

# Chicago Tribune



QUESTIONS? CALL 1-800-TRIBUNE

TUESDAY, JULY 23, 2024

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

## Biden's exit may sway global issues

US has long reach into wars, trade and European alliances

By Isabel Debre  
Associated Press

President Joe Biden's withdrawal from the U.S. presidential race injects greater uncertainty into the world at a time when Western leaders are grappling with wars in Ukraine and Gaza and a more assertive China in Asia.

During a five-decade career in politics, Biden developed extensive personal relationships. After his announcement, messages of support for his years of service poured in.

The scope of foreign policy challenges facing the next U.S. president makes clear how consequential what happens in Washington is for the rest of the planet. Here's a look at some of them.

### Israel

With Vice President Kamala Harris being eyed as a potential replacement for Biden, Israelis scrambled Sunday to understand what her candidacy would mean for their country as it confronts increasing global isolation over its military campaign against Hamas.

Israel's left-wing Haaretz daily newspaper ran a story scrutinizing Harris' record of support for Israel, pointing to her reputation as Biden's "bad cop" who has vocally admonished Israel for its offensive in Gaza. In recent months, she has gone further than Biden in calling for a cease-fire, denouncing Israel's invasion of Rafah and expressing horror over the civilian death toll in Gaza.

"With Biden leaving, Israel has lost perhaps the last Zionist president," said Alon Pinkas, a former Israeli consul general in New York. "A new Democratic candidate will upend the dynamic."

Biden's staunch defense of Israel since Hamas' Oct. 7 attack has its roots in his half-century of support for the country as a senator, vice

Turn to Biden, Page 4



Vice President Kamala Harris arrives for an NCAA championship teams celebration Monday on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington. ANDREW HARNIK/GETTY

## Pritzker at the forefront of Illinois Dems backing Harris

As Chicago convention nears, party closing ranks around VP as successor to Biden

By Rick Pearson, Olivia Olander and Dan Petrella  
Chicago Tribune

Led by Gov. J.B. Pritzker, Illinois' leading Democrats joined others from across the nation Monday in swiftly closing ranks behind Vice President Kamala Harris' bid to succeed President Joe Biden as the party's 2024 White House nominee exactly four weeks before Chicago hosts the party's national nominating convention.

While Pritzker took himself out of the running to potentially challenge Harris for the party's presidential nod, the state's second-term governor did not address whether he would seek to join her as the party's vice presidential running mate.

"Vice President Harris has proven, at every point in her career, that she possesses the skills, strength, and character to lead this country and the vision to better the lives of all Americans," Pritzker said in a statement the

day after Biden succumbed to growing pressure and withdrew from the presidential race.

"From protecting women's rights to defending American workers and strengthening the middle class, Vice President Harris is a champion of the American values we hold dear," Pritzker said. "She represents our party's best chance to defeat Donald Trump in November, and I will work my heart out to help her do that."

Pritzker, a billionaire entrepreneur and heir to the Hyatt Hotels fortune, had been frequently mentioned as a potential candidate to replace Biden, and he would be one of the few candidates with the financial resources to self-fund a campaign.

Following Biden's decision Sunday, most Democratic members of the state's U.S. House delegation quickly followed the president's lead and backed Harris for the nomination. At

Turn to Harris, Page 2



United Center owners Michael Reinsdorf and Danny Wirtz announced their plan for a \$7 billion, 10-year redevelopment of Chicago's Near West Side neighborhood around the United Center. The plan, dubbed The 1901 Project, would replace the current parking lots around the United Center with publicly available green spaces, a 6,000-seat music hall and thousands of new homes. RIOS

## \$7B proposal would remake Near West Side around United Center

By Brian J. Rogal  
Chicago Tribune

The Reinsdorf and Wirtz families on Tuesday unveiled a proposal to remake the Near West Side neighborhood around the United Center, replacing unsightly parking lots with publicly available green spaces, a 6,000-seat music hall and thousands of new homes.

The families jointly own the 30-year-old United Center,

home to the Chicago Bulls and the Chicago Blackhawks, and said their new plan, dubbed the 1901 Project, would be more than a sports-focused district.

"It's going to be a new neighborhood with the United Center as its anchor," said United Center CEO Terry Savarise.

Savarise estimates the 1901 Project will take at least a decade and \$7 billion to complete. Most of the funds will come from private sources, although the site may

need transportation upgrades, such as a new CTA Pink Line stop on its eastern edge, that would require government investments.

The United Center's vision is the latest in a string of developer proposals to remake whole swaths of land near downtown. Related Midwest wants to create a new neighborhood called The 78 just southwest of the Loop with a new Chicago White Sox

Turn to Proposal, Page 2

## Court decision seen as anti-environment may protect SE Side

By Karina Atkins  
Chicago Tribune

Environmentalists were distressed by a U.S. Supreme Court decision last month limiting the power of federal agencies and putting regulations like the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act at risk.

But in Chicago, the Environmental Law and Policy Center plans to leverage the ruling, commonly referred to as the Loper decision, to protect neighborhoods on the Southeast Side and the Lake Michigan shoreline.

"This is not a good decision by the court. It is ideologically driven to hamstring sensible environmental regulations and agencies that protect public health. However, there's an opportunity to turn lemons into lemonade," said Executive Director Howard Learner.

In March last year, on behalf of two community organizations, the center filed a lawsuit

against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' plans to expand and continue dumping toxic sediment in a now-full containment site along the shoreline.

The center is using the Supreme Court's decision, which overturned 40 years of legal precedent called the Chevron doctrine, to support its lawsuit. The doctrine required courts to defer to federal agencies' interpretations of ambiguous statutes.

However, a July 2 court filing by the plaintiffs said the judge now has full discretion to determine whether the Army Corps overstepped when determining it could keep and expand the dump site, which contains mercury, arsenic and polychlorinated biphenyls.

The plaintiffs would like to see the 43 acres of prime shoreline transformed into a park for the largely Black and Latino, low-income communities on

Turn to Dump, Page 4

### Durbin calls for resignation

U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin called for the head of the Secret Service to resign as lawmakers on Capitol Hill grilled her about security failures. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

### Timber towers have yet to take off

Plans by Chicago developers to break ground on wood-based residential towers and office complexes have stalled. **Business, Page 9**

