when it

becomes a talking point like this, we dehumanize and villainize other human beings,” Walz said.

Vance echoed the sentiment, saying, “I think you want to solve this problem, but I don’t think that Kamala Harris does.”

Walz catapulted onto Harris’ campaign by branding Trump and Republicans as “just weird,” creating an attack line for Democrats seeking to argue Republicans are disconnected from the American people. But for almost the entire debate, he never used the word.

Vance seemed to be attempting to soften his aggressive image, ratcheting down his typically forceful delivery, referring to Walz as “Tim” and a more supple approach, saying at one point, “I know a lot of Americans don’t agree with everything that I’ve ever said on this topic.”

His efforts to explain Trump’s policies and positions with a more gentle touch were also reminiscent of how former Vice President Mike Pence often operated when he and Trump were in the White House.

The role of a presidential running mate is typically to serve as an attack dog for the person at the top of the ticket, arguing against the opposing presidential candidate and their proxy on stage. Vance and Walz embraced that role.

Vance was asked to address his past biting criticisms of the former president, including once suggesting Trump would be “America’s Hitler.”

“When you get something wrong and you change your mind, you ought to be honest with the American people,” he said Tuesday.

Walz, meanwhile, was pressed on his misleading claim that he was in Hong Kong during the turbulence surrounding the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre. He acknowledged he misspoke about his history.



EDUARDO MUNOZ ALVAREZ, ASSOCIATED PRESS

DOCKWORKERS MAY HAVE ADVANTAGE IN LABOR NEGOTIATIONS

Workers take part in a port strike Tuesday at Port Newark in Bayonne, N.J. With 45,000 longshoremen at 36 U.S. ports from Maine to Texas on strike for the first time in decades, experts say the workers might wield the upper hand in their standoff with port operators over wages and the use of automation. The union also points to record profits the shipping companies made, in part because of shortages resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The dockworkers’ strike, their first since 1977, began Tuesday at midnight and could snarl supply chains and cause shortages if it stretches on for more than a few weeks.

Iran launches missile strikes

Retaliatory attacks on Israel cause some injuries, officials report

AAMER MADHANI, MELANIE LIDMAN
AND BASSEM MROUE
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Iran launched at least 180 missiles into Israel on Tuesday, the latest in a series of escalating attacks in a yearslong conflict between Israel and Iran and its Arab allies that threatens to push the Middle East closer toward a regionwide war.

The orange glow of missiles streaked across Israel’s night sky as air raid sirens sounded and millions of residents scrambled into bomb shelters. Israel vowed retaliation for Iran’s missile barrage, which

it said caused only a few injuries.

Before Iran’s attack, Israel landed a series of devastating blows in recent weeks against the leadership of Iran-backed Hezbollah in Lebanon. It ratcheted up the pressure this week on the militant group — which has been firing rockets into Israel since the war in Gaza began — by launching what it said is a limited ground incursion in southern Lebanon.

Israel says it will continue to strike Hezbollah until it is safe for displaced citizens to return to homes near the Lebanon border. Hezbollah vows to keep firing rockets into Israel until there is a cease-fire in Gaza with Hamas, which is also supported by Iran.

Israeli military spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari said the country’s air defenses intercepted

many of the incoming missiles.

In the U.S., White House National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan called Iran’s missile attack a “significant escalation,” though he said it was ultimately “defeated and ineffective,” in part because of assistance from the U.S. military in shooting down some of the inbound missiles.

Iran said it fired the missiles into Israel as retaliation for attacks that killed leaders of Hezbollah, Hamas and the Iranian military. It referenced Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah and Revolutionary Guard Gen. Abbas Nilforushan, both killed in an Israeli airstrike last week in Beirut. It also mentioned Ismail Haniyeh, a top leader in Hamas who was assassinated in Tehran in a suspected Israeli attack in July.

DIGEST

Searches underway as Helene deaths pass 165

SWANNANOVA, N.C. — Cadaver dogs and search crews trudged through knee-deep muck and debris Tuesday looking in the mountains of western North Carolina for victims of Hurricane Helene, days after the storm carved a destructive path through the Southeast.

With Helene’s death toll passing 165, searchers used helicopters and hiked through wilderness to reach isolated homes. The storm knocked out power and cellular service in some towns and cities, leaving people frustrated, hot and increasingly worried. Some cooked food on charcoal grills or hiked to high ground in the hopes of finding a signal to contact loved ones.

“Communities were wiped off the map,” North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper said Tuesday at a news conference. Devastation was especially bad in the Blue Ridge Mountains, where at least 57 people died in and around Asheville, a tourism haven.

Report: US employers post 8M job vacancies

WASHINGTON — U.S. job openings rose unexpectedly in August as the labor market continued to show resilience.

The Labor Department reported Tuesday that employers posted 8 million vacancies in August, up from 7.7 million in July. Openings were up in construction and in state and local governments.

Layoffs fell in August but the number of Americans quitting their jobs — a sign of confidence in job prospects — slid to the lowest level since August 2020, when the economy reeled amid COVID-19 lockdowns.

Job openings dropped steadily since peaking at 12.2 million in March 2022, but remain above where they stood before the coronavirus pandemic struck in early 2020.

BRIEFLY

CHEMICAL SMOKE: Residents east of Atlanta were again warned Tuesday to take shelter if shifting winds push a chemical cloud from a chlorine factory fire over their neighborhood.

UKRAINE WAR: An apparent Russian artillery strike hit a market Tuesday in the city of Kherson, killing at least six people and wounding three, officials said, as people across Ukraine observed a minute’s silence for their military and war dead. The town of Vuhledar appeared on the brink of falling into Russian hands.

MEXICO: Scientist-turned-politician Claudia Sheinbaum, 62, was sworn in Tuesday as Mexico’s first female president, riding enthusiasm over her predecessor’s social programs but facing challenges that include stubbornly high levels of violence.

SANCTIONS: The U.S. imposed sanctions Tuesday on Hilltop Youth, a group of extremist settlers in the Israeli-occupied West Bank who attack Palestinians and their property, as well as two individuals connected to violence against civilians in the territory.

THAILAND: A bus carrying young students and their teachers on a school trip caught fire Tuesday in suburban Bangkok, leaving more than 20 feared dead, officials and rescuers said.

SOCIAL MEDIA: Snapchat failed to act on “rampant” reports of child grooming, sextortion and other dangers to minors on its social media platform, according to an unredacted complaint against the company filed Tuesday by New Mexico’s attorney general.

— Associated Press



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