

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

ELECTION 2024

Trump, Harris seeking Latino votes

Outreach events tout the two candidates' economic policies

By Josh Boak
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Both Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump promoted economic policy Tuesday as their best chance to win Latino voters. But their approaches are very different.

In an interview with Telemundo on Tuesday afternoon, Harris was expected to highlight how her

agenda would create more opportunities for Latino men — a strategy born out of roughly a dozen focus groups and polling.

The Democratic nominee intends to show off her plans to double the number of registered apprenticeships. She wants to stress how she would remove college degree requirements for certain federal government jobs and encourage private employers to do likewise. And Harris wants to

provide forgivable loans worth up to \$20,000 each to 1 million small businesses.

Trump, the Republican nominee, made his outreach to Latinos on Tuesday, hosting a roundtable with them in Doral, a Miami suburb. Surrounded by elected officials and business leaders who are Latino, Trump touted the economy during his administration, which he argued was better for the Hispanic community than during the Biden

administration.

The Trump and Harris campaigns see what could be an election-deciding opportunity with Latino men, who could swing the outcome in states such as Pennsylvania, Arizona and Nevada if their traditional support for Democrats erodes.

Trump believes he has made inroads among Latino men. Harris' team is seeking to shore up support within the same group with the election just two weeks away.

It sets up a question of whether memories of a Trump presidency

or the promise of new policies under Harris will do more to energize Latino voters.

"We are very confident that these policies resonate because we've seen them resonate in speeches and focus groups," said Matt Barreto, a Harris campaign pollster. "It speaks to Latino men in particular about being successful and achieving the American dream."

In 2020, AP VoteCast found that 9% of voters nationwide identified

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EILEEN T. MESLAR/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Voters on the march in North Lawndale

Leo Lindsay, center, dances to music as he and others walk along Homan Avenue in North Lawndale on Tuesday during a march to the polls in the 24th Ward, organized by Communities Partnering 4 Peace, a coalition of gun violence prevention groups, and UCAN, a social service agency that has served residents on the South and West sides for over 150 years. Nine similar marches, all organized by the same groups, took place on Chicago's South, West and North sides Tuesday, the day after early voting began in the city's wards. Dozens proceeded about a mile from the North Lawndale Employment Network campus to the voting location at St. Agatha Catholic Parish. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

Snapshot of area's candidates for Congress

Democrats hold an advantage, but GOP hopes to make inroads

By Dan Petrella, Olivia Olander and Robert McCoppin
Chicago Tribune

The dozen incumbent Democrats who represent Chicago and its suburbs in Congress head into the Nov. 5 election with a sizable advantage over their Republican challengers.

Running in districts drawn by Democrats in Springfield to maintain their party's edge after the state lost a congressional seat following the 2020 census, the 12 incumbents in the Chicago region collectively have outraised their opponents by a more than 16-to-1 ratio, according to federal campaign data.

But the GOP is hoping to make inroads by focusing on the high prices consumers are still finding in stores, despite declining inflation, and the number of migrants who have arrived in Illinois from the southern border that has resulted in strained city and state budgets.

Democrats, meanwhile, are hoping to capitalize on their home-field advantage of representing a heavily Democratic region. They also have renewed energy among their base, particularly women and

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MICHAEL MADIGAN TRIAL

Lawyer to jury: Legal lobbying is not bribery

Co-defendant's counsel declares prosecution's view 'is just wrong'

By Jason Meisner, Megan Crepeau and Ray Long
Chicago Tribune

A lawyer for ex-House Speaker Michael Madigan's longtime confidant told a federal jury Tuesday that the allegations of bribery and corruption against the pair were simply a misguided attempt to criminalize legal lobbying and the relationship-building at the heart of the state's politics.

Michael McClain did "perfectly 100% legal favors for Mike Madigan," for the purpose of "building trust and maintaining and increasing access to Mike Madi-



gan," McClain attorney John Mitchell said in his opening statement. The government's view of the evidence "is just wrong," Mitchell told jurors.

"They were so focused on Mike Madigan that they missed it," he said. "He did not act with an attempt to bribe Mike Madigan or help him obtain bribes. ... He is 100% innocent."

Bribery, he said, requires an exchange, like an envelope of cash



for a vote. Prosecutors were so dead-set on finding some kind of crime that they lost perspective, Mitchell said.

In the end, they "turned over heaven and earth" trying to find proof of a bribe, but they failed, Mitchell said.

"There is an old saying if you walk around all day carrying a hammer you are eventually going to find something that looks

Turn to Madigan, Page 2

Kankakee Co. Board chair resigns before ouster vote

Accepted job with firm building controversial EV battery plant

By Jeremy Gerner
Chicago Tribune

KANKAKEE — The chairman of the Kankakee County Board resigned from his post on Tuesday ahead of a special board meeting to consider his ouster after he recently took a job with the firm behind a controversial electric vehicle battery plant being built in Manteno.

Under Andrew Wheeler's leadership, the board was one of several taxing bodies that agreed to provide millions of dollars in incentives to lure Chinese-owned Gotion's \$2 billion EV battery plant, which was vigorously opposed by far-right Republicans who raised fears of communist infiltration.

Wheeler's employment by Gotion after the board he sat on helped pave the way for the plant will no doubt create conflict of

interest concerns, County Board member Robert Ellington-Snipes acknowledged Tuesday.

"It raises the eyebrows of individuals that are in opposition," Ellington-Snipes said following Tuesday's brief board meeting.

But Wheeler did not violate any laws by taking the job at Gotion, according to a county official who spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue.

A special County Board meeting on Tuesday to discuss whether Wheeler should be removed from his post only lasted about three minutes when Kankakee County State's Attorney Jim Rowe read a resignation note he received late last week from Wheeler, whose term was up at the end of November. Wheeler gave no reason for his resignation in the note.

Wheeler responded to a request for comment after the meeting with a text message saying he would "no longer have

Turn to Kankakee, Page 10

Circles of life

Two new pizza restaurants are challenging our preconceived notions of what it means to sling Chicago-style pizza in the Windy City. **Food & Health**

Seeking to shape an identity



The Bulls are in a state of flux that makes this season feel like a shot in the dark — not contenders, but not quite bottom feeders. **Chicago Sports**

Israel: Next Hezbollah leader dead

Israel said one of its airstrikes killed a Hezbollah official widely expected to replace the longtime leader of the group who was killed earlier this month. **Nation & World**

TODAY'S WEATHER



High 64 Low 41

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 12

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere
177th year No. 297 © Chicago Tribune

