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Trump says U.S. quitting war in 3 weeks

Month of intensive bombardment has not eliminated threat posed by Iran's forces.

BY ANA CEBALLOS

WASHINGTON — President Trump said Tuesday that he expects the United States to end its involvement in the war with Iran within three weeks, declaring there probably will be “no reason” for American forces to stay in the region even as top defense officials maintain Tehran’s military capabilities have not been fully eliminated.

Trump told reporters during an Oval Office event that he is confident the U.S. objectives in the conflict will be largely achieved by then, whether Iran makes a “deal” with the United States or not.

“If they come to the table that will be good, but it doesn’t matter whether they come or not,” Trump said. “We’ve set them back. It will take 15 to 20 years to rebuild what we have done to them.”

Trump added that he believes the threats to the Strait of Hormuz, a key oil route, will be “all cleared up” by the time the U.S. leaves the region. But if issues remain, he said, that will not be a problem for the United States.

“That’s not for us,” he said. “That will be for whoever is using the Strait.”

Trump’s comments came hours after Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said that, a month into the war, Iran still has the ability to launch offensive missiles, despite ongoing U.S. and Israeli efforts to weaken Tehran’s military capabilities and weapons programs.

“Yes, they will shoot some missiles, but we will shoot them down,” Hegseth told reporters at a Pentagon [See Iran, A4]



CHAD ZINGARELLI and his wife, Mariah, center, moved from Fresno to Noblesville, Ind., in 2023. Relatives later moved to the Indiana city from California.

Housing costs plummeted for those who left California

Monthly housing costs, 2016 to 2025

	Before moving	After moving
Moved out of California	\$2,376	\$1,705
Moved within California	\$2,263	\$2,277
Moved to California	\$1,754	\$2,418

California Policy Lab analysis of UC Consumer Credit Panel and American Community Survey data

Those leaving California are in worse financial shape than those who stay

	California exiters	Their California neighbors
Credit score	688	705
Student debt	\$10,990	\$5,481
Auto loans	\$6,101	\$5,772
Credit card utilization	25.0%	21.4%
Homeowner	22.7%	33.6%
Age	41.6	48.8

California Policy Lab analysis of University of California Consumer Credit Panel data. Figures are averages.

TERRY CASTLEMAN Los Angeles Times

People who leave California find much lower costs

Moving improves finances and boosts homeownership, a UC Berkeley study says.

BY TERRY CASTLEMAN

For decades, it’s been an alluring fantasy of many Californians.

Cash out. Leave the Golden State for somewhere more affordable, less crowded and probably less cool. Sure, you lose the beaches, hiking, cuisine and culture. On the other hand, you gain cheaper living, the chance to save money and make your paycheck — or 401(k) — go further.

Decades of rising costs have prompted many to make this choice. But does it really pay off the way they expect?

New data from UC Berkeley strongly suggest that for people of limited incomes who moved out of the Golden State, taking part in the California exodus can bring dramatically improved financial conditions.

The researcher studied the finances of people who left California over the last decade to see how well they did in their new communities. The California Policy Lab research covered people who left or arrived in California from 2016 to 2025 — millions in total. They generally left for nearby states such as Nevada and Arizona, but

also for hot locales such as Texas and Florida.

Among the findings: ■ People who left the state found that the move saved them almost \$700 in monthly housing costs.

■ They became 48% more likely to own a home in their new state compared with California, where housing prices are notoriously high.

Although the research covered all types of people who left the state, the differences were most notable for those with limited incomes who were struggling with affordability in California. One surprise from the California Policy Lab’s findings: Those leaving the state are increasingly moving out of its wealthiest areas. The share of Californians departing the state from its top-third median-income areas rose by 6.4 percentage points from 2016 to 2025, while the shares from low- and middle-income neighborhoods dropped.

In other words, the COVID-19 pandemic caused a major shift in the type of person who leaves California, with residents of higher-income areas growing.

“The average exiter now leaves from a neighborhood that is 8.7% more affluent than in the pre-pandemic period,” the report stated.

Evan White, a California Policy Lab co-founder and author of the report, said he’s not exactly sure about the cause of the trend. But [See Moving, A6]

Justices allow ‘conversion therapy’

Ban on such treatment for LGBTQ+ minors may violate rights of counselors, they say.

BY DAVID G. SAVAGE

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court ruled Tuesday that state laws forbidding “conversion therapy” for minors may violate the free speech rights of licensed counselors.

The 1st Amendment ruling is likely to undercut similar laws in California and 23 other states.

In an 8-1 decision, the justices said Colorado’s ban on “talk therapy” may prevent Christian counselors from helping teens work through their feelings about sexual attractions or their gender identity.

State lawmakers passed the new measures in response to healthcare professionals who said that efforts to change a teenager’s sexu-

al orientation were both ineffective and harmful.

