



Inside
“Sinners,” movie is a Playbook for Black Economic Freedom
Black Vampire film is a symbolic narrative of Black ambition, ownership, and the struggle for economic freedom.
Page 3



CLEVELAND
OBSERVER

Since 2018
“Engage ... Educate ... Empower.”

Vol. 6 Issue 6 June 2025

WWW.CLEOBSERVER.COM

A Bright Future for Cleveland’s AsiaTown



By Ron Calhoun

Art, Identity, and Community Inter-twine

A powerful and imaginative transformation is taking shape in Cleveland’s AsiaTown. The transformation is anchored in heritage and envisioned for the future, the project redefines what public space can mean for a community.

Leading this creative effort is artist Jordan Wong (WONGFACE), whose work, in collaboration with The Sculpture Center, MidTown Cleveland, designer Marika Shioiri-Clark, and several other partners, is bringing five vibrant installations to life at the AsiaTown Square Dancing Parking Lot on Payne Avenue.

The project features a profound spirit of belonging with customized ping-pong tables to an illuminated gate and light-box, each piece carries meaning, artistry.

Celebrating Cultural Identity Through Play

Wong believes public spaces can be more than functional. They can also be playful, beautiful, and deeply rooted in community spirit. One of the first installations, custom ping-pong tables, will energize the site.

“We’re redoing the finishes and customizing the nets. Each net will be made of laser-cut steel, and every table will have its unique color and concept,” Wong explained. “The three tables represent different themes — fluidity of



play inspired by water, fiery passion inspired by fire, and peaks and valleys of growth inspired by the earth and our community.”

These tables are not light-weight fixtures. Fabricated for

outdoor use, they weigh several hundred pounds each. “They’re heavy enough to resist being moved easily,” Wong added. “And they’ll also be anchored to the concrete using custom brackets

to ensure both security and durability.”

Planters That Speak to Unity

Three new aluminum planters will also be installed, adding life and color to the environment. Fabricated by Westfield Welding and finished with UV-printed vinyl by WestCamp, they will display original artwork from three emerging Asian artists: Thao Nguyen, Lydia Guan, and Nick Lee.

Each planter is inspired by the Chinese character (tóng), meaning “together” or “unity.” Wong noted, “It symbolizes the community’s inclusivity and togetherness.”

“Each artist comes from a unique background, Vietnamese-Korean, Chinese, and Japanese, and has been encouraged to interpret the

character or use a symbol from their heritage. The response to the call for artists was robust and inspiring. We had 20 applicants. It was amazing to see how many people were interested in contributing to this space”, Wong said.

The Asian Gate

A Landmark Welcome of Peace and Perseverance is the most striking feature of the new space, maybe its contemporary entrance gate, blending cultural symbols with interactive features.

This gate will invite curiosity and reflection, designed with bold red aluminum panels, stylized gold linework, and spinnable tiles.

The gate will proudly display the characters (héng) perseverance and (ān) peace, chosen through community input and a public survey.

Three stylized stars represent the traditional Sanxing Fu (fortune), Lu (prosperity), and Shou (longevity). The gate’s design echoes the natural elements, water, fire, and mountains, creating a dynamic visual narrative of life’s rhythms and challenges.

Two arches invite visitors through the space. The leading portal has a clearance of about 7 feet, suitable for most adults, while a smaller, playful 4-foot arch encourages interaction for younger visitors. During the design review,

ASIATOWN Continued on page 2

Business Feature of the Month

University Heights Nutrition: Juicing Success and Community Health



By Devon Jones

A business is about its business, which is always something special, regardless of size. However, when it comes to small companies, their achievements can feel even more remarkable. In to-

day’s uncertain economy, providing consistent, high-quality service is not just a milestone, it’s a community privilege.

The Cleveland Observer has always prioritized highlighting and uplifting small businesses, and this month’s spotlight is on a local gem: University Heights Nutrition, where wellness is more than a menu item; it’s a mission.

A Taste of Wellness

Located at 13894 Cedar Rd, University Heights Nutrition specializes in shakes and energy drinks that blend nutrition with great taste. Their extensive menu offers pre-workouts, meal replacements,

NUTRITION Continued on page 2



Mariah McGhee and business partner Tiana of University Heights Nutrition.
Photo Credit: Ron Calhoun



Project Site:
AsiaTown Square Dancing
Parking Lot
3236 Payne Ave,
Cleveland, OH 44114

Project Partners:
Jordan Wong
(Lead Artist)
The Sculpture
Center
MidTown
Cleveland
Marika Shioiri-
Clark (Urban
Designer)
WestCamp,
Rustbelt
Welding, and
Signature Sign



Emerging Artists:



Thao Nguyen
(@thaon_art)



Lydia Guan
(@waak.wah)



Nick Lee
(@sirnicklee)

SUBSCRIBE
SCAN
HERE:



\$60
annual U.S. mail
subscription



ASIATOWN From front page

accessibility concerns were raised for the handicapped, and the project team confirmed that clearances meet usability standards for inclusive access.

Lightbox: A Beacon of Hope and Growth

AsiaTown's transformation will shine, literally, thanks to a 30-foot-wide illuminated lightbox designed to brighten the neighborhood physically and symbolically.

"AsiaTown can be dark at night, and we wanted to create something that lights up the space — a beacon of hope, growth, and cultural pride," Wong shared.

At the center of the lightbox will be Guanyin, the goddess of compassion

and mercy, reimagined as a modern Asian woman. "She exists across many Asian cultures, and here she offers encouragement and connection in today's context," Wong noted.

The artwork also features the Four Symbols of Chinese mythology:

- Azure Dragon of the East
- Vermilion Bird of the South
- White Tiger of the West
- Black Tortoise of the North

Each symbol guards life's directions. Flowing clouds and a traditional Chinese blessing, "All I want in this life is for you to blossom into prosperity," surround the image, weaving resilience into its message.

Security and Community Presence

Security and safety emerged as key

topics during the design review committee meeting. While Wong and his team do not directly oversee long-term site security, they address concerns thoughtfully.

"There's already a strong connection between lighting and safety," Wong said. "The lightbox and potential for future illuminated artworks will increase visibility and make the area feel safer. When spaces are well-lit and visibly cared for, people are likelier to visit, and more visitors mean more eyes on the space."

MidTown Cleveland has been advising on the landscaping strategy and helping create budgets incorporating grading transitions, durability, and maintenance planning. Also, a new AsiaTown advisory committee is helping ensure the site is welcoming, secure, and sustainable.

More Than an Art Project

This effort is about more than aesthetics. It is an investment in the cultural life of Cleveland and a bold gesture toward inclusion, history, and future generations.

"AsiaTown is not just 'Chinatown,'" Wong emphasized. "It may have started that way, but it now represents a variety of beautiful cultures. It's so inspiring to see our emerging Asian artists speak to that diversity."

Each element, whether a table, planter, gate, or lightbox, weaves together artistry and meaning. Doing so gives Cleveland a new gathering place, a celebration of heritage, and a vision for what's possible when community leads design.

NUTRITION From front page

muscle recovery, and more options, all crafted to help customers meet their wellness goals without compromising flavor.

From traditional protein shakes to innovative vegan blends and mega-protein shakes for serious fitness buffs, there's something for everyone. And yes, I tried them. They're as delicious as they are healthy.

The Founders' Journey

Founded in 2020, University Heights Nutrition has reached its five-year milestone, an achievement that founder Mariah McGhee doesn't take lightly.

"It has been a rewarding journey so far," she said. "Many businesses don't make it to five years."

McGhee and business partner Tiana Craft didn't just set out to serve healthy drinks. They envisioned their shop as a community wellness hub, where people could nourish their bodies and build lasting relationships rooted in fitness and support.

Beyond the Menu: Community in Action

The experience they've created



around their products sets University Heights Nutrition apart. In addition to their shake and energy drink menu, the business offers:

- Free wellness evaluations
- Certified health coaching
- Free Fit Camp sessions every Tuesday in the Superior neighborhood

These services are part of their mission to improve health outcomes for every customer who walks through the door.

"Our goal is to keep improving, finding ways to build community while still offering high-quality products and experiences," McGhee explained.

Challenges, Growth, and Resilience

Reaching the five-year mark hasn't been without its setbacks. The team has faced challenges, like opening new

locations that didn't survive.

"That was a tough experience," McGhee admitted. "But we learned from it and persevered."

Their response to those challenges underscores their commitment to the business and their broader mission: creating a space where health, community, and perseverance come together.

A Space That Radiates Purpose

When you spend time inside University Heights Nutrition, it's easy to see why customers keep returning. The environment is open, supportive, and focused. Staff engage customers with knowledge, care, and a passion for their work.

University Heights Nutrition isn't just a place to grab a protein shake. It's a place to belong.

