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Building an anti-Trump wall, with few tools

Democrats in Mass. have been less aggressive on their pushback than other blue states

By Anjali Huynh
GLOBE STAFF

Since President Trump was sworn in-to office in January, Massachusetts Democrats have tried using the tools at their disposal — lawsuits, legislation, public condemnation — to counter the federal government’s moves on everything from immigration policy to tariffs.

There’s only so much they can do. The Legislature has set aside funding for a legal defense fund for immigrants and passed legislation to protect the privacy of residents who undergo abortions

or receive gender-affirming care. But Massachusetts Democrats have also run into roadblocks limiting their actions and uncertainty about the best approach in the face of policy changes as wide-ranging as vast deportation efforts and cuts to food assistance.

Even as state leaders insist they’re pushing back as much as they can on an administration most Massachusetts voters disapprove of, they’ve been less aggressive than some counterparts in blue states. In policy areas such as immigration, legislative leaders say they’re con-

Hitting home

A look at some of the most consequential ways President Trump’s policies have affected Massachusetts residents and officials. **B1.**

strained by states’ limited legal authority. In others, such as filling gaps from slashed federal funding, Massachusetts leaders have not acted because they face budget limitations, or because House and Senate lawmakers have yet to agree on legislation.

Much of the challenge, lawmakers said, is responding to an administration making changes to everything all at once.

“It’s hard to keep track of what the guy’s doing because he jumps around from one issue to another,” House Speaker Ron Mariano, a Quincy Democrat, said of Trump. “One day, it’s SNAP; two days later, he’s doing something else. We just sort of hold cards close to the vest and

LAWMAKERS, Page A6

Sheriffs turn fees into pet projects

They’ve paid for RV, singer, parade floats, with little oversight. That may change.

By Matt Stout
GLOBE STAFF

The Norfolk County Sheriff’s Department wanted to hit the road.

So in early 2023, the office made an unusual purchase — a new Coleman motor home — with a specific goal, documents show: to bring the work of the civil process office, serving summonses and other legal documents, directly to the people.

But the “civil process mobile unit” never got very mobile. Despite its \$113,000 price tag, the RV was never used for its intended purpose. By this fall, it sat stationary on the department’s Braintree campus after it “became evident” it would not be cost-effective to deploy, according to a department spokesperson. Without recouping the cost, Sheriff Patrick McDermott’s office in October turned the vehicle over to the state, which could sell it or give it to another agency.

The failed experiment offers one window into how the state’s elected county sheriffs spend funds, which could soon come under scrutiny from state investigators.

In addition to running county jails and houses

PURCHASES MADE BY MASS. SHERIFFS INCLUDED ...

\$113,000 for a brand-new Coleman motor home that was never used as intended

\$2,500 for a former “American Idol” contestant to perform at various ceremonies

\$17 for a green tuxedo dog costume

SHERIFFS, Page A6

IN A BLEAK MIDWINTER



SUZANNE KREITER/GLOBE STAFF

A dank, damp, drizzly Monday washed away the vestiges of holiday snow and wrapped the Boston skyline along the Charles River in a gauze of gray. West and north of the city, sleet and freezing rain hindered travel. Today, bitter winds are in the forecast. **B2; weather D6.**

Fenway workers ratify ‘landmark’ pact

With 5-year Aramark deal, they’ll score higher wages, automation protections

By Dana Gerber
GLOBE STAFF
and Adam Sennott
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

After a year of negotiations, more than 1,000 concession workers at Fenway Park and the neighboring MGM Music Hall secured a new union contract that supporters say provides better wages, clearer staffing protocols, and stronger job protections against automation,

such as self-checkout machines.

The five-year contract between services provider Aramark and the employees was ratified over the weekend by a vote of 246-35, according to a union spokesperson. It caps off a contentious bargaining process that included a three-day strike during a July homestand against the Los Angeles Dodgers, an unfair labor practice charge filed with the National Labor Relations

Board, and calls of support from a range of heavy hitters, from the Boston City Council to Senator Bernie Sanders to former Red Sox pitcher Lucas Giolito.

Carlos Aramayo, the president of UNITE HERE Local 26, the union representing the employees, called the contract an “extraordinary settlement” that “fulfills all of the goals that we sought to fulfill.”

“It is really changing what it means to work at Fenway Park,” Aramayo said during a Monday press conference.

Aramayo said the contract “pro-

vides the largest wage increases in the history of Fenway Park, by a significant measure.” Nontipped employees, such as dishwashers, will get a \$10 hourly raise over the next five years, while tipped employees, like beer sellers, will get a \$5 raise over the length of the contract, with both groups also receiving retroactive pay.

Thomas Kochan, a professor at the MIT Sloan School of Management, served as the mediator during negotiations. After helping the employees work through “a lot of

FENWAY, Page A7

US, Israel display unity despite tension

Leaders meet in Fla. amid push for next stage in truce

By Cat Zakrzewski, Shira Rubin, Loveday Morris, and Isaac Arnsdorf
WASHINGTON POST

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — President Trump presented a united front with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at his Mar-a-Lago estate on Monday, showcasing his friendship with the Israeli leader after tensions between Washington and Jerusalem threatened the fragile cease-fire that the United States brokered in Gaza earlier this year.

Netanyahu’s trip to Florida marked his fifth visit this year with the president and delivered a public reset as Israel’s approach to Gaza and Iran appeared at odds with the Trump administration’s diplomatic efforts. Israel and Hamas have accused

MIDEAST, Page A10



That’s a low blow

Tuesday: Temps fall, winds rise. High 25-30, low 20-25.

Wednesday: Milder. High 32-37, low 21-26. High tide: 6:42, 7:20.

Sunrise: 7:13. Sunset: 4:21. Weather and comics, **D5-6.**

Obituaries, **C9.**
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The value of office and other business buildings in Boston has tumbled for the second year in a row. **D1.**

The theft of lobster meat valued at \$400,000 in Taunton could be part of an organized network of food thieves. **B1.**

China mobilized its air, ground, missile, and naval forces for a military exercise near Taiwan, days after the Trump administration announced plans for arms sales to the island. **A3.**

The Patriots’ record is impressive but players say it’s more important to maintain their “we have to earn it” mentality. **C1.**

President Trump indicated US forces “hit” a dock facility along a Venezuelan shore as he pressures that nation. **A4.**

At last, their day in the sun

Drug allows women with rare disease to take in rays but uncertainty looms

By Marin Wolf
GLOBE STAFF

It was particularly cold and windy for a November day, but that didn’t matter to Ginger Gonsalves and Becky Kelliher. The sun was out, and no one counted the seconds in the open air. No one suggested retreating inside.

“I don’t know why my eyes water like crazy,” Gonsalves said as they ventured into her Weymouth backyard.

“It’s because you have light eyes,” Kelliher said with a laugh.

Kelliher instinctively pulled her shirt sleeves down over her hands as if to protect her skin. But she felt no pain today. She smiled at her friend and turned her face to the sky.

For most of their lives, the two women have stayed tucked away indoors, sidelined by a rare blood disorder known as EPP — erythropoietic protoporphyria — that makes the warmth of the

SUN, Page A7



DAVID L. RYAN/GLOBE STAFF

Becky Kelliher (left) and Ginger Gonsalves, beaming in the sun.