



ANOTHER KILLING Ashley Dopson painting in protest outside a restaurant where the Atlanta police shot Rayshard Brooks. Page A16.

Midlevel Staff Stifles Science About Climate

By LISA FRIEDMAN

WASHINGTON — Efforts to undermine climate change science in the federal government, once orchestrated largely by President Trump's political appointees, are now increasingly driven by midlevel managers trying to protect their jobs and budgets and wary of the scrutiny of senior officials, according to interviews and newly revealed reports and surveys.

A case in point: When John Crusius, a research chemist at the United States Geological Survey, published an academic paper on natural solutions to climate change in April, his government affiliation never appeared on it. It couldn't.

Publication of his study, after a month's delay, was conditioned by his employer on Dr. Crusius not associating his research with the federal government.

"There is no doubt in my mind that my paper was denied government approval because it had to do with efforts to mitigate climate change," Dr. Crusius said, making clear he also was speaking in his personal capacity because the agency required him to so. "If I were a seismologist and had written an analogous paper about reducing seismic risk, I'm sure the paper would have sailed through."

Government experts said they have been surprised at the speed with which federal workers have internalized President Trump's antagonism for climate science, and called the new landscape dangerous.

"If top-level administrators issued a really clear public direc-

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Police Chiefs Find Job Security Hard to Come By

By SHAILA DEWAN

Erika Shields was not your old-line, law-and-order police chief. She came into office in Atlanta in 2017 promising to clean up the "mess we created in the judicial system in the '80s and the '90s" by arresting too many people, especially young black men. She imposed a "zero-chase policy" after high-speed pursuits ended in fatalities. She was the first openly gay chief in Atlanta, and the second woman to lead the department.

In recent weeks, she was praised for firing the officers who had pulled two college students

Caught Between Unions and Local Officials in Efforts at Reform

from a car and Tased them — and for walking into a sea of protesters against police violence to hear their complaints in person.

And now, after Atlanta officers fatally shot a man in a Wendy's parking lot on Friday night, she is out of a job.

With her voluntary resignation Saturday, she joined a long and growing line of progressive, re-

form-minded police chiefs who have stepped down or been fired, often after high-profile episodes of police violence.

The position of police chief, once prestigious, might be the most precarious job in America right now. And even with nationwide protests clamoring for change after the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis in May, the risks are particularly high for those whose mission is reform.

"You can do everything right and have one officer, one night, do something — and all of a sudden your career is upside down," said Chuck Wexler, the director of the

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Protecting Transgender Lives Thousands marched in Brooklyn on Sunday to protest violence against black transgender people.

How Two Lives Collided in Central Park and Left a Nation Shaken

By SARAH MASLIN NIR

Christian Cooper began his Memorial Day like most of his May mornings, searching for Blackburnian warblers, scarlet tanagers and other songbirds that wing their way into Central Park.

In his Lower East Side apartment, Mr. Cooper, 57, slung on his prize possession, his Swarovski binoculars — a pricey 50th birthday present from his late father. Leaving his boyfriend asleep in bed, he biked three miles away, to

the semi-wild section of the park, the Ramble.

Around the same time, Amy Cooper, 40, who is not related to Christian Cooper, left her apartment on the Upper West Side at the edge of the Hudson River. She was with her dog, Henry, a blond cocker spaniel she had rescued and whose romps around the city she chronicled on a dedicated Instagram account.

It was in the Ramble that the two Coopers' lives collided, an encounter that was brief but would

reverberate in New York City and beyond, stirring anguished conversations about racism and hypocrisy in one of the nation's most progressive cities.

Only a few hours later, George Floyd would be killed in Minneapolis when a police officer pinned Mr. Floyd's neck under his knee. The two Memorial Day incidents captured on video two facets of entrenched racism black people experience: one the horrors of police brutality, the other the routine humiliations and threats in daily life.

Just before 8 a.m., Mr. Cooper was startled from his quiet birding by Ms. Cooper, who was loudly calling after her dog, he said. He asked her to leash Henry, as the park rules required. She refused.

They exchanged words, and as he recorded on his phone, she threatened to report that "an African-American man is threatening my life," a false accusation. Then as Mr. Cooper continued to film, she called 911.

The video clip shows that before

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New Virus Hastens Spread Of Old, Preventable Illness

As Burdened Nations Shift Focus, Diseases Like Measles and Polio Re-emerge

By JAN HOFFMAN and RUTH MACLEAN

As poor countries around the world struggle to beat back the coronavirus, they are unintentionally contributing to fresh explosions of illness and death from other diseases — ones that are readily prevented by vaccines.

