



Michael Hogue/Staff Artist

2026 FIFA WORLD CUP

Soccer fans call foul as ticket prices soar

With D-FW poised to host more matches than any other city, backlash rages over 'absolutely shameful' ticketing strategy

FC Dallas season-ticket holder Dennis McGowan, 38, bought two World Cup tickets through FIFA. He said he and a friend entered as many lottery draws as they could.



Tom Fox/Staff Photographer

By **ERIC PRISBELL**
Staff Writer
eric.prisbell@dallasnews.com

A dyed-in-the-wool soccer fan, Royse City's Dennis McGowan — an FC Dallas season-ticket holder and vice president of one of the team's fan clubs — took solace in successfully navigating FIFA's World Cup ticketing process.

He and a friend entered as many FIFA lottery draws as possible. McGowan, 38, was awarded the chance to buy two \$350 tickets to June's group-stage opener between Japan and the Netherlands at AT&T Stadium. But only at a later date will FIFA inform him where he is sitting, continuing a process he called convoluted and price-prohibitive.

"The average fan absolutely feels like they are priced out," McGowan, vice president of the Dallas Beer Guardians fan club, told *The Dallas Morning News*. "FIFA is here to bleed us dry as much as they possibly can. They know we [Americans] have the money. They see what we spend on Super Bowls. FIFA wants a piece of that pie."

With the World Cup coming to North America for the first

time since 1994, many U.S. fans see a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, a bucket-list event. The ticketing issues are especially important in the Dallas-Fort Worth region because AT&T Stadium is hosting more matches than in any other city — nine in total. Days after the window for FIFA's latest ticketing phase — its random selection draw — closed Tuesday, the governing body's ticketing strategy continues to face sharp criticism over prices and process.

First, create a FIFA ID on its website and scroll through prices for matches at AT&T Stadium. Lottery winners can purchase tickets that range from \$220 to \$600 for Japan-Netherlands on June 14; from \$265 to \$700 for England-Croatia on June 17; and from \$265 to \$700 to watch global superstar Lionel Messi and Argentina face Austria on June 22.

Want to attend the World Cup semifinal at AT&T Stadium on July 14? For FIFA lottery winners, that will cost between \$930 and \$3,295 per ticket. And attending the final at New Jersey's MetLife Stadium will

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IMMIGRATION

Strategy morphs before primary

As border crossings fall, GOP candidates leaning harder on enforcement in U.S. interior

By **JOSEPH MORTON**
Washington Bureau
and **AARÓN TORRES**
Austin Bureau

Mario Guerrero, a construction leader in Edinburg, says he backed Donald Trump for president in 2024 after what he called an "insane" spike in border crossings under the previous administration.

But this winter, Guerrero, executive director of the South Texas Builders Association, said federal construction-site raids have disrupted daily operations, with workers staying away and employers struggling to keep jobs moving.

"The whole workforce, whether people have proper documentation or not, they're all scared," he said. "It's affecting our businesses a lot."

While immigration remains a reliable rallying cry in Texas politics, the dynamics have changed. Crossings are down sharply from recent peaks, and Republican candidates are leaning harder on enforcement.

It's a turn analysts say is meant to energize their conservative base but could narrow the party's broader appeal.

For now, stepped-up federal enforcement efforts have become a new measure of campaign toughness.

In the Texas Senate race, incumbent John Cornyn and his GOP challengers, Attorney General Ken Paxton and U.S. Rep. Wesley Hunt of Houston, have voiced support for the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents operating in Minneapolis and other cities.

They've put enforcement first before any overhaul of immigration law, aimed at voters who prioritize security, physical barriers and strong interior action beyond the border.

But the heightened visibility of ICE operations remains an electoral flashpoint, embraced by Republicans as necessary to restoring order and deterrence and criti-

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Sunny and warmer

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NATION & WORLD

Immigration action stokes discontent

The Trump administration's biggest crackdown yet can be felt across Minnesota's Twin Cities. **4A**

ALSO: Protesters gather in Plano. **4A**

BUSINESS

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Amid America's efforts to re-shore manufacturing, North Texas is emerging as a place to do business. **6D**

ARTS & LIFE

How to fix downtown

Architecture Critic Mark Lamster says that common-sense steps can be taken to revitalize Dallas' core. **3E**

DALLAS

Tolbert faces tallest test with City Hall



Juan Figueroa/Staff Photographer

Dallas City Manager Kimberly Bizer Tolbert enters her second year with a looming test on what to do with the aging but iconic I.M. Pei-designed City Hall.

City manager for a year must decide: Stay or go

By **DEVYANI CHHETRI**
Staff Writer
devyani.chhetri@dallasnews.com

As Kimberly Bizer Tolbert reaches her one-year mark as Dallas city manager, she faces a looming test: a stay-or-go decision on City Hall that could define her legacy and reshape downtown for years to come.

She stepped into the job last January with a firm City Council mandate: steady the city government, improve services, tighten fiscal oversight and restore trust in how Dallas runs itself.

Now, comes a reckoning over the iconic I.M. Pei-designed City Hall, long admired and increasingly costly to maintain.

Repairs to make up for decades of deferred maintenance could cost hundreds of millions. Prominent business interests support relocation, seeing a chance to jumpstart redevelopment downtown. Preservationists fear abandonment of history and the city's resolve to fix what it owns.

How that choice unfolds runs

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