



Trump order to block NPR, PBS funding was unlawful, judge rules

BY: JENNIFER SHUTT
ND Monitor

WASHINGTON — A federal judge ruled Tuesday that President Donald Trump overstepped his authority when he signed an executive order last year that blocked funding from going to the Public Broadcasting Service and National Public Radio.

U.S. District Judge Randolph Daniel Moss wrote in a 62-page order that while many of the original issues in the case are no longer relevant after Congress rescinded funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the section of the executive order that called on agencies to end “any direct or indirect funding of NPR and PBS” remains applicable.

“The message is clear: NPR and PBS need not apply for any federal benefit because the President disapproves of their ‘left-wing’ coverage of the news,” Moss wrote.

“Because the First Amendment does not tolerate viewpoint discrimination and retaliation of this type, the Court will issue judgment against the federal agency defendants declaring Section 3(a) of the Executive Order is unconstitutional and will issue an injunction barring those defendants from implementing it.”

Moss was nominated to the district court for the District of Columbia by former President Barack Obama in 2014.

White House spokeswoman Abigail Jackson implied in a statement that the administration will appeal the court’s decision.

“This is a ridiculous ruling by an activist judge attempting to undermine the law. NPR and PBS have no right to receive taxpayer funds, and Congress already voted to defund them,” Jackson wrote. “The Trump Administration looks forward to ultimate victory on the issue.”

A PBS spokesperson wrote in a statement the organization is “thrilled with today’s decision declaring the executive order unconstitutional.”

“As we argued, and Judge Moss ruled, the executive order is textbook unconstitutional viewpoint discrimination and retaliation, in violation of longstanding First Amendment principles,” the spokesperson added. “At PBS, we



The National Public Radio headquarters in Washington, D.C., on Tuesday, May 27, 2025. (Photo by Jennifer Shutt/States Newsroom)

will continue to do what we’ve always done: serve our mission to educate and inspire all Americans as the nation’s most trusted media institution.”

A spokesperson for NPR did not return a request for comment.

No effect on congressional funding

Trump issued the executive order titled “Ending Taxpayer Subsidization of Biased Media” in May of last year, leading to two separate lawsuits that were later joined together.

One was filed by NPR along with three Colorado stations: Aspen Public Radio, Colorado Public Radio and KSUT Public Radio. The second lawsuit was filed by PBS and Lakeland PBS in Minnesota.

The NPR lawsuit alleged Trump’s executive order had an “overt retaliatory purpose” and “is unlawful in multiple ways.”

“The Order is textbook retaliation and viewpoint-based discrimination in violation of the First Amendment, and it interferes with NPR’s and the Local Member Stations’ freedom of expressive association and editorial discretion,” the lawsuit stated. “Lastly, by seeking to deny NPR critical funding with no notice or meaningful process, the Order violates the Constitution’s Due Process Clause.”

The lawsuits were filed before

the Trump administration in June asked Congress to eliminate \$1.1 billion in previously approved funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which provided grants to NPR and PBS.

The Senate voted 51-48 in July to approve the request and the House approved that version of the rescissions bill on a 216-213 vote shortly afterward.

Viewpoint discrimination Moss wrote in his ruling that the original parts of the lawsuit addressing the Corporation for Public Broadcasting were no longer relevant since “CPB no longer exists, and no Court order declaring the Executive Order unlawful as applied to the CPB can afford NPR, PBS, or their member stations any meaningful relief.”

“But that does not end the matter because the Executive Order sweeps beyond the CPB,” he added. “It also directs that all federal agencies refrain from funding NPR and PBS—regardless of the nature of the program or the merits of their applications or requests for funding.”

Moss wrote that while Trump can denounce news organizations as much as he wants, he cannot order government officials to engage in viewpoint discrimination.

“To be sure, the President is entitled to criticize this or any other reporting, and he can express his own views as he sees fit,” he wrote.

“He may not, however, use his governmental power to direct federal agencies to exclude Plaintiffs from receiving federal grants or other funding in retaliation for saying things that he does not like.”

The Trump administration’s attempt to block grants from the Department of Education, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the National Endowment for the Arts and other agencies from going to PBS and NPR would have widespread impacts, Moss wrote.

“It does so, moreover, without regard to whether the federal funds are used to pay for the nationwide interconnection systems, which serve as the technological backbones of public radio and television; to provide safety and security for journalists working in war zones; to support the emergency broadcast system; or to produce or distribute music, children’s or other educational programming, or documentaries,” he wrote.

Trump administration lawyers, Moss wrote, were unable to “explain why NPR’s purportedly ‘biased’ political reporting means that its production and distribution of programming like ‘Tiny Desk Concerts,’ ... runs afoul of the NEA’s authorizing statute.”

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Request for Bids

BELCOURT SCHOOL BUS GARAGE & HIGH SCHOOL PAVING Belcourt, North Dakota

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

The Belcourt School District #7 will receive bids on April 10, 2026 for the construction of the **BELCOURT SCHOOL BUS GARAGE & HIGH SCHOOL PAVING**. Bids shall be received at Belcourt School District #7, Attn: Duane Poitra, Business Manager 1207 William Hardesty St. Belcourt, ND 58316 until Friday, April 10, 2026 at 1:00 PM. Central Time at which time qualified submittals will be publicly opened and read.

