

# Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

ONE OF AMERICA'S GREAT NEWSPAPERS

\$4.00 237 YEARS OF SERVICE

TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2024

VOL. 97, NO. 343, 7/9/24

FINAL

## State senator seeking assessment fix

### Fontana to host the first of two hearings with an eye on uniform legislation in Pa.

By Mark Belko  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Amid the turmoil engulfing Allegheny County's property assessments, a state senator is

launching his push to require routine revaluations in a bid to eliminate many of the inequities now plaguing the system.

Sen. Wayne Fontana, D-Bookline, plans to host the first of

**INSIDE**  
Bill aims to make assessment process more transparent, **A-8**

at least two Senate Democratic Policy Committee hearings on Monday to discuss the state's "dysfunctional property reassessment system" — as an invitation to the hearing puts it — and ways

to fix it.  
Mr. Fontana is hoping to use the hearings as a platform to craft legislation to require regular reassessments in each of the state's 67 counties.  
"This will be about why we need it and why we should do it," the senator said of the first

SEE **VALUES**, PAGE A-2

## Biden tells Democrats he won't step aside

### Open letter calls for end to intraparty drama

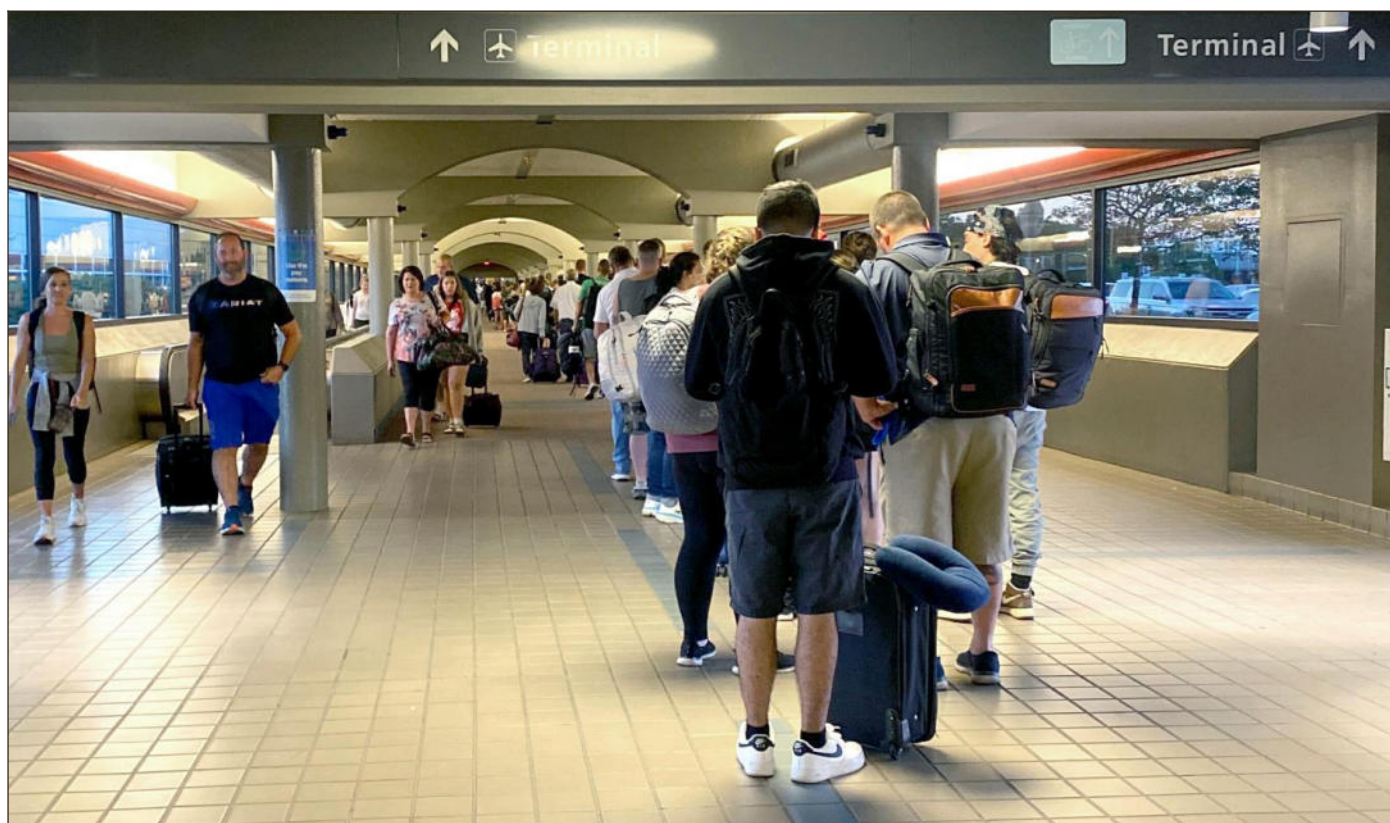
By Lisa Mascaro, Zeke Miller and Seung Min Kim  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden stood firm Monday against calls for him to drop his re-election candidacy and called for an end to the intraparty drama that has torn apart Democrats since his dismal debate performance last month, as key lawmakers expressed support for him to remain in the 2024 presidential race.

