

# Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

ELECTION 2024

## Democrats, Biden ‘stay the course’

President concedes debate fumbles to supporters in NC

By Zeke Miller, Steve Peoples and Darlene Superville  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden forcefully tried Friday to quell Democratic anxieties over his unsteady showing in his debate

with former President Donald Trump, as elected members of his party closed ranks around him in an effort to shut down talk of replacing him atop the ticket.

Biden’s halting delivery and meandering comments, particularly early in the debate, fueled concerns from even members of his own party that at age 81 he’s not up for the task of leading the country for another four years. It created a crisis moment for Biden’s

campaign and his presidency, as members of his party flirted with potential replacements, and donors and supporters couldn’t contain their concern about his showing against Trump.

Biden appeared to acknowledge the criticism during a rally in Raleigh, North Carolina, saying “I don’t debate as well as I used to.” But “I know how to do this job. I know how to get things done.” Speaking for 18 minutes, Biden

appeared far more animated than his showing the night before, and he excoriated Trump for his “lies” and campaign aimed at “revenge and retribution.”

“The choice in this election is simple,” Biden said. “Donald Trump will destroy our democracy. I will defend it.”

He added, alluding to his candidacy: “When you get knocked down, you get back up.”

Even before the debate, Biden’s

age had been a liability with voters, and Thursday night’s faceoff appeared to reinforce the public’s deep-seated concerns before perhaps the largest audience he will garner in the four months until Election Day.

Privately, his campaign had spent the previous hours working to tamp down concerns and keep donors and surrogates on board.

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## ‘ALWAYS OPEN’

12 hours overnight at one of Chicago’s last 24/7 diners

By Kate Armanini | Chicago Tribune

Danny Gustafson sits quietly at the counter, sipping a milky coffee. He stares at the wall and twiddles an unlit cigarette in his fingers. It’s 3:58 a.m.

His mind wanders. He remembers his late father, who brought him to Chicago in 1965. He thinks about his work as a repairman, monotonous at times, but grounding. Then, he thinks about Pam.

“I last saw her in the ’70s,” Gustafson said. “I never wrote to her. I wish I did.”

Pam was his first love, and perhaps his last. They dated in high school.

“I think she’s probably passed by now,” he said.

At this hour, the Golden Apple Grille & Breakfast House in Lakeview is a refuge for a mismatched cast of loners, drunken couples, night owls and shift workers. No one seems to mind Gustafson’s late-night ramblings. In fact, he’s a regular.

The 24/7 diner, one of Chicago’s last, hasn’t hung a closed sign on its doors in more than five decades. Yes, *really*. Just ask manager Pete Evangelou, who insists the doors can’t lock. He’s a man of few words.

“No keys,” he said.

As diners vanish across the country, the Golden Apple, at 2971 N. Lincoln Ave., offers a daily tableau of city life. It’s a quintessentially American institution, a deeply egalitarian place.

Other journalists have explored the restaurant at odd hours. In 2000, reporters with National Public Radio’s “This American Life” chronicled an entire day

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Server Susan Bivins delivers an order of pancakes at 9:59 p.m. at the Golden Apple Grille & Breakfast House on June 22. Bivins has worked at the restaurant for 30 years. CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

## Law used in Jan. 6 cases narrowed

Justices rule that documents key to obstruction charge

By Mark Sherman  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court limited a federal obstruction law Friday that has been used to charge hundreds of Capitol riot defendants as well as former President Donald Trump.

The justices ruled 6-3 that the charge of obstructing an official proceeding, enacted in 2002 in response to the financial scandal that brought down Enron Corp., must include proof that defendants tried to tamper with or destroy documents. Only some of the people who violently attacked the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, fall into that category. The overwhelming majority of the approximately 1,000 people who have been convicted of or pleaded guilty to Capitol riot-related federal crimes were not charged with obstruction and will not be affected by the outcome.

Still, the decision is likely to be used as fodder for claims by Trump and his Republican allies that the Justice Department has treated the Capitol riot defendants unfairly.

It’s unclear how the court’s decision will affect the case against Trump in Washington, which includes charges other than obstruction. Special counsel Jack Smith has said the charges faced by the former president would not be affected.

Trump’s case is on hold while the Supreme Court considers a separate case in which Trump is claiming immunity from prosecution. A decision is expected Monday.

Under the ruling issued Friday, dozens of defendants could seek

■ Ruling could affect a handful of Illinoisans charged in U.S. Capitol riot. Page 2

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VINCENT ALBAN/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

### Jagger’s energy drives Stones in concert

Showing few signs of slowing down at age 80, the Rolling Stones singer boosted the first of the band’s two shows at Soldier Field. Arts & Living

### CPD prepares for downsized Pride Parade

Police said much of their focus will be on the sometimes-raucous post-parade parties in and near the Northalsted area. Chicagoland, Page 3

## Chicago’s minimum wage going up, for big and small employers alike

City also taking first step to phase out lower rate for tipped workers

By Talia Soglin  
Chicago Tribune

Chicago’s minimum wage will get its annual increase Monday, when it will hit \$16.20 for most workers across the city.

Chicagoans familiar with the city’s minimum wage ordinance will notice two significant changes this year. First, the minimum wages for large and small businesses are now equal, not tiered. July 1 also marks the first step in the city’s plan to gradually phase out the tipped minimum

wage by 2028.

Chicago became the largest U.S. city to agree to independently phase out the subminimum wage when the City Council passed legislation to do so last fall. This summer, the minimum wage for tipped workers will rise to \$11.02. The gap between the tipped and standard minimum wages will gradually shrink until they reach parity July 1, 2028.

The planned wage increases come as the U.S. added 272,000 jobs in May, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, while the unemployment rate was 4%, up from 3.7% a year ago.

The city’s minimum wage ordinance stipulates that the minimum wage increases at either

the rate of inflation or 2.5% per year, whichever is lower. The consumer price index rose 3.3% over the year in May, meaning this year’s increases will not quite match the rate of inflation.

The accrual of paid leave under the city’s new paid time off ordinance — which doubled the city’s existing paid time off mandate to 10 days for covered workers — is to begin July 1 too. Covered employees will begin accruing paid sick leave at the higher rate mandated by the new law starting July 1, and they will also begin accruing paid time off — up to 40 hours a year — that can be taken for any reason.

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TODAY’S WEATHER



High 89 Low 57

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 8

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere  
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