Connect and Support

Follow them on Instagram at @universityhtsnutrition for updates, customer stories, and wellness tips. Better yet, call at (216) 338-3851 or stop in and experience it for yourself.

University Heights Nutrition is more than a small business. It's a movement for healthier living, one shake at a time.

CLEVELAND
OBSERVER

The Cleveland Observer is a community-based non-profit monthly newspaper dedicated to providing information and resources that will uplift and enhance the community.
Copyright 2025

PUBLISHER
Ron Calhoun

EDITOR
Marva B. White
Rosie Palfy

PARTNERS
The Cleveland Foundation
Euclid/Collinwood Observer

ADVERTISING
sales@cleobserver.com

ADVISORY BOARD
Sheila Ferguson,
Ron Harris, Devon Jones,
Mark Silverberg

PRINT LAYOUT
Get Current Studio

info@cleobserver.com
11459 Mayfield Road #302
Cleveland, Ohio 44106
(216) 236-8081

The views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of each writer, and not those of the publisher, editor or any other entity.

Article Submission Policy

The Cleveland Observer will consider article submissions electronically via email or through theclevelandobserver.com. Registration required. Submitter must provide name, e-mail address, and phone number with submission.

**NO REPRODUCTION
WITHOUT PERMISSION.**

Movie “Sinners” is a Playbook for Black Economic Freedom



By Ray'Chel Wilson, CFEI

What if a horror movie wasn't just about fangs and fear but about legacy? About the art of saying “no”? About making sure the next generation has more than just survival?

That's the real magic behind “Sinners.” Ryan Coogler's genre-twisting supernatural tale is set deep in Jim Crow Mississippi. It's got all the makings of a thriller—vampires, hauntings, stolen money, but at its core, it's about ownership. Power. And the cost of both.

Michael B. Jordan does double duty as twins Smoke and Stack, who flip a run-down sawmill into a buzzing juke joint, funded by money lifted from none other than Al Capone. The real tension isn't just between the living and the undead. It's between Black ambition and the systems designed to swallow it whole.

From the jump, “Sinners” lets you know: wealth in Black hands is never just about dollar signs. It's about danger, distrust, and the weight of a legacy that's been interrupted far too many times. Actor and filmmaker Amir Royale put it this way on Threads, “I think almost every line of the film has some sort of payoff or callback... In the strangest way, Sammie's purity was protected from greed the entire film without him even recognizing it.”

That line right there? That's gospel. Because in real life, especially in cities like Cleveland, Black prosperity has always come with a target. Redlining didn't just erase neighborhoods, it erased futures. So when money shows up, especially unconventional money, it raises questions. Who controls it? Who benefits? Who gets burned?

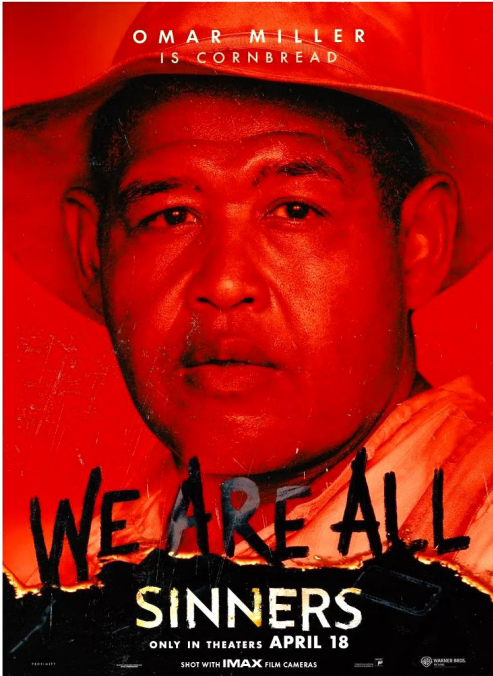
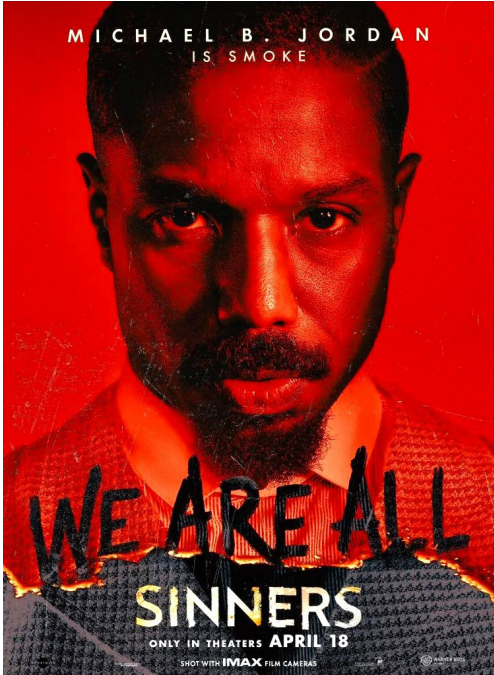
And then come the vampires. These aren't your average bloodsuckers. They're symbols—stand-ins for the banks that drain communities dry, for business deals wrapped in sweet talk but built on exploitation. Remmick, the Irish vampire who promises equality and immortality, is the most dangerous. His pitch sounds like freedom, but smells like assimilation. And what's the price tag? Your soul. Your culture. Your story.

But here's where “Sinners” flips the script: it's not just a cautionary tale. It's a guide.

There's a standout scene where one of the twins teaches a little girl how to negotiate. Not just to get paid, but to stand tall and to own her value. That lesson echoes far beyond the screen. For Black communities? It's survival 101. Know your terms. Vet your investors. Don't confuse a lifeline with a leash.

Even behind the scenes, Coogler walked the walk. His deal to make “Sinners” included rare perks: final cut, first-dollar gross, and full rights back after 25 years. That's not just smart, it's revolutionary. Most directors, especially Black ones, never get that kind of control. Coogler didn't just film empowerment. He negotiated it.

And the people are noticing. Brian Tru, a digital creator out of Pennsylvania sharing with Word in Black, called it “a time piece... a vampire mov-



ie... a musical.” It's all of that, and more. It's layered with symbolism, soaked in soul, and rooted in strategy.

Of course, not everyone's clapping. Some critics claim the film is anti-Christian. But look closer: the spiritual tension isn't blasphemy, it's reclamation. Hoodoo, long demonized, is presented as ancestral knowledge. The real battle? Between imposed beliefs and lived experience. Between colonized religion and cultural memory.

In the end, “Sinners” isn't preaching. It's provoking.

It's asking: Who owns your story? Who profits from your labor? What deals are worth making, and which ones will cost you everything?

So here's the takeaway for communities like Cleveland and any Black space navigating growth with caution:

Don't just chase the bag. Know where the bag came from.

Teach kids to negotiate before they can even spell it.

Keep your name on your work and the deed.

And remember: just because the monster looks friendly doesn't mean it ain't hungry.

As Royale said, “Sinners” is intentional. It's timely. And it's layered.

So yes, it's a vampire movie, but it's also a warning. A workshop. A whispered sermon on strategy.

It's still playing in theaters. Go see it. Then sit down with your crew. Talk strategy. Talk protection. Talk legacy.

Ask yourself: What would I do at the negotiation table?

Author's Bio

Ray'Chel Wilson, a Toledo native, is the author of the internationally selling Black Wealth Freedom workbook series and CEO of ForOurLastNames, a technology turning financial trauma into financial action for first-generation wealth builders. A graduate student at Duke Divinity School, she researches stewardship, economic development, and leadership to promote human flourishing.

TCO Entertainment News Brief — May 2025



By Konner Hines

From Beyoncé kicking off her “Cowboy Carter World Tour,” the 2025 Met Gala, and Lady Gaga’s powerful performance in Brazil amid a thwarted bomb plot, May has been filled with headline-making moments across the entertainment world.

New Music Releases

In new music, Ed Sheeran released his latest single, “Old Phone,” from his upcoming album Play, while Summer Walker dropped “Spend It,” the lead single from her highly anticipated project Finally Over It. Doja Cat unveiled a stand-alone track titled “Crack,” clarifying on X that it’s not related to her next album. She later teased another song, “Jealous Type,” in a Marc Jacobs campaign.

Tyla shared her new single “Bliss,” and Lizzo released a demo version of “Still Bad,” revealing that earlier versions were altered based on outside feedback. Tate McRae launched her Miss Passive tour in Portugal, and Doechii teamed up with The Weeknd and Playboi Carti for a remix of “Timeless.” PinkPantheress released her latest mixtape, Fancy That, while Rihanna announced her new single “Friend of Mine,” set to appear in the upcoming Smurfs movie.

Miley Cyrus premiered her new single “More to Lose” from her forthcoming album Something Beautiful, which will feature Naomi Campbell and Brittany Howard. Speaking at a Spotify event in NYC, she described the project as “not only my best album, but my gayest.”



