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# South Bend Tribune

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026 | SOUTHBENDTRIBUNE.COM

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## ‘WE’RE THE NEW GENERATION’



Nolan Garner, center, a freshman at Purdue Polytechnic High School, stands with his classmates in front of South Bend City Hall during a walkout protesting U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement on Feb. 9 in South Bend.

MICHAEL CLUBB/SOUTH BEND TRIBUNE

### Small group of Purdue Polytechnic students protests against ICE

**Jessica Velez**  
South Bend Tribune | USA TODAY NETWORK

SOUTH BEND — Drivers traveling through downtown around noon Feb. 9 might’ve noticed a small group of about 25 students huddled in front of the South Bend City Hall chanting, “No justice, no peace, no ICE in our streets.”

South Bend Purdue Polytechnic High School students walked out of class to Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard on Monday morning to protest U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which Junior Alex Lindsley said is “terrorizing communities.”

“It’s American citizens, [and] it’s immigrants.

See **PROTEST**, Page 4A

## Candidates rush before deadline

### List of contested races on primary ballot

**Juliane Balog**  
South Bend Tribune  
USA TODAY NETWORK

It was a busy morning at the St. Joseph County Elections and Voter Registration Office as last-minute election candidates shuffled in to file their declarations of candidacy Friday, Feb. 6, to be on the ballot for the May 5 primary election. The General Election will be held Nov. 3.

The deadline to file a declaration of candidacy closed at noon Friday, Feb. 6.

With the filing deadline passed, it appears there are at least 17 contested positions as of Feb. 9.

Here are the contested primary races where two or more people have filed for the same party:

**St. Joseph County Sheriff:**

- Democrat Scott Ruskowski
- Democrat Earl B. Wigfall

See **PRIMARY**, Page 3A



Candidates stand Feb. 6 at the St. Joseph County Elections office to file last-minute declarations of candidacy in preparation for primary elections May, 5.

JULIANE BALOG/SOUTH BEND TRIBUNE

#### SOUTH BEND SCHOOLS

## Audit didn’t address grade changing allegations

**Rayleigh Deaton**  
South Bend Tribune  
USA TODAY NETWORK

SOUTH BEND — The South Bend schools audit from the Indiana State Board of Accounts did not include an investigation of grade-changing allegations, school board leadership says.

During a school board meeting on Monday, Feb. 9, board attorney Pete

Agostino told attendees that district leaders met with the state board last Thursday, and the audit report will be made public in the near future. But until then, or until the attorney general’s office takes any action, if it decides to, they are prohibited from disclosing any details of findings, he said.

Because the audit goes through June 2023, it’s likely to include infor-

mation from former Superintendent Todd Cummings’ tenure, well before the board replaced him in February 2025. The outside investigators the board hired in early 2025 have already reported widespread instances of alleged grade manipulation during Cummings’ superintendency, but in a text to The Tribune, board Vice President Carlos Leyva said that the “grade changing investigation was not part

of the state board of accounts [sic] investigation.”

“As a district we have moved on and there’s no longer active grade changing investigation,” Leyva said in the text. “Systems have been put in place to prevent grade changing misconduct.”

Email South Bend Tribune education reporter Rayleigh Deaton at [rdeaton@usatodayco.com](mailto:rdeaton@usatodayco.com).



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