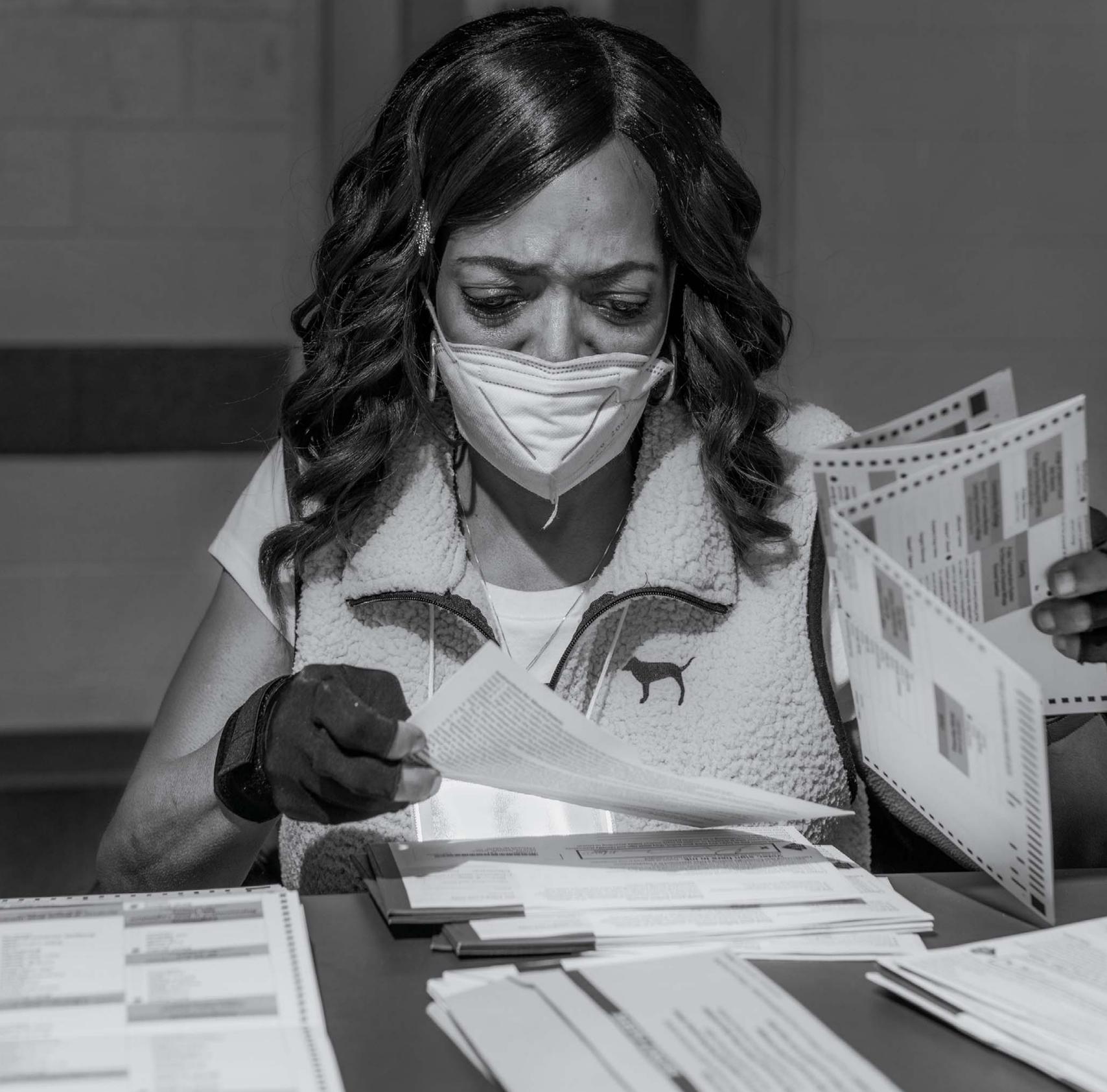


# The New York Times Magazine

DEMOCRACY  
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BALLOTS THIS YEAR  
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WE FOLLOWED  
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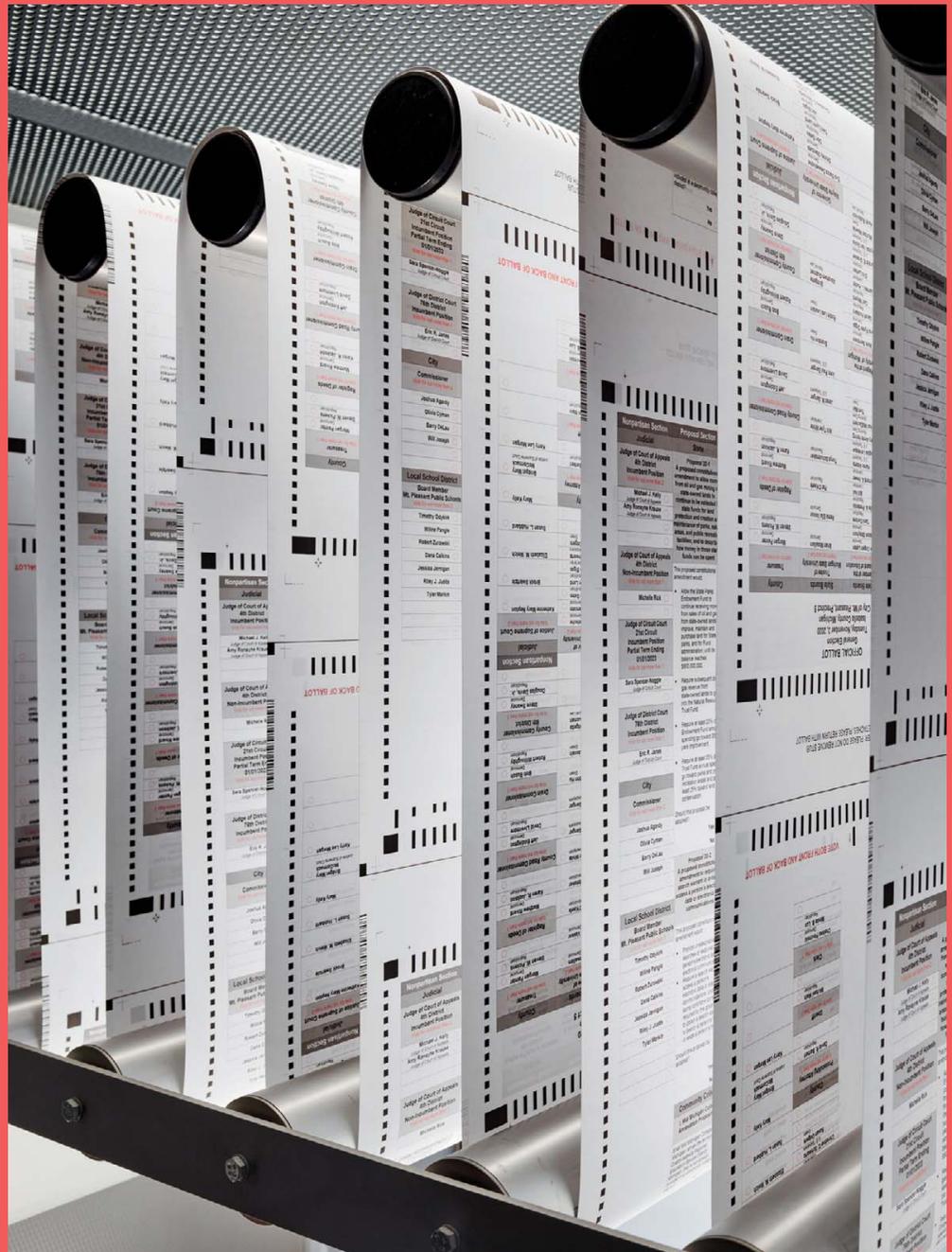


**14 Machinery of the People**  
*By Emily Bazelon*

**20 A Ballot Is Born** The 2020 presidential election required many more absentee ballots than any election in American history. Where did they all come from? Photographs by Christopher Payne ○ Text by Malia Wollan

**36 Carrying the Votes** Throughout the fall, the country's 600,000 postal workers ferried by hand our democracy's most precious cargo: the franchise itself. Photographs by Philip Montgomery ○ Text by Vauhini Vara

**52 Adding Them Up** Tallying so many absentee ballots was a painstaking effort, with different start times in different states. As the count inched along, election officials conducted this largely manual process under the shadow of the president's baseless attacks on mail-in voting. Photographs by Dina Litovsky ○ Text by Emily Bazelon



Mail-in ballots passing through the buffer unit at Michigan Election Resources in Kalamazoo, Mich.

Photograph by Christopher Payne for The New York Times

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# The New York Times Magazine



‘That sense of reliability’ – that the mail is going to come to the door – ‘has become comforting to people.’

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8 Contributors ○ 10 The Thread  
74, 76, 78 Puzzles ○ 74 Puzzle Answers

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**Behind the Cover** Jake Silverstein, editor in chief: “This week’s issue documents the stages of the mail-in election, an epic process by which tens of millions of Americans voted with absentee ballots in the midst of a pandemic. This image of April Roper-Ford counting absentee ballots in Lansing, Mich., captures the final stage of that process, a painstaking, largely manual effort.” Photograph by Philip Montgomery for The New York Times.

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Michelle Pincin opening envelopes and removing ballots in Chester County, Pa., on Election Day.

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Photograph by Dina Litovsky/Redux, for The New York Times

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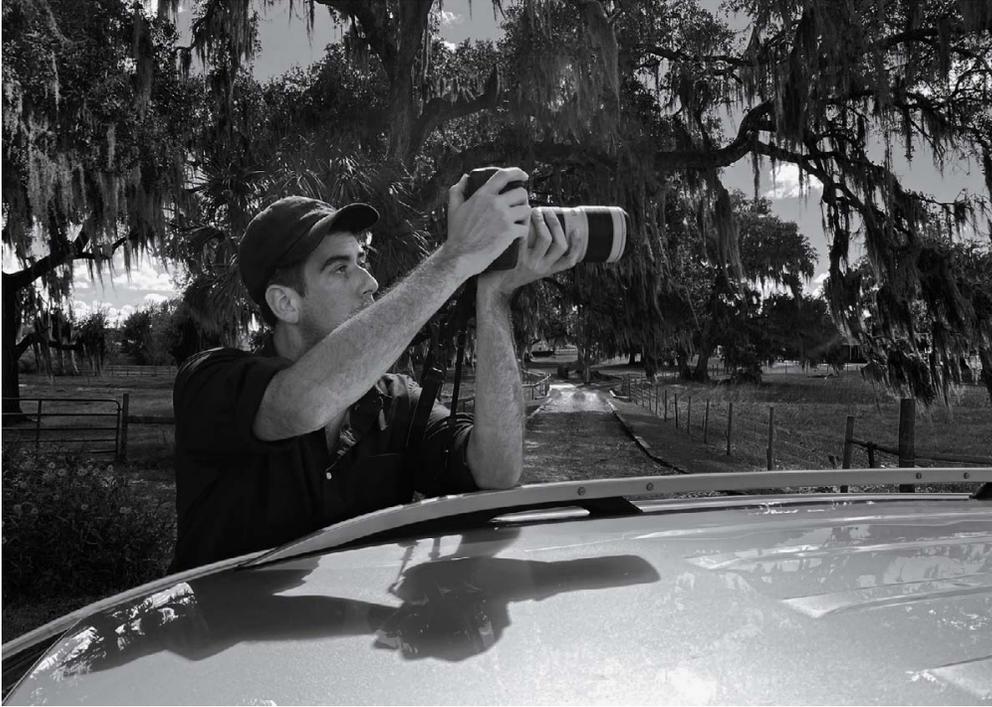


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## Contributors



Philip Montgomery in Plant City, Fla., to document the work of the Postal Service. Photograph by Tre Cassetta.

**Dina Litovsky**

*"Adding Them Up,"*  
Page 52

Dina Litovsky is a Ukrainian-born photographer who moved to New York in 1991. Her work explores the idea of leisure, often focusing on subcultures and social gatherings. This year, Litovsky won the Nannen Prize for photography, Germany's foremost journalism award. For this issue, she photographed the election process in three battleground states. "I spent five days in Florida, five days in Arizona and a couple of very long days in Pennsylvania covering this process," Litovsky says. "People from both parties were there to make sure it was a fair election. I was moved by their dedication, focus and cooperation with each other."

**Emily Bazelon**

*"Machinery of the People,"*  
Page 14, and *"Adding Them Up,"* Page 52

Emily Bazelon is a staff writer for the magazine and the Truman Capote fellow for creative writing and law at Yale Law School. Her 2019 book "Charged" won the Los Angeles Times Book Prize in the current-interest category and the Silver Gavel book award from the American Bar Association.

