



Column: Titans don't know how to win, and that's on coaching

SPORTS, 1B

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Democrats see chance to rebuild in rural America

Locals report rising dismay over GOP cuts

Sarah D. Wire
USA TODAY

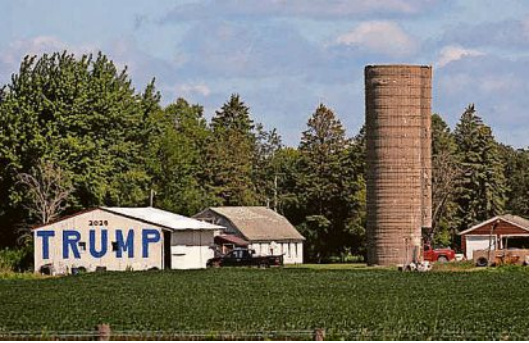
Dom Holmes, 28, has learned something important in 10 years of organizing progressives in rural Pennsylvania: You can't just show up when you need people to turn out to vote. You have to sit and listen to them.

In recent weeks, when he's stopped to listen, he's gotten an earful about the tax and spending bill the Republican-led Congress passed in July.

"Folks are especially worried about how that's going to impact them at the local level," he said. They're particularly "outraged," he said, about cuts to food stamps and Medicaid and the likely damage to rural hospitals. "Folks should be aware of what the impact – immediate and not – will be on them and they should know who brought that impact to their community; who brought it home to them."

His message is being echoed by rural organizers across the country who told USA TODAY that now is the time to talk with rural voters about the cuts in the GOP's landmark law – and who voted for them.

Rural Democrats see implementation of the GOP tax and spending law, combined



A farmer uses a barn to show support for President Donald Trump on Aug. 10, 2024, near Charles City, Iowa. SCOTT OLSON/GETTY IMAGES

with other changes from the Trump administration that they say will directly harm rural communities, as a moment Democrats can use to rebuild their brand in what has been MAGA country for a decade.

And while national Democrats have their own plans for wading into these communities, the locals say they know these places and their neighbors best. They aren't sitting around,

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AT TOP: Lily Franklin visits voters in Montgomery County, Virginia. The Democrat narrowly lost the race for a House delegate seat in the rural district in 2023 and is running in 2025. PROVIDED BY THE LILY FOR DELEGATE CAMPAIGN

Gun safety training coming for TN students

State mandates cover kids as young as 5

Vivian Jones
Nashville Tennessean
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

Public and charter school students as young as 5 years old will have state-mandated annual gun safety training for the first time, as Tennessee is the first state to have a law requiring such training.

Students in kindergarten through 12th grade will be required to learn to identify the trigger, barrel and muzzle of a gun through videos and online content, as required by a law passed in 2024.

Children of all ages will learn definitions for the terms "firearm," "safety" and "responsible," and to "demonstrate a mature attitude regarding firearms," according to guidance sent to

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Firm: GOP emails flagged as suspicious

Google blames vendor for warning on messages

Angele Latham
Nashville Tennessean
USA TODAY NETWORK

A right-leaning digital consulting firm claims that Google's Gmail service is flagging Republican fundraiser emails as suspicious while leaving Democratic fundraising emails untouched.

Targeted Victory, a political marketing consulting firm with a largely Republican base, claimed on social media in August that Google was flagging emails from their clients that contained links to WinRed, a Republican fundraising platform, as "dangerous" while leaving alone emails with links to ActBlue, a Democratic fundraising platform.

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