

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

DNC committee meets \$85M goal

With fundraising obligation secured, host group is aiming to raise millions more for August event

By Dan Petrella
Chicago Tribune

Less than two months before national Democrats gather in Chicago for their convention, the local host committee has secured the financial commitments neces-

sary to meet its nearly \$85 million fundraising obligation, a source close to the committee familiar with the effort told the Tribune. The Chicago host committee for the Democratic National Convention already has “the vast majority” of those commitments in hand,

said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the private fundraising effort. A more complete financial picture won’t be publicly available until after the Aug. 19-22 convention, when the host committee, officially named Development Now for Chicago, will be required to disclose details of its contributions and expenditures in federal tax and campaign finance filings.

Still, interviews and public records show corporations, labor unions and Democratic political organizations have opened their checkbooks to help the Chicago DNC committee raise the money needed for what could be one of the most expensive political conventions in history. “We are grateful for the broad coalition of partners coming together to support the city and

this historic convention,” host committee spokeswoman Natalie Edelstein said. “This August we have an opportunity to show the world all that Chicago has to offer and look forward to hosting an unforgettable event that leaves our city stronger and solidifies our position as a premier event destination.”

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3% gas tax hike, tweak to licenses take effect

Noncitizens can now receive standard Illinois driver’s documentation

By Jeremy Gorner
Chicago Tribune

Beginning Monday, motorists who are not U.S. citizens will be able to acquire a standard Illinois driver’s license as the result of a law meant to alleviate a stigma for immigrants in their interactions with law enforcement and expand their abilities to seek consumer services. In addition, an annual state gas tax hike tied to inflation kicks in, bringing the levy to 47 cents a gallon while the diesel fuel tax climbs to about 55 cents a gallon. The roughly 3% increases over last year are part of a 2019 measure that doubled the gas tax to help pay for Gov. J.B. Pritzker’s \$45 billion Rebuild Illinois construction program.

The state’s decision to grant standard driver’s licenses to noncitizens comes as Illinois takes an increasingly progressive stance toward immigration, an issue that has divided the nation and become a major flashpoint as migrants crossing the southern border have been shipped to Chicago by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott.

Pritzker signed the driver’s license measure into law shortly after it passed through the Democratic-led General Assembly during the 2023 spring legislative session. It puts Illinois in line with states like California, New York, New Jersey and Oregon that have similar laws.

Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias said the law promotes “equality and fairness” for motorists but also believes it’s “an unequivocal no-brainer” for other reasons. “It’s critically important and it comes down to safer roads, safer roads, safer roads,” Giannoulias said in an interview. “Let’s make sure that they have a driver’s license, they pass a road (test), an eye exam and learn the Rules of the Road.”

Giannoulias’ office points to a Stanford University study from 2017 that showed no negative

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Season of change for Chicago sports teams

With the Bulls, Blackhawks and Bears all retooling, the White Sox piling up losses and the Cubs sputtering as the trade deadline approaches, wholesale changes could be in store for Chicago’s major sports franchises this summer. **Chicago Sports**

Chicago-area native a budding pop star

Chrissy Chlapecka had no trouble holding the attention of audience members in her performance at Schubas, flashing the charisma, unique look and catchy songs befitting of a future pop music sensation. **Arts & Living**



Spectators cheer during the 53rd annual Chicago Pride Parade on Sunday. VINCENT ALBAN/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The power of Pride

Thousands turn out for festivities with friends, family in downsized parade

By Nell Salzman and Molly Morrow | Chicago Tribune

Ki Brown, 25, and Ky Ferba, 23, said they became friends in high school because they were both masculine-presenting and openly gay. “At the time, there wasn’t a lot of other people like that in school,” said Brown.

Ferba was a freshman and Brown was a junior when they found out that gay marriage was legal. Now Brown is married and Ferba is dating Brown’s sister.

As they stood on North Broadway and waited for Sunday’s Pride Parade to start, they joined thousands of others who gathered to celebrate and march for LGBTQ+ rights. They said support for LGBTQ+ people has been slow but forward-moving in Illinois.

But they said they believe there is still room for progress — especially in an important presidential election year and after parade cutbacks from the mayor.

Brown and Ferba, who wore matching red and blue outfits, said they drove 40 minutes Sunday morning to get to Chicago from Ford Heights. “We just want to be treated the same. We just want to participate and love,” Ferba said. For Julissa Rosario, Chicago’s Pride Parade is a family affair. Rosario, 23, has been helping with the parade since 2017. Her grandmother, Milta Fuentes, has been part of organizing the parade for more than 20 years. “It’s kind of something in my family, that we all get together, participate in, and bring our family and friends,” she said. The Irving Park resident was

one of the parade marshals. She arrived early to check in other parade marshals. Before the parade began, food vendors, face painters and sellers of Pride flags and T-shirts set up to sell their wares. By 10 a.m., the crowds began to pick up, lining the street in anticipation of the parade, which stepped off at 11 a.m. Attendees braved elbow-to-elbow crowds on the sidewalks. They cheered for hours, waving rainbow flags and swaying their hips to the music. People who lived in buildings and houses looked on from open windows.

Turn to Pride, Page 3

In Chicago’s tent cities, a ‘multitude of challenges’



Cesar Dil sits at a homeless encampment along the North Shore Channel between Bryn Mawr and Foster avenues on June 20. VINCENT ALBAN/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Advocates say only fix for rising homelessness is permanent housing

By Caroline Kubzansky
Chicago Tribune

Robert Bulanon glanced at the sky and frowned at the rain. He hurried into his home and emerged, holding an umbrella over his head, picking his way between a barbershop pole, a pair of bus seats, a wheelbarrow, a grill where another man was cooking beef stew, and other objects scattered along the embankment of the canal. Bulanon, 52, is one of about 20 people who live in a set of makeshift shelters along the North Shore Channel between Foster and Bryn Mawr avenues on Chicago’s Northwest Side. A ladder leaned against the chain link fence, separating the river embankment from athletic fields

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