**Philip Montgomery**

*"Machinery of the People,"*  
Page 14, and *"Carrying the Votes,"* Page 36

Philip Montgomery is a photographer whose current work chronicles the fractured state of America. For the magazine, he recently photographed the early center of the nation's coronavirus outbreak, going inside New York City's public hospitals, a funeral home in the Bronx and shuttered businesses.

(Continued on Page 71)

## The New York Times Magazine

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**ANGELUS**

## The Thread

Readers respond to the 11.1.20 issue.

## RE: BASEBALL'S SILENT SEASON

Rowan Ricardo Phillips wrote about the strangeness of the just-concluded baseball season during the year of the pandemic.



**Wow, I needed** that. I'm a long-suffering Seattle Mariners fan but do love going to a ballpark. This captures my mourning, my loss, my hope to recapture the pure joy of a sunny day, a crowd and some baseball. (Maybe even *good* baseball, if I'm lucky.)  
*Rose, Seattle*

**Wait until next** year. With any luck there will be a vaccine. There will be crowds. There will be minor-league baseball. There will be Little League. There will be peanuts, popcorn and Cracker Jack. We may still need to wear masks, but it will all be fun.  
*William, Overland Park, Kan.*

## RE: THE ETHICIST

Kwame Anthony Appiah answered a letter writer on dealing with a verbally abusive son.

**I so sympathize** with your predicament. I lived with my mum, who was verbally abusive at times, often extremely so. She was in her 80s. I thought she had mental-health issues, and her doctor prescribed her antidepressants, which she refused to take. Eventually she was diagnosed with dementia. The drugs prescribed transformed her back to the loving person she had always been. She's since died, but my biggest regret is not getting her the medical help she needed sooner. It's so very hard when the patient is determined not to cooperate. But it's the most sensible route to deal with the cause of the behavioral problem you're

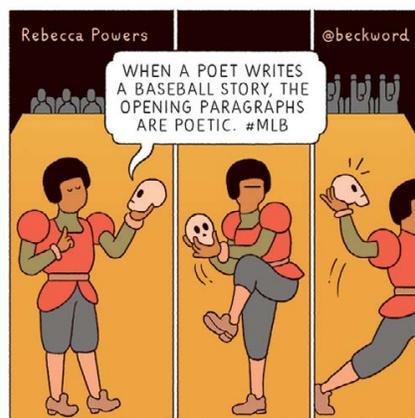
experiencing. I truly hope you'll find help and relief.

*Ian Haworth, Manchester, England*

**The humiliation and** infantilization of the family's son in the first story shouldn't be underconsidered. I quit my job in early 2019 to do a program to become a teacher in New York and actually start my career, and it's not been easy, since the program requirements didn't allow me to work at all for nine months last year. Frankly, the only way I was able to do it was because I had a small inheritance from my grandfather, who passed away the previous winter. In 2020, I've been working as a substitute, and while I've been lucky enough to find relatively consistent per-diem work from January through September, I've still had to ask my parents for help financially, and it makes me extremely uncomfortable. If anything, my father's assurances that I don't have to worry about food or rent, and that I can always come to him for help if I need it, make me *more* uncomfortable. It's not that I'm ungrateful to him. Just the opposite: I genuinely don't know what I'd do without him in my life. But it doesn't make me feel good about myself to need to ask for help in the first place. I'm 33 years old, and until last year I was completely independent and self-sufficient. I've gone through periods where I don't eat for four or five days in a row because I find it so humiliating to ask for help that I'd rather be hungry a lot of the time. I'm not capable of being self-sufficient right now, and every time I have to ask for help, that fact is rubbed in my face — not by my parents, but in my head. It's not fun.

*Samuel, Brooklyn, N.Y.*

**I was alarmed** by the advice given in the Ethicist column titled "My Adult Son



## THE STORY, ON INSTAGRAM

Really striking visual approach.  
[@iwakeupscreaming](#)

Moved In. It's a Nightmare. Can I Kick Him Out?" Kwame's argument rests on "very few people are incapable of controlling some of their behavior if the incentives are right." It cannot be assumed that the mentally ill are capable of the same kind of moral agency as the non-mentally-ill. If the son has suffered a psychotic break, his choices are consigned to irrational emotion and dissociative thinking. He is not capable of perceiving reality correctly or controlling his behavior. Her son may meet the criteria for a mental-health crisis unit to assess and provide an intervention. This will begin medication, treatment and continuity of care through community outreach. Many programs offer assistance with housing. The consensus of New York Times website readers seems to be that the son is of an age to fend for himself, no matter his mental state. The mother's responsibility is over — tough love rules. Kick him out. Many people who have a mental illness do not receive help. They end up homeless.  
*Gabrielle de Gray, California*



**What none of** the commenters on this article about the 30-something son at home seem to have even an inkling of understanding about is this: When you're a mother and your adult son suffers from mental illness, and your son is abusive in the home, you know very, very clearly that to evict him from the home is going to doom him — to send him into a downward spiral of couch-surfing, drug-taking, unemployment, self-harm, homelessness and death. Please stop giving advice about something you haven't a clue about. Walk a mile in my shoes, guys, then come back and make your tough-love judgments.

*L.K., New York City*

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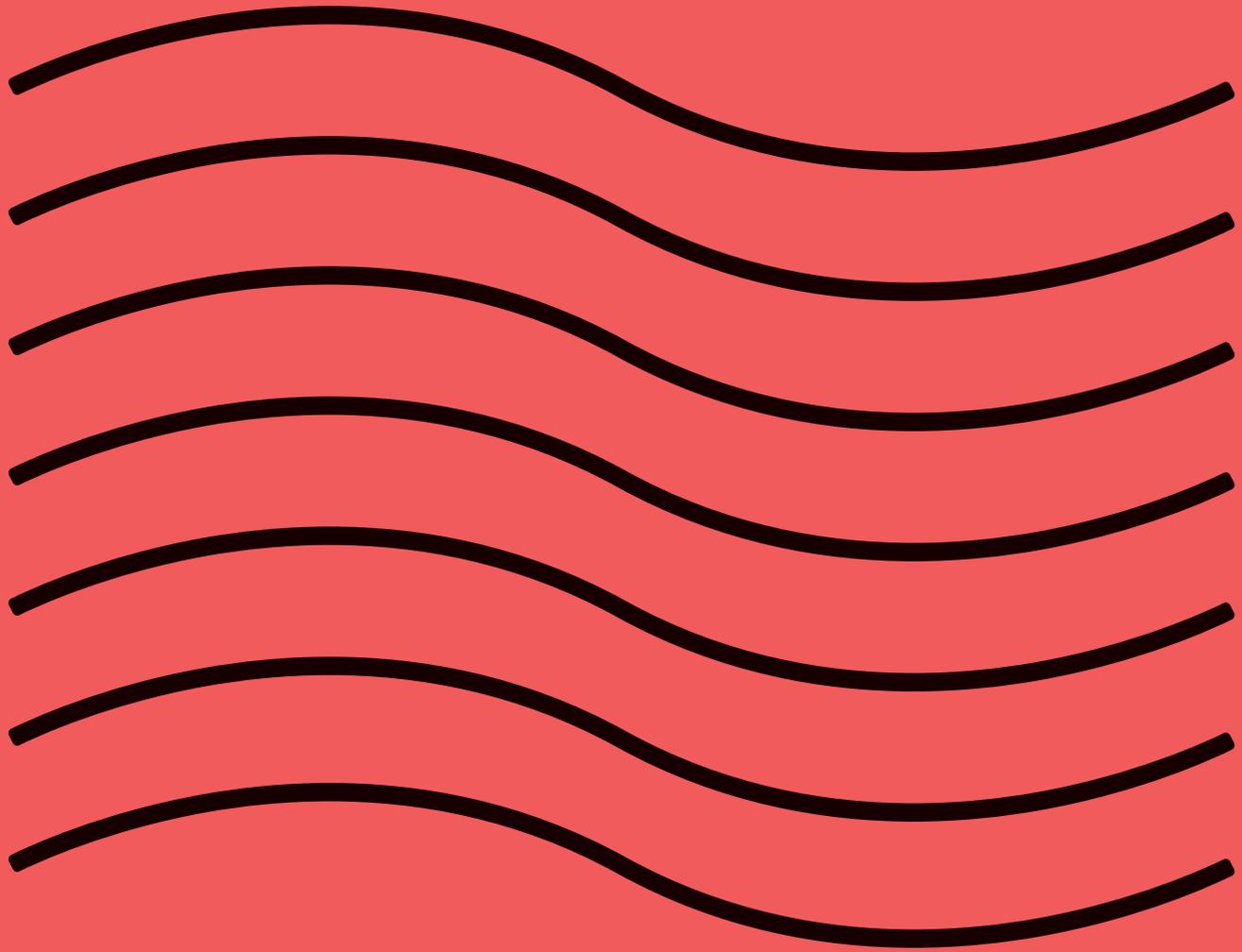
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# Machinery of the People

By Emily Bazelon



○ This was the democracy-by-mail election: About 60 million people put their ballots in a mailbox or a drop box, doubling previous totals and contributing to what is likely to be the highest turnout rate since 1900, according to estimates by the U.S. Elections Project. Delivering the ballots was not without its challenges. There were slowdowns at the U.S. Postal Service over the summer because of operational changes instituted by Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, a recent appointee of President Trump's. In the end, the Postal Service failed to deliver a relatively small but significant number of ballots in time for them to be counted on Election Day — more than 150,000 across the country, including thousands in swing states, according to the agency's own data.

But for the most part, mail-in balloting — and balloting at the polls, too — went smoothly and revealed two competing truths: The machinery of American democracy is working, its many interlocking parts functioning, thanks in large part to the legion of state and local officials who make it all go. And yet at the same time, the administration of elections — as well as the right to vote — is fragile and facing renewed threat.

America's pandemic election was a remarkable, unlikely feat. "The challenges and obstacles were perhaps the highest in history, or at least since the Spanish Flu in 1918, and we saw fewer problems than in any presidential election since Bush v. Gore," said Nathaniel

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Persily, a Stanford law professor and co-director of the Stanford-M.I.T. Healthy Elections Project. This spring, there were warning signs that with the coronavirus spreading, swing states like Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Michigan would not be able to set up and run a vote-by-mail operation of unprecedented scale while simultaneously staffing thousands of polling places among them. The checklists were long and logistically complex. The resources were lacking. Asked for \$4 billion, Congress allocated \$400 million. Election officials in states like Washington and Colorado, where voting by mail is nearly universal, told me that it took them multiple election cycles to get it right. Some primary elections this year underscored the doubts by going badly, with election offices sending thousands of absentee ballots too late to be returned on time (Wisconsin), discarding mail-in ballots for minor errors at alarmingly high rates (New York) or taking weeks to count ballots (New York and Pennsylvania).

But as Nov. 3 approached, county and local officials rose to the challenge. They contracted with printing companies, where workers ran the presses overtime to churn out millions more ballots than had ever been requested before. They coordinated with postal workers to send out ballots and receive them in mass deliveries. They collected ballots from drop boxes and sorted them. They hired tens of thousands of people to open envelopes, inspect the ballots

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Right and previous page: Election inspectors in Lansing, Mich., began tabulating votes at 7 a.m. on Election Day and worked until 5:30 a.m. Wednesday.

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inside for voter errors and feed the verified ones into scanners for tabulation. Thousands of poll workers made voting in person possible, too.

Election officials had help from a small but highly skilled group of academics like Persily. These are the law professors and political scientists who pay continual attention to the health of our elections, focused on sacred questions of voting rights and also prosaic ones about checking signatures. Private philanthropists also provided states with hundreds of millions of dollars to pay for poll workers and personal protective equipment and voter education, expenses the government traditionally covers. After the election, when I asked several academics how the mechanics went, they expressed relief and even sounded a note of celebration. “It could easily have been a total train wreck,” said Michael Morley, a law professor at Florida State University who served in the George W. Bush administration. “Instead, we can be proud about how well our election officials conducted this election under extremely adverse circumstances.”

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○ Over the course of our history, the United States has, bit by bit, allowed more Americans to vote, dropping a property-ownership requirement





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‘It could easily have been a total train wreck. Instead, we can be proud about how well our election officials conducted this election.’

by the mid-19th century, eliminating barriers based on race and sex with the passage of the 14th and 19th Amendments to the Constitution and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and finally expanding the right to vote to include 18-to-21-year-olds with the 26th Amendment in 1971. But it has never made voting easy by offering a day off or a national policy of automatic voter registration.

