

# Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

## Johnson faces headwinds from base

Some progressives expressing dissatisfaction with direction his administration has taken

By Alice Yin  
Chicago Tribune

When Mayor Brandon Johnson honored the Rev. Jesse Jackson with a key to the city earlier this month, he made a point to remind the audience of his own battle inside City Hall.

“So now, with the power that the people of Chicago gave me — OK, I’mma say that one more time, because apparently there’s some people who are confused about the power that I have,” he said, to chortles from Jackson’s assembled family, friends and fans.

Johnson was nodding to the

widening fallout from his administration’s tug-of-war for control of Chicago Public Schools, which landed him a rebuke from a whopping 41 out of 50 aldermen, including a majority of the Progressive Caucus, which has been his staunchest bloc of City Council allies.

However, if the mayor was troubled, he did not betray it during the celebration that in some ways mirrored the scene at a testy news

conference he’d held the previous day announcing six new Chicago Board of Education members.

In both, he surrounded himself with friendly Black clergy and politicians. The son of pastors, Johnson is at home in church, and the scenes suggested he may be working to strengthen his African American base in order to make up for weakening political support elsewhere.

And Johnson appeared more

and more comfortable playing the role of a mayor who, under fire from once-friends and foes alike, was doubling down on the message that he alone stands at the bully pulpit of the mayor’s office. “There’s a few people that somehow forgot there was a whole election that gave me the power to transform this city,” he said before handing Jackson the ceremonial

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### ELECTION 2024

## Harris: Kindness, respect needed

Trump gets personal about late golfer, makes fries at McDonald’s

By Colleen Long  
Associated Press

STONECREST, Ga. — Vice President Kamala Harris told the congregation of a large Black church in suburban Atlanta on Sunday that people must show compassion and respect in their daily lives and do more than just “preach the values.”

Also Sunday, former President Donald Trump worked at the fry station at a McDonald’s in Pennsylvania before staging an impromptu news conference, answering questions from reporters through the drive-thru window.

The Democratic presidential nominee’s visit to New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in Stonecrest on her 60th birthday, marked by a song by the congregation, was part of “Souls to the Polls,” a broad, nationwide campaign that encourages Black churchgoers to vote.

Pastor Jamal Bryant said the vice president is “an American hero, the voice of the future” and “our fearless leader.” He also used his sermon to welcome the idea of America electing a woman for the first time as president.

“When Black women roll up their sleeves, then society has got to change,” Bryant said.

Harris told the parable of the Good Samaritan from the Gospel of

*Turn to Campaigns, Page 9*

## Long-delayed trial of prosecutors to restart

Nearly a year after a rare appeal, case involving two former Cook County assistant state’s attorneys is set to resume Monday as special prosecutors allege wrongdoing in connection with an infamous wrongful conviction case.

*Chicagoland, Page 3*

## Israel plans to target Hezbollah’s finances

Blasts were already seen in Beirut as Israel’s military announced it will take aim at the Lebanon-based Hezbollah’s financial arm. Also, in the northern Gaza Strip, Israeli strikes on homes left at least 87 people dead or missing, the territory’s Health Ministry said.

*Nation & World*

## Filling in the blanks in Bears bye week

How has Caleb Williams looked so far? Who has been the Bears’ most impactful player? As the Bears return to Halas Hall to prepare to face the Commanders next week, the Tribune team discusses what they’ve seen in the first six weeks.

*Chicago Sports*



BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS



## Making a pitch for girls to stick with baseball

Jade Hendershot throws a pitch during a skills competition on the final day of the season for the all-girls baseball league at Warren Park on Sunday. The league, which started this fall at the park in Chicago’s West Ridge neighborhood, aims to catch young girls before they would typically transition from co-ed baseball leagues to softball around age 10. *Chicagoland, Page 3*

### ELECTION 2024

## GOP leader tries to ‘sell hope’ in uphill battle

Party trying to cut into Democratic dominance in Illinois legislature

By Jeremy Gerner  
and Olivia Olander  
Chicago Tribune

Republicans will try to chip away at the Democratic Party’s virtually unassailable control of the Illinois General Assembly in next month’s election, a task that may not be made any easier by the political polarization that starts at the top of the ballot.

In a decidedly blue state, former President Donald Trump’s candidacy could hurt the GOP in legislative swing districts, said John Shaw, director of the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

“I think there is a guilt-by-association thing going on or a guilt-by-association possibility for Republicans who are running down-ballot in swing districts, and

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Democrats hold supermajorities in the Illinois General Assembly. E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

