



## Spike in school supply costs hits parents

NEWS, 3A

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MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2026 | COSHOCTON, OHIO | COSHOCTONTRIBUNE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



Political commentator Bakari Sellers said candidates who understand the power of prayer could do well with South Carolina voters, citing Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro among other candidates. HANNAH BEIER/REUTERS FILE

## DNC taps SC for 2028 leadoff state

Potential presidential contenders courting state’s voters

Swapna Venugopal Ramaswamy  
USA TODAY

Since 1992, anytime a Democrat has won the White House, South Carolina primary voters have picked the winning candidate. Bill Clinton, Barack Obama and Joe Biden were the top vote-getters in the state on their roads to the presidency.

As Democrats seek a path back to 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. in 2028, South Carolina will again be the first state in the nation to hold a Democratic presidential primary – or at least the state sanctioned by party leaders to vote first. The Democratic National Committee officially confirmed Aug. 15 that South Carolina is the party’s choice to replace Iowa and New Hampshire, the tradi-

tional leadoff states, in two years to better reflect the party’s diverse voters.

Many potential presidential candidates are already making pilgrimages to the state, even though the primary won’t happen until Jan. 22, 2028.

That includes multiple trips by California Gov. Gavin Newsom for the South Carolina Democratic Party’s “On the Road” series, an initiative designed to connect national and regional Democratic figures to local communities.

Arizona Sen. Mark Kelly participated in a South Carolina Democratic Party town hall event in 2025. Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear was a speaker earlier in 2026. Former Vice President Kamala Harris, Democrats’ unsuccessful 2024 candidate, participated in a private fundraiser this year. Maryland Gov. Wes

Moore and New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker, the latter a 2020 presidential candidate, took part in this year’s “On the Road” series.

“Everybody comes here to test the water,” said Brent Nelsen, a political science professor at Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina. “Because we have a significant African American population, it is a great place for Democratic candidates to test their message with one of the main foundational blocks of the Democratic coalition.”

More than 60% of South Carolina’s Democratic primary electorate is African American, which is the party’s most reliable voting bloc. Matters of faith and affordability are the most important issues for voters, and a moderate candidate is likely to do best here,

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## New West Lafayette business styled for success

Leonard L. Hayhurst  
Coshocton Tribune  
USA TODAY NETWORK

WEST LAFAYETTE – Aliza Fender of Plainfield recently had highlights put into her hair by stylist Kaydence Frenton. Both attended the cosmetology program at the Coshocton County Career Center and Fender wanted to support Frenton as she started her new venture.

“She’s done by my hair before, I know it will look good and I know I can trust her,” Fender said.

Frenton opened Gloss Hair Co. on July 24 in the Brickstone Building, 100 W. Main St., West Lafayette. The Ridgewood High School graduate previously worked at Honey Hair + Co. in Zanesville, but wanted to return home. She’s also serving as a volunteer cheer coach at Ridgewood.

“School time is the best time to start a business like this, because everyone is looking for back-to-school haircuts. So, business has been super great,” Frenton said.

Makenna Rini, Allie Jones and Nolle Fox also work at the shop. They offer a variety of services such as men’s and women’s haircuts, hair washing and drying, coloring, eyebrow waxing and more. Frenton has been licensed since April.

“I love it when there is more people in a salon and you can build relationships with other women and support each other,” Frenton said on having other stylists in the shop.

Frenton would eventually like a bigger salon with more stations and spots to do nails and for an aesthetician.

“Just have more people and get more people involved,” Frenton stated on future goals.

However, she likes being in the Brickstone, which has other

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## Trump dials up pressure on allies

South Korea is latest to be put on notice

Francesca Chambers  
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – President Donald Trump is putting another U.S. ally he says was insufficiently supportive of the Iran war on notice, directing the Pentagon to scale back joint military exercises

with South Korea, a country he has pressed to pay more for its defense.

“We can’t go around and protect all of these countries, especially when they’re not there to help us,” Trump said Aug. 17 in the Oval Office.

South Korea is the latest in a string of close U.S. allies Trump has threatened to penalize with reduced military support since the United States and Israel went to war with Iran earlier this year. He has ripped nations such as the Unit-

ed Kingdom, Italy and Spain and said he’s reexamining the U.S. relationship with the NATO alliance, which he has long criticized as a laggard over some members’ lackluster defense spending.

Over the past several days, he has lobbed similar allegations at South Korea and made public overtures to Kim Jong Un, the North Korean leader with whom he tried to negotiate a nuclear

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As President Donald Trump has scaled back military exercises with South Korea, he has reached out to North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un. KEVIN LAMARQUE/REUTERS FILE

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Volume 117 | No. 198  
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