

A nation on edge heads to the polls

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Michael Gregoire marched along a downtown sidewalk in the tense days before the midterm elections, waving a hand-painted sign at passing traffic: “DEFEAT REPUBLICANS 2018.”

“The survival of the country is going to depend on this election,” he said as another man stopped for a moment to argue. The strangers faced each other from opposite edges of the great American divide, Democrat versus Republican, both convinced the election is among the most consequential in their lifetimes and that they must save the nation from the other side.

“I’m voting for Donald Trump,” Stuart Kanter said. “He’s not on the ticket. But, in a way, actually he is.”

President Donald Trump looms large over Tuesday’s election, which is expected to draw historic numbers to the polls and will determine which party controls Congress. For Gregoire and Kanter, and for voters across the country, the election represents something far greater than whatever Senate and House races appear on their ballots. It is a competition for the soul of America — a referendum on Trump and the

venomous political culture that many blame for gridlock in Congress and a recent spate of hate crimes and politically motivated attacks.

Less than two weeks ago in this city, a white man gunned down two African-American shoppers at a grocery store in what police described as a racially motivated attack. Days later, an avid Trump supporter was arrested for mailing pipe bombs to prominent critics of the president, all of whom Trump routinely derides as “evil” and “un-American.” The next day, another gunman opened fire in a synagogue in Pittsburgh, massacring 11 worshippers and telling police “all these Jews need to die.”

Don Albrecht, a 75-year-old accountant and Republican who voted for Trump in 2016, lives blocks away from the Louisville grocery store where two people died. He’d pulled into the parking lot minutes after the gunfire erupted, saw the police cars and shaken employees, and felt like the country’s poisonous political climate had landed in his backyard. He wishes he could take back his vote for Trump.

“He has diarrhea of the mouth and diarrhea of the brain. He’s just so irresponsible,” said Albrecht, who worries Trump’s embrace of the far-right is remaking his

party. “I don’t think the American public is going to put up with it. I think there’s going to be a big backlash against Republicans because of this divisiveness.”

He’s undecided going into Election Day. He can’t remember ever voting for a Democrat but said he might this time in protest.

Other Trump voters remain staunchly behind him, and plan to choose Republican candidates to help him make good on his pledges, including vows to implement more hardline immigration policies. “I want to see the wall go up,” said Joe Spirko, 57, as he peddled Trump flags outside of one of the president’s rallies in Florida last week. “Since Trump come along, I feel a lot better.”

Trump has stepped up his rhetoric on immigration ahead of the elections, focusing on a caravan of Central American migrants heading toward the United States. Trump and his backers have called it “an invasion” — though the group of a few thousand people, including mothers and children, remains hundreds of miles away — and suggested without proof that there are criminals and terrorists in the crowd of those fleeing violence and poverty. In a White House speech, the pres-

ident said he would sign an order preventing border-crossers from claiming asylum, a legally questionable proposition, and said he’d told military troops he’s mobilizing to the border to respond to thrown rocks like they were “rifles.”

Julie Hoepfner, a 67-year-old psychologist in Indiana, voted early for Republican candidates, also citing illegal immigration as a primary concern.

A friend recently sent Hoepfner a photo of immigrants arriving at Ellis Island with a note that said: “For our ancestors, this is their caravan.” Hoepfner didn’t respond but thought to herself that her ancestors arrived legally. “Which is a big difference,” she said. “They didn’t come trying to storm the border.”

Pedro Panelo, the 21-year-old president of the College Republicans at Wheaton College in Illinois, is frustrated immigration became a last-minute political football, because the issue is more complex than what either Democrats or Republicans make it out to be. Panelo, the son of a Mexican immigrant, said migrants shouldn’t be demonized, but he stopped short of criticizing the president, and plans to vote for Republican candidates who could help push Trump’s agenda.

ATA Bus to offer free rides to public for Election Day

Staff reports

ATA Bus will have free rides Tuesday for Election Day.

The offer is for anyone riding the fixed-route systems, although the intent is to make it easier to get to polling places to vote. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday.

