

# Chicago Tribune



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DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

## A changed landscape

Speakers of the past work to pass torch to party shifting its focus to the future



Former President Bill Clinton reacts to cheering delegates on Wednesday during the Democratic National Convention at the United Center. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

### Third day of protests follows violent clashes at consulate

By Sam Charles, Madeline Buckley, Caroline Kubzansky and Jason Meisner  
Chicago Tribune

The Democratic National Convention in Chicago saw a third day of protests Wednesday, coming after violent clashes outside the Israeli Consulate the night before resulted in dozens of arrests and prompted Chicago's top cop to rail against outside agitators who he said were bent on attacking police. "We will not allow people to come to this city, disrespect it and destroy it," Superintendent Larry Snelling told reporters at a daily briefing at the Office of Emergency Management and Communications. "Enough is enough."

The latest demonstration Wednesday stepped off with a rally in Union Park followed by a march toward Park 578 near the United Center, where a much larger demonstration earlier in the week had brought out some 3,000 attendees.

On Wednesday evening, police were not allowing marchers into that park, forming two lines on the north edge with bicycles and clustered behind a play structure. Facing the north side of the United Center, protesters chanted and condemned the Democratic platform as "full of hypocrisy."

The rally, which was organized by the Chicago-based Coalition for

**Turn to Protests, Page 8**



Then-U.S. Senate candidate Barack Obama addresses the Democratic National Convention on July 27, 2004, in Boston. The speech provided a huge boost to his political career. **NANCY STONE/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

### Power of Obama's '04 speech hard to replicate

By A.D. Quig  
Chicago Tribune

Twenty years ago, a young Illinois state senator took to the Democratic National Convention stage in Boston and delivered a speech that would help catapult him to the top of the presidential ticket four years later.

On Tuesday, now firmly established as a Democratic elder statesman, former President Barack Obama took the DNC stage again, this time to help pass the torch to Vice President Kamala Harris.

The impact of Obama's 2004 keynote address to a rapt audi-

ence of fellow Democrats would likely be difficult for this week's convention speakers to replicate: Not only was Obama's personal story and storytelling style uniquely his, but polarization — both in the media and the political landscape — have drastically transformed the audience, making his optimistic message of hope and unity a tougher sell.

"There's not a liberal America — there's the United States of America," Obama said in his speech on July 27, 2004. "The pundits like to slice and dice

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**'LIFE OR DEATH':** LGBTQ+ delegates talk about election stakes amid historic levels of representation at DNC and in public office. **Page 3**

**CLIMATE FOCUS:** Events outside DNC campus highlight progress, call for action. **Page 4**

**EXPLANATION:** Nancy Pelosi says she wanted to protect Biden's legacy. **Page 4**

**OBAMAS ELECTRIFY ARENA:** Speeches by the former president and first lady fired up the crowd Tuesday night. **Nation & World**

### Is Bill Clinton's 1996 address at United Center still relevant?

By Rick Pearson, Olivia Stevens and Molly Morrow  
Chicago Tribune

It was 1996 when Bill Clinton last set foot on a Democratic convention stage at the United Center, accepting his party's renomination for president and calling on the nation to build a bridge to the 21st century.

He marveled at the prospect of computers in every classroom replacing blackboards and vowed that 12-year-olds would soon be able to easily access the internet, then known colloquially as the "information superhighway."

Yes, much has changed in 28 years as Clinton, now 78, prepared Wednesday evening to take the stage again at the Democratic National Convention, this time to voice support for Vice President Kamala Harris' presidential nomination.

For one, Clinton still retains a connection to the older white rural voters who have since largely abandoned the Democratic Party in favor of Donald Trump. His acceptance speech in the then two-year-old United Center also was a reminder of more quaint and gentle political times.

He said of rivals Republican Sen. Bob Dole of Kansas and independent billionaire Ross Perot of Texas, "I will not attack them personally or permit others to do it

**Turn to Clinton, Page 7**

#### 'No one's going to outwork him'

With gratitude plus attitude, the Bears' QB2 Tyson Bagent keeps chasing grand goals. **Chicago Sports**

#### What will you watch?

It's Da Bears vs. the DNC on television on Thursday night. Where will Chicagoans tune in? **Business**

#### Fresh potential

Inside of fridge isn't safe from urge to decorate. Fridge-scaping mixes organization with design. **Arts & Living**

**TODAY'S WEATHER**



High **80** Low **60**

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 16

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere  
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