

Trump appoints Bill Pulte as acting intelligence director

BY JACOB BOGAGE
Reuters

U.S. President Donald Trump appointed federal housing regulator Bill Pulte as acting director of national intelligence on Tuesday, elevating a political loyalist without national security experience to lead the country's sprawling intelligence community.

In a social media post, Trump said Pulte, 38, would remain director of Federal Housing Finance

Agency and the chair of federally supported mortgage-backers Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

"William has deep experience managing the most sensitive matters in America, the safety and soundness of the Markets, and over 10 Trillion Dollars at Fannie Mae/Freddie Mac, a substantial increase from where it was just 12 months ago," Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform.

Tulsi Gabbard, Trump's first director of national intelligence, announced

plans to leave the post in May. Reuters reported she was forced from the role over friction with the White House. Gabbard said she resigned due to her husband's recent cancer diagnosis.

The U.S. intelligence community is composed of 18 agencies, including the CIA and National Security Agency, tasked with gathering data and information security threats both domestically and globally. The department has taken on increased importance in recent months due to Trump's war on Iran, recent attempted attacks on the president and federal officials, and a raft of brewing military engagements in South America.

Andover invests in its Redbud trail as it looks to become a certified trail town

BY LINDSAY SMITH
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Andover continues to invest in its Redbud Trail as it looks towards becoming a certified trail town.

Andover, Augusta and the Andover Augusta Rail Trail Initiative were awarded a \$25,000 grant from the Sunflower Foundation and are using it to continue improving and developing its 6-mile long Redbud trail — a part of the larger trail that runs from Wichita.

"(The grant is) to do a couple of things," Jolene Graham, Andover's assistant city administrator, told The Eagle. "One is to do some real improvements to the trail itself, looking at things like . . . better signage and some lighting, so that'll be a noticeable difference for people."

The other portion of the grant is to fund an event with the other grant recipients, Graham said.

"Our goal is to kind of be that example for the rest of the communities . . . and to invite them to come and see communities that have some established . . . services (on the trails)," she said.

For example, the Redbud trail has restrooms and rest stops along the trail, as well as bike servicing areas. It also has Point Nine Trailside Eatery, which is a restaurant tailored to service those on the trail.

"The Redbud Trail already draws hundreds of users a month, you know, not just our own residents, but cyclists from the Wichita area that regularly ride this trail, and I think, too . . . it's about putting Andover on the map as a trail destination," Graham said.

The Sunflower Foundation is a healthcare foundation with "the mission to serve as a catalyst for improving the health of Kansans," a news release from Andover reads.

The grant was part of the Sunflower Foundation's Paving the Way – From



JAIME GREEN The Wichita Eagle

The Redbud Trail looking west near Andover Road. A \$25,000 Sunflower Foundation grant will be used for signs, lighting and more.

Blazing Trails to Building Community initiative, which is specifically for expanding and strengthening trail connectivity between communities, the press release said.

There are three tiers of grants depending on how advanced and developed the trails are. Andover applied for the top tier one due to Redbud trail's advancement, which led them to winning the \$25,000 grant. This will help them become a certified trail town, Graham said.

"We really were looking at being able to be labeled and to be certified as a trail town because we have an established trail that we've really worked hard to develop and to promote," she said. "That is really kind of the cool thing about the trail town program is this intersection between recreation and economic development, and how that ties to the trail."

ON ITS WAY TO BECOMING A TRAIL TOWN

When cities receive these grants, they are offered the opportunity to join a learning series geared toward their trail's development. Once Andover completes this learning series, they will officially be a certified trail town.

This is Trail Town program is new to the state of Kansas, with this being the

first opportunity for Kansas towns to participate.

"The Trail Town model is a strategy that embraces trails as community development resources and economic drivers," Megan Schapaugh, Andover's public information officer, told The Eagle.

Graham said Andover is figuring it out as they go.

"We are required to attend classes, and we'll be doing this with the other communities who are the grant recipients, and it's kind of like this, a cohort model of learning, where everyone is working towards the certification together," she said.

Overall, Graham said that she does not see the growth of Redbud stopping.

"One of the most exciting developments is the idea that a private entity (Point Nine Eatery) wanted to come in and really be a part of the trail in a way that was catering specifically to bring in people to come and eat at the restaurant and to stay in Andover and spend money in Andover," Graham said. "I really do see more of that type of development coming down the line."

Andover's portion of the Redbud Trail begins at 159th Street East, which is about 1 mile west of Andover, and ends 4 miles east of Andover at Highway 54. The full trail is just short of 16 miles.



DOMINICK WILLIAMS dowilliams@kcstar.com

A voter casts an electronic ballot on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2025, at Johnson County Arts and Heritage Center in Overland Park.

FROM PAGE 1A

PRIMARIES

Wichita school board member Joy Eakins, abandoned her own bid to sign on as Johnson County entrepreneur Philip Sarnecki's running mate.

Masterson also filed on Monday alongside his newly minted lieutenant governor pick, Sen. Jeff Klemp of Lansing. In brief remarks to reporters, Masterson said the president's backing gave him "the luxury of choosing the best man for the job" in Klemp.

