

# Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM



Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson presides over a July 17 City Council meeting at City Hall. **TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

## Chicago faces nearly \$1B budget gap in 2025

Mayor notes need for ‘sacrifices’; budget director says overspending not at issue

**By Jake Sheridan, A.D. Quig and Alice Yin**  
Chicago Tribune

Chicago is staring down a \$982.4 million shortfall next year, Mayor Brandon Johnson’s administration projected Wednesday in a grim preview of the upcoming budget season.

During a briefing with reporters, the mayor’s budget office presented the nearly \$1 billion figure for 2025 along with a new projection of a \$223 million budget gap at the end of the current year. Filling those holes

will require cutting costs or adding revenue, a reality that will come as no surprise for those in city government but nonetheless presents a challenging hurdle for Johnson in passing his second annual spending plan.

“The size of the budget gap is significant,” the mayor told reporters Wednesday. “It’s going to require decisions that will speak to our overall collective desire to build an economy that works for working people. There are sacrifices that will be made.”

Johnson did not elaborate on what those sacrifices could entail

for next year’s budget — including whether raising property taxes was on the table — beyond nodding to the need for “progressive revenue.” The clearest indication he gave on where he will search for additional funding was by amping up his recent pressure on Chicago Public Schools to assume the costs of a pension payment for some employees.

Budget Director Annette Guzman said the city is considering various ways to plug the \$223 million hole for 2024, “including looking at slowing down hiring, an outright hiring freeze, as well

as reducing other discretionary spending that our departments have within their budgets through the end of this year.”

The mayor is expected to recommend a budget to the City Council in October. He will then have until the end of the year to convince at least 26 of 50 aldermen to support the plan or make changes to get the majority he needs.

Justin Marlowe, director of the Center for Municipal Finance at the University of Chicago,

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### ELECTION 2024

## Army defends official at cemetery

Trump campaign rebuked for insults to shoved worker

**By Chris Cameron, Maggie Haberman and Eric Schmitt**  
The New York Times

The Army on Thursday defended an official at Arlington National Cemetery who was physically pushed by a member of former President Donald Trump’s campaign after the official sought to stop the campaign from filming in a heavily restricted area of the cemetery.

A statement from the Army’s public affairs office said that the Trump campaign had been made aware that federal law prohibits filming for political purposes in that part of the cemetery, and it criticized the campaign for publicly insulting the official in a statement after the fact.

“Participants in the August 26th ceremony and the subsequent Section 60 visit were made aware of federal laws, Army regulations and DoD policies, which clearly prohibit political activities on cemetery grounds,” the statement said.

It continued: “An ANC employee who attempted to ensure adherence to these rules was abruptly pushed aside. Consistent with the decorum expected at ANC, this employee acted with professionalism and avoided further disruption.”

The statement is the most detailed description so far of the incident that took place Monday, as Trump appeared for a wreath-lay-

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## Board of Education session circles back to old tensions

CPS leadership, budget woes, CTU negotiations among pressing issues

**By Molly Morrow**  
Chicago Tribune

At its monthly meeting on Thursday, the Chicago Board of Education listened as union leaders and parents aired their concerns for the new school year.

But as the Thursday meeting showed, the summer did not yield consensus among the district, the teachers union and advocates on solutions to a number of challenges plaguing Chicago Public Schools.

Pressing issues include budget woes, ongoing contract negotiations with the Chicago Teachers Union and solving a problem facing thousands of district families: a busing shortage.

Rumors swirling over the future

of Chicago Public Schools’ leadership, specifically its chief executive officer, Pedro Martinez, are not helping matters.

A day earlier, roughly 400 CPS principals and assistant principals sent a letter to Board of Education members, encouraging them to retain Martinez.

As CTU’s criticism of Martinez mounts, the school administrators said that the “atmosphere of uncertainty” regarding his future has colored the start of the school year.

“Every school administrator knows that significant changes at the beginning of the school year can be detrimental to the students, staff, and families we serve,” the group wrote. “That is why we ask you to carefully consider the potential impact that a change in leadership could have on the Chicago Public Schools

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Former Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan, left, leaves court during a break in a pretrial hearing Thursday at the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse in Chicago. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

## Potential testimony in Madigan case is previewed

Attorneys wrangle over what jury might hear when trial begins

**By Jason Meisner**  
Chicago Tribune

Former Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan was back in a federal courtroom Thursday to hear proposed expert testimony from a former Chicago alderman about the structure and importance of political operations like the one Madigan helmed during his record run in the state legislature.

Madigan’s attorneys asked

a judge to bar Dick Simpson, a political science professor emeritus at the University of Illinois Chicago who served as the 44th Ward alderman in the 1970s, saying his opinions are not based on any scientific methodology and that he has a long history of bias against Madigan and the regular Democratic Party.

Meanwhile, with his racketeering trial rapidly approaching, Madigan’s attorneys also filed a lengthy list of other items they want to keep a jury from hearing. That included any evidence mentioning Madigan’s son, Andrew; wiretapped calls mentioning former Cook County

Assessor Joseph Berrios; and a potentially damning recording where Madigan tells his confidant and co-defendant, Michael McClain, that some of his friends had “made out like bandits” with the contracts they’d landed for them.

The flurry of court activity comes as both sides are ramping up to the highly anticipated trial, which is scheduled to kick off Oct. 8 and will last up to three months.

A 148-page joint filing from prosecutors and the defense teams late Wednesday laid out

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### INSIDE



Angel Reese, left, and Caitlin Clark on April 15. **ADAM HUNGER/AP**

### Rookies redefined WNBA expectations

The Angel Reese-Caitlin Clark duel for Rookie of the Year offers intriguing subplot for final Sky-Fever matchup. **Chicago Sports**

### Charles, Oliver and Mabel back at work

In an amusing twist, Hollywood comes calling in Season 4 of Hulu’s “Only Murders in the Building.” **Nina Metz’s review in A+E**

**TODAY’S WEATHER**



High **86** Low **64**

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 16

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere  
177th year No. 243 © Chicago Tribune

