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SBC ban on women pastors fails

Vote may not end debate over issue

Liam Adams

Nashville Tennessean
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

INDIANAPOLIS — The Southern Baptist Convention rejected Wednesday a constitutional ban on women pastors, a major victory for those within the nation's largest Protestant denomina-

tion seeking to maintain local church autonomy and soften what many considered a growing antagonism toward women in ministry.

The narrow outcome resolved a two-year political dispute about church policy, though it might not subdue the ensuing debate about women's roles in the church. The proposed amendment was

INSIDE

Former VP Pence warns of GOP shift but stops short of direct Trump criticism. **15A**

by far the most animating issue headed into this year's SBC annual meeting, one that even colored other decision-making — including the election for SBC president.

If the measure passed, more

churches were expected to voluntarily leave the Nashville-based denomination. For some, it would be due to a message downplaying women's contributions to the church, while others saw the SBC becoming overbearing about certain doctrinal beliefs.

"Is this amendment necessary for the convention to respond when churches in our convention act in a way contrary

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Change in career path fulfills bagel maker



Niko Bendaj, left, places the rolled dough onto a sheet with Jorge Cardenas at the Benji's Bagel & Coffee House in Nashville on May 30. STEPHANIE AMADOR/THE TENNESSEAN

How this Albanian and his wife built a Nashville hotspot



Inside Nashville
Brad Schmitt
Nashville Tennessean
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENN.

Growing up in Albania, he never saw a bagel. Never even heard of a bagel. • Niko Bendaj ate his first one when he moved to New York at age 21 — and he was unimpressed. • It's just bread, he thought. • "I couldn't have cared less." • About 13 years later, Bendaj and his wife, Becca, own and run Nashville's newest bagel shop, Benji's Bagel & Coffee House in West Nashville, where customers often wait 30 minutes or longer to place orders on weekends.

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Music

Audrey Gibbs
Nashville Tennessean
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENN.

'The first one was a trip and it did fly!'

Founder, first headliner reflect on first Bonnaroo

Before Bonnaroo became Bonnaroo, it was just a couple of guys standing in an open Tennessee field with a crazy idea.

Now, more than 20 years later, one of Tennessee's biggest music festivals is still going strong, attracting 80,000 festivalgoers each year for four days of music and arts in Manchester.

This year's Bonnaroo is among us again, taking place on June 13-16 with headliners Post Malone, Pretty Lights, Red Hot Chili Peppers and Fred Again.

To commemorate another year of Bonnarroo joy, The Tennessean spoke with Bonnaroo's founder, Ashley Capps and the headlining band for the festival's first two years, the rock band Widespread Panic.

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SEE COVERAGE ONLINE

Visit [Tennessean.com](#) through the weekend for Bonnaroo photos, updates, concert coverage and more.

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