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WEEKEND, 1D

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2025 | CINCINNATI.COM | PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Nation's largest health, wellness festival returns



Celebrities, schedule for Kroger's 2-day event Downtown



Alex Rodriguez, a three-time MVP and World Series champion, will speak at the 2025 Kroger Wellness Festival on Sept. 27.

TOP: Dozens of people walk along The Banks during the Kroger Wellness Festival in 2023.

Kaycee Sloan Cincinnati Enquirer | USA TODAY NETWORK

The Kroger Wellness Festival, two full days of health-centered workshops, exercise classes and celebrity cameos aimed at helping attendees live healthier lives, takes over downtown Cincinnati this weekend. The free festival on health and wellness takes place Sept. 26-27. Like past iterations, the Kroger Wellness Festival allows attendees to hear from professional athletes, pick up health tips and score some freebies. Here's everything you need to know.

What is the Kroger Wellness Festival?

The Kroger Wellness Festival is the nation's largest health and wellness festival, per the event's website. The two-day event celebrates physical, mental and emotional health by hosting fitness activities, panel discussions, cooking demos, exhibitions, classes and live music. This year, over 200 sponsors will educate attendees on their brands through live activations and free samples.

When and where is the Kroger Wellness Festival?

The 2025 festival runs from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sept. 26 and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sept. 27 on Fifth Street in downtown Cincinnati. The festival starts at Main Street and ends on Columbia Parkway.

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Butler Co. approves \$20M tax reduction

Some homeowners could double their exemptions

Victoria Moorwood Cincinnati Enquirer USA TODAY NETWORK

HAMILTON, OH – Residents in a Southwestern Ohio county may pay less in property tax next year after commissioners enacted a new state program that reduces property tax collection by millions.

Butler County's three Republican commissioners voted Sept. 22 to offer its own homestead property tax exemption that "piggybacks" on the state's homestead program. The "piggyback" provision, which allows eligible homeowners to get both tax breaks, was passed in the 2026-2027 Ohio budget.

The homestead exemption is available for people with disabilities and seniors whose total income falls below a certain amount. The exemption reduces the amount of a home's value that is taxed by \$28,000. That means an eligible homeowner whose house is valued at \$100,000 will pay property taxes as if the home were valued at \$72,000.

The doubled exemption means eligible homeowners in Butler County can reduce their home's value by \$56,000.

Butler County is the first county in the state to enact the newly passed provision, said Kyle Petty, managing director of policy at the County Commissioners Association of Ohio. Other counties will need to enact the program by Oct. 31 for it to count toward the next tax year, he said.

Commissioners will also cut the county's inside millage collection – money that funds the county government – by almost half next year for a total tax break of \$12.5 million. That will save all property owners roughly

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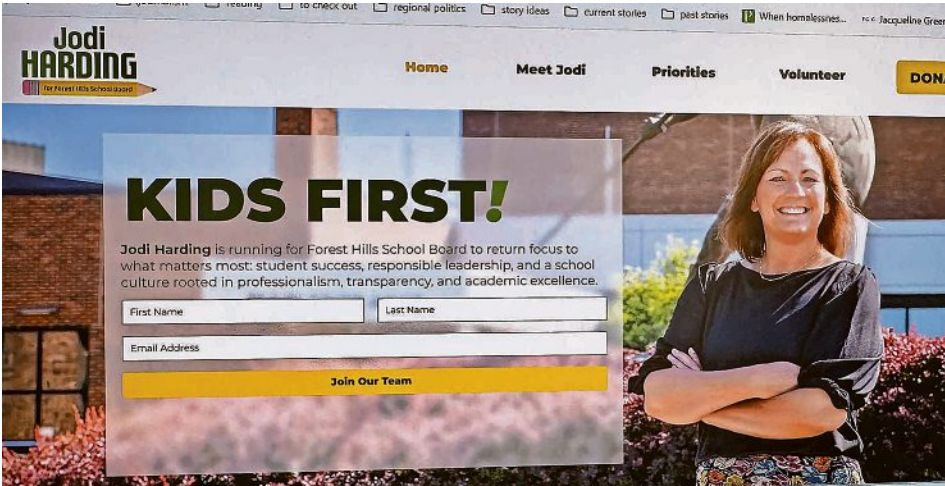
Candidate exits race after underage drinking reports

Erin Glynn Cincinnati Enquirer USA TODAY NETWORK

A Cincinnati-area school board candidate announced she's suspending her campaign after sheriff's reports detailing underage drinking at her home were made public. Hamilton County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to two calls at the home of Forest Hills School Board candidate Jodi Harding about loud parties,

one in November 2024 and one in April 2025, The Enquirer reported Sept. 25. After the April party, a 17-year-old girl reported to a sheriff's deputy that she had been raped, though no charges have been filed. Harding said in a statement on Facebook later in the morning Sept. 25 that she was suspending her campaign immediately but remains "committed to putting kids and families first."

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Deputies twice responded to the home of Forest Hills school board candidate Jodi Harding in the past year for loud parties. SCREENSHOT OF HARDINGFORSCHOOLBOARD.COM

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Volume 185th | No. 143
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