

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

Stakes are high in school board race

Issues facing hopefuls come at contentious moment for CPS

By Nell Salzman and Sarah Macaraeg
Chicago Tribune

As Chicago voters this year make their picks for president and a host of statewide and local offices, voters will encounter a new section on the ballot: a slate of candidates vying for a spot on the Chicago Board of Education.

The new school board will soon triple in size from its current seven members to 21, making it one of the largest in the country. This November, voters will choose 10 members and the mayor will appoint the rest, and soon all of the members will be chosen by voters rather than the mayor.

Following years of pressure from advocates, a bill was finally pushed through by state legislators in 2021. But those working on the legislation could hardly have predicted the dynamics around this year's school board race: a mayor with ties to the Chicago Teachers Union amid budget disputes that led the previous board to resign en masse last month, coupled with a neck-in-neck presidential contest, which is also deeply polarized.

In all the back-and-forth, some organizers who fought for an elected school board over 10 years ago say battles around money and politics are getting in the way of actual issues affecting disinvested communities.

Instead, conversations about

Turn to Board, Page 5

CTA says train service to return to prepandemic

Announcement counts as win for embattled executive Carter

By Sarah Freishtat
Chicago Tribune

After years of cuts, CTA train schedules have returned to prepandemic levels, the agency said Monday.

The transit authority is adding scheduled service on each of its eight rail lines on all days of the week. But service will look different than prepandemic, the agency said. More riders have returned on weekends than weekdays, so some rush hour schedules will run below prepandemic levels so more service can be added on weekends, especially Sundays. Additional changes could be made as the CTA evaluates rider-ship.

The CTA is measuring its return to prepandemic service by the number of scheduled train trips and hours of scheduled service, the agency said.

The increased schedules translate to, for example, wait times between trains of roughly 5.5 minutes on the Brown Line during weekday morning rush, down from 7 minutes in the spring. Evening weekday rush service on the Green Line will be scheduled to run an average of

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Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris speaks at a campaign rally in Erie, Pa., on Oct. 14, and Republican presidential nominee former President Donald Trump speaks at a campaign rally in Uniondale, N.Y., on Sept. 18. **AP PHOTOS**

ELECTION 2024

Harris and Trump sprint in final push



People stand in line to vote at the Board of Elections Loop Super Site on Monday during the last day of early voting. **EILEEN T. MESLAR/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Long lines, blustery Election Day greeting for Chicago-area voters

Weather befitting end of a turbulent campaign season

By Rick Pearson and Olivia Olander
Chicago Tribune

Illinois voters go to the polls Tuesday at the end of a raucous presidential-year campaign season, their ballots being cast in an election that will determine the future of a sharply divided nation for the next four years and, perhaps, beyond.

Pre-Election Day week-end and the eve of the election

saw massive lines in parts of Chicago and the suburbs. On Tuesday, polling places in Illinois will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. and prospective voters may find the Election Day weather an adequate reflection of the bluster of the campaigns from the White House to the county courthouse.

"Very windy yet mild and only sporadically showery weather is due Election Day," iconic Chicago meteorologist Tom Skilling predicted. "It's kind of fitting, isn't it, that strong winds are to buffet the area? Kind of fitting a tumultuous election would fall on a day

with strong winds."

With intermittent showers likely, "voters should have some rain gear ready as they head out to the polls," Skilling said. Though wind gusts could top 45 mph, "it will be mild. Whereas normal highs this time of year are in the mid-50s, Tuesday should see mid to upper 60s — levels more typical of early October than early November," he said.

It is a rare election year in Illinois, with no statewide candidates vying for office other than the contenders for president. All

Turn to Voters, Page 4

VP rallies across Pa.; ex-president to hit 3 battleground states

By Jill Colvin, Darlene Superville and Bill Barrow
Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump made their final pitches to voters Monday in the same part of Pennsylvania, at roughly the same time, spending the last full day of the presidential campaign in a state that could make or break their chances.

Focusing on Pennsylvania's southeast corner, Trump took the stage in Reading, about 30 miles from Allentown, where Harris held her own event about half an hour later.

"If we win Pennsylvania, we win the whole ball of wax," Trump said. "It's over."

Indeed, a Trump victory in Pennsylvania, flipping its 19 Electoral College votes, would puncture the Democrats' "blue wall" and make it harder for Harris to win the necessary 270 votes.

Harris, the Democratic nominee, spent all of Monday in Pennsylvania, the largest prize among the states expected to determine the

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Polls still closer than ever before

On Monday, the last day of the 2024 campaign, the polls showed one of the closest presidential elections in the history of American politics.

■ The Associated Press will have thousands of people on hand Tuesday to count votes and declare winners and losers. There's an even greater priority this year on explaining that process to outsiders. **Nation & World**

Jurors hear tape in Madigan trial

Jurors heard a key wiretapped phone call in which the speaker's longtime confidant told him about a plan to kick payments to a loyal ward aide. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

Multitalented music titan

Quincy Jones' vast legacy ranged from producing Michael Jackson's historic "Thriller" album to collaborating with Frank Sinatra. **Obituaries, Page 9**

A new memoir by Al Pacino

The Tribune's Rick Kogan writes that Al Pacino provides a thoughtfully introspective but also oddly remote journey in "Sonny Boy." **Arts & Living**

TODAY'S WEATHER



High 69 Low 45

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 14

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere
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