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## How Communities Like Springfield, Ohio Can Push Back Against Fear and Racism

**Chandra Russo**, Colgate University

As racial tensions escalate in Springfield, Ohio, Haitian families are facing violent threats and harassment, reflecting a wider pattern of fear and division that's being felt across the country. This isn't just about racism and xenophobia; it's also about political leaders exploiting white fear to distract from systemic failures.

But there is hope. Shelbyville, Tennessee—a town with similar challenges—demonstrates how communities can transform this tide of hate into a movement for justice.

While smaller and less white than Springfield, Shelbyville shares a common profile: Both towns have faced long-standing economic hardship, spurred by the loss of manufacturing jobs. Both have also seen more recent immigrant arrivals. With this combination of economic struggle and demographic shifts, both towns have been targeted for racial scapegoating and organized white hate.