

American culture wars began 100 years ago at Scopes Monkey Trial



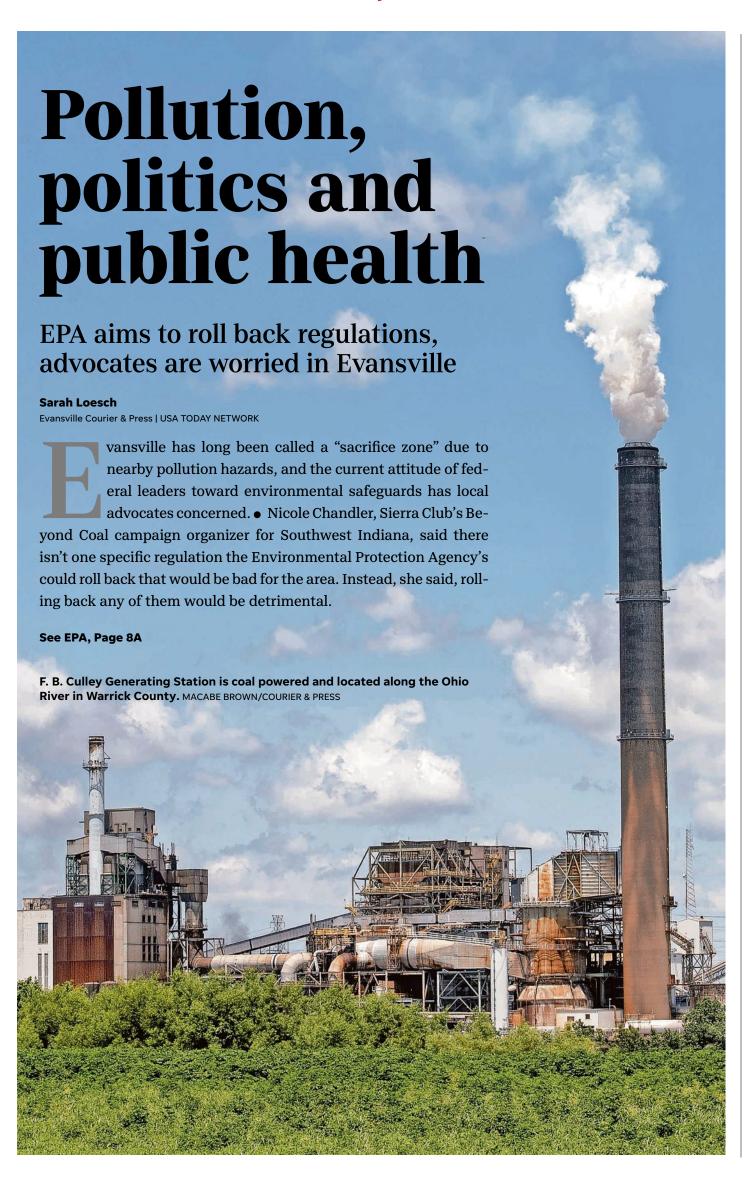
PRINT-ONLY SUBSCRIBER-EXCLUSIVE SPECIAL SECTION INSIDE

The Gleaner WEEKEND

SUNDAY, JULY 13, 2025 | THE GLEANER



PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



Education audit in KY: Critical or not?

Investigation yields very different reactions from department, auditor

Krista Johnson

Louisville Courier Journal USA TODAY NETWORK

Roughly eight months and \$1.2 million later, an investigation into the Kentucky Department of Education yielded a 556-page report focused on the entity's effectiveness over the last four years.

The report examines multiple areas of the department's operations — and how it should be read seems to be up for debate.

The investigation was conducted by Kentucky Auditor Allison Ball's office in partnership with a national management consulting firm and was released July 1.

A press release from Ball's office portrayed the audit's findings as heavily critical, highlighting "inefficiencies and gaps" within the state department. However, a statement from KDE framed the report differently.

"In every section, the report highlights the good work agency staff have been doing to support the students and educators of Kentucky," Commissioner Robbie Fletcher wrote following the report's release. "The audit showed that morale at KDE is high, our staff members truly believe in the agency's work and that superintendents believe they can rely on KDE to provide them with high-quality resources."

An examination of the report by The Courier Journal also found that while the audit identified areas in need of improvement, it also praised the department multiple times and did not back up some findings in Ball's press

For instance, the release said the audit found the department's diversity initiatives were "a waste of money." But the report did not include details on such funding.

The report came out of House Bill 825, passed in 2024, which required an audit of KDE and the "operation of the schools, departments, projects, and initiatives under its jurisdiction, including identification of those departments, projects, and initiatives that do not serve to improve the edu-

See EDUCATION, Page 2A









