

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

ELECTION 2024

Abortion debate shifts as vote nears

With bans, questions by more voters turn to pregnancy, care

By Kate Zernike
The New York Times

In the decades that Roe v. Wade was the law of the land, abortion rights groups tried to shore up support for it by declaring “Abortion Is Health Care.”

Only now — two years after the Supreme Court eliminated the constitutional right to abortion and just six months before the presidential election — has the slogan taken on the force of reality.

The public conversation about abortion has grown into one about the complexities of pregnancy and reproduction, as the consequences of bans have played out in the news. The question is no longer just whether you can get an abortion, but also: Can you get one if pregnancy complications put you in septic shock? Can you find an obstetrician when so many are leaving states with bans? If you miscarry, will the hospital send you home to bleed? Can you and your partner do in vitro fertilization?

That shift helps explain why a record percentage of Americans are now declaring themselves single-issue voters on abortion rights — especially among Black voters, Democrats, women and those age 18 to 29. Republican women are increasingly saying their party’s opposition to abortion is too extreme, and Democrats are running on the issue after years of running away from it.

“When the Dobbs case came down, I told my friends — somewhat but not entirely in jest — that America was about to be exposed to a lengthy seminar on obstetrics,” said Elaine Kamarck, a fellow at the Brookings Institution, referring to the Supreme Court decision that overturned

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Former Chicago Ald. Edward Burke leaves the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse in Chicago after he was sentenced to two years in prison and fined \$2 million on Monday for his corruption conviction. EILEEN T. MESLAR/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Burke gets 2 years in prison, \$2 million fine

Once untouchable, judge sentences humbled political titan for corruption

By Jason Meisner, Ray Long and Megan Crepeau
Chicago Tribune

By the time former Chicago Ald. Edward Burke ambled up to the courtroom lectern at the end of a nearly six-hour sentencing hearing Monday, he looked and sounded little like the Democratic powerhouse who had sermonized in the City Council for decades and was caught on an FBI wire talking about making the cash register ring.

Instead, Burke looked every bit of his 80 years, a deposed politician with silver, thin-

ning hair, in a dark suit and pocket square, striking a humbled tone.

In a measured voice, reading from a single sheet of paper with handwritten notes, Burke was uncharacteristically brief, saying he’d been blessed with a long career and was sorry to “see it end like this.” Then he asked the judge for mercy.

“Whatever amount of time God has decided to leave me on this earth, I’d like to spend as much of it as possible with my devoted wife, my wonderful children and grandchildren,” Burke said.

As he spoke, his wife, former Illinois

City Council members react to sentencing, “You gotta pay the price.” Page 4

Supreme Court Justice Anne Burke, bowed her head in the courtroom gallery and appeared to be crying.

Moments later, U.S. District Judge Virginia Kendall sentenced Burke, the former chairman of the city’s Finance Committee and one of the last vestiges of the old Chicago political machine, to two years in federal prison in a

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Aldo Cedillo selects the credit card option while finalizing an order on the point-of-sale system on Friday at Lalo’s restaurant in Chicago. VINCENT D. JOHNSON/FOR THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Illinois’ landmark credit card fee law prompting powerful opposition

By Olivia Olander
Chicago Tribune

Illinois lawmakers in the closing hours of the General Assembly’s spring session last month became the first in the nation to ban banks and credit card companies from charging retailers a seemingly small fee on sales taxes and tips.

But since Gov. J.B. Pritzker signed the ban into law, financial institutions that opposed the measure have ratcheted up their opposition and amplified their rhetoric, saying the move isn’t

just bad for them but will also cause headaches for consumers.

Just last week a trade association representing credit card companies and banks began running online ads in Illinois declaring the ban “MAY FORCE YOU TO PAY FOR PARTS OF PURCHASE IN CASH,” and print ads saying, “Tipping on your credit card is closed to Illinoisans.”

While some supporters — which include many Democrats and Illinois’ main association for

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ANN LURIE

One of Chicago’s most prolific philanthropists dies at 79

By Rick Kogan
Chicago Tribune

Imbued with the spirit of doing good while growing up as the only child of a single mother in Florida, Ann Lurie would, in a most energetic and self-effacing fashion, become one of the most prolific philanthropists in the history of this city.

Her name and that of her late husband Robert, who died in 1990, are affixed most prominently to Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago. But there have been dozens of other beneficiaries in Chicago and across the world, fueled by Robert Lurie’s success in business but also by Ann Lurie’s deeply altruistic nature.

“When I was young, my mother encouraged me to ‘do a good deed daily,’” she said some years ago. “Following her advice as a teenager gave me a great deal of personal pleasure, and now, many years later, it still feels good.”

Lurie, 79, died early Monday after being in hospice care in Chicago. She was suffering from glioblastoma. Over her last weeks she was visited

by members of her small circle of close friends and by her family: her husband filmmaker Mark Muheim and her six adult children from her marriage to Robert Lurie, along with their partners and children.

Ann Lurie was born in Florida, the only child of Marion Elizabeth Blue, a Canadian who worked as a nurse. Her father abandoned the family when Ann was 4 and she was raised in a middle-class Miami household by her mother, grandmother and an aunt. Influenced by her mother’s profession, she aspired to a career in

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Philanthropist Ann Lurie at her office in Chicago on March 28, 2012. Lurie died early Monday at age 79 after being in hospice care in Chicago. HEATHER CHARLES/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