Nor has the country ever made voting by mail a priority. Though absentee balloting has increased over the past four decades and been similarly popular in both parties, before this election it never made up more than about a quarter of the total vote in a presidential election. Voting by mail was also most concentrated in the West and the Southwest. This year, it is estimated to make up as much as 45 percent of the

turnout, widely distributed across the country. Shifting to mailed ballots has modestly increased turnout in states like Colorado and Washington, which vote that way almost universally. Now it appears to be helping the country as a whole do the same.

Over the last century, turnout among eligible voters in presidential elections has fluctuated from the high 40s to the low 60s, a low level among democracies. Americans have voted at higher rates in times of turbulence — the Great Depression, the 1960s, the Iraq war. Participation tends to rise when people give “quite a lot” of thought to the election in the months leading up to it, as a long-running Gallup poll shows. In this single way, Trump has, paradoxically, served as an engine of democracy. His appetite for attention has forced

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more Americans to think about politics. He has made it top of mind.

But Trump also undermined pillars of democracy this year when he floated the idea of unilaterally delaying the election and repeatedly refused to say he would accept the results or a peaceful transfer of power. And he made democracy by mail his particular foil. Americans have fought over *who* can vote for centuries; Trump started a new fight over *how* to vote by falsely linking mail-in ballots to widespread fraud and cheating.

He didn’t have evidence. “Proof of systematic fraud has become the Loch Ness Monster of the Republican Party,” Benjamin L. Ginsberg, an election lawyer who worked for 38 years on Republican campaigns, recount efforts and redistricting efforts, wrote in a Washington Post op-ed on Nov. 1. Warning of “bad-faith challenges” to the election results, he continued, “My fellow Republicans, look what we’ve become.”

But Trump can’t be shamed, and he had a hunch that sowing doubt about the results could prove useful to him. In one sense, it was an odd tactic. Republicans have voted absentee at about the same rates as Democrats. But Trump’s rhetoric lined up perfectly with a decades-old Republican strategy: less voting, not more. In the past couple of decades, Republicans have used tools like voter-identification laws, purges of the registration rolls and the closing

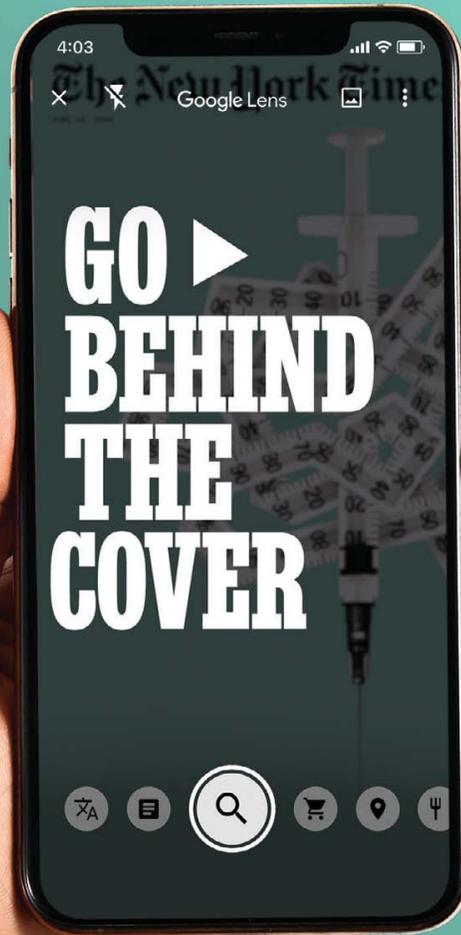
CONTINUED ON PG 75



# The New York Times Magazine

JUNE 14, 2020

THE TECH & DESIGN ISSUE



THE PATH TO A CURE FOR COVID-19

## The New York Times Magazine

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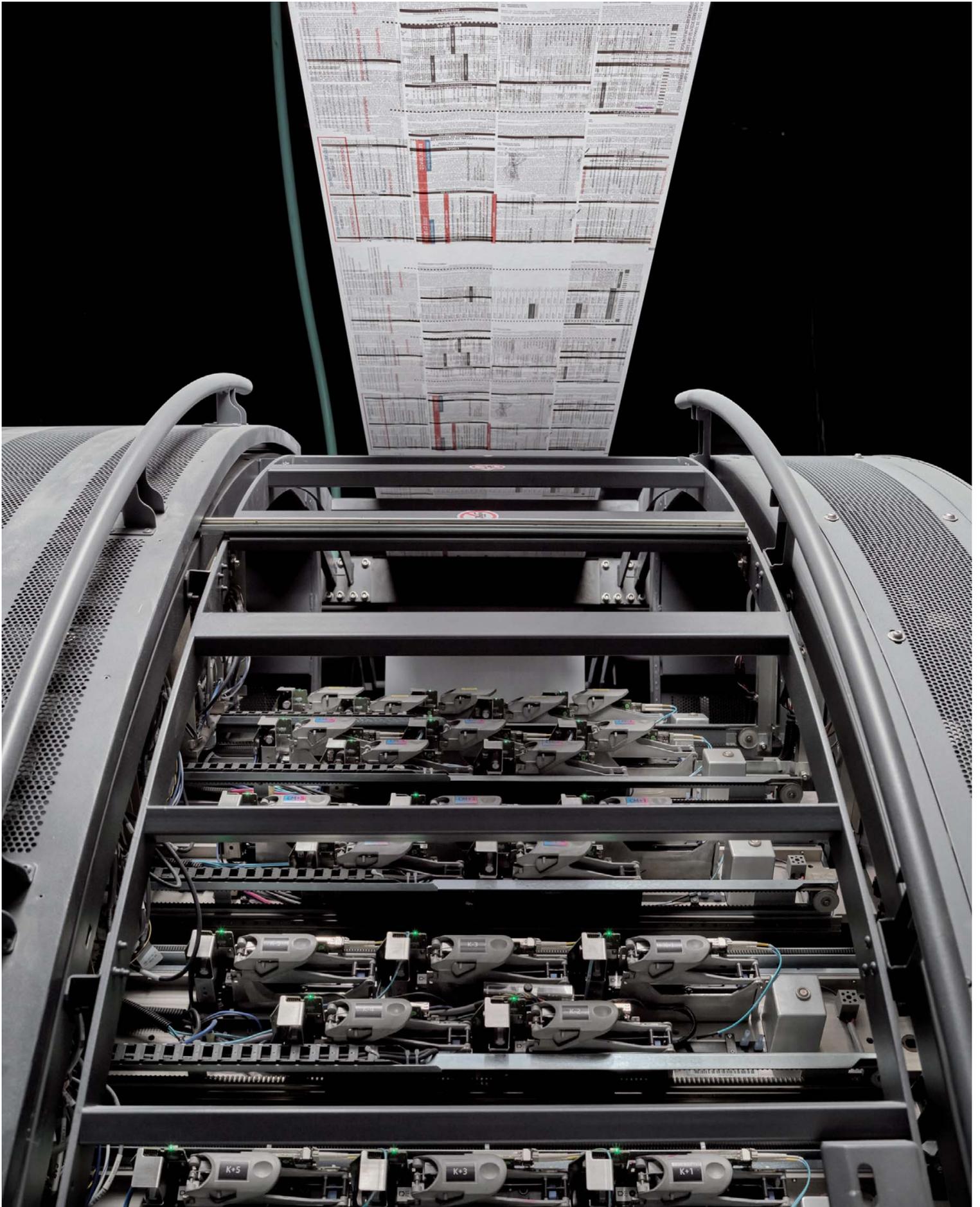
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*A Ballot Is Born* ○ The 2020 presidential election required many more absentee ballots than any election in American history. Where did they all come from? Photographs by Christopher Payne ○ Text by Malia Wollan

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○ There were weeks in September when the four hulking digital printing presses at Runbeck Election Services in Phoenix ran almost continuously. Like bulked-up office printers, the presses — able to churn out nearly two million ballots in 24 hours — pulled blank paper into a frenzy of printer heads, hung the paper momentarily like laundry, so the ink could dry, and then sucked it back in to swiftly print the other side.

The people who ran the machines worked overtime, too. In Runbeck's sprawling warehouse, as many as 90 temporary workers were brought in to join each 12-hour shift printing the November ballots. There were no weekends; many printers worked for over 40 consecutive days. It wasn't unheard-of to log 130 hours of overtime in a single two-week pay period.

Runbeck was just one of the printing plants across the country that scrambled for months to meet the surge in demand for mail-in ballots, which required the work of many additional machines and people. In October, the photographer Christopher Payne traveled to Runbeck and to Michigan Election Resources in Kalamazoo to document the birth of a mail-in ballot.

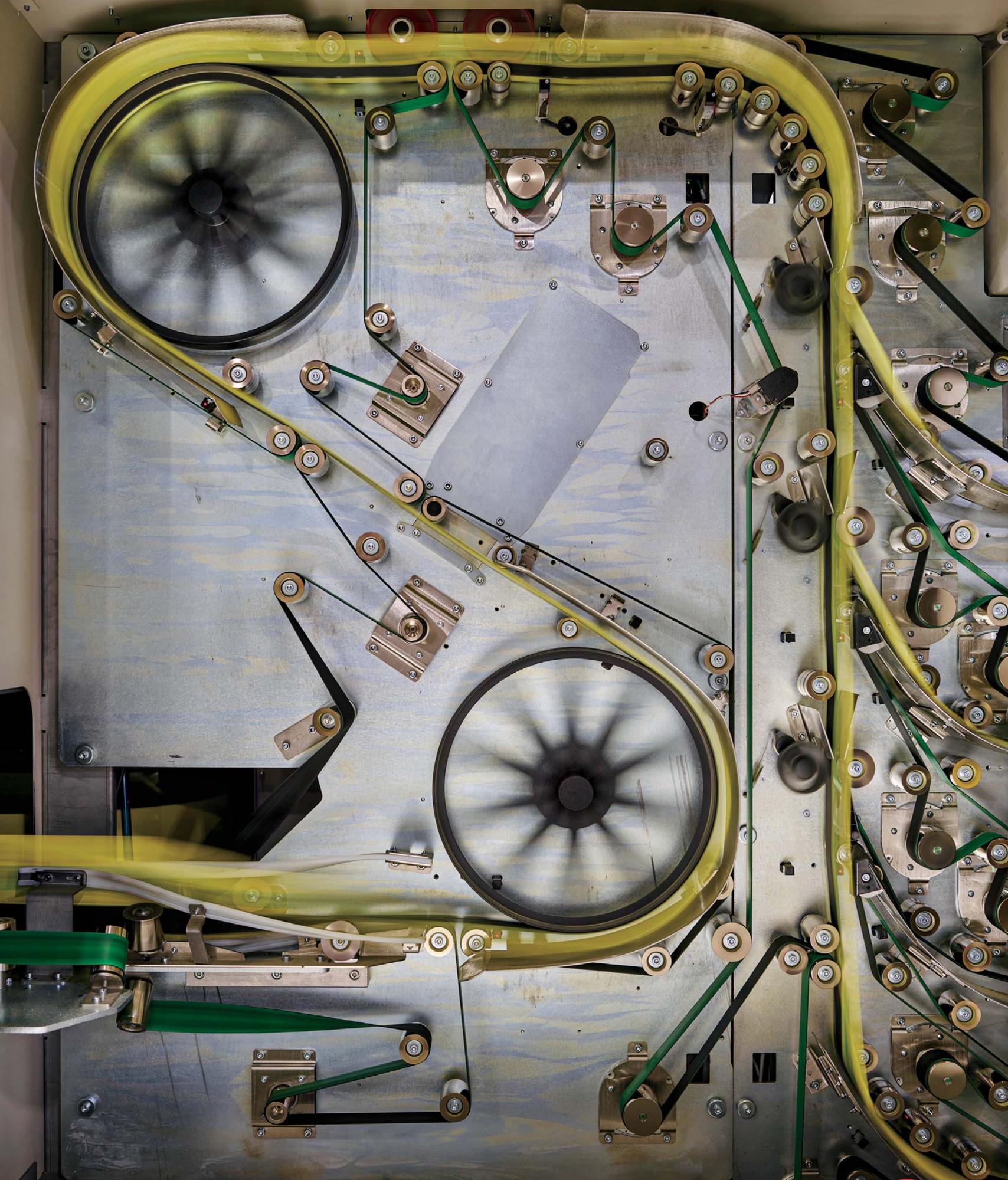
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Brett Frazier, 56, loading paper into a printing press at Michigan Election Resources in Kalamazoo. This was Frazier's first election printing ballots after working in a commercial shop for three decades. "The pressure really gets your blood flowing," he said. **Previous page:** A press at Runbeck Election Services in Phoenix.

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One of Runbeck's four printing presses, which together went through 6,500 miles of paper to print 36 million ballots. Previous pages, left: A Runbeck sorting machine. Previous pages, right: Texas ballots on the folding machine at Runbeck.

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The presses were able to churn out nearly two million ballots in 24 hours.

