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IOWA CITY

Press-Citizen

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2026 | PRESS-CITIZEN.COM | HAWKCENTRAL.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Bohannan calling for Traore’s release

U.S. Rep. Miller-Meeks asks DHS to halt deportation of long-time Iowa City resident

Jessica Rish

Iowa City Press-Citizen

USA TODAY NETWORK

Christina Bohannan, the Democrat challenging U.S. Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks in Iowa’s 1st Congressional District, recently called on the federal

government to release 42-year-old Iowa City resident Fatou Traore from immigration custody.

Traore, originally from the Ivory Coast and a resident of Iowa City for more than 20 years, was detained on Wednesday, Sept. 24, according to immigration advocates with Escucha Mi Voz Iowa. Representatives

say she is being held in Richwood Correctional Center in Monroe, Louisiana, and is at risk of being deported to Sierra Leone — a country she has never been to.

With no criminal record, Traore is in the United States legally on a 2011 “withholding of removal” order, according to Escucha. The order grants legal protection from deportation to a country where an applicant faces harm or torture.

“We need to bring Fatou Traore home,” Bohannan said in a social media

statement. “Fatou was arrested and detained by ICE a few days ago, and was sent to Louisiana to await deportation to Sierra Leone, a country with which she has no ties...Fatou has not committed or been charged with committing any crime. She is a hardworking employee of UIHC and has young children who are US citizens. We should secure the border and deport violent criminals, not law-abiding, hard-working mothers.”

See TRAORE, Page 2A



Isaac Branch, vice president of the Turning Point USA chapter at the University of Iowa, with Donald Trump Jr. during the Love it or Leave it tour stop Oct. 8 at the Iowa Memorial Union in Iowa City. JULIA HANSEN/IOWA CITY PRESS-CITIZEN

Donald Trump Jr., Ben Shapiro urge GOP turnout

Liam Halawith

Iowa City Press-Citizen

USA TODAY NETWORK

Donald Trump Jr. said political violence has become “normalized and encouraged” on the left during a University of Iowa appearance.

Trump Jr. was one of four speakers at a Turning Point USA event in front of a packed Iowa Memorial Union crowd on

Thursday, Oct. 8, in Iowa City.

He was joined by conservative media personality and founder of the Daily Wire Ben Shapiro, who called on audience members to vote Republican in the Nov. 3 midterm election. Shapiro also endorsed Iowa Republican gubernatorial candidate Zach Lahn.

Turning Point USA is a conservative advocacy group focused on engaging with college campuses.

Trump Jr. did not field any questions from the crowd, and only interacted with the event’s moderator, Alex Clark, as well as UI student Isaac Branch, vice president for the local Turning Point chapter.

Branch was awarded a \$5,000 scholarship from the national organization on Thursday.

See GOP TURNOUT, Page 5A

Early voting in Iowa starts Oct. 14

Cooper Worth

Des Moines Register

USA TODAY NETWORK

Do you have plans that conflict with Election Day on Tuesday, Nov. 3? Don’t worry, there are several ways to cast your ballot in advance.

With the 2026 general election approaching and races for dozens of federal, state and local offices on the ballot, now is the time to plan and vote early.

Here’s what to know about early voting in Iowa.

When does in-person early voting start in Iowa for the 2026 general election?

Early voting in Iowa begins on Wednesday, Oct. 14, which is 20 days before the election.

The last day to vote early in-person is Monday, Nov. 2.

See EARLY VOTING, Page 5A



Voter registration forms sit on the front desk of the Polk County Auditor’s Office in downtown Des Moines on Oct. 19, 2022. MARGARET KISPRT/THE REGISTER

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