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"All the News That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

THE WEATHER
Today, mostly sunny, breezy, dry, high 61. **Tonight,** mainly clear, breezy at times, low 49. **Tomorrow,** partly sunny, breezy to windy, high 58. Weather map is on Page 28.

VOL. CLXXVI . . . No. 61,062 © 2026 The New York Times Company SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2026 Prices in Canada may be higher $6.00



HILARY SWIFT FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Kelly Holley-Bockelmann, right, her field decimated by lost funds and jobs, left the U.S. for a space laboratory in the Netherlands.

Crossing an Ocean So She Can Continue Studying the Sky

By ELI SASLOW

LEIDEN, the Netherlands — Kelly Holley-Bockelmann had always oriented herself by looking up at the sky, but now it was tilted and unfamiliar. The Milky Way sank toward the horizon line, and darkness never arrived quite the way it had in Tennessee, fast and enveloping. Instead, there was hazy dusk and then stubborn twilight before the sun rose again over her extended-stay hotel thousands of miles from home.

SCIENCE UNDER SIEGE
An Astrophysicist's Exodus

She took a tram, and then a train, and then a bus until she arrived at a glass-walled building in the Netherlands. There was a Dutch flag near the entryway and a replica of a spaceship in the lobby. She rode the elevator to her new office, a small room with whitewashed walls, empty drawers and a handwritten note taped to the desk. "We are thrilled to welcome one of America's great scientists," it read.

A new colleague stopped at the doorway to check in on her. "I know it might not look all that impressive," he said, gesturing around the office.

As U.S. Closes Doors, the World Embraces

"It's perfect," Holley-Bockelmann said. "After these last few years, I'm just so grateful to be here."

She had never expected to be starting over halfway across the world at 55, just as she reached the pinnacle of a career that was often celebrated as uniquely American. She had grown up in Montana, lying in the grass beneath the night sky and trying to feel the Earth spin. She dreamed of becoming an astronomer before she knew the word for it. Nobody in her house growing up had finished college. She had never met a scientist. But she made herself into a theoretical astrophysicist, a leading expert on gravitational waves, a top adviser to NASA and a chaired professor at Vanderbilt. She helped to begin a new graduate program for astronomers and raised millions in federal money to recruit American scientists with backgrounds as unlikely as her own, only for that pipeline to be dismantled piece by piece.

Her research funding was threatened after President Trump took office in 2025. Graduate stu-

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Younger Voters Powered A Democratic Landslide

Weary of the Old Guard and Flocking to Candidates of Their Generation

By SABRINA TAVERNISE and RUTH IGIELNIK

Alienated by an older generation of politicians who felt out of touch and irrelevant to their lives, young voters revolted on Tuesday, powering the rout of President Trump's Republican Party.

In swings of monumental proportion, young men aged 18 to 29 veered toward Democratic candidates by nearly 40 percentage points since 2024, according to preliminary results from Times Voter Trends. Young women, who were already inclined to support Democrats, swung by 27 points. In the Texas Senate race, men aged 18 to 44 swung nearly 50 points toward the Democrat, James Talarico.

"He is my age," said Tristan Waumsley, 35, of Richmond, Texas, who voted straight Democratic at the state level for the first time in his life. "He sounded like I could have talked to him myself. He's somebody normal, like me."

He said Republicans have run Texas for years and not produced any real change in his life. With Mr. Talarico, he said, "maybe we can bring society forward, instead of regressing."

The youth movement swept in or bolstered politicians who looked more like them: Abdul El-Sayed, the senator-elect of Michigan; Rob Sand, the governor-elect of Iowa; Senator Jon Ossoff in Georgia; Nithya Raman, the newly elected mayor of Los Angeles; and Sam Forstag, an incoming congressman from Montana. The next clerk of the Superior Court in Maricopa County, Ariz., the Democrat Sebastian Matta, is a 19-year-old Arizona State University sophomore. Another 19-year-old, Daniel Darris-O'Connor, unseated an eight-term Republican incumbent in the Massachusetts House.

