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MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2026
"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty" II COR. 3:17

IndyStar.

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Probe in thefts linked to Alting

Prosecutor to investigate six shoplifting incidents

Ron Wilkins

Lafayette Journal & Courier | USA TODAY NETWORK

LAFAYETTE, IN – Elkhart County Prosecutor Vicki Becker will investigate six different Lafayette shoplifting incidents allegedly linked to state Sen. Ron Alting, a Republican senator since 1999 who faces reelection on Nov. 3.

The court order appointing Becker

states, "In re: to possible crimes committed in Tippecanoe County further described in" four separate Lafayette police case numbers.

Those cases include the 4:28 p.m. Sept. 22 incident in which police said a man and a woman were reported for taking "general consumable products" without paying for them.

"Store loss prevention personnel reported that a male and female suspect were briefly stopped by store security before fleeing the area in a green pickup truck prior to officers' arrival," Lafayette

police Sgt. Nathan Stoneking said earlier this week in a written statement about that incident. "Following a preliminary investigation, officers gathered evidence confirming a theft occurred and have identified two persons of interest."

That was the Lafayette theft the Journal & Courier confirmed earlier in the week, along with the Monticello Walmart theft on Oct. 1, that allegedly involved Alting.

Becker, however, is tasked with investigating two additional incidents re-

ported late Sept. 22. These incidents appear under two separate cases numbers, Stoneking said. Both were reported about 11:15 p.m., according to Lafayette police bulletins.

The last case involves three shoplifting incidents reported at 12:56 p.m. on Sept. 29. On that afternoon, Walmart loss prevention officers reported shoplifting incidents from Aug. 5, Aug. 20 and Aug. 22, Stoneking said. All of the incidents involved the same man

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ELECTION 2026
ANALYSIS

Trump uses federal power to boost GOP ahead of vote



President Donald Trump is spending millions of government dollars to air ads promoting himself and his agenda despite federal laws prohibiting public funds for political advertising. EVAN VUCCI/REUTERS

Critics call attempts to sway midterms illegal

Zac Anderson and Joey Garrison

USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – Americans are seeing taxpayer-funded television ads promoting President Donald Trump, government checks are hitting nearly 1 million mailboxes across the country, and

federal agents are scouring voting rolls as a midterm election marked by Trump's relentless efforts to boost Republicans' chances enters its final weeks.

Facing a challenging midterm landscape for the GOP, Trump has taken extraordinary steps targeting the election at every turn. The president is harnessing the power of the federal government in ways that election experts say are unprecedented, raising questions

about what could come next from a leader who sought to overturn the 2020 presidential contest he lost, was impeached and indicted over it, and now is back in the White House for another consequential campaign cycle.

"I think the president is trying to use all of the powers at his disposal to control the election results, and almost all of those efforts are illegal, but that has

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Ballard gets key backing from GOP's Ellspermann

Lincoln Party candidate in secretary of state race

Niki Kelly

Indiana Capitol Chronicle

Lincoln Party secretary of state candidate Greg Ballard picked up a notable endorsement Oct. 5 from former Lt. Gov. Sue Ellspermann.

"I've always been about good governance, and that has to be the top priority, even above a party. It has to be about good people who will do the right thing for Hoosiers," Ellspermann told the Capital Chronicle. "Greg is absolutely that candidate."

The longtime Republican served from 2013 to 2016 under then-Gov. Mike Pence before resigning to become president of Ivy Tech Community College for about nine years. She now serves on multiple corporate boards and lives in southern Indiana.

Ballard is representing the fledgling Lincoln Party and faces three other opponents — Republican Max Engling, Democrat Beau Bayh and Libertarian Lauri Shillings.

Ellspermann called Ballard a "proven leader, a proven high integrity public servant who made an incredible positive impact in Indianapolis as a two-term Republican mayor, who successfully worked across the aisle in a nonpartisan manner to get important, good things done for the citizens of Indianapolis."

And she said she still considers herself a Republican.

"I believe that we should all, in our parties, be trying to support the elevation of great candidates. I think the Democrats have work to do in ensuring strong candidates who will serve all Hoosiers are elevated to these very important positions, and I didn't see that happening in the Republican Party," Ellspermann said.

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