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# Courier Journal

Louisville, Kentucky

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## DISAPPEARING DEMOCRATS?

Why the party lacks candidates in many legislative races

Rebecca Grapevine and Hannah Pinski | Louisville Courier Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK

**E**astern Kentucky's 94th House District has changed a lot since 2020. • The district, nestled against the Virginia border, was held by Democrats from 2007 until 2022. • But the situation has now entirely flipped, and the district is one of the 43 House districts that have not drawn a single Democratic candidate for the upcoming primary. • This year, barring any unusual circumstances, the sole GOP candidate, Mitchum Whitaker, will win in November. • It's not unusual for some state legislative seats to lack candidates in Kentucky. • What's changed is that the majority of those uncontested House seats are now Democratic seats, whereas they were nearly evenly split between the parties 10 years ago. • On the Senate side this year, eight out of 19 races lack a single Democratic candidate, while only four out of the 19 lack a Republican candidate.

See **DEMOCRATS**, Page 2A

**"It is never a waste of time to run. I feel that ... there are an awful lot of Democrats out there hiding in the shadows."**

**John Whipple**  
Democrat running for the state House in the 10th District

GETTY IMAGES



## 2024 PGA Championship

For the fourth time, the PGA Championship was held at Valhalla Golf Club in Louisville. For complete coverage of golf's second major championship, visit [courier-journal.com](http://courier-journal.com).

## LMPD set to expand its drone program

Officials plan to gather intel, improve response

Josh Wood | Louisville Courier Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Louisville Metro Police will expand its use of drones for "intelligence gathering" and responding to incidents, city officials said at a news conference on Thursday morning.

Under a pilot program, each of LMPD's eight divisions will be receiving a drone and training for up to four officers.

The move, Louisville Mayor Craig Greenberg said, was spurred by Metro Council members lobbying for more to be done to confront people "who are illegally using dirt bikes and ATVs in our public spaces, in areas that those are not permitted, that are causing danger to others, that are impeding beneficial use of parks."

Councilwoman Cindi Fowler, who represents District 14 in southwest Jefferson County, said improper use of dirt bikes and ATVs has been "a real problem in my district. I have lost three constituents in my district to this activity."

While that issue sparked conversations about an expanded drone program, Greenberg said drones will also be used in other ways, like helping officers prepare to deploy to emergency situations, helping officers respond faster to individuals hurt in accidents or violent crime and to "better identify people who are in the process of breaking the law and putting others in danger in public spaces."

Maj. Donald Boeckman, who leads the department's 3rd Division, said the drone use is "not a surveillance

See **DRONE**, Page 6A

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