

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION



1642 Yosemite Dr., Lansing, MI 48917
517.372.2424 solutions@mediaplacementone.com



Advertiser: Michigan Dept of State

Date of order: June 18, 2025

This is to certify that the Public Notice scheduled to run in the newspaper listed ran as the placement details below and proof of publication is attached.

Newspaper Name: **Big Rapids Pioneer**

Run Date	Ad Size	Caption/Position/Special Instructions
7/5/2025	1/4 Page	Public Notice

Signed by *Diana Davis* (MP1/MANSI Representative)
July 5, 2025

Notary Public:
Signed by *James R. Tarrant* (Notary Public)
July 5, 2025

JAMES R. TARRANT
NOTARY PUBLIC – STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF VAN BUREN
My commission expires April 12, 2029
Acting in the County of Ingham

LIFE TRIBUTES

KEITH CARL STERLING

Stanwood, MI

09/22/1931 - 07/01/2025

Keith Carl Sterling, husband of the late Sue A. Sterling, age 93, of Mecosta, Michigan, passed away peacefully on July 1, 2025. Born on September 22, 1931, to Glenn and Laverna (Dexter) Sterling, Keith lived a long and full life marked by love, family, hard work, and laughter.

Keith was a lifelong builder, known for his craftsmanship, dedication, and hands-on approach to life. Born in Big Rapids, he attended Mecosta Schools and graduated in 1949. After graduation Keith moved to Lansing for work and lived his beginnings of married life. In 1962 they moved back to Mecosta to continue raising their family. He became a well-known figure in the local construction community, building numerous homes in the Canadian Lakes area. His passion for building continued well into his later years, working alongside his son and staying active in the trade until the age of 75.

A man of deep character and colorful humor, Keith was lovingly known as "Grandpa Cowboy" to his grandchildren. He loved old country music

and never missed the Grand Ole Opry. He was a member of Sylvester Community Church and enjoyed being part of the community he called home for so many years.

Keith had a deep love for people and took great joy in his family. He is survived by his children Keith (Claudia) Sterling, Sharon (Late Dan Hillman) Hillman, Terri (Larry) Johnson, and Brenda (Jim) McConnell; grandchildren Gregory (Krystal) Main, Jennel Sterling, Andrea (Tony) Sterling-Squier, Kyle (Lacey) Sterling, Rhonda (Paul Niles) Hillman, Scott (Stacie) Hillman, and Brandon Johnson; 15 great-grandchildren; and 3 great-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife Sue A. Sterling, parents Glenn and Laverna; his siblings Neal Sterling; Glenn "Turk," Sterling; Jeanne Andringa; son-in-law Dan Hillman and many dear friends and relatives.

Keith's legacy is one of service, laughter, resilience, and love. He was known for his teasing nature, his work ethic, and his ability to light up any room. He wasn't



politically correct—but he was genuine, kind, and fiercely loyal to those he loved.

A funeral service will be held at The Sylvester Community Church on July 7th at 12:00pm with Pastor Richard Taylor officiating. A visitation will be held one hour prior to the service starting at 11am. Burial will follow in Mount Hope Cemetery in Mecosta.

Keith Carl Sterling will be deeply missed and forever remembered by his family, friends, and the many lives he touched.

Those desiring may direct memorial contributions to the Susan P. Wheatlake Cancer Center (4499 S 220th Ave, Reed City, MI 49677) or to The National Diabetes Association (diabetes.org).



Photos courtesy Toni Falk/Executive Director of RFL

Special needs adults give back to the community through volunteer work while at their day program with Ready For Life Group CLS.

LIFE

From page A1

Even if a special needs individual doesn't need the level of support that the Group CLS clients do, Falk says that there are opportunities for them to participate through something like a morning coffee hour hosted by a local restaurant.

"Our model is going to include an opportunity for those who don't need our support, but need the social connections," Falk said. "They won't need our staffing support but have the desire for the social side of things."

After looking at several properties, Falk said that RFL settled on 502 B N. State St., Big Rapids.

"This one is slightly smaller than we anticipated, but it's 100% accessible," Falk said. "That has to be a priority for our folks. It has a ramp into the building and an accessible bathroom. We're able to open our doors without having to make all those big modifications to the site."

Falk said she hopes



Clients of the Ready For Life Group CLS program get active through various exercise and self defense classes.

they will be able to open by August 1, but it depends on how many clients they have interested.

