

There's much more the city can do to promote the growth of our tax base, but allowing more housing (and more taxpayers) directly next to the largest transit investment of the last 20 years is a good start.

*Alec Schwengler, Lincoln Square*

## **How to respond to political uncertainty in South Korea**

America aims to promote peace and stability on the Korean peninsula. However, South Korea is facing political turmoil following President Yoon Suk Yeol's declaration of martial law and the impeachments of the president and acting president.

How should the White House respond to Korea's political uncertainty?

In mid-December, Deputy Secretary of State Kurt Campbell said, "We fully support [Acting President Han Duck-soo], and we will do what's best to continue to send the signal of deep engagement." Later, after the opposition impeached the acting president, a State Department spokesperson reassured America's support for the newly appointed Acting President, Choi Sang-mok.

The U.S. pledges create a complicated situation. On the one hand, these pledges could undermine America's foreign policy goal of restoring grassroots democracy in Korea, especially since the imposition of martial law on Dec. 3 has hindered this effort. Many Koreans lack trust in their acting president due to his involvement in the martial law plot.

On the other hand, the U.S. remarks align with the U.S. goal of supporting the South Korean government, which has fostered a friendly relationship with America's security interests in East Asia. Yoon and his cabinet members have been strong proponents of this partnership.

The first option to strengthen Korean democracy may benefit ordinary Koreans but might not align with White House interests. The second option will secure U.S. security interests, but may not protect those of Korea.

America's best strategy is to reconcile these two options; however, this will be very challenging due to the complex nature of South Korea's domestic politics.

President Yoon has been accused of treason, allegedly supported by his Cabinet members, including Han Duck-soo and Choi Sang-mok.

Han and Choi were involved in the declaration of martial law, and as a result, they share responsibility for the treason that led to President Yoon's impeachment. Therefore, the opposition argues that giving authority to the acting president is like asking a wolf to guard the sheep.

The White House needs to recognize South Korea's political paradox and aim for a foreign



**Isis Southerland is joined by her children, A**

policy goal that prevents the resurgence of anti-American sentiment, reminiscent of the 1985 occupation of the American Cultural Center in Seoul by 73 Korean college students.

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## **CPS needs more funding**

I am one of eight kids. My siblings attended, or are attending, Chicago Public Schools. I am currently a high school senior at a Chicago public school on the West Side. During my childhood,