

A SURGE OF HOPE IS FELT ON LEFT

Democratic victories nationwide are seen as a successful rebuke to President Trump.

BY KEVIN RECTOR AND SUMMER LIN

NEW YORK — At the top of his victory speech at a Brooklyn theater late Tuesday, Zohran Mamdani — the 34-year-old democratic socialist just elected New York’s next mayor — spoke of power being gripped by the bruised and calloused hands of working Americans, away from the wealthy elite.

“Tonight, against all odds, we have grasped it,” he said. “The future is in our hands.”

The imagery was apropos of the night more broadly — when a beaten-down Democratic Party, still nursing its wounds from a wipeout by President Trump a year ago, forcefully took back what some had worried was lost to them for good: momentum.

From coast to coast Tuesday night, American voters delivered a sharp rebuke to Trump and his MAGA movement, electing Democrats in important state and local races in New York, New Jersey and Virginia and passing a major California ballot measure designed to put more Democrats in Congress in 2026.

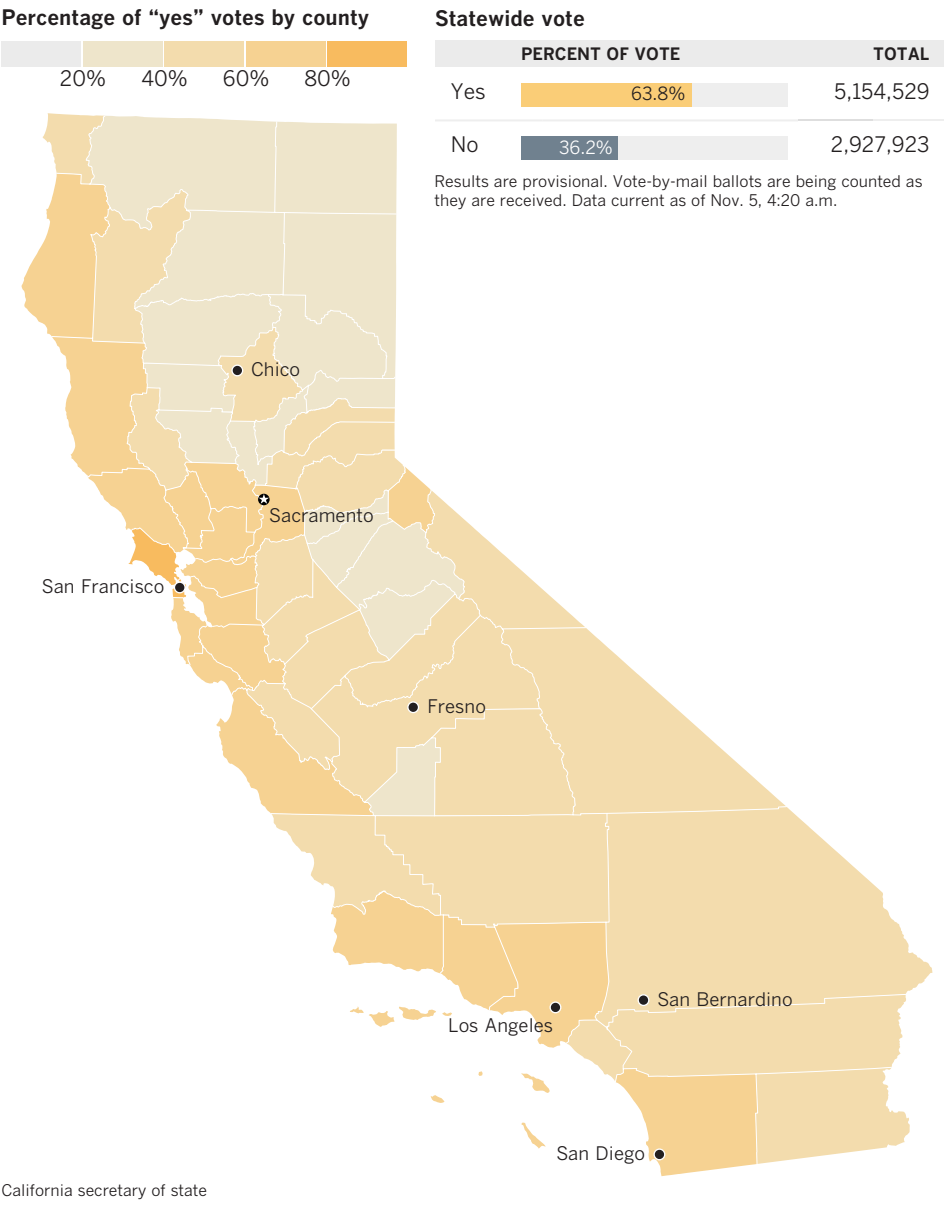
The results — a reversal of the party’s fortunes in last year’s presidential election, when Trump swept the nation’s swing states — arrived amid deep political division and entrenched Republican power in Washington. Many voters cited Trump’s agenda, and related economic woes, as motivating their choices at the ballot box.

