

# Trump stays on primary ballots

US Supreme Court ‘insurrection clause’ ruling lets ex-president appear on ballots in Colorado, Illinois



Former President Donald Trump speaks Monday at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach, Florida, after the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously restored him to 2024 presidential primary ballots. **REBECCA BLACKWELL/AP**

**By Rick Pearson**  
Chicago Tribune

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled unanimously Monday that states including Illinois lack the authority to remove former President Donald Trump from the ballot under the “insurrection clause” of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

The court’s ruling was a direct reversal of a December order by the 4-3 Democratic majority of the Colorado Supreme Court that disqualified Trump from that state’s ballot because the former president engaged in insurrection through his role in the deadly Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the U.S. Capitol that was aimed at blocking the Electoral College count making Democrat Joe Biden president.

The Colorado court’s finding that the former president had “engaged in insurrection” was used by Cook County Judge Tracie Porter in her Feb. 28 order removing Trump from the March 19 Illinois primary ballot. Porter also had ruled Section 3 of the 14th Amendment was “self executing,” meaning states could act unilaterally to remove Trump from the ballot.

But the U.S. Supreme Court — while not making a determination on whether Trump engaged in insurrection — found otherwise in reversing the Colorado court’s decision.

At issue was Section 3 of the 14th Amendment, which states that those who have taken an oath to uphold the Constitution “as an officer of the United States” shall not be able to serve in Congress or “hold any office, civil or military” if they have engaged in “insurrection or rebellion” against the Constitution.

“The notion that the Constitution grants the States freer rein than Congress to decide how Section 3 should be enforced with respect to federal offices is simply implausible. The result could well

## Ex-Trump CFO Weisselberg pleads guilty, admits perjury

**By Jake Offenhartz and Michael R. Sisak**  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Allen Weisselberg, the former chief financial officer of former President Donald Trump’s company, pleaded guilty Monday to lying under oath during his testimony in Trump’s New York civil fraud case. His plea deal will send him back to jail but does not require that he testify at Trump’s hush-

money criminal trial.

Weisselberg, 76, pleaded guilty in state court in Manhattan to two counts of perjury and will be sentenced in April to five months in jail — his second stint behind bars after serving 100 days last year for dodging taxes on company perks.

In pleading guilty, Weisselberg was caught again between the law and his loyalty to Trump, whose family employed him for

nearly 50 years and sent him into retirement with a \$2 million severance. His plea to perjury is further evidence that, rather than testify truthfully in a way that might harm his old boss, he was willing to again spend a chunk of his golden years in jail.

“It is a crime to lie in depositions and at trial — plain and simple,” Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg’s office said in a statement.

Weisselberg’s plea agreement does not require him to cooperate or testify at the hush-money trial, scheduled to begin March 25. Prosecutors promised not to prosecute him for other crimes he might have committed in connection with his employment at the Trump Organization.

In court Monday, Weisselberg admitted lying under oath on three occa-

### Key events set to begin Biden-Trump rematch

With former President Donald Trump expected to win big on Super Tuesday and President Joe Biden preparing to deliver a State of the Union address Thursday, this week could clarify the coming choice for an American public in disbelief that 2024 is headed toward a 2020 rematch. A New York Times/Siena College survey showed Trump ahead 48% to 43% among registered voters.

**Nation & World**

## ‘Right-to-die’: Is Illinois next to adopt legislation?

Lawmakers weigh end-of-life option for terminally ill adults

**Angie Leventis Lourgos**  
Chicago Tribune

The mother watched as her 34-year-old son ingested a lethal medication to end his pain and suffering after a five-year battle against terminal cancer.

Naperville native Drew Flack was surrounded by family members and close friends in his California home as he fell asleep on Nov. 16, 2022, taking his final breath a few hours later.

His last words were “I’m happy,” according to his mom, 64-year-old Suzy Flack of

Naperville.

“I felt an incredible peacefulness to know that he had died on his own terms,” she recalled in a recent interview with the Tribune. “And there was just a calm sense — almost like a gratitude — that things were how he wanted them to be.”

She said she was grateful her son was able to decide the moment and manner of his death, after exhausting all other treatment options. She only wishes he could have returned to Illinois, where most of his family resided, and been permitted the same end-of-life choice here.

Illinois could become the 11th state to legalize medical



Suzy Flack shows off the hockey sweaters her son, Drew Flack, wore from his time on the Naperville Central High School team and on a club team at Illinois State University. **CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

**Early voting for primary begins**

Early voting for primary elections opened at many suburban locations on Monday. Candidates for U.S. president and U.S. Congress are on the ballot. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

**Microsoft Ignite event returns**

Nearly a decade after holding its first Microsoft Ignite event in Chicago, the software giant is bringing its annual information technology conference back. **Business**

**A tribute to ’80s music**

Tribune critic Chris Jones reviews “The Time Machine: A Tribute to the ’80s,” showing at the Black Ensemble Theater through April 14. **Arts & Living**