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MARK STOCKWELL FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE FILE

Josh Kraft and Boston Mayor Michelle Wu at a forum in Dorchester in May. Recent polling puts Kraft 30 percentage points behind Wu, with very few voters saying they're undecided with the Sept. 9 preliminary election approaching.

A MATTER OF TIME — AND MONEY

As preliminary mayoral election nears, Kraft trails Wu by 30 points. Will he be able to close the gap?

By Emma Platoff
GLOBE STAFF

With mere weeks before the Sept. 9 preliminary election, Boston mayoral candidate Josh Kraft has a tremendous amount of ground to make up.

Polling puts Kraft 30 percentage points behind Mayor Michelle Wu, the front-runner, with very few voters saying they're undecided. He's burned through millions and has less than \$150,000 on hand, meaning he will likely need to cut himself another check for seven figures to keep his staff on payroll and his ads on television. And Wu isn't letting up, going after Kraft's campaign and his family's business dealings at every opportunity, and even reporting him to state regulators for unauthorized fund-raising solicitations.

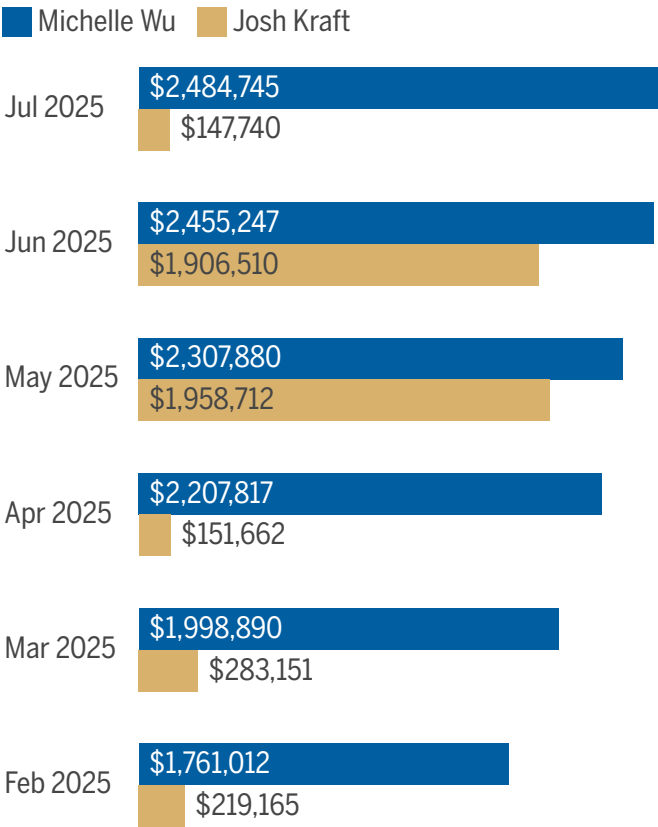
As the days tick down, Kraft faces two tasks: improve the negative public perception of himself and dent the positive public perception of Wu. Kraft's campaign aides say they are not changing strategy, just redoubling efforts to sell Kraft as a seasoned nonprofit leader deeply invested in Boston, while tying Wu to enduring city challenges such as struggling schools and sky-high housing costs.

Advisers say he still has plenty of time to make that case and sway voters to his side.

MAYORAL RACE, Page A7

Who has more cash on hand in the mayor's race?

Kraft's cash on hand dipped significantly as of the end of July.



Data as of July 31, 2025.

Chart: ANDREW NGUYEN/GLOBE STAFF • Source: Massachusetts Office of Campaign and Political Finance

Calls for peace, displays of war

Zelensky marks day of independence in Kyiv as plans to halt fighting falter

By Maria Varenikova
NEW YORK TIMES

KYIV — Amid continuing diplomatic efforts to end the long war in Ukraine, President Volodymyr Zelensky on Sunday marked the country's Independence Day with a speech in Kyiv's central square, reminding Ukrainians that they are still fighting for freedom.

He later met with Prime Minister Mark Carney of Canada, who arrived in Ukraine's capital in a show of diplomatic support. President Trump's envoy to Ukraine, Keith Kellogg, also arrived in Kyiv over the weekend for talks with Zelensky. Both Carney and Kellogg attended the Independence Day celebrations.

A top Russian official, meanwhile, told NBC News that there was no meeting planned between the leaders of Russia and Ukraine, dealing a blow to Trump's efforts to mediate an end to the war between the two countries.

Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov of Russia said on "Meet the Press" that there "needs to be an agenda first," before a meeting can take place. "This agenda is not ready at all," he said.

The comments came about a week after Trump hailed his summit in Alaska with President Vladimir Putin of Russia as a groundbreaking success. After the meeting, Trump suggested

UKRAINE, Page A4

Maine offers case study on bar advocates

More public defenders, higher pay have helped, but systemic problems remain

By Sean Cotter
GLOBE STAFF

Court cases in Maine were mounting, and there were not nearly enough lawyers to take them.

So in 2023, the state's Legislature approved a pay raise for the private attorneys who make up the state's indigent defense system, nearly doubling their rates to \$150 an hour.

"We were thrilled," said Jim Howaniec, a long-time defense attorney from Lewiston who takes court-appointed cases for the system.

But two years later, he said, there is still a shortage. "It hasn't solved all our problems," he said.

Maine offers a case study, lawyers say, as Massachusetts confronts a work stoppage by private attorneys that has thrown its courts into turmoil. Earlier this month Beacon Hill boosted their pay — a far more modest raise of \$10, with an additional \$10 next year to bring the total base level pay to \$85 — but it hasn't ended the impasse.

As a result, dozens of criminal cases are being

MAINE, Page A10

Trump's efforts to reshape education spark fears

From voters group, a litany of concerns ranges from kindergarten to college

By Brian MacQuarrie,
Sabrina Shankman,
and Omar Mohammed

GLOBE STAFF

Vanessa Coppola of North Yarmouth, Maine, excitedly awaits the day her 6-year-old son, Boden, will

begin a new adventure in first grade this fall. But she's also anxious, given President Trump's drastic downsizing of the US Education Department.

Boden has special needs, and Coppola, a 42-year-old Democrat,

wonders whether he still will be able to get the services that help him.

"If the school does need to cut funding or is looking at their budget, he's really not guaranteed support," said Coppola, a job coach and consultant. "We're in a space of not really knowing what his days in school would look like."

Coppola was one of many re-

spondents who cited fears about the future of education in the latest Globe survey of a set group of New Englanders across the political spectrum. Only one of 11 voters expressed enthusiastic support for Trump's education agenda.

A long litany of complaints from the respondents included Trump's aggressive efforts to reshape Ameri-

EDUCATION, Page A7

New intervention for kids with cancer: cash

Researcher tests theory to close a gap in outcomes for low-income families

By Mara Kardas-Nelson
GLOBE STAFF

Dr. Kira Bona is used to supporting children who have cancer as they go through clinical trials, trying out the newest drugs or novel treatment protocols.

But Bona's newest study is testing a different sort of intervention. As a pediatric oncologist and clinical researcher at Dana-Farber/Boston Children's Cancer and Blood Disorders Center, Bona is giving cash to low-income families of kids who are newly diagnosed with neuroblastoma, a rare form of childhood cancer.

For years, Bona and her colleagues noticed that poor kids, who make up a third of childhood cancer patients, don't do as well as wealthier ones, even if they receive the same quality of care or are enrolled in the same clinical trials. She tested her hypothesis with a study, published in 2020, that found that poorer children with neuroblastoma had a 25 percent higher rate of relapse and a 179 percent increased risk of death, even if they were enrolled in the same clinical trials as wealthier ones.

"What this showed us is that poverty exposure needs to be targeted in the same way that we think about targeting mutations,"

CHILDREN, Page A10



SUZANNE KREITER/GLOBE STAFF FILE

Outcomes for young patients with cancer can vary widely, with one possible factor being a family's level of wealth.



Oh nuts: bolts

Monday: Afternoon storm. High 75-80, low 62-67.

Tuesday: Clearing, less humid. High 78-83, low 57-62

Sunrise: 6:02. Sunset: 7:30.

Weather and comics, **D4-5.**

Obituaries, **C9.**

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Patients with rare types of muscular dystrophy feel abandoned as Cambridge-based Sarepta Therapeutics focuses on a fight for its Duchenne therapy. **D1.**

Food co-ops are struggling to survive after longstanding hopes that they could be one solution to food insecurity. **D1.**

Low-level electrical stimulation on the scalp may help treat an array of health issues, researchers are increasingly finding. **B1.**

The Red Sox dropped the final game, 7-2, of its series with the Yankees after winning the previous three contests. **C1.**