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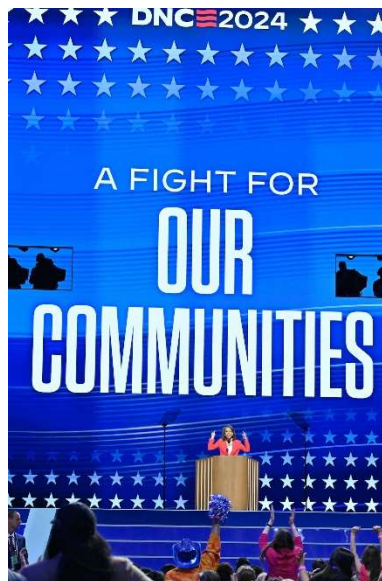
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Democratic National Convention Boasts Record Sustainability

by [Ashleigh Fields](#) – August 28, 2024



Democratic U.S. Rep Lisa Blunt Rochester speaks at the Democratic National Convention on Aug. 21. Using QR codes, emails and other electronic forms of communication, this year's Democratic National Convention aimed to be the most sustainable convention in the country's history. (Earl Gibson/The Washington Informer)

For many, this year's Democratic National Convention looked extremely different than past events. Those attending the caucus meetings, press briefings and daily activities didn't see traditional printouts and pamphlets but QR codes instead. This decision was a part of a larger goal to create the most sustainable convention in the country's history.

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as important as fighting for democracy,” Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers argued.

Throughout the four-day convention hosted between Chicago’s United Center and McCormick Place, the Democratic National Convention planning committee collected compost, posted signage to increase recycling and also encouraged a new concept called carbon insetting, which helps mitigate toxic emissions by promoting sustainability efforts.

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“Just as the Harris-Walz ticket and the Democratic Party are dedicated to protecting the environment, we showed this same commitment at the convention — before, during, and after this historic event,” Emily Soong, Democratic National Convention Committee press secretary told The Informer. “We worked with our sustainability advisors on a comprehensive and detailed approach to sustainability that gave back to the local community, combatted climate change, and set the bar for future conventions.”

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The decision to remove paper and other items from the convention involved [Bright Beat](#), a sustainable project management agency that specializes in zero waste through diversion. The DNC also chose to use clean energy from [ComEd](#), a regional utility company to power convention-related affairs among many others.

Giving Back

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The organizing team also encouraged visitors to make donations to community groups like Growing Home, which specializes in flipping urban lots into thriving farms through local residents and volunteers. Those hired often have employment barriers but receive paid job force training that aims to offset poverty in neighborhoods on the South side of Chicago.

Growing Home is currently the only USDA-certified high-production urban farm in Chicago and has grown 35,000 pounds of organic produce. Janelle St. John, the Executive Director for Growing Home said participating in large-scale events like the Democratic National Convention is essential to solving the climate crisis.

“We have limited resources and knowing how we can best utilize those resources is important,” St. John told The Informer. “We have to teach our kids not just to prepare for today but also prepare for the future of our Earth.”

While serving as a vendor at the convention’s expo, Growing Home provided information to guests and encouraged them to travel to different areas outside of downtown where most events were held.

St. John shared, “Chicago is unfortunately very segregated so you have to step out of your comfort zone if you really want to experience it.”

As over 50,000 people traveled to Chicago’s West Side, a working-class community, hundreds helped fund the Growing Home organization which provides 25 hours per week of paid on-the-job experience despite people’s history involving criminal records, medical needs, child care and housing to put people on the path to self-sufficiency.

[Donations](#) were promoted by the Travel Carbon Inset Initiative and spanned from \$77 in honor of Chicago’s 77 neighborhoods, \$47 to supply 5 lbs. of fresh produce for a local family in need and \$24 to purchase one student toolkit for Growing Home’s Training Program.

Continuing to Push Sustainability, Environmental Justice

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He encouraged others to unite in combating the negative effects of climate change and environmental injustice.