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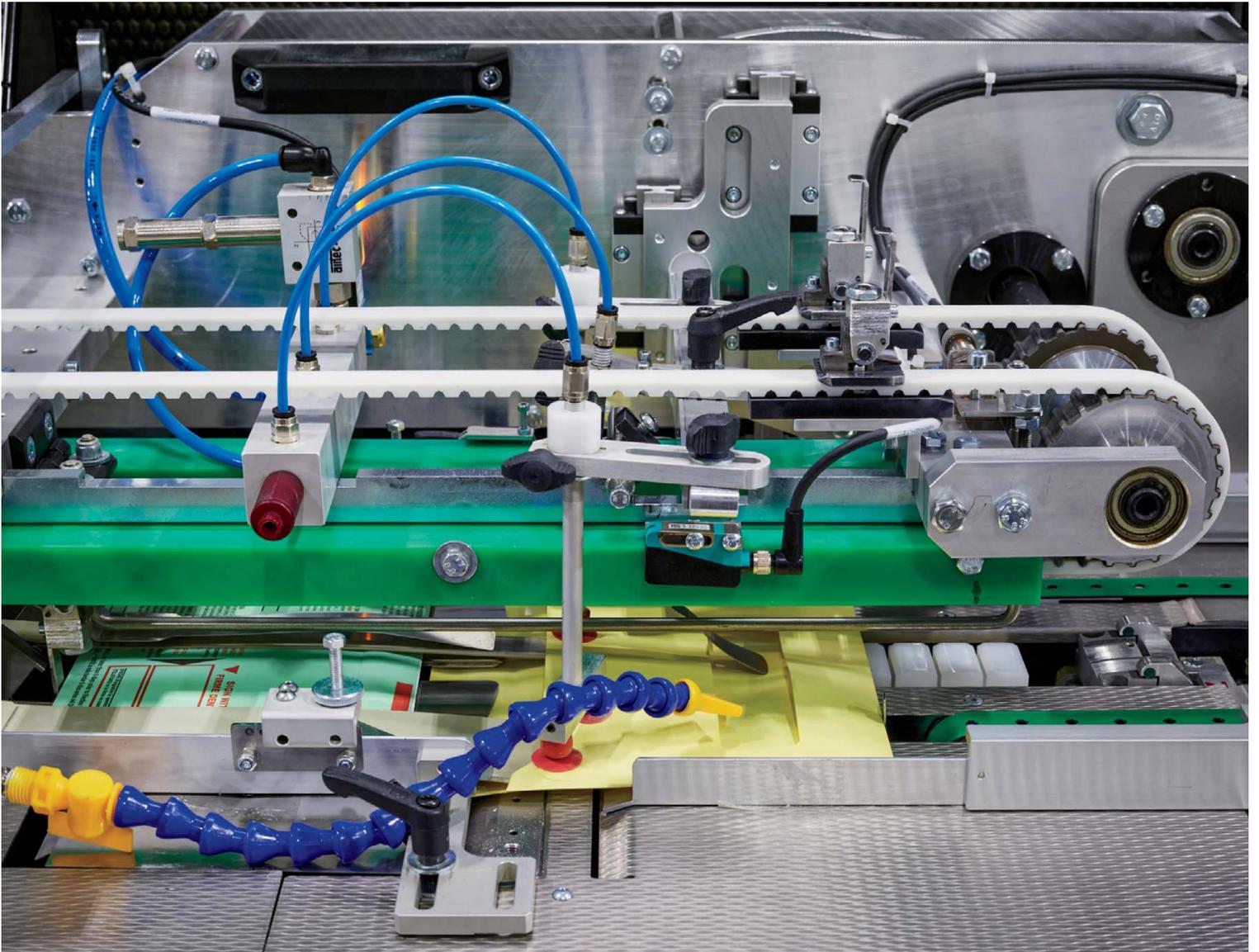


○ America's history of voting by mail is a war story. As far back as the American Revolution, soldiers stationed away from home wrote letters demanding that their votes be counted in local elections. (In isolated cases, they

were.) During the Civil War, most states passed provisions allowing soldiers to vote absentee. Some 150,000 soldiers cast their ballots from battlefields and hospitals, voting overwhelmingly to re-elect Abraham Lincoln in 1864. But

if mail-in voting is far from a newfangled approach to democracy, not even during world wars has the country seen anything like the more than 90 million mail-in ballots that were requested for this year's general election.





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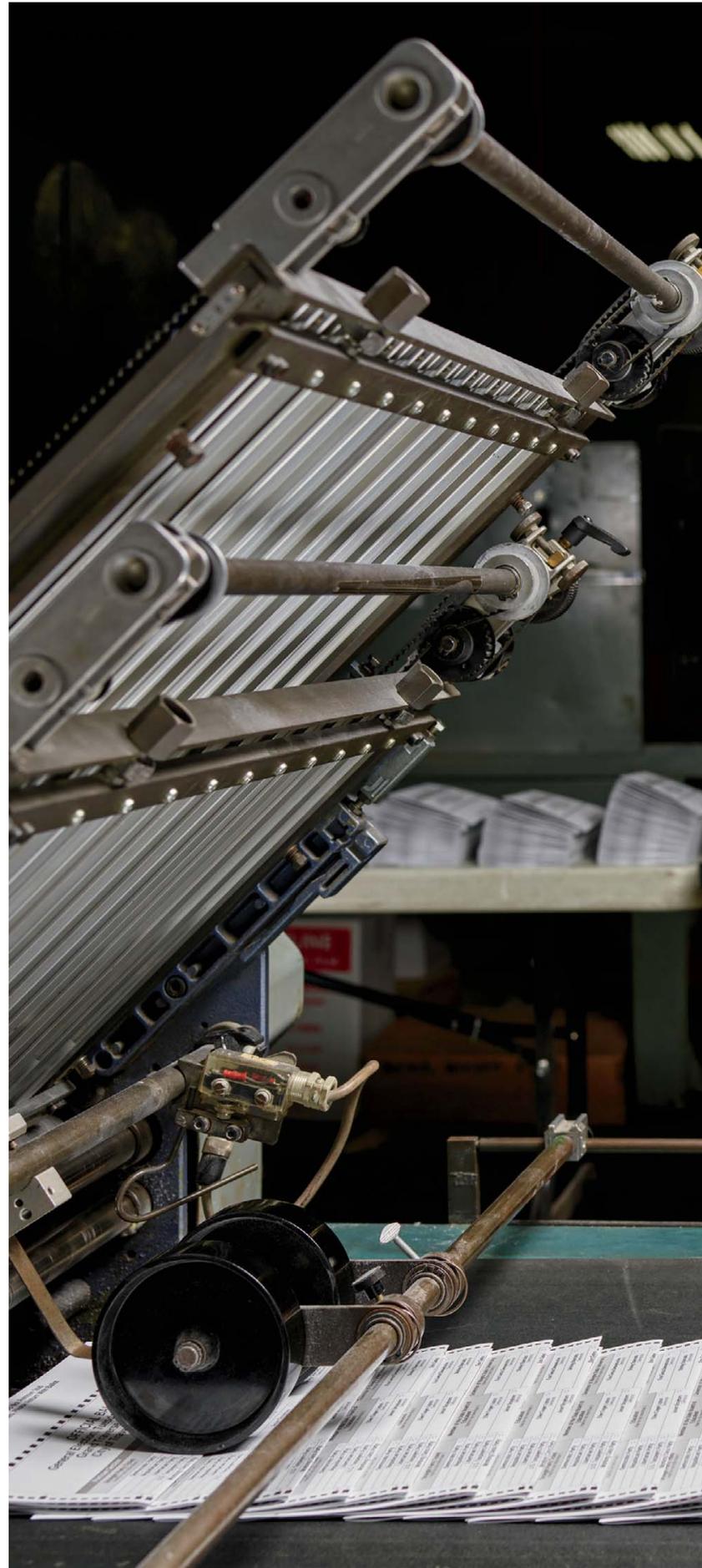
**Left:** Ballot-packet components, including ballots, instruction sheets, "I Voted" stickers and affidavit envelopes, at a feeder at Runbeck.  
**Right:** The inserter at Runbeck can process 100,000 mail packets per day.

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Alese LePert, 31, at the pile feed folder at Michigan Election Resources, where she started working right out of high school. "I spent all day at that machine for about a month straight," she said. "Every ballot has to be perfect."

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America's history of voting by mail is a war story.

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○ At Runbeck, one of the largest ballot printers in the country, it took about 45 minutes to convert a roll of paper into 20,000 ballots. Once ballots came off the press, those bound for absentee voters were bundled with other materials, like instruction sheets and “I Voted” stickers.

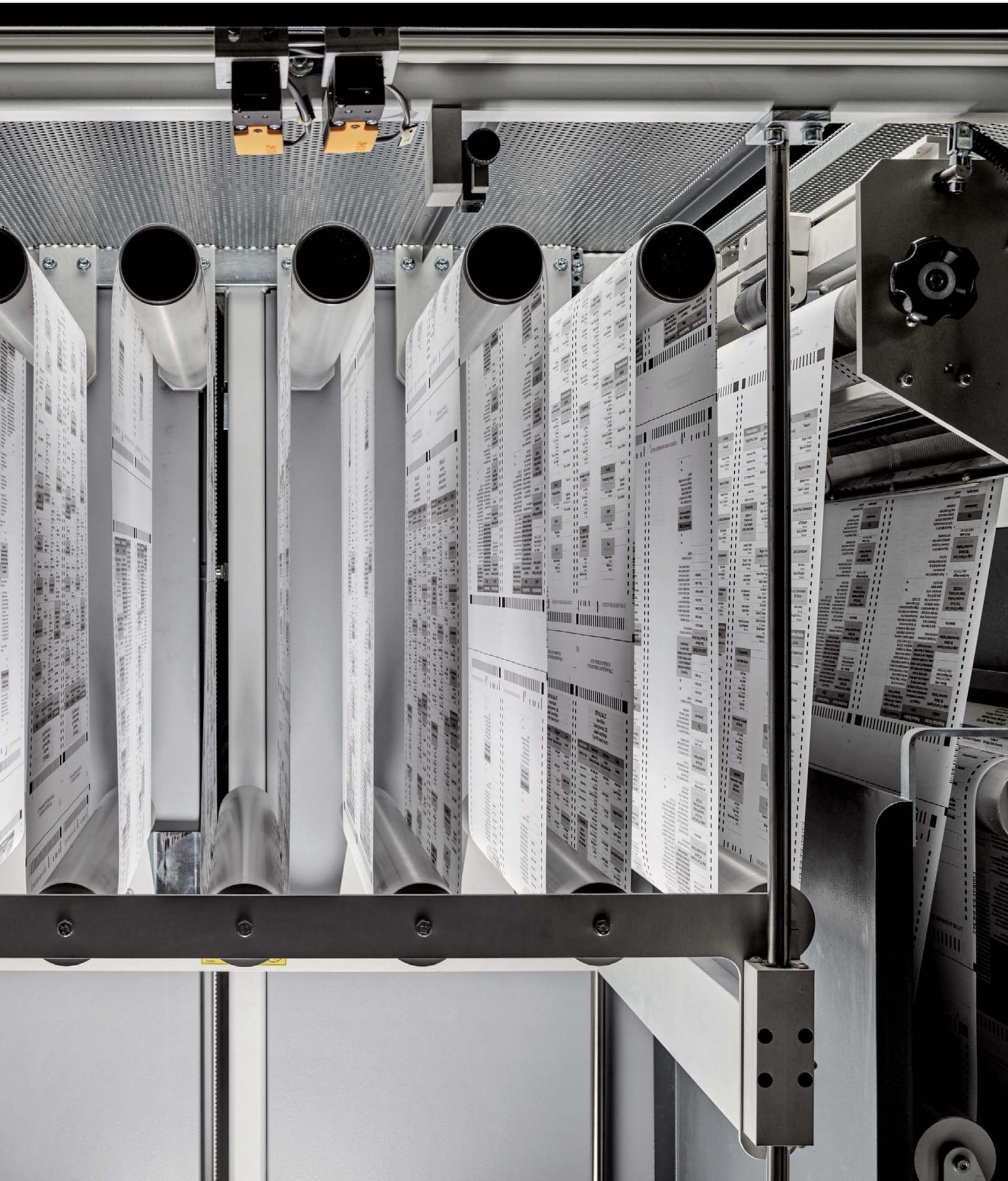
Getting all those mail-in ballots processed and out to voters in time was a grueling effort, undertaken largely out of sight, but it was a crucial part of the mail-in voting process. “If ballot printers do the job well, nobody notices,” said Jeff Ellington, the president of Runbeck. “But if you have an error on a ballot, it’s international news.”