Credit: Julian Dakdouk / Rolling Stone

Beyoncé performing "American Requiem," the opening for her Cowboy Carter World Tour.

Beyoncé’s New World Tour, Controversy, and Family Spotlight
Several artists made headlines this month with major career milestones and standout performances. Beyoncé officially launched her Cowboy Carter World Tour amid reports of low ticket sales. Her label, Parkwood Entertainment, swiftly responded with an Instagram post



Diana Ross (left and right) and Zendaya (center, in the lower square) as photographed at the Met Gala. Credit: WireImage/Getty Images / Daily Mail

reading “SOLDOUT,” shutting down the speculation.

She also faced legal pushback from the owners of the Las Vegas Sphere, who issued a cease-and-desist order over a visual in which Beyoncé appears to be holding the venue in her hand. Although she hasn’t publicly addressed the matter, the Sphere was quietly removed from the visuals and replaced with Allegiant Stadium, where she’s scheduled to perform later this summer.

Despite the surrounding controversy, Beyoncé delivered a powerful moment by bringing her daughters on stage. Blue Ivy Carter performed as a backup dancer, joined by her younger sister Rumi, both featured during a performance of Beyoncé’s heartfelt track “Protector.” Additionally, rumors are swirling that Beyoncé is in advanced talks to perform in Copacabana in 2026.

Film & Performance Highlights
In film and television, Ryan Coogler’s latest film, Sinners, starring Michael B. Jordan, made a strong box office debut. Lady Gaga delivered a high-profile performance of her new album, Mayhem on Copacabana Beach, Brazil. Despite Brazilian authorities thwarting a bomb plot targeting the event, Gaga went ahead with the show and shared an emotional message on social media, saying, “I wish I could share this feeling with the whole world.” In another highlight, Tina Knowles released her memoir Matriarch, which quickly became a #1 bestseller.

Song Resurgences & Industry Shifts

Other cultural moments include ABBA’s “The Winner Takes It All” gaining renewed popularity, and Duolingo announcing it is going “AI-first,” phasing out contract workers in favor of artificial intelligence. The company launched 148 AI-generated courses in under a year, previously a 12-year effort, sparking backlash from users online. After 22 years, Skype officially shut down, marking the end of an era in digital communication.

2025 Met Gala Recap

This year’s Met Gala was packed with memorable fashion and notable absences. LeBron James, originally slated as a co-chair, missed the event due to a knee injury. Stars such as Zendaya, Rihanna, Nicki Minaj, Doja Cat, Cardi B, Stevie Won-

der, Kim Kardashian, Diana Ross, Angela Bassett, Sabrina Carpenter, Madonna, Joey King, Pusha T, and even former Vice President Kamala Harris made appearances.

When asked whether her pregnancy would delay her long-awaited ninth studio album, Rihanna responded, “No, maybe a couple music videos, but I can sing.” Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce were invited but skipped due to scheduling conflicts; they were later spotted vacationing together. Rising rapper Doechii addressed backlash over a viral video of her demanding an umbrella at the event. She jokingly responded via a TikTok trend and later posted a heartfelt thank-you to her glam and Louis Vuitton teams, calling it a dream come true.



Credit : TIZIANA FABI/AFP via Getty / People

Pope Leo XIV

Global Figures & Philanthropy
Industry news continues to evolve, with the Golden Globes announcing a new “Best Podcast” category debuting in 2026. Bill Gates made headlines with his pledge to donate 99% of his \$108 billion fortune to the Gates Foundation, which works to improve global healthcare, education, and poverty reduction. Another historic moment came with the announcement of Robert Francis Prevost as the new Pope, the first American-born Pope, hailing from Chicago. He is 69 years old and a Virgo, born on September 14.

Legal & Health Headlines

Legal matters also made waves this month. Taylor Swift was subpoenaed in the ongoing legal battle between Blake Lively and Justin Baldoni over It Ends With Us. Her

spokesperson clarified she had no involvement in the film’s production, casting, or creative decisions, and only saw the movie weeks after its release. Incarcerated music artist Tory Lanez was rushed to the hospital after reportedly being stabbed 14 times, suffering injuries to his back, torso, head, and face. Petitions calling for Lanez’s release following his prison altercation have gained traction, with support from prominent figures such as Drake and Chris Brown.

Halle Bailey was granted a restraining order against rapper and streamer DDG, following allegations of domestic violence, including an incident in which he allegedly slammed her face against a steering wheel and broke into her home. The court filings included screenshots of incriminating text messages.

Rondell Sheridan Health Update
Finally, beloved actor and comedian Rondell Sheridan, known for his role on That’s So Raven, revealed he has been diagnosed with severe pancreatitis. In a video shared with fans, he explained, “My pancreas is inflamed and there’s not much I can do about it but wait for the inflammation to go down.”

Summary:

The first half of May delivered a wave of entertainment news across music, film, fashion, and tech. Beyoncé launched her Cowboy Carter World Tour amid controversy over visuals and ticket rumors, but stole hearts by bringing daughters Blue Ivy and Rumi on stage. Lady Gaga gave a powerful performance in Brazil despite a thwarted bomb threat, while Ryan Coogler’s Sinners, starring Michael B. Jordan, dominated the box office. New music arrived from Ed Sheeran, Summer Walker, Doja Cat, Lizzo, Miley Cyrus, and more.

Major cultural shifts made headlines as Duolingo transitioned to AI-driven language learning, Skype shut down after 22 years, and ABBA’s “The Winner Takes It All” surged back into popularity. The 2025 Met Gala featured a glittering guest list—including Rihanna, Zendaya, and Diana Ross—while Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce were notably absent. Miley Cyrus called her upcoming album her “gayest” yet, and the Golden Globes announced a new “Best Podcast” category debuting in 2026.

In global news, Robert Francis Prevost was named the first American-born Pope, and Bill Gates pledged to donate 99% of his \$108 billion fortune to his foundation. Meanwhile, legal and personal headlines included Taylor Swift being subpoenaed, Halle Bailey obtaining a restraining order against DDG, Tory Lanez’s reported stabbing, and That’s So Raven actor Rondell Sheridan revealing a serious health diagnosis.

Authors Bio

Konner Hines is a Marketing and International Business student at Baldwin Wallace University, a member of the Honors College. Passionate about storytelling and global issues, Knowles explores pop culture, media, and social justice through thought-provoking writing.

“Adolescence”: Unpacking What Films Mirror in Modern Society



By: Marissa Valentine

“Adolescence,” according to an article by Variety magazine, amassed a whopping 24.3 million viewers just four days after its debut. It held the number one spot for three weeks on Netflix, and by late March collected 96.7 million views, ranking it among Netflix’s all-time most popular TV shows.

It is a film that at first glance appeared to be exclusively a crime drama, inspiring watchers to figure out the overarching question, “why?”

Throughout the decades, parents have faced the woe of societal influence. Think rock and roll in the 50’s, Woodstock in the 70’s, and the AIDS epidemic of the 80’s, all movements that had parents concerned about the well-being and social influences of their teens.

In “Adolescence,” the scene is set by police raiding the home of a seemingly normal English family to arrest the 13-year-old youngest child, Jamie. He is woken out of his sleep in the early morning, being pulled from his bed by police officers who have said he is under arrest for murder. As the camera pans to each member of the household, you can see the shock, horror, and



Adolescence cast Stephen Graham as Eddie Miller and Owen Cooper as Jamie Miller. Credit YouTube

disbelief on each member of the family’s face.

As the premiere episode of the series unfolds, the viewer watches the fallout as a result of Jamie’s actions, unsure of whether he committed a crime, and unclear of the motive.

Navigating through each episode, you begin to see not only the plot unfold, but you begin to view the story from the point of view of each of the characters. More importantly, you begin to understand the more important themes of the series.

In the beginning, you see the main detective go to Jamie’s school to interview Jamie’s middle school peers to get a better understanding of the “why” in this homicide case. Yet, the detective still cannot de-

termine a clear motive for Jamie’s actions due to the detective’s lack of understanding of social influence, pressure, and bullying that happen amongst today’s youth.

In the early 1990s and early 2000s, teens faced bullying based on the type of clothes they wore, how they looked, or based on social stereotypes. These same bullying tropes exist today, except now teens, especially boys, are influenced by what the series references as the “manosphere.”

Manosphere is defined by the Cambridge Dictionary as a space promoting misogynistic worldviews, where men vent their grievances against women, based on negative experiences or perceived slights.

Men who define themselves as

involuntarily celibate, also known as incels, heavily populate these spaces and circulate negative, and harmful ideas about dominating, manipulating, and harming women who do not comply with their requests or acknowledge them.

The film hints at Jamie being bullied by the girl he killed because of her calling him a “red pill” consumer, also known as a manosphere consumer hinting at him being an incel.