“If we go into those communities knowing that transformation is necessary through community power and if we use our power and our social location to join forces together we disrupt a status quo that hurts and harms the most marginalized.”

[Teachers Union Prez Presses for Full Reopening of Schools](#)

The president of the American Federation of Teachers said the U.S. is ready to return to in-person instruction in the fall.

May 14, 2021

In "Coronavirus"



[Hillary Clinton Headlines ‘In Defense of American Democracy’ Event](#)

September 18, 2019

In "D Kevin McNeir"

[Amy Coney Barrett Confirmed, Joins Supreme Court](#)

Amy Coney Barrett, a conservative judge with a stated opposition to the Affordable Care Act, was confirmed on Monday as a justice to the U.S. Supreme Court.

October 27, 2020

In "National"

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[Ashleigh Fields](#)

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D.C. Councilmember Trayon White Faces Federal Bribery Charges

Mendelson Strips White's Committee Chairmanship, Explores Ad Hoc Committee

By Sam EK Collins
WI Staff Writer

A physically fit, but slightly disheveled, D.C. Councilmember Trayon White (D-Ward 8) walked out of a federal court building on Monday afternoon as a small group of friends and supporters surrounded him and shepherded him to a car that pulled up along Third Street NW in Downtown D.C.

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After being arrested by FBI agents Sunday Aug. 18, Ward 8 D.C. Councilmember Trayon White was officially charged with bribery. (WI File Photo/Juliana Jackson)



Scan to learn more.



District of Columbia Democratic Party delegates at the 2024 Democratic National Convention in Chicago. (Courtesy Photo/Stuart Anderson)

DMV AT THE DNC; LOCAL LEADERS, ADVOCATES, DELEGATES SPARK WOMEN'S

Empowerment, D.C. Statehood, Discussions at DNC

Al Sharpton and NAACP's Derrick Johnson Weigh In

By Ashleigh Fields and Micha Green
WI Contributing Writer and WI Managing Editor

The DMV region has shown the full force of its social, political and influential authority at the Democratic National Convention (DNC) in Chicago, igniting conversations and calls-to-action in the nation's capital, the country and worldwide.

"The D.C. delegation always makes a big impact and we make it a point to bring back information about the important issues," said former District First Lady Cora Mester Barry.

Stuart Anderson, second vice chair of the Ward 8 Democrats and a member of the Democratic State Committee, said the

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First Admissions Cycle Post Affirmative Action Overtum Sparks Conversations About Future of Diverse Enrollment

Howard University Students and Faculty, Local Experts Unpack Potential Effects on Incoming Classes

By Jack Ingleton
WI Comcast Digital Equity Fellow

As the 2024-25 school year marks the first admissions cycle since the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) overturned affirmative action in June 2023, Howard University students and faculty, as

well as local experts, expressed concerns about the potential effects that the controversial court ruling could have on future students.

"I feel like [the overturning of affirmative action] just reverts society back," said freshman Russ Martin, a member

