

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM



First graders line up Monday on the first day of class at Chalmers Elementary Specialty School in Chicago. **ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

First day of school brings a wide range of emotions

Parent groups gather for some morning festivities, commiseration after drop-off



Suzanne Mak speaks to her daughter, kindergartner Addie Mak, on her first day of school at Hamilton Elementary School in Chicago's Lakeview neighborhood. **EILEEN T. MESLAR/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

By Molly Morrow | Chicago Tribune

At the seventh annual “Muffins and Mimosas” celebration, parents of children at Chappell Elementary School in Lincoln Square spent the first day of school commiserating about their kids growing up, sharing their excitement and anxieties about the coming school year, and celebrating the routine a new school year brings with a drink or two.

As the school year begins, it’s easy to focus exclusively on the kids: school supply shopping, forming a carpool, meeting teachers and signing up for after-school activities. But what’s it like for the parents as they say goodbye until pickup time? For some, at least, it’s a mixed bag: commiseration, celebration and some morning parent parties.

Like all Chicago Public Schools families across the city, parents of students at Chappell School on the North Side dropped their kids off for the first day of school on Monday and partook in rituals and tradi-

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Ruling on slating goes in GOP favor

Illinois Supreme Court upholds ban’s unconstitutionality

By Jeremy Gornier
Chicago Tribune

In a setback for Illinois Democrats and Gov. JB Pritzker, the Illinois Supreme Court has upheld a downstate judge’s ruling that found unconstitutional a Democratic-passed law preventing the slating of legislative candidates for the November election in races where political parties did not field contenders.

The high court’s ruling Friday was not typical of the seven-member body, which is made up of five Democrats and two Republicans. Two of the justices, Democrats P. Scott Neville and Joy Cunningham, recused themselves while the remaining five justices were divided enough that the court couldn’t make a ruling. Under the Illinois Constitution, four concurring justices are needed to decide on cases before the court.

As a result, Sangamon County Judge Gail Noll’s ruling in June was upheld by default — but only for the November election.

Noll earlier this year declared the election law — signed by Pritzker on May 3 — unconstitutional because it “impermissibly burdens” candidates who had been following the previous law from “their right to vote and to have their names placed on the November ballot.”

Before Democrats moved to change the law, local Democratic and Republican committees regularly filled vacancies for legislative spots on the general election ballot in races where no candidates from their party had run in the primary. The candidate slated by the political party was still required to obtain candidacy petition signatures to run in the general election.

Under the decision, the new law stays on the books. That means, if there is no law change, political parties beginning in the 2026 elections will have to run candidates in the primary in

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ELECTION 2024

Partisan divide stark in fight on poverty

Trump, Harris take different approach to lowering rates

By Jason DeParle
The New York Times

WASHINGTON — The presidential race between Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump presents the sharpest clash in anti-poverty policy in at least a generation, and its outcome could shape the economic security of millions of low-income Americans.

As the onset of the pandemic in early 2020 threatened to decimate the economy, Trump signed a large stimulus package that included substantial aid for the poor. When President Joe Biden and Harris took office in 2021, their administration pushed more big aid expansions through Congress as part of their pandemic-recovery plan, driving the poverty rate still lower.

But if the two candidates’ responses to that extraordinary period had elements in common, the lessons they took from it were different.

In the pandemic-era programs, now mostly expired or reduced,

Harris and other Democrats found reinforcement of their faith in the government’s power to ameliorate hardship. If elected, she would seek to sustain or expand many of them, including subsidies for food, health care and housing, and revive a change to the child tax credit that essentially created a guaranteed income for families with children. Those policies helped temporarily cut the poverty rate by more than half from prepandemic levels.

She backs a \$15 federal minimum wage, which Republicans have fought, and is a vocal supporter of programs such as subsidized child care and paid family leave meant to help balance work and family.

Trump says little about his role in pandemic-era poverty programs, which many Republicans view as having been excessive and fraud-ridden. Instead, he touts his 2017 tax cuts, which he credits for boosting the economy and reducing poverty to a prepandemic low, and he has vowed to extend them when they expire next year. Most of the direct benefit from those cuts went to corporations and

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EILEEN T. MESLAR/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Extreme heat continues

Paletero Gonzalo Garcia walks on North Avenue Beach selling ice cream on Monday. Chicagoans filled the beaches around the city as the National Weather Service issued an excessive heat warning from Monday afternoon to Tuesday evening.

TODAY’S WEATHER

High **100**
Low **73**

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 14

Assistant principal’s family files lawsuit

The family of Abnerd Joseph, an assistant principal who was shot and killed in the Loop last year, has filed a civil lawsuit. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

‘No safe place’ for Gazans

One of Gaza’s last functioning hospitals has been emptying out in recent days as Israel has signaled a possible ground operation. **Nation & World**

‘Acid Test’ still holding up

The Tribune’s Rick Kogan takes a ride again with Ken Kesey, Tom Wolfe and a bunch of Merry Pranksters in “Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test.” **Arts & Living**