As the series progresses and Jamie meets with his court-appointed psychologist, you see her ask Jamie a series of questions to try to paint a picture of how Jamie thinks and makes sense of the world.

In this scene between Jamie and his psychologist, you see Jamie’s aggression, manipulation, and misogynistic views, all of which, in the end, you learn through the dialogue of his parents that he absorbed through social media. The conversation highlights the landscape of problems faced by teens and parents today.

In the series, you hear the parents reference the lack of communication, the isolation created by kids turning to social media to socialize with their peers, and the lack of control parents feel they have once teens retreat to the online world.

This film is a must-watch for parents, educators, and mentors, regardless of the age of the children under your care or supervision, as it can be helpful to have a conversation about what it’s like to be a teen in the age of social media.

Correction: “The Sankofa Series: Winston Willis”

“The Systematic Destruction of Winston Willis’ “Legacy Part 3:

A previous version of this article incorrectly stated that Winston Willis was arrested on charges of assaulting a police officer. This is not accurate.

According to Aundra Willis, Winston Willis’s sister, he was arrested on a charge related to check fraud involving a \$400 check. “Keep in mind, this man was a millionaire,” she said.

After reviewing contemporaneous news

articles and Cuyahoga County court records, we found no evidence of an arrest for assaulting a police officer.

The Cleveland Observer is committed to the highest standards of accuracy and transparency in our reporting. We take our responsibility to verify information and sources seriously. We appreciate your continued trust.

We need your feedback. Take the Survey

Wisdom transportation

We are a nonprofit organization looking to help small businesses throughout the community such as daycares, programs,sports teams etc. If you need transportation services give us a call for rates at

216-622-5849

All funds are donated to our youth and community programs.

Let's help one another advance our community by coming together to make an impact For more info on our programs and or transportation rates wisdomcommunitynonprofit.org then click transportation link

Transportation & Moving Service Pricing Plan

CALL 216-622-5849

Standard Service	Premium Service	Elite Service
\$230 / \$400 Half-Day / Full-Day <ul style="list-style-type: none">Van Driver-you pick up & drop-off10-mile radius1,000lbs or full van load per trip Tier 1	\$350 / \$535 Half-Day / Full-Day <ul style="list-style-type: none">Van DriverOne Mover15-mile radius1,000lbs or full van Full Day is 8hrs Tier 2	\$375 / \$600 Half-Day / Full-Day <ul style="list-style-type: none">Van DriverTwo Movers15-mile radius1,500lbs or full van Tier 3

Individual Pick-Up Options Available!!!

First Reading Emergency Ordinances Referred May 2025



By Observers AI

The Cleveland Observer is dedicated to informing residents about legislative activities under review. By reporting on ordinances and resolutions during their initial stages, the Observer enables community members to engage with their Council members, providing feedback or expressing support before final decisions are made.

As read **May 2, 2025**

Ord. No. 557-2025 (Contracts for tech upgrades under 2025 ITS Capital Plan)
Sponsor: Griffin (by departmental request)
Summary: Authorizes the Director of Innovation and Technology to enter into contracts and employ consultants for various projects under the 2025 ITS Capital Plan, including system upgrades, cybersecurity, AI tools, hardware purchases, and professional services.
Funding Amount: Fund No. 11 SF 006 and other approved funding sources

Ord. No. 558-2025 (Youth arts engagement with Karamu House)
Sponsors: Conwell and Griffin (by departmental request)
Summary: Authorizes the Director of Community Development to enter into a one-year contract with Karamu House, Inc. for Out-of-School-Time (OST) theater arts programming for youth, with two one-year renewal options.
Funding Amount: **\$60,008** from Fund No. 01 SF 001

Ord. No. 559-2025 (Marketing services for youth programs)
Sponsors: Conwell and Griffin (by departmental request)
Summary: Authorizes a contract with Rhonda Crowder & Associates for citywide OST youth marketing services, including outreach strategy and content creation, with two one-year renewal options.
Funding Amount: **\$98,200** from Fund No. 01 SF 001

Ord. No. 560-2025 (Lease of Fire Station 26 for community museum use)
Sponsors: Polensek and Griffin (by departmental request)
Summary: Authorizes a long-term lease of Fire Station 26 to the Van-guards of Cleveland for use as a public safety museum and community resource center.
Funding Amount: **\$1 a year** nominal lease plus in-kind contributions

Ord. No. 561-2025 (Expansion of North Coast Waterfront NCA)
Sponsors: McCormack, Hairston, and Griffin (by departmental request)
Summary: Authorizes expansion of the North Coast Waterfront New Community Authority District to include additional parcels such as the Great Lakes Science Center and



Rock & Roll Hall of Fame properties.
Funding Amount: Not specified

Ord. No. 565-2025 (Grant for narcotics task force operations)
Sponsors: Polensek and Griffin (by departmental request)
Summary: Authorizes acceptance of **\$102,216.40** in grant funding from the Recovery Ohio Law Enforcement Fund for the Cartel Gang Narcotics Laundering Task Force.
Funding Amount: **\$102,216.40**

Ord. No. 566-2025 (Consultants for police and fire promotional exams)
Sponsors: Polensek and Griffin (by departmental request)
Summary: Authorizes the Director of Civil Service to enter into contracts for development, administration, and grading of civil service promotional exams for safety forces.
Funding Amount: From Fund No. 01-0108-6320

Ord. No. 568-2025 (Amends oversight rules for unbid service contracts)
Sponsors: Griffin (by departmental request)
Summary: Amends Section 121.10 of the Codified Ordinances to require Consultant Review Committee approval for all unbid service contracts over \$25,000.
Funding Amount: Not applicable

Ord. No. 569-2025 (Right-of-way use for monument sign at MLK Jr. Library)
Sponsors: Conwell, Bishop, and Hairston (by departmental request)
Summary: Authorizes the Cleveland Public Library to install a monument sign at 1962 Stokes Boulevard in the public right-of-way, subject to conditions.
Funding Amount: Not specified
First Reading Emergency Ordinances Referred
As read May 16, 2025

Ord. No. 598-2025 (Appropriates \$18,688,000 across General and Internal Service Funds for multiple departments)
Sponsor: Griffin (by departmental request)
Summary: Appropriates funds for operations in Law, Finance, Public Safety, and other departments.
Funding Amount: **\$18,688,000**

Ord. No. 599-2025 (Amends Section 185.41 of the Codified Ordinances regarding terms of payment)
Sponsor: Griffin (by departmental request)
Summary: Updates retainage and payment terms for public contracts.

Funding Amount: Not specified

Ord. No. 600-2025 (Amends agreement with Village of Highland Hills to expand development area)
Sponsors: Hairston and Griffin (by departmental request)
Summary: Includes former House of Corrections site in development zone.
Funding Amount: Not specified

Ord. No. 601-2025 (Changes lease use from Finance to Innovation & Technology at Erieview Plaza)
Sponsor: Griffin (by departmental request)
Summary: Reflects new tenant use of leased office space.
Funding Amount: Not specified

Ord. No. 602-2025 (Applies for grant to continue Cleveland Office of Minority Health operations)
Sponsors: Conwell and Griffin (by departmental request)
Summary: **\$52,500**/year grant from Ohio Commission on Minority Health.
Funding Amount: **\$52,500**/year

Ord. No. 603-2025 (Transfers parcels at Woodhill and Quincy to Economic Development Land Bank)
Sponsors: Hairston and Griffin (by departmental request)
Summary: Redevelopment use under City's Industrial Land Reutilization Program.
Funding Amount: Not specified

Ord. No. 604-2025 (Authorizes design and construction of surface parking at Hopkins Airport)
Sponsors: McCormack and Griffin (by departmental request)
Summary: Design-build contract for parking to support airport logistics.
Funding Amount: Not specified

Ord. No. 605-2025 (Contracts for employee insurance and voluntary benefits administration)
Sponsor: Griffin (by departmental request)
Summary: Coverage includes medical, dental, vision, life, and more.
Funding Amount: Not specified

Ord. No. 606-2025 (Authorizes computer purchase for Council and Clerk via State Term Contract)
Sponsor: Griffin
Summary: \$72,754.50 computer purchase from Dell for Council and Clerk.
Funding Amount: **\$72,754.50**

Ord. No. 607-2025 (Amends Section 551.112 to revise dumpster and

compactor rental fees)
Sponsors: Bishop and Griffin (by departmental request)
Summary: Revises waste container rental fee schedule.
Funding Amount: Not specified

Ord. No. 612-2025 (Accepts **\$12,000** from Cuyahoga County Solid Waste for Environmental Crimes Task Force)
Sponsors: Polensek and Griffin (by departmental request)
Summary: Funds training and equipment to combat illegal dumping.
Funding Amount: Up to **\$12,000**