ATA Bus officials noted that the fixed-route service might not serve all voting locations. People can call 785-537-6345 for details.

A number of issues are on the ballot:

■ The \$129.5 million USD 383 bond issue (a yes vote is for the approval of school improvements including a new elementary school)

■ Governor’s race between State Sen.

Laura Kelly, D-Topeka, Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach, R-Topeka, and independent candidate Greg Orman of Fairway

■ U.S. House District 1 race between U.S. Rep. Roger Marshall, R-Kansas, and Democratic candidate Alan LaPolice

■ Kansas House 66th District race between Rep. Sydney Carlin, D-Manhattan, and Libertarian candidate Edgar Chambers V

■ Kansas House 67th District race between Rep. Tom Phillips, R-Manhattan, and Democratic candidate Alex Van Dyke

■ Riley County District 1 race between Republican candidate John Ford and write-in candidate Aaron Estabrook

ANALYSIS

Democrats focus on House, eye Midwest redemption

Julie Pace
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — For Democrats, the midterm elections have been a beacon in the dark, a chance to re-emerge from the political wilderness and repudiate a president they view as a dangerous force.

But on the cusp of Tuesday’s vote, many Democrats are as anxious as they are hopeful.

Their memories from 2016, when they watched in disbelief as Donald Trump defied polls, expectations and political norms, are still fresh. And as Trump travels the country armed with a divisive and racially charged closing campaign message, the test for Democrats now feels at once similar and more urgent than it did two years ago: They failed to stop Trump then, what if they fall short again?

“Part of what’s at stake here is our ability to send a message that this is not who we are,” said Karen Finney, a Democratic consultant who worked on Hillary Clinton’s losing 2016 campaign.

This year, history is on Democrats’ side. The sitting president’s party often losing ground in the first midterm after winning office, and for much of 2018, voter enthusiasm and polling has favored Democrats as well.

Primary contests filled the Democratic roster with a new generation of candidates, including several minority candidates who could make history in their races. While the fight to regain control of the Senate, largely playing out in conservative states, may prove out of reach for Democrats, the party has been buoyed by its ability to run competitively in Repub-

lican-leaning states such as Texas and Tennessee.

Democrats’ focus is largely on snatching back the House and picking up governors’ seats in Florida, Wisconsin, Ohio and elsewhere. The party is also seeking redemption in the Midwest where Trump won over white, working-class voters who had backed Democrats for years. In Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania, Democrats appear poised to regain ground.

Such victories would build momentum behind the party’s shift toward a new generation of candidates who are younger, more diverse, with greater numbers of women and more liberal than Democratic leadership. They would also signal that Trump’s hard-line positions on immigration and his penchant for personal attacks turn off more voters than they energize.

A good night for Democrats on Tuesday would provide a blueprint for how the party can successfully run against Trump in the 2020 presidential race. At least two dozen Democrats are waiting in the wings, eager to take Trump.

But the president has proved once again to be a powerful political force late in a campaign.

Even with his daily airing of grievances on Twitter and an approval rate below the average for his recent predecessors at this point, he has almost single-handedly put Republicans in a stronger position this fall.

He’s aggressively appealed to his loyal, core supporters with a sharply anti-immigrant, nationalist message and by casting Democrats as outside the mainstream.

‘YNWA,’ MHS soccer says; pancreatic cancer overtakes longtime coach

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don’t really want to be famous in Manhattan. ... The outreach is just unbelievable.”

The cancer, which began in his pancreas, spread to his liver. Alonso recently began a chemotherapy regimen.

The GoFundMe page created to support Alonso’s fight raised \$45,155 in about three weeks. Recently, the MHS soccer team held a fundraiser that brought in over \$6,000 in a few hours.

Alonso’s team wanted to win him the state championship trophy.

The players wore purple shirts that said

“Frank’s Tribe” on the front with “Stronger Than Cancer” right below it. On the back, “YNWA” was written as a tribute to the Liverpool motto; Liverpool was Alonso’s favorite Premier League team. The acronym means, “You’ll Never Walk Alone.”

