

What's going on in California?



COURTHOUSE NEWS SERVICE

Closing Arguments

The week in Courthouse News

November 8, 2024

While eyes were glued to the [top of the ticket](#), Tuesday's election resulted in a slate of legislative outcomes that offered a state-level political temperature check.

Measures to protection abortion rights [succeeded in seven states](#), while voters in Florida, Nebraska and South Dakota defeated similar constitutional amendments, [Nika Schoonover](#) reports.

Arizona voters [approved a controversial ballot measure](#) that makes it a state crime to cross the border illegally, allowing arrests by local and state law enforcement. As [Joe Duhownik](#) reports, the same state rejected an initiative that would have reduced wages for tipped workers.

"An election that stunned Democrats all over the nation also offered a repudiation of certain progressive policies in, of all places, California," [Hillel Aron](#) writes. Voters in the Golden State heartily supported [increased prison sentences for shoplifting](#) and fentanyl-related crimes. The electorate rejected rent control expansion, a minimum wage hike and an initiative that would ban forced labor in prisons. (Probably; votes were still being counted Friday afternoon.)

Donald Trump's win prompted a [range of responses in Europe](#), where leaders quickly got behind the president-elect, but unease permeates a continent already struggling with war and economic stagnation. [Cain Burdeau](#) and [Lily Radziemski](#) report.

Finally, there's the question of what Trump's presidency means for the man himself, whose time away from the White House was plagued with civil and criminal court losses.

The federal cases against Trump [are all but dead](#), [Ryan Knappenberger](#) reports, given the president's [avenues to dismiss the charges](#). There's likely good news ahead for [rioters charged in the Jan. 6, 2021, attack](#) to the U.S. Capitol, too; Trump has repeatedly promised pardons.

But in his home state of New York, [Erik Uebelacker](#) reports, Trump remains on the hook — if not criminally — for the [\\$480 million civil fraud judgment against him](#) for inflating his net worth and the \$83 million civil verdict for raping and defaming writer E. Jean Carroll.

The Courthouse News continues below.

— [Nina Pullano](#)

Here's what else happened in court this week:



A Texas federal judge [struck down a Biden administration program](#) that would have kept over 550,000 undocumented spouses and stepchildren in the country. [[David Lee](#)]

» The DOJ [charged three men](#) with plotting with Iranian officials to kill President-elect Donald Trump. [[Nika Schoonover](#)]

» A Georgia jury found Melody Farris guilty of [murdering her attorney husband](#) and burning his body. [[Megan Butler](#)]

» Mark Zuckerberg is [off the hook](#) for claims he concealed and misrepresented the harmful effects of social media on kids. [[Alan Riquelmy](#)]

» Project Veritas can [advance defamation claims](#) against CNN over an on-air statement about why the far-right activist group was banned from Twitter. [[Kayla Goggin](#)]



Colorado's under-21 age restriction on gun purchases [won approval](#) from the 10th Circuit. [[Matt Simons](#)]

Top 8: What you've been reading

1. [Elon Musk can't dodge claims that he fired former Twitter execs to avoid paying severance](#)
2. [California county pays up after illegally seizing child's pet goat](#)
3. [Prosecutors urge jurors to find Georgia woman guilty of murdering, burning husband](#)
4. [Trial judge grills Texas, Biden administration over immigration program for mixed-status families](#)
5. [Do cars count as public spaces? Minnesota Supreme Court takes up question in BB gun case](#)
6. [Fourth Circuit rules against Philadelphia Eagles fans in arbitration dispute with Washington Commanders](#)
7. [Trump stuns Harris to become 47th president of the United States](#)
8. [Witness recounts secret affair with Georgia woman accused of killing lawyer husband](#)



Daniel Penny, an ex-Marine [on trial for manslaughter](#) after placing a homeless man in a fatal chokehold on an NYC subway train, [unsuccessfully moved for a mistrial](#) on the

grounds that prosecutors elicited testimony that made him seem like a “white vigilante.”
[[Erik Uebelacker](#)]

Rulings on our radar

» **Western District of Louisiana:** A Louisiana prison warden [no longer faces](#) constitutional claims he failed to protect an imprisoned father of two who was beaten to death by another inmate using a combination lock wrapped in a laundry bag.

» **District of Colorado:** Colorado [settled](#) DOJ claims that it segregated people with physical disabilities in nursing facilities.

» **Eastern District of California:** The maker of devil’s food cookie cakes has [settled](#) claims with a California health advocacy group.

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