Kaley Chiles, a licensed counselor in Colorado Springs, sued and argued the state’s law violated her rights to free speech and the free exercise of religion.

She said she does not seek to “cure” young clients of same-sex attractions or to “change” their sexual orientation. Instead, she said she is guided by their goals.

“As a talk therapist, all Ms. Chiles does is speak with clients; she does not pre-

scribe medication, use medical devices or employ any physical methods,” Justice Neil M. Gorsuch said for the court.

But she could run afoul of the state’s law because she said she may help some of her clients “reduce or eliminate unwanted sexual attractions or change sexual behaviors.”

If so, the law “censors speech based on viewpoint” and is therefore unconstitutional, he said.

[See Ruling, A6]

President targets mail-in ballots

An order attempts to put federal controls on voting. California pledges to fight back.

BY KEVIN RECTOR

President Trump signed an executive order Tuesday purporting to place new federal controls on voting by mail in states such as California, repeating his long-held but unsubstantiated claim that mail-in ballots are a source of widespread fraud in U.S. elections.

California leaders immediately responded with promises to fight the order in court. They said mail ballots are a safe and secure method for voting relied on by millions of Californians, that Trump’s order infringes on the state’s constitutional right to administer elections as it sees fit, and that it amounts to an “illegal power grab” ahead of midterm elections in which his party is poised to suffer substantial losses.

The order directs the United States Postal Service to take control of mail balloting by designing new envelopes with special bar codes that will allow the federal government to ensure that such ballots go out only to eligible voters, and that only eligible voters return such ballots.

It requires states to submit to the USPS process if they plan to use the federal mail system for sending or receiving ballots, and to submit to the USPS lists of eligible voters in advance of such ballots passing through the mail system.

It also requires the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, and the Social Security Administration to “compile and transmit to the chief election official of each State a list of individuals confirmed to be United States citizens who

[See Ballots, A6]



HISTORIC Market Street is the focus of a city-backed revitalization effort.

An Inglewood boom awaits

\$8.5-million program aims to spark life into downtown ahead of major sporting events.

BY ANGELA OSORIO

Just a mile away from SoFi Stadium, a stretch of downtown Inglewood is eerily quiet. The historic Market Street corridor, once a bustling center for Black-owned businesses and a hub

of commerce going back to the early 20th century, is now marked by shuttered storefronts and boarded-up buildings.

Structures standing since the 1940s sit lonely and abandoned, including the iconic Fox Theatre, which closed nearly 40 years ago.

“Market Street, we’ve been waiting for it to get more viable over all these years,” said Terry Dulan, owner of Dulan’s Soul Food Kitchen, a long-standing, family-owned staple on

Manchester Boulevard.

It’s been almost six years since the opening of SoFi Stadium. Two adjacent venues, YouTube Theater and Intuit Dome, opened in 2021 and 2024, respectively, joining the Kia Forum, which reopened after significant renovations in 2014. The sports and entertainment corridor along Prairie Avenue has become a major economic driver for the city of Inglewood, with SoFi Stadium grossing over \$175 million

[See Inglewood, A11]

TWO-FRONT SMOG FIGHT

Tackling pollution is one thing. Now California may face clean air battle with D.C.

By Patt Morrison

Even if you weren’t around Los Angeles in 1992, you’ve heard of Rodney King, the man whose videotaped beating at the hands of the LAPD put a match to the ensuing riots.

As sometimes destructive protests broke out after police were acquitted, King made his celebrated plea, “Can we all get along?” But who remembers what he said after that? It was this: “I mean, we’ve got enough smog in Los Angeles, let alone to deal with setting these fires and things.”

Smog. It’s embedded in L.A.’s brain. For good reason. From up in the space shuttle, in 1983, astronaut Sally Ride could see the pollution blotting out her Los Angeles hometown.

Brian Wilson, the creative genius of the Beach Boys, once recorded an impassioned riff about smog, singing, “This poison that we breathe has such an effect on overall body and mind ... I opened up my bathroom window today and I almost choked to death.”

And in 1975, Smokey Robinson and the Miracles recorded perhaps the only smog-themed love song: “The sky is gray when the smog fills the air/Hiding the light that shines through your hair.”

Earl Ofari Hutchinson, an author and president of the Los Angeles Urban Policy Roundtable, moved here from Chicago as a teenager, and it took him “a long time to realize, wait a minute, there are actually mountains there.” The smog

[See Smoglandia, A8]

Outrunning an exploding rocket

NASA safety system will face true test with Artemis II mission.

PERSPECTIVES, A2

Speed cameras are on their way

The city of L.A. will be installing 125 of them. Here’s where they’ll go.

CALIFORNIA, B1

Oracle is laying off thousands

The cuts come as tech firms spend billions on artificial intelligence.

BUSINESS, A9

Weather

Partly sunny. L.A. Basin: 72/56. B6

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