

# Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM



Defendants and former Cook County assistant state's attorneys Nicholas Trutenko, right, and Andrew Horvat sit on a bench behind their attorneys during their misconduct trial at the courthouse in Rolling Meadows on Thursday. **STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

## What if city can't pass a budget?

Prospects of 'dire situation' could help get deal done in time

By Jake Sheridan  
Chicago Tribune

As he crafts Chicago's 2025 budget, Mayor Brandon Johnson has less and less time and not enough money.

The mayor faces a nearly \$1 billion budget gap, an increasingly unruly City Council and a tightened timeline to accomplish elected officials' most essential task. The daunting challenge has made some aldermen wary of an unlikely, but troubling worst-case scenario: Could the city fail to pass a budget by the state's Dec. 31 deadline?

Johnson and the council will likely get it done, as the city has every year. But if a budget takes too long amid the accounting nightmare, the mayor's political stumbles and a ticking clock, it could spell disaster.

"If it did not pass in time, we would end up with bills not getting paid," Ald. Maria Hadden, 49th, said. "That is completely unacceptable."

Experts say failing to pass a budget in time could quickly threaten the city government's ability to carry out many services and pay its workers. It could harm the city's credit rating and jack up costs for borrowing money while deeply shaking the faith Chicagoans have in their elected officials.

Those pricey pitfalls should serve as a warning as the mayor and aldermen start to work out a budget in earnest, said Ralph Martire, executive director of the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability, a nonpartisan fiscal policy think tank.

"It is in no one's interest not to pass a budget deal," Martire said.

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## 'A mutual combat situation'

Trial for former Cook County assistant state's attorneys gets contentious as prosecutors allege wrongdoing

By Madeline Buckley | Chicago Tribune

In 2020, attorneys representing a man accused of killing two Chicago police officers in 1982 made, in their view, a stunning discovery in the form of a nearly 30-year-old baptismal certificate from England.

The defendant was Jackie Wilson, whose infamous case was critical to unveiling systemic practices of torture within the Chicago Police Department, and he was being tried for a third time for murder in the slayings of Chicago police Officers William Fahey and Richard O'Brien.

The certificate showed that Nicholas Trutenko, a former Cook County assistant state's attorney who prosecuted Wilson during his second trial in 1989, flew to the United Kingdom a few years later to serve as godfather for the daughter of one of the key witnesses against Wilson — a jail-

house informant with a long rap sheet.

This baptism record, when revealed in court, set off an explosive series of events: the special prosecutors trying Wilson dropped all charges, Trutenko was fired from the state's attorney's office and he and another assistant state's attorney who represented him in the proceedings, were eventually hit with criminal charges.

"I'll never forget that day," Wilson's attorney Elliot Slosar, a partner at the high-profile civil

rights firm Loevy & Loevy, testified in a courtroom in Rolling Meadows Wednesday.

The trial for Trutenko, 69, and Andrew Horvat, 49, a former Cook County assistant state's attorney, now moves into its second week after an 11-month break for an unusual, mid-trial appeal.

Trutenko is charged with perjury, official misconduct, obstruction of justice and violating a local records act in relation to his testimony as a witness at

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### INSIDE



BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

### Last-second letdown

Bears quarterback Caleb Williams walks off the field Sunday after the Bears' 18-15 loss to the Commanders in Landover, Maryland. The Commanders won with a Hail Mary on the final play of the game. **Chicago Sports**

### Summery temperatures this week

Monday highs, forecast to reach the upper 60s, will kick off a warming trend in Chicago the next few days. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

### Ex-city, county official Bill Beavers dies

He was a former Chicago police officer, alderman and Cook County commissioner with a complicated but unapologetic legacy. **Page 9**

### Egypt offers 2-day Gaza cease-fire

Egypt's president announced the proposed cease-fire between Israel and Hamas in which four hostages would be freed. **Nation & World**

### ELECTION 2024

## Many Ukrainian Americans unsold on either presidential candidate

Fears about future of war, frustrations with present predominate

By Olivia Olander  
Chicago Tribune

With little more than a week to go in a tight presidential race, Ukrainian Americans are grappling with the uneasy prospect of a new commander-in-chief for their homeland's strongest ally as the nearly 3-year-old war with Russia drags on.

"There's a lot of frustration, anxiety, maybe even fear and a lot of uncertainty, what to expect in either case," said Dr. Mariya Dmytriv-Kapeniak, a Chicago-based physician who is president of the Illinois branch of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America.

Many Ukrainian Americans say they fear the possibility of another



Maria Bluma, of Milwaukee, listens to a speaker during a nonpartisan voter education forum on support for Ukraine at the Milwaukee Public Library on Oct. 20. **EILEEN T. MESLAR/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

term for former President Donald Trump, who critics argue is too cozy with Russian President Vladimir Putin and too willing to end the war at great cost to Ukraine.

But in a community in which

many were historically drawn to longtime anticommunist values of the Republican Party, full-throated support for the Democratic ticket

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## Harris rallies Philly; Trump draws throngs in NYC

By Jill Colvin  
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Vice President Kamala Harris told a Philadelphia church congregation that the United States is "determined to turn the page on hatred and division" as she began crisscross-

ing the Democratic stronghold Sunday.

Energizing supporters in the largest city in the swing state of Pennsylvania is crucial for Harris' campaign.

In New York, former President Donald Trump was seeking his Madison Square Garden moment.

With just over a week to go until Election Day, he spent Sunday evening at one of the country's most iconic venues, hosting a hometown rally to deliver his closing message against Harris. Before Trump spoke, several of his

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TODAY'S WEATHER



High 68 Low 62

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 14

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere  
177th year No. 302 © Chicago Tribune

