

**Higher Rates vs. Higher Equity: Who Wins?**

The answer isn't obvious

Ready to take the next step?

Contact addressUSA so we can get started working for you!



# THE TOWN TALK

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2026

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

ALEXANDRIA-PINEVILLE, LOUISIANA

## Louisiana indicts California doctor accused of shipping abortion pills



Louisiana Attorney General Liz Murrill, center, has secured an indictment of a California doctor accused of prescribing abortion pills for a Louisiana patient. GREG HILBURN/USA TODAY NETWORK

# ‘This is not healthcare; It’s drug dealing’

**Greg Hilburn**  
Shreveport Times  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Louisiana Attorney General Liz Murrill has secured an indictment of a California doctor accused of prescribing abortion pills for a Louisiana patient.

Dr. Remy Coeytaux, who operates a practice in Sonoma County, is charged in St. Tammany Parish with violating Louisiana’s Criminal Abortion by Means of Abortion-Inducing Drugs Law, which carries a penalty of up to 50 years hard labor.

“This is not healthcare; it’s drug dealing,” Murrill said in a statement.

“Individuals who flagrantly and intentionally violate our laws by sending illegal abortion pills into our state placing women in danger. We’ve seen the proof of that, with women showing up in emergency rooms after taking these pills and being coerced into abortions.”

A criminal arrest warrant has been signed for Coeytaux and Murrill has sent an extradition request to Louisiana Gov. Landry. Murrill previously secured an indictment against a New York doctor accused of prescribing abortion pills to a Louisiana patient, but New York Gov. Kathy Hochul has said her state won’t comply with an extradition request.

Coeytaux’s case will be prosecuted by 22nd District Attorney Collins Sims. The New York case is being handled by 18th District Attorney Tony Clayton.

Murrill is set to testify in front of the U.S. Senate Health Committee at 9 a.m. Jan. 14 about abortion pills shipped by mail. Republican Louisiana Sen. Bill Cassidy chairs that committee.

Cassidy, a doctor who opposes abortion, said, “Her testimony will be powerful and important.”

*Greg Hilburn covers state politics for the USA TODAY Network of Louisiana. Follow him on Twitter @GregHilburn1.*

## LA ranks second in obesity and sleep disorders

**Presley Bo Tyler**  
Shreveport Times  
USA TODAY NETWORK

High obesity rates remain an ongoing public health crisis in the U.S., and the condition has been tied to other health and systemic issues.

The prevalence of obesity has been related to various factors like socioeconomic status, chronic diseases and mental health issues, says Obesity Medicine Association.

Attempting to bridge the gap between wellness culture and exorbitant rates of health issues in the U.S., NiceRx analyzed data on obesity, insufficient sleep and anxiety disorders in each state to better understand the challenges facing a healthier population.

**Louisiana has second highest rate of adults affected by obesity, lack of sleep and anxiety disorders**

The overarching pattern in NiceRx’s study showed that Midwestern and Southern states dominate the rankings

See **OBSESITY**, Page 3A

## LA ranks as 2nd-most polluted state, report

**Presley Bo Tyler**  
Shreveport Times  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Louisiana is known for its industrial landscape, as the state is one of the leading manufacturers of petroleum, coal and chemical products.

While this industry helps boost Louisiana’s economy, the emissions released as a byproduct of manufacturing have contributed to poor air quality and produced serious public health risks.

This is evident within Louisiana’s “Cancer Alley,” which is an area in South Louisiana where fossil fuel and petrochemical production has led to elevated health risks and residents experiencing the effects of pollution.

**Louisiana second-most polluted state according to U.S. News & World Report**

Louisiana ranked number 49 for pollution, making it the second-most polluted state in the U.S., according to U.S. News & World Report’s ranking.

See **POLLUTION**, Page 3A

## Johnson, Newsom fuel CA-LA feud

**Greg Hilburn**  
Shreveport Times  
USA TODAY NETWORK

A fiery feud between Republican U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson of Louisiana and California Gov. Gavin Newsom that began last summer has spilled over into 2026 and pitted the politicians’ two home states against each other.

Johnson fired the first verbal volley of the New Year with the following Jan. 5 post on X:



Johnson

“The company U-Haul just released its yearly report showing more people are leaving California than ANY OTHER STATE - for the 6th year in a row. It’s EASY to see why. California has the highest state income tax in America — 13.3% — and now Democrats like @GavinNewsom are blocking President Trump’s Working Families Tax Cuts, denying workers real money back in their pockets.

Workers are leaving high taxes behind — and red states are welcoming them with open arms.”

Newsom quickly responded with his own post from his campaign account on X on Jan. 5:

“Louisiana ranking for best states: #50. Dead last. Not good Mike. California’s population has grown for the last 3 consecutive years. Fix your own damn state.”

That drew Republican Louisiana

See **FEUD**, Page 2A

**Subscriber-only eNewspaper**

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to [thetowntalk.com/enewspaper](http://thetowntalk.com/enewspaper) or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!



Volume 143 | No. 130  
Subscribe 800-292-0581  
©2026 \$2.00



7 40901 00001 2