There were isolated glitches. In Allegheny County, Pa., nearly 29,000 voters were sent the wrong mail-in ballot; in Florida, voters reported getting ballots with their return envelopes already sealed shut; in three counties in eastern Wisconsin, a tiny printing error on some 13,000 absentee ballots rendered them unreadable by vote-scanning machines. Absentee ballots can be subject to such misprints and missteps; they often include security measures that make them more complicated than those cast at polling places with volunteers ready to help. They can require things like inner secrecy envelopes, signed outer envelopes and witness signatures.

But even under the heightened scrutiny of a contested election, any paper ballot provides tangible evidence of intent: most important, the pen marks made by the voter. Look more closely, though, and there, on the paper, is proof of other people’s intentions, too — those who brought the ballot into being, who painstakingly printed, cut and folded it just so, in the process transforming a simple sheet of paper into an instrument of democracy. ○



Ballots on their way to be cut and stacked at Michigan Election Resources.





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‘If you have an error on a ballot, it’s international news.’

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Left: Rolls of paper at Runbeck Election Services. Each roll weighs about 1,000 pounds and can be converted into some 20,000 ballots. Right: Outbound ballots at Runbeck, packed in mail trays in accordance with U.S. Postal Service guidelines.



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*Carrying the Votes* ○ Throughout the fall, the country's 600,000 postal workers ferried by hand our democracy's most precious cargo: the franchise itself. Photographs by Philip Montgomery ○ Text by Vauhini Vara

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○ Absentee ballots, including those printed at Runbeck Election Services in Phoenix, were eventually used to cast votes by about 60 million Americans, more than have ever voted by mail in any U.S. election. After California, the most populous state, sent ballots to all its active registered voters, at least 12 million were returned, compared with roughly eight and a half million in 2016. In Florida — a swing state with many older residents, who are particularly vulnerable to contracting Covid-19 — 4.9 million people voted by mail.

For the post office, shepherding all these votes was only the latest challenge in an already exhausting year. In the spring, as the coronavirus first surged, letter carriers began hauling bulky deliveries of toilet paper and bottled water. Then came the quarantines: A worker's husband or son would test positive, and she would be out of commission. After Louis DeJoy, a Trump donor and political appointee, took over as postmaster general in June, the agency enacted policies like curtailing overtime and getting rid of sorting equipment. Critics blamed the steps for causing delivery delays and saw them as politically motivated — President Trump had spoken openly about stymieing the Postal Service's ability to facilitate expanded mail-in voting, which he considered disadvantageous to his chances — and a public outcry ensued. In August, the Postal Service suspended the changes, but delays persisted.



A postal facility in Plant City, Fla. [Previous page:](#)  
Antonio Manuel Gil, a letter carrier in Key West, Fla.





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‘Why in the hell am I  
dreaming about work?’

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Left: Tricia Mack, a postal clerk, worked so much overtime that she dreamed one night of being at the post office. "I woke up thinking, Why in the hell am I dreaming about work?" she said. Right: Outgoing ballots in Key West.

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Outside a facility in Hillsborough County, Fla.

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‘Are you going to  
lose my ballot?’

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○ In late September, amid congressional pressure, a directive came down from headquarters in Washington: Starting eight days before the election, local post-office managers were expected to use “extraordinary measures” to accelerate the movement of ballots — expediting their processing, taking them straight to local election offices and even delivering them on Sundays. For the people who keep post offices running, workdays lengthened to 12, 14, even 16 hours. In October, the photographer Philip Montgomery traveled across South Florida to document the efforts of those who labored, under pressure in a swing state, to see Americans’ ballots through to Election Day. Like Christopher Payne, he witnessed a phase of this historic election up close.

After ballots were dropped in a blue box or handed to a letter carrier, they were typically separated from the regular mail, taken to a plant where they were sorted by destination, delivered to the post office in the appropriate district and then sent on to the local election office. Sometimes customers thanked postal workers for their service. But sometimes — perhaps prompted by the doubts sowed by Trump about mail-in voting or the headlines about persistent mail slowdowns — the opposite happened. Postal employees, accustomed to their work being seen as crucial but ultimately boring, found it the subject of scrutiny. Customers handed over their ballots, then lingered at the counter with insistent questions. “Are you going to lose my ballot?” “Is it going to end up in the trash?”



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The floor of a postal facility in South Florida.

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‘We’re treating this like gold.’

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Left: Edwin Oliveras, a letter carrier, said of his customers and their ballots: "I have quite a few that come to me and say, 'I just want to make sure I give it to you.' We're treating this like gold!" Right: Charles Ansell, a postal clerk in Key West, lowering the flag at a post office.

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‘When other things  
break down,  
this keeps going.’

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○ Worries about mail-in ballots persisted through Election Day, when a federal judge issued a 3 p.m. deadline to the U.S. Postal Inspection Service to search a dozen facilities for ballots. The inspectors missed the deadline, though the Department of Justice, representing the Postal Service, later said that routine sweeps had been completed and that hundreds of ballots in Pennsylvania, Texas and elsewhere had been found.

It can take weeks for all mail-in votes to be counted, during which irregularities may be identified — North Carolina, for example, accepts ballots received up to nine days after the election if they are postmarked by Election Day. But by the end of the week of the election, no major problems with the mail had come to light, despite Trump and his supporters' repeated efforts to undermine the integrity of the mail-in process. "When you get into interesting times like we're living in now," says Daniel A. Piazza, the chief curator of the Smithsonian National Postal Museum, "that sense of reliability, predictability — that no matter what, the mail is going to come to the door — has become comforting to people. You realize very quickly that when other things break down, this keeps going." ○

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Emanuel Espinoza, a rural letter carrier in Plant City. **Previous pages, left:** Outside a post office in Riviera Beach, Fla. **Previous pages, right:** Charles Ansell scanning a ballot for the election supervisor.

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*Adding Them Up* ○ Tallying so many absentee ballots was a painstaking effort, with different start times in different states. As the count inched along, election officials conducted this largely manual process under the shadow of the president's baseless attacks on mail-in voting. Photographs by Dina Litovsky ○ Text by Emily Bazelon

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○ Some states had weeks before Election Day to sort, prepare and tabulate absentee ballots as they received them from the U.S. Postal Service or picked them up from drop boxes. The lead time mattered on election night for Florida, which finished processing all the votes it had in hand and quickly declared a winner. In the battleground of Pennsylvania, however, officials were not allowed to begin counting until Election Day, and the process played out over long days while the country waited to learn who its next president would be. Arizona had two weeks to count ballots before Election Day but still found itself one of the last states to report results; several hundred thousand votes came in by mail and from drop boxes on Election Day and the day before.

In October, the photographer Dina Litovsky took pictures of the count-as-you-go process in counties in Florida and Arizona. She also documented the count in counties in Pennsylvania on Election Day. Her images captured the final stage of the vote-by-mail election.



Voters deposited as many as 1,480 ballots a day in this drop box in Orange County, Fla. **Previous page:** Sherrie Hepburn-Sands, an election worker in Broward County, Fla., examining a ballot that a scanning machine could not read.









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‘I treat these ballots like money, with the same level of security.’

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Left: A locked cage holding ballots collected from a drop box in Collier County, Fla. Right: Lisa Lewis, the election supervisor in Volusia County, Fla., and Kendrick Thomas, election systems manager, picking up ballots from a drop box. Previous pages, left: Roughly 7,000 mail-in ballots being delivered to the Collier County elections office. Previous pages, right: Glenna Thompson, an election worker in Collier County, opening and flattening mail-in ballots.

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○ Local election officials in Florida's 67 county offices handled the counting across the state. Some election workers opened the envelopes of ballots that had been approved to be counted and flattened the paper inside to prepare it for the scanner, which tabulated the votes. Ballots could be rejected by the scanner because, for example, the ink bled or multiple bubbles

were filled in for a single race. A three-member canvassing board assessed each of those ballots and decided whether it could determine the voter's intent. The board in Broward County, for example, met for weeks, reviewing 20 to 50 ballots a day that the scanner could not read and rejecting none.

The board also set aside 322 envelopes with signature problems that

voters could fix. If a signature was missing or didn't appear to match the one on file with the state, Florida law required election officials to give voters notice so they could correct the error. This is called "curing" a ballot. (Nearly 30 states, however, don't have laws that provide for a second chance.) Along with signatures, there were other details to get right on mail-in ballots and no



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poll workers to ask for help. At the end of each day, workers put the ballots into sealed pouches documenting how many were inside. The counts were rechecked when the pouches arrived at the central elections office.

“I come from banking,” said Lisa Lewis, the election supervisor in Volusia County. “I treat these ballots like money, with the same level of security.”



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Left: A drop box in Broward County. Right: A drop box in Polk County, Fla. Election officials there collected the ballots at least once a day.

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Security was on everyone's mind.



★ FACE SHIELD

Document being processed

Pima County Ballot Affidavit  
I, the undersigned, being duly sworn, depose and say that the enclosed is a true and correct copy of the ballot as presented to me by the voter and that I have not made any alteration or change in the ballot in any way.

Pima County Ballot Affidavit  
I, the undersigned, being duly sworn, depose and say that the enclosed is a true and correct copy of the ballot as presented to me by the voter and that I have not made any alteration or change in the ballot in any way.

○ Before Election Day, the Philadelphia City Commissioners, two Democrats and one Republican, set up a giant counting operation in the city's convention center. On the morning of Nov. 3, a machine began slicing open roughly 350,000 envelopes – the total mail-in count received by the end of that day – and separating the sides with suction cups. That way, workers could quickly take out the ballots. They used a dozen high-speed scanners to tabulate them.

The city streamed the process on a live video feed. Two days after the election, President Trump tweeted a demand to stop the counting, and some of his supporters gathered outside the convention center, inside a security perimeter. A large number of counter-demonstrators filled the nearby streets, swaying to music and holding signs that read “Count Every Vote.”

Philadelphia was under pressure to quickly process mail-in ballots because Republican state lawmakers refused in October to agree to early counting without concessions from Democrats. The delay in the Pennsylvania result was a contrast to Florida's speedy, no-fuss counting process. That state had spared itself another protracted battle like the one 20 years ago, when the Supreme Court halted a recount in December with a ruling in favor of George W. Bush. “We learned our lesson after 2000,” Bush's brother, former Gov. Jeb Bush tweeted, “and changed our laws.”

Hundreds of election workers at the convention center in Philadelphia preparing absentee ballots for scanning and tabulation on Election Day. **Previous pages, left:** In Collier County, Fla., Calvin Sanaia preparing chain-of-custody forms for mail-in ballots before they were tabulated. **Previous pages, right:** Dionne Soulier and Raul Ortega at the Pima County Election Center in Tucson, Ariz., preparing envelopes with verified signatures for tabulation.







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Mail-in ballots can require extensive human handling.

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Left: Marianne Werling in Lehigh County, Pa., on Election Day, checking voter names against a list of those who were sent absentee ballots. Right: Asya Foyer (left) and Jessica McPherson flattening ballots in Chester County, Pa.

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○ In the days after Nov. 3, Trump tried, without evidence, to turn the basic work of completing the count into an act of stealing the election. His campaign went to court in a handful of close states raising questions about ballots and counting, but federal judges largely rejected these initial challenges. Nonetheless, a framing took hold among Trump's allies, from his daughter Ivanka to Mitch McConnell, the Senate majority leader: Count "legal" but not "illegal" votes — with no evidence that illegal ballots existed anywhere in any state in anything like meaningful numbers.

This baseless alarm was entirely untethered from the reality experienced by many workers, from printers to mail carriers to election officials, who made the absentee-ballot election possible. Before the election, Justin Vacca, a vote-by-mail coordinator in Collier County, Fla., fielded questions from friends about election security and found that explaining the process reassured them. Like so many election workers, he had a straightforward job to do, which, when joined to the rest of the effort, became something grand. He took me through each aspect of using the new sorter his office got over the summer, describing how he does the initial count and then scans the ballots again after they've been checked and returned to him. "It's pretty rare," he said when I asked about discrepancies in the count as ballots moved through different parts of his office. "But when that happens, I usually catch it on the second pass." His job was about executing a series of steps with care, over and over again, until all the votes were counted. ○



Natalie Falcone (front) and Kaleb Wassa checking voter names in Lehigh County, Pa.





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Arizona took days to  
count its votes.

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A member of the election board in  
Coconino County, Ariz., checking  
a name on a ballot envelope against  
names on an approved-voter list.

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## Contributors

(Continued from Page 8)

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### Christopher Payne

*"A Ballot Is Born,"*  
Page 20

Christopher Payne is a photographer who specializes in architecture and American industry. He has previously photographed for the magazine one of America's last pencil factories, a Colombian candy factory and The Times's printing plant in College Point, Queens.

