

# Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

## ELECTION 2024

# Bring Chicago Home back on ballot

State Appellate Court says referendum question that aims to address homelessness in city is valid

By A.D. Quig  
Chicago Tribune

In a victory for advocates for homeless people and Mayor Brandon Johnson, a state Appellate Court Wednesday ruled the Bring Chicago Home referendum question is valid, overturning a lower court's order with less than two weeks until the March 19 primary.

The ruling means votes on the referendum question will be counted, though it is possible the real estate and business coalition that filed the suit could appeal to the state Supreme Court.

In a decision Wednesday afternoon, Presiding Judge Raymond Mitchell wrote that the Circuit Court erred in its decision to invalidate the question. The Appellate

Court vacated the judgment and instructed the Circuit Court to "dismiss the complaint for want of jurisdiction." Judges Freddrenna Lyle and David Navarro agreed.

In short, they said Illinois courts have declined to exercise jurisdiction over matters that are a step in the legislative process and not fully enacted. "The holding of an election for the purpose of passing a referendum to empower a municipality to adopt an ordinance

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Mayor Brandon Johnson speaks to the media on Wednesday at City Hall. Johnson has championed the plan to raise taxes on property sales above \$1 million in order to fund homelessness services. **VINCENT ALBAN/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**



## Activists work to protect wetlands

Bill aims to fill gaps after justices' ruling

By Karina Atkins  
Chicago Tribune

After a U.S. Supreme Court ruling last spring left wetlands vulnerable to development, a coalition of environmental activists hopes a new bill can close the gaps in Illinois.

Sen. Laura Ellman, D-Naperville, and Rep. Anna Moeller, an Elgin Democrat, introduced companion bills Tuesday that would establish a permitting program to protect wetlands from pollution and draining.

Illinois is one of several states with no statewide protections for wetlands on private land. It relied on federal Clean Water Act protections until the conservative court severely curtailed them in Sackett v. EPA, a ruling that has been celebrated by real estate developers and industry but has greatly concerned environmentalists.

"We're not trying to write or pass the perfect wetlands law of our dreams as conservationists. What we're trying to do is step up where the

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ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

## NOT DISMISSED

Kindergarten teacher Yaquala Grant gives high-fives to her students on Wednesday as they celebrate the announcement that St. Francis of Rome Catholic Elementary School in Cicero will not be closing. The pre-K to eighth-grade private school, which was set to close its doors after the Invest In Kids tax credit program ended late last year, reversed that decision following nearly half a million dollars in donations by anonymous supporters along with operational support from a Chicago-based nonprofit. "We can continue doing things so kids can continue having these experiences of not only receiving a fantastic prep school education, but we can also help them get closer to God," said Principal Phil Jackson, who has led the school for 17 months. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

## Link avoids prison on campaign tax charge

By Jason Meisner  
and Ray Long  
Chicago Tribune

When Terry Link served in the Illinois Senate, he played poker at night with fellow Democrat Barack Obama and pushed big gambling deals by day in the General Assembly.

Perhaps all of that wheeling and dealing in Springfield taught Link, a Lake County Democrat, how to play his cards just right.

As part of a cooperation deal with prosecutors, Link, 76, avoided prison time when a federal judge sentenced him Wednesday to three years of probation for failing to pay taxes on campaign funds he tapped for personal use.



Former state Sen. Terry Link, left, leaves the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse with his lawyer Wednesday after being sentenced to three years of probation for tax evasion. **ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

The relatively lenient outcome was a result of Link agreeing to wear a wire and help the FBI crack an elaborate bribery scheme that led to prison sentences for Rep. Luis Arroyo, D-Chicago, and businessman James Weiss, the son-in-law of former Cook County Democratic Chairman Joe Berrios.

Link pleaded guilty in September

ber 2020 to failing to report income on his tax returns to the IRS and spending more than \$73,000 in campaign funds on personal expenses.

He also underreported income on returns for tax years 2012 through 2015, costing the IRS and Illinois Department of Revenue a

**Turn to Link, Page 4**

## ELECTION 2024

# Haley suspends run, but doesn't endorse Trump

By Steve Peoples  
and Meg Kinnard  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Nikki Haley suspended her presidential campaign Wednesday after being defeated across the country on Super Tuesday, leaving former President Donald Trump as the last remaining major candidate for the 2024 Republican nomination.

Haley didn't endorse the former president in a speech in Charleston, South Carolina. Instead, she challenged him to win the support of the moderate Republicans and independent voters who supported her.

"It is now up to Donald Trump to earn the votes of those in our party and beyond it who did not support him. And I hope he does that," she said. "At its best, poli-

tics is about bringing people into your cause, not turning them away. And our conservative cause badly needs more people."

Haley, a former South Carolina governor and U.N. ambassador, was Trump's first significant rival when she jumped into the race in February 2023. She spent the final phase of her campaign aggressively warning the GOP against embracing Trump, whom she argued was too consumed by chaos and personal grievance to defeat President Joe Biden in the general election.

Her departure clears Trump to focus solely on his likely rematch in November with Biden. The former president is on track to reach the necessary 1,215 delegates to clinch the Republican

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Haley

## Seven endangered buildings

For the third year in a row, a pair of century-old Loop skyscrapers facing demolition by the federal government top Preservation Chicago's annual list of the city's seven most endangered buildings. This year, they're joined by the birthplace of Butternut Bread and a Cabrini-Green mural. **Business**

## Underwood's dire warning

If Illinois makes another early exit from the NCAA Tournament this month, you can't say coach Brad Underwood didn't warn you. There's a doubt the Illini can handle crunch time in the big games, and he's not quiet about it. **Paul Sullivan in Chicago Sports**

**TODAY'S WEATHER** High 52 Low 42

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 16

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere  
176th year No. 67 © Chicago Tribune

