

# Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

## ELECTION 2024

Mexican restaurant leads charge to end Prohibition-era liquor ban in a tiny stretch of Lincoln Square with a ballot question where voting ‘no’ means ‘yes’



Gianna Marino and Enzo Pannarale toast after making margaritas with bring-your-own tequila and the necessary mixers ordered at XOchimilco Mexican Restaurant on Thursday in Chicago's Lincoln Square neighborhood. **JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

# BREAKING THE GLASS CEILING

By Robert McCoppin | Chicago Tribune

For lack of a margarita, customers have walked out of XOchimilco Mexican Restaurant in Lincoln Square.

When the owners applied for a liquor license and passed inspection last year, they thought it would be a simple matter. Then they found out about the liquor ban.

They learned their business was located in a small, three-block-long dry district. Restaurants across the street could sell liquor, but they could not.

So owners Lucia Herrejon and Epifanio Benitez started a petition drive to ask voters to allow liquor in the precinct. Herrejon went door to door collecting 150 signatures, enough to put the question on the Nov. 5 ballot. A loyal patron even set up a website in support of the ballot initiative.

“A lot of people were surprised,” Herrejon said. “They did not know this was a dry area.”

Small Cheval plans to open a location on the strip and supports the proposal. A nearby Giordano’s could also take advantage of it.

The area in question lies between Lincoln, Montrose, Damen and Sunnyside avenues.

The ban on booze dates back to 1907. As part of a backlash against public drunkenness, domestic violence and increased immigration, Chicago voters that year shut down drinking in 160 precincts, leaving half the city without saloons.

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# Misinformation takes toll on young voters

Experts say threat may erode desire to get out to the polls

By Peter Breen  
Chicago Tribune

Andre Barahona, 18, could vote in the presidential election. But he won’t, he said. The Loyola University Chicago freshman is not a big fan of politics. He doesn’t support the platform of either major party. “There’s nothing really that stands out

and makes me want to vote for either candidate right now,” said Barahona, who studies economics and fashion design. “So I’m not going to be voting. I’ll be waiting for a good candidate.”

Barahona attributes part of his apathy to the spread of false political information. He, like nearly 40% of American adults under the age of 30, gets his news from TikTok, a social media platform where users create and share short-form videos.

But experts warn that misinformation and disinformation on social media and

elsewhere has made some young adults, a group that already doesn’t vote as much as older citizens, less interested in voting in the Nov. 5 election. Indeed, the spread of false political information has become such a multifaceted threat that last month Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul issued a warning about AI-generated misinformation, and the head of an Illinois election official association is contemplating buying body armor amid fears false information

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# Reunited with cat, Venezuelan refugees’ family now complete

By Laura Rodríguez Presa  
Chicago Tribune

They say love comes suddenly and unexpectedly, sometimes during the most tumultuous times, said Carlos Salazar, a native of Venezuela who now lives in Rogers Park.

He met his partner Efrén Monsalve in Peru after they escaped the turmoil and economic crisis ravaging their home country. They found a home in each other, they said, now sitting on a couch in their apartment, seemingly a million miles from friends and family.

But their family wasn’t complete. They’d been missing their cat, Katzel, after they had

to make the difficult decision to leave her in Peru when they were accepted into a resettlement program that allowed them to immigrate to the U.S. as refugees.

The couple thought they would never see her again. But on Sept. 18, they reunited with Katzel in Chicago thanks to a new program under the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, a global nonprofit organization with a mission to advance the safety and well-being of animals.

More than a dozen other pets have been rescued and reunited with displaced families, mostly in the United States, said Lori

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**“She is a part of us, our daughter, our family. We couldn’t leave her as if she was a toy.”** — Carlos Salazar, who now lives in Rogers Park



Efrén Monsalve, left, and Carlos Salazar with their cat, Katzel, on Oct. 10. When Salazar, originally from Venezuela, migrated to the United States on refugee status, Katzel wasn’t allowed to travel with him. **TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

# Harris, Trump vie for Mich.

Rivals stump in ‘blue wall’ pillar that may swing race

By Chris Megerian  
and Joey Cappelletti  
Associated Press

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Kamala Harris and Donald Trump both sought support from Arab American voters Friday as they campaigned in Michigan, trying to lock down support in a battleground state that could decide the presidential race next month.

The Republican nominee visited a new campaign office in Hamtramck, one of the nation’s only Muslim-majority cities, and was joined there by Mayor Amer Ghalib, a Democrat who has endorsed Trump. Meanwhile, three city council members in the same town have endorsed Harris.

“His visit today is to show respect and appreciation to our community,” said Ghalib, who presented Trump with a framed certificate of appreciation.

Earlier Friday, Trump compared the people jailed on charges that they stormed the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, to the more than 120,000 people of Japanese origin incarcerated on U.S. soil during World War II.

“Why are they still being held? Nobody’s ever been treated like this,” he said in an interview with conservative commentator Dan Bongino. “Maybe the Japanese during Second World War, frankly. They were held, too.”

The GOP presidential nominee has consistently tried to play down the storming of the Capitol by his supporters who tried to overturn his 2020 election loss, portraying it earlier this week as a “day of love.” About 140 officers were injured that day, making it likely the largest assault on American law enforcement in a single day. Trump supporter Ashli Babbitt was shot and killed by police.

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## NATION & WORLD Dems assail Trump’s hotel business ethics

House Democrats on Friday accused former President Donald Trump of accepting “hundreds of unconstitutional and ethically suspect payments” through the Trump International Hotel in 2017 and 2018, moving weeks before the election to remind voters of the ethical issues raised by his refusal to divest from his businesses while in office.

■ Early voting in hard-hit North Carolina, a key swing state, tops 2020 turnout.