“For Frank” was the refrain the players, coaches and fans repeated over the last few weeks.

His Indians defeated Shawnee Mission East in penalty kicks in the semis Friday, but lost to Olathe East 3-0 in Saturday’s championship game.

“To have him in our mind the whole

time, that was just a driving factor for us,” senior defender Cole Herpich said after the group’s loss.

Both senior forward Max Lansdowne and sophomore midfielder Cole Schmitt said it was difficult to play at state without their leader on the sideline.

“He’s just always been a really powerful factor for us,” Lansdowne said after the Shawnee Mission East win.

“Just not having him here is so foreign for us. Even if we don’t think it is, it’s in the back of our minds somewhere.

“It’s just tough for

us.”

Added Schmitt after the title game: “This has been his whole life’s work the past 20 years and all he talks about is state every single day and from day one, just like the seniors. It just sucks that we can’t take it home for him.”

Assistant coach Seth Yurgel, who has only been with the team for a few months, noticed how the players came together after hearing about his death.

“They were playing for something bigger,” Yurgel said after the Olathe East loss. “They were playing for Frank.”

K-State researcher experiments in lab, kitchen

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“That’s pretty much my day job.”

Newton, born and raised in Brazil, has also been doing Bewitching Kitchen, her food blog at bewitchingkitchen.com, for almost 10 years.

“It’s just a hobby,” she said. “I don’t have any intention of monetizing my site.”

With posts typically happening twice a week at this point, nearly 10 years means a lot of recipes.

Some of the blog’s categories include Brazilian cooking, breads, breakfast and brunch, desserts, pasta, small dishes, and a variety of meats.

“I’m very open minded, and I like to cook all kinds of things from different countries and different styles,” she said. “The only type of cooking I’m a little intimidated by is Japanese. I don’t feel comfortable trying to make sushi at home.”

Newton said she started out with simple recipes. “Things you can do once you get home from work,” she said. “I don’t have time to cook stuff that’s too elaborate.”

As her interest in baking developed, Newton’s blog life and

work life began intersecting at the beginning of the week with what she calls “Mondays with Sweetness.”

For the past two years, she has been bringing what she bakes during the weekend to the department on Monday morning.

“Usually, I send an email on Sunday to all of the faculty and some of the graduate students telling them what to expect,” she said. “The janitors arrive at 4 in the morning, so they are the first to get it.”

Her previous research involved postdoctoral work at the Stanford University, research stints in Brazil and France, and working at the University of Oklahoma for 20 years. “I’ve been working with bacteria for 30 years,” she said.

Newton said she had a desire to become a scientist, even saying as a child that she wanted to be a “crazy scientist.” She received both her bachelor’s degree in biology and her doctorate in biochemistry from the University of Sao Paulo in Brazil.

“My life was like an arrow in that direction,” she said. “I always wanted to do this. I honestly can’t imagine me doing anything else.”

As for Newton’s cooking gene, well, she’s not too sure where it comes from.

“Most people would tell you, ‘It’s my grandma or my mother,’” she said. “Nobody in my family liked to cook.”

In addition to her love of experiments, Newton said she also likes to eat well and healthy.

“I like to be able to control what goes into my body,” she said. “It makes me feel good.”

Newton’s life, whether it’s work or home, requires organization.

Newton wakes up at 5 a.m. to get her day going. She exercises at least five times a week. Newton and Klebba alternate cooking days.

“You have to be organized if you work in a lab,” she said. “Otherwise, you’re in trouble. I translate that into my home way of doing things.”

Klebba, who has been married to Newton since 2000, said he has seen her love of a challenge since they first started working together 25 years ago.

“Whenever she embraces a challenge, she goes into it hook, line and sinker,” he said. “She’s into it totally, whether it’s exercising, cooking foods or her scientific work.”

City to select new mayor on Tuesday

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election. Mayor Linda Morse will make outgoing comments about her term prior to the new mayor and mayor pro-tem as the leading vote-getter in 2017

as mayor, and Usha Reddi would be selected as the mayor pro-tem as the leading vote-getter in 2017