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ELECTION 2027

## Mendoza to run for mayor again



State comptroller who finished fifth in '19 race will position herself as tough-on-crime centrist

By Jake Sheridan  
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Illinois Comptroller Susana Mendoza announced Wednesday she will make a second run for mayor of Chicago, marking the biggest entry yet in a sure-to-be-crowded field of candidates.

Mendoza, the state's chief fiscal manager since 2016, touted

herself as a proven leader capable of addressing the city's fiscal woes, decreasing crime and restoring faith in city government during a launch party at Taquería Los Comales in Little Village.

She positioned herself as a pragmatist, standing onstage in the restaurant surrounded by signs emblazoned with the slogan "progress is greater than promises," a

phrase she repeated throughout her mayoral launch speech. Mendoza urged voters to focus on her record of getting things done during 25 years in elected office.

She ran for mayor once before, placing fifth in the first round of the city's 2019 election ultimately won by Lori Lightfoot.

The moderate Democrat, who previously served as city clerk and a state representative, officially got into the race after a long run-up that

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Illinois Comptroller Susana Mendoza speaks about why she is running for Chicago mayor during a news conference at Taquería Los Comales in Little Village on Wednesday. **EILEEN T. MESLAR/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

LOCKPORT

## A scramble to protect eggs near build site

Couple races to halt home construction until killdeer hatch

By Audrey Pachuta  
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

For four years, Lockport residents Ray and Shelly Romolt have stared out their window at an empty lot, waiting for the day developers would transform it into a home for new neighbors.

They've been eager to watch construction commence, and have long pictured the moment a moving truck would deliver fresh faces to join them for bocce, book clubs or "drive-way drinking" — three activities commonly practiced in their southwest suburban over-55 neighborhood.

Normally, the couple would've been giddy after seeing a sold sign on the lot last month, and even more excited when mesh construction fencing began to go up two weeks ago. But now, after spotting four speckled eggs resting on the ground, they're working to delay the process in an effort to keep a family of killdeer birds safe.

"We want you to stop, just for a month or so," Shelly Romolt said her husband told an employee at the development's model home. "And then, please, build away."

According to Stephanie Beilke, the senior manager of conservation science at Audubon Great Lakes, killdeer are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which dictates that no bird native to the U.S. can be hunted, killed or transported without prior authorization by the Department of Interior U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Beilke said killdeer are a type of shorebird considered close relatives to the endangered piping plovers best known in Chicago for their appearances on Montrose Beach. Having read about the connection between the two species online, the Romolts said protecting their neighborhood's killdeer

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## OBAMA, IN NEW LIGHT

With blunt exhibits on racism and work that remains, presidential center tells rich story



**Above:** A statue of President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama will greets visitors at the Obama Presidential Center in Chicago's Jackson Park. **Top:** A visitor sits in the museum's Sky Room. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS**

By A.D. Quig | CHICAGO TRIBUNE

While crews were still putting on the finishing touches — including paving part of the parking garage entrance — Chicago and national media were given a preview of the Obama Presidential Center in Jackson Park Wednesday ahead of it welcoming the public later this month.

The grand opening is set for June 19, following a star-studded dedication event the day before. The Obama Foundation has not yet announced the names of guests performers at the ceremony, but it will be streamed at a neighborhood watch party at the Midway Plaisance and online.

Here's what to expect, some basics about the opening, and items of interest to look out for when you manage to get in.

### INSIDE THE MUSEUM

The museum spans four floors, culminating in the "Sky Room" with sweeping views on all sides.

The first floor focuses on the progressive movements that preceded Barack Obama: labor, voting rights, the New Deal and the cultural transformations of the 1960s through the 1980s. The exhibit pulls few punches, referring bluntly to pushback against racial progress, widening gaps between rich and poor and drivers of the conservative movement from presidents Richard Nixon to Ronald Reagan.

Chicago touchpoints are found throughout the museum, though the bulk are on the first floor,

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## House passes war powers measure in rebuke of Trump's Iran strategy

By Lisa Mascaro  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The House for the first time Wednesday approved a war powers resolution that would halt the U.S. military action against Iran, defying Presi-

dent Donald Trump as a handful of Republicans joined with Democrats in a vote to end the three-month-long conflict that has reordered politics at home and abroad.

House Speaker Mike Johnson had tried to prevent an outcome that would show the mounting opposi-

tion to the war, abruptly shutting down floor action two weeks ago when the resolution was on the verge of approval. But displeasure has only grown as the conflict drags on and as Trump struggles to negotiate a plan for peace.

The roll call Wednesday was

215-208, but next steps are uncertain. Trump would likely reject any measure from Congress to limit his commander-in-chief authority. Still, the tally, with four Republicans joining Democrats, was a rebuke of the president's war strategy, and cheers erupted in the House chamber.

"This reckless and costly war of choice needs to end today," House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York said earlier in the week.

"All we need are a handful of

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