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Courier Journal

Louisville, Kentucky

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2026 | COURIERJOURNAL.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Louisville’s homelessness count drops in latest tally



The low barrier shelter of Wayside Christian Mission is open 24 hours a day for dropping in to warm up, cool off or take a shower. PHOTOS BY SCOTT UTTERBACK/COURIER JOURNAL

Advocates note that thousands still can’t afford housing

Monroe Trombly
Louisville Courier Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

The number of people who were homeless in Louisville decreased this year compared with the previous year, according to the city’s most recent point-in-time count (PIT), conducted in February.

Each year, volunteers fan out across communities to count unhoused people. During the week of February 23, outreach teams in Louisville counted approximately 1,609 people, a 12% decrease from 2025, according to the Coalition for the Homeless, a local non-profit dedicated to ending homelessness in Louisville.

Of that number, 763 people were in emergency shelters and 325 were in transitional housing. Another 521 were unsheltered, an 18% decrease from 2025.

See HOMELESSNESS, Page 2A



Tamera Harrelson at the low barrier shelter at Wayside Christian Mission in Louisville on Sept. 1.

Woman, child to be united

Police said she tried to kill newborn baby

Monroe Trombly
Louisville Courier Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

A Jefferson County judge recently ordered the reunification of a one-year-old U.S. citizen with its biological mother, who had been accused by authorities of attempting to kill the child, prompting outrage from an advocacy group and at least one state lawmaker.

Family Court Judge Angela Johnson issued the ruling on Aug. 25, according to the KY Child Fatality Project, an advocacy group founded by Oldham County mother Jennifer Mortenson. Because family court proceedings in Kentucky are confidential, a copy of Johnson’s order was not immediately available.

The judge’s ruling comes about a

See CHILD, Page 4A

Hear from JCPS board candidates

Bailey Loosemore
Louisville Courier Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Jefferson County Board of Education will see major changes come January.

A new state law passed in April will reduce the board from seven members to five following the general election. And with only three incumbents running to keep their seats, the board is guaranteed to see at least two new faces.

Board members elected on Nov. 3 will be responsible for approving the Jefferson County Public Schools budget. They’ll sign off on purchases and contracts. And they’ll establish annual tax rates for property owners across Jefferson County.

See CANDIDATES, Page 2A

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