This spring, after the World Health Organization warned that the pandemic could spread swiftly when children gathered for shots, many countries suspended their inoculation programs. Even in countries that tried to keep them going, cargo flights with vaccine supplies were halted by the pandemic and health workers diverted to fight it.

Now, diphtheria is appearing in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal. Cholera is in South Sudan, Cameroon, Mozambique, Yemen and Bangladesh.

A mutated strain of poliovirus has been reported in more than 30 countries.

And measles is flaring around the globe, including in Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Nepal, Nigeria and Uzbekistan.

Of 29 countries that have currently suspended measles campaigns because of the pandemic, 18 are reporting outbreaks. An additional 13 countries are considering postponement. According to the Measles and Rubella Initiative, 178 million people are at risk of missing measles shots in 2020.

The risk now is "an epidemic in a few months' time that will kill more children than Covid," said

Chibuzo Okonta, the president of Doctors Without Borders in West and Central Africa.

As the pandemic lingers, the W.H.O. and other international public health groups are now urging countries to carefully resume vaccination while contending with the coronavirus.

At stake is the future of a hard-fought, 20-year collaboration that has prevented 35 million deaths in 98 countries from vaccine-preventable diseases, and reduced mortality from them in children by 44 percent, according to a 2019 study by the Vaccine Impact Modeling Consortium, a group of public health scholars.

"Immunization is one of the most powerful and fundamental disease prevention tools in the history of public health," said Dr.

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Receiving a measles vaccine in South Sudan, where cholera has been on the rise this year.

Arenas Empty, Sports Fans Bet On Wall Street

By MATT PHILLIPS

When he was not coaching sports, he was playing them or watching them. And if he was watching — well, a little skin in the game always made it more interesting for Steven Young, a teacher outside Philadelphia. Just small-dollar bets, mixed in with shuffling the rosters of his fantasy teams.

But when the coronavirus pandemic hit, all of the games he cared about sputtered to a stop. So he turned to one of the last places in town for reliable action: the stock market.

Mr. Young withdrew all of the money from his sportsbook accounts and deposited it into Robinhood, the free stock-trading platform. When his federal stimulus check arrived, he put money from that in, too.

Forced into online lessons when his school district shut its doors, the health and physical education teacher had everything he needed to get into the market. "Having the time and the flexibility and the opportunity — it being as low as it was — I just kind of felt it was a good time," he said.

Mr. Young, 30, has only about \$2,500 invested, making him a guppy among whales. But some Wall Street analysts see people who used to bet on sports as playing a big role in the market's recent surge, which has largely erased its losses for the year.

"There's zero doubt in my mind that it is a factor," said Julian Emanuel, chief equity and derivatives strategist at the brokerage firm BTIG. "Zero doubt."

Millions of small-time investors have opened trading accounts in recent months, a flood of new buyers unlike anything the market had seen in years, just as lockdown orders halted entire sectors

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Two Retractions Hurt Credibility Of Peer Review

By RONI CARYN RABIN

One study promised that popular blood-pressure drugs were safe for people infected with the coronavirus. Another paper warned that anti-malaria drugs endorsed by President Trump actually were dangerous to these patients.

The studies, published in the New England Journal of Medicine and The Lancet, were retracted shortly after publication, following an outcry from researchers who saw obvious flaws.

The hasty retractions, on the same day this month, have alarmed scientists worldwide who fear that the rush for research on the coronavirus has overwhelmed the peer review process and opened the door to fraud, threatening the credibility of respected medical journals just when they are needed most.

Peer review is supposed to safeguard the quality of scientific research. When a journal receives a manuscript, the editors ask three or more experts in the field for comments. The reviewers' written assessments may force revisions in a paper or prompt the journal to reject the work altogether. The system, widely adopted by medical journals in the middle of the 20th century, undergirds scientific discourse around the world.

"The problem with trust is that it's too easy to lose and too hard to get back," said Dr. Jerome Kassirer, a former editor in chief of the New England Journal of Medicine, which published one of the retracted papers in early May. "These are big blunders."

If outside scientists detected problems that weren't identified by the peer reviewers, then the journals failed, he said. Like hundreds of other researchers, Dr.