"While we have not finalized a program start date yet, we will be spending this weekend moving into our new space at 502B North State Street, and we are incredibly excited about this next step," Falk

said. "We will be hosting open office hours to meet with prospective clients & their support staff, and community partners, the week of July 14th, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. or by appointment."

For more information or to apply, people can e-mail info@rflnetwork.org or reach out to Falk directly at 616-330-8667.

More Life Tributes on A3

SUMMER BINGO!
G 48

SILVERNAIL REALTY
17810 205th Ave, Suite 1
Big Rapids, MI
(231) 796-6329

Department of State
Vehicles & Watercraft
Administrative Rules for Michigan Personalized Plates
Rule Set 2025-6 ST

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Wednesday, July 30, 2025 — 9:30 a.m.

Operations Center, 1st Floor Conference Rooms A and B
7285 Parsons Drive, Dimondale, MI 48821

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Comments on these proposed rules may be made at the hearing, by mail, or by electronic mail at the following addresses until 5 p.m. on July 30, 2025.

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Big Rapids Lions Club

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Justices line up cases for next term

Campaign finance rules, trans rights on docket

REUTERS

The U.S. Supreme Court has taken up a series of cases to be decided during its next term, involving issues such as transgender rights, campaign finance law, gay “conversion therapy,” crisis pregnancy centers, religious rights and capital punishment.

Here is a look at some of the cases due to be argued during the court’s upcoming term, which begins in October. The court also separately has acted on an emergency basis in a number of cases involving challenges to President Donald Trump’s policies.

Transgender sports participation

The court on July 3 decided to hear a bid by Idaho and West Virginia to enforce their state laws banning transgender athletes from female sports teams at public schools, taking up another civil rights challenge to Republican-backed restrictions on transgender people.

Idaho and West Virginia appealed decisions by lower courts siding with transgender students who sued. The plaintiffs argued that the laws discriminate based on sex and transgender status in violation of the U.S. Constitution’s 14th Amendment guarantee of equal protection as well as the Title IX civil rights statute that bars sex-based discrimination in education.

Campaign finance

The court agreed on June 30 to hear a Republican-led challenge on free speech grounds to a provision of federal campaign finance law that limits spending by political parties in coordination with candidates running for office in a case involving Vice President JD Vance.

Two Republican committees and Vance, who was running for the U.S. Senate in Ohio when the litigation began, appealed a lower court’s ruling that upheld restrictions on the amount of money parties can spend on campaigns with input from candidates they support. At issue is whether federal limits on coordinated campaign spending violate the Constitution’s First Amendment protection against government abridgment of freedom of speech.

‘Conversion therapy’

The justices in March agreed to hear a Christian therapist’s challenge on free speech grounds to a Democratic-backed Colorado law banning “conversion therapy” intended to change a minor’s sexual orientation or gender identity.



The U.S. Supreme Court’s next term begins in October.

EVELYN HOCKSTEIN/REUTERS FILE

Licensed counselor Kaley Chiles appealed a lower court’s decision rejecting her claim that the 2019 statute unlawfully censors her communications with clients in violation of the First Amendment protections. The state has said it is regulating professional conduct, not speech. Chiles is a Colorado-based therapist and practicing Christian who “believes that people flourish when they live consistently with God’s design, including their biological sex,” according to court papers.

Crisis pregnancy centers

The court in June agreed to consider reviving a New Jersey crisis pregnancy center operator’s bid to block the Democratic-led state’s attorney general from probing whether the Christian faith-based organization deceived women into believing it offered abortions.

First Choice Women’s Resource Centers appealed a lower court’s ruling that the organization must first contest the attorney general’s subpoena in state court before bringing a federal lawsuit challenging it. Crisis pregnancy centers provide services to pregnant women with the goal of preventing them from having abortions. They do not advertise their anti-abortion stance, and abortion rights advocates have called them deceptive. First Choice has argued it has a right to bring its case in federal court be-

cause it was alleging a violation of its First Amendment rights to free speech and free association.

Rastafarian inmate

The justices on June 23 took up a Rastafarian man’s bid to sue state prison officials in Louisiana after guards held him down and shaved him bald in violation of his religious beliefs.

