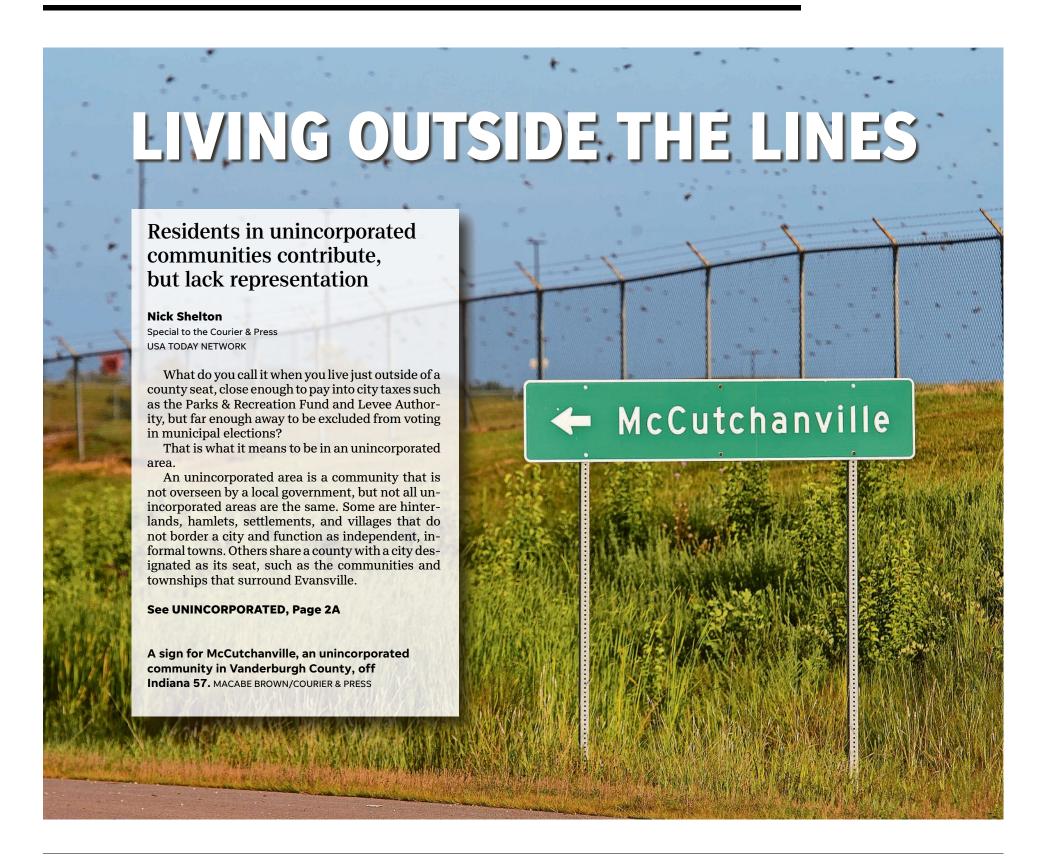


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EVANSVILLE ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL

Vision for reimagined agency comes into focus

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Evansville Courier & Press USA TODAY NETWORK

Evansville's new director of Animal Care and Control would be paid \$81,600 annually as part of a departmental budget of just over \$1.3 million, according to the city's proposed 2026 fiscal plan.

Mayor Stephanie Terry proposes to fund a newly created executive-level director for the agency, a move hailed by animal welfare activists and advocates.

The Evansville City Council on Monday signaled its approval of the plan by "Finally, Mayor Terry and her administration got together and looked at things, and this is finally happening. It's going to be wonderful for Animal Control under the city and county."

Missy Mosby, councilwoman

passing a finance ordinance providing an interfund transfer of \$135,000 for Animal Control the remainder of this year, including \$28,000 to pay a director. There are plans to hire two additional employees as well.

The city may not spend all of that money. Assuming council members also fund the new leadership position in next year's budget, Terry wants someone in place by the end of year.

It means Animal Control would no longer be lumped in with five other city government functions under one large catch-all department, a long-standing setup that advocates and some elected officials said saddles the agency with unnecessary layers of bureaucracy and limited authority.

Terry in August unveiled her plan to fund a newly created executive-level director for the agency. That person would be a member of the mayor's executive

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