



New rules affect smaller defense industry suppliers

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Sturgis Journal

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2026 | STURGISJOURNAL.COM

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Foster hometown pride to grow civic engagement



Regular community events, from farmers markets to fireworks, build emotional ties to a place. GETTY IMAGES

Local patriotism one cure for sour feelings about politics

Sean Richey
Georgia State University | THE CONVERSATION

Eileen Higgins won a historic victory in December. She became the first woman ever elected mayor of Miami, as well as its first Democratic mayor since 1997. Although the stakes in the city's Dec. 9, runoff election were high, interest was not – 4 in 5 registered voters stayed home.

Low turnout is common in municipal elections across the country. While much of the nation's political attention stays focused on Washington, the leaders who control the nation's streets, schools and neighborhoods are typically chosen by a small fraction of citizens.

Although many Americans can identify their U.S. senators or members of Congress, far fewer can name even one of their local elected officials, such as a city council member. To cite one example, a North Carolina study found that 86% of state residents could not identify their own elected leaders, including local government officials.

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Turnout in local elections regularly falls below 20%, often leaving critical decisions in the hands of small, unrepresentative groups, creating an electorate that's disproportionately White, elderly and affluent. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

People who loved their town were more likely to attend city council meetings, contact local officials, volunteer for campaigns and discuss local issues with friends. The same pattern held for civic participation – from volunteering with community groups to organizing neighborhood cleanups.

MSU, UM among top in foreign funding

Karly Graham
Lansing State Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Michigan State University and the University of Michigan rank in the top 100 universities throughout the country receiving funding from foreign countries, according to a recently published report.

The U.S. Department of Education recently launched a database showing where different institutions of higher education reported receiving foreign funding from.

Schools are required to disclose gifts and contracts valued at more than \$250,000 to the DOE and must make the disclosures available for public inspection, according to the report.

The department said universities have typically underreported foreign funding gifts, estimating that 60% of "reportable foreign gifts and contracts are now being accurately and timely reported." It is unclear where that estimate comes from.

A total of \$67.6 billion in foreign funding was disclosed by institutions throughout the United States, across 124,180 reports from 555 institutions.

The database specifies how much funding came from specific countries and in what number of transactions, but it does not offer any specificity about what the money is being used for.

The financial transactions listed in the database could include anything from grant dollars to research money to large individual gifts from alumni living outside the country, according to MSU professor Brendan Cantwell,

See FUNDING, Page 3A

Bill would add flexibility to U.S. family leave law

Olivia Montes
Delaware News Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

A newly proposed bipartisan bill would make federal family and medical leave more flexible for American workers.

The Flexible Leave Act, introduced Feb. 11 by Rep. Sarah McBride, D-Delaware, and Rep. Anna Paulina Luna, R-Florida, would modernize the federal



McBride



Luna

Family and Medical Leave Act to better reflect how working people manage ca-

regiving and welcoming a new child.

"No one should have to choose between their paycheck and their family, between their purpose and their health," McBride said.

The federal Family and Medical Leave Act currently allows qualified employees "to take unpaid, job-protected leave" for up to 12 work weeks for specified family and medical reasons,

See FAMILY LEAVE, Page 3A

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