You know what they say about New York: "If you can make it there; you can make it anywhere!"

The same should be said about the governing body in the state of Virginia: This was once seen as one of the reddest states in the country. Democrats swept the ballot boxes in "Old Dominion" and took complete legislative control of a southern state. Virginia Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin now has his hands full in dealing with a flipped state House there.

The striking thing about Virginia’s flip to the democratic party was that they weren’t lightly involved in abortion rights this election cycle. Virginia is already known as the refuge state for abortion access in the south after the overturning of Roe v. Wade by the U.S. Supreme Court last year.

The same can’t be said about other states in our nation where abortion is the tipping point of who gets elected and who falls by the wayside.

The democrats’ message for abortion rights crushed the Republican opposition agenda, en masse, Tuesday. The fact that Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and Ohio have more萝卜 manipulations in preserving women’s reproductive freedom is a gargantuan roadblock for Republic partisan and socialist curmudgeons.

And we can look at these one of two ways. First, sensible voices are finally being heard after all the chaos Trump’s political era has brought from his reign, after all, when Obama was in office, we just got the occasional racist hurling bullets around. A completely new dynamic took place when 45 was elected. Which brings me to my second point. The democrats can’t afford to suspend this opportunity like they did when Obama was in office. The lightning rod this cycle is abortion rights. Does anyone recall what the lightning rod was when Obama was in office? I mean other than him being Black? If you guessed guns, then you are a sexist of Virginia common, but effective, Blue-print.

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At least 9 precincts in majority-Black Mississippi county ran out of ballots

(MISSISSIPPI) - Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves was reelected on Tuesday, a Republican win that comes after a close race and reports of ballots running out, which led to legal challenges in Hinds County.

NewswEEK reported widespread accounts of polling stations running out of ballots in Hinds County, Mississippi’s most populous county, resulting in some residents waiting several hours to cast their votes. The lack of ballots prompted Hinds County Chancery Judge Dewayne Thomas to order polls to remain open for an extra hour after the state Democratic Party filed a lawsuit.

Data from the U.S. Census Bureau shows that Hinds County is 73.5 percent Black and traditionally votes Democratic.

“A number of precincts in Hinds County ran out of ballots during election day and are continuing to run out of ballots and others may run out going forward,” wrote Thomas. “It takes time to deliver more ballots to the precincts. Because of the disruption this has caused, the Court grants the motion of the Plaintiff to extend the closing hours in Hinds County from 7 PM to 8 PM.”

Ross Adams, who works for the local network WAPT News, recorded ballots running out at five locations in Clinton and one in the neighboring city of Bolton, according to NewswEEK.

Brendan Hall from WLBT News garnered over 1.2 million views with footage of a massive line of voters queuing in the dark outside Wildwood Baptist Church — one of the locations Adams visited — posted on X, formerly Twitter.

Before the election, Reeves got video support from former president and Republican presidential frontrunner Donald Trump, who said: “Joe Biden from former president and Republican presidential nominee that is the best, well-trained and philanthropic communities, to help us address the public health and safety.”

Parker, 51, emerged from a crowded field of Democrats in the May primary and was heavily favored over Republican David Oh in the city, a Democratic stronghold. She will replace Democrat Jim Kenney, who was ineligible for reelection due to term limits.

She campaigned on a promise to make Philadelphia the “safest, cleanest, greenest big city in the nation that will provide access to economic opportunity for all.”

Parker, who served for 10 years as a state representative for northwest Philadelphia before her election to the city council in 2015, touted herself as a leader whose government experience would allow her to address gaping problems in the city.

“We can’t solve these problems alone,” she said in a previous interview. “We need federal, state and local government, along with the private sector and philanthropic communities, to help us address the public health and safety.”

Parker’s moderate message resonated with voters who are increasingly worried about public safety as well as quality-of-life issues, from faulty streetlights to potholes to trash collection.

“We will have a police department that is supported by the mayor that is the best, well-trained and is proactively engaged and woven into the fabric of our communities, along with mental health and behavioral health supports, along with social and human services and connection to employment opportunities and workforce development address and quality of life issues,” she said.

