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Trump ousts election panel members

Agency defied efforts by president to alter voter requirements

By **Bill Barrow**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Donald Trump has ousted members of a bipartisan federal election commission that resisted his efforts to require would-be voters to document their U.S. citizenship before registering. The White House on Friday

confirmed the executive action against members of the Election Assistance Commission, which distributes federal grants to states, oversees testing of voting systems and maintains the national voter registration form.

Though the move likely won't have major effects on the November midterms, it's the latest instance of the Republican president trying to exert White House influence over how U.S. elections are conducted, and it's the first test of his newly expanded presidential power after

the Supreme Court ruled recently that the president can fire members of independent agency boards without cause.

"The President, and head of the Executive Branch, reserves the right to remove individuals that may not be totally aligned with the important task of securing America's elections and ensuring every legal vote is counted. The Slaughter decision gives the President precedence to do so," said a White House statement.

The president removed the

four-seat commission's two Democratic members, Thomas Hicks and Benjamin Hovland. The panel's Republican member, Christy McCormick resigned. Former Republican commissioner Donald Palmer already had left his post voluntarily earlier this year.

Trump has repeatedly tried to reshape voting regulations, even though the U.S. Constitution grants control of elections to the states and not the president. Citing that separation of powers, courts have blocked most of Trump's two exec-

utive orders that sought to reshape voting.

Trump has also launched an investigation of his 2020 loss, which he continues to falsely insist was due to fraud, and this week his administration threatened states if they did not try to purge what federal officials believe are noncitizens from their voter rolls.

Still, Trump has largely been powerless to change election processes through executive fiat

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City invests in cooling at park facilities

Air conditioning to be upgraded at fieldhouses in heat-vulnerable areas

By **Adriana Pérez**
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

At least 40 park fieldhouses in Chicago communities particularly vulnerable to extreme heat will see upgrades to their air conditioning systems after the city announced a \$1 million investment on Thursday.

According to the Chicago Park District, the project will expand cooling access around the city during extreme heat and address "historic disinvestment." The investment is part of Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson's \$45 million allocation of tax increment financing surplus to the Park District this year.

"For too long, communities that have faced the greatest impacts of extreme heat have also faced underinvestment in the resources needed to keep residents safe," Johnson said in a Thursday news release. "By strengthening our neighborhood parks, we are ensuring that every resident — regardless of their ZIP code — has access to safe, welcoming spaces to cool down during dangerous heat events."

Prolonged exposure to heat can lead to insufficient or poor sleep, compromising the immune system, increasing the risk for cardiovascular disease and diminishing cognitive performance. Heat-related illnesses like heat stroke can also be fatal. Residents without access to effective cooling or adequate hydration have a higher risk of suffering major health issues.

The city's announcement comes after an early July heat wave coincided with Independence Day, during which most city buildings advertised as cooling centers closed for the holiday — with the unusual exception of one community service center and four public libraries.

Besides its more than 240 splash pads and water spray features, the Park District touts its 22 lake-front beaches, the inland beach at Humboldt Park and 77 neighborhood pools as resources for residents to combat the summer heat. While beaches, beach houses and

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Crews setting up for film involving Bears

Workers involved with "Holiday Touchdown: A Bears Love Story" — a Hallmark Media, NFL and Skydance Sports movie featuring the team, have begun preparations downtown. **Chicagoland, PageA 3**

Murakami back for Sox, named All-Star

The White Sox welcomed the slugger back from the injured list and announced he was named to the American League roster for the All-Star Game and Home Run Derby. **Sports**



ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

A fest for tunes, food and big hats

Beth Conley, from left, Brianne Bibbs and Cindy Woods talk while listening to Noeline Hofmann perform at Windy City Smokeout outside the United Center on Thursday. The five-day celebration of meat and pop country, now in its 13th year, draws an expected attendance of 20,000 per day. **Arts & Living, Page B7**



Bartender Belmiro "Tyler" Barros III at Pressbox in Chicago's Printers Row neighborhood on Thursday. He grew up in Massachusetts and has family from Cape Verde. The Cape Verde national soccer team performed well during their run in the World Cup. **CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Chicagoan reflects on Cape Verde roots amid World Cup success

"The world now knows who we are"

By **Gregory Royal Pratt**
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Before the World Cup, only the most devout geographer or soccer fan would recognize Cape Verde's name and colors.

But after the small island nation's soccer team tied Spain and pushed Argentina to the brink of elimination in a knockout game, the sunswept country is known all over the world.

For South Loop bartender Belmiro Barros III, the Blue Sharks' story is a family dream come true.

The 58-year-old bartender at Pressbox has spent much of his life telling people about his family's homeland. His grandfather, also named Belmiro, immigrated to the United States from Cape Verde but told his grandchildren it was their responsibility to keep the family's heritage alive.

"He wanted the world to know that, although our islands were small, our people possessed extraordinary pride,

resilience and heart," Barros told the Tribune.

By the time a gritty, heart-filled Cape Verde squad exited the tournament with a 3-2 loss to powerhouse Argentina, the African squad had realized Barros' grandfather's dream:

"The world now knows who we are," he said.

Cape Verde, an archipelago off the western coast of Africa, earned its independence from Portugal on July 5, 1975. Barros' grandfather was from Fogo, an

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Officials bemoan cemetery upkeep

Oakwood in Waukegan lacks a dedicated maintenance budget

By **Gregory Harutunian**
FOR THE NEWS-SUN

Oakwood Cemetery is more than 150 years old and serves as the final resting place for historic figures of Waukegan and Civil War veterans, with a potter's field of victims of the 1918 influenza pandemic.

The 50-acre Sheridan Road site is owned by the municipality, along with Union Cemetery, dating back to 1845.

Neither has a dedicated budget for maintenance.

A series of annual landscaping contracts with conflicting schedules has raised questions about the perpetual care covenant in recent years. Waukegan's Public Works Department carries responsibility for upkeep at the two cemeteries in its budget, with no line item other than for contractual services.

Oakwood's grounds were left unattended on Memorial Day and Flag Day this year, as landscaping crews beautified downtown Waukegan for the May 30 Gay Pride Parade and Festival and the Juneteenth Celebration on June 13. The conflicting

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