



DC cracks down on homeless camps

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As redistricting fights heat up nationwide, Ohio is up next

Jessie Balmert
State Bureau
USA TODAY NETWORK

Across the nation, the redistricting arms race is on to secure control of the U.S. House of Representatives.

President Donald Trump has floated using the FBI to retrieve Texas Democrats who fled voting on a Republican-drawn congressional map.

Meanwhile, California Gov. Gavin Newsom and other Democratic governors have threatened to redraw their maps to add more Democratic seats if Republicans move forward with their plans. New York Gov. Kathy Hochul recently said: “This is a war. We are at



U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur, D-Toledo, is a target for Republicans in 2026.
ANNA MONEYMAKER/GETTY IMAGES

war.”
Ohio Senate Minority Leader Nickie Antonio said she would be “very concerned” about Democrats’ response in a

normal world.
“This is not normal,” said Antonio, D-Lakewood. “It appears we have to do everything we can to fight back.”
In Ohio, the fight over a new congressional map has yet to begin. But it will play out over the next few months under tremendous political pressure from Washington, D.C.
Here’s what to expect:

Why is Ohio drawing a new congressional map?

Unlike other states, Ohio’s political leaders don’t have a choice on whether

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CEDAR POINT



The Siren's Curse roller coaster at Cedar Point. COURTESY OF CEDAR POINT

After breakdowns, legislator pushes change

Chad Murphy
Akron Beacon Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Cedar Point has had a series of high-profile roller coaster and ride breakdowns lately, leaving passengers stranded while the safety system resets or forcing them to evacuate, descending emergency staircases from 150 feet or more in the air.

Now, an Ohio lawmaker is pushing for change at the Sandusky amusement park and its sister in the Cincinnati area, Kings Island. State Rep. Sean Patrick Brennan (D-Parma) has introduced the Real-Time Ride Status Notification Act, which would require Ohio’s permanent amusement parks like Cedar Point and Kings Island to provide real-time public updates on ride availability.

The bill mandates that Ohio’s major amusement parks post up-to-date ride status both through digital signage at the parks as well as online through their official apps or websites. Parks would be required to update this information within five minutes of any ride becoming temporarily closed or returning to operation.

“Families spend hundreds of dollars and travel across the state to visit these parks,” Brennan said in an Aug. 13 statement. “They deserve accurate, real-time information so they can plan their day and avoid the frustration of walking across the park to find a ride shut down.”

Here’s a look at what the proposal

would require.

What would the Real-Time Ride Status Notification Act require at Cedar Point, Kings Island?

The bill mandates that Ohio’s major

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Ohio State University bans chalking on campus

Sheridan Hendrix
Columbus Dispatch
USA TODAY NETWORK

Ohio State University will no longer allow chalking on campus.

Chalking — a popular practice in which students write slogans, announcements and political commentary in chalk on the sidewalks around campus — is now banned under Ohio State’s University Signage Standards, which were revised on Aug. 14.

“Chalking is not permitted on campus and will be removed by Facilities Operations and Development, which reserves the right to charge for the cost of any repairs required due to removal,” according to the University Signage Standards. “In addition, any students found to be responsible would be subject to potential conduct referral.”

Regarding the new policy, university spokesman Ben Johnson said, “In

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Protesters chalked “Whose streets” during a protest against the Israel-Hamas war calling on the university to cut ties with businesses linked to Israel on May 1, 2024, on Ohio State University’s South Oval.
BARBARA PERENIC/THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

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