

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION



Republican vice presidential candidate Sen. J.D. Vance, R-Ohio, and his wife, Usha Chilukuri Vance, arrive on the floor with Ohio Senate candidate Bernie Moreno, right, during the first day of the Republican National Convention at the Fiserv Forum in Milwaukee Monday. **CAROLYN KASTER/AP**

Illinois delegates praise choice

Say Vance 'will bring a lot of energy' and boost GOP ticket

By **Jeremy Gornier** and **Rick Pearson**
Chicago Tribune

MILWAUKEE — Illinois delegates to the Republican National Convention on Monday said former President Donald Trump's choice of U.S. Sen. J.D. Vance of Ohio as his running mate provides another shot of adrenaline to an already energized campaign while also giving a boost to the GOP ticket in a key Midwestern state.

"He understands the Beltway, so he brings a lot of that knowledge with him. But he hasn't been there for so long that he's jaded," Travis Akin, a convention delegate from downstate Illinois, said from the floor of Fiserv Forum following the announcement of Vance's selection. "I think he will bring a lot of energy."

Donald Johnson, a delegate and a pastor from Rock Island, used a biblical reference to express his enthusiasm for Vance — while also acknowledging the political element of the selection.

"He is to the president what Joshua was to Moses. So the thing is, as long as you've got a Joshua you've still got a Moses," Johnson said. "Plus, we need Ohio."

Trump announced his vice presidential pick on the first day of the four-day Republican gathering as he was also officially being nominated as the party's candidate in November amid pledges of fealty from delegates.

Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker's planned trip to Milwaukee, part of the Democrats' orchestrated counterprogramming, was canceled after the weekend assassination attempt on Trump at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania, which had led to calls from Republicans and Democrats to tone down political rhetoric in the midst of an overheated election season.

Still, the Democratic Governors Association, which is heavily supported by Pritzker, sent out a fundraising email warning of "the GOP's extremist platform" adopted by delegates concerning further curbs on abortion, gay and voting rights.

Kimberly Cheatle, the director of the Secret Service, issued a statement Monday morning saying she is "confident" in the security plan for the Republican convention, "which we have reviewed and

Turn to Delegates, Page 2

Trump picks Vance

Senator becomes 1st millennial on major US ticket

By **Jill Colvin, Julie Carr Smyth, Steve Peoples** and **Zeke Miller**
Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Former President Donald Trump chose Sen. J.D. Vance of Ohio as his running mate on Monday, picking a onetime critic who became a loyal ally and is now the first millennial to join a major-party

ticket at a time of deep concern about the advanced age of America's political leaders.

"After lengthy deliberation and thought, and considering the tremendous talents of many others, I have decided that the person best suited to assume the position of Vice President of the United States is Senator J.D. Vance of the Great State of Ohio," Trump said in a post on his Truth Social network as the Republican National Convention got underway in Milwaukee.

Cheering GOP delegates formally nominated Trump for

president at Monday's Republican National Convention kickoff, less than two days after an assassination attempt on the former president and shortly after he announced Vance as his running mate.

Their vote makes it official that Trump, who has long been the presumptive nominee, will lead the GOP in a third consecutive election. The winner in 2016, he lost to Joe Biden in 2020. In November, he will again face Biden, who dismissed Vance as "a clone" of Trump on important issues.

Trump's son Eric announced

Florida's votes, which put the former president over the top for the nomination. Video screens in the arena read "OVER THE TOP" while the song "Celebration" played and delegates danced and waved Trump signs.

Throughout the voting, delegates flanked by "Make America Great Again" signs applauded as state after state voted their support for Trump's second term.

Hours later, Vance formally received the party's formal nomination after walking onto

Turn to RNC, Page 2

Protesters 'not intimidated,' head to RNC

By **Nell Salzman** and **Malavika Ramakrishnan**
Chicago Tribune

MILWAUKEE — As the Republican National Convention kicked off Monday in Milwaukee, with former President Donald Trump formally clinching the presidential nomination and announcing Ohio Sen. J.D. Vance as his running mate, hundreds of protesters in Chicago crossed the Illinois-Wisconsin state line to raise their voices for liberal causes.

They joined the thousands of protesters in Milwaukee who planned to march on five pillars: to fight the Republican Party; to defend women's, LGBTQ and reproductive rights; to advo-

cate for immigrants; to promote peace, justice and equity; and to support the Palestinian people.

By 10 a.m., Red Arrow Park, just east of the main convention site, was no longer a regular park. It had transformed into a demonstration area with a temporary platform and organizations situated in its various corners.

Signs that read "Peace, Justice and Equity for All," "We Can No Longer Afford the Rich," and "Stand With Palestine" were placed in the grass and picked up by arriving protesters. The park rang with speeches against Trump and calls to end "racist ideology."

Turn to Protesters, Page 2



Protesters jump over a vehicle barricade while marching through downtown during the first day of the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee on Monday. **ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Two more piping plover chicks die

Two more piping plover chicks have died since Thursday night after being observed lethargic and struggling in the protected area at Montrose Beach. Only one of this year's hatchlings remains, less than two weeks after they were born. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

Two area hospitals tie for top in state

Northwestern Memorial Hospital and Rush University Medical Center are among the top 20 hospitals in the nation and have again tied for best hospital in Illinois, according to U.S. News & World Report rankings. **Business**

South Shore residents fight for neighborhoods

Want protection from housing price hikes near Obama Center

By **A.D. Quig**
Chicago Tribune

Weeks after Barack Obama donned a hard hat to celebrate the topping off of his landmark presidential center in Jackson Park, 81-year-old Pat Hightower fretted about time running out to save the fabric of nearby neighborhoods.

A resident of Woodlawn and former social worker turned organizer with Southside Together Organizing for Power, she told the Tribune she's heard not just from fellow seniors but from others about how their rent has gone up

by hundreds of dollars in recent years. She's heard of apartment buildings switching to condominium units longtime residents can't afford to buy.

The changes are "moving people out who have lived here for years, have raised children here, have homes ... went to school here, went to church here," Hightower told the Tribune.

"One guy I talked to several months ago, his rent was \$900. The owner told him he'd be charging \$1,500 and told him once the Obama Center was completed there would be people who moved in who could afford the rent," she said.

Hightower joined hundreds of

Turn to Housing, Page 3



Pat Hightower crosses the 6200 block of South Stony Island Avenue near the Obama Presidential Center in Chicago on Friday. Hightower, 81, is advocating for more affordable housing around the center and for longtime residents not to be forced out by higher housing costs.

STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

