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NEWS, 3A

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ELECTIONS 2026 MIDTERMS

Is it a blue wave or tsunami?

Vulnerabilities across deep red states could paint Capitol Hill in a new coat of blue

Phillip M. Bailey USA TODAY

Democrats are expected to make significant gains in Congress, governors' mansions and statehouses nationwide on Nov. 3, but how far and wide the so-called "blue wave" will reach remains uncertain.

In addition to expected wins in traditional battlegrounds such as North Carolina, Democrats hope the wave will wash over states President Donald Trump won by double digits in 2024, such as Texas, Kansas and Ohio. The Trump administration and its allies scrambled to shift resources to shore up these historically conservative

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Key Senate races will decide control of chamber

Arit John, Terry Collins and Emily R. Condon USA TODAY

It looked like an uphill battle at the start of the campaign season, but Democrats now have a good chance of winning a majority in the Senate – and, with it, the power to sharply limit President Donald Trump's agenda for the remainder of his term. Republicans hold a 53-47 majority, but Democrats entered the midterm cycle with the political winds at their backs.

The party out of power historically picks up seats during midterm election cycles, and Republicans are trying to outrun an unpopular president, rising gas costs fueled by the war with Iran and an electorate that blames Trump's policies for higher expenses. That

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OT STILL AN L FOR TITANS



CINCINNATI – Quarterback Cam Ward, top, of the Tennessee Titans is swallowed up by Cashius Howell, left, and B.J. Hill of the Cincinnati Bengals during the second quarter at Paycor Stadium on Sunday, Nov. 1, in Cincinnati. Ward hit a career high, but the game went into overtime and the Titans fell, 43-36. JEFF DEAN/GETTY IMAGES

Inside

Titans again come tantalizingly close to victory, but problems remain. **Sports, 1B**



Gentry Estes
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The WNBA will adore Vandy's star Blakes

When Vanderbilt's superstar guard Mikayla Blakes selected a college program to bless with her abundant basketball ability, in her mind, she was making a four-year decision.

That's still the case as Blakes arrives at her junior season on West End. Two seasons down. Two to go. At least.

The transfer portal? Never even considered it, she says.

Leaving early for the WNBA? Doesn't even know if she could.

"I have no clue," she says. "I don't even know how it works (with the WNBA), to be completely honest."

Consider that a sturdy commitment from Blakes to staying at Vanderbilt for four seasons (and, who knows, maybe even five?). Which, of course, is outstanding news for Vanderbilt women's basketball coach Shea Ralph's ascending Commodores hoops program, knowing that Blakes' story here, after

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Reasons for and against the bail ballot amendment

Kirsten Fiscus
Nashville Tennessean
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

When voters go to the polls Nov. 3 they'll be asked to consider if judges should be allowed wider discretion in denying bail to defendants facing trial.

Currently, judges in Tennessee can only deny bail outright for capital offenses, or ones punishable by the death penalty. In any other case, judges can impose conditions, including high dollar amounts that effectively deny bail but in a way that falls within the letter of the law.

That could change.

The language of a proposed amendment is specific, until it's not. It lists capital offenses, terrorism, second-degree murder, aggravated rape and grave torture.

"Nobody wants a person like that out on bond, and no judge that I know would ever set a bond in a case like that," Nashville defense attorney David Raybin said

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