The voters swept out the stodgy and rejected wealthy middle-aged men like Rick Jackson, who ran for governor of Georgia, and Ken Paxton, who lost to Mr. Talarico in Texas.

And while the Democratic winners seem to be speaking their language, many voters under 45 — younger millennials and Gen Zers — were quick to say their support was not an ideological conversion, but granted temporarily to jump-start real change on the issues such as the cost of living, U.S. relations with Israel and the war in Iran.

Though it felt unfamiliar to vote for Democrats, Mr. Waumsley said he was happy about his choice. But he emphasized that he was voting for the people, not the party, and that he would be watching them closely to make sure they followed through.

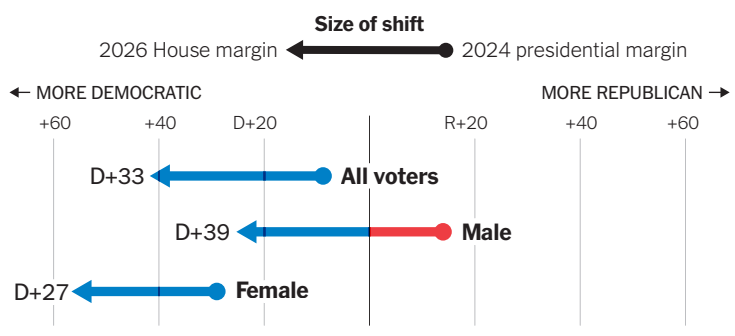
"I really want to move on from what we currently have," he said, "because what we have isn't doing it."

The discontent is global, fostering youth movements from Bangladesh and India to Serbia and France. Government resources have gone to Baby Boom retirees with free health care and subsidized retirements, while education has been stretched, health insurance costs have soared and job security has been hampered by older generations that will not get out of the way. Artificial intelligence and climate change have injected real dread into those coming of voting age.

That is scrambling the political lines that have given shape to

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How Voters Aged 18-29 Shifted in Nationwide House Races



Source: Preliminary results from Times Voter Trends as of 10:06 p.m. on Nov. 4.

ARFA MOMIN/THE NEW YORK TIMES



MAURICIO LIMA FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Amid an Offensive on Ukraine's Front Line

After months of secrecy, commanders let New York Times journalists into bunkers and training grounds to see how Operation Vivaldi had reversed some Russian territorial gains. Page 12.

SAT Is Fighting A Digital Battle Over Test Theft

By STEPHANIE SAUL

Priced at $499 and payable by cryptocurrency only, Auto SAT was marketed as a foolproof way to ace the SAT tests.

It used artificial intelligence to project answers onto a student's computer screen — during the test.

But as soon as Auto SAT went on sale in March, the College Board, which sponsors the SAT tests, discovered it on social media.

The organization purchased a copy of Auto SAT, evaluated it and then pushed design and code changes to its test to thwart Auto SAT's effectiveness. It filed a lawsuit against the malware developer and demanded that the website be taken down.

The College Board's efforts against Auto SAT are among the latest moves in what has become a costly cat-and-mouse game against global cyberintrusions. Cheating operations taking advantage of advances in A.I. technology are forcing the $2 billion nonprofit to step up its defenses.

The SAT tests went online in 2024, a move aimed partly at ending test leaks. But, looking to capitalize on consumer demand for high scores, scammers have devised a medley of tricks to undermine the security of the digital test.

They often combine sophisticated A.I. tools and a pervasive form of cheating involving time zones. Test takers in New Zealand, for example, can log in hours

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Musk Finds Out $500 Million Can't Buy Success in Midterms

By THEODORE SCHLEIFER

The world's richest person had face-planted — and was now trying to turn back time.

Elon Musk spent nearly half a billion dollars during the midterm cycle, the most in any election period for a donor who wasn't a candidate himself.

