



## 10 ways NFL draft came into focus after free agency moves

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## Push on to expand voting rights in jails



Cook County Corrections Sgt. Robert Mulac talks with inmates as they vote in the local election Feb. 18 in Chicago. It is one of several lockups where voting rights advocates have worked with local election and jail officials to offer voting for those held there. CHARLES REX ARBOGAST/AP FILE

Gary Fields and Michael Tarm  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO – The voting precinct could have been any one of hundreds throughout Chicago, except that these voters in the first round of the mayoral election were all wearing the same beige smocks. And the security at this polling place wasn't intended to keep disrupters and campaigners out, but the voters in.

When first-time voter Tykarri Skillon finished studying the list of nine candidates, looking for those who shared his priorities on jobs and affordable housing, he marked his ballot and then was escorted with other voters back to their cells in the Cook County Jail.

The 25-year-old, awaiting trial on a weapons charge, is part of a group not always mentioned in discussions about voting disenfranchisement. People serving sentences for felony convictions

lose their right to vote. Detainees awaiting trial or serving misdemeanor sentences do retain that right, but face barriers to exercising it in many parts of the United States.

The Cook County Jail, with more than 5,500 inmates and detainees, is one of the largest such facilities in the nation. It is one of several lockups where voting rights advocates have

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## Trump holds defiant Waco rally

Jill Colvin and Michelle L. Price  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WACO, Texas – Facing a potential indictment, Donald Trump took a defiant stance at a rally Saturday in Waco, disparaging the prosecutors investigating him and predicting his vindication as he rallied supporters in a city made famous by deadly resistance against law enforcement.

With a hand over his heart, Trump stood at attention when his rally opened with a song called "Justice for All" performed by a choir of people imprisoned for their roles in the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. Some footage from the insurrection was shown on big screens displayed at the rally site as the choir sang the national anthem and a recording played of Trump reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The extraordinary display opened Trump's first rally of his 2024 Republican presidential campaign. He then launched into a speech brimming with resentments and framed the probes, including a New York grand jury investigation, as political attacks on him and his followers.

"You will be vindicated and proud," Trump said "The thugs and criminals who are corrupting our justice system will be defeated, discredited and totally disgraced."

Trump's event at the airport grounds in Waco was part of a broader effort to use the potential indictment as a rallying cry for supporters to maintain his status as the GOP frontrunner in what is expected to be a crowded primary. It came one day after Trump raised the specter of violence should he become the first for-

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## Defendant in molesting case charged with urging witness to lie

Douglas Walker  
Muncie Star Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

PORTLAND, Ind. — A Portland man already charged with sexually abusing a child now stands accused of trying to persuade a witness in that case to lie.

Nathan M. Ross, 40, was charged in recent days in Jay Circuit Court with obstruction of justice, a Level 6 felony carrying up to 30 months in prison.

Ross was charged Feb. 2, also in Circuit Court, with child molesting, a Level

1 felony with a maximum 40-year sentence.

The Portland man is accused of assaulting a girl in her early teens who had visited his home in January. The accuser was examined at IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie.

Another juvenile told authorities they witnessed the incident.

According to an affidavit, that juvenile told police Ross called him on Feb. 22 "and asked if I would lie for him and say that he never touched (the accuser) or any other girl."

Ross then became "aggressive" and "started cursing me out," the witness told police.

A hearing is set for April 6 on a petition to revoke the Portland man's bond in the molesting case.

Also in that case, Ross faces seven counts of contributing to the delinquency of a minor, a Level 6 felony, over allegations he purchased alcohol for juveniles.

He was twice convicted of possession of meth in 2021.

New Castle man sentenced for dealing in meth

A New Castle man convicted of dealing in meth has been sentenced to time served in the Henry County jail.

Ralph Dewayne Evans, 52, had pleaded guilty to a Level 2 felony carrying up to 30 years in prison.

According to court documents, Evans had a bag containing crystal meth when he came to the Henry County jail

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