At least 9 precincts in majority-Black Mississippi county ran out of ballots

by TheGrio Staff

DEMOCRAT CHERELLE PARKER Is elected as Philadelphia's 100th mayor

PHILA, PA - Cherelle Parker, a Democrat who has held office at the state and local level after first becoming involved in politics as a teenager, was elected Tuesday as Philadelphia’s 100th mayor, becoming the first woman to hold the position.

Voters were also choosing a new leader for Allegheny County, which is home to Pittsburgh. The races will set the electoral stage for 2024, when the state will be a presidential battleground state, with candidates taking lessons about how Democrats see crime and the strength of progressives in local races.

The next election cycle.

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There may be money in your house.

And not just in the couch cushions. If you need to repair or improve your home, you deserve to have a trusted partner to help you find the right loan product for your unique needs.

Talk to a Frost banker at (800) 51-FROST or visit your nearest financial center.
AUSTIN, Texas — The Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) will implement the Texas Energy Fund (TEF), as directed by the Texas Legislature through Senate Bill 2627 and approved by Texas voters on Nov. 7. The TEF will provide grants and loans to finance the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric facilities in Texas.

“PUC staff has been working hard since early summer to prepare for implementation of the TEF,” said PUC Executive Director Thomas Gleeson. “With voter approval of the fund, we will push forward developing the program and design transparent processes to ensure the administration of the TEF is timely, fiscally responsible, and effective. The TEF is another vital tool to ensure the reliability and resiliency of the Texas electric grid.”

TEF funding opportunities will be available for dispatchable electric generation projects and facility enhancements both in and outside of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) region based on application and award processes undertaken by the PUC. The PUCT will review all applications and administer the fund.

In addition to grants and loans to finance the construction and modernization of dispatchable electric generating facilities, the TEF will provide grants and loans to support the installation of backup power packages for facilities in Texas that are critical for public health, safety, and well-being. A backup power package is a stand-alone, backup power source that can provide at least 48 hours of power in the event of an outage, such as a natural gas or propane generator or a combination of solar panels and battery storage.

As directed in Senate Bill 2627, passed by the 88th Texas Legislature and signed into law by Governor Greg Abbott, the TEF must begin accepting loan applications for projects within the ERCOT region by June 1, 2024 and must make initial disbursements for approved loans by December 1, 2024. Senate Bill 2627 also includes provisions to prioritize interconnection for TEF-funded electric generation facilities.

More information on project eligibility and the types of grants and loans available through the TEF is available on the Texas Energy Fund page of the PUCT website. Updates on development and implementation of the TEF will post to the TEF webpage, as information is available.

New Polling Shows RFK Jr. Leading Biden and Trump Among Younger Voters in Key Swing States

By Stacy M. Brown | NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent | @StacyBrownMedia

Texas electricityratings.com stock image

Robert Kennedy Jr. has a storied political legacy, a longstanding injustices, and borne the weight of what we need,” said PUCT Executive Director Thomas Gleeson.

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For the first time since the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) began collecting credit card data, the nation’s related debt reached an all-time high of $1 trillion in 2022. New research released in late October examines how and why this debt grew, but also how emerging trends in card usage affect the day-to-day lives of consumers.

While companies charged consumers more than $105 billion in interest and more than $25 billion in fees, average credit card balances per cardholder returned to about $5,300, about the same as before the pandemic. At the same time, more cardholders are being charged late fees, falling behind on payments, and facing higher costs on growing debt.

Today nearly one in 10 consumers is caught in what CFPB terms ‘persistent debt’, charged more in interest and fees than they pay toward the principal owed, a pattern that makes each passing month’s charges increasingly harder to avoid. Average credit card minimum payments on revolving credit accounts now reach over $100 per month and are also a contributing factor to rising late fees and overall debt.

"With credit card debt crossing the trillion-dollar mark, we will be working to prevent bait-and-switch tactics when it comes to rewards and to increase refinancing activity so consumers can get lower rates," said CFPB Director Rohit Chopra.

