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**Inside C2** 

Wednesday, December 09 2020

# U.S. Supreme Court rejects Republican challenge to Biden's Pennsylvania win



U.S. President-elect Joe Biden announces nominees and appointees to serve on his health and coronavirus response teams during a news conference at his transition headquarters in Wilmington, Delaware, U.S., December 8, 2020.

WASHINGTON (Reuters) -The U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday handed a defeat to Republicans seeking to throw out up to 2.5 million mail-in ballots in Pennsylvania as they try to undo President Donald Trump's election loss, with the justices refusing to block the state from formalizing President-elect Joe Biden's victory there.

nominees and appointees to serve on his health and coronavirus response teams during a news conference at his transition headquarters in Wilmington, Delaware, U.S., December 8, 2020. REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque The court in a brief order rejected a request by U.S. congressman Mike Kelly, a Trump ally, and other Pennsylvania Republicans who filed a lawsuit after the Nov. 3 election arguing that the state's 2019 expansion of mail-in voting was illegal under state law.

Pennsylvania was one of the pivotal states in the election, with Biden, a Democrat, defeating Trump after the Republican president won the state in 2016. State officials had already certified the election results.

There were no noted dissents from any of the justices on the court, which has a 6-3 conservative majority including three Supreme Court. Trump appointees. Trump had urged the Republican-led Senate to confirm his most recent nominee, Justice Amy Coney Barrett, before Election Day so she could participate in any election-related cases.

Trump has falsely claimed that he won re-election, making unfounded claims about widespread voting fraud in states including Pennsylvania. Democrats and other critics have accused Trump of aiming to reduce public confidence in the and received a much higher proportion integrity of U.S. elections and undermine of the mail-in votes than Trump. Many democracy by trying to subvert the will of the voters.

"This election is over. We must continue to stop this circus of 'lawsuits' and move forward," Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro, a Democrat, wrote on

The Supreme Court also must decide what to do with another election-related case brought on Tuesday. Republican-governed Texas, hoping to help Trump, mounted an unusual effort to overturn the election results in Pennsylvania and three other states - Georgia,

Michigan and Wisconsin - by filing a lawsuit against them directly at the

The Republican plaintiffs argued that the universal, "no-excuse" mail-in ballot program passed by the Republican-controlled Pennsylvania legislature in 2019, enabling voters to cast ballots by mail for any reason, violated the state's constitu-

Biden won Pennsylvania by 80,000 votes more people voted by mail this year because of health concerns prompted by the coronavirus pandemic as they sought to avoid crowds at polling places.

Ahead of the election, Trump urged his supporters not to vote by mail, making groundless claims that mail-in voting - a longstanding feature of American elections - was rife with fraud.

'JUDICIAL POWER'

Pennsylvania said in a court filing that the Republican challengers were asking the justices to "undertake one of the

most dramatic, disruptive invocations of judicial power" in U.S. history by nullifying a state's certification of its election

The state said most of what the challengers had sought was moot because the election results already were certified and what they were really wanted was for "the court overturn the results of the election."

Pennsylvania's top court on Nov. 28 dismissed the challenge, saying that the lawsuit was not filed in a timely manner when the mail-in voting law was first enacted. It threw out a lower court ruling that had ordered the state not to certify the election pending a hearing.

Trump's campaign and his allies have lost in a stream of lawsuits in key states won by Biden, also including Georgia, Michigan, Wisconsin and others. Judges have rejected sweeping assertions of voting irregularities.

Biden has amassed 306 electoral votes exceeding the necessary 270 - compared to 232 for Trump in the state-by-state Electoral College that determines the

election's outcome, while also winning the national popular vote by more than 7 million votes

Tuesday represents a "safe harbor" deadline set by an 1887 U.S. law for states to certify presidential election results. Meeting the deadline is not mandatory but provides assurance that a state's results will not be second-guessed by Congress.

After this deadline, Trump could still pursue lawsuits seeking to overturn Biden's victory but the effort would become even more difficult.



2020年12月9日

# WEALER'S GLOBAL NOTES

12/08/2020

### CORONAVIRUS DIARY Wealee@scdaily.com

# **U.K. Giant Vaccine Rollout**



Because of coronavirus pandemic, one out of eight people in the U.S. now faces hunger. And as the richest country in the world, this is very ironic for us.

Thank God we finally have a vaccine coming to rescue us. Before most of us can be vaccinated, we still will need to wear the masks, keep the social distance and wash our hands.



