



The market won't wait. And neither should you.

Buying or selling? Don't wait—make your move now.

Discover more at addressUSA.com

My dream home...

Help me sell fast...

THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER

SERVING OHIO AND KENTUCKY SINCE 1841

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2026 | CINCINNATI.COM | PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

City cracks down on sidewalk shoveling

NEWS, 3A

ANALYSIS STATE OF THE UNION

A victory lap for Trump, or a focus on midterms?



President Donald Trump will deliver the State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress in the House chamber Feb. 24. JOSHUA ROBERTS/REUTERS FILE

Legislation or legacy could dominate

Susan Page
USA TODAY

"I think we have the greatest economy, actually, ever in history."

President Donald Trump
In interview with Fox Business

The state of President Donald Trump's union is troubled. When Trump delivers the State of the Union on Feb. 24, the audience in the House chamber will likely include members of a Supreme Court that just outlawed the stiff tariffs that have been his primary economic and national-security cudgel. A key part of his administration has been partially shut down in a ferocious showdown over his aggressive immigration enforcement.

And congressional Republicans, bracing for what now looks like difficult midterm elections, will be watching for which Donald Trump climbs the dais. Call it a battle for Trump's brain.

Some see the effort to refocus his message on kitchen-table problems — and even to acknowledge that those problems are real — as an existential challenge to their own political futures and the GOP's continued control of Congress in November.

That has not been the president's priority so far.

Since he signed the One Big, Beautiful Bill Act on July 4, 2025, extending

the sweeping tax cuts from his first term, Trump has been less interested in legislation and more interested in legacy. He has been less engaged on the close-to-home issues that were key to his reelection in 2024 and more on the global war-and-peace causes he hopes will burnish his place in history.

Not to mention imprinting his gilded brand on everything from the Rose Garden to the Kennedy Center — now known as the Trump Kennedy Center.

Indeed, it was his eagerness to bypass Congress that ran headfirst into

See TRUMP, Page 9A

Fire deaths surging despite fewer calls

Chief to address issue at Feb. 24 safety meeting

Matthew Cupelli
Cincinnati Enquirer
USA TODAY NETWORK

Nearly two months into 2026, Hamilton County is already approaching the number of fire deaths it typically sees in an entire year.

The latest victim, a 74-year-old West Price Hill resident who died after a Feb. 18 fire, brings the county's 2026 toll to eight. The tragic trend appears to have begun in early January with three members of a family found dead in a Spring Grove Village fire.

Cincinnati's fire chief is set to address what a department spokesperson called a recent "huge batch of fire deaths."

Despite the surge, Cincinnati data doesn't show an increase in fire calls, raising questions that Fire Chief Frank McKinley plans to address at a Feb. 24 city safety meeting.

8 fire deaths so far this year

Hamilton County averages nearly 11 accidental fire deaths annually, according to coroner's office data. Yet, by Feb. 20 this year, the county has already seen eight fire-related deaths,

See FIRE DEATHS, Page 4A



A 74-year-old man died in a fire in West Price Hill in the early morning of Feb. 18. PROVIDED BY THE CINCINNATI FIRE DEPARTMENT

IT'S OUR BEST WINDOW SALE!



CHAMPION
Windows • Sunrooms • Home Exteriors

a Great Day Improvements brand

BOOK YOUR FREE ESTIMATE TODAY!

513-572-2859

SCAN HERE



WINDOWS

BUY 2, GET

2 FREE*

SUNROOMS ENTRY DOORS

30% OFF*

OFFER EXPIRES 2/28/26

*Buy 2 Comfort 365 Windows® at regular price and get 2 additional windows of equal or lesser value free with participation in the Yes! Program. Offer applies to all window styles in white except nonrectangular shaped window styles. Window discount without participation in Yes! Program equals 40% off. Minimum purchase of 4 windows required. 20% national sunroom and door discount requires minimum purchase of 120 sq. ft. complete sunroom or 1 entry door with decorative glass. Earn up to an additional 10% off with participation in the Yes! Program (up to \$2,000), making your sunroom and door discount a total of up to 30% off. All prices include standard installation. All discounts apply to the MSRP cost. No adjustments can be made on prior sales. YES! Program valid only at the time of your initial demonstration and once per residence per term. Offer subject to change. See website or a Champion representative for details. Offer expires 02/28/26. Lic# CCG1537616 & CCC1356245. ©Champion Opco LLC, 2026

Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to cincinnati.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 185th | No. 269
Subscribe 800-876-4500
©2026 \$3.49
The Cincinnati Enquirer



0 49011 10101 7