Ord. No. 613-2025 (Applies for Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant)
Sponsors: Conwell and Griffin (by departmental request)
Summary: Grant up to **\$300,000**/year from Ohio Department of Health.
Funding Amount: **\$300,000**/year

Ord. No. 614-2025 (Donates easements to Garfield Heights for sewer separation project)
Sponsors: Bishop and Griffin (by departmental request)
Summary: Grants three sewer easements in Crawford Park.
Funding Amount: Not specified

Ord. No. 615-2025 (Contracts for financial planning strategy and implementation)
Sponsor: Griffin (by departmental request)
Summary: City-wide fiscal policy strategy via consultants.
Funding Amount: Not to exceed **\$60,000**

Ord. No. 621-2025 (Designs and constructs transit facilities at Hopkins Airport)
Sponsors: McCormack and Griffin (by departmental request)
Summary: Includes garage, transport center, and RTA station via design-build.
Funding Amount: Not specified

Ord. No. 622-2025 (Sells City-owned land on Millcreek Blvd. to DBL Millcreek LLC)
Sponsors: Hairston and Griffin (by departmental request)
Summary: Industrial redevelopment of City surplus land.
Funding Amount: Sale price not less than **\$800,000**

Ord. No. 623-2025 (Contracts with Scott Loomis for succession planning and consulting)
Sponsor: Griffin (by departmental request)
Summary: Printing Division advisory services post-retirement.
Funding Amount: Not to exceed **\$115,000**

Ord. No. 624-2025 (Contracts to run 2025-2026 Pre-Arrest Support Services Program)
Sponsors: Polensek and Griffin (by departmental request)
Summary: Juvenile diversion program with Common Pleas Court.
Funding Amount: Up to **\$150,000**

Ord. No. 625-2025 (Program management consultant contracts for Port Control)
Sponsors: McCormack and Griffin (by departmental request)

Editorial: Redistricting Maps Should Follow People, Not Parties



By Ron Calhoun

Why Ohio's Maps Must Reflect the Majority of Unaffiliated Voters

When most people think of redistricting, they imagine maps shaded in red and blue, carved up by one political party to outmaneuver the other. In Ohio, a striking truth is hidden beneath that oversimplified color scheme: the majority of voters are neither red nor blue. They are unaffiliated.

On May 10, 2024, Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose announced that party affiliations had been updated in the statewide voter registration database following the March primary. Of Ohio's more than 8 million registered voters, only 10% are Democrats and 19% are Republicans. That leaves over 5.7 million Ohioans, 71% of the electorate, without any party affiliation.

Yet despite these numbers, our congressional and state legislative maps are drawn by and for political parties, not for the independent majority that makes up the foundation of our democracy.

A Partisan Process in a Nonpartisan State

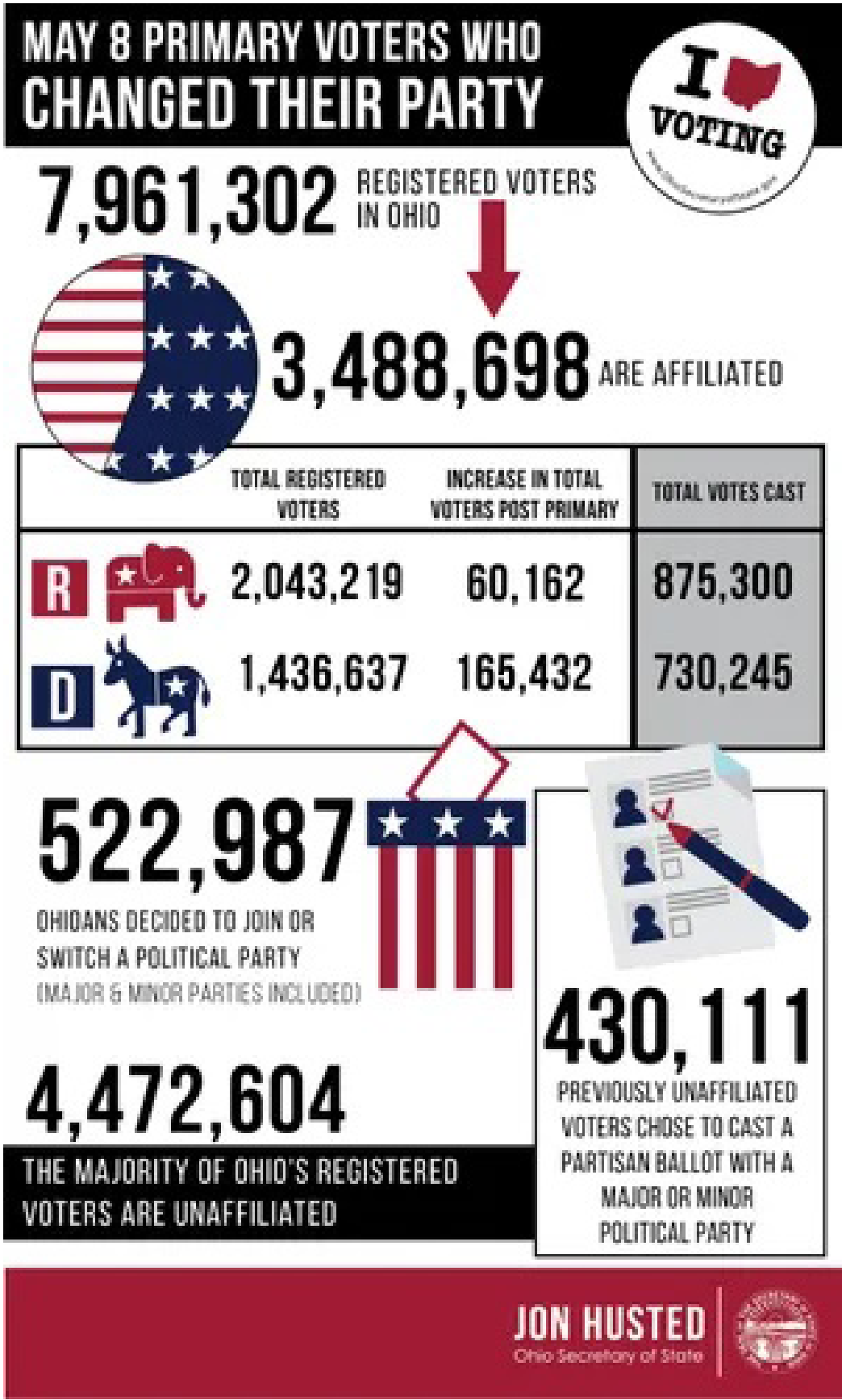
Under the current system, congressional maps are drawn by the state legislature, and state legislative maps by the Ohio Redistricting Commission, a political body composed entirely of elected officials. These entities are driven by partisan interest, and the result is a familiar pattern: voters don't choose their representatives, representatives choose their voters.

This political cartography sidelines unaffiliated voters, packing and cracking districts in ways that ensure safe seats for major parties, often with no meaningful input from the public. As a result, more than two-thirds of Ohio voters, the unaffiliated majority, are essentially treated as statistical afterthoughts.

What If We Flipped the Script?

What if, instead of reinforcing partisan lines, we drew maps that reflected community cohesion, shared economic zones, cultural identity, and geographic logic? Imagine Ohio divided into 20 equal quadrants, not by party loyalty but by people power.

This model, visualized in a recent quadrant-based map, offers a nonpar-



OHIO VOTER REGISTRATION	
NON PARTISAN	77.7%
DEMOCRATS	11.8%
REPUBLICANS	10.4%

Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments.

Although the court ultimately dismissed the case in July 2024, the legal back-and-forth illustrates how voting rights are still under active threat, and why reform must go beyond temporary fixes.

Citizens Not Politicians: A Path Forward

In response to these structural failures, Ohio voters are beginning to take matters into their own hands. A coalition called Citizens Not Politicians is leading the charge to create a citizen-led, independent redistricting commission, completely separate from elected officials.

According to The Columbus Dispatch, this movement's ballot initiative, Issue 1, would establish a 15-member citizen commission composed of Democrats, Republicans, and independents. The goal is simple: end gerrymandering by taking power out of the hands of politicians and placing it into the hands of ordinary Ohioans.

Meanwhile, nonpartisan organizations like the League of Women Voters and Common Cause Ohio continue to challenge unfair maps in court and advocate for greater transparency and fairness in the redistricting process.

The Stakes Are High

As noted in a recent piece from the Brennan Center for Justice, Ohio's long history of gerrymandering could finally end this November if voters approve reforms like Issue 1. For many, that vote may be the last best chance to return redistricting to the people it affects most, the voters themselves.

