

\$3.25
Thursday,
November 6, 2025

Portland Press Herald

WEATHER:
Mostly cloudy
and windy
High 49°
Details, D8

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TODAY'S ALMANAC

November 6, 2025

Today is the 310th day of 2025. There are 55 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Nov. 6, 1860, former Illinois congressman Abraham Lincoln of the Republican Party was elected president of the United States as he defeated John Breckinridge, John Bell and Stephen Douglas.

Also on this date:

In 1888, Republican presidential candidate Benjamin Harrison won the electoral vote over incumbent Democrat Grover Cleveland, despite Cleveland gaining 90,000 more total votes; it would be the last time the popular vote winner would lose the election until 2000.

In 1947, "Meet the Press," the longest-running TV show in America, made its debut on NBC; the host was the show's co-creator, Martha Rountree.

In 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower won reelection, defeating Democratic nominee Adlai Stevenson II for the second time.

In 1984, President Ronald Reagan won reelection by a landslide over former Vice President Walter Mondale. The Democratic challenger won just one state, his native Minnesota.

In 2012, President Barack Obama won reelection, vanquishing Republican former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney with 332 electoral votes to Romney's 206.

In 2022, a passenger plane crashed into Lake Victoria as it approached an airport in Tanzania, killing 19 people aboard.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Sally Field is 79. Jazz musician Arturo Sandoval is 76. Author Michael Cunningham is 73. Journalist-author Maria Shriver is 70. Author Colson Whitehead is 56. Actor Ethan Hawke is 55. Actor Thandiwe Newton is 53. Model-actor Rebecca Romijn is 53. Actor Taryn Manning is 47. Actor Emma Stone is 37. Comedian-actor Bowen Yang is 35.

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GOLDEN WON'T SEEK REELECTION

Citing the rise of incivility and 'plain nastiness,' the Lewiston Democrat, in his fourth term in the U.S. House of Representatives, announced his decision in an op-ed.

By **RANDY BILLINGS** and **RACHEL OHM**
Staff Writers

Rep. Jared Golden, a moderate Democrat who has represented Maine's sprawling, rural 2nd Congressional District since 2018, announced Wednesday that he will not seek reelection next year.

In an opinion piece published by the Bangor Daily News, Golden lamented the "increasing incivility and plain nastiness that are now common from

some elements of our American community," and said he worried about political violence and threats against his family.

"I know that if I were to continue my campaign, I would prevail," the former Marine wrote. "My record of winning the most challenging district held by any Democrat — of outperforming the top and bottom of the ticket four times — speaks for itself."

"I don't fear losing. What has be-

come apparent to me is that I now dread the prospect of winning. Simply put, what I could accomplish in this increasingly unproductive Congress pales in comparison to what I could do in that time as a husband, a father and a son."

A spokesperson for Golden did not respond to a phone message seeking an interview.

Please see **GOLDEN**, Page A4



U.S. REP. JARED GOLDEN
His sudden exit will reset the race for Maine's 2nd District.

ELECTION 2025

Visit us for the latest results from national, state and local voting / **pressherald.com**

Proposed restrictions to absentee ballots doomed Maine effort to require voter ID



Phoebe Dolan, of Maine Youth Power, speaks Tuesday at the No on Question 1 watch party at Orange Bike Brewing in Portland. (DARYN SLOVER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

QUESTION 1: One Republican lawmaker says including limits on absentee voting in the referendum 'gave the opponents the playbook to beat it.'

By **RANDY BILLINGS**
Staff Writer

A citizen referendum to enact a voter ID law was overwhelmingly rejected Tuesday in large part because opponents successfully reframed the proposal around restrictions on absentee voting, an option Maine voters like.

"I think if it had focused just on voter ID, I think it

would have been a slam dunk," said Sen. Brad Farris, a Republican from Norridgewock. "You see the whole No on 1 campaign, there was hardly any talk about showing an ID. It was all about the restrictions on absentee voting and (it) scared people."

With 90% of precincts reporting results Wednesday afternoon, nearly 64% of

voters voted against Question 1. The only public poll on the question, released last month, predicted a much closer outcome.

Devon Murphy-Anderson, executive director of the Maine Democratic Party, said the lopsided result shows Mainers don't want any increased barriers to voting.

Please see **VOTING**, Page A5

The mass shooting in Lewiston was key to red flag law's passage

QUESTION 2: Two years after the tragedy, voters approved landmark gun safety legislation making it easier to confiscate firearms from people in crisis.

By **RACHEL OHM** and **ANDREW RICE**
Staff Writers

Two years after the worst mass shooting in Maine's history, voters approved landmark gun safety legislation Tuesday making it easier to confiscate firearms from people in crisis.

The new red flag law was approved by a margin of 63% to 37% with 96% of votes counted.

The law allows family members in addition to police to petition courts to temporarily remove weapons from a person who poses a risk to themselves or others. It also eliminates the need for a mental health evaluation as is required under Maine's current yellow flag law. Around the time lawmakers approved the yellow flag law in 2019, they also discussed but ultimately rejected a red flag proposal. Advocates then made another push following the 2023 mass shooting in Lewiston that killed 18 people and injured 13 others — an



Gail Darling, of Cape Elizabeth, speaks with Arthur Barnard at Ri Ra in Portland where supporters of the red flag referendum gathered Tuesday evening and celebrated its passage. Bernard's son, Arthur "Artie" Strout, was killed during the Lewiston shootings in 2023. (DARYN SLOVER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

READ MORE INSIDE

■ **MAMDANI'S VICTORY:** Bowdoin alums express disappointment in college's muted response to the NYC mayoral race / **A4**
■ **LOCAL RESULTS:** Many more stories from Election Day in **Local & State, D1**

event that both supporters and opponents of the new law said on Wednesday factored into its ultimate passage. "After Lewiston there was just such horror and shock that people were really motivated to do something to fig-

ure out how we could prevent that from happening again," Nicole Palmer, executive director of the Maine Gun Safety Coalition, said in an interview Wednesday.

Please see **RED FLAG**, Page A5

State reshuffles money to pay for heating aid held up by shutdown

MaineHousing is temporarily moving \$2.2 million from other programs to help some residents pay their heating costs.

By **DANIEL KOOL**
Staff Writer

MaineHousing will issue heating assistance to about 3,900 homes in the next few weeks, drawing on money carried over from last year's budget while this year's funding remains tied up by the federal government shutdown.

The agency warned last week that while applications for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, or LIHEAP, are still being processed, payments would be delayed until the end of the shutdown, which is now the

longest in the nation's history.

But on Wednesday, officials said they will temporarily reallocate about \$2.2 million to cover LIHEAP payments for some of the state's most vulnerable households. Though the move should bring relief to some Mainers, agency Director Dan Brennan warned that this approach is unsustainable in the long term.

"Borrowing funds from one program to pay for another is certainly not ideal," Brennan said in a written statement. "By taking this step now, as winter approaches, we hope that at least some of our most vulnerable households will be able to avoid a heating emergency."

Please see **HEATING**, Page A4



Paul Sabato, a driver with Heatable, delivers oil to a home in Scarborough in 2021. (GREGORY REC/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)