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Independent Mail

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2026INDEPENDENTMAIL.COMPART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

McClain, Timmons debate for 1st time

Bella Carpentier
Greenville News
USA TODAY NETWORK – SOUTH CAROLINA

U.S. Rep. William Timmons, R-District 4, and Democratic challenger Courtney McClain appeared on the debate stage for the first time this campaign season and offered sharply different visions for representing the Upstate in Congress.

FOX Carolina hosted Timmons and McClain at its Greenville studio for a 4th Congressional District debate Oct. 8.

The candidates sparred over the national debt, affordability, the war in Iran, data centers and other issues facing Upstate voters.

Every U.S. House seat is up for election this year, and much of Greenville and Spartanburg counties falls within the 4th Congressional District. Timmons has held the seat since 2019 and is seeking a final term.

McClain, a Democratic candidate from Spartanburg, is making her first run for Congress.

Her previous experience includes lobbying, activism, an internship with the U.S. House of Representatives, and work with the Congressional Black Caucus Institute.

During the debate, Timmons and McClain outlined their priorities and how they would represent the Upstate. Timmons said one of the biggest issues facing Washington is the national debt, which he called “immoral” to pass on to future generations. McClain highlighted her family’s deep roots in the Upstate and said she wants to continue serving her community by fighting for the re-

gion in Congress.

The candidates gave their positions on immigration, the national debt, the war in Iran and data centers. McClain repeatedly criticized Timmons over his support for the 2025 legislation known as the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act,” arguing that he is disconnected from Upstate residents. Timmons pushed back on McClain’s support for expanded Medicare access, calling the proposal “rainbow land.”

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Irena Tarasenko of Keipi makes a Bacon and Brie Khacha, a Georgian style pizza, during the 45th Fall for Greenville in downtown Greenville on Oct. 8. PHOTOS BY KEN RUINARD/USA TODAY NETWORK – SOUTH CAROLINA

CROWDS SAVOR FOOD, MUSIC AT FALL FOR GREENVILLE

Downtown Greenville came alive as Fall for Greenville returned with live music, local flavors and packed streets. Thousands of festivalgoers explored tasting tents, watched performances and enjoyed one of the Upstate’s signature fall events.



People visit booths of food during the 45th Fall for Greenville in downtown Greenville.



Scott Adams, lead singer of Sidecar, and his band play during the 45th Fall for Greenville.

Trump defends holiday

Iris Seaton
USA TODAY NETWORK – SOUTH CAROLINA

President Donald Trump has issued a proclamation defending Christopher Columbus from what he calls “a vicious and merciless campaign to erase our history, slander our heroes, and attack our heritage,” ahead of the federal holiday.

Columbus Day commemorates the landing of Christopher Columbus in the Americas on Oct. 12, 1492. But it is a contentious day for many people.

The Pew Research Center notes that Columbus Day has faced scrutiny from Native American advocates and others, who argue that Christopher Columbus isn’t an appropriate person to celebrate, with observance at the state level varying widely.

Trump’s Oct. 7 proclamation echoes the sentiment of an Oct. 9, 2025, proclamation he made, with the president proclaiming Oct. 12, 2026, Columbus Day and denouncing those who refuse to celebrate.

Here’s what to know about the federal holiday this year, plus North Carolina’s stance and more.

In the case of many states, holidays honoring indigenous peoples are also observed on the second Monday in October, observed alongside Columbus Day. Other states celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day or similar holidays on their own dates as paid or unpaid holidays.

In 2021, President Joe Biden recognized both Indigenous Peoples Day and Columbus Day amid widespread concerns that honoring the explorer glorifies the exploitation and genocide of native peoples. Biden was the first president to recognize Indigenous Peoples Day.

On Oct. 7, Trump issued a proclamation titled “Columbus Day, 2026,” mirroring his Oct. 9, 2025, proclamation with a similar title, in which he proclaimed Oct. 12, 2026, as Columbus Day, calling upon U.S. residents to “observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities” and directing the U.S. flag to be displayed on all public buildings on Oct. 12.

In the 2025 proclamation, Trump stated, “Outrageously, in recent years, Christopher Columbus has been a prime target of a vicious and merciless campaign to erase our history, slander our heroes, and attack our heritage.”

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