Conclusion:

Maps Should Follow People, Not Parties

This moment presents an opportunity for transformation. If we believe in democracy, we must act to ensure that maps reflect people, not politics. That means:

- Supporting citizen-led redistricting commissions
 - Calling out gerrymandering in all its forms
 - Exploring alternative models like quadrant mapping
 - And demanding that Ohio's 71% unaffiliated majority be heard and respected
- Our maps should not preserve power, they should distribute it. Not red. Not blue. Just us.
- What do you think?

FIRST READING ORDINANCES From page 6

Summary: Two-year contract with two three-year renewals.
Funding Amount: Not specified

Ord. No. 626-2025 (Purchase of ambulance and aircraft firefighting vehicle for Hopkins Airport)
Sponsors: McCormack and Griffin (by departmental request)
Summary: Emergency response vehicle procurement.
Funding Amount: Not specified

Ord. No. 627-2025 (Amends airport restroom contract with Ozanne Construction)
Sponsors: McCormack and Griffin

(by departmental request)
Summary: Adds \$1.25 million to expand restrooms and ancillary spaces.
Funding Amount: \$1,250,000

Ord. No. 632-2025 (Creates Community Engagement Healthy Home Initiative)
Sponsors: Hairston and Griffin (by departmental request)
Summary: CDC contracts, software, and training to improve housing quality.
Funding Amount: \$1,060,000

Ord. No. 633-2025 (Amends nuisance abatement provisions and adds Section 203.11)

Sponsors: Conwell, Hairston and Griffin (by departmental request)
Summary: Strengthens legal authority and enforcement of public nuisances.
Funding Amount: Not specified

Ord. No. 634-2025 (Applies for \$49,320 Recycle Ohio grant and establishes Keep Cleveland Beautiful Chapter)
Sponsors: Bishop and Griffin (by departmental request)
Summary: Waste reduction and beautification initiative.
Funding Amount: \$49,320 grant + \$12,330 match

Ord. No. 635-2025 (Co-sponsors

ODNR grant and accepts donation of Hough Community Green Space)
Sponsors: Howse-Jones, Bishop and Griffin (by departmental request)
Summary: Park development at former John Raper School site.
Funding Amount: \$200,000 grant

Ord. No. 636-2025 (Constructs improvements at Rockefeller Park under "Back to Basics" Program)
Sponsors: Conwell, Bishop and Griffin (by departmental request)
Summary: Includes restrooms, playground, and tennis court upgrades.
Funding Amount: \$2,100,000

Update: Ohio Will Redraw Voting Maps Soon — Here’s What That Means



By Ron Calhoun

Ohio is about to go through another round of redistricting, which means the state will redraw the maps that decide who represents us in Congress. These maps divide the state into areas called districts, and each district elects one member to the U.S. House of Representatives.

The current congressional map was created in 2022, but it’s set to expire because, under Ohio law, any map not approved by both major political parties can only be used for four years. As explained by Ballotpedia, this rule prevents one party from locking in control without cooperation. That means new maps must be drawn before the 2026 elections.

In November 2024, voters had the chance to change how redistricting works. According to WKYC, they voted on Issue 1, a proposal to create an independent citizen group to draw the maps. If it had passed, it would have taken the power away from politicians. Voters rejected it, so the job stays with the Ohio General Assembly and the Ohio Redistricting Commission.



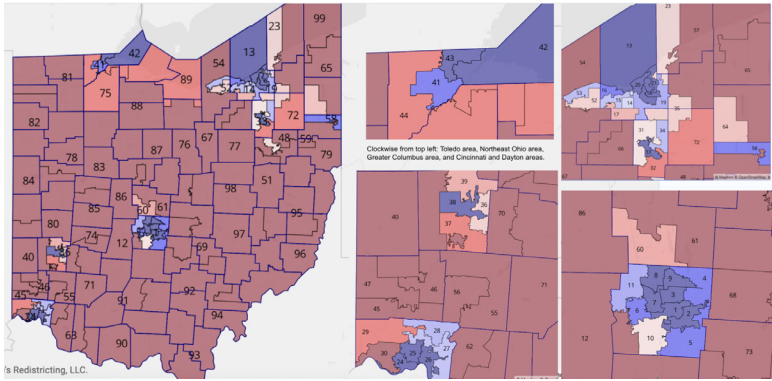
At the first meeting of the Ohio Redistricting Commission since May 2022, Republican Gov. Mike DeWine (center) swears in members Rep. Jeff LaRe (R-Violet Township), Republican Secretary of State Frank LaRose, Republican Auditor Keith Faber, Sen. Rob McCaulley (R-Napoleon), House Minority Leader Allison Russo (D-Upper Arlington) and Senate Minority Leader Nickie Antonio (D-Lakewood).

Right now, Ohio has 15 U.S. House seats, one fewer than after the 2010 Census. This change happened because of population shifts recorded in the 2020 U.S. Census. As reported by The Cook Political Report, the current map, drawn by Republican lawmakers, has been criticized for favoring one party unfairly.

Groups like the League of Women Voters of Ohio say the next map should do a better job of representing people, especially because over 70% of Ohio voters aren’t registered with any political party. “We’re entering a big moment for democracy in our state,” a spokesperson told the Ohio Capital Journal. “Maps should reflect real communities, not just political goals.”

Even though the Ohio Supreme Court approved the state legislative maps last year, the debate about fair maps continues. Community leaders are urging Ohioans to attend public hearings and speak out.

The new map must be ready before the 2026 election deadlines. To view current and proposed maps, visit the Ohio Redistricting Commission.



Adopted bipartisan Ohio House district map. (Map from Dave’s Redistricting analysis from Ohio Redistricting Commission.)

The legislature has until the end of September 2025 to pass a new map, or the Redistricting Commission will take over to adopt a plan by October 31, 2025

SAVE THE DATE

19th Annual Fatherhood Conference:

A Celebration of Fatherhood

Friday, June 13 from 8 am - 4 pm

Crowne Plaza Hotel
1260 Euclid Ave
Cleveland, OH 44115

.....

This FREE event features:

- ✓ Resource Fair
- ✓ Fatherhood Awards Luncheon
- ✓ Town Hall Meeting
- ✓ Informational Workshops

Scan the QR code to register or contact us for more information!

216-348-3967

hhs.cuyahogacounty.gov/fatherhood

Do I need therapy?

Guidance for the Black Community on Breaking Stigma and Seeking Help



By Jennifer Bailey, LCSW; LICSW-CP; RDT

After a pickup basketball game, a young Black man nervously admits to his friends: “I think I need therapy.” To his surprise, every one of them already has a therapist. That scene from Netflix’s *Survival of the Thickest* isn’t just fiction — it’s a vision of what normalized mental health conversations in the Black community could look like.

The scene has a group of Black men talking after playing a pick-up basketball game. One of the men, Kahlil, confides in his friends that he needs a therapist. Kahlil is nervous about sharing this with his friends and worried about what they may say. However, Kahlil learns all of his friends are in therapy!

Actress Taraji P. Henson talks openly about her struggles with mental health. In a short video clip, she even mentions how her father went to therapy as well, seeking support from a culturally competent therapist.

By seeing people of color in movies and on TV talking about mental health, perhaps it will take away shame and guilt about going to therapy.

In a time when racial trauma, isolation, and generational pain persist, therapy can be a path to healing for Black individuals. First, we must address the barriers that keep us from seeking it.

What Is Therapy?

The Cambridge Dictionary defines therapy as “a treatment that helps people feel better, grow stronger.” Therapy is a relationship. It’s your opportunity to talk about your thoughts, feelings, and experiences free of judgment with a trained professional. It’s a chance to discuss what has happened in your past, present, or what you would like to happen in the future.

Should I go to therapy?

Only you know the answer to that question. However, if you need guidance, take a moment and ask yourself these questions:

Is something currently happening or has happened (in my past) negatively impacting my ability to function?

Do I feel lost in a certain area of my life?

Am I having trouble solving a specific problem or overcoming a hurdle?

Do I feel like I have few or no one to talk to about stressors or frustrations?

Answering “yes” to any of these questions may indicate that it’s time to see a therapist.

How do I find a therapist?

Choosing your therapist means taking the time to do a little bit of searching and self-reflection. Different therapists specialize (or focus) on different things. For example, some therapists do trauma work, some work with veterans,



9799

others with kids and teens. Knowing what you want to focus on in therapy will help you in your journey to find a therapist.

Insurance

If you have it, your insurance company is a way to find a therapist. Insurance companies have a list of providers that they work with. Now, if you are alright with not using your insurance (to pay out of pocket), doing a Google search is also helpful.

Google

A Google search is a good place to start. It can be helpful to read through therapists’ websites to learn what they offer. This route can also feel overwhelming, as it may feel like there are too many options. Another way to look for a therapist is through a therapy platform.

Therapy Platforms

Therapy platforms can match you to a therapist after answering some questions and creating a profile. They allow you to use your insurance as well,

if you choose. Grow Therapy, Better Help, SonderMind, Talk Space, and Headway are just a few examples of therapy platforms.