The wins hardly reflected a unified Democratic Party nationally, or even a shared left-wing vision for a future beyond Trump. If anything, Mamdani’s win was a challenge to the Democratic Party establishment as much as a rejection of Trump.

His vision for the future is decidedly different than that of other, more moderate Democrats who won elsewhere in the country, such as Abigail Spanberger, the 46-year-old former CIA officer whom Virginians elected as their first female governor, or Mikie Sherrill, the 53-year-old former Navy helicopter pilot and federal prosecutor who won the race for New Jersey governor.

Still, the cascade of victories did evoke for many Democrats and progressives a political hope that they hadn’t felt in a while: a

Voters approve Proposition 50



After districts are redrawn, 6 lawmakers face challenge

The new boundaries put the Republicans at risk of losing their seats in the House.

BY DAKOTA SMITH

California Republicans in Congress are vastly outnumbered by their Democratic counterparts in the state — and it may get worse.

Five of the nine GOP seats are at risk after California voters passed Proposition 50 in Tuesday’s special election. The measure, put on the ballot by the Democratic-led state Legislature, reshaped California congressional districts in a way that was specifically designed to unseat Republican incumbents.

The new maps target areas held by Reps. Kevin

Kiley and Doug LaMalfa in Northern California, Rep. David Valadao in the Central Valley, and Reps. Ken Calvert, Young Kim and Darrell Issa in Southern California. The radical reconfiguration not only put Republicans in danger, but probably protects vulnerable Democratic officeholders by adding more voters from their own party into their reconfigured districts.

Already, California’s Republican members hold just nine seats in the U.S. House of Representatives, while Democrats have 43.

Proposition 50’s passage also sets off an intraparty fight for a newly created Republican seat in Riverside and Orange counties, which will pit two GOP incumbents against each other — Calvert of Corona and Kim of Anaheim Hills — knock



VALADAO LaMALFA



KIM KILEY



CALVERT ISSA

ANALYSIS

Newsom’s big win in state and for party

Prop. 50 passage could boost prospects for higher office even as GOP files suit

BY JESSICA GARRISON AND SEEMA MEHTA

California voters delivered a major victory for Democrats nationwide on Tuesday — and possibly for Gov. Gavin Newsom’s political ambitions — by passing a redistricting plan that could help the party seize as many as five congressional seats in the 2026 midterm elections.

The ballot measure, Proposition 50, came under immediate attack by Republicans on Wednesday. House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) accused California Democrats of trying to “rig” the 2026 midterm vote, and the state’s Republican leaders filed a federal lawsuit to block the newly crafted congressional districts that will be enacted under Proposition 50.

The GOP response did little to temper Newsom’s victory celebration, which started minutes after polls closed Tuesday night when he took to social media and posted a wrestling-themed meme of him body-slaming President Trump and continued through Wednesday when he told Johnson to “cry harder.”

“After poking the bear, this bear roared,” Newsom said Tuesday night after the Associated Press determined Proposition 50 had passed.

The ballot measure was seen as a searing denunciation of Trump and his administration’s policies, which have included divisive immigration raids, steep tariffs, cuts to healthcare and a military occupation of Los Angeles.

Proposition 50 was an attempt to counter Trump’s push to get Republican-led states, most notably Texas, to redraw their electoral maps to keep Democrats from gaining control of the U.S. House of Representa-

tives in the 2026 midterms and upending his agenda.

Newsom said he was proud of California for standing up to Trump and called on other states with Democrat-controlled legislatures to pass their own redistricting plans.

“I hope it’s dawning on people, the sobriety of this moment,” he said.

Johnson on Wednesday called California voters’ decision to approve the proposition a “tragedy.”

“It’s just a blatant example of Gavin Newsom’s immoral leadership and the fact that they will do anything to try to rig the system to win,” Johnson said at a news conference in Washington.

California Republicans filed a federal lawsuit on Wednesday morning arguing that the congressional maps approved the prior night are unconstitutional because they favor Latinos over other races and ethnicities.