Increased indebtedness also translated into record industry profits, now higher than those reached in pre-pandemic years. Two key factors, according to the report, significantly contributed to industry profitability: an average APR margin of 15.4 percentage points above the prime rate in 2022, and only 10 credit card companies dominating the marketplace.

Although the nation has nearly 4,000 credit card issuers, four-fifths – 80 percent – of the card activity was with one of the firms in the top 10.

The highest credit card APRs are, as with other consumer financial products, among consumers who carry high credit card balances, missed payment(s), or delinquent accounts, and have subprime credit ratings, scores of less than 670 in a range of 300-850. Consumers who have filed bankruptcy can also expect that action to affect their credit scores for seven years thereafter.

Black Men’s Health Clinic - BMHC
Mental Health Fair

AUSTIN (Austin-Metropolitan Area) – The Black Men’s Health Clinic (BMHC) invites the community to attend the “BMHC Mental Health Fair” - Words Spoken. Yet Unheard. Mental health is for everyone. At some point in our lives we, or someone in our lives, are affected by life stressors and/or by physiological factors that can wear on our mental vitality. It is beneficial to everyone to be proactive about mental health so that we are prepared in a time of crisis.

On Saturday, November 18, 2023, the Black Men’s Health Clinic will provide an opportunity for attendees to obtain information to help with mental health readiness at the BMHC Mental Health Fair. The event will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at BMHC, located at 6633 Highway 290 East, Suite 100, in Austin.

Come out to hear from compelling speakers, get information, visit breakout rooms, and have snacks at the Fair. The event commences with encouraging and insightful messages from BMHC Director of Care Coordination and Health Navigation, Dominique Street, and behavioral counselors, Dr. Calvin Kelly and Dr. Lea Clark.

The Black Men’s Health Clinic is dedicated to battling the stigmas of mental health and helping our clients proactively navigate towards help, hope, and recovery. We are implementing changes to address these needs. We recently acquired a mental health provider from Austin Travis County Integral Care (ATCIC) who will see clients who need these services. We also have access to resources that can help combat the thoughts, emotions, and physiological conditions that can shake our well-being. We have several ways for you to connect with solutions for your self, a friend, or a loved one.

Come on out and take a step towards better health!

BMHC exists to lower barriers for successful healthcare by removing burdens men of color commonly experience such as scheduling, finances, and coordination between providers. The name Black Men’s Health Clinic was chosen to deliberately reveal the apparent inequities black men experience and "it" represents our unwavering commitment to addressing them.

BMHC is here to ensure the longevity and quality of life for all men of color by elevating them to a priority and providing resources designed to best aid them. This first-of-its-kind health clinic addresses the long-standing care gaps for men of color.
Voters overwhelmingly approve largest bond in Travis County history

By Luz Moreno-Lozano | KUT 90.5

(AUSTIN, TX) – Travis County voters threw their support behind the largest bond package in the county's history. The funds will pay for roads and parks throughout the county.

Final, but unoffici al, results showed 75.78% of voters were in favor of Proposition A, which would fund road projects, and 77.11% of voters supported Proposition B, which would fund parks.

The bond package totals more than $509 million. The average homeowner with a home valued at $475,289 will pay $4.78 more a month or $57 more a year to cover it.

County Judge Andy Brown said this was a testament to voters wanting to make investments in county roads and parks for years to come.

"It's a great day for Travis County, for people who live here today, but it's an even better day for our kids and grandkids, who will live here in the future because of these investments we are making," he said.

Brown said the money comes at a crucial time as land prices soar and the region grows.

"Prices of land are only going up in Travis County, and it's only going to get more and more scarce," he said. "So, our ability to continue doing what Travis County has done of preserving green spaces for parks, without the voters of Travis County approving this bond, we wouldn't have been able to do that."

Proposition A would use $238 million to pay for improvements, construction and acquisition of land for parks, roads, bike lanes, sidewalks and bridges.

