

Joel cancels tour after brain disorder diagnosis

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Billy Joel has canceled all his upcoming concerts across North America and England after being diagnosed with fluid buildup in his brain that has affected his “hearing, vision and balance.”

Joel revealed on Instagram that he has Normal Pressure Hydrocephalus, “a brain disorder that can affect brain-related abilities, including thinking and concentrating, memory, movement and more,” the Cleveland Clinic says.

“This condition has been exacerbated by recent concert performances, leading to problems with hearing, vision and balance,” according to a statement from Joel’s team. “Under his doctor’s instructions, Billy is undergoing specific physical therapy and has been advised to refrain from performing during this recovery period.”



Evan Agostini | Invision | Associated Press
Musician Billy Joel performs during his 100th lifetime performance at Madison Square Garden on July 18, 2018, in New York.

In an accompanying statement, Joel said, “I’m sincerely sorry to disappoint our audience, and thank you for understanding.”

In March, “The Piano Man” and “Uptown Girl” singer announced that he underwent surgery and had

to undergo physical therapy. A statement at the time said doctors expected him to make a full recovery. It is unclear if his medical issues at the time were related to Normal Pressure Hydrocephalus.

The condition can cause problems with walking, bladder control and thinking, with symptoms worsening if left untreated. It’s relatively rare and can be hard to diagnose. It can be treated successfully with surgery to install a tube to drain excess fluid. Patients may need physical therapy in addition to surgery.

Joel, 76, wrapped up his decadelong residency at Madison Square Garden in July 2024 and continued to tour. His planned summer stops included shows at Yankee Stadium and Citi Field in New York, and MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey. Tickets for all the shows will be refunded.

NPR sues Trump over media funding cuts

BY DAVID BAUDER
AP MEDIA WRITER

NEW YORK — National Public Radio and three of its local stations sued President Donald Trump on Tuesday, arguing that his executive order cutting funding to the 246-station network violates their free speech and relies on an authority that he does not have.

Earlier this month, Trump instructed the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and federal agencies to cease funding for NPR and PBS, either directly or indirectly. The president and his supporters argue their news reporting promotes liberal bias and shouldn’t be supported by taxpayers.

Retaliation is Trump’s plain purpose, the lawsuit argues. It was filed in federal court in Washington by NPR and three Colorado entities — Colorado Public Radio, Aspen Public Radio and KUTE, Inc., chosen to show the system’s diversity in urban and rural areas.

“By basing its directives on the substance of NPR’s programming, the executive order seeks to force NPR to adapt its journalistic standards and editorial choices to the preferences of the government if it is to continue to receive federal funding,” Katherine Maher, NPR’s CEO, said Tuesday.



Charles Dharapak/Associated Press
The headquarters for National Public Radio is seen in Washington, April 15, 2013.

to use his lawful authority to achieve that objective,” Fields said.

Trump hasn’t hidden his feelings about NPR, calling it a “liberal disinformation machine” in an April social media post.

The court fight seemed preordained, given that the heads of NPR and PBS both reacted to Trump’s move earlier this month with statements that they believed it was illegal. The absence of PBS from Tuesday’s filing indicates the two systems will challenge this separately; PBS has not yet gone to court, but is likely to soon.

“PBS is considering every option, including taking legal action, to allow our organization to continue to provide essential programming and services to member stations and all Americans,” PBS spokesman Jeremy Gaines said Tuesday.

LAWSUIT SAYS TRUMP IS TARGETING A PRIVATE NONPROFIT CORPORATION

The lawsuit alleges that Trump is acting to contravene the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, a private nonprofit corporation set up to distribute federal funding to NPR and PBS, which is intended to insulate the system from political interference. Congress has appropriated \$535 million yearly to CPB for 2025, 2026 and 2027.

In response to the lawsuit, White House deputy press secretary Harrison Fields said that CPB “is creating media to support a particular political party on the taxpayers’ dime,” so Trump was exercising his authority under the law. “The president was elected with a mandate to ensure efficient use of taxpayer dollars, and he will continue

TRUMP IS IN OTHER LEGAL DISPUTES WITH NEWS ORGANIZATIONS

The president’s attempts to dismantle government-run news sources like Voice of America and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty have also sparked court fights.

The administration has battled with the press on several fronts. The Federal Communications Commission is investigating ABC, CBS and NBC News. The Associated Press also went to court after the administration restricted access to certain events in response to the organization’s decision not to rename the Gulf of Mexico as Trump decreed.

The lawsuit says 11% of Aspen Public Radio’s budget is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. It is 6% for the Colorado Public Radio, a network

of 19 stations, and 19% of KUTE’s budget. That station was founded in 1976 by the Southern Ute Indian Tribe.

