

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

ELECTION 2024



Members of the Humboldt Park Puerto Rican community rally on Division Street in response to stand-up comic Tony Hinchcliffe's derogatory comments about Puerto Rico at Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump's rally in New York on Sunday. **E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Campaign finance reform targeted

State lawmakers announce plans to introduce legislation

By Nell Salzman and Ikram Mohamed
Chicago Tribune

Armed with signs of blown-up checks of billionaire investments in Chicago's upcoming school board elections, aldermen, congressmen and parents gathered outside the Illinois Network of Charter Schools office Monday morning to denounce large donations made by out-of-state billionaires and introduce a proposal for campaign finance reform.

Legislators fought for years to draft legislation that would create an elected school board, but "there were many things that were sort of left on the table," said state Sen. Robert Martwick. He called for legislative hearings to look at "different models of campaign finance reform."

"We owe it as legislators ... to fine-tune this to make sure that the people of Chicago get what they bargained for and that the process is not corrupted by outside donors," Martwick said.

But finance experts say any proposed campaign finance reform legislation wouldn't affect the school board election, in the short or long term. Illinois has a unique rule that funding caps can be lifted when campaign contributions — through self-contributions or independent expenditures — add up to more than \$100,000 during an election cycle.

There has been an uninterrupted flow of outside money for special interests ahead of November's school board race, Martwick said. That stream of dollars, both raised and spent, is flowing from both sides — school choice advocates, and detractors, namely the Chicago Teachers Union.

So far this year, the two super PACs that back school choice and charter schools — Illinois Network of Charter Schools' Action Independent Committee and Urban Center's group — have spent nearly \$1.6 million in the race.

State campaign data show that Chicago Teachers Union is just as invested. Chicago Teacher's Union candidates have raised a group whose biggest donor is the union, has given \$1.3 million.

Though no specific legislation language was proposed Monday morning, Kent Redfield, professor emeritus of political science at the University of Illinois Springfield, said any bill would

Puerto Ricans decry joke at Trump rally

ANALYSIS

Trump rally in NYC hits base notes

By Shane Goldmacher, Maggie Haberman and Michael Gold
The New York Times

NEW YORK — Donald Trump and his allies are full of bravado over his chances of victory in the closing days of the 2024 campaign. But there are signs, publicly and privately, that the former president and his team are worried that their opponents' descriptions of him as a racist and a fascist may be breaking through to segments of voters.

That anxiety was clear after Trump's six-hour event at Madison Square Garden in New York City, where the inflammatory speeches on Sunday included an opening act by a comedian known for a history of racist jokes who derided Puerto Rico as "a floating island of garbage" and talked about Black people carving watermelons.

Turn to Rally, Page 8



Presidential nominee Donald Trump and Melania Trump take the stage Sunday in New York City. **ANNA MONEYMAKER/GETTY**

"If he (Donald Trump) has not come out to distance himself from the comments, that tells us what he means."

— Democratic U.S. Rep. Delia Ramirez, who represents Chicago's Humboldt Park

More election news inside

- Police said that a "suspect vehicle" has been identified in connection with incendiary devices that set fires to ballot drop boxes in Oregon and Washington state.
- As news outlets get ready for election night, plans to combat misinformation are in place across newsrooms that will follow the climax of a hard-fought campaign Nov. 5.

Nation & World

Area residents: 'It's a disrespect to the people'

By Sylvan Lebrun and Laura Rodríguez Presa
Chicago Tribune

For more than 40 years, Vanessa Massas' grandparents have owned a record shop on Division Street in the heart of Humboldt Park, called Paseo Boricua by the Puerto Rican community.

As her grandfather, Angel Medina, opened Lily's Record Shop on Monday morning, he walked between aisles of CDs and souvenirs featuring the Puerto Rican flag, speaking on the phone with other family members about the news.

We "couldn't believe that those words came out of that guy's mouth," said Massas, the record shop manager.

After stand-up comic Tony Hinchcliffe referred to Puerto Rico as a "floating island of garbage in the middle of the ocean" at a Donald Trump rally Sunday at Madison Square Garden, Chicago Puerto

Turn to Joke, Page 4

Sand mines provide key fracking ingredient

LaSalle County home to key resource amid concerns, campaigns

By Karina Atkins
Chicago Tribune

Steve Harmon's house shakes when the mining company 100 yards away blasts into what was once farmland. His patio is constantly covered in a thin layer of fine white sand. He and his neighbors also had their groundwater wells replaced two years ago after iron leached into their drinking water.

The LaSalle County native is simply thankful the sand mine only operates a few days a week.

This is the lesser-known side of the fracking industry that former

President Donald Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris have vocally supported on the campaign trail.

Despite a recent proliferation of clean energy sources, both presidential candidates say a domestic supply of emissions-intensive fossil fuels is essential for national security in what political pundits say is an appeal to Pennsylvania voters. The swing state was at the center of the fracking industry boom during the 2000s that transformed the United States from being dependent on foreign fuel sources to the world's top oil and natural gas producer.

Fracking enables the extraction of oil and gases encased in rock formations thousands of feet

Turn to Fracking, Page 2



The plant from a Northern White Sand mining operation runs between agricultural fields on Oct. 14 in Ottawa, Ill. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

TODAY'S WEATHER



High 82 Low 66

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 10

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere
177th year No. 303 © Chicago Tribune

