

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

ELECTION 2024

BIDEN QUILTS RACE

President backs Harris, who vows to rally Democrats, beat Trump

Reversal leaves uncertainty as GOP calls for president's resignation



President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden at the airport in Atlanta following his debate with former President Donald Trump on June 27. HAIYUN JIANG/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Decision creates questions for Chicago convention, Pritzker's political future

By Rick Pearson, Jeremy Gornor and Alice Yin
Chicago Tribune

President Joe Biden's stunning decision Sunday to drop his reelection bid cast Democrats into unprecedented uncertainty less than a month before they gather in Chicago for their national convention and try to unite around a new nominee to challenge former President Donald Trump.

Biden's decision also recasts the role of J.B. Pritzker from the convention's home state governor to a potential candidate. A loyal supporter and surrogate for Biden's reelection, Pritzker also has a personal interest in the White House and now faces

a decision on whether to back the president's call to support Vice President Kamala Harris for the nomination or seek to join her on the ticket as a candidate for vice president.

One state Democratic source, who was not authorized to speak publicly about internal party conversations, said they were told Pritzker, the billionaire entrepreneur and heir to the Hyatt Hotels fortune, would issue a statement about his political future on Monday and that they expected the second-term Illinois governor "would be running for something."

In a statement, Pritzker did not discuss his own ambitions

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THE NEW YORK TIMES

■ Vice President Kamala Harris sets her sights on the next goal in a storied career. Her stances on key issues will be scrutinized. **Page 9**

■ Chicago-area residents worry about how a new candidate will address immigration, Gaza, environment. **Page 6**

■ Democrats face questions about logistics, money and political fallout. **Page 10**

By Zeke Miller, Coleen Long and Darlene Superville
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden dropped out of the 2024 race for the White House on Sunday, ending his bid for reelection after a disastrous debate with former President Donald Trump that raised doubts about the incumbent's fitness for office. The unprecedented announcement, delivered less than four months before the election, immediately upended a campaign that both political parties view as the most consequential in generations.

The president — intent on serving out the remainder of his term in office — quickly endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris to take on Trump and encouraged his party to unite behind her, making her the party's instant favorite for the nomination at its August convention in Chicago.

The announcement is the latest jolt to a tumultuous campaign for

the White House, coming a week after the attempted assassination of Trump at a Pennsylvania rally.

A party's presumptive presidential nominee has never stepped out of the race so close to the election. President Lyndon Johnson, besieged by the Vietnam War, announced in March 1968 that he would not seek another term after just a single state's primary. Biden's July decision comes after more than 14 million Democrats cast votes supporting him through the primary process.

Harris, in a statement, praised Biden's "selfless and patriotic act" and said she intends to "earn and win" her party's nomination.

"I will do everything in my power to unite the Democratic Party — and unite our nation — to defeat Donald Trump and his extreme Project 2025 agenda," she said.

Biden's decision to bow out came after escalating pressure from his Democratic allies to

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DuPage bickering reveals lack of oversight

Millions of tax dollars not collected while disputes between clerk, county officials, auditor continue

By Robert McCoppin and George Wiebe
Chicago Tribune

When recreational marijuana became legal in Illinois in 2020, it seemed like an easy source of new revenue for local governments. DuPage County was among many that enacted a sales tax on cannabis.

But by mid-2021, officials there noticed they weren't getting any of the new money.

The Illinois Department of Revenue said the county never notified it to collect the tax.

The county clerk said she sent notification, but there was no record of it. County officials estimate they lost some \$3 million in 18 months.

Then a separate dispute arose in DuPage over \$265,000 in clerk's bills for election materials. County officials delayed payment, saying the bills didn't comply with requirements — while the clerk replied that the county had no such authority over her.

While dealing with that, officials discovered that the county auditor

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DuPage County Clerk Jean Kaczmarek sits in her art-filled office at the county administration building in Wheaton on Thursday. Kaczmarek has been in office for over five years. STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

INSIDE

Montrose Beach's piping plover chick gets a name

The surviving chick, born this summer to parents Imani and Searocket, was named Nagamo and is part of an effort to restore the species' population. **Page 2**

Quarterback Caleb Williams is learning on the fly

The Bears continued to progress through the ramp-up period of training camp Sunday, as the team's rookie quarterback showed flashes of talent. **Chicago Sports**

TODAY'S WEATHER



High 82 Low 66

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 8

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere
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