

# Chicago Tribune



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FRIDAY, MAY 31, 2024

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Former President Donald Trump leaves the courthouse after being found guilty of 34 felony counts at his trial at Manhattan Criminal Court in New York on Thursday. JUSTIN LANE/EPA

# TRUMP GUILTY

An extraordinary moment for the American justice system.  
Former president certain to appeal verdict in hush money trial.

By Michael R. Sisak, Jennifer Peltz, Eric Tucker,  
Jill Colvin and Michelle L. Price  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Donald Trump became the first former American president to be convicted of felony crimes Thursday as a New York jury found him guilty of all 34 charges in a scheme to illegally influence the 2016 election through a hush money payment to a porn actor who said the two had sex.

Trump sat stone-faced while the verdict was read as cheering from the street below could be heard in the hallway on the courthouse's 15th floor where the decision was revealed after more than nine hours of deliberations.

"This was a rigged, disgraceful trial," an angry Trump said

after leaving the courtroom. "The real verdict is going to be Nov. 5 by the people. They know what happened, and everyone knows what happened here."

Judge Juan Merchan set sentencing for July 11, just days before the Republican National Convention in

Milwaukee, where GOP leaders, who remained resolute in their support in the immediate aftermath of the verdict, are expected to formally make him their nominee.

The verdict is a stunning legal reckoning for Trump and exposes him to potential prison time in the city where his manipulations of the tabloid press helped catapult him from a real estate tycoon to reality television star and ultimately president. As he seeks to reclaim the White House in this year's election, the judgment presents voters with another test of their will-

Turn to Trump, Page 4

## Chicago reacts, from 'I couldn't be happier' to 'It's a witch hunt'

By Caroline Kubzansky,  
Olivia Stevens  
and Kate Armanini  
Chicago Tribune

The news of former President Donald Trump's conviction Thursday in a hush-money case that made him the first president in U.S. history to be convicted of a felony gave Glen Timmerman enough reason to treat himself to a celebratory martini at the Palmer House Hilton in the Loop.

Sporting a button with "Trump" crossed out on his lapel, the Rogers Park man had come downtown to see the play "Death Becomes Her" and was on State Street when a friend called him from Kansas City about the verdict. From that moment, Timmerman began frantically texting "everyone he knew." Soon, he found himself hoisting a drink with fellow anti-Trump revelers.

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## CTA president blasts criticism of tenure

Carter speaks at Transportation Committee hearing: 'I have been turned into a caricature'

By Sarah Freishtat  
and Jake Sheridan  
Chicago Tribune

CTA President Dorval Carter gave a defiant response to the criticism of his leadership Thursday, blasting calls for him to be fired as racist and unfair.

At a City Council committee hearing, Carter highlighted his efforts to right the troubled transit system amid post-pandemic struggles, but focused first on the more personal attacks he faces. It was one of his first attempts to publicly address what he called "the elephant in the room" as political pressure against him has mounted for months.

"As an African American man, this city has a history of attacking and trying to bring down their African American leaders," Carter said during 20 minutes of opening remarks. "What I

would hope is that we would work together to find a way to support our agency and make our agency better."

Carter's emphatic defense comes a week after 29 of 50 aldermen signed on to a resolution calling for Mayor Brandon Johnson to fire him. Johnson has declined to discuss Carter's future, and the resolution was sidelined by a legislative maneuver.

But during Thursday's Transportation Committee hearing, Carter said the criticism has made it hard for him and his employees to do their jobs.

"I have been turned into a caricature," he said. "I have been turned into something that is less than a human being."

The embattled appointed official walked aldermen through

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Mayor Brandon Johnson, center right, walks to the office of Senate President Don Harmon for a meeting at the Illinois State Capitol in Springfield on May 8. JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

**"They've told us that this is a zero-sum game. And if something is good for Chicago, well, that means we're taking something away from Peoria. It is a false choice."**

— Mayor Brandon Johnson in a joint address to the House and Senate

## Johnson tries to make inroads in Springfield

By Alice Yin  
and Jeremy Gerner  
Chicago Tribune

When Brandon Johnson visited the Illinois State Capitol as mayor-elect, he emphatically rejected the notion that Chicago and Springfield had competing agendas.

"They've told us that this is a zero-sum game. And if something is good for Chicago, well, that means we're taking something away from Peoria," Johnson said in a joint address to the House and Senate. "It is a false choice."

A little over a year later, the mayor has learned Illinois lawmakers still regard those choices as true.

He saw the state legislature reject his biggest agenda items during the session that concluded this week: more than \$1 billion in

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