



Mo. Republicans head to court

GOP hopes to fend off challenge to redrawn congressional districts

KURT ERICKSON
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

JEFFERSON CITY — Missouri’s newly appointed attorney general has introduced another legal hurdle into a citizen-led

effort to overturn newly drawn congressional maps designed to help President Donald Trump in next year’s midterm elections.
Republican Attorney General Catherine Hanaway, who was picked for the post in August by Gov. Mike Kehoe, filed a federal lawsuit Wednesday alleging a proposed ballot initiative aimed at killing the state’s controversial mid-decade redistricting process is unconstitutional.

The lawsuit, filed in the U.S. Eastern District Court on behalf of Secretary of State Denny Hoskins, the State of Missouri and the General Assembly, argues that allowing opponents to ask voters in a statewide referendum whether the new GOP-friendly maps should be rejected would “invite chaos” by allowing future redistricting efforts to be subjected to citizen approval.
Hanaway, a former speaker of the House,

said the state constitution puts the job of redistricting in the hands of the Legislature and cannot be challenged by voters.
“In effect, this could create apportionment paralysis — where the General Assembly is unable to implement a congressional map because successive referendum efforts nullify them,” Hanaway’s suit states.

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NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES

STUDENTS PUSH FOR DEPARTMENT



CHRISTIAN GOODEN, POST-DISPATCH

Marissa Mathieson, a senior at Washington University and co-founder of the school’s Native American Student Alliance, is among those lobbying the chancellor and Board of Trustees to establish an undergraduate Native American studies department. She is seen by the campus on Thursday, Oct. 16, 2025.

Group says Washington U. has fallen behind its peers

MONICA OBRADOVIC
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

CLAYTON — A class on Indigenous studies at Washington University set Marissa Mathieson and Taryn Dixon on a different course two years ago. It covered the impact of mass incarceration on Indigenous people and how they resisted, which fascinated Mathieson and Dixon as Native American students.
They wanted to learn more, only to learn there were few other options.
“We wanted to take more classes and realized there weren’t other classes to take,” Mathieson said.
That realization spiraled into a mission to bring more Native American studies and representation to WashU. The pair co-founded the Washington University Native American Student Alliance.
Armed with a 70-plus-page report, Mathieson and Dixon joined a small group of students Monday calling on the university to create a scholarship and department for Native American studies in the next five years.

“We imagine a future where Native studies are more accessible,” said Dixon, who graduated in May and now is a doctoral student studying the Choctaw Nation at Northwestern University.
WashU spokesperson Julie Flory said the university had no comment on the proposal.
The request for a Native American studies department comes amid Trump administration cutbacks to higher education and research, with diversity, equity and inclusion programs a particular target. That includes race- or ethnically-based scholarships. Those efforts have not included ethnic studies programs, as long as they are open to all students.
Dixon, Mathieson and the report’s two other co-authors, Amanda Young and Aspen Schisler, say WashU has fallen behind its peers and is missing out on an opportunity to leverage its location.
The university sits about 20 miles from the Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, once the center of a massive community

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Residents aim to block sale of park land

ETHAN COLBERT
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. CHARLES — More than 4,800 people have signed a petition aiming to block the future sale of city-owned park land in St. Charles, organizers said Thursday.
The petition was submitted to St. Charles officials on Thursday, a step in the process that could see voters weighing in on a proposed amendment to the city charter in April that, if approved, would require elections be held before the City Council could sell or exchange a park property with a developer.
A battle over the future of St. Charles’ 26 parks has been brewing here for months after the city sold one park and city leaders were reportedly pushing to sell another before it was even built. That sparked a lawsuit filed last January by St. Charles Councilwoman Mary West and now-former Councilwoman Bridget Ohmes, over an interpretation of the city’s charter and whether the City Council or the Park Board has final say in selling public parkland.

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Trump planning a meeting with Russia’s Putin

AAMER MADHANI, SEUNG MIN KIM
AND CHRIS MEGIERAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump redoubled his efforts to end the war in Ukraine on Thursday, announcing a second meeting with Russia’s Vladimir Putin one day before sitting down with Ukraine’s Volodymyr Zelenskyy at the White House.
Trump’s announcement came shortly after finishing a call with Putin. A date has not been set, but Trump said the meeting would take place in Budapest, Hungary.
“I believe great progress was made with today’s telephone conversation,” Trump wrote on social media. The two leaders previously met in Alaska in August, which did not produce a diplomatic breakthrough, a source of frustration for the U.S. leader who expected his longstanding relationship with Putin could pave the way to resolving a conflict that began almost four years ago.
Yuri Ushakov, Putin’s foreign affairs adviser, said the Russian president initiated the call, which he described as “very frank and trusting.” He said Putin emphasized to Trump that selling long-range Tomahawk missiles to Ukraine, something the U.S. president publicly discussed, would “inflict significant damage to the relations between our countries.”
Trump was already scheduled to meet Friday with Zelenskyy, who seeks weapons that would allow Ukrainian forces to strike deeper into Russian

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