

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

ELECTION 2024

Pritzker supports ticket '1,000%'



Democratic presidential candidate, U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris and Democratic vice presidential candidate Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz appear on stage together during a campaign event at Girard College on Tuesday in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Harris ended weeks of speculation about who her running mate would be, selecting the 60-year-old midwestern governor over other candidates. **ANDREW HARNIK/GETTY IMAGES**

Governor had 'honor' of being vetted for job; resumes regular duties

By Rick Pearson and Olivia Olander
Chicago Tribune

Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris' selection of Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz as her running mate Tuesday bolsters her party's strategy of maintaining a Midwestern "Blue Wall" while at the same time seeking to recapture rural voters who have increasingly shifted Republican under Donald Trump.

Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker was a finalist for the running mate slot and is now left to ponder his political future while returning to his regular duties, which on Tuesday included signing a progressive post-incarceration state ID bill into law.

Speaking to reporters at the bill signing, the second-term Democrat acknowledged he'd been through a "grueling" vetting process for the No. 2 job in the just over two weeks since President Joe Biden dropped his reelection bid and backed Harris, his vice president, as his successor.

"I was glad that I made it through that process, made it to the final number of candidates," Pritzker said, calling it "an honor" to get to that stage of Harris' selection process and emphasizing that the Harris-Walz ticket has his support "1,000%."

"I want to be clear with everybody. You know you often hear me say, 'I love being the governor of Illinois.' I really do love being the governor of Illinois, and so I was very torn during this process about being a participant in it," he said. "I come to work every day knowing that we can make a difference and that we have over the last five and a half years, so I continue to come to work with a great deal of joy and not sorry at all about the fact that we have a terrific Midwestern governor in Tim Walz that's been chosen."

Walz and Pritzker were both elected governor in 2018, but while Pritzker has enjoyed strong Demo-

Turn to Pritzker, Page 4

Walz has driven ambitious agenda

By Maggie Astor
The New York Times

Gov. Tim Walz of Minnesota, the newly announced running mate to Vice President Kamala Harris, has worked with his state's Democratic-controlled Legislature to enact an ambitious agenda of liberal policies: free college tuition for low-income students, free meals for schoolchildren, legal recreational marijuana and protections for transgender people.

"You don't win elections to bank political capital," Walz wrote last year about his approach to governing. "You win elections to burn political capital and improve lives."

Republicans have slammed these policies as big-government liberalism and complained that Walz has taken a hard left turn since he represented a politically divided district in Congress years ago.

Turn to Walz, Page 4



Gov. J. B. Pritzker speaks to Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias after signing the returning citizens identification access bill at the Women's Justice Institute on Tuesday. **EILEEN T. MESLAR/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Daley Plaza protesters seek 'peace,' 'justice'

Few Venezuelans trust election results

By Nell Salzman
Chicago Tribune

Four Venezuelan girls sat cross-legged on the ground Monday night with gags on their lips that said, "liberty, peace, dignity and justice" to protest the reelection of their country's authoritarian leader, Nicolás Maduro, following increased scrutiny of the country's electoral practices. Demonstrators held pamphlets behind them in Daley Plaza with statistics about how many people had been arrested and killed since the election.

Thousands of miles away in Venezuela, protesters surged in the streets of their home country against what many described as one of the worst moments in the country in over a decade of decline — caused by corruption and government mismanagement.

Few trust that Maduro won the country's presidential election last Sunday, and authorities have yet to produce voting tallies to prove it. Several countries, including the United

Turn to Migrants, Page 2

Contractor acquitted in federal bribery trial

Case part of larger inquiry of assessor's office employees

By Madeline Buckley
Chicago Tribune

A federal jury on Tuesday acquitted a suburban fencing contractor on charges of bribing Cook County assessor's office employees with access to an exclusive Michigan golf club in

exchange for reduced property tax rates.

In a rare loss for federal prosecutors in a corruption case, the jury reached its verdict finding Robert Mitziga, 66, of Dyer, Indiana, not guilty on charges of bribery and conspiracy after deliberating for parts of two days. The case was part of a larger investigation that so far has netted charges against seven people, including three assessor's office employees and one former Chicago buildings

inspector.

Mitziga appeared emotional as the verdict was announced, embracing family members. He declined to comment as he walked out of the courthouse.

The trial began last week at the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse, with attorneys digging into complicated processes and protocols of the assessment appeals system, golf culture and etiquette and even the rules and regulations of the southwest Michigan golf

club allegedly used in the bribery scheme.

Defense attorneys challenged the prosecution's allegation that Mitziga was a knowing participant in the alleged scheme, even taking the unusual step of putting their client on the stand.

In a statement sent to the Tribune, Mitziga's attorneys Gabrielle Sansonetti and Nancy DePodesta said their client is

Turn to Verdict, Page 10



OLYMPICS

US men and women advance

MEN'S BASKETBALL: Devin Booker led a balanced front with 18 points, and the Americans had little trouble with Brazil in the quarterfinals of the Paris Olympics, winning 122-87 Tuesday. **Chicago Sports**

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL: USA's Lauren Carlini, third from far left, and teammates celebrate as they advance with a 3-0 women's volleyball quarterfinal win over Poland on Tuesday during the Paris Games. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

TODAY'S WEATHER



High 78 Low 63

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 16

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere
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