



## Key elements Guardians need to make playoffs

SPORTS, 1B

**TONIGHT**  
SEPTEMBER 2 - 6:35PM  
**HISPANIC HERITAGE NIGHT**  
**T-SHIRT TUESDAY**  
PRESENTED BY PAUL DAVIS RESTORATION & OHIO LABORERS UNION

# Akron Beacon Journal

INFORMING. ENGAGING. ESSENTIAL.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2025 | BEACONJOURNAL.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## Sex abuse survivor speaks up for others

Prosecutor shares story of assault by her coach

**Nancy Molnar**  
Canton Repository  
USA TODAY NETWORK

CANTON — Kate Lukosavich didn't have to speak publicly about being sexually assaulted by her high school softball coach.

But when her abuser was sentenced to three years in prison, the 27-year-old Stark County attorney not only spoke about the crime in court, she



Lukosavich

gave a reporter permission to identify her. Newspapers don't typically name sexual abuse victims without their consent.

"I want victims to know that keeping a secret is a heavier weight to bear than coming forward," Lukosavich said. "If my story can help even one victim who experienced a similar situation, then the last decade of secrecy and struggle was worth it."

It has been a year since she reported the abuse to Tallmadge police. The case culminated in the Aug. 19 sentencing of former Cuyahoga Falls High School softball coach Kori Brown by Summit County Common Pleas Judge Jennifer Towell.

**Judge: 'You have nothing to be ashamed of'**

"It takes a lot of bravery to talk about this in a room full of strangers," Towell told Lukosavich. "You did nothing wrong. You have nothing to be ashamed of."

Brown, who was charged with having engaged in sexual conduct with a student between 2014 and 2016, previously pleaded guilty to endangering children, a third-degree felony. In exchange, prosecutors dismissed a sexual battery charge.

Since October 2022, Lukosavich has worked for the Canton Law Department, where she prosecutes domestic violence cases, among other responsibilities. Her personal experience shapes her work as a domestic violence prosecutor, and made her want to be a champion for victims' rights.

"It's given me an insight into how it feels to be a victim in the criminal justice system," she said. "I see now the importance in having the police departments and prosecutors' offices stay in touch with victims, whether that be through victim advocates, personal contact, just to update them about what's going on with the case, and what the status is."

"The detective in my case, Sgt. (Patrick) Fairhurst and the Summit County prosecutor, Seema Misra, they both did a very good job of keeping me informed with any updates, so I was very thankful for that experience with them and hope to translate that into my work as well," Lukosavich said.

Her work as a prosecutor also

See **SEXUAL ASSAULT**, Page 6A

## Summit County may be key to GOP remap fight



Dave Cohen, University of Akron political science professor, talks about Ohio redistricting and why it matters in his campus office Aug. 27. MIKE CARDEW/AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

## Recarving of Ohio's 13th District could disenfranchise Dems

**Derek Kreider**  
Akron Beacon Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

A political observer says Republicans' redistricting ambitions could leave some voters in Ohio's 13th Congressional District, particularly those in Summit County, without a clear voice in the federal government.

Republicans in the Ohio General Assembly could redraw congressional maps to expand their party's slim majority in the U.S. House of Representatives. Following President Donald Trump's assertion that Texas Republicans are "entitled" to five more seats, the Texas Legislature rushed to appease him, redrawing districts to favor GOP candidates. In response, Democratic governors of California, New York, Maryland and Illinois vowed to redistrict to offset Texas' gains.

Republicans' top targets include Rep. Emilia Sykes, D-Akron, and Rep. Marcy Kaptur, D-Toledo, the longest-serving woman in Congress.

Dave Cohen, a political science professor at the University of Akron, is confident Ohio Republicans will carve Summit County up among several districts, citing past practice as evidence.

"They've done it before," he said, "and if they want to add to their tally, they've got to carve up the 13th Congressional District."

Vice President JD Vance said the White House talked to officials in several states about

See **REDISTRICTING**, Page 5A

## What do candidates in congressional race think of redistricting?

**Derek Kreider**  
Akron Beacon Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

One of the most closely watched congressional races in 2024 is nearing a rematch, but the playing field could shift considerably depending on Ohio Republicans' approach to redistricting.

Incumbent Democratic Congresswoman Emilia Sykes, an Akron native, is running against Republican challenger Kevin Coughlin from Bath Township for control of Ohio's 13th Congressional District. The region is considered key to the GOP's road map to strengthen the party's hold on the federal government.

Summit County was divided among several districts for decades. It was reassembled into one district in the 2021 redistricting cycle. The 13th Congressional District also covers the northern and western areas of Stark County, including Canton, North Canton and a portion of Massillon.

Republicans' complete control of the state government means they hold all the cards in the redistricting deck.

We spoke to Coughlin and Sykes to get their take on the upcoming redistricting process.

**Coughlin says redrawn map would be 'welcome change' but won't count on it**

Coughlin said his campaign isn't focused on the redistricting cycle. He got into the race to run

See **CANDIDATES**, Page 10A

### Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to [beaconjournal.com/enewspaper](https://beaconjournal.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 187 | No. 123  
Subscribe 800-777-2442  
©2025 \$2.99