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### Vauhini Vara

*"Carrying the Votes,"*  
Page 36

Vauhini Vara is a writer and an editor in Colorado and the author of the forthcoming novel "The Immortal King Rao" from W.W. Norton. Her last assignment for the magazine was interviewing a funeral director dealing with the coronavirus pandemic.

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### Malia Wollan

*"A Ballot Is Born,"*  
Page 20

Malia Wollan writes the weekly Tip column for the magazine. She lives in Oakland, Calif. She previously wrote a feature about the San Antonio Food Bank and economic insecurity during the pandemic.



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# LUXURY Developments

*Designed by world-class architects with comprehensive amenity packages, 130 William, in Lower Manhattan, and 11 Hoyt, in Downtown Brooklyn, are state-of-the-art residential towers opening now that are already redefining luxury living in the city.*

## 130 WILLIAM

Closings are starting at 130 William, a new, premier high-rise condominium tower located in Lower Manhattan. Designed by visionary architect Sir David Adjaye, at 800 feet tall and 66 stories, the building embraces New York's history of masonry architecture with a custom, hand-cast concrete facade featuring refined bronze detailing. It is already making a unique addition to Manhattan's skyline with its distinctive, rhythmic large-scale arched windows that draw inspiration from downtown Manhattan lofts.

130 William consists of 242 condominium residences, more than 22,000 square feet of amenities and a new plaza park at the building's entry. It also features 20,000 square feet of retail at the building's base. Adjaye is responsible for the holistic vision of 130 William, designing both the exterior architecture and all of the interiors, including every facet of the residences, from the wide-plank white oak flooring, down to the custom handles, faucets, showerheads, fixtures and hardware. The development is another milestone for Adjaye Associates, which has designed a series of culturally significant developments around the world, including the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of African American History and Culture on the National Mall in Washington D.C.; the National Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre in London, and the National Cathedral in Accra, Ghana.



130 WILLIAM, FINANCIAL DISTRICT

Rendering: Bivvan Studios

The top 10 residential floors are home to the penthouse and loggia residences, each with ceilings ranging from 11 to 14 feet, and offering expansive outdoor space. The covered loggia terraces wrap each residence from end to end, providing stunning views and significant outdoor space at more than 600 feet in the air.

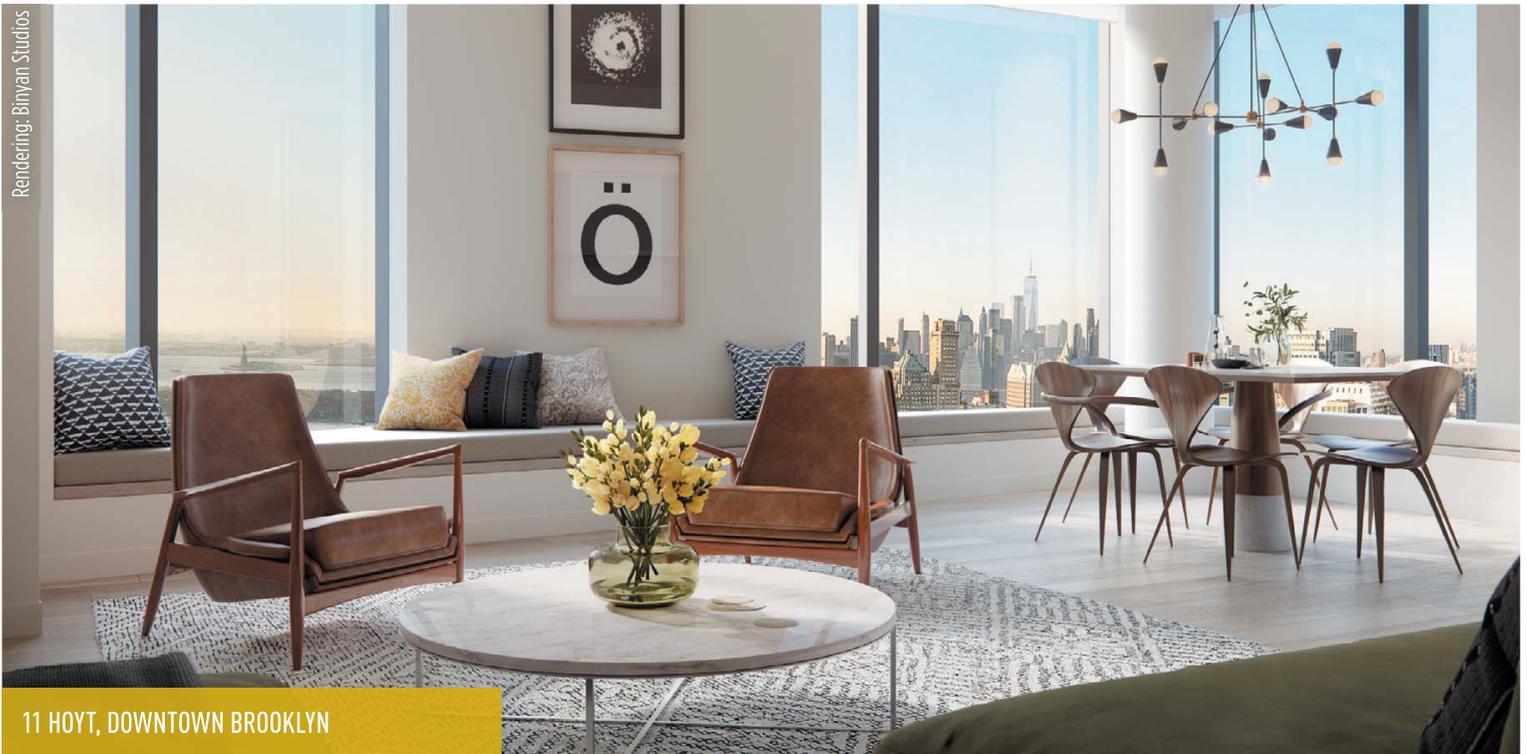
The building's comprehensive amenity package includes: a private Imax movie theater; rooftop observation deck; health club with full spa, infinity-edge swimming pool and cold and hot plunge pools; dry sauna and massage rooms; and a fitness center with a cool-down terrace, yoga studio and basketball court. Additional amenities include: a golf simulator; resident lounge; club and game room; chef's catering kitchen with a private dining area; pet spa; and children's activity center complete with a trampoline room, mini basketball courts and a soccer field.

Lightstone, the developer, and Sir David Adjaye have also collaborated with Aston Martin, the legendary British sports car manufacturer, to design five exclusive, fully furnished residences. Located on the 59th and 60th floors of 130 William, these homes feature a unique and highly distinctive design identity. Each residence features a private, expansive outdoor loggia spanning the entire length of residence. The residences showcase unique visual elements and accessories, handcrafted materials, textiles and furniture from the acclaimed Aston

Martin Home Collection by the Italian manufacturer Formitalia. Each home will be accompanied by a Special Edition Aston Martin DBX custom-designed by Sir David Adjaye. It marks the first time Aston Martin has collaborated with an architect to custom design one of its signature hand-built vehicles.

Since opening for sale in 2018, 130 William has consistently been recognized as New York City's best-selling luxury condominium development. "We are thrilled to finally begin welcoming our first residents," said Scott J. Avram, senior vice president at Lightstone, the developer of 130 William. "The reasons for our success are clear. Our buyers understand 130 William is a unique and compelling offering, with residences that incorporate luxurious interior finishes made of materials sourced from around the world. There is a true sense of craft in the details. Each home is crafted with airy interiors and offers stunning views. We are also priced competitively for the market, which attracts interested buyers week after week."

130 William is within easy walking distance of the new Fulton Street Transit Hub, which provides access to 11 subway lines. One-bedrooms start at \$1,450,990, two-bedrooms at \$1,890,990, three-bedrooms at \$2,675,990 and four-bedrooms at \$5,925,000. Loggia and penthouse residences start at \$6,855,990. Corcoran Sunshine Marketing Group is exclusively handling sales and marketing. For more information, call 212-433-3130 or visit [130William.com](http://130William.com).



11 HOYT, DOWNTOWN BROOKLYN

## 11 HOYT

Developed by Tishman Speyer, the developer, owner and operator of some of the world's most respected residential properties, 11 Hoyt is an architectural marvel rising 620 feet and spanning almost an entire city block with frontage along Hoyt, Livingston and Elm Streets in Downtown Brooklyn. The prime location, near an abundance of parks, including Brooklyn's new riverfront, as well as 11 subway lines within a five-block radius, includes its own elevated, private park for residents. Built atop a two-story base, the park, composed of a glade of shade trees, native flowers and lawns, surrounds the building, and is unlike any outdoor space in New York City.

The 57-story tower's facade, which appears to shimmer from a distance, is designed by celebrated architect Jeanne Gang, the founding principal of Studio Gang Architects and a MacArthur Fellow. Her firm is best known locally for an office tower located along the High Line in Manhattan, and the recent expansion of the American Museum of Natural History. This is her first residential building in New York City.

London-based Michaelis Boyd Associates, the award-winning interiors and architecture firm whose global portfolio includes Soho House locations in Berlin and Los Angeles, London's famed Groucho Club and the Williamsburg Hotel, is responsible for the interiors. New York City-based Hollander Design, one of America's most noted

landscape architecture firms, is responsible for the landscaping, and collaborated with Michaelis Boyd Associates and Studio Gang on the outdoor amenities.

The total of 55,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor amenities come with an additional 40,000 square feet of retail. The park is adjacent to the building's indoor amenities area, called the Park Club, and is located on the building's third floor. The Park Club includes a fitness and aquatic center designed and curated by The Wright Fit, and features a 75-foot saltwater pool, squash court, men's and women's locker facilities, steam showers, sauna, massage and relaxation rooms and a yoga/group fitness studio. Additional amenities include a game room, maker's studio, children's playroom, salon lounge, catering pantry, a co-working lounge featuring coffee service and AV-connected private meeting rooms.

The Sky Club, located on the 32nd floor, features private dining and entertainment spaces with panoramic city views, along with a music studio, catering kitchen, library, cinema and performance space, virtual golf/gaming room, card room and study nooks. Additional amenities include a 24-hour doorman and concierge, package delivery room, dry-cleaning valet, refrigerated delivery storage, bicycle and stroller storage. Private storage lockers and attended on-site parking are available for purchase.

Michaelis Boyd Associates' interiors in each of the 481 studio to four-bedroom residences

are designed to combine a modern open-plan concept with the warmth and craftsmanship of Brooklyn's traditional brownstone sensibility. "11 Hoyt's interior design has proven to be quite popular with our discerning buyers who prioritize sophisticated design, durability and timelessness," said Erik Rose, managing director at Tishman Speyer. "Michaelis Boyd was inspired by quintessential Brooklyn living to design a series of interiors that are unique and innovative, and that perfectly highlight the craft and materiality found in both the homes and amenities.

"The building offers buyers a choice of two distinct interior finish palettes — Heritage and Classic — both featuring rich, tactile materials designed to withstand the test of time and improve with age. One of the most notable features inside most homes is the inhabitable window bays of varying depths where residents will be able to relax and take in the unmatched city and water views. Throughout the amenities and public spaces, Michaelis Boyd evokes Brooklyn's creative energy through a colorful and eclectic mix of furnishings and finishes."

*First closings are just getting underway, with Corcoran Sunshine Marketing Group exclusively handling sales and marketing. Current availability ranges from \$710,000 for a studio to \$4,300,000 for a premium four-bedroom apartment. For more information, visit*

*11hoytbrooklyn.com or call 347-752-5125. ■*

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Answers to puzzles of 11.8.20

WAIT, WHAT?

M	I	C	R	O	L	O	A	N	P	A	T	E	L	S	I	L	O		
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Y	O	U	G	O	T	T	H	A	T	S	T	R	U	T	D	E	U	C	E
A	L	M	S	H	A	Y	R	O	O	K	S	E	R	E	N	A			
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M	O	R	A	L	W	O	E			R	O	T	S	S	O	L			
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I	N	G	A		V	N	E	C	K	F	I	R	E	W	O	R	K	S	

KENKEN

5	1	4	3	2
2	5	1	4	3
4	3	2	1	5
3	4	5	2	1
1	2	3	5	4

7	4	6	1	2	5	3
2	6	5	3	1	4	7
6	3	4	2	7	1	5
1	5	7	6	3	2	4
3	2	1	5	4	7	6
5	7	2	4	6	3	1
4	1	3	7	5	6	2

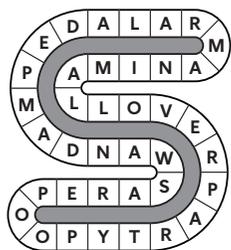
ACROSTIC

KATIE MACK, (THE) END OF EVERYTHING (ASTROPHYSICALLY SPEAKING)

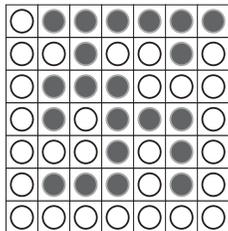
— I love stories about time travel. ... (T)here's something appealing about the idea that we might somehow find a trick that will ... allow us to step off this runaway train of "now" barreling inexorably toward some unknown fate.