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Tearing Down the Past
The British city of Bristol, built with money from a slave trader, reckons with its racist history. PAGE A10

Merger Wounds Swedish Pride
A plan to absorb Volvo into its Chinese parent company has ignited a debate over Sweden's identity. PAGE A11

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No Work, No Money, No Exit
With no jobs amid the pandemic, and sometimes no health care, many migrant workers in Russia want to return home but find they can't. PAGE A4

The Cost of Surviving Covid-19
Patients should be exempt from receiving large bills, but some have to sort out a complicated billing process. PAGE A7

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Shadow of Flagpole Protest
Bree Newsome Bass, who removed a prominent Confederate battle flag in 2015, sees similar acts today. PAGE A12



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In the Ring, and in a Bubble
A behind-the-scenes look at boxing's return to action, with personnel in quarantine and no spectators. PAGE D1

An Anthem's Discordant Note
University of Texas athletes called for a traditional campus song with racist roots to be dropped. PAGE D7

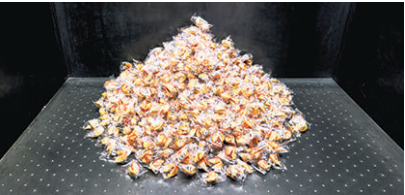
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Troubled Times at Condé Nast
As advertising revenue continues to decline, the company is also fending off several internal uprisings over racism in the workplace and in some Condé Nast content. PAGE B1

Media's Elite in the Hamptons
The virus forced New York to look directly at its deep inequalities, and the media industry's are no different. Those who could afford it left the city, shining a spotlight on class divisions. PAGE B1

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Making the Future Add Up
Hundreds of people are piling up fortune cookies in a tribute to art by Felix Gonzalez-Torres that addresses the grief caused by the pandemic. PAGE C1



Midlevel Federal Staffers Stifle Studies on Climate

From Page A1

tive, there would be an uproar and a pushback, and it would be easier to combat,” said Lauren Kurtz, executive director of the Climate Science Legal Defense Fund, which supports scientists. “This is a lot harder to fight.”

An inspector general’s report at the Environmental Protection Agency made public in May found that almost 400 employees surveyed in 2018 believed a manager had interfered with or suppressed the release of scientific information, but they never reported the violations. A separate Union of Concerned Scientists survey in 2018 of more than 63,000 federal employees across 16 agencies identified the E.P.A. and Department of Interior as having the least trustworthy leadership in matters of scientific integrity.

Findings published in the peer-reviewed journal PLOS ONE in April on a subset of those agencies found that 631 workers agreed or strongly agreed that they had been asked to omit the phrase “climate change” from their work. In the same paper, 703 employees said they avoided working on climate change or using the phrase. “They’re doing it because they’re scared,” said Maria Caffrey, a former geography specialist at the National Park Service who battled managers as they tried to delete humanity’s role in climate change from a recent report on sea-level rise. “These are all people who went to the March for Science rallies, but then they got into the office on Monday and completely rolled over.”

Examples are plentiful, not all of them new. But increasingly, scientists are willing to speak out. On April 24, 2017, Noah Diffenbaugh, a climate scientist at Stanford University, published a study showing the links between extreme weather events and climate change. Since the research was funded in part by Obama-era Energy Department grants that included more than \$1.3 million for Dr. Diffenbaugh’s project, he credited the agency in the paper’s acknowledgments.

On April 25, emails show, the researchers were told that acknowledgment of Energy Department support would require additional review. “It was alarming to receive this email because it was so far outside of our normal practice as a scientific community,” Dr. Diffenbaugh said. Full disclosure of funding, he noted, is required by most scientific journals and by the university.

The emails said managers in the Energy Department’s biological and environmental research program, known as B.E.R., felt their program was “under attack internally” and were worried about certain terms, including “extreme event attribution,” which refers to how much a given weather event can be linked to global warming.

They also worried about references in Dr. Diffenbaugh’s research paper to terms like the Clean Power Plan, an Obama-era regulation on coal-fired power plants; the social cost of carbon, a principle that puts a price on climate-warming carbon dioxide emissions; and the Paris Agreement on climate change.

Citing those three subject areas, a research supervisor wrote to Dr. Diffenbaugh six days after his study was published, “Was trying not to put too much of this in writing, but the concern here is avoiding the impression that B.E.R. is supporting research directly focused on policy evaluation.” Those were exactly the subjects of Dr. Diffenbaugh’s federally

funded research.

A subsequent paper examined how meeting the Paris Agreement’s carbon reduction targets would affect extreme weather events. When Dr. Diffenbaugh submitted it for approval, he was told Energy Department officials felt it was “solid on the science” but contained “red flag words” like Paris Agreement, emails show.

