



# Notable Greater Cincinnati restaurants that closed in 2025

WEEKEND, 1D

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## Ohio ends grace period for absentee ballots

New law requires arrival by the close of polls

**Haley BeMiller**  
Enquirer Statehouse Bureau  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Ohioans must now return absentee ballots by Election Day if they want their vote to count.

Gov. Mike DeWine signed legislation on Dec. 19 that eliminates the grace period for mail-in absentee ballots. The move came nearly two years after DeWine said he didn't expect further changes to election law during his time in office.

Ohio previously allowed local officials to accept ballots that arrive up to four days later, as long as they were postmarked the day before the election. Now, absentee ballots must arrive by the close of polls. The change does not apply to military and overseas voters.

Senate Bill 293 also allows the secretary of state's office to automatically cancel the voter registrations of people who appear to be noncitizens based on state and federal databases.

GOP lawmakers and Secretary of State Frank LaRose said the new deadline will align Ohio with the majority of states that require ballots to arrive by Election Day. Critics contend the grace period is necessary to account for mail delays, especially in rural areas.

Ohio is changing its policy amid a national debate over absentee ballot deadlines.

President Donald Trump wants to eliminate mail-in voting altogether. The U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear a case against Mississippi that will determine whether states can count ballots that arrive after Election Day.

The U.S. Department of Justice contends these grace periods violate federal law and threatened to sue Ohio over its policy.

An attorney for the Brennan Center for Justice, which sued the Trump administration, said Ohio was not breaking federal law and not obligated to follow executive orders or decisions in ongoing lawsuits.

State government reporter Haley BeMiller can be reached at [hbemiller@gannett.com](mailto:hbemiller@gannett.com) or [@haleybemiller](https://twitter.com/haleybemiller) on X.

## Cincinnati's busiest street is a well-known bridge



A pedestrian crosses the street at Virginia and Colerain avenues. Colerain Avenue is the city of Cincinnati's third busiest street, Department of Transportation & Engineering numbers show. ALBERT CESARE/THE ENQUIRER

**Patricia Gallagher Newberry** Cincinnati Enquirer | USA TODAY NETWORK

Attention, traffic nerds! (We know you're out there!) • Here's a fun little game for your next gathering: Challenge friends to cite the busiest streets in Greater Cincinnati! • Winner gets a new car! • Too much? OK, how about bragging rights as best-informed road warrior in the crowd? • Here's all you need to play.

### Busiest streets in Cincinnati

Here's the city of Cincinnati's five busiest roads, according to the Department of Transportation & Engineering. Numbers shown are the average daily traffic counts collected in 2024-25.

- Western Hills Viaduct: 55,000
- Sixth Street Viaduct: 51,000
- Colerain Avenue: 40,000
- Martin Luther King Drive: 36,000
- Columbia Parkway: 35,000

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The Western Hills Viaduct ranks as Cincinnati's busiest street. SAM GREENE/THE ENQUIRER

## 3 dead after Christ Hospital Legionnaires' outbreak



The Christ Hospital officials said they are working with state, local and county health departments to determine the source of the exposure for two Legionnaires' cases in the past six weeks. CARTER SKAGGS/ENQUIRER FILE

**Randy Tucker**  
Cincinnati Enquirer  
USA TODAY NETWORK

There have been six cases of Legionnaires' disease reported at Christ Hospital since October, and three of those people have died, the Ohio Department of Health reported Tuesday.

The health department said in a statement that it is investigating the deaths and has not determined whether Legionella pneumonia, commonly known as Legionnaires' disease, was the primary reason for the deaths.

The individuals who contracted Legionnaires' disease and died all had "underlying medical conditions, which can

affect their health status and risk of death," the statement reads.

**Legionnaires' outbreak first identified in October**

Christ said in a statement that it was still investigating the source of the Legionnaires' outbreak: "The Christ Hospital has identified six individual cases over the past three months of people diagnosed with Legionella pneumonia, with a potential – though unconfirmed – association with The Christ Hospital's main campus."

The hospital's main campus is in Mount Auburn.

The outbreak was first identified in

October, according to the health department, which said testing of the water at the hospital confirmed the presence of Legionella bacteria.

Legionella bacteria are found in water systems and are not spread from person to person. Infection occurs by breathing in microscopic water droplets.

The initial cases at Christ prompted an investigation, including a site visit from health department surveyors.

In response, the hospital installed widespread water filtration and has implemented additional water testing.

The state health department and the

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