- A. "Kismet"
- B. Asimov
- C. Turntable
- D. If-then
- E. Erstwhile
- F. Material
- G. Aftermath
- H. Chai tea
- I. Kowtows
- J. Eloi
- K. Nonstop
- L. Doomsday
- M. Outweigh
- N. Fortnite
- O. Elopse
- P. VW Rabbit
- Q. Eternal
- R. Rough up
- S. Yaw axis
- T. Tardis
- U. High-flown
- V. Inflatable
- W. Newton
- X. Go on tour

SNAKE CHARMER



YIN-YANG



Answers to puzzle on Page 76

Spelling bee (3 points). Also: Acacia, accuracy, arcano, canary, cancan, canny, carry, circa, cronis, cronny, cury, cynic, incur, niach, rich, runic, uncanny, yucca. If you found other legitimate dictionary words in the beehive, feel free to include them in your score.

The New York Times

The joys.

The tribulations.

The twists.

Modern Love

Read, watch and listen to the stories.  
[nytimes.com/modernlove](https://www.nytimes.com/modernlove)

KENKEN

Fill the grid with digits so as not to repeat a digit in any row or column, and so that the digits within each heavily outlined box will produce the target number shown, by using addition, subtraction, multiplication or division, as indicated in the box. A 5x5 grid will use the digits 1-5. A 7x7 grid will use 1-7.

3+	12+	20x		
			3	1-
9+		2÷		
3	6+		1-	3-
3-				

6	2÷		3-	2-		168x
12+	4-			2		
		3-		20x	4-	
4-	12+		10+		2-	
		90x			3-	
2÷	2			1-	18x	
	140x					

**Democracy**

*(Continued from Page 18)*

of polling places to make it harder to vote, betting that these restrictions — which have been shown to deter more people who tend to support Democrats, and who are disproportionately Black and Latino — would benefit them. Trump made his goal and his partisan aim explicit when he opposed a Democratic bill to fund state election preparations in March, saying the proposal “had things — levels of voting that, if you ever agreed to it, you’d never have a Republican elected in this country again.”

Some state officials followed Trump’s lead. In Texas, the Republican governor said that fear of catching coronavirus wasn’t a legitimate excuse for voting by mail and restricted the number of drop boxes to one per county. In Nevada, the state’s Republican Party joined Trump’s campaign in suing to stop local officials from mailing ballots to all active voters. (A federal judge dismissed the suit in September.) In Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, Republican legislators failed to pass clean bills that would allow mail-in ballots to be processed before Election Day. As the piles of returned ballots grew, election officials in those states could not open a single envelope.

The resulting delay in the count caused unneeded tension in the days after Election Day, but it didn’t cause chaos. For all his bluster, Trump failed to undermine the systems for increasing voting by mail that the states and counties built. When Election Day ended and Trump issued his bizarre call to stop counting votes, state and local officials kept working to finish the job, as they always do. America’s patchwork of state and local election laws and offices is unwieldy. It can leave voters unsure of the rules and practices, itself an obstacle to participation. But it also takes the actual running of the election out of the hands of the president or the people the White House controls, parceling it out among more than 10,000 jurisdictions, staffed by local officials and workers. This year, that aspect of American federalism was a saving grace.

**This year’s election** could well be a turning point for voting by mail in America. In February, Richard L. Hasen, a law professor at the University of California, Irvine, who has studied elections for decades, convened a group of bipartisan experts who proposed a series of nuts-and-bolts changes to make absentee and in-person balloting more accessible. The reforms included giving voters in every state a chance to fix an error like a missing signature on a mail-in ballot and ensuring that counting ballots isn’t subject to delays. If election officials can begin processing ballots early, this year has taught us, they have time to get in touch with voters to address mistakes on ballots and also complete the count on or close to Election Day.

These are small steps, technocratic rather than visionary, but ones that can *(Continued on Page 77)*

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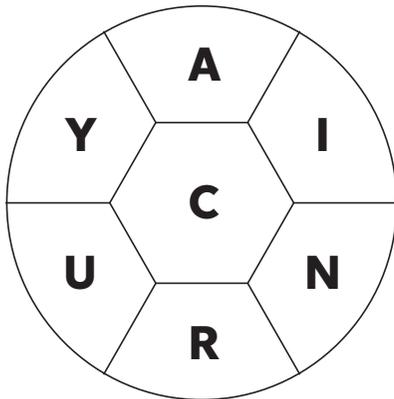
Puzzles

# SPELLING BEE

By Frank Longo

How many common words of 5 or more letters can you spell using the letters in the hive? Every answer must use the center letter at least once. Letters may be reused in a word. At least one word will use all 7 letters. Proper names and hyphenated words are not allowed. Score 1 point for each answer, and 3 points for a word that uses all 7 letters.

Rating: 7 = good; 13 = excellent; 19 = genius



Our list of words, worth 22 points, appears with last week's answers.

# NINE TO FIVE

By Patrick Berry

The answer to each clue at the bottom is a nine-letter word that contains one of the five-letter words in the exact middle — like OPERA inside COOPERATE or MINES inside LUMINESCE. Each clue will be used once.

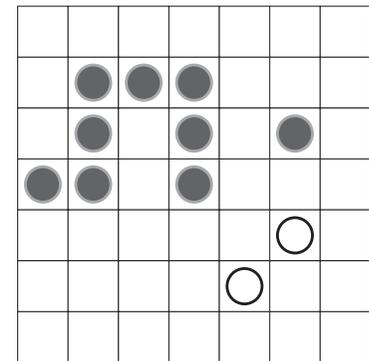
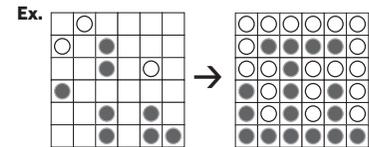
1. \_\_\_\_ ANKLE \_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_ ATOLL \_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_ CHEST \_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_ QUEST \_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_ REPRO \_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_ SERVO \_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_ SHONE \_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_ STELA \_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_ STROP \_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_ THROB \_\_\_\_
11. \_\_\_\_ TITHE \_\_\_\_
12. \_\_\_\_ TROVE \_\_\_\_

Bleak, unused tract • Designed to prevent stealing  
 • Garments worn at spas • Impervious to flame  
 • Outgoing sort • Performers in a pit • Shiite religious leader • Snail or slug • Source of drinking water • Telling lies • Unrewarding, as a task • Withdraw or set apart from others

# YIN-YANG

By Wei-Hwa Huang

Put a white or dark circle in each cell so that all the white circles are connected along their edges in an unbroken chain and all the dark circles are connected along their edges in an unbroken chain. No two-by-two set of cells can be all white or all dark.



Next week: Introducing "Rope Threading"

# JELLY ROLL

By Eric Berlin

Three paths curl toward the center of this jelly roll — a white path, a gray path and a "jelly roll" path that uses all the letters of the other two (winding back and forth as indicated by the heavy bars). Answer words proceed one after the other. Word lengths are given for the answers in the white and gray paths. It's up to you to determine where the jelly roll answers begin and end.

**WHITE PATH**

- Trail left by a snail (5)
- Behind in the score (6)
- Whole or unbroken (6)
- Draw out, as a response (6)
- One who's poorly adapted to the situation (6)
- Archaeologist's find (5)
- The "A" of Chester A. Arthur (4)
- Mexican restaurant offering (7)
- Boards, as a train (4,2)

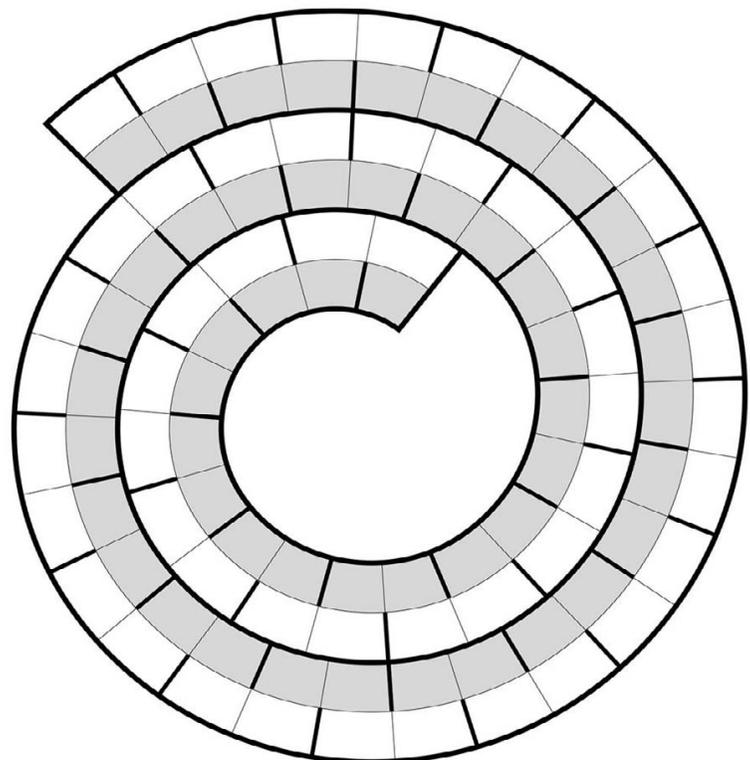
**GRAY PATH**

- "Do \_\_\_\_ others as ..." (4)
- Donated (4)
- Muddy ground or confused situation (6)
- Ordinary church folk (5)
- Mystical letters (5)
- Force important in rocketry (6)
- Official pardon for political offenses (7)
- Playwright Eugène (7)

- Regal quality (7)

**JELLY ROLL**

- Naturally illuminated
- Alpha's opposite
- 2018 romantic drama about a gay high school student (2 wds.)
- Wheat, rice, barley, etc.
- Icicle-like item in a cave
- What's sung in a song
- Bring together
- Workers at a forge
- What a tomato is, technically
- Make more aerodynamic
- People in a play
- Angrily criticize (2 wds.)
- Snouts
- Mexican restaurant offering
- Harm
- "West Side Story" gang
- Like some expressions and beaches



**Democracy***(Continued from Page 75)*

help increase participation and trust. Congress could set national standards and fund states to implement them. “It’s time for uniform rules,” said Stephen Vladeck, a law professor at the University of Texas, Austin. “We’ve learned a lot about how ballots should be distributed and validated.”

Yet in recent litigation about voting by mail, Republican lawsuits have resurrected a theory that could prevent state courts and election officials from enacting changes that protect voters from disenfranchisement. The idea is that the rules for an election must come exclusively from the legislature. It derives from the Supreme Court case that effectively decided the presidential election in 2000 — *Bush v. Gore*. But it has lain dormant since then, because it was never adopted by a majority on the Supreme Court.

Now that could change. During the summer and fall, in light of the pandemic, the state election board in North Carolina and the State Supreme Court in Pennsylvania extended the deadlines for returning absentee ballots; if they were postmarked by Nov. 3, they could be received through the mail days later and still be counted.

The Constitution gives legislatures the main role of setting rules for elections. (Each state, Article II says, “shall appoint” its representative to the Electoral College “in such Manner as the

Legislature thereof may direct.”) But as in every other area of law, state officials outside the legislature have traditionally figured out how to apply rules for administering elections, and state courts are sometimes asked to decide a challenge to a particular practice in consideration of their state constitutions, almost all of which explicitly protect voting. (Many broadly provide for “free” or “free and equal” or “free and open” elections.)

And yet, in *Bush v. Gore*, the Supreme Court interfered with the usual lines of authority over state elections. The justices stepped in to end a recount of the Florida vote ordered by the Florida Supreme Court. Two of the justices signed onto a concurrence, written by Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, arguing that the Florida recount had to end, despite the Florida Supreme Court’s order, because Article II meant that only the legislature could provide a means to contest the results of the election. But in 2015, the majority of the Supreme Court went in the opposite direction, holding that the meaning of “Legislature” in Article II encompasses a state’s general “lawmaking power.” That ruling allowed Arizona to create a nonpartisan redistricting commission through a ballot initiative, rather than a law passed by the legislature.

And yet in the weeks before this election, Rehnquist’s *narrow* interpretation of Article II gained support from four conservative justices — Samuel A. Alito Jr., Neil M. Gorsuch, Brett

M. Kavanaugh and Clarence Thomas — when Republicans challenged the deadline extensions for mail-in ballots in Pennsylvania and North Carolina, and also in Wisconsin. Justice Amy Coney Barrett did not take part in these cases.