His choice was to either remove those phrases and acknowledge the agency funding, or keep them and not mention the grant.

Dr. Diffenbaugh and Stanford decided that the research should not be changed and would be published with the so-called red-flag words and the disclosure of funding sources. Department officials later notified the project leaders that funding would be cut in half. Dr. Diffenbaugh’s project was zeroed out.

Jess Szymanski, a spokeswoman for the Department of Energy, said in a statement: “There is no Department of Energy policy banning the mention of ‘climate change’ or ‘Paris Agreement,’ nor is there department guidance to withhold funding for projects including this language. To allege so is false.”

Then there is the case of Marcy Rockman. Until she resigned from the Park Service in November 2018, Dr. Rockman served for seven years as a climate change adaptation coordinator; five of those years were spent developing a strategy to protect cultural resources from climate change. But when the strategy was issued in late January 2017, her supervisors decided to drop plans to send copies to each national park.

“There was no appetite for any of my management chain to write a memo that would have their signature on it that said, ‘I am distributing the climate change strategy,’” she said.

The European Association of Archaeologists took notice anyway and invited Dr. Rockman to present her work in the Netherlands. Her boss approved the trip, and then retired.

But several months later, Dr. Rockman said, she was informed that she needed to reapply for approval. Her supervisors suggested she play down climate change. Then the trip was denied. “I was responsible for making and carrying out decisions that no one above me wanted to make,” she said.

The Department of Interior declined to comment on Dr. Rockman’s case, citing pending litigation.

Patrick Gonzalez, the principal climate change scientist at the National Park Service, requested

Taking cues from the top, lower-ranking officials are pushing back on research.

policy approval in March 2018 to publish a paper based on analysis of more than a century of climate data across 417 national parks.

His supervisor did not get past the opening sentence: “Anthropogenic climate change is altering ecological and human systems globally.”

“Without reading any more of the manuscript, she said, ‘I’m going to have to ask you to change that,’” Dr. Gonzalez recalled. He said in an interview that he was speaking in his own capacity and not on behalf of the federal government.

Emails and other documents



VICTOR J. BLUE FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Federal employees have expressed low trust in the scientific integrity of the Department of Interior.



DOUG MILLS/THE NEW YORK TIMES

President Trump’s antagonism for climate science has spread throughout the government ranks.

show that Dr. Gonzalez then approached John Dennis, the agency’s deputy chief scientist, to protest. Dr. Dennis encouraged compromise.

Documents show that Dr. Dennis highlighted the phrase “anthropogenic” or human-caused. “Is this word here necessary to the basic scientific thesis of the paper — which I interpret to be ‘climate change is revealed already to have had major impacts to parks?’” he asked.

“From a policy standpoint, it might be too strong for a DOI person to say ‘anthropogenic climate change,’” Dr. Dennis wrote, suggesting instead “carbon dioxide driven climate change.”

Dr. Gonzalez refused to make the change and, after three months, the agency backed down. The study was published in the peer-reviewed journal Environmental Research Letters in September 2018, without changes.

Conner Swanson, an Interior Department spokesman, said Dr. Gonzalez’s research was about “adaptation to climate change rather than cause of climate change and, as a result, the integrity of the science did not require discussing the cause of climate change in a situation where such use could divert attention from the scientific findings of the article.”

That same summer, the Park Service tried to delete every mention of humanity’s role in climate change in a report on sea level rise. Its lead author, Dr. Caffrey, objected. It was released after more than a year’s delay without the attempted edits. Dr. Caffrey, however, said she was then demoted before her position was eliminated.

Dr. Gonzalez said he was taking

a risk telling his story. But, he said, “I aim to serve as a positive example of standing strongly for science.”

Mr. Swanson said that since Mr. Trump took office, the Interior Department had “improved scientific integrity by following the law, using the best available science and relying on the expertise of our professional career staff.”

Trump administration officials have noted that in almost all of these cases, the science was ultimately published.

But scientists said that came at a cost. Dr. Crusius was given informal approval in the summer of 2019 to publish research in the well-regarded journal Earth’s Future, which is published by the American Geophysical Union. Then, in September, after the paper had gone through a round of peer review, his employer, the U.S. Geological Survey, reversed course and opposed publication.

“I appealed this decision, and I was allowed to publish this as a private citizen,” he said.

