



# Tribune-Star

## Will Trump's primary endorsements matter?

### AS PROMISED, PRESIDENT BACKS PRIMARY CHALLENGERS OF SEVERAL HOOSIER LEGISLATORS



Tribune-Star/Joseph C. Garza

Sen. Greg Goode, R-Terre Haute, answers a question about redistricting from Carolyn Callecod, president of the League of Women Voters of Vigo County, during the legislative crackerbarrel Jan. 10 at the Vigo County Library.

BY CARSON GERBER

CNHI STATE REPORTER • Indianapolis

President Donald Trump promised he would do it. He delivered. Now, will it matter?

That's the question looming over the state senate races in which Trump has thrown his support behind primary challengers now running against those who voted against his redistricting plan.

During his months-long pressure campaign to redraw Indiana's congressional map to further favor Republicans, the president threatened political retribution in the primaries for any GOP legislator who stepped out of line.

In the end, 21 Republican senators ignored those threats and



TRUMP

joined Democrats to derail the effort.

Ten of those seats are up for election in this year's midterms, with incumbent senators who voted against redistricting running in eight of those districts.

Two senators have announced they will not seek re-election. The filing deadline to run for office ended at noon Friday.

The president has so far issued endorsements on his Truth Social platform for five state senate challengers. Those candidates range from virtually unknown city and county elected officials to sitting state legislators.



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In the endorsement posts, Trump also blasted each state senator who voted to foil his gerrymandering plan as "pathetic" RINOs (Republican in Name Only) and "America last" politicians.

One of those is Spencer Deery, a one-term Republican senator from West Lafayette who, due to his opposition to redistricting, was the victim of a swatting attempt in which someone falsely reported to police a domestic abuse incident at his home.

Turn to **TRUMP, A5**

## Indiana Senate sends 'Let Kids Be Kids' bill to governor

BY CASEY SMITH

INDIANA CAPITAL CHRONICLE  
Indianapolis

Parents who allow kids to bike, walk or play outside without constant supervision would be shielded from child neglect allegations under a bill sent to Gov. Mike Braun's desk on Tuesday.

The Indiana Senate voted 48-0 on House Bill 1035, one of the first of the 2026 session to reach the governor. It remained unchanged from the version approved 93-0 by the House in January.

Dubbed a "Let Kids Be Kids" measure, bill author Rep. Jake Teshka, R-North Liberty, said the goal is to draw clearer lines between



Indiana General Assembly

ordinary, age-appropriate independence and actual neglect.

Under current state law, a minor can be alleged to be

a child in need of services, or CHINS, based solely on lack of supervision - even when the activity is common and age-appropriate.

On the Senate floor Tuesday, bill sponsor Sen. Cyndi Carrasco, R-Indianapolis, emphasized the research and rationale behind the proposal.

Turn to **KIDS, A5**

## Bondi clashes with Dems over Epstein files

### Struggles to turn the page on furor at hearing

BY ALANNA DURKIN RICHER, ERIC TUCKER AND STEPHEN GROVES

ASSOCIATED PRESS • Washington

Attorney General Pam Bondi launched into a passionate defense of President Donald Trump Wednesday as she tried to turn the page from relentless criticism of the Justice Department's handling of the Jeffrey Epstein files, repeatedly shouting at Democrats during a combative hearing in which she postured herself as the Republican president's chief protector.

Besieged by questions over Epstein and accusations of a weaponized justice



Attorney General Pam Bondi listens as she testifies before a House Judiciary Committee oversight hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington on Wednesday.

Department, Bondi aggressively pivoted in an extraordinary speech in which she mocked her Democratic questioners, praised Trump over the performance of the stock market and openly aligned herself as in sync with a president whom she painted as a victim of past impeachments and investigations.

Turn to **BONDI, A5**

## South student's essay wins state Sons of American Revolution honor

### Toniloba Adeagbo won state & local recognition, now has shot at national

BY SUE LOUGHLIN

TRIBUNE-STAR

Terre Haute South Vigo High School sophomore Toniloba Adeagbo chose a theme of immigration for an essay that won local and state honors and next goes to national Sons of the American Revolution competition.

Kent Salitros, president of

the Vigo County SAR chapter (John Martin Chapter), and William Behnke, president of the Indiana Society SAR, honored Adeagbo and Vincent Kelley, second place local winner, at Terre Haute South Wednesday.

The overall high school essay contest is sponsored by the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. In Indiana, 13 chapters



ADEAGBO

select local winners, and the state SAR selects a winner that is then submitted for national competition.

The topic of the essay must deal with an event, person, philosophy, or ideal associated with the American Revolution, the Declaration of Independence, or the framing of the United States Constitution.

Turn to **ESSAY, A5**



Terre Haute South Vigo students Toniloba Adeagbo and Vincent Kelley received recognition for their essays in the Sons of the American Revolution high school essay contest. Shown are Kent Salitros, Adeagbo, World History teacher Matthew Christjansen, Kelley and William Behnke.

Sue Loughlin/Tribune-Star

### Weather



46  
27

Cloudy

### FRIDAY



51 31

Sunny

### SATURDAY



54 41

Mostly cloudy

### A6

Dow Jones ..... 50,121.40

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Vol. 42, No. 195

A1 page editor:  
Jim Willis

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