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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM



ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

A Cook County tradition

Cook County political candidates, including Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, arrive with petitions after lining up early Monday morning at the county clerk's office to file nominating petitions for the March primary election. **Page 2**

Ill. contenders file for March primary

GOP uncertainty for governor, Democratic redistricting push

By Rick Pearson, Jeremy Gorner and Jake Sheridan
Chicago Tribune

SPRINGFIELD — Hundreds of contenders for public office began filing candidacy petitions with the Illinois State Board of Elections on Monday, vying to top March 17 primary ballots amid uncertainty over whether a prominent Republican governor contender will continue his candidacy following a family tragedy and a push by national Democratic leaders to redraw the state's congressional boundaries to combat GOP-favored redistricting efforts in other states.

Staffers with the campaign of Republican governor candidate Darren Bailey filed nominating petitions on behalf of the

Xenia farmer and his running mate, Aaron Del Mar, the Cook County GOP chair from Palatine, only days after Bailey's son, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren died in a helicopter crash in rural Montana.

"If Darren decides that he wants to run, I will stand by him and we will run hard," Del Mar told reporters outside the election board offices. "If he decides that he doesn't want to run, then I will stand by him in that decision as well. Our campaign right now is no longer a political campaign. We're the Bailey comfort campaign."

"There was some strong encouragement from President (Donald) Trump, who called on Saturday; he just showed so much grace in his conversation with Darren," Del Mar said. "He understands the impact this has had to the Bailey family and to the state of Illinois in general. And he encouraged Darren to stay strong and to run. Darren's taking that information, and it's going to be part of our calculus of what we want to do."

Bailey, a former downstate lawmaker, was the GOP's 2022 nominee for governor, losing to Democratic incumbent Gov. JB Pritzker by nearly 13 percentage points. After an unsuccessful 2024 Republican primary challenge to veteran U.S. Rep. Mike Bost of Murphysboro, Bailey announced late last month another effort to try to unseat Pritzker.

On Wednesday, Bailey's son Zachary, daughter-in-law Kelsey and grandchildren Vada Rose and Samuel were killed in the crash of the helicopter, which Zachary Bailey was piloting. Another of the couple's children, Finn, was not on the aircraft, and Bailey and his wife, Cindy, have taken guardianship of him. The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the crash.

Bailey, a Christian evangelical who made his faith a centerpiece of his last campaign

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Federal shutdown taking toll on staff

Mounting bills bring pressure with no end to impasse apparent

By Eileen Sullivan and Drew Atkins
The New York Times

WASHINGTON — As the shutdown stretches toward its fifth week, the estimated 730,000 federal employees working without pay because of the impasse and another 670,000 federal workers furloughed without pay are confronting an increasingly acute and stressful scenario. Their bills are mounting, and there is no clear resolution in sight.

Some are turning to side hustles such as delivering food, walking dogs and selling personal items to bring in a bit of income. Others are relying on food banks that have been hastily organized to provide federal workers and contractors with free groceries — efforts that community service providers say reflect a broadening food insecurity caused by the shutdown.

The widespread anxiety is punctuating what has already been a grueling year for federal workers as the Trump administration has raced to shrink and reshape the government, and moved to eliminate hundreds of thousands of jobs.

The last shutdown, which came during President Donald Trump's first term, was the longest ever, lasting 34 full days. The current standoff, which began Oct. 1, could stretch even longer. There are no negotiations for a deal to reopen the government, which Democrats say must include an agreement to extend expiring subsidies for health insurance.

"I will only meet if they let the country open," Trump said Oct. 21, just days before he left Washington for a trip to Asia.

The impact of the political paralysis could be seen early Friday morning as hundreds of cars lined a road in Northern Virginia, filled with federal workers and government contractors waiting for boxes of food being distributed by United Community, a local nonprofit group.

It was one of five sites set up in partner-

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Aldermen to lobby lawmakers for 'progressive revenue'

Mayor's allies to propose corporate income tax, other sources for new funding

By Alice Yin
Chicago Tribune

Mayor Brandon Johnson's Springfield lobbyist plans to lead a group of the mayor's City Council allies to lobby the Illinois General Assembly on Tuesday for a corporate income tax hike and other long shot demands for new revenue.

The proposals entail raising the corporate tax rate by 0.92%, imposing a new levy on digital ads and hiking the Personal Property Replacement Tax rate on corporations, according to a "Progressive Revenue Agenda" memo obtained by the Tribune.

Sources said the day of lobbying, organized by Johnson's head lobbyist in the statehouse, former Ald. John Arena, will include meetings with Illinois House Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch and Senate President Don Harmon as the legislative body begins the second and

final week of its fall veto session. Arena's agenda does not include a meeting with Gov. JB Pritzker.

Spokespeople for Pritzker didn't immediately respond to a request for comment Monday, though the governor recently said he wants the Chicago-area transportation fiscal cliff and reform packages to be settled this week.

In addition to high stakes negotiations over the transit budget and potential changes to how train and bus service is administered in the Chicago area, lawmakers are focusing during the veto session on electricity rates and insurance regulation.

Johnson, who has hardly anything to show for prior trips to lobby state lawmakers, will not go to Springfield this time. Spokesman Cassio Mendoza said that is due to a scheduling conflict. And Mendoza acknowledged there is a very slim chance lawmakers will move the mayor's extensive wish list across the finish line before adjourning until next year, saying the meetings this week are intended to "start

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Workers Danny Satay, left, and Ivan Casiano install solar panels on a home in Elmhurst on Friday. **STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Solar companies brace for fallout from Trump tax rebate repeal

By Jerry Wu
Chicago Tribune

By mid-August, RxSun had already stopped taking orders for new home solar installations. After reaching around 500 sales, roughly 100 more than in 2024, representatives with the Chicago-based company said they are now scrambling to finish them by the year's end.

For other residential solar companies in Chicago and Illinois, the story is much the same.

Demand for home solar installations has surged since the passage of President Donald Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill

repealing a federal tax credit worth about \$8,000 per household by the year's end. Despite the current sales boom, the repeal is expected to deal a heavy blow to residential solar, with orders projected to plunge starting next year.

"Since July, there's been a lot of sleepless nights wondering where we are going to end up," said Chris Gersch, founder and CEO of RxSun. "But the outlook for 2026 is just a fraction of what we did this year."

Mike Hutchinson, who lives with his family in Naperville, said the thought of installing a solar roof had been on "the

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Immigration agents accused again

Federal immigration agents have again been accused of violating a judge's restraining order during a fracas over the weekend in the Old Irving Park neighborhood, where residents were tackled and tear-gassed as children prepared for a Halloween parade. **Chicagoland, Page 2**