Damon Landor, whose religion requires him to let his hair grow, appealed a lower court’s decision to throw out his lawsuit brought under a U.S. law that protects against religious infringement by state and local governments. The lower court found that this law did not permit Landor to sue individual officials for monetary damages. The law at issue protects the religious rights of people confined to institutions such as prisons and jails.

Death row inmate

The court on June 6 decided to hear an appeal by Alabama officials of a judicial decision that a man convicted of a 1997 murder is intellectually disabled – a finding that spared him from the death penalty – as they press ahead with the Republican-governed state’s bid to execute him.

A lower court ruled that Joseph Clifton Smith is intellectually disabled

based on its analysis of his IQ test scores and expert testimony. Under a 2002 Supreme Court precedent, executing an intellectually disabled person violates the Constitution’s Eighth Amendment ban on cruel and unusual punishment.

Louisiana electoral districts

The court is expected to hear arguments for a second time in a dispute involving a Louisiana electoral map that raised the number of Black-majority congressional districts in the state.

The justices heard arguments in the case on March 24 but on June 27 ordered that the matter be argued again. State officials and civil rights groups have appealed a lower court’s ruling that found that the map laying out Louisiana’s six U.S. House districts – with two Black-majority districts, up from one previously – violated the Constitution’s promise of equal protection.

Cox Communications piracy

The justices on June 30 took up a copyright dispute between Cox Communications and a group of music labels following a judicial decision that threw out a \$1 billion jury verdict against the internet service provider over alleged piracy of music by Cox customers.

Cox appealed a lower court’s decision that it was still liable for copyright infringement by users of its internet service despite the ruling to overturn the verdict. The labels include Sony Music, Universal Music Group and Warner Music Group.

Coastal pollution

The court on June 16 agreed to hear a bid by Chevron, Exxon Mobil and other oil and gas companies to have lawsuits brought by two Louisiana localities accusing them of harming the state’s coast over a period of decades moved out of state court and into federal court.

The companies appealed a lower court’s ruling rejecting their claims that the lawsuits belong in federal court because the parishes of Plaquemines and Cameron were suing over oil production activities undertaken to fulfill U.S. government refinery contracts during World War II.

Enbridge pipeline dispute

The justices on June 30 decided to hear Enbridge’s bid to change the venue of Michigan’s lawsuit seeking to force the Canadian pipeline operator to stop operating a pipeline underneath the Straits of Mackinac, waterways linking two of the Great Lakes, over environmental concerns.

Department of State
Vehicles & Watercraft
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LIVINGSTON COUNTY NOTICE OF REGISTRATION For the Election to be held on Tuesday, August 5, 2025

To the Qualified Electors of Livingston County

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that any qualified elector of Livingston County who is not already registered, may register to vote at the office of their City Clerk; Township Clerk; the office of the County Clerk; a Secretary of State branch office, or other designated state agency. Registration forms can be obtained at mi.gov/vote and mailed to the City or Township Clerk. Voters who are already registered may update their registration at Michigan Voter Information Center.

The last day to register in any manner other than in-person with the local clerk is **Monday, July 21, 2025.**

After this date, anyone who qualifies as an elector may register to vote in person with proof of residency (MCL 168.492) at their City or Township Clerk’s office, at the following locations and times:

Election Day, Tuesday, August 5, 2025 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Jurisdiction	Regular Business Hours	Saturday, August 2	Sunday, August 3
Cohoctah Township 10518 N Antcliff Rd Fowlerville, MI 48836	10 – 2 T – Th	7 – 3	Closed
Conway Township 8015 Fowlerville Rd Fowlerville, MI 48836	9 – 3 T, W	7 – 3	Closed
Deerfield Township 4492 Center Rd Linden, MI 48451	9 – 5 M, W, Th	8 – 4	Closed
Unadilla Township 126 Webb St Gregory, MI 48137	9 – 4 T 10 – 12 Th	7 – 3	Closed

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the following proposals will be voted on as presented and listed below:

Proposal Section:

Unadilla Township
Dust Control and Road Improvement Millage Proposal
Fire Millage Proposal
Police Millage Proposal
Byron Area Schools
Operating Millage Proposal

Full text of the ballot proposals may be obtained on Livingston County’s website (milivcounty.gov) County Clerk/Elections/Upcoming-Elections or by contacting the Livingston County Clerk’s Office at (517) 546-8177.

