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Bickerstaff: Pistons' division title 'a big deal' SPORTS, 1C

Trump signs order on mail-in voting

It could put restrictions on Michigan in midterms

Todd Spangler
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

President Donald Trump, continuing to push long-unproven claims of rampant voting fraud despite his own successful elections, has signed an order that, if it stands, could radically change and potentially threaten mail-in voting processes in this year's midterms.

Trump's executive order, signed at the White House on Tuesday, March 31, also comes as his own job approval rating has continued to fall amid the ongoing war with Iran and increased gas



President Donald Trump already has acknowledged that the mail-in order could be tested in court. REUTERS

prices and concerns that Republicans in control of Congress could face stiff headwinds in this November's elections.

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Michigan Secretary of State Benson: Order 'illegal'; indicates a court fight

Todd Spangler
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, the state's top election official, called President Donald Trump's order to radically change the process of mail-in voting in Michigan and across the United States "illegal on its face" and indicated she will fight its implementation in court.

Benson, who is also a Democratic candidate for governor this year, put out a statement late March 31, some

hours after Trump signed the executive order which he justified through unproven arguments about fraud in mail-in voting practices, even though he votes via mail-in ballot himself.

More than 2.2 million Michiganders voted by mail-in ballot in the 2024 general election. Trump won Michigan, beating Democratic former Vice President Kamala Harris by 1.4 percentage points.

Trump's order calls for the federal government to develop a "State

See **BENSON**, Page 7A

WAR IN THE MIDEAST

Trump says Iran asked for ceasefire

President threatens to pull U.S. out of NATO

Michael Loria, Kim Hjelmgaard, Kate Perez and Christopher Cann
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump promised the United States will soon end its war on Iran, as he threatened to pull out of NATO and sent conflicting messages on his strategy in the Middle East ahead of a prime time address to the nation.

In a Truth Social post on April 1, Trump said Iran's "new regime" president asked for a ceasefire but added that he would only consider it when the Strait of Hormuz is open. Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson called the claim "false and baseless."

"Iran's New Regime President, much less Radicalized and far more intelligent than his predecessors, has just asked the United States of America for a CEASEFIRE!" Trump said in the post. "We will consider when Hormuz Strait is open, free, and clear. Until then, we are blasting Iran into oblivion or, as they say, back to the Stone Ages!!!"

It's unclear who Trump is referring to as "Iran's New Regime President." The country's president Masoud Pezeshkian has been in power since 2024.

Speaking to Reuters hours before

See **IRAN WAR**, Page 10A



Iranians attend the funeral of Alireza Tangsiri, commander of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards' navy, at Enghelab Square in Tehran on April 1. His death was confirmed by Iran on March 30. AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

ICONIC DETROIT BUILDING GETS A GLOW-UP



Randy Book, 67, stands inside Le Suprême, a restaurant located within the Book Tower, during a 100th anniversary tour in downtown Detroit on March 17. DAVID RODRIGUEZ MUÑOZ/DETROIT FREE PRESS

Book Tower looks 'incredible' as it celebrates 100th

JC Reindl
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

March marked the 100th anniversary of a famous building in downtown Detroit that, like numerous others in the city, was lucky to have survived a previous period of emptiness and neglect.

The Book Tower, 1265 Washington Blvd., is an ornate 38-story skyscraper in Italian Renaissance style that opened in March 1926.

Named for the three brothers of the Book family who built it, the tower is said to have briefly held claim to being the tallest building in Detroit, until the opening two years later of the 47-story Penobscot Building. Yet it still remains one of the taller buildings in the world with an exterior fire escape.

The tower is attached to a shorter and slightly older building, the 13-story Book Building, which dates to 1917 and was also built by the Book brothers. Inside, the Book buildings function as a single large structure. They originally contained office space and some retail stores.

But as the decades passed and the city changed, Book Tower struggled. It saw a succession of owners and regular threats of utility shutoffs. Then from 2009 until relatively recently, the building was completely vacant and



The Book Tower, at 1265 Washington Blvd., in downtown Detroit. It is an ornate 38-story skyscraper. KIMBERLY P. MITCHELL/DETROIT FREE PRESS

stood as a crumbling, grime-covered profile on the downtown skyline.

Book Tower finally found its savior in Detroit businessman Dan Gilbert, whose real estate firm, Bedrock, bought the distressed property from a foreign corporation in 2015 and

See **BOOK TOWER**, Page 8A

High court reviews birthright citizenship

Trump attends hearings, first president to do so

Maureen Groppe, Bart Jansen, Aysha Bagchi and N'dea Yancey-Bragg
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – The Supreme Court gave a tough – but not dismissive – review of President Donald Trump's effort to redefine who is an American, debating April 1 as Trump added to the historical significance of the case by becoming the first sitting president to attend high court oral arguments.

It is one of the court's biggest cases this term – perhaps in decades.

The executive order Trump signed on his first day back in office to sharply limit automatic citizenship for U.S.-born babies is central to his efforts to crack down on both legal and illegal immigration – a major campaign promise.

Trump's order challenges the longstanding interpretation of a 19th-century constitutional provision guaranteeing birthright citizenship to nearly everyone – and every lower court that reviewed Trump's executive order ruled against it.

Justice Elena Kagan, a liberal, asked Solicitor General John Sauer, the Justice Department's attorney, for his rationale to change more than 125 years of Supreme Court interpretation. Chief Justice John Roberts told Sauer that some examples he gave to support Trump's position were "very quirky."

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American Civil Liberties Union lawyer Cecilia Wang speaks outside the Supreme Court on April 1. President Donald Trump attended in person as the court heard a case on birthright citizenship. AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



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