



Week 8: Predicting Tuscola at Pisgah

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Next steps in Pike case uncertain



Photographs are set up in memory of Colleen Slemmer, the woman Christa Pike was convicted of murdering in 1995, on Sept. 30, the day Pike was scheduled to be executed at a Tennessee prison.

DENNY SIMMONS/NASHVILLE TENNESSEAN

Inmate may face second execution attempt

Amanda Lee Myers
USA TODAY

With the astonishing news that Christa Pike is conscious, talking and making a “medically unprecedented” recovery following her botched execution, Tennessee is now facing a critical question: Will the state try to kill her again?

“Against all odds, Christa Pike is conscious, speaking, and continues to receive critical medical care,” her attorneys said in a statement on Oct. 6. “Her prog-

nosis remains unclear but, at a minimum, we expect a long recovery.”

They said that despite “severe damage” to Pike’s arms, “she is still handcuffed and shackled to the bed.”

“She survived two complete rounds of lethal injection per Tennessee’s protocol, despite her attorneys’ warning to the state of specific challenges with her veins,” her attorneys said. “She is the only person known to have survived a complete execution attempt

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Should requirement for voter ID be in state’s Constitution?

Kelly Hinchcliffe
NC Local

North Carolina voters will have a chance to decide next month whether the state constitution should be changed to require people to provide a photo ID for all forms of voting, including absentee mail-in ballots. The state constitution currently only requires people to show ID when voting in person, but state law requires it for mail-in ballots as well.

The measure is one of three constitutional amendments on the November ballot. A cap on the state income tax rate and limits on property tax increases are also up for a vote.

If approved, the amendments are “largely about locking in the status quo,” according to Jason Husser, director of the Elon University Poll and professor of political science and public policy.

Voter ID for in-person and mail-in ballots are already part of state law, Husser told NC Newsline. “This would lock that into constitutional law in the state, so the legislature couldn’t change its mind about voter ID in the future.”

All three amendments appear likely to pass, according to results from an Elon University Poll, which surveyed 800 North Carolina adults in August.

The poll found that 63% of likely voters favored the voter ID change, compared with 25% who opposed it and 12% who were unsure. Broken down by political party, 95% of Republicans who were surveyed favored the voter ID change, along with 62% of independents and 33% of Democrats.

The amendment reads: “Constitutional amendment to require all voters, not just those presenting to vote in person, to present photo identification before voting.”

Republican lawmakers said the constitutional change is necessary to prevent courts and future lawmakers from changing the rules. While the voter experience will not change with the voter ID amendment, “it is a meaningful change to the state constitution,” according to the John Locke Foundation, a conservative think tank in Raleigh.

Rep. Mike Schietzelt, R-Wake, told WUNC News that the law increases security, especially as mail-in ballot voting has increased since the COVID-19

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Israelis mark 3 years since Hamas attack

Rami Amichay and Mahmoud Issa
REUTERS

KFAR AZA, Israel – Israelis gathered in silence on Oct. 7 in a kibbutz near the Gaza border that was overrun by Hamas militants on Oct. 7, 2023, mourning victims of attacks that set off Israel’s assault in the Gaza Strip and plunged the Middle East into war.

In the Gaza Strip, devastated by three years of Is-

raeli bombardment, Palestinians sheltering among the ruins of destroyed cities recalled life before a war that displaced nearly the entire population and tore apart families.

The attacks of Oct. 7, 2023, were the deadliest day in Israel’s history. Militants led by Hamas killed 1,200 people and took 251 hostages, a cross-border incursion that traumatized Israelis who have demanded government accountability.

Israel’s subsequent bombardment and ground operations in the Gaza Strip have killed more than 74,000 people, including at least 1,400 killed in the past year since a U.S.-brokered ceasefire, which halted major fighting but has failed to stop Israeli attacks or secure the disarmament of Hamas.

In Kfar Aza, where Hamas militants killed dozens of

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