So far, these legal developments are a skirmish. At press time, the deadline extensions appeared to have little effect, because the number of mail-in ballots that arrived after Nov. 3 seemed small. But the cases laid the groundwork for future battles over election rules, large and small. “This is now at the top of my list,” Hasen said. “The federal courts are threatening to become the greatest impediment to election reform.”

Outside the courts, the usual challenge to improving how elections are run is sustaining our attention. Now we also have to bridge the partisan divide that turned the basic task of counting ballots into a lengthy, unnecessary drama. One lesson of Election Day was that record turnout doesn’t just lift Democrats; the enormous wave of voters wound up buoying Republican candidates too, including Trump. But his relentless assaults on the integrity of the election now risk cementing the idea that for Republicans, attacking democracy itself, along with disenfranchising voters who don’t support them, is the path forward. Instead of listening to Trump, look at — and learn from — the workers whose determined efforts made the election, despite everything, a success. ♦



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# THEME SHMEME

By Caitlin Reid

Caitlin Reid, of Santa Ana, Calif., is the mother of two boys and two girls, ages 4 to 11. Like Margaret Farrar, the first crossword editor of The Times — who was also a busy mother — Caitlin does most of her puzzle work after the rest of the family has gone to bed. That's when things quiet down. Caitlin is a classically trained pianist who plays at her local church. Her favorite crosswords to make are themeless ones, like today's, that feature long, fresh, lively vocabulary and lots of humor and playfulness in the clues. This is Caitlin's ninth crossword for the paper, including a collaboration last Sunday. — W.S.

## ACROSS

- 1 Round number?  
 7 Pick a card, any card  
 11 Hoops  
 16 Piano keys  
 18 Quick study  
 20 Quick studies  
 22 Line delivered in costume  
 23 Source of a trendy health juice  
 24 Alternative to tarot cards  
 26 Opportunity to hit  
 27 Hearing aid?  
 29 Hole-making tools  
 30 Hill worker  
 31 Split  
 32 Small bird with complex songs  
 33 He was told to "take a sad song and make it better"  
 34 "SmackDown" org.  
 37 Upper limit  
 38 Olympic figure skater Johnny  
 39 Make more pleasant  
 41 First attempt  
 44 Attire  
 45 In key  
 46 "The \_\_\_ Locker," 2009 Best Picture winner  
 47 Declare  
 48 "Surely you don't think it could be me!!"  
 49 Bank, at times  
 51 Hayek of Hollywood  
 52 Some movie extras  
 55 Acts like money grows on trees  
 57 Tool for a difficult crossword, say  
 58 Added water to, as a sauce  
 60 Family secret, perhaps  
 62 In lock step (with)  
 64 Seasonal song with lyrics in Latin

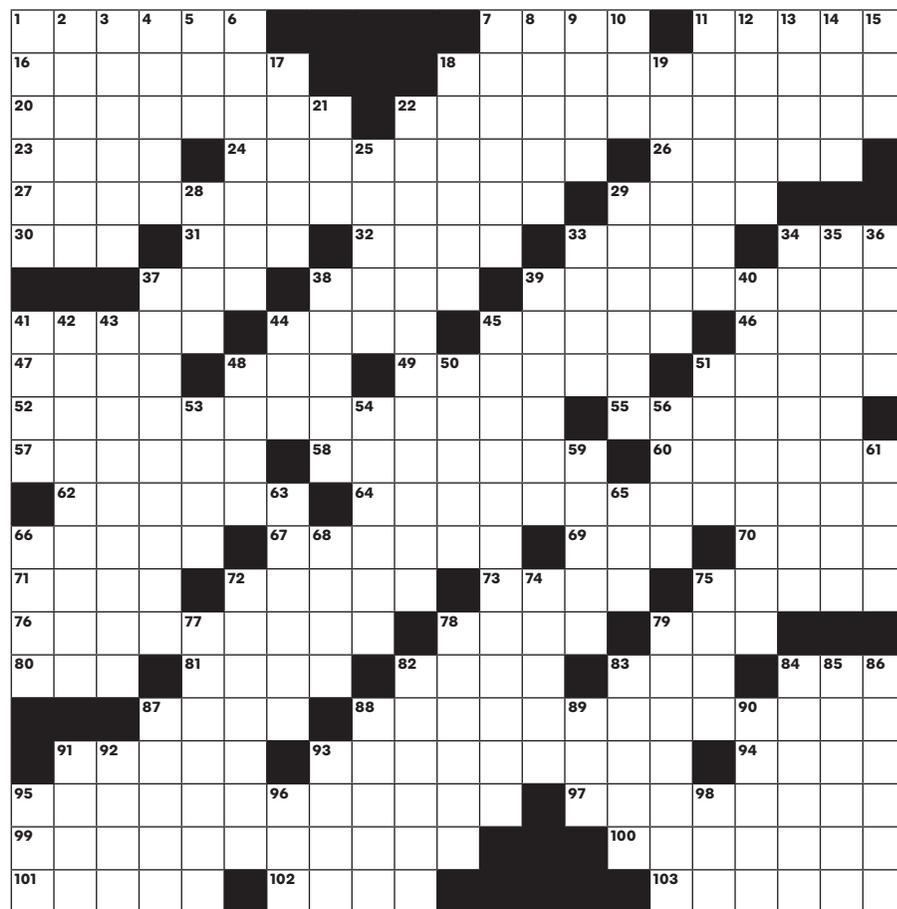
- 66 Sacrament of holy matrimony and others  
 67 Throughway, e.g.  
 69 Fashion expert Gunn  
 70 It's sedimentary, my dear  
 71 Seemingly forever  
 72 Filmmaker Gerwig  
 73 Info on an invitation  
 75 Command, as influence  
 76 "Don't worry about it"  
 78 Brown or blacken  
 79 Hole in the ground  
 80 \_\_\_ card  
 81 Shaded  
 82 Went over the limit, say  
 83 Where to find the radius  
 84 \_\_\_ Lipa, Grammy-winning pop artist  
 87 "Big Little Lies" co-star of Witherspoon and Kidman  
 88 Barely afloat?  
 91 Buzz in the morning  
 93 Place you may go just for kicks?  
 94 Mail lady on "Pee-wee's Playhouse"  
 95 Occasion to stay up late  
 97 Some surfing destinations  
 99 You are here  
 100 Pounds  
 101 He made a pact with the Devil  
 102 Makes blue, say  
 103 One of three for "Mississippi"

## DOWN

- 1 Brand of breath spray  
 2 Arthurian isle  
 3 Decay, as wood  
 4 "\_\_\_ words were never spoken"  
 5 Voice, as grievances  
 6 Potter of children's literature  
 7 Ambitious  
 8 Proverbial tortoise or hare, e.g.  
 9 Poses  
 10 Branch of the U.N. in 2020 news  
 11 Soda factory worker  
 12 1989 Tom Hanks black comedy, with "The"  
 13 Math measurement  
 14 Aspiring D.A.'s exam  
 15 Tennis do-over  
 17 Result of eating the poisoned apple in "Snow White"  
 18 Quickly go from success to failure  
 19 Mudbug, by another name  
 21 Easy target  
 22 Many a dare, in hindsight  
 25 Bring down  
 28 Part of a high chair  
 29 Boring things  
 33 Hera's Roman counterpart  
 34 "Don't you trust me?"  
 35 Heat of the moment?  
 36 First name in jazz  
 37 Quagmire

- 38 Mom jeans have a high one  
 39 Picturesque time for a walk  
 40 Goes out on a limb  
 41 Tapered hairstyle  
 42 Act of omission ... or of a commission  
 43 Four for a 4x400, say  
 44 Pluto, e.g.  
 45 Pint-size and then some  
 48 \_\_\_ mortal  
 50 Central  
 51 Bird-feeder bit  
 53 They're on the case, in slang  
 54 Garrulous  
 56 Like a pearl-clutcher  
 59 Discourage  
 61 Abbr. on a cornerstone  
 63 What skies do before a storm  
 65 Worrisome beach sighting  
 66 Pro \_\_\_  
 68 Email status

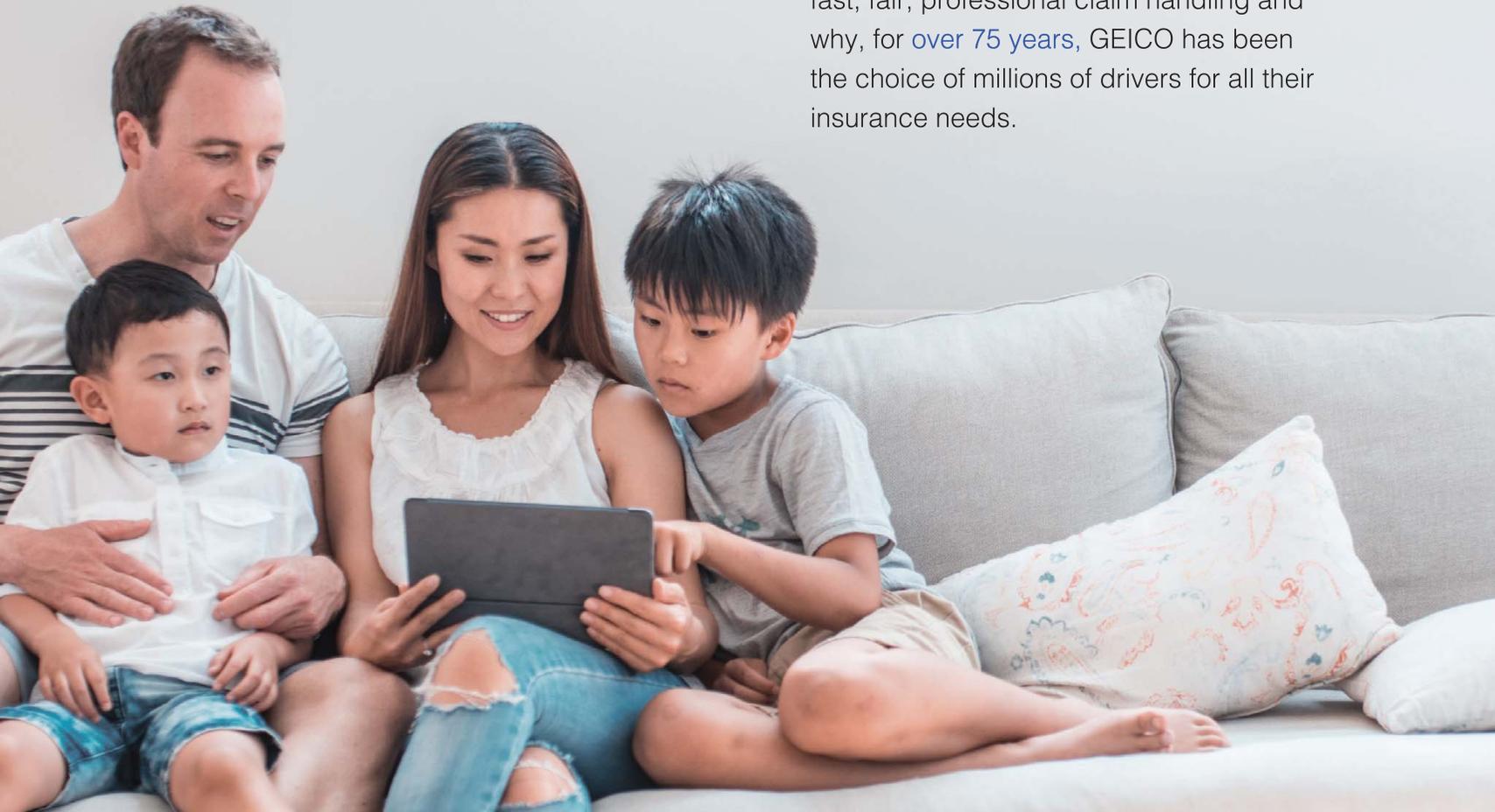
- 72 Food connoisseur  
 74 \_\_\_ a clue (was lost)  
 75 Scaredy-cat  
 77 Frozen dessert  
 78 Golfer Jordan who won the 2015 U.S. Open  
 79 Republican politico Reince  
 82 Hybrid bottoms  
 83 Spot seller, in brief  
 84 Keto adherent, e.g.  
 85 Prepare to deplane  
 86 Andre who won the 1994 and 1999 U.S. Opens  
 87 Curses  
 88 Piece of the pie  
 89 "That smarts!"  
 90 De-e-eluxe  
 91 \_\_\_ breve (cut time)  
 92 Beach ball?  
 93 Do a veterinarian's job on  
 95 Beach lotion abbr.  
 96 Rare color?  
 98 Texter's "I can't believe this"



11/15/20

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