

MLB PLAYOFFS

Dodgers win to close out series



Enrique Hernandez of the Dodgers looks on before Wednesday's playoff matchup against the Atlanta Braves in Game 4 of the National League Division Series at Truist Park in Atlanta. The Dodgers won 4-1. PHOTOS BY KEVIN C. COX — GETTY IMAGES



The Dodgers, holding a 2-1 series lead, put Tyler Glasnow on the mound against the Braves for the first inning of Game 4 of the National League Division Series on Wednesday in Atlanta. Glasnow would handle the pitching duties until the bottom of fifth inning. See full story at sbsun.com.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Insurer's response to blazes probed

FAIR Plan being investigated over claims filed by survivors of 2025 Palisades, Eaton fires

By Steve Scauzillo
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Los Angeles County has begun an investigation into the handling of claims from fire survivors of the Eaton and Palisades fires by the California FAIR Plan Association, often called "the insurer of last resort," the Office of County Counsel announced on Wednesday.

In a letter, the county's lawyers wrote they are examining whether the private insurance group denied claims, delayed responses by repeatedly swapping out adjusters, did not give 36 months of alternative living expenses as required by law, and failed to pay for toxic testing and repairs for owners of smoke-damaged homes in Altadena, Pasadena, the Pacific Palisades, Malibu and nearby county unincorporated areas.

"If FAIR Plan is engaging in any of these unfair and illegal practices, immediately stop them and come into compliance with state law. Los Angeles County residents paid FAIR Plan millions of dollars in premiums and it is FAIR Plan's obligation to honor those policies and do everything it can to help its customers recover and rebuild," the letter concluded.

The group is a private association of insurers licensed to write property insurance in California. It is not a state agency and not funded by the state or any other public agency. Instead, it gets its funding from policyholder premiums. In the Los Angeles market, other insurers, such as State Farm, have canceled policies before the fires, forcing homeowners to move to FAIR Plan, sources said.

"It is an insurer of last resort for property and fire insurance for homeowners who cannot buy coverage in the traditional market," said the County Counsel's Office in a statement. The company was established by the state Legislature after the 1965 Watts riots, when other insurance companies refused to cover homeowners in the area due to the civil unrest.

"The homeowners who rely on FAIR Plan are more vulnerable than others because their options for insurance are severely limited. FAIR Plan must treat them fairly," said Dawyn Harrison, county

See FIRES on Page A4

2026 ELECTION

How can state better battle fraud?

Controller candidates discuss how they would manage the world's fourth-largest economy

By Kaitlyn Schallhorn
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When it comes to how the state's chief fiscal officer should manage the world's fourth-largest economy, Malia Cohen and Herb Morgan, in some form or fashion, agree the next California controller should focus on accountability, oversight and transparency.

Exactly how that looks, however, differs a bit between the two candidates.

Take hospice fraud, for example. It's been a particular flash point for the Trump administration as it seeks to crack down on fraud in federally funded health programs. More than 1,000 hospices have been removed from Medicare since early 2025, with Los Angeles County accounting for an estimated \$3.5 billion in fraudulent hospice claims, by federal officials' estimate, according to the Associated Press.

State officials, including Gov. Gavin Newsom, have also acknowledged that fraud in the hospice industry is particularly rampant in California. The state's Department of Health has revoked hundreds of



Malia Cohen, left, and Herb Morgan are running for California controller in the Nov. 3 general election. COURTESY OF CANDIDATES' CAMPAIGNS

hospice licenses over the past two years and identified even more for review, the governor's office announced earlier this year.

The controller's office can help, said Cohen, who has held the job since 2022, by auditing public programs, including certain Medi-Cal ones, as well as looking for gaps within California's Department of Health Services' fiscal oversight and internal controls.

"We have improved our internal controls so that we can stop fraud before it happens and have taken a broader approach to accountability," said Cohen when asked in the Southern California News Group's voter guide questionnaire.

"Audits remain an important



tool, but true fiscal responsibility requires more than looking backward," she said. "It requires preventing problems before they happen through better systems, stronger controls, data analytics, and smarter oversight."

Morgan, though, said California's monitoring of the hospice industry came a little too late. Revoking licenses came after money had already moved, he said.

And while California's departments of Public Health and Health Care Services handle licensing and Medi-Cal, respectively, the controller's responsibility is money.

"The controller has indepen-

See ELECTION on Page A5

CITY GOVERNMENT

Riverside finally appoints its government watchdog

By Madison Hart
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Riverside has appointed a government watchdog, a position that voters greenlighted in 2024.

Lori Cox was unanimously appointed as inspector general Tuesday by the Riverside City Council. Nearly two-thirds of voters backed a measure almost two years ago to create the new city post.

"This comes after a very, very long and exhaustive search for the right candidate for this position," City Councilmember Steven Robillard said.

"... We had a lot of great candidates who applied for this posi-

tion. It was actually a very, very competitive field, and we are proud to announce that Lori K.M. Cox was the top of that field that we chose."

The measure updated the city's charter and puts the inspector general in charge of investigating, auditing and evaluating city offices. The inspector general will also seek ways to improve the efficiency of city government and "provide independent oversight" of city audit and investigative functions and lead investigations into fraud, waste, abuse and policy violations, according to a city statement.

See INSPECTOR on Page A5

INLAND



TERRY PIERSON
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Castle Park to lay off 130 employees

Riverside attraction closing ride section Nov. 2 for makeover and expansion. A3

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FORECAST

TODAY H: 101 L: 69 FRI. H: 95 L: 67 SAT. H: 85 L: 64 Full weather report B20

INDEX

Business A10
Classifieds B5
Comics A13,14 B5
Lottery A2
Nation+World. A7,8,9,16
Obituaries A4

Volume 131, issue 281

Opinion A11
Puzzles A12,14,15
Sports B1

