

Chicago Tribune



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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2024

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

ELECTION 2024

Historic comeback



Former President Donald Trump walks on stage during an election night event in West Palm Beach, Fla., on Wednesday. DOUG MILLS/THE NEW YORK TIMES

PATH TO 270

Fissures in 'Blue Wall' again deliver a Trump victory

By Rick Pearson and Claire Malon
Chicago Tribune

Donald Trump shattered the Midwest "Blue Wall" of states that Democrats had counted upon to retain the White House, achieving a sweeping national election victory over Vice President Kamala Harris that will return him to the presidency.

While Trump defeated Harris in the key states of Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Michigan, Illinois remained a blue state exception — though even in Illinois, as he did throughout the country, the Republican exceeded his previous election totals while Harris failed to match the support of her predecessor, President Joe Biden.

Harris' path to win the White House had relied exclusively on the "Blue Wall" states after Trump had earlier won the Sun Belt battleground states of Georgia and North Carolina. Both had been critical to Biden in his 2020 win over Trump. As the hours of ballot

Turn to Wall, Page 6

BOARD OF EDUCATION



Chicago Teachers Union President Stacy Davis Gates, right, celebrates after an election night party at the CTU headquarters. TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Mayor Johnson and CTU's education agenda takes a hit

By Alice Yin, Nell Salzman, Ikram Mohamed, Sylvan Lebrun and Sarah Macaraeg
Chicago Tribune

Chicago voters largely rejected Mayor Brandon Johnson's education agenda as only four of 10 candidates endorsed by the powerful teachers union were on track to hold seats on the city's new hybrid Board of Education as of Wednesday.

Charter school advocates and independents won or led the remaining races for school

board. But the three groups represented in this year's race — charter schools, the Chicago Teachers Union and independent — were split across all districts, signaling that some voters pulled away not just from the mayor's educational vision, but from prominent political interest groups in their districts.

Seven contests have been called by Associated Press, with tallies among three close races expected to conclude by the

Turn to Board, Page 5

PRESIDENT

Trump wins presidency with voters eager to usher in change

By Zeke Miller, Michelle L. Price, Will Weissert and Jill Colvin
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Former President Donald Trump was elected the 47th president of the United States on Wednesday, an extraordinary comeback for an ex-president who refused to accept defeat four years ago, sparked a violent insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, was convicted of felony charges and survived two assassination attempts.

With a win in Wisconsin, Trump cleared the 270 electoral votes needed to clinch the presidency. He won Michigan on Wednesday afternoon, sweeping the "blue wall" along with Pennsylvania — the one-time Democrat-leaning, swing states that all went for Trump in 2016 before flipping to President Joe Biden in 2020.

Trump's Democratic rival, Vice President Kamala Harris, called Trump on Wednesday afternoon to concede the race and congratulate him.

A short time later, Biden also called Trump to congratulate him and to invite the president-elect to the White House, formally kicking off the transition ahead of Inauguration Day,

INSIDE: With 17 races up for election, Illinois Democrats keep a lock on majority of state's congressional seats. **Page 2** ■ Democrats maintain control of state legislature, while GOP sees hope in not losing ground. **Page 3** ■ Eileen O'Neill Burke pledges to "make Cook County safer" as state's attorney. **Page 3** ■ Illinois advisory questions on "millionaire's tax," IVF coverage pass easily. **Page 6** ■ Harris calls Trump to concede, tells supporters transfer of power will be peaceful. **Nation & World**

the White House said.

Biden also called Harris. Foreign leaders called Trump, too, including Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and French President Emmanuel Macron.

The victory validates Trump's bare-knuckles approach to politics. He had attacked Harris in deeply personal — often misogynistic and racist — terms as he pushed an apocalyptic picture of a country overrun by violent migrants.

The coarse rhetoric, paired with an image of hypermasculine

Turn to Trump, Page 4

Aldermen rip Johnson's property tax increase plan

Budget hearings open with talk about whether mayor has enough votes

By A.D. Quig
Chicago Tribune

Desperate to avoid hitting Chicago home and business owners with a \$300 million property tax increase, aldermen pelted the mayor's finance team Wednesday with questions about alternatives to plug the 2025 budget hole.

Their pitches on the opening day of budget hearings ran the gamut from furlough days for city workers to cutting middle managers or halting programs funded with federal American Rescue Plan Act dollars.

Underpinning the exercise was the possibility Johnson won't have the 26 votes he needs to pass his budget if it includes the hike. Southwest Side Ald. Matt O'Shea said the math doesn't look good for the mayor.

A tally of conversations with fellow aldermen, emails and

social media posts show "37 of my colleagues that have said publicly they can't support a \$300 million property tax increase," he said.

"Either a lot of those people are being very dishonest or we have a real problem," O'Shea said. "And what I've seen the past hour is, we're still talking about the budget address that we heard a week ago, we need to start having conversations about what cuts, what efficiencies we're going to look at."

Johnson's team has said the property tax hike was a painful,

but necessary last resort. Without it, they say they would have to lay off thousands of city workers this year, and would still face a similar deficit next year. Those property taxes, for the most part, help the city pay down decades-old debts and rising pension obligations for retired city workers, costs past administrations have skimmed on — because required state minimum payments were too low — or skipped.

"We will not repeat the fail-

Turn to Budget, Page 11

INSIDE



BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

A missed connection

Bears wide receiver DJ Moore — still searching for a vibe with QB Caleb Williams — says he tweaked his ankle before walking off the field midplay Sunday. **Chicago Sports**

TODAY'S WEATHER



High 59 Low 41

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 24

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere
177th year No. 312 © Chicago Tribune