The Importance of Cultural Competency

I strongly suggest you choose a culturally competent therapist, especially if you are a person of color. The National Associations of Cultural Competence defines cultural competence as “the ability of an individual to understand and respect values, attitudes, beliefs, and mores that differ across cultures, and to consider and respond appropriately to these differences in planning, implementing, and evaluating health education and promotion programs and interventions.”

Caroline M. Sanders is a licensed clinical professional counselor (LCPC) who provides individual therapy services. She recommends that “prior to treatment you can ask the clinician the following questions:

1. What experiences do you have in working with people from my background?

2. Can you describe your approach to understanding a client’s cultural background and how it might impact their experiences?
3. What does it mean to you to provide culturally competent care?”

Words of Wisdom from Therapists of Color

Two therapists of color shared their insights and words of wisdom on the barriers that keep the black community from receiving mental health services, Caroline Sanders and Claude L King.

“You deserve to heal. Prioritizing your mental health is an important part of living well. It is one of the best gifts you can give to yourself and the people around you. I encourage you to reach out to a mental health professional to receive the help that you deserve,” said Caroline M. Sanders.

“Our community has carried generations of pain, pressure, and perseverance, and while that strength is admirable, it doesn’t mean you have to suffer in silence. Therapy isn’t about changing who you are. It’s about becoming more in tune with yourself and freeing yourself from the weight you were never meant to carry alone,” said Claude L. King, LCPC, a licensed clinical professional counselor (LCPC). “You are worthy of healing. You are worthy of peace. And you don’t have to walk the journey alone.”

Takeaways

Ask yourself the questions mentioned earlier in the article to help you figure out if you should seek therapy.

You can use Google, your insurance, and therapy platforms to help find a therapist. Consider what you want to accomplish in therapy and find a culturally competent therapist.

Find healthy and productive ways to manage life, and know there is no shame in seeking support to help you navigate it.

Jennifer Bailey is a wife, mother of three, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), and a Registered Drama Therapist (RDT).

strongblacklead • Follow
theblackmancan • Original audio

strongblacklead 7w
Love seeing Black men talk about their feelings! More of this!

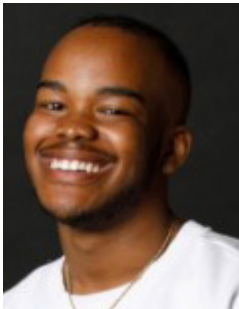
: Survival of the Thickest Season 2, now playing



jayvcutie 7w
“Unhealed” 🤔, yeah work on that inner child bro
Like Reply

Speed Camera Ban in Ohio Counties and Townships Starts July 1

Cities and villages can still use them under strict conditions.



By Konner Hines

Starting July 1, speed cameras are officially banned in counties and townships across Ohio. A major update to state law now prohibits these local governments from using traffic law photo-monitoring devices to detect or enforce traffic violations, marking a significant shift in how traffic laws can be enforced outside of cities and villages.

What the New Law Says

Under the revised Ohio Revised Code Section 4511.093, no county, township, or any representative thereof may use automated speed cameras. The ban applies statewide and is designed to curb what lawmakers describe as the overuse of traffic cameras in smaller or rural communities, many of which had used them as a tool for revenue generation rather than road safety.

Limited Use Allowed for Cities and Villages

While counties and townships are banned from using speed cameras, cities and villages in Ohio may still operate them, but only under strict conditions:

A law enforcement officer must be physically present at the location while the speed camera is in use.

Officers who witness a traffic violation in person may issue a ticket under traditional procedures (per Section 2935.26 of the Revised Code).

If no violation is witnessed directly by the officer, tickets can still be issued, but only if the city follows specific rules under sections 4511.096 to 4511.0912.

Additionally, township officers are banned from using traffic cameras on interstate highways. Any use of a speed monitoring device by township



or county officers must involve handheld equipment only, not automated or mounted cameras.

Why the Change?

Lawmakers argue the legislation was necessary to protect Ohio drivers from misuse of automated enforcement technology. Supporters of the ban point to situations where small towns collected large sums in traffic fines through speed cameras, often without proper oversight or concern for due process. Critics argue the cameras served as a “money grab” and disproportionately impacted out-of-town drivers unfamiliar with local enforcement zones.

Impacts and Enforcement

The new law takes enforcement out of the hands of counties and townships and places strict boundaries on any remaining use. Cities that continue using traffic cameras will be under height-



ened legal scrutiny and must maintain officer presence at all monitored locations. Those that don’t comply may face lawsuits, state penalties, or loss of revenue tied to enforcement.

Conclusion

As of July 1, speed cameras are banned in all Ohio counties and townships. Only cities

and villages may continue using them under clearly defined conditions. The new law aims to strike a balance between traffic safety and civil liberties, while preventing automated ticketing systems from becoming profit-driven enforcement tools in smaller jurisdictions.

Summary:

As of July 1, Ohio has officially banned speed camera usage by counties and townships. Under the revised state law,

only cities and villages are permitted to operate traffic law photo-monitoring devices, and even then, only under strict conditions, such as requiring a law enforcement officer to be physically present during camera operation. The new legislation aims to prevent revenue-driven traffic enforcement in smaller communities and ensure more accountability in issuing traffic violations. The law also bans township officers from using speed cameras on interstate highways and limits any use of such devices to handheld units in applicable jurisdictions.

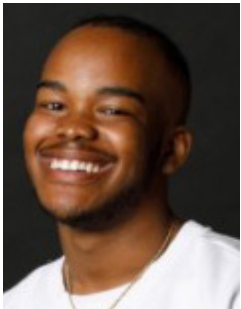
Author’s Bio

Konner Hines is a Marketing and International Business student at Baldwin Wallace University and a member of the Honors College. Passionate about storytelling and global issues, Knowles explores pop culture, media, and social justice through thought-provoking writing.

NLDP IS LOOKING FOR COMMUNITY LEADERS



Donald Trump’s First 100 Days in Office: Bold Actions and Legal Challenges



By Konner Hines

President Donald Trump’s return to the White House in January marked a swift and contentious start to his second term. Within his first 100 days, he signed approximately 142 executive orders, the most of any president during this period, focusing on immigration reform, federal spending cuts, and reshaping government agencies.

Immigration and Border Policies
On immigration, Trump quickly reinforced the “Remain in Mexico” policy for asylum seekers, suspended the Refugee Admissions Program for 90 days, and controversially pushed to end birthright citizenship for children of non-citizens born on U.S. soil. His administration also designated international drug cartels as foreign terrorist organizations and deployed armed forces to the southern border, citing the fentanyl crisis as a national emergency. These policies have drawn swift legal challenges and condemnation from immigrant rights groups and civil liberties advocates.

Government Restructuring and Efficiency
In a move to drastically reshape the federal government, Trump created the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) on his first day in office. Led by tech entrepreneur Elon Musk, the new department was tasked with reducing federal spending and eliminating what the administration calls “bureaucratic excess.” The restructuring has led to widespread staff cuts and regulatory rollbacks, which supporters praise as fiscally responsible but critics argue will undermine essential public services.

Foreign Policy Shifts
Trump’s foreign policy decisions sig-



Trump

naled a return to his “America First” doctrine. He withdrew the United States from the Paris Climate Agreement, suspended most foreign aid for a 90-day review (excluding emergency humanitarian efforts), reversed sanctions on Israeli settlements in the West Bank, and officially re-designated Cuba as a state sponsor of terrorism. His administration also held controversial diplomatic talks with Syria’s president and engaged in new negotiations with Gulf states, particularly Qatar—moves that have drawn criticism from both international allies and domestic opponents.

Domestic Policy and Social Issues
Domestically, Trump’s administration has reignited debates over social safety nets and tax policy. Proposed budget plans included cuts to Medicaid and SNAP benefits, alongside new tax reforms that analysts say disproportionately favor higher-income earners. Trump also issued controversial pardons for several individuals involved in the January 6 Capitol attack, further polarizing the political climate. His renewed push to end birthright citizenship has made its way to the Supreme Court, raising significant constitutional concerns and legal scrutiny.

Challenges and Legal Hurdles
Despite the flurry of activity, Trump’s early months in office have not been with-

out major hurdles. Several executive orders, including those targeting birthright citizenship and immigration enforcement, have already been temporarily blocked in federal court. Critics have also questioned the legality and ethical implications of the DOGE, with opposition mounting from labor unions and civil rights groups alike.

Trump vs. Public Opinion
In a sit-down interview with ABC News, President Trump addressed concerns some Americans may feel. “This is what I campaigned on. I said that we’ve been abused by other countries at levels nobody’s ever seen before. I could’ve left it that way, and eventually, there would’ve been an implosion like nobody’s ever seen. But I said, ‘No, we have to fix it.’ I’ve wanted to do this for many years,” said Trump.
According to a PBS News poll, 49% of Americans say former President Trump’s policies have had a negative impact on their lives, while 20% report no impact, and 32% say the impact has been positive.