Elizabeth Hundley
Livingston County Clerk

Publish: July 6, 2025 – LDPA

LV-42085425

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What's in Trump's big bill that passed Congress and will soon become law

By KEVIN FREKING and LISA MASCARO

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republicans muscled President Donald Trump's tax and spending cut bill through the House on Thursday, the final step necessary to get the bill to his desk by the GOP's self-imposed deadline of July 4th.

At nearly 900 pages, the legislation is a sprawling collection of tax breaks, spending cuts and other Republican priorities, including new money for national defense and deportations.

Democrats united against the legislation, but were powerless to stop it as long as Republicans stayed united. The Senate passed the bill, with Vice President JD Vance casting the tie-breaking vote. The House passed an earlier iteration of the bill in May with just one vote to spare. It passed the final version 218-214.

Here's the latest on what's in the bill and when some of its provisions go into effect.

GOP bill includes reductions for businesses and new tax breaks

Republicans say the bill is crucial because there would be a massive tax increase after December when tax breaks from Trump's first term expire. The legislation contains about \$4.5 trillion in tax cuts.

The existing tax rates and brackets would become permanent under the bill, solidifying the tax cuts approved in Trump's first term.

It temporarily would add new tax deductions on tip, overtime and auto loans. There's also a \$6,000 deduction for older adults who earn no more than \$75,000 a year, a nod to his pledge to end taxes on Social Security benefits.

It would boost the \$2,000 child tax credit to \$2,200. Millions of families at lower income levels would not get the full credit.

A cap on state and local deductions, called SALT, would quadruple to \$40,000 for five years. It's a provision important to New York and other high tax states, though the House wanted it to last for 10 years.

There are scores of business-related tax cuts, including allowing busi-



House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., left, speaks in the House chamber prior to the final vote for President Donald Trump's signature bill of tax breaks and spending cuts, at the Capitol on Thursday in Washington.

nesses to immediately write off 100% of the cost of equipment and research. Proponents say this will boost economic growth.

The wealthiest households would see a \$12,000 increase from the legislation, and the bill would cost the poorest people \$1,600 a year, mainly due to reductions in Medicaid and food aid, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office analysis of the House's version.

GOP bill funds the border wall, deportations and a missile shield

The bill would provide some \$350 billion for Trump's border and national security agenda, including for the U.S.-Mexico border wall and for 100,000 migrant detention facility beds, as he aims to fulfill his promise of the largest mass deportation operation in U.S. history.

Money would go for hiring 10,000 new Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers, with \$10,000 signing bonuses and a surge of Border Patrol officers, as well. The goal is to deport some 1 million people per year.

To help pay for it, immigrants would face various new fees, including when seeking asylum protections.

For the Pentagon, the bill would provide billions for ship building, munitions systems, and quality of life measures for servicemen and women, as well as \$25 billion for the development of the Golden Dome missile defense system. The Defense Department would have \$1 billion for border security.

Medicaid, SNAP face deep cuts to fund bill's tax breaks and spending

To help partly offset the lost tax revenue and new spending, Republicans aim to cut back on Medicaid and food assistance for people below the poverty line.

Republicans argue they are trying to rightsize the safety net programs for the population they were initially designed to serve, mainly pregnant women, the disabled and children, and root out what they describe as waste, fraud and abuse.

The package includes new 80-hour-a-month work requirements for many adults receiving Medicaid and food stamps, including older people up to age 65. Parents of children 14 and older would have to meet the program's work requirements.

There's also a proposed new \$35 co-payment that can be charged to patients using Medicaid services.

More than 71 million people rely on Medicaid, which expanded under Obama's Affordable Care Act, and 40 million use the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Most already work, according to analysts.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that 11.8 million more Americans would become uninsured by 2034 if the bill became law and 3 million more would not qualify for food stamps, also known as SNAP benefits.

Republicans are looking to have states pick up some of the cost for SNAP bene-

fits. Currently, the federal government funds all benefit costs. Under the bill, states beginning in 2028 will be required to contribute a set percentage of those costs if their payment error rate exceeds 6%. Payment errors include both underpayments and overpayments.

But the Senate bill temporarily delays the start date of that cost-sharing for states with the highest SNAP error rates. Alaska has the highest error rate in the nation at nearly 25%, according to Department of Agriculture data. Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, had fought for the exception. She was a decisive vote in getting the bill through the Senate.