Some of the roads include:

- Northeast Travis County: Widening Cameron Road east of SH 130 from Pecan Street to Fuchs Grove Road from a two-lane road without shoulders to a four-lane divided road with a shared-use path for bikers and pedestrians.

- North Travis County: Adding a shared-use path on the south side of Howard Lane from McNeil Drive to McNeil-Merrilltown Road.

- Southeast Travis County: Expanding Tumeresville Road from a two-lane undivided road to a four-lane divided road with a median, bike lanes and sidewalks from City of Austin to SH 45.

- Proposition B allocates more than $276 million to improve county parks and buy land to build future parks. The largest expenditure in Proposition B would be to buy land on the East and West sides of the county estimated at $100 million each.

Other park projects include:

- West Travis County: Completing the Bee Creek Sports Complex by adding fields and a pavilion.

- Northeast Travis County: The Girlefield Creek Greenway project, which would build trails and amenities from Northwestern Metro Park to Ben E. Fisher Park.

- Southeast Travis County: Adding syn- thesis fields and four baseball fields at Southeast Metro Park and building a new maintenance facility.

Unofficial results showed Travis County residents in favor of Propositions A and B, which would provide major investments in transportation infrastructure and parks.

Michael Minas/KUT

The Angels have hired Ron Washington, the 71-year-old former Texas Rangers manager, to be the team's new manager.

Angels general manager Billy Eppler said Washington got a "memorable" line from the movie "Moneyball," about the A's unlikely 2000s success, when he delivered "It's incredibly hard!" to tell a player how to play first base.

"He's going to tell us how to play first base," Washington said.

Ron Washington (AP Photo/John Bazemore, File)

In real life, Washington is one of the most respected infield coaches in the game's history. His drills and viewpoints have been used across the majors to improve players' performance, and he helped the Braves' infielders throughout his most recent coaching stop — all four Atlanta infielders made the 2023 NL All-Star team, along with former Washington disciple Freddie Freeman and Dansby Swanson.

In the 2011 film "Moneyball," about the A's unlikely 2000s success, Washington was played by actor Brent Jennings, who delivered one of the movie's most memorable lines when urged by GM Billy Beane (Brad Pitt) to tell a player how to do that. "It's incredibly hard!"

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Washington passes Bruce Bochy of Texas and Brian Snitker of Atlanta, both 68, as Major League Baseball’s oldest current manager. Dusty Baker was the oldest at 74 before retiring this month as Mets manager. With the departure of Mike Scioscia, who spent 19 years running the Halos’ bench before walls away the 2018 season, Brad Ausmus, Joe Maddon and Kevin Long have all tried and failed to reverse the Angels’ slide.

Washington’s successful tenure at Texas had plenty of bumps along the way. He tested positive for cocaine use during the 2009 season and offered to resign, but he kept his job and led the Rangers to the World Series in 2010 and again in 2011.

Washington abruptly resigned from the Rangers on Sept. 5, 2014, surprising the baseball world. Two weeks later, he acknowledged having an extra-marital affair and cited it as the reason for leaving Texas, which had intended to bring him back in 2015.

With a reputation as a personal, old-school manager with an ebullient personality and an exciting edge, Washington knows the AL West well. Along with his time in Texas, he spent 13 seasons over two stints as a coach with the Oakland Athletics.

Dodge's Dave Roberts, who has been the Texas Rangers from 2007-14, winning two AL pennants and going 664-611. He spent the past seven seasons as Atlanta's third base coach, helping the Braves to their 2021 World Series title.

Washington replaced Phil Nevin, who wasn’t re-signed last month after 1 1/2 losing seasons in charge of the long-struggling Angels. Los Angeles is mired in stretches of eight consecutive losing seasons and nine straight non-playoff seasons, both the longest streaks in the majors.

Arte Moreno, the Angels’ 77-year-old owner, clearly hopes the experienced Washington can get the most out of a long-underachieving franchise with a big payroll and three-time MVP Mike Trout, but almost no team success to show for it. When he took over in 2004, the team’s super-star two-way player, Albert Pujols, was a free-agent this week.