"The Trump endorsement was the ticket," Masterson said. "I didn't have to have a pick whose gender or demographic or political — I could actually pick the guy who was the right man for the job."

In his own remarks, Sarnecki touted his and Eakins' private-sector experience and derided Masterson's track record as that of a career politician.

"Ty Masterson and the folks leading our Senate — leading, if you want to use that term — and House here in the state, they have promised the people of the state of Kansas property tax relief for three straight years and we have got absolutely nothing," Sarnecki said.

Two other Republican statewide officeholders — Insurance Commissioner Vicki Schmidt and Secretary of State Scott Schwab — are also competing for the nomination. Schmidt's lieutenant governor pick is Joe Newland, a former president of the Kansas Farm Bureau, and Schwab's running mate is Rep. Ken Rahjes of Agra.

Other Republican candi-

dates include former Johnson County Commissioner Charlotte O'Hara, who's running alongside state school board member Michelle Dombrosky, and Wichita entrepreneur Stacy Rogers, whose lieutenant governor pick is former Leavenworth County Commissioner Michael Smith.

Rounding out the GOP primary field is Nick Reinacker, a former candidate for Inman City Council, who filed on Monday with his wife, Katy Reinecker, as his running mate.

DEMOCRATIC GOVERNATORIAL PRIMARY

On the Democratic side, Corson, Kelly's chosen successor, named Salina Area Chamber of Commerce President Renee Duxler as his choice for lieutenant governor. Holscher teamed up with Rep. KC Ohaebosim of Wichita.

Jennifer McKenney, a physician from Fredonia, filed to run for lieutenant governor alongside Skoog on Monday. In remarks to reporters after filing, Skoog said he made the last-minute decision to join the primary fray because he didn't believe either of the leading Democratic candidates was "getting traction."

"After studying the race and talking to lots of people across the state, I thought — we all thought — that we needed a different direction in the race to beat Ty Masterson," Skoog said.

In a sharp rebuke, Kelly issued a statement following his announcement,

characterizing the eleventh-hour entrance as "opportunistic" and "foolhardy" without mentioning Skoog by name.

The only other Democrat who had campaigned for the nomination, Lawrence personal trainer Marty Tuley, did not officially file to appear on the primary ballot.

It has been more than 60 years since Kansas voters last elected consecutive governors of the same party.

U.S. SENATE RACE

On Monday, the field of Democratic candidates vying for an opportunity to challenge first-term Republican U.S. Sen. Roger Marshall swelled to 11.

Marshall also drew a GOP primary challenger — Pond Naramore of Lawrence.

Recent Democratic entrants include Kevin Latz of Mission Hills, a physician at Children's Mercy Hospital, and Damon Anderson of Shawnee, the founder of a freight company.

The race was reshaped in late April when popular Johnson County megachurch pastor Adam Hamilton launched his campaign as a Democrat after openly exploring an independent bid.

Other candidates include retired corporate executive Sandy Spidel Neumann, real estate developer Erik Murray, former Biden USDA official Christy Davis, Army veteran Noah Taylor, attorney Anne Parelkar, state Sen. Patrick Schmidt, former federal prosecutor Jason Hart and Michael Soetaert of Wellington.

Kansas voters last elected a Democrat to the U.S. Senate in 1932.

SCHOOL BOND

would go to traffic flow and HVAC improvements at specific schools.

The second question includes nearly \$208 million for improvements at several of the district's career readiness spaces, as well as the rebuilding of Coleman Middle School and Adams Elementary. Several million would be allocated toward turning OK Elementary into an early childhood center and repurposing Horace Mann K-8 Dual Language Magnet to use for Irving Elementary.

Several items in the new proposal were also included in last year's \$450 million proposal, which failed by 319 votes.

The \$165 million increase in the cost of the second proposal, Superintendent Kelly Bielefeld

previously said, is caused in part by increased building and material costs and inflation.

Luis Rodriguez, the chair of a newly formed committee that supports the passage of both bond issue questions, said that the price increase doesn't make the bond less worthy of pursuing.

"My hope is our committee can do a better job of showing the high trust that we should have in this administration and our district, the high trust we have in this board," Rodriguez said. "We are a different set of people. We can do this, and the right attitude is to say yes."

Katie Grover and her daughter Lillian, a current Wichita Public Schools student, both spoke in support of the bond issue

during the meeting's public forum, urging board members to put the bond issue on the November ballot.

"At its heart, this bond issue is not about buildings: It's about opportunities," she said. "Many of those sitting here tonight benefited from the classrooms, gyms, auditoriums, libraries and career training spaces that existed because someone before us said yes. Now it's our turn."

Additional information about the bond proposal can be found on the district website.

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The Wichita Eagle (ISSN 10463127) is published three times a week, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday by Wichita Eagle and McClatchy Co, 301 N. Main, Suite 1550, Wichita, KS 67202-2830 (by appointment only)
Periodicals Postage Paid at Wichita, KS (USPS 12050)
Postmaster: Send all UAA to CFS : NON-POSTAL & MILITARY FACILITIES: send address corrections to McClatchy 1601 Alhambra Blvd Suite 100 Sacramento, CA 95816.
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