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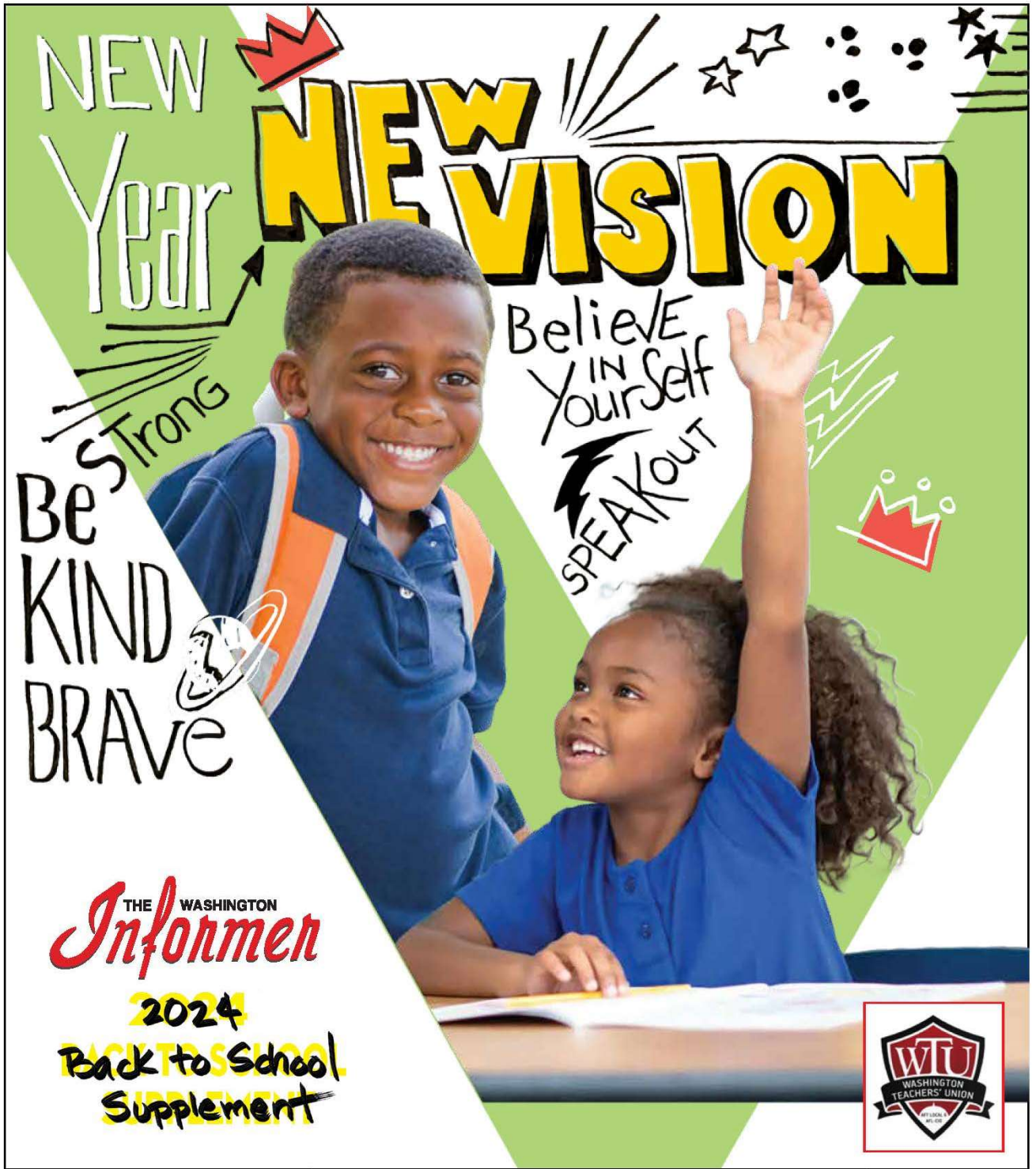
In their first joint public appearance since President Joe Biden ended his candidacy, he and Vice President Harris met a friendly crowd in Prince George's County, Maryland and spoke about their administration's efforts to lower prescription drug costs. (Robert R. Roberts/The Washington Informer)

President Biden, Vice President Harris Greeted by Thousands At Prince George's Community College Rally

By Richard Elliott
WI Contributing Reporter

More than 2,000 Marylanders flocked to Prince George's Community College's Novak Field House on Aug. 15 to witness President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, in their first joint appearance since Biden ended his re-election campaign and endorsed Harris to lead the Democratic Party to victory in

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[Ashleigh Fields](#)

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Ashleigh Fields is an award-winning journalist specializing in coverage of lawmakers in the White House and Capitol Hill. Her reporting has earned recognition from the Society of Professional Journalists, the White House Correspondents' Association and the National Association of Black Journalists. Fields is a proud graduate of Howard University where she formerly served as the editor-in-chief of The Hilltop, a campus newspaper founded by Zora Neale Hurston