

# Chicago Tribune



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ELECTION 2024 NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

## Vance takes Republican spotlight

At RNC, Illinois GOP begins looking toward the 2026 vote

By **Jeremy Gorner**  
Chicago Tribune

MILWAUKEE — U.S. Rep. Matt Gaetz of Florida was taunting an old Capitol Hill nemesis on the crowded floor of the Republican National Convention when an Illinois Republican Party official with a low profile outside of state GOP circles stepped in.

“Shut up, don’t be an a—hole,” Illinois Republican National Committeeman Richard Porter said to Gaetz, who was interrupting an interview being given by the man he helped oust as House speaker, former California U.S. Rep. Kevin McCarthy.

“Dude, I don’t even know who you are, man,” the boisterous congressman said to Porter, who quickly responded, “It doesn’t f—ing matter who I am. Don’t be an a—hole,” before Gaetz walked away.

Video of Tuesday night’s confrontation has since gotten more than a half a million views on the social media platform X, at least temporarily raising Porter’s profile — one

Turn to **State**, Page 2



Illinois Republican Party Chairman-Elect Kathy Salvi attends the state delegation’s breakfast Wednesday in Oak Creek, Wisconsin. **STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

**GOP COURTS BLACK VOTERS:** After watching African American voters routinely support their opponents for generations, Black Republican leaders gathering this week in Milwaukee said they are beginning to see cracks in the Democratic dominance. **Page 2**

39-year-old senator makes his debut as Trump running mate

By **Christine Fernando, Ali Swenson and Michelle L. Price**  
Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Former President Donald Trump’s running mate, JD Vance, introduced himself to a national audience Wednesday night as he addressed the Republican National Convention.

The Ohio senator’s headlining address was his first speech as the Republican vice presidential nominee. This year’s gathering also is the first RNC that Vance has attended, according to a Trump campaign source who was not authorized to speak publicly. A relative political unknown, Vance rapidly morphed in recent years from a severe critic of Trump to an aggressive defender.

Vance, 39, is positioned to become a potential leader of the former president’s political movement, which has reshaped the Republican Party and broken long-time political norms. The first millennial to join a major party ticket, he enters the

Turn to **Vance**, Page 4



Crews clear the homeless encampment near the Dan Ryan Expressway at Roosevelt Road and South Desplaines Street on Wednesday. The camp has been home to unhoused Chicagoans for at least four decades. **E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS**

## City clears major homeless camp ahead of convention

Many residents at Dan Ryan site left with nowhere to turn

By **Sylvan Lebrun and Alice Yin**  
Chicago Tribune

City workers demolished a major homeless encampment by the Dan Ryan Expressway early Wednesday as the city prepares for next month’s Democratic National Convention.

Residents of the tent city, which was on a grassy patch of land between the expressway and the 1100 block of Desplaines Street, said that officials had stopped by multiple times to warn them of the upcoming clearing of the site. All occupants were offered resettlement in city-run shelters, particularly at the former Tremont Hotel off the Magnificent Mile, where many from the encampment are now living, according to the Department of Family and Support Services.

Residents who haven’t taken up the offer of relocation say they don’t know where to head next. Carrying their belongings in bags with them, multiple former homeless residents of the tent city lingered in the area

Turn to **Camp**, Page 5



Brent Blanton had been staying in the homeless encampment for a little over a month and now he finds himself on the street in advance of the Democratic National Convention.

**A NOMINATION BEFORE THE DNC?** Democrats are moving forward with plans to nominate President Joe Biden for a second term through a virtual roll call next month before the party convenes Aug. 19 in Chicago for its four-day convention. **Page 5**

## Judge eyes clarity on bodycam policies

Chicago police under the microscope as DNC nears

By **Sam Charles**  
Chicago Tribune

With the Democratic National Convention about a month away, the chief judge of Chicago’s federal court has called for greater clarity in the Chicago Police Department’s policy dictating when officers may deactivate their body-worn cameras.

But the order issued this month by Chief Judge Rebecca Pallmeyer gives the city and CPD until Aug. 30 — more than a week after the conclusion of the DNC — to provide a new draft of the policy to the Illinois attorney general’s office and the independent monitoring team that assesses consent-decree compliance.

Since the consent decree was entered in early 2019, the independent monitoring team led by former federal prosecutor Maggie Hickey has repeatedly urged CPD to bolster its records collection, retention and analysis practices. Officers activating their body-worn cameras in a timely manner has remained a major challenge for the department, too, which could come into play as the department handles expected protests at the convention.

The potential role of body-cam footage was underscored Tuesday when a man believed to be homeless and brandishing a knife was fatally shot by police about a mile from the security perimeter at the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee. Video and images of that police exchange were quickly released to the public.

Last month during a media demonstration of CPD training exercises, Superintendent Larry Snelling said every officer assigned to the DNC will be equipped with a body-worn camera. While the city’s Office of Inspector General recently raised concerns about the department’s preparedness for potential unrest during the convention, Snelling has repeatedly stressed the rigors of mandatory training courses for those officers assigned and their readiness.

“We will not allow people to come here and destroy our city,” Snelling previously told the Tribune. “We’re ready. We’re prepared to deal with whatever comes

Turn to **Bodycams**, Page 4

### Zoning panel vote faces delay

The Chicago City Council is still without a new leader for its powerful Zoning Committee after a mayoral ally on Wednesday delayed a vote to install firebrand progressive Ald. Byron Sigcho-Lopez into the role. **Page 3**

### ‘Bear’ scores 25 nominations

Emmy nominations for “The Bear” include best comedy series and best actor in a comedy series for Jeremy Allen White, along with best actress for Ayo Edebiri, who won best supporting actress last time. **Homes & Living**

### Bright spot for Chicago’s stars

Cubs pitcher Shota Imanaga and White Sox pitcher Garrett Crochet were able to absorb their big moments on the All-Star stage Tuesday night in suburban Dallas, writes columnist Paul Sullivan. **Chicago Sports**

