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2021 PULITZER PRIZE WINNER

THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2025
"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty" II COR. 3:17

IndyStar.

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Liz Marks-Strauss, a real estate agent with F.C. Tucker, is seen during an open house on Sept. 13 in Indianapolis.
PHOTOS BY MICHELLE PEMBERTON/INDYSTAR

Will Fed rate cut help homebuyers?

Experts: Indy market may not see much relief

Marissa Meador and Tory Basile
Indianapolis Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

Markets are expecting interest rate cuts this week after powerful Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell signaled he was open to a slight reduction in a speech Aug. 22, a move prospective homebuyers hope could trickle down and improve mortgage rates.

But first-time homebuyer Jade Spencer, 26, simply couldn't wait longer for rates to drop. She's under contract to buy a four-bedroom Irvington home for around \$300,000, a price she deems a "steal." Her mortgage rate is around 6.5%, but she said she'd consider refinancing or moving homes if rates dropped significantly.

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Rain falls during an open house hosted by F.C. Tucker real estate agent Liz Marks-Strauss on Sept. 13 in Indianapolis.

Buttigieg to rally against IN redistricting

Jade Jackson and Marissa Meador
Indianapolis Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

Former South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg will be returning to Indiana to join the Indiana Democratic Party in a rally against mid-decade redistricting at the Statehouse this week.

Last month, Indiana Republican lawmakers met with Vice President JD Vance and other Trump administration officials in Washington, DC, to discuss how to advance the president's agenda, including on the topic of redistricting.

Indiana lawmakers have voiced

Buttigieg

more support for redistricting in the weeks since the meeting. At the inaugural Hoosier Leadership for America Summit on Sept. 13, state Republican lawmakers Rep. Craig Haggard, Rep. Matt Commons and Rep. Andrew Ireland framed redistricting as a battle for the nation.

Though Republicans have mainly looked to U.S. Rep. Frank Mrvan's district in the northwest corner of the state as a target, the lawmakers at the Noblesville summit, including U.S. Sen.

Jim Banks of Indiana, urged a plan that would turn all of Indiana's districts red.

Gov. Mike Braun has not yet called the special session that would allow the legislature to redistrict, possibly because he has not yet secured the votes to ensure its success. Lawmakers said Sept. 13 that calling a session before getting enough Republican support would be a "total waste."

The governor's office has been relatively quiet on the matter, Haggard said, and legislative leaders have been similarly opaque.

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State AG accused of 'cancel culture'

Rokita eyes publicizing teachers' Kirk remarks

Cate Charron
Indianapolis Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

"Cancel culture," "intimidation" and reminiscent of the Red Scare. That's how three First Amendment advocates described Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita's desire to publicly document and shame the controversial speech of some teachers following conservative activist Charlie Kirk's assassination.

In a Sept. 12 X post, Rokita asked people to report teachers who "celebrate or rationalize" Kirk's Sept. 10 killing so they can be included in his office's government dashboard. The platform has been used to list and condemn instances of "objectionable" political ideology entering the classroom.

"These individuals must be held accountable — they have no place teaching our students," Rokita, a Republican, said in the post, which generated replies with specific teacher profiles and comments.

Rokita

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DCS staffer gone after comment on killing

Marissa Meador and Cate Charron
Indianapolis Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

An Indiana Department of Child Services staff member is no longer employed by the state following a comment about the killing of conservative activist Charlie Kirk by a shot to the neck, according to a statement the agency posted on X.

A screenshot of a social media post from a former DCS employee said: "Today was a real pain in the neck (winking emoji) but I survived," with attribution to another person. IndyStar has not been able to confirm the screenshot's validity.

The comment made was "in poor taste," according to DCS, and the staffer was no longer working as of Sept. 12.

"As public servants, state employees are held to a higher standard of conduct and ethics," reads the

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