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‘The first hospital in West Lafayette’



IU Health announced plans on Friday for a first-of-its-kind hospital in West Lafayette, part of a \$214 million investment into medical services by the health care provider in the Tippecanoe County area. PROVIDED BY IU HEALTH

IU Health to build full-service complex

Jillian Ellison
Lafayette Journal & Courier
USA TODAY NETWORK

WEST LAFAYETTE — IU Health has announced plans for the first hospital in the city of West Lafayette, part of a \$214 million investment called “The Greater Lafayette Community Growth Project.”

The three-part Greater Lafayette Community Growth Project will bring the city’s first hospital to West Lafayette, a news release said, along with a state-of-the-art cancer center to the Arnett Hospital campus in Lafayette and a substantial expansion to the number of specialty medical services available in West Lafayette.

Art Vasquez, president of IU Health’s West Region, said in the release that the IU Health Board of Directors recognized the growth coming to Greater La-

fayette several years ago, understanding the need for an increase in services.

“We planted our flag early, confident in the community’s potential and committed to being part of its future,” Vasquez said in the release. “Today, we’re proud to announce the next bold step in that journey with the Greater Lafayette Community Growth Project.”

This is a major milestone, not just for our organization, but for our community.”

Johnna Dexter-Wiens, senior communications consultant for IU Health’s West Region, said a location for the new West Lafayette hospital has been confirmed, but she declined to share more details as of Friday morning.

“We have secured a site in West Lafayette as part of our strategic planning process to expand access to high-quality care in the region,” Dexter-Wiens said. “We are currently conducting thorough due diligence, and we look

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“Now, we’re preparing to bring another milestone — the first hospital in West Lafayette. Throughout every era, IU Health has consistently followed through — investing in infrastructure, talent and innovation to meet the evolving needs of the communities we proudly serve.”

Dennis Murphy
IU Health president and chief executive officer

WABASH AND TIPPECANOE TOWNSHIP

Residents offered new rezone to protect land

Jillian Ellison
Lafayette Journal & Courier
USA TODAY NETWORK

WEST LAFAYETTE — Rural West Lafayette residents within portions of Wabash and Tippecanoe townships have until Aug. 11 to optionally have their property zoned AA (Select Agricultural) in an effort to bring parts of the unincorporated areas into the recently adopted county Land Use Plan.

The AA zoning, according to the APC website, will provide areas identified within the adopted comprehensive plan for the county as having either highest or a combination of high and highest potential for agricultural use. The areas identified to within the parameters for AA zoning are also areas where no urbanization has occurred, the AA definition states, and would be reserved for the wide range of agricultural activities.

Ryan O’Gara, executive director of the Tippecanoe County Area Plan Commission, said the AA zoning in comparison with the county’s A (Agricultural) zoning is more of an agricultural preservation effort.

“The AA has less kinds of ag-related businesses permitted in the zoning compared with A, so for example a large animal hospital would be permitted with A, but not AA,” O’Gara said. “But in AA zoning, it is more reserved for row crops and pasture animals, not necessarily a building with a parking lot.”

By opting into the AA zoning ahead of the Aug. 11 deadline, O’Gara said the APC will foot the \$500 bill typically associated with a land rezone request. This decision wouldn’t prevent the land from being rezoned by the current property owner or a future owner, O’Gara said, but it would preserve the ag-marked land in the present.

“Our data, which is drawn from the USDA, indicates these areas are highly productive farmland, so placing it within that AA zoning district would keep that primary usage,” O’Gara said. “This zoning is really for folks who have a heart for wanting to preserve and protect their ag land for its intended future use.”

If property owners do not opt into the AA rezone before Aug. 11, O’Gara said they will still be able to in the future, just not on the county’s dime.

Property owners with questions regarding the rezoning effort are encouraged to call 765-423-9242. To view the the map of properties identified for potential AA zoning and to read more about the Wabash-Tippecanoe Townships Plan, go to tippecanoe.in.gov/1309/WabashTippecanoeTownship-Rezone.

Ryan O’Gara
Executive director of the Tippecanoe County Area Plan Commission

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Report on DEI cuts from state government

**Kayla Dwyer, Hayleigh Colombo
and Brittany Carloni**
Indianapolis Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

Hundreds of initiatives, trainings or grant programs that Gov. Mike Braun’s administration has found to adhere to “Diversity, Equity and Inclusion” principles have been eliminated from state government, according to a 135-page report unveiled July 9.

From internal newsletters to some professional development opportunities, the purging of DEI policies stems from an executive order Braun signed during his first week on the job, echoing one at the federal level by President Donald Trump. His order banned any state spending on programs that grant or endorse “preferential treatment” based on characteristics like race, and required every state agency to identify and eliminate all DEI-related positions, activities or procedures that previously existed.

The DEI backlash has been a predominant theme of 2025, with legislators passing a new law prohibiting publicly funded institutions from taking actions based on an individual’s “personal characteristic,” such as race, religion or sex.

By the numbers, this report identified:

- More than 350 “cases” of DEI initiatives, 60 of which are required by state law
- 70 trainings or instructional programs that have been eliminated
- 34 grant programs that contained DEI-related conditions on the funding, which will no longer be applicable
- 200 “initiatives” within state policy or procedures that have been eliminated (for example: recruitment)

“Diversity and equality are hallmarks of what we believe as a country, but these top-down DEI mandates led to division and inefficiency by forcing decisions to flow through this office whose purpose was to achieve a political

goal, rather than focused solely on maximizing results for Hoosiers on the kitchen table issues that affect their lives,” Braun wrote in a letter to Hoosiers topping the report. “Our Merit, Excellence, and Innovation standard puts merit and results at the forefront, and all Hoosiers have the same chance to get ahead with hard work under this level playing field where results matter above everything else.”

What DEI practices are being removed from Indiana state government?

The report is replete with examples of trainings being removed from office intranets, former news releases being removed from websites and references to “diversity” being removed from internal policies or recruitment criteria.

For example, the State Budget Agency says it will remove the reference to

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