



Powerful right-wing groups push against bill from Tennessee AG

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DCCC rallies behind Molder for TN-5

Candidate's inclusion into program suggests confidence in taking seat from Ogles

Vivian Jones

Nashville Tennessean
USA TODAY NETWORK - TENNESSEE

The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee has named District 5 Congressional candidate Chaz Molder to its competitive "Red to Blue" program — a signal of Democrats' confidence they

can flip Tennessee's 5th Congressional District in November.

DCCC's affirmation comes with logistical support for Molder's campaign, including staff, candidate training, fundraising support, and strategic advising. And it follows assessments by Cook Political Report and Inside Politics that has shifted in favor of Democrats.

"People want someone who's focused on issues that actually matter," Molder told The Tennessean. "Potholes don't have partisan labels."

Molder, who has served as mayor of Columbia, Tennessee since 2018, is the frontrunner in the Democratic primary



Molder



Ogles

in District 5. His campaign has raised more than \$1.2 million in campaign contributions since September. He faces Mike Cortese in the Democratic primary. Whoever wins that race will face two-

term incumbent U.S. Rep. Andy Ogles, R-Columbia in the general election. Ogles was Maury County Mayor concurrently with Molder for a time.

"Even then, he's always been focused on partisanship and issues that divide," Molder said, noting Ogles' recent calls for an FCC investigation of the Super Bowl halftime show or repeated attacks on New York Mayor Zorhan Mamdani.

"Andy Ogles seems to be focused on making national headlines for the wrong reasons instead of making local headlines for the right reasons," he said.

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The Elks Lodge 1102 sports a mural depicting Jimi Hendrix, left, and Nashville bluesman Johnny Jones in a guitar duel that happened in the venue in 1963, when it was Club Baron. PHOTOS BY DENNY SIMMONS/THE TENNESSEAN

Vanderbilt University Medical Center ends surgeries for trans adults

Liam Adams

Nashville Tennessean
USA TODAY NETWORK - TENNESSEE

Vanderbilt University Medical Center is discontinuing surgeries for transgender adults, the latest announcement for the Nashville hospital after a series of escalating concerns about its care for LGBTQ+ patients.

The Nashville hospital cited "operational limitations and lack of surgical coverage" as the basis for ending one of its few remaining medical services for trans patients. It will continue "nonsurgical gender-affirming care for adults 19 years and older," a spokesperson said in a Feb. 21 statement.

Vanderbilt's medical care for trans people has been at the center of a political and legal battle that erupted in 2023, which has led to LGBTQ+ community members' growing criticism of the hospital.

A statement from the Metro Nashville Council LGBTQ+ Caucus last July said Vanderbilt "betrayed us" for making concessions to lawmakers and other program reductions.

Vanderbilt said it's in the process of informing patients what the latest changes mean and for those already scheduled for surgeries.

Last June, Vanderbilt withdrew support from the Nashville Pride Festival and laid off LGBTQ+ outreach staff. Supporters of transgender care say the move signaled to the LGBTQ+ community an instability within Vanderbilt, which has been the only hospital in the state to provide surgical care for trans adults.

Conservative state lawmakers and Tennessee Attorney General Jonathan Skrmetti began a crackdown on medical care for trans adults and youth at Vanderbilt.

All forms of medical care for trans youth paused as state lawmakers introduced a ban in 2023, which ultimately led to the U.S. Supreme Court upholding the ban in *U.S. v. Skrmetti*.

Rep. William Lamberth, R-Portland, said when the legislature was considering the ban on health care for trans youth because "these treatments and procedures have a lifetime of negative consequences that are irreversible."

Tennessee professional medical

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The stage is set for historic designation

Building that hosted music legends could go on registry

Austin Hornbostel

Nashville Tennessean | USA TODAY NETWORK - TENNESSEE

Local historians will tell you that across the world, there are only two original stages left standing today that have been graced by rock music legend Jimi Hendrix — one's in London, and the other is at 2614 Jefferson St. in Nashville. • The building isn't what it was when Hendrix played there, most memorably as the setting of a 1963 guitar duel with Nashville bluesman Johnny Jones. But its current stewards are closer than ever to changing that. • In late January, the Tennessee State Review Board recommended the building for a spot on the National Register of Historic Places, and it now only needs a final stamp of approval from the National Parks Service to join that list.

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Lawrence Hall, exalted leader for Elks Lodge 1102, is seen here at the lodge, which he hopes will get a spot on the National Register of Historic Places and host live shows.

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