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DETRIMENTAL IMPACT?

An aerial view shows the 16th Street Bridge looking north in Indianapolis. The city's Department of Public Works plans to close the bridge over the White River for two years starting June 1 for long-needed upgrades. CLARK WADE/INDYSTAR

Ahead of 16th St. Bridge closure, Long's Bakery, others plead for new plan from city leaders

Alysa Guffey
Indianapolis Star | USA TODAY NETWORK

For residents of west side neighborhoods like Haughville, Eagledale and Speedway, a yearslong construction project is far more than a minor inconvenience. The plans have the potential to cut off the tight-knit neighborhoods from the urban core of Indianapolis, and vice versa.

And, say the owners of one longstanding destination in the area — Long's Bakery — the construction could have a dramatically detrimental impact on business.



Dimitri Vann-Mincy, 4, eyes the doughnuts while standing in line at Long's Bakery on March 31. Businesses, led by Long's Bakery, are advocating for a partial closure rather than a full closure of the 16th Street Bridge. They and residents say a full closure will be detrimental to the movement of people in and out of the west end. KELLY WILKINSON/INDYSTAR

The city of Indianapolis' Department of Public Works plans to close the 16th Street Bridge over the White River for two years starting June 1 to perform long-needed upgrades to the historic pathway that connects the west side to downtown Indianapolis and the near north side.

Since 2012, the bridge has been listed as in fair condition, and the city inked plans to improve the bridge's infrastructure in 2024, according to DPW. Built in 1948, the bridge is not as old as others in the city, but the concrete is in bad condition as a result

See 16TH ST. BRIDGE, Page 12A

Circle City axes WRTV staff after purchase

October deal led to fears of pared news coverage

Heather Bushman
Indianapolis Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

After completing its acquisition of WRTV, Circle City Broadcasting has laid off what's reported to be a significant share of the station's staff.

Several WRTV reporters announced on social media that they had been shown the door March 31 after Circle City, a local media company that now owns three Indianapolis-area news stations, officially took ownership of the ABC affiliate from E.W. Scripps Co. The move comes weeks after the Federal Communications Commission greenlit the acquisition, bucking a longstanding regulation meant to prevent local monopolies.

WISH-TV meteorologist Tara

See WRTV LAYOFFS, Page 11A

Trump seeks control over voter rolls and mail-in voting

Zac Anderson
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump moved to exert federal control over voter rolls and mail-in ballots with an executive order that cracks down on a form of voting he frequently criticizes, even as he used it to cast his own ballot this year.

The move escalates the president's bid to place new restrictions on voting ahead of the 2026 midterm elections, when control of Congress is at stake. The action was swiftly condemned by Democrats and voting rights groups, who said it interferes with state election administration and makes it harder for people to vote.

See MAIL-IN BALLOTS, Page 11A

Hogsett selects 9 for board overseeing Indy's schools

Jordan Smith and Ryan Murphy
Indianapolis Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett has appointed a mix of public school advocates and charter school leaders to a controversial state-mandated board that will reshape Indianapolis public education.

The nine-member board overseeing the Indianapolis Public Education Corporation — a new municipal corporation — will assume many of the responsibilities now handled by the elected Indianapolis Public Schools board, namely levying taxes, calling for referendums, and transportation and facilities management. Created by House Enrolled Act 1423, the board must also approve a

revenue-sharing formula to equitably fund IPS and local charter schools, and ensure buses serve both sets of students.

Charter school groups and lawmakers who backed the law say IPEC will rescue Indianapolis public schools from financial difficulties and share

See APPOINTEES, Page 11A

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