NPR notes that the order attempts to prohibit individual stations in NPR’s system from using any federal money to buy NPR programming, like “All Things Considered,” the most listened-to afternoon radio news program in the country, its early counterpart “Morning Edition” and cultural programming like the Tiny Desk concerts.

The order “directly interferes with editorial independence by requiring them to seek programming elsewhere,” the lawsuit said.

NPR says it also provides infrastructure services to hundreds of public radio stations and without it, their coverage area would shrink. It also provides the backbone for emergency alert systems across the country.

“Public broadcasting is an irreplaceable foundation of American civic life,” Maher said. “At its best, it reflects our nation back to itself in all our complexity, contradictions and commonalities and connects our communities across differences and divides.”



Timothy D. Easley/Associated Press
Gov. Andy Beshear gives an update on the recovery efforts from damage caused by severe weather at the London Corbin Airport in London, Ky. on Saturday.

2028 podcast primary begins as Democrats reshape image

BY MEG KINNARD AND
ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Democrats’ 2028 podcast primary is well underway.

From Govs. Gavin Newsom of California, Andy Beshear of Kentucky and Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan to former Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, potential presidential contenders are following the lead of President Donald Trump, who frequently went on podcasts appealing to younger men during his 2024 campaign.

Liberal strategists acknowledge Trump showed that Democratic candidates need to master the podcast space, which is typically looser and more freewheeling than a press conference or a traditional media interview.

“The way that politicians communicate and need to be seen by their audience is changing,” said Liz Minnella, who fundraised for Democratic nominee Kamala Harris and this year launched Connect For-

ward, a group to support liberal influencers. “I hate to give him credit, but he found a way to connect with people, talk to them like human beings in non-political speak.”

Newsom, long derided by conservatives as a San Francisco liberal, has welcomed conservatives onto his podcast and agreed with them on issues such as trans participation in women’s sports. Beshear, a lower-profile Democrat in a red state, hosted his teenagers to teach him how to use the youth slang “skibidi.”

The likely 2028 contenders have produced many hours of content already. Here’s a look at key moments and what we’ve learned about the field so far.

ANDY BESHEAR’S ‘BE YOU, BOO’

Launching “The Andy Beshear Podcast” earlier this year, the Kentucky governor now has hosted a donor, a former ambassador, businessmen he calls friends and U.S. Sen. Amy Klo-

buchar, who ran for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination.

He even brought on his two children to explain slang words high schoolers are using, asking them to explain to him how to use terms like “skibidi” to say something looks good, or “doing it for the plot” to say you’ll be taking a risk on something despite a potentially bad outcome.

From his first episode, the 47-year-old politician outlines some rules and says the first is “be authentic, you be you, boo.”

The governor did not respond to a request for comment on his strategy, but has mostly taken a position of dissecting and broadcasting opposition to Trump’s policies, such as potential cuts to Medicaid and the use of the Signal messaging app by the president’s national security team to discuss sensitive military operations.

In one of Beshear’s most recent episodes

SEE PODCAST/PAGE A8

PUBLIC NOTICE – BUDGET HEARING

A public hearing will be held by the City of Wingo, Kentucky, at City Hall on June 9, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. for the purpose of obtaining written and oral comments of citizens regarding the proposed annual budget and the use of Local Government Economic Assistance Funds and Municipal Road Aid Program Funds, as contained in the proposed FY 2025-2026 Budget.

PUBLIC INSPECTION: The City’s proposed Budget for FY 2025-2026 for the proposed use of Local Government Economic Assistance Funds and Municipal Road Aid Program Funds, as they relate to the City’s entire budget, is on file at City Hall. Any person, especially senior or handicapped citizens, who cannot submit written comments or attend the public hearing, but wish to submit comments, should call City Hall at 270-376-2286, so the City can make arrangement to secure their comments.

Notice of Vacant Graves County Board of Education Seat

The Graves County Board of Education (“Board”) is seeking applications for appointment to fill a vacancy on the Board representing seat Division #2. This appointment will be effective until the November 2026 regular election.

Responsibilities include: setting policy to govern the District; hiring/evaluating the Superintendent; and levying taxes and adopting the District budget. Board members must:

- Be at least 24 years old and a Kentucky citizen for the last three years;
- Be a registered voter in the particular District of the vacancy;
- Have completed the 12th grade or have a GED certificate;
- Meet all other legal qualifications ([KRS 160.180](https://www.krs160.180)); and
- Complete required annual in-service training.

Applications are available at the Graves County Board Office located at 2290 State Route 121 North, Mayfield, KY 42066 or online at <https://www.graves.kyschools.us/2025boevacancy>. Mail applications to: Superintendent, ATTN: Board Vacancy, 2290 State Route 121 North, Mayfield, KY 42066. The submission deadline for applications is noon on Friday, June 13, 2025.