Washington got a two-year contract. He’s the fourth manager in the last six seasons for the Angels following the departure of Mike Scioscia, who spent 19 years running the Halos’ bench before walls away the 2018 season. Brad Ausmus, Joe Maddon and Kevin Long have all tried and failed to reverse the Angels’ slide.

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Ron Washington (AP Photo/John Bazemore, File)
memset(main): 8 loaded segments

(MILLENIALS AND GEN Z) HAVE AN UNEXPECTED LOVE FOR PHYSICAL BOOKS

by Daniel Johnson | BLACK ENTERPRISE

(RNC) Chair Ronna McDaniel, at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County in Miami on Wednesday, July 27, 2023, at the third Republican presidential debate in Miami. AP Photo/Rebecca Blackwell

US military strikes facility in Syria in response to attacks on troops

BY ELLEN MITCHELL | THE HILL

Ramaswamy: GOP has become ‘party of losers’

BY JARED GANS | THE HILL

The United States will defend itself, its personnel, and its interests. U.S. forces in Iraq and Syria have been attacked at least 42 times since Oct. 17 — including two in the last 24 hours — with one-way drones and rockets. At least 46 service members have been injured in these assaults, which Defense officials have claimed that Iran is responsible for.

In addition, an American MQ-9 Reaper surveillance drone was shot down off the coast of Yemen on Wednesday by the Iranian-backed Houthis, a Defense official confirmed.

Attacks on American troops in the region have been consistent following the start of the Iran-Iraq-Hamas war, a conflict that has created an undersea zone in the Middle East.

Earlier determent efforts include a U.S. strike on an Iranian weapons storage facility and an announcement in Syria in response to attacks on troops.

FILE – Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin speaks during a news conference with Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark Milley in Washington, on July 19, 2023. Austin met with Papua New Guinea leaders on Thursday, July 27, 2023 to discuss developing the Pacific Island nation’s military strength and deepening security ties, as the United States competes with China for influence in the Indo-Pacific region. (AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta, File)

(RNC) Chair Ronna McDaniel, at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County in Miami on Wednesday, July 27, 2023, at the third Republican presidential debate in Miami. AP Photo/Rebecca Blackwell

Ramaswamy: GOP has become ‘party of losers’

Republican presidential candidate businessman Vivek Ramaswamy speaks during a Republican presidential primary debate hosted by NBC News, Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2023, at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County in Miami. AP Photo/Rebecca Blackwell

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GOT VACCINATED, PROTECT YOURSELF?

Can I read the QR Code to see a full list of free vaccine appointments, or visit DailyTheLove.org.

VISIT US AT THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:

Monday, November 13

9am – 1pm
Sunrise Navigation Center
4430 Mendocino Rd, Austin

Wednesday, November 15

4pm – 7pm
Huntsville City College
7014 Berkman Dr, Austin

Thursday, November 16

1pm – 4pm
Wells Branch Library
15001 Wells Port Dr, Austin

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Walk-ins welcome.

No insurance is necessary.

Everyone ages 12 and older are eligible.

Grants immunity against most recent Covid-19 strains.

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US rejects Israeli plan to maintain control of Gaza after war

by JACO BACON | USA TODAY

Gaza, making it difficult to imagine a peaceful end to this conflict.

Earlier this week, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu indicated Israel plans to maintain a tight grip and have “overall security responsibility” in Gaza when the war winds down. The war has raged since Oct. 7, when Hamas militants stormed the border and killed more than 1,400, Israel’s most common form of terrorism. Israelis in Gaza has killed more than 10,000 Palestinians, the health Ministry said.

Neither Blinken nor Cleverley have a short-term fix. The conditions that would need to be met before a ceasefire in Gaza would be acceptable and the PA in the West Bank is said to be reluctant to discuss its future in Gaza.

Some Israeli politicians have discussed the possibility of fully reoccupying the Gaza Strip, which it left in 2005.

The statement also noted that the G7 members’ stance towards Israel’s actions by calling for humanitarian pauses, and highlighting the importance of protecting civilians.

