



Judge blocks subpoena on GA election workers

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Program gives struggling artists \$1,000 a month



A few commissions, contracts, sales or cancellations can dramatically change what artists earn in a given year. GETTY IMAGES

The result: freedom and time to focus on their art

Joanna Woronkovicz
Indiana University
and Doug Noonan
Indiana University Indianapolis
THE CONVERSATION

Though artificial intelligence is making it easier than ever to produce images, music and text, the technology is also making it harder for the people who have traditionally produced this work to earn a living.

A photographer who once was commissioned to make art for an advertising campaign is now competing with graphics produced by the AI image generator Midjourney. A novelist who used to make money on the side as a technical writer is seeing that work be replaced by a series of prompts in ChatGPT.

The program selected artists through a weighted lottery. It adopted an expansive definition of "artist." Anyone engaged in artistic, cultural or community-centered creative practices – such as musicians, storytellers or muralists – was eligible to apply.

The extent to which AI will upend creative work remains unsettled. But that uncertainty has made guaranteeing income for creatives a more viable

policy idea.

In fact, creatives in New York recently participated in the largest basic income program for artists in U.S. history, the Guaranteed Income for Artists initiative.

Spearheaded by Creatives Rebuild New York and primarily funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the program gave 2,400 artists across New York state \$1,000 a month beginning in June 2022. There were no work requirements and no restrictions on how the money could be spent. The program sought to improve the financial stability of artists and encourage the public to see them as workers who deserve a stable income and social support.

As researchers who study artists, cultural work and public policy, we evaluated this program to see whether

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'Lost faith in the justice system'

Organizer of Louisiana governor recall petition charged with attempted murder

Greg Hilburn
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

A woman Gov. Jeff Landry identified as being an organizer of a campaign to recall him from office has been charged with attempted murder after she was accused of a shooting spree on Interstate 110 in Baton Rouge after crashing a car she was driving.

Leila Ann Habib, 63, is charged with attempted second-degree murder, aggravated criminal damage to property, simple criminal damage to property and illegal use of a weapon. A Baton Rouge judge set her bond at \$180,000.

Landry and the state Republican Party took to social media July 7 to mock the bond set for Habib and contrast it to the bond of \$400,000 set for Republican Attorney General Liz Murrill before the state Supreme Court paused Murrill's arrest over the holiday weekend.

"The organizer of the recall effort is now accused of shooting a man in the head and received a \$100,000 bond. @AGLizMurrill received a \$400,000 bond," Landry said in a post on X. "If anyone wants to know why Louisianans have lost faith in the justice system, start there. And these are the same people who accuse us of being the problem."

Landry promised to pardon Murrill after a New Orleans grand jury indicted her last week on intimidation and malfeasance charges connected with letters Murrill wrote to elected city officials saying they could be removed from office if they tried to block legislative action eliminating the criminal clerk's position.

The governor described the New Orleans justice system as a "kangaroo court."

Louisiana Deserves Better founder Marian Gbaiwon told USA Today Network Habib had previously been the campaign's volunteer social media director before she recently resigned her role over conflicts within the organization.

"In the days leading up to the interstate incident, I observed behavior that caused me concern for her well-being," Gbaiwon said. "I am fully cooperating with law enforcement and detectives by providing any information they request as part of their investigation. My thoughts remain with everyone affected by this situation."

Police who arrested Habib on Sunday said she exited the car she crashed and ran in between lanes of traffic using a Smith and Wesson handgun to prevent cars from driving past.

She is accused of firing multiple rounds, including one police say she shot through the windshield of a truck and grazed the driver's head.

Republican Party executive director Cory Dennis issued the following statement:

"This goes to show you the type of

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Bill proposed to raise federal minimum wage

Presley Bo Tyler
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

U.S. congressmembers Delia Ramirez, Jesús García, Lateefah Simon and Anallia Mejia introduced the Living Wage for All Act, which would raise the federal minimum wage to \$25 an hour.

The bill would be implemented in phases, with large employers reaching \$25 by 2031 and small employers reaching \$25 by 2038.

The Living Wage Act would also ensure wages do not fall behind again by establishing a standard that keeps the minimum wage aligned with typical

wages across the economy, according to Representative Delia Ramirez.

The bill was introduced and then referred to the House Committee on Education and Workforce, where it has remained since Jan. 3, 2025.

Has Louisiana ever raised its minimum wage? What to know

Currently, the federal minimum wage is \$7.25, which was set by the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) and has remained unchanged since its implementation in July 2009.

Louisiana does not have a state-mandated minimum wage law, which

means the state defaults to the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour.

Louisiana is one of five states that do not have a state-mandated minimum wage, along with Alabama, Mississippi, South Carolina and Tennessee.

There have been recent legislative proposals to establish a state minimum wage and raise it to between \$10 and \$15, but these bills were rejected or were stalled.

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