

# Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

Chicago homeless advocates ask city to rethink closure of Humboldt Park camp amid expedited timeline and struggle for residents to find other accommodations



## ‘NOWHERE ELSE FOR THEM TO GO’



**Above:** Advocates call on the city to delay clearing the homeless encampment at Humboldt Park in Chicago on Wednesday. **ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**  
**Top:** Angel Torres puts on some extra layers of clothing while living in the scattered homeless encampment on Wednesday. **CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

### Finding permanent housing

According to Ald. Jessie Fuentes, 26th, a total of 106 people who were living in the park have been matched with housing since last year through accelerated moving events. But advocates say at least 30 park residents still lack permanent options.

**By Caroline Kubzansky**  
Chicago Tribune

As municipalities across Illinois and the country continue to tighten restrictions on where the homeless can sleep, local advocates and service providers asked Chicago officials Wednesday to reconsider the planned closure of one of the city's largest homeless encampments and not bar people from sleeping in the park in the future.

Approximately 30 people are still living in tents scattered across Humboldt Park on the West Side. On Friday, the city plans to clear the encampment, offering its residents “access to support services” as well as the option to move into housing or shelters, a move that has alarmed homeless advocates for its “expedited timeline” and “lack of sufficient “housing pathways,” according to a joint letter sent to the city late last month.

Advocates on Wednesday asked that the city not force residents who didn't yet have a place to go — or who were waiting to move into already-secured permanent housing — out of the park.

“The city is displacing people as extreme weather is approaching; (it's) actually already here,” said Patricia Nix-Hodes, director of the Law Project at the Chicago

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## Court weighs trans care

Conservative justices seem likely to uphold Tenn. ban

**By Mark Sherman**  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Hearing a high-profile culture-war clash, the Supreme Court on Wednesday seemed likely to uphold Tennessee's ban on gender-affirming care for minors.

The justices' decision, not expected for several months, could affect similar laws enacted by another 25 states and a range of other efforts to regulate the lives of transgender people, including which sports competitions they can enter and which bathrooms they can use.

The case is being weighed by a conservative-dominated court after a presidential election in which President-elect Donald Trump and his allies promised to roll back protections for transgender people, showcasing the uneasy intersection between law, politics and individual rights.

The Biden administration's top Supreme Court lawyer warned a decision favorable to Tennessee also could be used to justify nationwide restrictions on transgender health care for minors.

In arguments that lasted more than two hours, five of the six conservative justices voiced varying degrees of skepticism of arguments made by the administration and Chase Strangio, the ACLU lawyer for Tennessee families challenging the ban.

Chief Justice John Roberts, who voted in the majority in a 2020 case in favor of transgender rights, questioned whether judges, rather than lawmakers, should be weighing in on a question of regulating medical procedures, an area usually left to the states.

“The Constitution leaves that question to the people's representatives, rather than to nine people, none of whom is a doctor,” Roberts said in an exchange with Strangio.

The court's three liberal justices seemed firmly on the side of the challengers. But it's not clear that any of the conservatives will go along.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor challenged the assertion that the democratic process would be the best way to address objections to the law. She cited a history of laws discriminating against others, noting

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### MICHAEL MADIGAN TRIAL

## Clout list gives jury glimpse of speaker's reach

**By Jason Meisner and Megan Crepeau**  
Chicago Tribune

Then-powerful House Speaker Michael Madigan was intimately involved in the process of recommending people to sit on state boards and commissions and kept a running clout list that eventually totaled 91 names after JB Pritzker won the election for governor in 2018, Madigan's former chief of staff testified Wednesday.

Madigan would have his staffers keep close tabs on which seats were coming open and would routinely make recommendations about who should fill them, Jessica Basham, who left the speaker's office in 2021 and is now a lobbyist, told jurors in her ex-boss's corruption trial.

Prosecutors allege Madigan planned to recommend then-Ald. Daniel Solis to a lucrative board seat in exchange for Solis' help getting business for Madigan's private law firm. Unbeknownst to Madigan, Solis was wear-

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### CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Power struggle persists as CEO rebuffs buyout

**By Nell Salzman and Sarah Macaraeg**  
Chicago Tribune

An attorney representing the Chicago Board of Education offered a buyout to Pedro Martinez, the embattled chief of Chicago Public Schools, according to sources close to the conversations.

The offer, made over the phone earlier this week, came after Martinez retained attorney William J. Quinlan to represent him in an ongoing power struggle with Mayor Brandon Johnson and the Chicago Teachers Union, which has waged a fierce campaign against the chief executive officer as the union negotiates a new contract with the district.

Martinez's contract limits the district's ability to fire him without cause and could lead to an expensive lawsuit. So far, Martinez has resisted the buyout offer, sources said.

With pressure on Martinez ratcheting up, the current six-member school

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### INSIDE



SPENCER PLATT/GETTY

## UnitedHealthcare CEO dies in 'targeted shooting'

UnitedHealthcare's CEO was shot and killed Wednesday in a “brazen, targeted attack” outside a Manhattan hotel where the health insurer was holding its investor conference, police said, setting off a massive dragnet hours before the annual Rockefeller Center Christmas tree lighting. **Nation & World inside Business, Page 5**



**Working to regroup:** As Bears quarterback Caleb Williams returns to practice Wednesday, a look inside the final-minute meltdown against the Detroit Lions on Thanksgiving, and the rookie's quest to “keep going.” **Chicago Sports**

