



## Madigan's hand-picked heir resigns

### Successor to state House seat quits 3 days after being installed amid 'questionable conduct' claims

BY DAN PETRELLA AND RICK PEARSON  
Chicago Tribune

Former Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan's hand-picked successor for the legislative seat he held for a half-century resigned Wednesday, just three days after being appointed and hours after Madigan called on him to step down.

The episode involving 26-year-old Edward Guerra Kodatt, a now-former assist-

ant in 13th Ward Ald. Marty Quinn's office, represents a significant and unusual embarrassment for the ex-speaker, who has been meticulous about trying to avoid controversy in the ward and district public service operation he has run for decades.

The resignation followed a statement Madigan and Quinn released Tuesday night but did not elaborate on.

"After learning of alleged questionable conduct by Mr. Kodatt, it was suggested

that he resign as state representative for the 22nd District. We are committed to a zero-tolerance policy in the workplace," the two Southwest Side Democrats said.

Despite the ill-fated Kodatt pick, Madigan gets another shot at appointing a replacement. The former speaker remains the 13th Ward Democratic committeeman and holds 56% of the weighted vote cast in the 22nd House District.

Madigan indicated he would support Angelica Guerrero Cuellar, who was nominated by 23rd Ward Ald. Silvana Tabares, when the selection committee reconvenes Thursday morning. Guerrero Cuellar has

volunteered at several community agencies that provide services to people in the country without legal permission and is married to a Chicago police officer.

Guerrero Cuellar had a paid position on the unsuccessful 2018 Cook County Board campaign of Angie Sandoval, according to two sources familiar with her role in the campaign. She received more than \$9,500 for her campaign work, records showed.

Angie Sandoval is the daughter of ex-Sen. Martin Sandoval, a Chicago Democrat who died of COVID-19 in December. He pleaded

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TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/CHICAGO TRIBUNE



JOSE M. OSORIO/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

## Group lists lakefront as 'endangered'

At the top of Preservation Chicago's annual list of the city's most endangered historic buildings is something that's not a building at all: The city's lakefront. The group says it could be permanently altered by development and has called on the city and the park district to seek a national park designation for the entire lakefront. The list also includes Roman Catholic churches and other buildings like industrial lofts, above, in the West Loop that face the threat of being torn down. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

### CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

## Local gym spurred a COVID-19 flare-up

Mask use was 'infrequent,' according to CDC report

BY ANGIE LEVENTIS LOURGOS  
Chicago Tribune

A Chicago gym spurred an outbreak of at least 55 COVID-19 cases over the summer after infected people attended indoor high-intensity exercise classes — including several who had already tested positive for the virus, according to a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report released Wednesday.

Infrequent mask use also likely contributed to the superspreader event, which occurred over about a week of multiple group classes, said the report, which was done by the CDC and the Chicago Department of Public Health.

Two of the patrons who caught COVID-19 visited the emergency room, and one was hospitalized for eight days. No deaths were reported from any of the cases linked to the gym.

The report reinforces public health guidance that mask wearing — and staying home when ill — is critical to reduce the spread of the virus, particularly during indoor group activities like exercise classes. Masks should be worn even during high-intensity exercise and when spaced 6 feet apart, according to the report.

The report also recommended virtual

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ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Nurse Bree Wells gives a Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to Helen Leadingham at the Iroquois County Public Health Department in Watseka earlier this month.

## Illinois starts offering vaccine to those with health issues

But most Chicago-area counties won't. Here's why.

BY LISA SCHENCKER  
Chicago Tribune

Illinois is expanding COVID-19 vaccine eligibility to people under age 65 with health conditions Thursday, but it likely will be difficult for Chicago-area residents to find shots in coming days.

Gov. J.B. Pritzker announced Feb. 10 that he planned to expand vaccination phase 1b — which includes seniors and front-line essential workers — to include younger people with certain health issues, starting Feb. 25.

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## Johnson & Johnson vaccine gets key backing

FDA says severe COVID-19 prevented by single-dose shot

BY LAURAN NEERGAARD  
AND MATTHEW PERRONE  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Johnson & Johnson's single-dose vaccine offers strong protection against severe COVID-19, according to an analysis released Wednesday by U.S. regulators that sets the stage for a final decision on a new and easier-to-use shot to help tame the pandemic.

The long-anticipated shot could offer the nation a third vaccine option and help speed vaccinations by requiring just one dose instead of two. Food and Drug Administration scientists confirmed that overall the vaccine is about 66% effective at preventing moderate to severe COVID-19, and about 85% effective against the most serious illness. The agency also said J&J's shot is safe.

The analysis is just one step in the FDA's evaluation. On Friday, the agency's independent advisers will debate if the evidence is strong enough to recommend the shot. With that advice, the FDA is expected to make a final decision within days.

The COVID-19 death toll in the U.S. topped 500,000 this week, and the vaccination drive has been slower than hoped, hampered by logistical and

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### Next steps for schools

CPS CEO Janice Jackson says the district aims to expand in-person learning before the end of the school year, but some parents are pushing for better remote learning. **Chicagoland, Page 2**

### Positive PPP changes

Changes to the Paycheck Protection Program are helping small minority-owned Chicago businesses. "I'm glad somebody saw the light," says one South Side beneficiary. **Business**



YOUNGRAE KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

### Chicago's egg roll boom

If you wander around predominantly Black neighborhoods, you'll find restaurateurs filling the Chinese American snack with everything from jerk chicken to Italian beef. **A+E**