There was nothing in the statement to say whether Israel was in breach of humanitarian law, and it confirmed that in a call with Netanyahus on Monday, the Israeli prime minister agreed to a lengthy humanitarian pause, perhaps as long as three days.

Netanyahus, in an interview with a think tank, admitted about a pause lasting.

The US has been briefing for days that it privately favours a six-hour humanitarian pause, believing it is the best way to secure the release of several hostages.

The G7 foreign ministers’ meeting in Japan was silent on the West Bank, which is not a part of the Middle East peace process.

The G7 is unique to many countries such as Iran and Russia, which are accused of fulfilling the west’s standards in the upholding of the international rule of law.

Only electronically transmitted responses will be accepted by the date and time indicated above, unless otherwise stated in the solicitation documents.

ACC will hold a public opening on November 27, at 1:30 p.m., CST via Zoom. Details for the opening are stated in the solicitation documents. Notice: ACC will hold a public opening on November 27, at 1:30 p.m., CST via Zoom.
The Miscomprehension of Lauryn Hill

"The show started 5 hours late, again.

(Op-ed) - I don't know what Lauryn Hill is talking about, but I do know that she's as wrong as two left shoes. For years, one of her fans' biggest complaints has been that Lauryn is chronically late to her shows. She arrives at all. It's become a big part of her reputation and image. She's been showing up three hours late or four hours late over and over for years, and it's not cool. I experienced it in 2014 when she performed at the Brooklyn Bowl in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. She was like two hours late to the stage, and while I knew that she was going to be late because she is so often, it was still frustrating.

In 2015, after Lauryn showed up late to a show in New York, the crowd booed. Lauryn told them that their booing was "pointing but not shocking." I was here at all," suggests an attempt at a defense. That's offense. That's an exclamation, and it's not even an attempt at a defense. That's a presumed contract with the fans. I will pay, and you will show up on time (probably), and you'll do about two hours of music. I say probably because unlike sports fans or theater fans, music fans know that there's always a chance that the band won't come at all or they won't stay long — I've seen both Herbie Hancock and the White Stripes walk off after 20 minutes. Very disappointing, but not shocking.

To say "You're lucky I'm here at all," that suggests you're fortunate that I decided to keep my word. I'm, you're supposed to keep your word. You said you would perform your old music it's a different world — I've seen both Herbie Hancock and the White Stripes walk off after 20 minutes. Very disappointing, but not shocking.

So I'm late a lot, but my responsibility to my family comes first, or even "I was waiting for God to tell me when to go out," then it might've come across as touching and understandable. But instead, she said something that felt arrogant and imperious.

Lauryn is an artist with fans in their 40s and 50s. The people who loved her when she dropped "Miscomprehension" are now parents. It takes a lot for us to get to a concert — we gotta get someone to take care of the kids, and we gotta find the energy to be out late. Lauryn showing up wildly late is a wrecking ball that blows up a delicately planned evening. For her to say, "You're lucky I came at all," is tone-deaf. It's also backwards.

You, Lauryn! You're a legend! But Tabbi Kewell once said to me, "You don't retire from the fans, the fans retire you." He meant usually people stop paying attention to you before you're ready to quit. So even for someone of Lauryn's stature, she's the one who's lucky. She's fortunate that we still want to see her perform. I don't mean that disrespectfully, but the fact is she's a legacy artist. By that I mean she's trying to get to the top of the charts or doing big stadium tours like say Beyoncé or Drake. She's performing her old music in medium-sized venues. That's not a disc, that's a great place for a mature artist to be, and it's potentially very lucrative.

But when you're beyond the stage of releasing new music it's a different story. You're relying on the fans to come to see you do your same old stuff all the time. Comedians have to keep on reinventing their act. Actors have to move from job to job. But singers who are in the legacy stage of their career get to grouse and sing the same old songs. You are the one who should be grateful that we still want to see you do your thing again.

Lauryn Hill, currently on tour in honor of her hit album, "The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill," told fans at the Kia Forum in Inglewood, California, that they're lucky she shows up to perform, even if she is always late.

(Photoby Leon Neal/Getty Images)