As it prepares to begin rolling out a coronavirus vaccine on Tuesday, Britain is taking on the biggest logistical challenge ever faced by the country's health service. They want to vaccinate tens of millions of people against the coronavirus in a matter of months. Retired health workers are being asked to help.

President-elect Biden has asked Congress and President Trump to pass the stimulus economic package. Otherwise, more than 12 million people will lose their unemployment benefits and more small businesses will be forced to close.

Today we are facing the biggest challenge in our modern history.



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## BUSINESS

Wear Mask!

Lockdown Order Includes Los Angeles And San Diego, Home To About 24 Million People Or Almost Half Of The State's Population

### California Gov. Newsom Orders New limits On **Businesses And Activities As COVID-19 Soars**



California Gov. Gavin Newsom has outlined his administration's response to the

### Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

The vast region of Southern California has been placed under new lockdown orders as the state scrambles to slow the rapid escalation of coronavirus cases that threatens to overwhelm hospitals. The California Department of Public Health announced Saturday that a shortage of intensive care beds in the 11-county Southern California region had triggered the new measures. The new restrictions went into effect in Southern California at 11:59 p.m. Sunday and will last for at least three weeks. The region includes the cities of Los Angeles and San Diego and is home to about 24 million people, almost half of the state's population. The order was also put in effect for the San Joaquin Valley. The new state stay-at-home order bans all on-site restaurant dining and closes hair and nail salons, movie theaters and many other businesses, as well as museums and playgrounds. It also means people may not congregate with anyone outside their household and must always wear masks when they go outside.

The following sectors will stay open but with limited capacity, mandatory masks and social distancing measures in place:

- · Outdoor recreational facilities, but without food, drink or alcohol sales, and no overnight
- · Retail businesses and malls, with indoor capacity limited to 20%; no eating or drinking
- will be allowed inside stores · Hotels and offices that support critical infra-
- · Restaurants offering takeout, pick-up or de-
- Places of worship can hold outdoor services
- · Professional sports and entertainment pro-
- duction without live audiences • Non-urgent medical and dental care



With so many hospitals in the state experiencing a rapid surge of patients with the disease,

possibly into the new year.

"The bottom line is, if we don't act now, our hospital system will be overwhelmed," Newsom said in a midday news conference. "If we don't act now, we'll continue to see our death rate climb, more lives lost."

Despite initial indications that 11 counties in Southern California and 12 counties in the San Joaquin Valley could be required to implement the new restrictions immediately, state health officials later provided a list showing no regions currently at the threshold for closure meaning no more than 85% of their intensive care unit beds are filled. State officials intend to update the estimates of ICU capacity daily and post the information online. Once a region's ICU bed capacity falls below 15%, the shutdown rules will take effect within 24 hours. But with the state's decision to have the public health order take effect Saturday afternoon, the earliest any region could see closures would be Sunday. A shutdown affecting the Southern California region includes Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Imperial, Inyo and Mono counties. State officials divided California's counties into five regions for the purpose of determining intensive care unit capacity and potential shutdowns of local

COVID-19 stay-at-home regions



As Californians hunker down for the new restrictions, the nation also is in the worst phase of the pandemic. More than 100,000 people are currently hospitalized with COVID-19 na-

the "regional stay-at-home" order described tionwide, the highest national level ever and by Newsom is likely to limit activities across soaring above the first two waves of the pan-California throughout the holiday season and demic, according to the COVID Tracking Project. More than 276,000 people have died, according to Johns Hopkins University. Affected communities will be required to close personal service businesses, including hair and nail salons, playgrounds, zoos, museums, aquariums and wineries. Overnight, short-term stays at campgrounds would be prohibited. Restaurants will be required to return to take-out service only. Retail businesses will be limited to 20% of their customer capacity inside at any one time, with requirements for store officials to ensure there's no indoor drinking or eating. The California governor, who remains in quarantine with his family after his children were exposed to people who subsequently tested positive for COVID-19, said the new order is "fundamentally predicated on the need to stop gathering with people outside of your household [and] to do what you can to keep most of your activities

> Data compiled by The Times show the state has averaged nearly 15,000 cases a day over the last week, triple the rate in the last month. COVID-19 hospitalizations have also tripled over the same period. And an average of 67 Californians were dying daily from COVID-19 over the last week, a 60% jump from mid-November.

