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DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

From words to action

As Harris accepts nomination, delegates know the real work comes next



Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris speaks at the Democratic National Convention on Thursday. **CHRIS SWEDA/TRIBUNE**

By Rick Pearson, Olivia Olander, Molly Morrow and Jeremy Gorner
Chicago Tribune

Vice President Kamala Harris prepared to deliver the most important speech of her life Thursday in formally accepting the Democratic nomination for president to cap a quick and seemingly improbable turn of political events that propelled her into the spotlight.

Her acceptance speech comes just 56 days after 81-year-old President Joe Biden's halting and stumbling performance in a debate against former Republican President Donald Trump, 78, forced the president into a defensive posture amid warnings from party leaders that both his reelection chances and those of Democrats' down the ballot were in jeopardy.

And it was only 32 days ago when Biden announced his surprise decision to drop out of the race and endorse Harris as his successor for the nomination. Democrats moved with alacrity to embrace her as the new candidate as well as her choice for running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz.

Now, the former district attorney from San Francisco, attorney general of California and U.S. senator who joined Biden on the Democratic ticket four years ago is in a historic position as the first Black and South Asian American female to become a major political party's nominee — offering voters a new and younger choice in a race that had been destined to become a contest between the two oldest men to ever seek the presidency.

As Democratic Party delegates awaited her convention closing

Turn to Harris, Page 7

Identity with Harris serves as bond, or a crossroads

By Zareen Syed and Shanzeh Ahmad
Chicago Tribune

Samra Haseeb is still figuring out who to vote for in November.

On paper, Kamala Harris, who is Black and Indian, represents a new world of possibilities for women of color. She's several firsts: A woman, a Black woman, a woman of South Asian descent and the first to serve as vice president. And if she defeats Republican candidate Donald Trump in November, she'd be the first woman to serve as president of the United States.

In theory, Haseeb said she's excited about Harris representing her community, but she isn't sure the vice president has really incorporated her identity in a positive way into her work.

"Representation alone will not save us," said Haseeb, a 22-year-old Indian-American graduate student at the University of Illinois Chicago. "Unfortunately, I don't feel like it's enough for me to vote for her."

For some young women of color, specifically Black and Indian women who share Harris' ethnic identity, the presidential ticket is historic and emotional. And while Harris has been clear about her stance on other issues that are important to them, such as reproductive health, the economy and immigration, for others, this pivotal moment challenges the idea of representation. They are at a crossroads with what they say are Harris' unclear intentions on a cease-fire in Gaza.

"It's definitely hard to get behind her when she hasn't done much to

Turn to Represent, Page 6



Supporters wave American flags during the Democratic National Convention at the United Center in Chicago on Thursday. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Optimistic Dems go heavy on the patriotism

By Jake Sheridan
Chicago Tribune

The first signs passed out to delegates Monday at the Democratic National Convention set the tone.

U-S-A, they read, and they got a lot of use in the United Center over the four-day spectacle.

Time and again, cameras at the made-for-TV party panned the crowd wildly waving the placards, as Democrats made a bid to claim the mantles of patriotism and love of personal freedom that have long been

Republican turf.

When Republican former Georgia Lt. Gov. Geoff Duncan spoke from the stage of weathering former President Donald Trump's efforts to overturn the 2020 election, he summed up the Democratic star-spangled pitch as he crossed party lines.

"If you vote for Kamala Harris in 2024, you are not a Democrat. You are a patriot," he said.

The crowd broke into a corresponding "U-S-A" chant, a common refrain throughout the week.

It was a moment that reflected

much of the convention's tenor as the Democrats made a determined effort to flaunt the red, white and blue. They didn't just talk patriotic politics and policies, but also tried to tug at voters' patriotic heart strings.

The week began with a long ovation for the Soul Children of Chicago choir's stirring national anthem. Many showed up in camouflage "Harris-Walz" hats, an apparent new foil to Trump's iconic red ball cap using a back-country aesthetic. That same

Turn to Patriotism, Page 6

LITTLE INTEREST: Free speech platform during DNC met with empty audiences, no-show speakers and frustration from activists. **Page 2**

DELEGATES: Mayor Brandon Johnson voices support for uncommitted delegates demanding Palestinian American DNC speaker. **Page 3**

'WE GET ATTENTION': Drag queens take stage at Metro to draw attention to LGBTQ+ threats and to urge voter turnout. **Page 3**

BREAKING GENDER BARRIER: Democrats say nation's voters are ready to elect a woman as president. **Nation & World**

Turn to Protests, Page 4

Warehouses slated for demolition

Demolition permits have been issued for industrial buildings prized by historic preservationists. **Business**

Convention creators

Lounges, yacht parties and free prime rib — what it's like to be a social media influencer at the DNC. **A+E**

'He's just so deceptive'

How rookie Porter Hodge has developed into one of the Cubs' best relievers. **Chicago Sports**

TODAY'S WEATHER



High 83 Low 66

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 14

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere
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