

# Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

ELECTION 2024 7TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT



Yolanda Thomas casts her ballot with election judge Brenda Johnson at the 28th Ward early voting site at the West Side Learning Center in Chicago's Austin neighborhood on March 4. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

## Opponents say it's time for Davis to move on

But leading Democrats cite experience, back congressman seeking 15th term

By Dan Petrella  
Chicago Tribune

City Treasurer Melissa Conyears-Ervin stood with U.S. Rep. Hakeem Jeffries two years ago when the high-ranking New York Democrat came to Chicago to throw his political weight behind Danny Davis, the West Side congressman who was working to fend off the most serious primary challenge of his decadeslong career in Washington.

Following stops with Davis at churches in Illinois' 7th Congress-

sional District, the influential House Democratic Caucus chairman stood inside a hotel in the Douglas neighborhood and declared, "I'm going to go back to Washington and tell the world I'm a Danny Davis Democrat!"

Davis still has the backing of Jeffries, now the House minority leader, along with other top Democrats in Washington and Illinois, including Gov. J.B. Pritzker and Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson.

Conyears-Ervin, however, is no longer behind Davis.

Emboldened by Davis' close

call in 2022, when he beat progressive activist Kina Collins by just 6 points, the second-term treasurer is mounting a challenge built on the argument that the South and West side neighborhoods comprising the core of the district have little to show for Davis' nearly half-century in public office — with more than half of that time in Congress — that began when he was elected the 29th Ward alderman in 1979.

Conyears-Ervin says one reason she's no longer supporting Davis is because he told her he wouldn't seek a 15th term.

He disputes saying that. It's one disagreement among many between onetime allies now engaged in a heated battle in which each has questioned the other's record of accomplishment and ethics.

At the same time, Collins is back for a third shot at unseating Davis after more than tripling her share of the vote between her first and second campaigns. This time, however, she lacks the financial backing of the left-wing political action committee whose

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## EPA acts on toxic emissions of EtO

Sterilization plants will need equipment to reduce polluting gas

By Michael Hawthorne  
Chicago Tribune

Nearly two decades after federal scientists concluded ethylene oxide is far more dangerous than previously thought, President Joe Biden's administration is moving to dramatically reduce emissions from a small but important industry sector that relies on the cancer-causing gas to fumigate medical products and spices.

Regulations unveiled Thursday by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency would require commercial sterilization operations to reduce ethylene oxide emissions by 90%, largely by installing pollution-control equipment already required in Illinois and a handful of other states.

The once-obscure industry drew attention in 2018 when the EPA reported some of the nation's highest cancer risks from toxic air pollution could be found in communities near manufacturers and users of ethylene oxide, also known as EtO. Some of the most alarming results came from west suburban Willowbrook and north suburban Waukegan.

Under pressure from community organizers and a bipartisan group of politicians, Oak Brook-based Sterigenics closed its Willowbrook sterilization plant a year later and took steps to reduce pollution from eight of its other facilities across the country. A state law prompted by Chicago Tribune reporting required Northfield-based Medline to significantly reduce EtO emissions at its Waukegan facility.

All told the new federal regulations target about 90 sterilization plants in 30 states and Puerto Rico. Nearly 14 million people live within 5 miles of one or more of the facilities, according to the Union of

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INSIDE



ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/TRIBUNE

### Reluctant rebuild for the White Sox

Trading Dylan Cease means it's full steam ahead for the White Sox's Rebuild 2.0, writes Paul Sullivan. Plus, Kopech "disappointed" at move to bullpen. **Chicago Sports**

### Cook County lost 24K residents

U.S. Census Bureau data released Thursday shows the county continued to lose population despite an influx of international migrants. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

### Love's consequences become the story

The Lyric Opera's staging of "Aida" is a robust and fresh take that emphasizes civil strife and the geopolitical consequences of love affairs with enemies. **A+E**

## Federal judge rejects bid to end Trump case

Defense sought to prevent trial over classified records

By Eric Tucker,  
Alanna Durkin Richer  
and Terry Spencer  
Associated Press

FORT PIERCE, Fla. — A federal judge on Thursday rejected a bid by Donald Trump to throw out his classified documents criminal case, and appeared skeptical during hours of arguments of a separate effort to scuttle the prosecution ahead of trial.

U.S. District Judge Aileen Cannon issued a two-page order saying that though the Trump team had raised "various arguments warranting serious consideration," a dismissal of charges was not merited.

Cannon, who was nominated to the bench by Trump, had made clear during more than three-and-a-half hours of arguments that she was reluctant to dismiss one of the four criminal cases against the 2024 presumptive Republican presidential nominee. She said at one point that it would be "quite an extraordinary" step to strike down an Espionage Act statute that underpins

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Jackie Wilson passes the day in the Chicago suburbs while the Cook County Board approved a \$17 million settlement is his case on Thursday. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

## Payout will resolve civil rights lawsuit

Cook County to give \$17 million in Wilson case settlement

By Christy Gutowski,  
Stacy St. Clair and A.D. Quig  
Chicago Tribune

The Cook County Board voted Thursday to pay \$17 million to a Chicago man exonerated in the 1982 killings of two on-duty police officers.

The payout will resolve a civil rights lawsuit filed by Jackie Wilson that accused several former Cook County assistant

state's attorneys of railroading him for murders committed by his older brother. It is thought to be among the largest wrongful conviction settlements for a single defendant in county history.

A lawsuit against several Chicago police officers involved in the case will continue in federal court.

Wilson's case dates to the 1982 slayings of Chicago police Officers William Fahey and Richard O'Brien, who were fatally shot by Wilson's brother Andrew during a traffic stop. Jackie Wilson, then 21, was

driving the car and was complying with the officers' commands when his brother began shooting.

Jackie Wilson has acknowledged fleeing the scene with his brother, but he has said he did not know Andrew intended to harm the officers. He was later convicted of O'Brien's murder and acquitted in Fahey's slaying.

Now 63, Wilson spent more than three decades in prison before charges were dropped at his third trial in 2020; he

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