

# Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

## Maine kicks Trump off ballot

Decision by state official follows ruling by Colorado's top court

By Nicholas Riccardi and David Sharp

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine — Maine's Democratic secretary of state on Thursday removed former President Donald Trump from the state's presidential primary ballot under the Constitution's insurrection clause, becoming the first election official to take action unilaterally as the U.S. Supreme Court is poised to decide whether Trump remains eligible to continue his campaign.

The decision by Secretary of State Shenna Bellows follows a December ruling by the Colorado Supreme Court that booted Trump from the ballot there under Section 3 of the 14th Amendment.

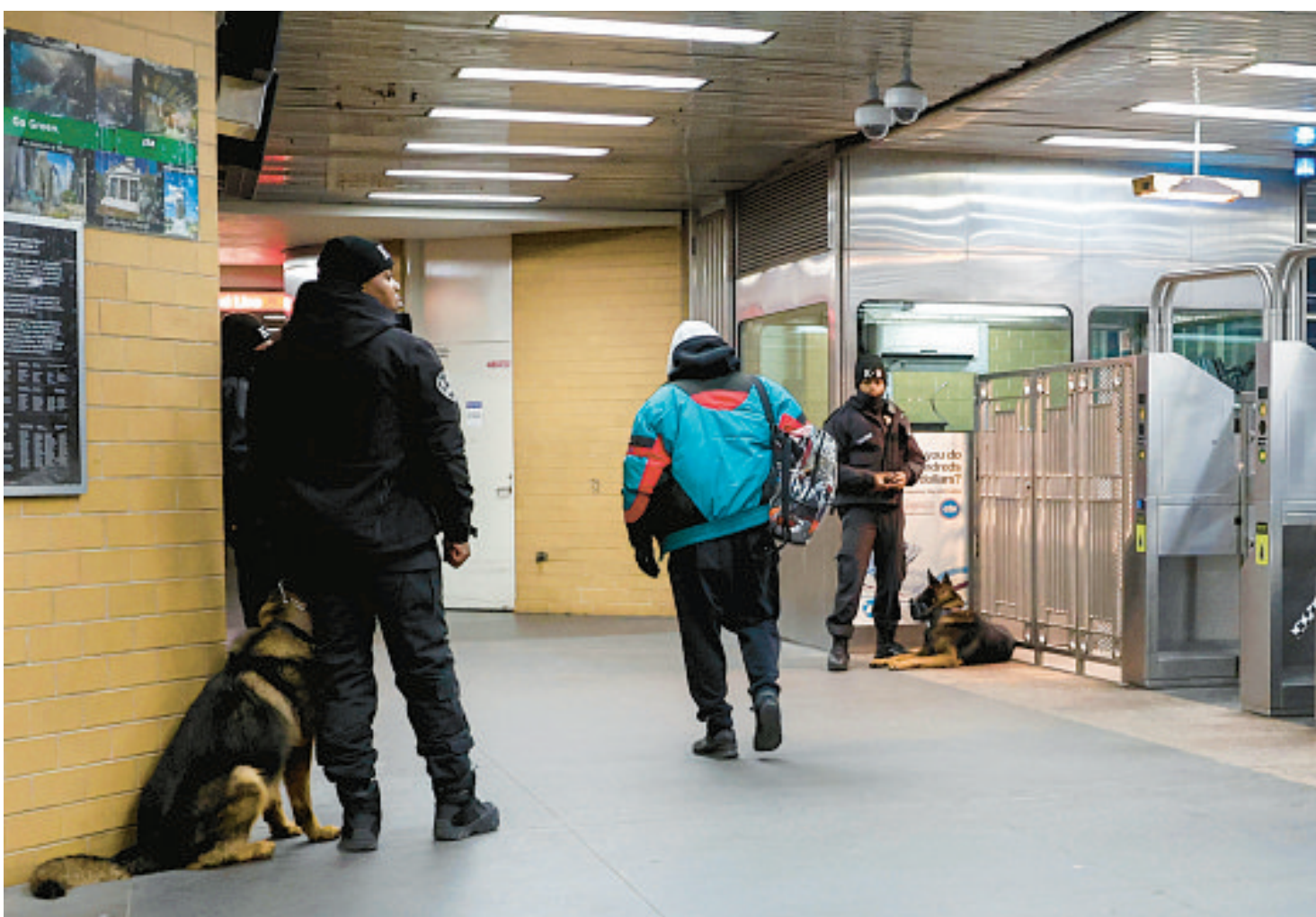
That decision has been stayed until the U.S. Supreme Court decides whether Trump is barred by the Civil War-era provision, which prohibits those who "engaged in insurrection" from holding office.

The Trump campaign said it would appeal Bellows' decision to Maine's state court system, and it is likely that the nation's highest court will have the final say on whether Trump appears on the ballot there and in the other states.

Bellows found that Trump could no longer run for his prior job because his role in the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol violated Section 3, which bans from office those who "engaged in insurrection." Bellows made the ruling after some state residents, including a bipartisan group of former lawmakers, challenged Trump's position on the ballot.

