

The Minnesota Star Tribune

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2025



H: 79° L: 65° | ROGUE SHOWERS

Minneapolis violence rattles voters

Public safety is main focus of mayor’s race after recent crimes.

By DEENA WINTER
The Minnesota Star Tribune

Mass shootings have stunned Minneapolis in recent weeks, focusing attention on crime and homelessness just as early voting begins Friday in the city’s election.

The sudden burst of violence — punctuated by two shootings Monday along Lake

Street — marks a shift from the relative peace the city saw this year as crime receded from its pandemic-era spike. It also has put a renewed focus on how the candidates vying to lead the city would address public safety.

There are 15 candidates challenging Mayor Jacob Frey, who is seeking a third term.

In overwhelmingly Democratic Minneapolis, the mayor is seen as more moderate on public safety than his three most prominent challengers — creating a dynamic where none of his opponents are calling him

soft on crime amid the recent gunfire.

That hasn’t stopped them from saying they could do better.

Omar Fateh: ‘Real violence prevention’

Frey’s top challenger, state Sen. Omar Fateh, supported defunding and dismantling the Minneapolis Police Department during his 2020 Senate campaign. He has moderated that position, emphasizing alternatives to policing and promising “bold and transformative

SEE MAYOR ON A7 »

Cops push back on Moriarty’s policy change



Hennepin County Attorney Mary Moriarty

By JEFF DAY
The Minnesota Star Tribune

Hennepin County Attorney Mary Moriarty’s office will no longer prosecute most felony cases arising from low-level traffic stops, arguing that law enforcement in the state’s most populous county has long disproportionately targeted minorities for violations like broken taillights or improper turns.

It’s the latest of several changes Moriarty has pushed forward in recent months, including a policy to consider the racial identity of defendants in key prosecutorial decision points. The moves have inflamed her critics who say she is too focused on racial injustices rather than stopping crime. But the change largely tracks with her campaign promises to reform law enforcement

SEE MORIARTY ON A7 »

POMP AND POLITICS IN TRUMP’S VISIT TO U.K.



U.S. President Donald Trump is flanked by Britain’s King Charles and Kate, Princess of Wales, as he speaks at a state dinner Wednesday at Windsor Castle in England. Trump noted that he is the first U.S. president to receive a second state visit. “This is truly one of the highest honors of my life,” he said. **Story, A8**

Photo by YUI MOK • PA via the Associated Press

Fired CDC chief: RFK Jr. endangers public health

By AMANDA SEITZ and MARY CLARE JALONICK
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - The U.S. public health system is headed to a “very dangerous place” with Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and his team of anti-vaccine advisers in charge,

fired Centers for Disease Control and Prevention chief Susan Monarez warned senators on Wednesday.

Describing extraordinary turmoil inside the nation’s health agencies, Monarez and former CDC Chief Medical Officer Chief Debra Houry said Kennedy, a longtime vaccine skeptic, and

his political advisers repeatedly rebuffed data supporting the safety and efficacy of vaccines.

Monarez’s revelations to senators raised serious questions, even among some Republicans, about Kennedy’s self-professed commitment to employ “gold-standard science” for developing public

health guidance, including around the nation’s vaccination schedule. Her testimony was given to the Senate’s Health Committee just a day before a vaccine panel is set to consider major changes to the routine vaccinations recommended for the nation’s children.

SEE CDC ON A3 »

Fed trims rate, signals more cuts to come

Quarter-point reduction is first drop of 2025.

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - The Federal Reserve cut its key interest rate by a quarter-point Wednesday and projected it would do so twice more this year as concern grows at the central bank about the health of the nation’s labor market.

The move is the Fed’s first cut since December and lowered its short-term rate to about 4.1%, down from 4.3%. Fed officials, led by Chair Jerome Powell, had kept their rate unchanged this year as they evaluated the impact of tariffs, tighter immigration enforcement and other Trump administration policies on inflation and the economy.

Yet the central bank’s focus has shifted quickly from inflation, which remains modestly above its 2% target, to jobs, as hiring has grounded nearly to a halt in recent months and

the unemployment rate has ticked higher. Lower interest rates could reduce borrowing costs for mortgages, car loans and business loans, and boost growth and hiring.

“It’s really the risks that we’re seeing to the labor market that were the focus of today’s decision,” Powell said at a news conference following the Fed’s two-day meeting.

Still, Powell did not lay the groundwork for a rapid series of cuts, disappointing some investors. Fed officials, in a set of projections also released Wednesday, signaled that they expect to reduce their key rate twice more this year, but just once in 2026. Before the meeting, investors on Wall Street had projected five cuts for the rest of this year and next.