He hoped to defend Republican control of Congress and rescue Ken Paxton, the party's embattled nominee for Senate in Texas. Instead, Democrats won shockingly large House and Senate majorities, and Mr. Paxton was trounced by James Talarico, who seemed to bother Mr. Musk like no other Democratic candidate.

When the devastating result became clear, Mr. Musk deleted an X post that had encouraged Republicans to turn out, and tried to joke his way out of how badly the night had gone for him. "Guess my election-interfering space lasers didn't work this time," he wrote early Wednesday.

It was a stunning failure. Now the onetime trillionaire is all but certain to face investigatory scrutiny and financial pressure with newly empowered Democrats in control of Congress and top state offices in Texas, where he lives and operates many of his businesses. Mr. Musk, who moved there from California in part to escape the regulatory environment, will soon be represented by a senator who has said he wants to "tax trillionaires out of existence."



Elon Musk

The political influence of Mr. Musk, who has become by far the Republican Party's biggest megadonor, is now in serious question.

How he arrived at this point is a story of an unpredictable tycoon who was never in denial about Republicans' predicament this year, but who was also characteristically starry-eyed about his ability to help the party beat the odds.

In interviews, nearly 30 people with insight into Mr. Musk's political operation — most of whom spoke on the condition of ano-

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Why Thailand's Doctors Skip the KFC at Work

A Nation in the Thrall of Superstitions

By MAX KIM

BANGKOK — Thanat Tantinam, a colorectal surgeon in Thailand, knows a lot of things from his medical training, like the ins and outs of the human digestive system, or bowel cancer rates. But also: Never eat Kentucky Fried Chicken at work.

Since he was a medical student, around a decade ago, the American fast food franchise has been the subject of an odd superstition among Thai doctors, many of whom believe that eating its chicken at work will lead to intolerably busy shifts.

"It's a serious superstition in some hospitals," said Dr. Thanat, 35. "Your colleagues might be mad if you bring KFC."

He recently tested this theory. In 2023 and 2024, he and several co-workers at Phatthalung Hospital in southern Thailand, his employer at the time, conducted a randomized control trial of 345 surgical shifts, comparing metrics like case load or estimated blood loss in patients from three groups of surgeons: a group that ate KFC, another that got food from a local brand named Five Star Chicken, and one that ate nothing.

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INTERNATIONAL 4-13

A King Tours the Caribbean
Charles III danced in a street parade, and danced around apologizing for Britain's role in the slave trade. PAGE 4

Replacing Netanyahu
Gadi Eisenkot was tapped to form a new Israeli government, but the hurdles are high. News Analysis. PAGE 6

175 | THE NEW YORK TIMES AT 175
On a visit to former President Lyndon B. Johnson's huge Texas ranch, a cub reporter learned why it pays to get out of Washington. PAGE 16



ARTS & LEISURE

Holiday Movies Galore
The riches this season include "Behemoth!," above, a Nigerian adaptation of "Mrs. Dalloway" and more. PAGE 16

Phil Collins, Fully Surprised
The musician will be inducted this month into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame as a solo artist. PAGE 7

SUNDAY STYLES

Applying for Work in a Void
Many Gen Z job searchers say that the experience is opaque and impersonal, and that they can't get actual human beings to speak to them. PAGE 4

SPORTS 34-37

A Promise to Keep Running
Matthew Futterman had previously run 15 New York City Marathons. But after his wife's cancer diagnosis, this year was particularly emotional. PAGE 37

SUNDAY OPINION

Lydia Polgreen PAGE 4



METROPOLITAN

Mother Nature's Son
A man's plan for this year was to survive on only foods he found in the wild, and to put it on Instagram. PAGE 7

SUNDAY BUSINESS

How They Dealt With Debt
As the cost of living rises, the temptation to borrow to make ends meet is ever greater. For a year, The Times followed four people as they tried to reach their financial goals. PAGE 4

On Call for Whistle-Blowers
Jeffrey Wigand, who once took on the big tobacco companies, now counsels insiders who have secrets and who think they have a story to tell about corporate wrongdoing. PAGE 1

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