Major items include 12" Subgrade Preparation 3,800 SF (Bus Garage) & 1,800 SF (High School), 6" Class V Gravel 1,270 TON (Bus Garage) & 575 TONS (High School), 5" Asphalt Pavement FAA 43 (Base Bid) 1,060 TONS (Bus Garage) & 500 TONS (High School), 6" Concrete Alt #1 15,200 SF (High School), Seeding and Mulching 1 LSUM and related items.

Single Prime Bids submitted must be accompanied by a Bond payable to Belcourt School District #7 in the amount equal to five percent (5%) of the bid. This is to serve as a guarantee that the bidder will enter into a Contract for the performance of such work if the Contract is awarded to him. Only bids, which are accompanied by such bond with associated proof of surety, will be considered.

All bids will be made on the basis of cash payment for such work. After bid opening the Owner will return the bid security of all except the lowest responsible bidders. When the Contract is awarded, the remaining unsuccessful bidder's bond will be returned. The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and further reserves the right to award the Contract in the best interests of the Owner. The Owner reserves the right to hold the low bids for a period of thirty (30) days after the date of the bid opening.

Each Contractor shall comply with TERO Regulations represented in the specifications for the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Reservation. Prime bidding contractors shall include an identified 3% Fee based upon their contract quote. Belcourt School District #7 expects all Contractors to utilize to the greatest extent feasible, Certified Minority Contractors, subcontractors, and vendors in good standing with the North Dakota Minority Contractors Association. Contractors will be responsible for an EPA fee in the amount of 1% of their contract quote.

Plans and specifications will be available at the following recognized Builders Exchanges for examination: Bismarck-Mandan Exchange, Construction Plans of Bismarck, Minot, Grand Forks, and Fargo all of North Dakota. Construction Industry Center of South Dakota. Minneapolis, St. Paul, Reed Construction Data and McGraw-Hill Dodge Planroom; all of Minnesota.

The documents may further be reviewed in the office of the Owner or Architect, Jiran Architects & Planners, P.C. Bidding Contractors having the proper class of North Dakota Contractor's License may obtain digital copies of the documents by contacting Jeff Welch at 701-258-7771 jeff@jiranpc.com at no charge. Any Prime Contractor wishing to bid on this project shall notify the Architect and supply complete contact information to ensure that all bidders are receiving the most current bidding information.

Any bid not prepared and submitted in accordance with the provisions hereof, shall be considered non-responsive. The Owner may waive any formalities, and retains the rights to reject any or all bids.

END OF NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

ADVERTISEMENT – REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Procurement of Architectural and Engineering Services

April 6, 2026

Construction of New Physical Education Gymnasium for Belcourt School District #7 Located on the Turtle Mountain School Campus in Belcourt, North Dakota

Belcourt School District #7 is soliciting proposals from qualified architectural firms with architectural, structural, civil, mechanical and electrical engineering capabilities to provide design, planning, drawings, and specifications for construction of a new physical education gymnasium to be located on the Turtle Mountain School campus in Belcourt, North Dakota. This facility is intended to support the physical educational space needs of our students in a modern, functional, and sustainable environment. This new facility is envisioned to be 22,000 square feet.

Scope of Work:

- Develop comprehensive architectural and engineering plans for a state-of-the-art facility that meets physical education standards & requirements for students, community spectators and sports competitors in a setting within budget as specified by the District.
- Provide full architectural and engineering services, including conceptual design, schematic drawings, detailed construction plans, specifications, and cost estimates.
- Ensure the design complies with local, state, and federal regulations, as well as the unique needs of the Belcourt School District community.
- Incorporate sustainability and energy-efficient practices into the design.

Eligibility:

- Firms must have prior experience in designing educational facilities and projects of similar scope and size.
- Architects and engineers must be properly licensed.
- Firms must be licensed by the State of North Dakota at time of proposal submission. Firms submitting proposals are responsible to comply with the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance (TERO) Requirements. Successful firm must also hold a current Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa TERO license prior to contract.

Proposal Requirements:

- A comprehensive fee schedule which shall include a fee scale based on final project cost from design planning to specifications through construction administration to final inspection of the project.

Belcourt School District #7 is an equal opportunity employer and will accept proposals from all qualified firms. The Belcourt School District #7 reserves the right to reject any or all proposals. The District will not be responsible for costs incurred by firms in preparation of proposals. The contract will be with the Belcourt School District #7.

Questions/Clarifications: Any questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing by email to Duane Poitra, Business Manager at duane.poitra@k12.nd.us cc: kevin.davis@k12.nd.us with a read receipt request no later than April 27, 2026 at 4:00 pm.

Proposal Submission Deadline: Firms must ensure all required documentation is included and submitted by the indicated deadline. Sealed proposals must be received no later than April 27, 2026 at 4:00 pm. Late submissions will not be considered. Proposals will be opened and reviewed at a meeting of the District's construction committee, scheduled no later than April 28, 2026 at which meeting firms may present their proposals to committee if they so choose.

Proposal Submission Address: All sealed proposals must be submitted to the following address:

Belcourt School District #7
Attn: Duane Poitra, Business Manager
1207 William Hardesty St
PO Box 440
Belcourt, ND 58316