Retail shops closed down in Los Angeles complying with Gov. Newsom's lockdown order. The order could last for three weeks. Unlike the shutdown Newsom issued in the spring, most outdoor activities, including beach access and hiking, are not affected. But similar to other state government rules, the order allows local leaders to impose public health rules that are stricter. But stronger orders by the state would supersede more permissive local orders. That means the expected implementation of the order in Southern California would require, for

example, restaurants to shutter outdoor dining

currently allowed in their local jurisdiction.

Strict new limits on shoppers in the run-up to the holiday season could strike a powerful blow to the state's already hobbled economy. In recent days, Newsom has announced a variety of loan and grant efforts for small businesses as well as the expansion of a program that allows businesses to delay payment of sales tax collections and use the money as a short-term bridge loan. In most of the state, nonessential retail stores are capped at 25% capacity. Some counties, however, already meet this stricter threshold: L.A. County on Monday lowered its cap on capacity at nonessential retail stores to 20%, and Santa Clara County has limited its cap on nonessential retail to 10% of capacity.



### California governor said without another

lockdown, hospitals will run out of beds. One sector of life unchanged by the new rules: K-12 schools. Public school campuses that were allowed to open for at least partial in-person instruction when conditions were better in early fall can remain open. Epidemiologists said state officials had no choice but to impose a stricter shutdown to avoid one of the worst public health catastrophes in the state's modern history, with California's death toll of nearly 20,000 plausibly doubling by the end of winter. The initial coronavirus wave "has now become a viral tsunami," said Dr. Robert Kim-Farley, a medical epidemiologist and infectious disease expert at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health. "The virus is now everywhere, and so, therefore, the restriction of activities needs to also be applied everywhere to be able to return to where we were — on a decreasing trend."

The governor defended Thursday his administration's actions as rooted in science and public health best practices. "We want to mitigate mixing, period, full stop," he said. "We want to diminish the amount of mixing. And we really need to send that message broadly. And we need to create less opportunities for the kind of contact and extended period, extended time of contact, that occurs in many of these establishments." (Courtesy www.latimes.com)

Wednesay, December 09, 2020



## **Editor's Choice**



Margaret Keenan, 90, is the first patient in Britain to receive the Pfizer/BioNtech COVID-19 vaccine at University Hospital, administered by nurse May Parsons, at the start of the largest ever immunization program in British history, in Coventry. Britain is the first country in the world to start vaccinating people with the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine. Jacob King/Pool



Sammy Olszta, 6, grandson of U.S. Olympic wrestling Gold Medalist and Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient Dan Gable, leans against the Resolute Desk as Gable delivers remarks beside President Trump during a presentation ceremony inside the Oval Office at the White House. REUTERS/Tom Brenner



People wearing protective masks walk at a street market, almost a year after the start of the coronavirus outbreak, in Wuhan, Hubei province, China. REUTERS/Aly Song



A man walks inside a truck terminal during a nationwide strike to protest against newly passed farm bills in Mumbai, India. REUTERS/Francis Mascarenhas



Dana Friedman, a trial lawyer who has spent 6 months of each year growing out his beard for his annual appearances as Santa Claus since 2001, adjusts his mask before greeting a child at the Bay Terrace Shopping Center in Queens, in New York City....



Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Jon Ossoff bumps elbows with former U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julian Castro during a Latino voter registration event in Lilburn, Georgia. REUTERS/Dustin Chambers



People give blood on the stage of the closed MAD (Moulin a Danse) night club in Lausanne, Switzerland. REUTERS/Denis Balibouse



The headquarters of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (PDK) is seen after it was burnt during anti-government protests on the outskirts of Sulaimaniyah, Iraq. REUTERS/ Ako Rasheed



## COMMUNITY

Immigrants Were Handed A Big Win - And The Implications Go Far Beyond Immigration

### **Judge Orders Government To Fully Reinstate DACA Program**



A June demonstration in San Diego in support of beneficiaries of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. (Photo/S. Huffaker/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images)

#### **KEY POINT**

Up to 300,000 additional undocumented immigrants could be allowed to apply for protection from deportation under a new court ruling. President Trump had sought to cancel the program.

#### Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

A federal judge on Friday ordered the Trump administration to fully restore an Obama-era program designed to shield young, undocumented immigrants from deportation, dealing what could be a final blow to President Trump's long-fought effort to end the protections. The program, known as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, was created by President Barack Obama in 2012. Over the years, it has protected more than 800,000 individuals, known as "dreamers," who met a series of strict requirements for eligibility.

