

# Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

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## TRUMP: TARIFF HARDSHIPS POSSIBLE

President warns of 'some pain' after his levies against Canada, Mexico and China

By Josh Boak  
Associated Press

PALM BEACH, Fla. — President Donald Trump said Sunday that Americans could feel "some pain" from the emerging trade war triggered by his tariffs against Canada, Mexico and China, and claimed that Canada would "cease to exist" without its trade surplus with the United States.

He brushed aside retaliatory mea-

signed Saturday at his Florida resort caused a mix of panic, anger and uncertainty, and threatened to rupture a decades-old partnership on trade in North America while further straining relations with China.



**INSIDE**  
USAID security officials on leave after refusing access to Musk allies, A-9

Kirsten Hillman. "We view ourselves as your neighbor, your closest friend, your ally."

By following through on a campaign pledge, Trump may also have simultaneously broken his promise to voters in last year's election that his administration could quickly reduce inflation. That means the same frustration he is facing from other nations might also spread domestically to consumers and businesses.

"WILL THERE BE SOME PAIN? YES, MAYBE (AND MAYBE NOT!)," Trump said in a social media post. "BUT WE WILL MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN, AND IT WILL ALL BE WORTH THE PRICE THAT MUST BE PAID."

SEE **TARIFFS**, PAGE A-9

### PA. SCHOOL FUNDING

## Boost benefits poor districts

By Megan Tomasic  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Highlands School District officials didn't hesitate when they received additional state funding last year. Improvements were made to summer programming, resources were purchased to help underserved students and technology was bolstered.

"We have to make sure it really is needed for our kids," Highlands Superintendent Monique Mawhinney said of services purchased by the small, suburban district, "while trying to be equitable and provide the kids ... [with] the resources they need to be successful."

This school year, hundreds of districts across the state, including Highlands, benefited from almost \$500 million in additional state funding aimed at leveling the playing field between Pennsylvania's wealthy and poor schools. Advocates are now waiting to see if Gov. Josh Shapiro will add to that funding during his Tuesday 2025-26 budget address.

But last year's increased funding — part of a \$1.1 billion boost to state education dollars — was the result of a 2023 Commonwealth Court ruling in which a judge deemed Pennsylvania's education funding system unconstitutional based on its reliance on property taxes.

SEE **FUNDING**, PAGE A-3

## DEMOCRATIC DEBATE



Sebastian Foltz/Post-Gazette

Allegheny County Controller Corey O'Connor, left, and Pittsburgh Mayor Ed Gainey shake hands Sunday following the 14th Ward Independent Democratic Club's debate between mayoral candidates at Chatham University's Eddy Theatre in Squirrel Hill.

## POINTED WORDS

Mayoral candidates Gainey, O'Connor spar on city spending, core services and economic development

By Steve Bohnel  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Pittsburgh Mayor Ed Gainey and Allegheny County Controller Corey O'Connor traded verbal blows on COVID-19 relief fund spending, how the city has administered core services, economic development and more at a mayoral debate at Eddy Theatre on Chatham University's campus Sunday.

The two Democratic candidates for mayor and more than 300 people attended a half-hour-long interview with both candidates before

the candidates participated in a debate moderated by Ann Belsler, owner of Print, a hyperlocal newspaper covering communities in the East End.

At multiple points Sunday, Mr. O'Connor said he was concerned about the financial conditions of the city. He said Mr. Gainey's administration had gone on a "hiring spree" with more than \$340 million of federal money received in response to the coronavirus pandemic, adding more than 100 people to the city's staff when those funds could have been better spent on economic de-

velopment in neighborhoods city-wide and maintaining infrastructure.

Mr. O'Connor said that unless city officials become more transparent with state funds, the city will again fall under the receivership of the state when it comes to finances, known as Act 47.

"That's why I want to be the mayor of this city, to be transparent about where the budget is going," Mr. O'Connor said. "To not sleepwalk into another Act 47 where you have to lay off people, you have to close down swimming pools. That's

where we're headed right now, if we do not change."

But the mayor refuted that the city was anywhere near falling under Act 47. The city has had two lean years of budgets in order to account for declining revenues in property taxes, and he questioned whether Mr. O'Connor, as county controller, was fully transparent when he took office about the financial state of county finances.

Mr. O'Connor raised the alarm last summer on a looming

SEE **DEBATE**, PAGE A-2

## Companies weighing next move on DEI

By Madaleine Rubin  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

One by one, diversity, equity and inclusion leaders from across Pittsburgh filed into the North Side auditorium.

The meeting was planned months in advance. But amid a week of new presidential executive orders, corporate rollbacks and public rebukes, the purpose of this get-together for DEI professionals had changed. The very future of such practices ostensibly hung in the balance.

The Jan. 23 event could have become a DEI postmortem.

But over an hour of discussion between executives from American Eagle Outfitters, UPMC and other big regional players, a different consensus began to take shape.

"DEI is not dying," Victoria Mattingly, founder of the Pittsburgh-based DEI consulting firm Mattingly Solutions, declared to the room of colleagues. "It's evolving."

It's also under attack.

SEE **DEI**, PAGE A-2



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**Weather**  
Mostly cloudy and breezy.  
Daytime high, 61;  
tonight's low, 31.  
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