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# Chicago Tribune



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THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 2024

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

## DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

## Young voters focus on climate

Neither Harris nor Trump are doing enough, they say

By Karina Atkins and Adriana Pérez  
Chicago Tribune

Avi Horwitz isn't excited to vote in his second presidential election this November.

"Climate change is the unifying crisis of our time," said the 24-year-old Chicago native, but he hasn't heard his concerns about it adequately reflected by either major party presidential ticket.

Excitement surged through the younger generations when President Joe Biden ended his reelection bid, and Vice President Kamala Harris secured the Democratic nomination. Harris led Biden by 14 points when it came to beating former President Donald Trump among 18- to 34-year-olds, according to a July poll.

But since then, Harris and her vice presidential pick Tim Walz have only made passing mentions of climate change on the campaign trail. Meanwhile, Trump has repeatedly denounced climate change as a "hoax" and his running mate JD Vance has called climate policies a "scam."

Candidates need to do more than just paint themselves as environmentally friendly to win over young voters, said Alice Siu, a lead researcher on a national survey of first-time voters and the associate director of Stanford University's Deliberative Democracy Lab.

Activists say they are looking for concrete and consistent policies on topics such as environmental justice and clean energy. Harris' retreat from some previous climate stances doesn't give them confidence.

Strong sentiments about climate change were one of the most telling predictors of voting behavior in 2016 and 2020, particularly among independents and young Republicans, a University of Colorado study found. A quarter of Republicans who believe climate change is "very important" voted for Biden in 2020, according to the study, likely helping the Democrats secure the White House.

This year, Gen Z's and millennials' responses to the Harris-Walz ticket range from enthusiasm to guarded optimism and distrust. Many plan to descend

Turn to Climate, Page 4



Workers place signage on a building Wednesday just south of the United Center in preparation for the Democratic National Convention in Chicago. **STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

## Mayoral ally raising cash for DNC events

City not expecting surge in migrants ahead of next week

By Nell Salzman and Jake Sheridan  
Chicago Tribune

Chicago's top migrant official is walking back a prediction from city leaders last month that tens of thousands of migrants would arrive by bus ahead of next week's Democratic National Convention, saying that there is no "credible intel" that the feared surge will occur.

Mayor Brandon Johnson's deputy mayor for immigration, Beatriz Ponce de León, told reporters in July the city was preparing for as many as 25,000 migrant arrivals tied to the DNC. But President Joe Biden's June executive order limiting asylum-seekers' arrivals at the U.S. border has sharply changed the city's expectations, she said.

No migrant buses have come to Chicago since June 17, according to Brian Berg,

Turn to Migrants, Page 2

**CHICAGO'S RECORD FUNDRAISING:** The local host committee for next week's Democratic National Convention in Chicago said on Wednesday it had raised \$94 million for the four-day event, a record for a nominating convention for either party. The announcement comes five days before the start of the convention and after the Tribune reported in July that the committee, led by prominent Chicago Democratic donor Michael Sacks, had secured the commitments needed to reach the \$85 million it agreed to raise as part of Chicago's \$30 million line of credit agreement that helped the city win its convention bid. **Page 2**

Dark money organization has nonprofit watchdog on edge

By A.D. Quig and Ray Long  
Chicago Tribune

A top ally of Mayor Brandon Johnson has been hitting up Chicago businesses to contribute to a dark money political organization that is hosting several events next week during the Democratic National Convention, including a luncheon and a showcase Soldier Field event.

Charles Smith, Johnson's liaison to the business community, has been making the pitch for contributions to GoChiLife as a way to show support for the mayor, according to sources familiar with his efforts. Materials initially promoted Johnson as an attendee for one of the events.

At one point, the group asked for donations of up to \$500,000 in exchange for 10 VIP tickets to each of its DNC week events,

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## INSIDE



TESS CROWLEY/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

## Illinois Democrats milk the crowd at State Fair

Gov. JB Pritzker smiles at Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton during Governor's Day at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield on Wednesday. At the annual gathering, the state's Democrats kept the focus on issues including reproductive and workers' rights just three months ahead of the presidential election, while also warning of the danger they say Republican Donald Trump poses to some of those rights, as well as to democracy itself. **Page 5**

## In sudden reversal, Riot Fest will return to Douglass Park

By Doug George  
Chicago Tribune

Riot Fest is moving back to Douglass Park for its annual music festival in September.

According to an announcement Wednesday from Riot Fest organizers, Ald. Monique Scott, 24th, the city of Chicago and the Chicago Park District, the decision was "pending provisional approval by the Park District Board next month," but that all parties were in favor of the festival's return.

Wednesday's surprise about-face came after a calamitous couple of months that saw the music festival announce in June it would depart its longtime home in the North Lawndale neighborhood and move

to the campus of SeatGeek Stadium in southwest suburban Bridgeview.

At the time, that decision came amid delays by the Park District to approve the festival's permit for 2024, as well as rising tensions over the use of city parks by festivals such as Riot Fest. Riot Fest organizer Mike Petryshyn, speaking to the Tribune on Wednesday, said relations with the Park District have since gone through a reversal.

"We've loved working with them recently," he said, "It's gone through this 360."

Riot Fest announced the news on its website and via social media: "There's no place like home. Riot Fest is coming back to Douglass Park, Chicago. September 20-22,

Turn to Riot Fest, Page 9

**"If you'd told me then that we'd leave Douglass Park and then come back, inside of a few weeks, I would have said you're out of your mind. I would have said, you need a new Magic 8 Ball."**

— Riot Fest organizer Mike Petryshyn, who says the event is returning to Chicago

TODAY'S WEATHER



High 78

Low 70

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 12

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere  
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