The 'big beautiful' bill slashes clean energy tax credits

Republicans are proposing to dramatically roll back tax breaks designed to boost clean energy projects fueled by renewable sources such as energy and wind. The tax breaks were a central component of President Joe Biden's 2022 landmark bill focused on addressing climate change and lowering health care costs.

Democratic Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden went so far as to call the GOP provisions a "death sentence for America's wind and solar industries and an inevitable hike in utility bills."

A tax break for people who buy new or used electric vehicles would expire on Sept. 30 of this year, instead of at the end of 2032 under current law.

Meanwhile, a tax credit for the production of critical materials will be expanded to include metallurgical coal used in steelmaking.

The bill creates 'Trump Accounts' — and funds a national hero garden

A number of extra provisions reflect other GOP priorities.

The bill creates a new children's savings program, called Trump Accounts, with a potential \$1,000 deposit from the Treasury. The Senate provided \$40 million to establish Trump's long-sought "National Garden of American Heroes."

There's a new excise tax on university endowments and a new tax on remittances, or transfers of money that people in the U.S. send abroad. The tax is equal to 1% of the transfer.

A \$200 tax on gun silencers and short-barreled rifles and shotguns was eliminated.

One provision bars for one year Medicaid payments to family planning providers that provide abortions, namely Planned Parenthood.

Another section expands the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, a hard-fought provision from GOP Sen. Josh Hawley of Missouri, for those impacted by nuclear development and testing.

Billions would go for the Artemis moon mission and for the exploration of Mars, while \$88 million is earmarked for a pandemic response accountability committee.

Additionally, a provision would increase the nation's debt limit, by \$5 trillion, to allow continued borrowing to pay already accrued bills.

State AI regulations cut from bill after a GOP uproar

The Senate over-

whelmingly revolted against a proposal meant to deter states from regulating artificial intelligence. Republican governors across the country asked for the moratorium to be removed and the Senate voted to do so with a resounding 99-1 vote.

A provision was thrown in at the final hours that will provide \$10 billion annually to rural hospitals for five years, or \$50 billion in total. The Senate bill had originally provided \$25 billion for the program, but that number was upped to win over holdout GOP senators and a coalition of House Republicans warning that reduced Medicaid provider taxes would hurt rural hospitals.

The amended bill also stripped out a new tax on wind and solar projects that use a certain percentage of components from China.

Final price tag: GOP bill could add \$3.3 trillion to deficit

Altogether, the Congressional Budget Office projects that the bill would increase federal deficits over the next 10 years by nearly \$3.3 trillion from 2025 to 2034.

Or not, depending on how one does the math.

Senate Republicans are proposing a unique strategy of not counting the existing tax breaks as a new cost because those breaks are already "current policy." Republican senators say the Senate Budget Committee chairman has the authority to set the baseline for the preferred approach.

Under the alternative Senate GOP view, the bill would reduce deficits by almost half a trillion dollars over the coming decade, the CBO said.

Democrats say this is "magic math" that obscures the true costs of the tax breaks. Some nonpartisan groups worried about the country's fiscal trajectory are siding with Democrats in that regard. The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget says Senate Republicans were employing an "accounting gimmick that would make Enron executives blush."

Some education grants in limbo were used for 'leftwing agenda,' Trump administration says

By BIANCA VÁZQUEZ TONESS

Associated Press

The Trump administration has accused states and schools of using federal education grants earmarked for immigrants' children and low-income students to help fund "a radical leftwing agenda."

The administration this week withheld more than \$6 billion intended for after-school and summer programs, English language instruction, adult literacy and more, saying it would review the grants to ensure they align with President Donald Trump's priorities. The freeze sent schools and summer camp providers scrambling to determine whether they can still provide programs like day camps this summer or after-hours child care this fall.

On Wednesday, the Office of Management and

Budget said an initial review showed schools used some of the money to support immigrants in the country illegally or promote LGBTQ+ inclusion. The administration said it hadn't made any final decisions about whether to withhold or release individual grants.

"Many of these grant programs have been grossly misused to subsidize a radical leftwing agenda," the Office of Management and Budget said in a statement.

It said New York schools had used money for English language instruction to promote organizations that advocate for immigrants in the country illegally. Washington state used the money to direct immigrants without legal status toward scholarships the Trump administration says were "intended for American students." Grant funds also were used for a seminar on "queer resistance in the arts," the office said.



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