Dr. Crusius said the research, on the environmental benefits and risks of storing carbon in trees, soil, ocean and wetlands to delay climate impacts, was important because climate change is a problem the government ultimately will need solid science to confront. “We need all the help we can get, including from both federal and academic scientists,” he said.

The U.S.G.S. denied that the paper was not approved because it dealt with climate change.

Lawmakers and others who work with scientists said publication of the research did not diminish the hurdles thrown in the way, which served to signal that writing about politically disfavored topics comes at a personal price.

At least one case predates the Trump administration. Danny Cullenward, a Stanford Law School lecturer, said the Energy Department tried in 2015 to distance itself from his research, which showed the United States could not meet its Paris Agreement goals with the policies that President Barack Obama was pushing.

It is now widely acknowledged those policies most likely would not have cut emissions enough to meet those goals. But at the time, the Obama administration was working to persuade global leaders that the president’s plans would get the country substantially toward that goal.

Dr. Cullenward, then a research fellow working with Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, said a lab adviser initially told him the research could not be released before the Paris Agreement talks. After he objected, he was told the study would require further review.

“I interpreted that to be, ‘We’re going to stick this thing in a black hole,’” Dr. Cullenward said. He resigned his affiliation with the lab.

John German, a spokesman for Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, said Dr. Cullenward had been free to publish his work on his own but that Energy Department research must meet strict peer review standards that had not yet occurred.

Dr. Cullenward said his experience did not compare with the scale of violations in the Trump administration. But, he said, a pro-climate change president would not automatically make scientists’ work secure.

“We can’t get partisan about what scientific integrity means,” he said.

Ramp Walk Reignites Wellness Questions

Trump Says Slope Was Too Slippery

By MAGGIE HABERMAN

President Trump faced new questions about his health on Sunday, after videos emerged of him gingerly walking down a ramp at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and having trouble bringing a glass of water to his mouth during a speech there.

Mr. Trump — who turned 74 on Sunday, the oldest a U.S. president has been in his first term — was recorded hesitantly descending the ramp one step at a time after he delivered an address to graduating cadets at the New York-based academy on Saturday. The academy’s superintendent, Lt. Gen. Darryl A. Williams, walked alongside him. Mr. Trump sped up slightly for the final three steps, as he got to the bottom.

Another video circulated of Mr. Trump taking a sip of water from a glass tucked inside his lectern on the dais at West Point. Mr. Trump held the glass with his right hand and brought it to his mouth, but appeared to momentarily have trouble lifting his arm farther. He used his left hand to push the bottom of the glass so that it reached his lips.

Mr. Trump posted defensively on Twitter late Saturday night about the video circulating of his walk, and offered a description that did not match the visuals.

“The ramp that I descended after my West Point Commencement speech was very long & steep, had no handrail and, most importantly, was very slippery,” Mr. Trump wrote. “The last thing I was going to do is ‘fall’ for the Fake News to have fun with. Final

Appearing to have trouble with taking a drink of water in the middle of his address.

ten feet I ran down to level ground. Momentum!”

There was no evidence that the ramp was slippery, and the skies were clear during the ceremony.

The videos again raised questions about the health of Mr. Trump, whose advisers have never fully explained his abrupt visit to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in November, saying at the time only that it was intended to get a jump on his annual physical.

The White House doctor released a memo this month that summarized Mr. Trump’s yearly checkup, but provided little information beyond blood pressure (normal) and a description of his course of hydroxychloroquine as a prophylactic after the president was exposed to two staff members who tested positive for the coronavirus. The summary was not the customary report released in the past by Mr. Trump and other presidents after a physical.

Mr. Trump’s difficulty traversing stairs and ramps has come up before, most notably in January 2017, when he clutched the hand of Theresa May, then the British prime minister, as they walked at the White House.

The president has frequently tried to raise questions about the health and mental fitness of his rivals, while growing indignant when his own is questioned.

Most recently, he and his allies have questioned the mental acuity of the presumptive Democratic nominee, former Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr., who is 77. But Mr. Trump spent much of the fall general election in 2016 challenging the “strength and stamina” of his Democratic rival at the time, Hillary Clinton, who suffered a bout of pneumonia and was videotaped unsteadily being led into a van at the annual ceremony at the World Trade Center site to commemorate the victims of the Sept. 11 attacks.

Mr. Trump’s personal physician before he was president, Dr. Harold N. Bornstein, has said publicly that Mr. Trump dictated a note the doctor wrote about his fitness when he was a candidate.

