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Mayor: No income tax hike this year

Pureval wants increase before term ends in 2030

Scott Wartman
Cincinnati Enquirer
USA TODAY NETWORK

Cincinnati voters won't have to decide this year on an income tax increase, Mayor Aftab Pureval told The Enquirer, after he opted not to bring his proposal forward this year.

It won't be the last voters hear of a city income tax hike. Pureval said he still hopes to put an income tax increase before voters sometime before his term is up in 2030. He said he wants an income tax increase to pay for affordable housing, neighborhoods and public safety. "There's no timeline," Pureval said. "We're going to continue to work with our partners and our coalition to identify the best time to move forward."

Why the mayor decided to wait

The rising cost of living along with two major tax levies on the ballot – Cincinnati Public Schools and Hamilton County children's services – convinced Pureval now isn't the time for an income tax hike. He said the city administration and council have improved the city's financial outlook since January when he first proposed the income tax hike in his inaugural address.

The schools and children's services have a more urgent need, he said.

"Our finances are stable," Pureval said. "Those organizations seem to be in a fiscal crisis, and the community should be focused on them right now."

Pureval applauded school board's decision

The Cincinnati Public Schools Board's decision to put a proposed income tax increase on the November ballot sparked opposition from both

See **INCOME TAX**, Page 9A

Buc-ee's guards brand with lawsuits; critics see a bully 'It's very much a David vs. Goliath story'



Kamal Boparai wears a T-shirt created to support Beaver's Mini Mart, which is owned by her family. Convenience store giant Buc-ee's sued the Beaver Creek business, claiming trademark infringement. JACOB SEBASTIAN/THE ENQUIRER

Patricia Gallagher Newberry Cincinnati Enquirer | USA TODAY NETWORK

Buc-ee's is known for its dozens of gas pumps. It is known for its always-clean bathrooms. It is known for its brisket sandwiches. • Increasingly, the Texas chain of super-sized convenience stores is known, too, for its lawsuits that seek to protect its "distinctive" beaver mark. • With its latest target – a decades-old Ohio convenience store – Buc-ee's is also being cast as a bully. The lawsuit is generating backlash from residents, elected officials and even communities considering future Buc-ee's locations.

"It's very much a David vs. Goliath story," said Nick Vehr, a Cincinnati public relations executive and former member of Cincinnati City Council.

Beaver Creek market has been operating for decades

Beaver's Mini Mart in Beaver-

creek, Ohio, just east of Dayton, started as Open Pantry around 1960, current owner Vik Boparai said. It went by Beaver's when Boparai bought it in 2016. Around 2020, he installed a sign with a larger picture of a beaver.

In April 2026, Ohio's first Buc-ee's store opened just a dozen miles away in Huber Heights, which sits

north of Dayton.

Boparai had no warning that he was in Buc-ee's bullseye.

He learned the chain was suing him last weekend from news coverage.

Why did Buc-ee's decide to sue Beaver's Mini Mart in a community

See **BUC-EE'S**, Page 9A

3CDC lays out plans for Grant Park, north OTR projects



An artist rendering of improvements to Grant Park in Over-the-Rhine. PROVIDED BY THE CITY OF CINCINNATI

Sydney Franklin
Cincinnati Enquirer
USA TODAY NETWORK

As work wraps on the \$48 million Findlay Community Hub, Cincinnati City Development Corp., also known as 3CDC, is eyeing a handful of other major projects north of Liberty Street.

Together, these are expected to liven up what's still a derelict part of the city's Over-the-Rhine historic district.

Here are the major developments to watch out for:

Grant Park

Among 3CDC's future projects is the renovation of Grant Park on East McMicken Avenue. Long-considered one of the most dangerous open areas in Over-the-Rhine, the 1.2-acre park is located just a few blocks southeast of the under-construction community center and will serve as an extension of the facility, which opens in January.

According to a presentation shown at a City Council budget meeting on Aug. 3, 3CDC is currently working on the rede-

sign of Grant Park with Human Nature, the firm behind Washington Park and Zielger Park. Initial drawings reveal a vibrant, lush landscape with sports courts, a dog park and playground.

The project is estimated to cost \$9 million and could be completed by fall 2027.

Findlay Flats

The \$27.8 million Findlay Flats project will transform 10 existing buildings

See **3CDC**, Page 9A

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