But those protections have been under legal and political siege from Republicans for years, leaving the immigrants who were enrolled in DACA uncertain whether the threat of deportation from the United States could quickly return with a single court order or presidential memorandum. Judge Nicholas G. Garaufis of the U.S. District Court in Brooklyn directed the administration on Friday to allow newly

eligible immigrants to file new applications for protection under the program. reversing a memorandum issued in the summer by Chad Wolf, the acting secretary of Homeland Security, which restricted the program to people who were already enrolled. As many as 300,000 new applicants could now be eligible, according to the lawyers who pushed for the reinstatement.



People hold signs during a rally in support of the Supreme Court's ruling in favor of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, in San Diego, on June 18.

#### (Photo/S. Huffaker/AFP/Getty Images)

The memo from the Department of Homeland Security also limited benefits under the program, including permits to work, to one year, but the judge ordered the government to restore them to a full two years. Judge Garaufis, who was appointed by President Bill Clinton, also said the government must find a way to contact all immigrants who are eligible for the program to inform them of the change.

The judge said the government must announce the changes to the program on its website by Monday.

Lawyers who had challenged the Trump administration in the case celebrated the decision, saying that amid a pandemic and global economic recession, it granted some stability to a vulnerable group.

"This is a really big day for DACA recipients and immigrant young people," said Karen Tumlin, director of the Justice Action Center, who litigated the class-action case. "It's a day that many of them have been waiting for for over three years." She said it could open the door for hundreds of thousands of immigrant youths "who have been unfairly denied their chance" under the DACA program.

The program still faces other challenges, including a case in federal court in Texas. where Republican attorneys general have asked a judge to declare it unlawful. And Mr. Trump's administration could appeal the ruling by Judge Garaufis in the days ahead.



Immigration advocates said they hoped the administration would not continue its legal fight to end the program given the arrival of a new, Democratic administration in less than

President-elect Joseph R. Biden Jr. has vowed to restore the DACA program when he takes office, but a legislative solution that would permanently allow the dreamers to live and

work legally in the United States remains elusive, leaving their fates to the shifting political winds in Washington.

If the judge's order still stands by the time Mr. Biden takes office in January, the new president would need to do nothing to make good on his promise. But Mr. Biden is certain to face intense pressure from immigrant groups to fight for a broad overhaul of the nation's immigration laws that would take care of the dreamers and millions of other undocumented immigrants.

Comprehensive legislation, including one that would provide a path to citizenship for some immigrants, would be less vulnerable to legal challenges than DACA, which Mr. Obama created using the executive powers of his office after Congress repeatedly refused to act.

But securing passage of a bill that includes citizenship for undocumented immigrants could be difficult for Mr. Biden, especially if Republicans still control the Senate after two runoff elections in Georgia early in January. Americans have historically considered DACA beneficiaries to be among the most sympathetic categories of immigrants. Having violated immigration laws through no fault of their own by being brought to the United States as minors, they are required to have a high school diploma or G.E.D., unless they have served in the military, and they must maintain a clean criminal record to hold on to their status.

In a Pew survey conducted in June, about three-quarters of respondents, including majorities of both Democrats and Republicans, favored extending a pathway to permanent legal status to dreamers.



The program has had generational impact. Researchers estimate that 250,000 U.S.born children have at least one parent who is enrolled in DACA, and that about 1.5 million people in the United States live with a beneficiary of the program.

The judge's ruling on Friday is a significant legal setback to Mr. Trump's yearslong attempt to terminate the program.

As a candidate, Mr. Trump insisted that DACA was unconstitutional, and as president he moved to end it in September 2017. That effort was put on hold by federal judges while the merits of the president's actions were evaluated. The legal battle culminated in a Supreme Court ruling this summer in which the justices said the president had not followed proper procedures to end the pro-

In the wake of that ruling, Mr. Wolf only partially reinstated the program, refusing to allow new immigrants to apply and slashing the length of renewals to one year, instead of the two years previously allowed.

In November, Judge Garaufis determined that the partial reinstatement was invalid because it had been issued in the form of a memo by Mr. Wolf, who Judge Garaufis found had been unlawfully appointed to his

Officials at the Department of Homeland Security and the Justice Department did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Friday night.

But the administration has disputed the judge's determination that Mr. Wolf was not properly appointed and has signaled in the past that it intends to fight challenges to the president's efforts to end or scale back the program. (Courtesy www.nytimes.com)

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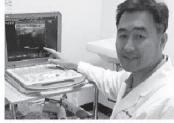
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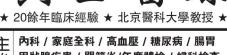
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