

# Data: Milwaukee crime down 16% from '24

## Homicides up, but still down from two years ago

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Crime in Milwaukee continued its downward trend in 2025, but homicides remain one of the only exceptions. City officials highlighted the positive trend in the city’s crime statistics at an

Oct. 10 news conference, where they shared that crime was down 16% from last year. Homicides remain slightly up despite the positive trends, with 110 occurring so far this year, compared to 102 last year. “Milwaukee is becoming a safer city,” said Mayor Cavalier Johnson. The figures discussed were for “Part 1” crimes that occurred between Jan. 1 and Sept. 30. The term Part 1 crime refers to an FBI category that includes homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated as-

sault, burglary and vehicle theft. Here’s what to know about Milwaukee’s crime, three quarters of the way through the year. **Homicides remain slightly ahead of last year** Milwaukee continued to see homicides track slightly above last year’s figures, with eight more murders occurring in 2025. Homicides, however, remain down

from two years ago. In 2023, there were 131 homicides between January and Sept. 30 in the city. Overall, shootings in the city are tracking considerably down this year. Nonfatal shootings are down 22% from last year and 40% from 2023. Many of the shootings stem from poor conflict resolution, said Police Chief Jeffrey Norman. That’s long been one of the top causes of homicides in Milwaukee. Historical police data **See CRIME, Page 10A**



The Marcus Performing Arts Center’s parking garage continues to need repairs as center executives and city officials disagree over who should pay for that work. PHOTOS BY ANGELA PETERSON/MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

# Who pays for Marcus Center parking garage repairs?

## Development stalls with owner, city in dispute

**Tom Daykin**  
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The Marcus Performing Arts Center’s parking structure needs major repairs to stay open — and center executives say the City of Milwaukee is legally obligated to help pay for that work. City officials say there is no such requirement — though both sides agree the parking garage plays a big role in helping the Marcus Center host Broadway shows, other live performances and community events. The issue is complicated by a dispute between Mayor Cavalier Johnson’s administration and Common Council members over whether a developer should receive the right to negotiate a



The disagreement over paying for repairs at the Marcus Center parking garage is tied to stalled redevelopment plans for that site.

# WI schools mostly omit protection for gender expression

## Policies don’t cover how students look, act, dress

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A study of Wisconsin school board policies has found that nearly all districts have policies protecting students from discrimination based on sexual orientation and the vast majority protect students from discrimination based on gender identity. But almost none have policies providing protection for gender expression. And it’s not just discrimination. Roughly the same breakdown applies to policies on bullying and harassment. In other words, after poring over thousands of school board policies across more than 400 school districts statewide, researchers from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and GSAFE — the statewide organization advocating for LGBTQ+ students, educators and families — found that transgender students were particularly vulnerable. The new research published Oct. 2. The findings come as a flurry of executive orders from the Trump administration and measures passed by Republican-controlled legislatures across the U.S. have targeted transgender students. Those steps reflect the culture wars that have further marginalized the LGBTQ+ population, which already had above normal risk for anxiety, stress, depression and suicidal ideation. Further, the research found that school policies often were not in sync with case law, leaving educators and students stuck if they’re looking for guidance. It’s the first research of its kind to publish in Wisconsin, said Mollie McQuillan, lead author of the school board policy research, who has spent years examining the intersection of

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