Conclusion
In summary, President Trump’s first 100 days have been characterized by sweeping policy initiatives, controversial leadership choices, and a return to hardline nationalist themes. While he has made progress on some key campaign promises, many of his actions remain tied up in legal battles.
Many of his policies hold up to Project 2025. As the administration continues to press forward, the long-term impact of these early decisions will play a critical role in shaping America’s political and social landscape through 2025 and beyond outcomes of these policies will likely continue to shape the political landscape.

Summary:
In his first 100 days of 2025, President Donald Trump has implemented sweeping changes across immigration, government restructuring, and foreign policy. His administration reinstated the “Remain in Mexico” policy, pushed for cuts to Medicaid and social services, and introduced controversial policies, including the creation of a DOGE led by Elon Musk.
Trump’s foreign policy saw a withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement and the redesignation of Cuba as a state sponsor of terrorism. However, many of his actions, including attempts to end birthright citizenship, have faced legal challenges. Despite strong opposition, Trump’s early actions have reshaped key areas of governance and set the tone for the remainder of his second term.

Authors Bio
Konner Hines is a Marketing and International Business student at Baldwin Wallace University, a member of the Honors College. Passionate about storytelling and global issues, Knowles explores pop culture, media, and social justice through thought-provoking writing.



Cleveland Eastside Beautification Competition

Residents will have the opportunity to blossom and bloom for the Eastside Best Yard Contest. This contest promotes community pride and showcases local gardening talent. The Cleveland Observer wants to see the fruits and flowers of your labor and hard work. We love landscapes of all shapes and sizes. The Cleveland Observer will name 8 winner of \$500.00 on August 20th and published in the September edition.

* Winners must reside on Cleveland Eastside. Wards 1,2,5,6,7,8, 9 and 10





FREE

YOUTH SUMMER CAMP

LEVEL UP LEARNING LIFE SKILLS

SESSIONS HELD: JUNE 17 – JULY 25

TUESDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, THURSDAYS 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Youth-Focus Workshops Include:

- Mental Health First Aid
- QPR Prevention
- Financial Literacy
- Healthy Relationships
- Dress for Success

- Employment Readiness
- Art Mindfulness
- Music Mindfulness
- and more...

AGES: 12–18 YEARS OLD

Applications Accepted MAY 19–JUNE 5

Scan  to Apply

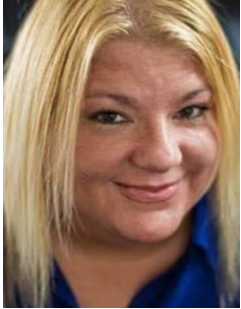
www.rtstigma.org/2025summercamp
Contact Information
216-325-7755 or info@rtstigma.org

LOCATION:

Stella Walsh Recreation Center
7345 Broadway Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44105

‘Washington is Not Coming to Save Us’

Highlights from Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb’s 2025 State of the City



By Rosie Palfy

During his fourth State of the City address, Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb delivered a clear message: “Washington is not coming to save us.”

Hosted by The City Club of Cleveland at Cleveland Public Auditorium on April 23, Bibb’s unscripted forum-style conversation with WKYC anchor Russ Mitchell marked the final address of his first term. The mayor reflected on progress, setbacks, and plans, fielding live questions from residents.

Bibb began by thanking family members in attendance—his mother, whom he affectionately called “Momma Bibb,” and his Aunt Deborah. He also acknowledged the invocation by Rev. Dr. R.E. Hedge-man, pastor of his late grandmother, and praised City Council, Council President Blaine Griffin, and City Hall employees.

Midterm Evaluation

Asked to grade himself, Bibb gave his administration a “B.” He credited a drop in homicides, improved officer pay, and increased cadet recruitment under his RISE Initiative (Raising Investment in Safety for Everyone).



Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb. Credit: The City Club of Cleveland

In March, Bibb announced a new 3-year contract with the Cleveland Police Patrol-men’s Association, which includes historic pay increases. Cadet numbers reached their highest since 2019 with 134 recruits. Police salaries, once among the lowest in the state, now rank in the top third.

Bibb also celebrated modernization wins: “We finally have Docusign at City Hall,” he joked, along with the city’s first new website in nearly two decades.

Mistakes and Lessons

Reflecting on early challenges, Bibb cited backlash to the 2022 leaf collection changes as a key lesson in communication. “We didn’t talk to City Council or get feed-back from residents. We made that deci-sion in a vacuum,” he said. “Sometimes to be effective, you have to slow down.”

Warning on Federal Cuts

Recent months have been difficult. “We have a promising outlook, but there are choppy headwinds,” Bibb warned. Looming federal budget cuts threaten local healthcare, safety programs, and economic aid.

“We must double down and mobilize our residents,” he said. “Since Donald Trump took the White House... Wash-ington is not coming to save us.”

Appointed President of the Democratic Mayors Association, Bibb urged local leaders to be proactive while navigating national challenges.

The Browns and the Lakefront

Asked about the Haslam Sports Group’s proposed stadium in Brook Park, Bibb estimated the odds of keeping the Browns downtown at “50/50.” He noted alignment with County Executive Chris Ronayne, though not with local business leaders.

“We’re going to keep fighting to keep the Browns on our lakefront,” Bibb said, adding that residents care more about jobs, safe streets, and access to health-care than the stadium debate.

Public Safety and Reform

The mayor touted a 34% increase in police pay and a 90% homicide solve rate attributed to the new Northeast Ohio Crime Gun Intelligence Center launched in partnership with former ATF Director Steve Dettelbach.

He criticized the Cuyahoga County Council’s plan to defund the Downtown Safety Patrol, calling it “the wrong move.” He emphasized regional unity: “So goes

the city, so goes the region.”

On the DOJ consent decree, now in its 10th year, Bibb said the city has complet-ed 70 compliance upgrades and spent over \$40 million. He urged the DOJ to establish a “clear methodology and end date,” predicting full compliance within two to three years.

CMSD and Tough Choices

Though Cleveland voters passed a school levy in 2024, Bibb warned of a projected \$150 million deficit for the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD).

He acknowledged the challenge of “too many buildings, not enough students,” and called for a community-backed re-imagining of CMSD’s footprint. “We have islands of excellence,” he said. “But not a system of excellence yet.”

Lead Safety Reforms

Bibb pledged renewed collaboration with the Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition and City Council, admitting current leg-islation isn’t working. “Some homes are certified lead safe, but babies are still getting poisoned,” he said. “We need a higher standard.”

Looking Ahead

Asked about reelection, Bibb said he hopes to earn a second term but de-clined to speculate about challengers. Republican LaVerne Jones Gore is the only declared opponent.

“My assignment ain’t finished yet,” he said. “Being mayor of my hometown will probably be the best job I’ll ever have.”

BLACK HISTORY IN JUNE

June 2, 1863: Harriet Tubman becomes the first woman to lead a major military operation in the United States, the *Combhee Ferry Rid*.

June 3, 1874: Happy birthday to Waiter J. Wills, founder of Ohio’s largest Black owned funeral business, House of Wills.

June 7, 1892: Homer Plessy purchases a first-class ticket and boards the whites-only first-class car, leading to the Plessy v. Ferguson Supreme Court case.

June 10, 1854: Formerly enslaved man James Augustine Healy is ordained at Notro Dame Cathedral, making him the first Blak American Roman Catholic bishop.

June 12, 1926: Civil rights activist Medgar Evers murdered by a white supremacist atter returning home from an NAACP meetig.

June 14, 1811: Happy birthday to abolitionist and writer Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*.

June 16, 1822: Denmark Vesey’s planned slave revolt is uncovered in South Carolina.

June 17, 1945: Cleveland novelist Charles Waddel Chesnut’s 1900 story ‘The House Behind the Cedars’ is reprinted and rerelease-

June 23; 1940: Happy birthday to Olympic athiete and Civil Rights activist Wilma Rudolph, who despite having Pollo and becomin-disabted, went on to become ‘the fastest woman on earth,’ running a 200 meter dash in only 23.2 seconds.

June 27, 1872: Happy birthday to poat and Dayton native Paul Laurence Dunbar.

ADAMHS
BOARD OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY
ALCOHOL, DRUG ADDICTION & MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

PAUSE  BEFORE
YOU PLAY

THE BEST GAME PLAN
FOR EVERY BET.

SET LIMITS

RECOGNIZE THE RISKS

KNOW WHEN TO STOP

Online betting takes just seconds. But betting too quickly could put you at risk. Learn why you should pause before you bet at PauseBeforeYouPlay.org.

GAMBLING PROBLEM? 1-800-589-9966 PauseBeforeYouPlay.org