“This violates the 14th Amendment’s guarantee of equal protection under the law and the right under the 15th Amendment to not have one’s vote abridged on account of race,” said attorney Mike Columbo, a partner in the law firm founded by Harmeet Dhillon, Trump’s U.S. assistant attorney general for the Civil Rights Division.

A spokesman for the governor predicted the lawsuit would not be successful.

Proposition 50 will change how California determines the boundaries of congressional districts. The measure asked voters to approve new congressional district lines designed to favor Democrats for the 2026, 2028 and 2030 elections, overriding the map drawn by the state’s nonpartisan, independent redistricting commission.

The measure, placed on the ballot by the Democratic-led state Legislature and

[See Prop. 50, A7]

A COSTLY WIN: Redistricting could worsen polarization, Mark Z. Barabak writes. **PERSPECTIVES, A2**

Trump pushes senators to end shutdown, filibuster

BY ANA CEBALLOS

WASHINGTON — As the federal shutdown has dragged on to become the longest in American history, President Trump has shown little interest in talks to reopen the government. But Republican losses on election day could change that.

Trump told Republican senators at the White House on Wednesday that he believed the government shutdown “was a big factor” in the party’s poor showing against the Democrats in key races.

“We must get the government back open soon, and really immediately,” Trump said, adding that he would

speak privately with the senators to discuss what he would like to do next.

The president’s remarks are a departure from what has largely been an apathetic response from him about reopening the government. With Congress at a stalemate for more than a month, Trump’s attention has mostly been elsewhere.

He spent most of last week in Asia attempting to broker trade deals. Before that, much of his focus was on reaching a ceasefire deal between Israel and Hamas and building a \$300-million White House ballroom.

To date, Trump’s main attempt to reopen the federal government has been calling on Republican lead-

ers to terminate the filibuster, a long-running Senate rule that requires 60 votes in the chamber to pass most legislation. Trump wants to scrap the rule — the so-called nuclear option — to allow Republicans in control of the chamber to push through legislation with a simple-majority vote.

[See Shutdown, A6]

Uproar after Mexico’s president is groped

Incident on a public street draws focus to rampant harassment faced by women.

BY KATE LINTHICUM

MEXICO CITY — Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum was strolling through her capital city this week, heading from one government office to another, when she stopped to take selfies with a crowd of admirers.

A man approached from

behind, slipped his arm around Sheinbaum’s shoulder, leaned in to plant a kiss on her neck and briefly grabbed her chest before an aide pushed him away.

The groping incident, which was captured on video by bystanders Tuesday, sparked outrage nationally and put renewed focus on the rampant sexual harassment faced by women here.

Sheinbaum, who last year was sworn in as Mexico’s first female leader, has seized the chance to raise awareness about the issue.

“If they do this to the

[See Mexico, A4]



JUAN ABUNDIS ObturadorMX/Getty Images

MEXICAN President Claudia Sheinbaum speaks at a news briefing a day before the Tuesday incident.

Justices are skeptical of president’s tariff power

BY DAVID G. SAVAGE

WASHINGTON — President Trump’s signature plan to impose import taxes on products coming from countries around the world ran into sharp skepticism at the Supreme Court on Wednesday.

Most of the justices, conservative and liberal, questioned whether the president acting on his own has the power to set large tariffs as a weapon of international trade.

Instead, they voiced the traditional view that the Constitution gives Congress the power to raise taxes, duties and tariffs.

Trump and his lawyers rely on an emergency powers act adopted on a voice vote by Congress in 1977. That measure authorizes sanc-

tions and embargoes, but does not mention “tariffs, duties” or other means of revenue-raising.

Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. said he doubted that law could be read so broadly.

The emergency powers law “had never before been used to justify tariffs,” he told D. John Sauer, Trump’s solicitor general. “No one has argued that it does until this particular case.”

Congress has authorized tariffs in other laws, he said, but not this one. Yet, it is “being used for a power to impose tariffs on any product from any country for — in any amount on any product from any country for — in any amount for any length of time.”

Moreover, the Constitution says Congress has the

[See Tariffs, A11]

Death toll rises in UPS plane crash

Crews search for more victims a day after air disaster at company’s global aviation hub in Kentucky. **NATION, A5**

Buffer against solicitors weighed

County leaders move to ban “predatory” activities near social services offices after a Times report. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Google’s Gemini getting smarter

AI-powered assistant will provide Maps users answers to more complex questions in coming weeks. **BUSINESS, A9**

Weather

Turning sunny. L.A. Basin: 72/57. **B6**