As anxious congressional Democrats returned to Washington weighing whether to work to revive his campaign or to try to edge him out, Mr. Biden sent them an open letter aiming to silence their skepticism of his fitness to lead the country for another four years. He insisted he wasn't leaving the race and stressed that the party has "one job," which is to defeat presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump in November.

After a week of false starts, a coordinated effort by Mr. Biden and his

SEE **BIDEN**, PAGE A-3



Ciara McEneaney/Post-Gazette

A line of passengers waiting to go through Pittsburgh International Airport security stretched down toward the end of the terminal walkway from the parking lots on Monday, even as a new format was introduced for its security checkpoints amid a record surge in air travelers.

## HOLDING PATTERN

### Long security lines continue at airport as TSA changes take effect

By Ciara McEneaney  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Giovanni Baumgarten waited in line for an hour and a half to go through the Transportation Security Administration's main checkpoint Monday morning inside Pittsburgh International Airport.

He eventually made it through — but not in time to make his 5:15 a.m. Southwest

Airlines flight to Denver.

The 23-year-old's slog through the long security line told the story of the airport's new early-morning security checkpoint format, which was implemented to improve passenger wait times.

In a change that began Monday, the airport's TSA PreCheck passengers now use the alternate security checkpoint on the ticketing level

from 4 a.m. to 7 a.m. — the airport's peak travel period. All other passengers use the main checkpoint.

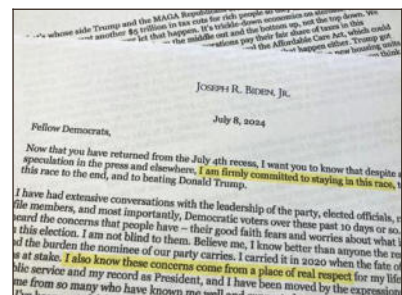
"That's when travel volume exceeds the capacity of the checkpoint," Lisa Farbstein, spokesperson for the TSA, said Monday. "It is similar to rush hour on the roads. A lot of people want to get someplace all at the same time."

The idea was to try to in-

crease the flow of passengers at the main checkpoint by adding more non-PreCheck lanes and attempting to "expedite the screening process, maximize space and minimize line wait times for all travelers at both checkpoints," the TSA said in announcing the changes last month.

Monday morning, it did little

SEE **TSA**, PAGE A-2



Associated Press  
A letter that President Joe Biden sent to House Democrats telling them to support him in election. (Highlighted areas added.)



Brandon Bell/Getty Images

**BERYL DRENCHES TEXAS** Jack Reyna and his son work to drain floodwater in their neighborhood Monday after Hurricane Beryl swept through Houston. Tropical Storm Beryl developed into a Category 1 hurricane as it hit the Texas coast late last night. Story, **A-4**.

## Republicans shift abortion platform

### Language changed at Trump's behest

By Thomas Beaumont and Christine Fernando  
Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — The Republican National Committee moved Monday to adopt a party platform that reflects former President Donald Trump's position opposing a federal abortion ban and ceding limits to states, omitting the explicit basis for a national ban for

the first time in 40 years.

Trump imposed his priorities on the RNC's platform committee as he seeks to steer clear during his campaign of strict abortion language, even while taking credit for setting up the 2022 reversal of Roe v. Wade by the Supreme Court. Trump appointed three of the six justices who voted in the majority to overturn the 1973 precedent that established a national right to have an abortion.

**INSIDE**  
Trump's VP search comes down to its final days, **A-5**

The scaled-down platform — just 16 pages and with limited specifics on many key Republican issues — reflects a desire by the Trump campaign to avoid giving Democrats more material for their warnings about the former president's intentions if he wins back the White House. President Joe Biden's campaign has repeatedly highlighted the "Project 2025" document produced by Trump allies as well as Trump's own promises to impose wide-ranging tariffs, replace thousands of government

SEE **TRUMP**, PAGE A-4



**ONLINE TODAY:**  
Get real-time breaking news and much more at  
[post-gazette.com](http://post-gazette.com)

**Weather**  
Hot with clouds and sun.  
Daytime high, 93;  
tonight's low, 75.  
**Page B-6**

Bridge ..... **B-4**  
Business ..... **A-12**  
Classified ..... **B-5**  
Comics ..... **B-3**  
Crosswords ..... **B-4**

Editorials ..... **A-14**  
Horoscope ..... **B-4**  
Local News ..... **A-8**  
Lottery ..... **A-8**  
Magazine ..... **B-1**

Obituaries ..... **A-10**  
Perspectives ..... **A-15**  
Scoreboard ..... **C-7**  
Sports ..... **C-1**  
Television ..... **B-2**



**Fast Parking for PIT • No Walking, No Waiting**

# Airport Parking

Serving PIT

# \$8 Per day

Plus applicable taxes and fees  
Offer Expires 8/31/2024

**TheFastPark.com**

Take I-376 West to Exit 51. Continue onto Flaugherly Run Rd. Turn right on Moon Clinton Rd. Fast Park is on the right.  
651 Moon Clinton Rd • 724-858-3278

**Car Door to Terminal Service**

**FasPark®**  
Moon Clinton Rd  
Exit 51  
Business Loop 376  
Pittsburgh International Airport - PIT  
Downtown Pittsburgh

724-858-3278 • 651 Moon Clinton Rd