“If elected, Mr. Trump, I can state unequivocally, will be the healthiest individual ever elected to the presidency,” the doctor wrote in the note, which was released in December 2015.

No day is complete without
The New York Times.

Republican Who Officiated Same-Sex Wedding Loses Primary Race

By CATIE EDMONDSON

WASHINGTON — Representative Denver Riggleman, a freshman Republican from Virginia, lost a bitterly contested primary race decided in an unusual drive-through state convention, weighed down by outrage among party activists that he officiated at a same-sex wedding.

In a result announced early Sunday, Bob Good, a former athletics official at Jerry Falwell Jr.’s Liberty University who describes himself as a “biblical conservative,” ousted Mr. Riggleman, a distillery owner and former Air Force intelligence officer with a libertarian streak. Mr. Good captured 58 percent of the vote in a convention held Saturday that was decided by roughly 2,400 party delegates, according to party officials.

Mr. Riggleman, as well as outside observers, denounced the setup — enabled by state laws that allow local party officials to choose congressional nominees by conventions instead of traditional primary elections — which has tended to benefit hard-line candidates. As of Sunday evening, Mr. Riggleman had not conceded.

“Voter fraud has been a hall-

mark of this nomination process and I will not stand for it,” Mr. Riggleman wrote on Twitter late Saturday night. The Virginia Republican Party, he continued, “needs to reevaluate their priorities. We are evaluating all our options at this time.”

Mr. Riggleman’s campaign had objected to the inclusion of a trove of votes from a specific county delegation, raising concerns about whether a handful of ballots had been cast by eligible delegates. The objections were overruled by the committee overseeing the convention.

At his victory party early Sunday morning, Mr. Good brushed aside Mr. Riggleman’s complaints as “what losers say.” He pledged to continue emphasizing “the true conservative principles that we presented for this campaign, the true contrast that we showed as we emphasize our Judeo-Christian principles upon which our nation was founded.”

Mr. Good’s victory is a welcome outcome for Democrats, who had eyed Mr. Riggleman’s seat as potentially competitive in November and had hoped the former Liberty University employee, who had struggled mightily in past



STEVE HELBER/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Representative Denver Riggleman of Virginia was ousted in a vote decided by party delegates in a state convention.

months to raise funds, would prevail. His nomination may further create a headache for Virginia Republicans because Mr. Good failed to correctly file the paperwork to be on the ballot in the general election in November. The Virginia Republican Party has asked the State Board of Elections to extend the filing deadline.

Holding a convention rather than a primary election made it much more difficult for voters in the mostly rural, sprawling district to weigh in on the contest.

Voters had to mail or physically hand in paperwork and pass a vetting process to become delegates, and then drive to the convention location, which was placed in the county where Mr. Good formerly served as supervisor. For some delegates in the district, which has a larger area than New Jersey, casting their vote may have required driving up to three hours to the church in Lynchburg where the convention was held.

Such a setup was expected to favor Mr. Good and draw hard-right party stalwarts in the district. The same set of Virginia rules has previously been invoked by the Republican Party to favor conservative candidates, including in 2012, when Kenneth T. Cuccinelli II, now the acting deputy secretary of homeland security, clinched his party’s nomination for governor after his opponent concluded that he would not be viable among the convention’s delegates.

Mr. Riggleman, who was endorsed by President Trump and is a member of the arch-conservative Freedom Caucus, nevertheless came under fire from conservative activists in the district after he officiated at the summer wedding of two of his former cam-

paign volunteers, Alex Pisciarino and Anthony “Rek” LeCounte. Mr. Good said Mr. Riggleman had “betrayed the trust” of Republicans in the district and was out of step with the party base. Mr. Riggleman has fiercely defended his decision to officiate the wedding, casting it a matter of individual and personal liberty.

“It saddens me that the decision made by this small group of delegates is going to be taken as a sign that Republicans writ large are not inclusive and accepting of all sorts of different people, most notably L.G.B.T.Q. folks,” Mr. Pisciarino said in an interview. “It unfairly casts a shadow on the message we wanted to send by discussing the wedding back in July.”

Mr. LeCounte said he and Mr. Pisciarino had spoken with Mr. Riggleman after the election results were called and thanked the congressman and his family for their support.

“At the end of the day, they’ll always be our friends, we’ll always love them,” Mr. LeCounte said. “We’ll always be grateful that leaders like them stood up and showed real courage in the face of truly hateful people and a hateful process.”