



# Cracker Barrel brings back ‘Old Timer’ logo after backlash

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# THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 2025 | CINCINNATI.COM | PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

# Bengals share renderings of stadium renovations



The Bengals' planned renovations will mean more than 2,000 new club seats to meet growing demand for lounge space. BOTTOM: The Bengals' plan for club lounges and suites includes a craft beer bar. RENDERINGS PROVIDED BY THE BENGALS

## Changes will upgrade club seating, concession stands

Erin Glynn Cincinnati Enquirer | USA TODAY NETWORK

Cincinnatians got their first look at a new Paycor Stadium on Aug. 27, when the Bengals released renderings of the planned renovations. ● The new renderings come weeks after the Bengals and the county signed a new lease that will keep the team in Cincinnati for at least a decade.

The team said in a statement that the renovations are designed for socializing with more bars and comfortable seating.

The lease lays out \$470 million worth of stadium improvements, with the potential for more should the project get funding from the state of Ohio.

The county will pay \$350 million for upgrades to concession stands, seats, restrooms, elevators, escalators, video boards, enhanced Wi-Fi, a renovated locker room for visiting teams and a new, enhanced Jungle Vision control room. The Bengals will pay \$120 million, including a \$60 million loan from the NFL, to renovate the suites and club lounges along with other concession improvements and "stadium beautification," according to the lease.

The improvements are scaled down from the plan originally proposed by the county last September, which was expected to cost \$1.2 billion.

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### Online

See more renderings online at Cincinnati.com.



A Kroger store in Sharonville on Aug. 1, 2024. FRANK BOWEN IV/THE ENQUIRER

# CEO memo: Kroger to cut nearly 1,000 jobs

## Grocer makes third wave of corporate layoffs in '25

Alexander Coolidge  
Cincinnati Enquirer  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Kroger is cutting back again. On Aug. 26 it told workers it would cut "a meaningful number" of its corporate staff.

Officials with the Cincinnati-based supermarket giant said the cuts would eliminate nearly 1,000 positions nationwide, including 200 in its hometown region. The latest cuts are the third wave of reductions of administrative and other nonstore jobs in 2025 after Kroger made back-to-back cuts in February and March.

In a memo to employees obtained by The Enquirer, Interim CEO Ron Sargent said the cuts will "simplify the organization" and free up money for Kroger to lower grocery prices, add hours for store employees and spend more to improve its stores.

"These decisions are never easy, but we know thoughtful, yet difficult, choices are necessary to set our organization up for continued success," Sargent wrote. "I know change is hard, but I, along with the Kroger leadership team, am confident in the organization's future."

Sargent, a Kroger board member and former Staples CEO, took over the helm in March after the sudden resignation of longtime CEO Rodney McMullen, who quit after an internal ethics investigation. Kroger barely explained why McMullen was pushed

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# Ex-officer: Vote against mayor likely a political move



Mayor Aftab Pureval speaks during a press conference to address crime on Aug. 1. ALBERT CESARE/THE ENQUIRER

Cameron Knight  
Cincinnati Enquirer  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Cincinnati police union's vote of "no-confidence" for Mayor Aftab Pureval may be unprecedented, but what does it really mean and can votes like this impact elections?

On Aug. 25, those in attendance at the union meeting voted unanimously against Pureval. But those votes came from a small fraction of current officers, and the vote carries no official repercussions.

The grievances against Pureval, who is a Democrat up for election in a few short months, boil down to three things:

- He took three days to respond to a viral brawl Downtown that pushed Cincinnati into the national spotlight.
- The administration's "order to the city solicitor" to force police to charge a White man in the brawl "to appease racial tensions." The city denies any order occurred.
- The mayor has not commented and has failed to "condemn" Iris Roley, a Black city contractor tasked who police

say is harassing officers. She was hired to help with the Collaborative Agreement, the agreement following 2001 civil unrest that led to police reform.

Pureval's response is that he has supported police and increased funding to their department.

### What is the political context?

This week, the union also endorsed Cory Bowman, Pureval's Republican challenger and Vice President JD

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Volume 185th | No. 119  
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The Cincinnati Enquirer