"I do not reach this conclusion lightly," Bellows wrote in

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CTA-contracted K-9-unit security guards keep watch in the Roosevelt CTA station on Dec. 19. EILEEN T. MESLAR/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

## Rate of violent crime on CTA trains down in '23

Totals higher than pre-pandemic as agency struggles with negative perceptions

By Sarah Freishtat

Chicago Tribune

The rate of violent crime on CTA trains continued to drop in 2023, years after it spiked when the pandemic emptied trains of many riders.

But the violent crime rate still remained above pre-pandemic levels, a Tribune analysis of Chicago police data shows. And certain stations have drawn a heightened focus from the Chicago Police Department and the CTA, officials with both agencies said, as the platforms and

trains nearby saw more instances of violent crime than other parts of the CTA system.

Still, downticks in both violent and nonviolent crime rates on CTA trains are welcome news for the agency, where ridership remains below pre-pandemic levels and where President Dorval Carter has contended with rider complaints about service, safety and conditions on trains and buses.

In recent years Chicago police and the CTA have sent more officers, unarmed security guards and K-9 teams to the train system

in an attempt to bring the crime rate down, causing the CTA to project it would pay more than double the cost this year that it paid in 2022 for security services.

But the perception of safety on the CTA is a key issue for the agency, and whether the crime rate and concerns about crime continue to fall could play a role in ongoing discussions about what the pandemic-era future of Chicago's public transit should look like.

From January through November there were about 4.7 violent crimes on the "L"

for every million rides, down from 6.2 crimes per million rides during a similar period the year before, the Tribune analysis shows. But in the five years before the pandemic the rate of violent crimes never topped 2.5 per million rides.

Nonviolent crimes, like pick-pocketing, dropped too, reaching levels lower than any since 2015. The rate of nonviolent crimes through November this year was 4.3 per million rides, down from 6.4 during a similar time frame

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The Block Island Wind Farm in Rhode Island in June 2017. The proposed Icebreaker Wind project in Lake Erie off the shore of Ohio was expected to look similar to this offshore wind farm. DAVID L. RYAN/THE BOSTON GLOBE

## Illinois could be next to build first Great Lakes wind farm

Cleveland drops Icebreaker project after 14 years

By Nara Schoenberg

Chicago Tribune

Before millions of Americans installed solar roofs, before towering wind turbines became a common sight in Midwestern skies, before electric car giant Tesla rolled out its first sedan, there was Icebreaker.

Small but seemingly unstoppable, the Cleveland clean energy project fought for 14 years to become the first offshore wind

farm on the Great Lakes.

Along the way, there were victories: Icebreaker Wind secured a \$50 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy and won a case before the Ohio Supreme Court.

But a few weeks ago, the Icebreaker team finally admitted defeat, with an announcement that the project had been indefinitely suspended due, in part, to lack of funding.

"We just don't have a path forward right now," said William Friedman, a board member at the nonprofit behind Icebreaker, the Lake Erie Energy Development Corp.

The fall of Icebreaker is a blow for those who dream of clean energy flowing in from the Great Lakes, which have the potential to supply electricity to millions of homes.

But experts and Icebreaker insiders told the Tribune that the pioneering Icebreaker project faced obstacles specific to its advancing age, relatively small size and lack of state support — obstacles that other projects, including one being considered in Illinois, could potentially avoid.

The Illinois wind farm — proposed in February for Lake

Turn to Wind, Page 6

## Lincoln museum exhibit offers perspectives on life

A look at Illinois residents from the past to the present

By Jeremy Gorner

Chicago Tribune

SPRINGFIELD — What's it like to live in Illinois?

A Black doctor recalls navigating a predominantly white neighborhood when she and her family moved to a new home in Springfield's Washington Park area. A man reflects on growing up in apartments above a funeral home in downstate Anna. A woman talks of serving as an English translator for her Mexican parents as a 7-year-old growing up in Chicago.

Those recollections of everyday life are interspersed with the stories of more well-known Illinoisans in "Here I Have Lived: Home in Illinois," an exhibit at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum that offers a mix of perspectives from residents past and present about how Illinois shaped their under-



Mary Todd Lincoln kept a pocket watch with the mechanical parts replaced with images of her husband and children. It is on display in the exhibit "Here I Have Lived: Home in Illinois." ABRAHAM LINCOLN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

standing of the world around them.

Christina Shutt, executive director for the Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, said she, along with the museum's historians, wanted to show how the state is more than a "flyover place," but rather a location where people from all walks of life have settled and cultivated their own meaning for the term

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### INSIDE



#### 'I can still play ball'

Closing in on 40, Bears tight end Marcedes Lewis is making his presence felt. **Chicago Sports**

#### Another feat in an incredible legacy

Feisty and ferocious, Chicago-born Patti Smith and her band buzz with electricity at the Salt Shed. **Concert review in A+E**

TODAY'S WEATHER



High 42 Low 29

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 12

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere  
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