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# The Fayetteville Observer

TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2025 | FAYOBSERVER.COM

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# 529 plans get more flexible



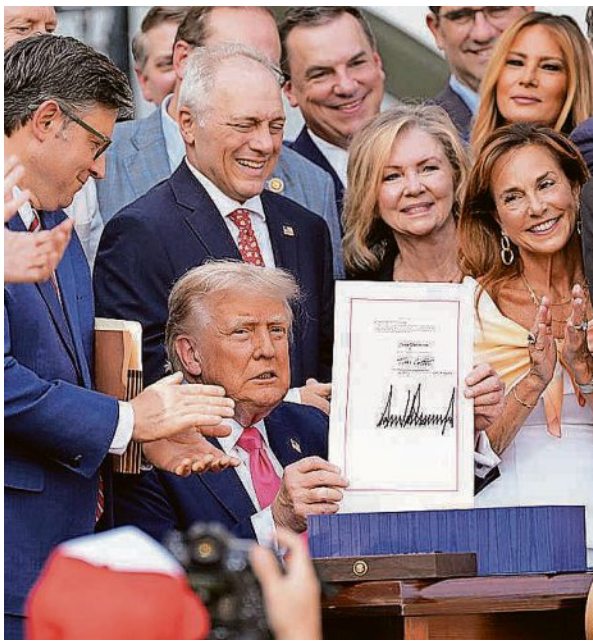
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But potential investors should examine pros, cons

**Medora Lee** USA TODAY

**P**resident Donald Trump's mega tax law will expand the uses for 529 education savings plans, but enough limitations remain to potentially give investors pause, some experts say. • The legislation dubbed the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" by Trump, who signed the bill into law July 4, significantly increases the options for how 529 plans can be used; they previously had been mostly limited to qualified higher education expenses and contributions up to \$10,000 annually for K-12 tuition. • Now, they will be able to be used for various costs, from standardized test fees to educational therapies and workforce training and credentials.

**See 529 PLANS, Page 3A**



**The “One Big Beautiful Bill Act,” signed into law by President Donald Trump July 4, significantly increases the options for how 529 plans can be used. ALEX BRANDON/POOL VIA GETTY IMAGES**

## RACE FOR MAYOR

# NJ native hopes to bring new perspective

**Joseph Pierre**  
Fayetteville Observer  
USA TODAY NETWORK

A single mother who recently lost her job is looking to start a new career in politics by running for mayor of Fayetteville in 2025.

Nahlee Iris Smith, 44, said in a July 25 interview with The Fayetteville Observer that she wants voters to know that even though she was not born or raised in Fayetteville, she still is the best representative for the city.

"I am humble enough to understand that there were people that came before me, and I am willing to educate myself on the culture of Fayetteville, like I have been," she said.

The Orange, New Jersey, native said that she and her two sons, who are now 21 and 16 years old, had been visiting the Fayetteville area since 2001, and previously lived in Fayetteville from 2008 to 2012 before moving here again in 2017.

Smith said when she got the chance to return to the city, she had \$1,100 to her name.

"I was homeless down here," she said. "We wound up having to sleep in our car because where we were staying at was no longer habitable."

Smith said she loved the city's atmosphere from the moment she first visited. She said Fayetteville reminded her of New York because of the variety of cultures its hard-working residents represent.

"Fayetteville was my very first time coming to the South," she said. "I just loved it because it kind of reminded me of back home, but it had the southern charm, the southern hospitality."

Smith said that while in Fayetteville and struggling to afford to live, she briefly took classes in leadership at Fayetteville Technical Community

**See MAYOR, Page 2A**

## Gov. Stein: NC joins initiative supporting military families

**F.T. Norton**  
Fayetteville Observer  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Gov. Josh Stein visited Fayetteville recently to announce that North Carolina is joining a national initiative aimed at helping states identify, prioritize and implement policies and programs that support military families.

North Carolina is becoming a Do Your Part State, a joint initiative between Blue Star Families and the National Governors Association, Stein said at Fayetteville Technical Community College on Aug. 7.

A news release said that Stein is committed to making North Carolina “even more welcoming to military families.” The release noted that this year, he signed into law four bills that support service members and their families: helping military spouses transfer their professional licenses from out of state; making it easier to remotely renew drivers’ licenses; aiding parents enrolling their kids in public school; and helping military students afford tuition in the University of North Carolina System.

“Just as servicemembers and their families have served us, we must serve

them,” Stein said in the release. “Supporting military families and ensuring they can focus on their core mission to keep us safe is critical to our nation’s security and the right thing to do. I am grateful that North Carolina is a Do Your Part State, and I am proud to reaffirm our state’s commitment to being a top state for military families.”

According to the release, some of the ongoing initiatives in the state that support military families include:

- Resource Guide 2024/2025: A guide

**See MILITARY, Page 2A**



**Gov. Josh Stein was in Fayetteville on Aug. 7 to announce North Carolina is joining a national effort to improve support for military families.**

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