

# Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

ELECTION 2024

## GOP told to cut out racism, sexism

Party leaders urge lawmakers to keep the focus on Harris' politics amid references to 'DEI' candidate

By Lisa Mascaro and Jill Colvin  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republican leaders are warning party members against using overtly racist and sexist attacks against Vice President Kamala Harris, as they and former President Donald Trump's campaign scramble to adjust to the reality of a new Dem-

ocratic rival less than four months before Election Day.  
At a closed-door meeting of House Republicans this week, National Republican Congressional Committee chairman Richard Hudson, R-N.C., urged lawmakers to stick to criticizing Harris for her role in Biden-Harris administration policies.  
"This election will be about policies and not personalities," House

Speaker Mike Johnson told reporters after the meeting Tuesday.  
"This is not personal with regard to Kamala Harris," he added, "and her ethnicity or her gender have nothing to do with this whatsoever."  
The warnings point to the new risks for Republicans in running against a Democrat who would become the first woman, first Black woman and first person of South Asian descent to win the White House. Trump, in particular, has a history of racist and

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Attendees stand during the Pledge of Allegiance ahead of a rally for former President Donald Trump on Wednesday in Charlotte, N.C. Trump has a history of racist and misogynistic attacks that could turn off voters. MEG KINNARD/AP

Long-running idea to revamp Lake Shore Drive takes step forward with concept that leaves out anticipated bus lanes, but includes more park space



A proposed revamp of north DuSable Lake Shore Drive calls for smoothing out a large curve at Oak Street. CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

## THE CHOSEN ROAD

By Sarah Freishtat | Chicago Tribune

A long-running idea to revamp north DuSable Lake Shore Drive is poised to take a step forward despite calls to halt the project, as city and state officials have selected their vision for the future of the busy thoroughfare.  
That vision includes changes to the sharp curves and bottleneck-inducing traffic lights as the roadway enters downtown, and priority for CTA buses on exit and entrance ramps. It calls for adding lakefill in some places downtown and separating pedestrians from cyclists along the Lakefront Trail. It includes eliminating one lane of traffic north of Irving Park Road.

Missing from the concept are lanes on Lake Shore Drive that would prioritize the many CTA express buses that use the route. Transit priority lanes had been a key element of each of the other options that had been finalists for consideration.  
Finalization of plans and construction are

still years away, but the recommendation of one option by the Illinois and Chicago departments of transportation marks a step forward for a plan to revamp 7 miles of DuSable Lake Shore Drive between Grand Avenue downtown and Hollywood Avenue in Edgewater. The plan, estimated at \$4

billion, has been in the works for some 11 years, and comes down to deciding how the storied roadway and lakefront should serve drivers, transit riders, cyclists, pedestrians and residents looking for recreation.  
The plan only addresses the north section of DuSable Lake Shore Drive. A southern portion, from 23rd to 67th streets, was rebuilt between 2001-05.  
But the path forward selected by the transportation agencies, identified during a meeting with the people and groups involved in the process Tuesday, has already drawn the consternation of transportation advocates, who said it amounted to maintaining the status quo and didn't go far enough to promote transit, biking and walking, or to address climate goals.  
Elected officials also weighed in earlier this summer, when state lawmakers passed resolutions urging state and city transportation officials to "transform DuSable Lake Shore Drive into a true boulevard and to be

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MADIGAN CASE

## Ex-AT&T boss wants key counts dismissed

Attorneys: Supreme Court bribery ruling undermines charges

By Jason Meisner  
Chicago Tribune

Lawyers for the former AT&T Illinois boss accused of trying to bribe then-House Speaker Michael Madigan argue in a new filing that the prosecution's case has been "significantly undermined" by a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling walking back a federal bribery statute.  
Paul La Schiazza, 66, was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in October 2022 with conspiring to pay former state Rep. Edward Acevedo \$2,500 a month in consulting fees as part of a plan to win Madigan's backing of several pending pieces of legislation in Springfield. His trial is scheduled to kick off in September.  
In a flurry of motions filed late Tuesday, however, La Schiazza's attorneys asked the judge to toss key bribery and conspiracy counts in the indictment, order the government to turn over grand jury minutes, and limit the statements of alleged co-conspirators that can be introduced at trial.  
The motions were the latest fallout from the high court's ruling last month in the case of former Portage, Indiana, Mayor James Snyder that held the federal bribery statute commonly known as "666" applies only to bribes, not gratuities, and that there must be a quid pro quo agreement to accept something of value in exchange for an official act.  
In their filings, La Schiazza's legal team repeatedly argued that the indictment fails to allege any direct connection between the payments to Acevedo, a longtime acolyte of the Democratic speaker, and Madigan's efforts in 2017 to help pass legislation allowing AT&T to end mandatory landline service, which stood to save the company millions.  
"The indictment does not allege facts establishing a

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## Business-aligned PAC takes aim at school board elections

By A.D. Quig  
Chicago Tribune

A group of business and civic leaders, some with ties to former Mayor Rahm Emanuel, are forming a fundraising and advocacy group that plans to back candidates in Chicago's contentious first-ever school board elections

and organize around other key issues confronting the state.  
The new nonprofit and political action committee will be called One Future Illinois. Leaders said they hope to provide political and financial heft behind the business community's agenda, including "public safety, education, city and state finances, transportation, and

jobs." But short term, their presence will be felt in school board elections in November.  
One Future's leaders include Emanuel's deputy mayor, Steve Koch; his interim school board CEO and Park District board president, Jesse Ruiz; and the chief of staff in his office of legislative counsel and government affairs

and campaign manager for Emanuel's 2015 reelection, Michael Ruemmler. Ruiz, who will only serve on the board of the 501(c)(4), was also Gov. J.B. Pritzker's deputy governor for education and chair of the state board of education.

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CHICAGO SPORTS

## Cubs sending up 'virtual' white flag

Cubs president Jed Hoyer says the team won't be buyers at the trade deadline this year, despite being only a few games out of a playoff spot — a move mired in realism, writes Paul Sullivan.

