

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Board president forced to resign



The Rev. Mitchell Ikenna Johnson, recently appointed as school board president, resigned Thursday. **ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Johnson asks his own pick, under increasing fire for controversial social media posts, to step down

By Jeremy Gorner and Nell Salzman
Chicago Tribune

Mayor Brandon Johnson's hand-picked school board president resigned Thursday after coming under fire from critics, including Gov. JB Pritzker and the mayor, for social media posts deemed antisemitic, misogynistic and conspiratorial.

"Today, I asked Chicago School Board of Education (BOE) President Reverend Mitchell Johnson for his resignation, and he

resigned, effective immediately," the mayor, who is not related to his appointed school board president, the Rev. Mitchell Ikenna Johnson, said in a statement.

"Reverend Mitchell Johnson's statements were not only hurtful but deeply disturbing. I want to be clear: antisemitic, misogynistic, and conspiratorial statements are unacceptable," the mayor said.

The mayor's announcement Thursday afternoon came about two hours after Pritzker called on the Rev. Johnson to step down from his post. Pritzker was openly

critical this week about how city officials vetted Johnson for the schools' job in light of the Facebook posts, which surfaced after he took his job.

The future of the Board of Education remains uncertain. But with the school board having its first official meeting Friday, an election in just a few days and a controversial loan on the line that will greatly affect the district, the governor weighed in at a pivotal moment.

"Any person charged with the stewardship of the Chicago Public School Board must exemplify focused, inclusive, and steady

Turn to Resign, Page 4

MICHAEL MADIGAN TRIAL

Tapes turn to 2018 sex scandal

Ex-speaker allegedly faked contracts for his embattled aide

By Jason Meisner and Megan Crepeau
Chicago Tribune

A sexual harassment scandal had erupted in Springfield in the summer of 2018 and Kevin Quinn, a longtime aide to House Speaker Michael Madigan, was toxic.

Quinn, the brother of Madigan's handpicked 13th Ward alderman, had been dumped from the speaker's organization after a campaign worker accused him of sending her a relentless string of inappropriate communications.

Publicly, Madigan said there was no place on his team for such behavior. Behind the scenes, however, an effort to kick Quinn some money in his time of need was allegedly being organized by Madigan's closest confidant, Michael McClain.

"He doesn't do it very often, but you know, about every two years he's got somebody he's got to take care of for a month or two, right?" McClain told Will Cousineau, a lobbyist and former top member of Madigan's political staff, in a wiretapped phone call played Thursday in Madigan and McClain's corruption trial.

But with the heat on, even Madigan couldn't openly help Quinn until after his reelection as speaker was secure, McClain told Cousineau. The plan, as McClain put it on the Aug. 28, 2018, call, was to quietly recruit a few trusted people to pay Quinn for little to no work, with contracts and paperwork in place to assuage the IRS if they ever came around.

Turn to Madigan, Page 4

INSIDE 48 aldermen to take raises

Nearly every alderman on the Chicago City Council plans to take a raise next year, even as the city faces a budget crisis. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

'I CAN'T WAIT TO GET TO WORK': Will Venable officially named the 44th manager in White Sox team history. **Chicago Sports, Page 3**

Illinois volunteers try to tip the scales in the presidential race by offering some neighborly advice to voters in the battleground states of Wisconsin and Michigan



SWING THEORY

By Dan Petrella | Chicago Tribune

MILWAUKEE — The Cape Cods and other modest homes in the Nash Park neighborhood of Wisconsin's biggest Democratic city were decked out with skeletons and pumpkins in anticipation of trick-or-treaters, but the knock at the door came from 70-year-old Loretta Jackson of Evanston.

Loretta Jackson, right, a volunteer from the Democratic Party of Evanston, talks with Margaret Cannon, center, granddaughter Mikyah Gandy and great-grandson Adonis Robinson, 3, on Oct. 19 at Cannon's door in Milwaukee as part of Operation Swing State. The initiative aims to build on regional ties strengthened by the Democratic convention in Chicago. **TESS CROWLEY/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

The retired state employee and Navy veteran arrived on a recent Saturday afternoon, having traveled with nearly 500 others Illinois Democrats across the state line — past the Mars Cheese Castle — to push voters in this key swing state to cast their ballot for Vice President Kamala Harris.

Although her house visits often went unanswered, when Derrick Williams opened his front door, Jackson had two main jobs: Make sure Williams' name matched the voter listed in an app on her smartphone and get him to commit to voting for Harris, Wisconsin's full Demo-

cratic slate and, ideally, to do so early.

"Kamala, all day," Williams responded, holding a nearly empty carton of eggs because he was in the middle of baking cakes for a party. But he wasn't voting until Election Day because he was "too busy at work."

It was still a win for Jackson, though before she left she encouraged him one more time to reconsider his voting plan. "Vote early so people ... like me stop bothering you," she said.

All across southeastern Wisconsin and southwestern

Turn to Swing, Page 2

Great Lakes ecosystem at heart of pipeline fight

Enbridge defends safety of antiquated oil line, but experts argue it poses risk to water, wildlife

By Adriana Pérez
Chicago Tribune

Where Lake Michigan and Lake Huron connect, powerful water currents rush in opposite directions over an antiquated pipeline known as Line 5. Along the pipeline's route from Wisconsin to Ontario, via the Straits of Mackinac, more than 1 million gallons of oil have reportedly spilled in the past 50 years.

Experts say Line 5 is vulnerable to future leaks and poses a risk to the livelihood of Indigenous communities, the region's thriving wildlife and the drinking

water of millions of Great Lakes residents.

Decades-old battles to remove the Canadian-owned pipeline from the Bad River Band reservation by Lake Superior and the lakebed of the Straits of Mackinac have played out mostly in Wisconsin and Michigan, respectively. Activists seeking the shutdown of Line 5 recently brought the fight to Chicago to consolidate a larger grassroots effort ahead of a presidential election that policy experts say will be critical to the pipeline's future.

Turn to Pipeline, Page 5



Activists attend an Oct. 23 rally urging the Canadian government to shut down Enbridge's Line 5 pipeline. **STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