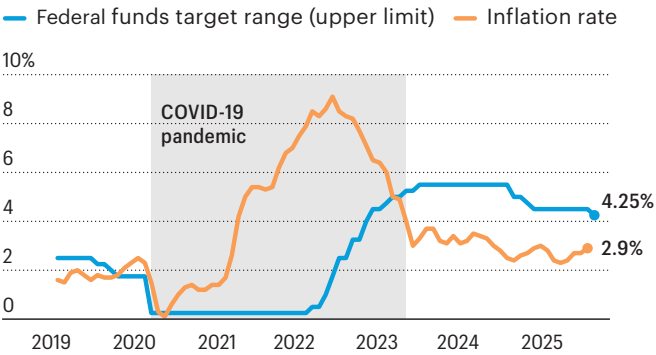
And Powell noted that the committee was pretty evenly split on whether to cut rates once or twice more this year. As a result, he said that the projected cuts should be seen as more a “probability” than a “certainty.”

SEE FED ON A3 »

Effects: What does the rate cut mean? For most people, not much. **D2**

INTEREST RATES VS. INFLATION

The Federal Reserve lowered its target rate a quarter-point Wednesday.

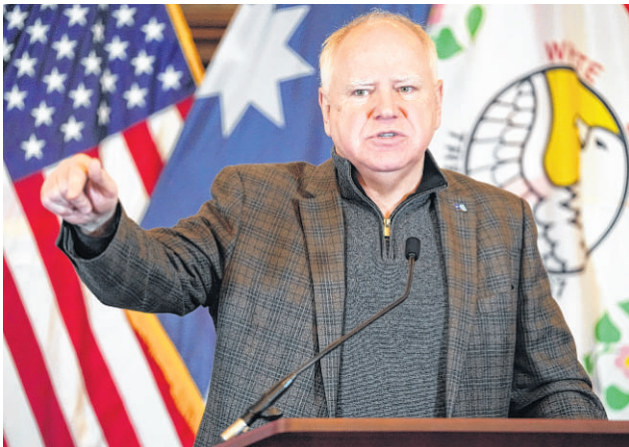


The federal funds target rate is the rate banks charge each other for overnight loans.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

JIM FOSTER • The Minnesota Star Tribune

GUN CONTROL IS CENTRAL TO WALZ’S 3RD-TERM RUN



Gov. Tim Walz vowed to respond to gun violence as he jumped into the race for a third term Tuesday, after a summer marked by a political assassination and multiple mass shootings. The message punctuated Walz’s evolution on an issue that’s taken on new urgency among Democrats in Minnesota.

In his campaign launch video, Walz called on Minnesotans to come together and said he wants to “get serious about gun violence.”

He once received an “A” rating from the NRA. Now, he’s shifted views on firearms.

Story by ALLISON KITE • Photo by ANTHONY SOUFFLÉ
The Minnesota Star Tribune

The two-term governor has called for Minnesota lawmakers to vote on banning assault weapons, such as AR-15s, and said he plans to call a special session to address gun violence. A lifelong hunter and gun owner, Walz’s positions on gun violence

represent a considerable shift compared with his early political career.

Walz addressed his change of views last year before joining then-Vice President Kamala Harris’ campaign for president, saying that his children

had influenced his views on firearms. Growing up in a small town, he said, he kept a shotgun in his car to go pheasant hunting after school.

“But we weren’t getting shot in school. We didn’t have ARs in school. ... It was, for me, both a reckoning and an embarrassment,” Walz said in a podcast interview in July 2024.

A vote on gun-control measures could satisfy the party’s base, but it might endanger

SEE WALZ ON A11 »

During his years in Congress, Gov. Tim Walz became increasingly open to prohibiting assault weapons.

TOP NEWS

Phone and internet service is cut off as Israeli forces push deeper into Gaza City. **A8**

NATION & WORLD

Russian opposition leader Navalny’s widow says she has evidence he was poisoned. **A8**

STATE & REGION

DHS commissioner overseeing housing instability programs is no longer in his post. **A9**

SPORTS

Yankees’ Judge is great but Mariners’ Raleigh should win AL MVP honor, Reusse says. **C1**

BUSINESS

MSP tops the list of best mega airports in North America for a second straight year. **D1**

TASTE

Vagabondo is David Fhima’s latest eatery amid a culinary renaissance in Excelsior. **T1**

HAVE YOU HEARD?

High school and college educators say students’ use of AI is so widespread that they need to rethink how to assign and assess work. **A2**

THE HEART AND VOICE OF THE NORTH

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THE MINNESOTA STAR TRIBUNE

Minneapolis, St. Paul MN • Volume XLIV • No. 167
September 18, 2025