

# Baseball nominations open for student-athlete of the year

The nomination process for the Midway University/KHSAA Student-Athlete of the Year among Baseball participants for 2024-2025 is open. This award is based on athletic and academic achievement as well as community service and

leadership. The link to the application contains additional criteria and a form to nominate one participant from each 2024-2025 team. Nominations must come from a member school, but can be submitted by an administrator, guidance counselor, or

coach. Nominations may only be submitted online at: <https://khsaa.org/ge35-midway-university-khsaa-female-student-athlete-of-the-year-nomination-form/>. The winner will be announced early in the postseason and recognized at an awards banquet

at Midway University in early summer 2025. From the winners selected for each KHSAA championship, one student-athlete will be selected as the 2024-2025 Midway University/KHSAA Student-Athlete of the Year and announced at the banquet. All winners will also

receive their recognition at that banquet. The deadline for nominations for the Midway University/KHSAA Student-Athlete of the Year in the sport of baseball is Friday, May 2. - Submitted

# Give 270 to host Whiskey Wednesdays Round 15

Tickets are now on sale for Round 15 of the weekly Whiskey Wednesdays charity raffle series, hosted by Elizabethtown-based nonprofit Give 270. Set to take place each Wednesday from April 9 through June 25, the Whiskey Wednesdays Round 15 — Odd or Even raffle series features a valuable lineup of 12 weekly prizes hidden behind 12 locker doors, plus two grand prizes at the end of the round. Prizes hidden behind the 12 locker doors include a six-bottle Weller “Rainbow” Vertical; a two-bottle George T. Staggs and Staggs Jr. Batch 1 set; a two-bottle Van Winkle Lot “B” 12 year and Old Rip Van Winkle 10 year set; four bottles of Van Winkle Lot “B” 12 year; four bottles of Old Rip Van Winkle 10 year;

and a bottle of Pappy Van Winkle 15 year. Plus, each ticket gives participants five chances to win each week, as four bonus prizes are also given away, including two Willet 8 year Rye MANABOUTTOWN Give 270 Single Barrels, a Luca Mariano Give 270 Pick and a Buffalo Trace Give 270 Pick. In addition, each week of Round 15, the five winners drawn will advance for a one-in-30 chance to win one of the round’s two ultimate prizes: Buffalo Trace O.F.C. Vintage 2005 or Double Eagle Very Rare. Winners from weeks when an odd locker door is opened advance for a chance to win the 2005 O.F.C., while winners from weeks when an even locker door is opened advance for a chance to

win the Double Eagle Very Rare. All proceeds from the raffle series will support local organizations and initiatives, with weekly proceeds allocated to a different cause. Benefitting organizations will include the Elizabethtown Community and Technical College Foundation, Greenspace, the Stephen Foster Drama Association, Shelby County Special Olympics and the Kosair for Kids NICU at Baptist Health Hardin. “Whiskey Wednesdays has become a staple here at Give 270, and Round 15 promises to be bigger and better than ever,” said Eric Clemens, board chair of Give 270. “With incredible prizes and the chance to support incredible local causes, every ticket pur-

chased makes a difference. We are grateful for the generosity of our participants, and we’re excited to continue making an impact through this raffle series.” Whiskey Wednesdays Round 15 raffles are set to take place live each Wednesday from April 9 through June 25 at 8 p.m. on Give 270’s Facebook page and YouTube channel. Priced at \$5 each, there is no limit to the amount of tickets purchased per individual each week. To purchase tickets, see the full list of prizes and stay up-to-date on raffles and events hosted by Give 270, visit [give270.org](https://give270.org). - Submitted



The Double Eagle Very Rare will be one of two ultimate prizes. Courtesy photo

# State’s educational attainment rate edges closer to 2030 goal

The percentage of working-age Kentuckians with a post-secondary certificate or degree has risen to 56.2 percent, according to analysis from the Council on Postsecondary Education. This figure is up 1.1 percentage points over the previous year and 5.9 points over the last five years. The state’s goal is to reach an educational attainment rate of 60% by the year 2030. “Across the board, states with highly educated workforces are more economically competitive

and prosperous,” said Dr. Aaron Thompson, CPE president. “Over my career, I’ve watched Kentucky’s attainment level move from the bottom third of states to at or near the national average. This progress has resulted in greater economic opportunity for thousands of Kentuckians and a much stronger economic base for the state.” The attainment figure is based on the proportion of Kentucky adults (ages 25-64) who have earned a postsecondary degree

(at the associate, bachelor’s or graduate level) or a short-term certificate or industry certification. Using population and wage data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the Kentucky Center for Statistics, CPE estimates that:

- 16.7% of Kentuckians have a postsecondary certificate or industry certification;
- 9.9% have an associate degree;
- 18.2% have a bachelor’s degree; and
- 11.5% have a graduate or

professional degree. For comparison, 9.2% of Americans have an associate degree, 23.4% have a bachelor’s degree and 14.5% have a graduate or professional degree, according to Lumina Foundation, a national education nonprofit. Comparable data for certificates/certifications is not available because Kentucky employs a different methodology than Lumina. “Analysts predict that by the year 2031, 63% of all Kentucky jobs will require some education

or training after high school,” said Travis Muncie, CPE’s Chief Information Officer. “While you won’t necessarily need a four-year degree, you will need some kind of technical or vocational training after high school to achieve long-term economic security.” You can read more about Kentucky’s progress toward its educational attainment goal at <https://cpe.ky.gov/our-work/60x30.html>. - Submitted

# The Democracy Principle Rally: Why we showed up

**BY JENNIFER A. JACKSON** The League of Women Voters of Kentucky joined with other advocacy groups at the Capitol Rotunda on March 28 for the Democracy Principle Rally. Why? Because our representative democracy rests on a fundamental principle: We, the people, have a right to participate in decisions that affect us. The League of Women Voters of Kentucky has documented how Kentucky’s legislative process, since 1998, has been manipulated in ways that increasingly minimize public input, stifling full and open debate on significant legislation. The 2025 legislative session was no exception, with numerous bills passed and sent to the Governor using fast-track maneuvers and undemocratic tactics,

often in combination. Legislators used combinations like these:

- File a “shell bill” with minor changes to existing law and assign it to a standing committee.
- Rush a bill by holding bill readings on the chamber floor before the committee even discusses and votes on the bill.
- Reschedule committee meetings with short notice to the public.
- In committee, introduce and vote on a substitute bill that some committee members cannot access before the meeting and the public has not seen.
- Send the bill for a floor vote that same day, giving non-committee legislators and their constituents little time to review the new language.
- Then, the shenanigans rinse-and-repeat in the next chamber.

- If such strategies produce a bill different from the originating chamber, specially appointed committees can produce yet another version for a final vote before the public and many legislators have time to review. These strategies not only interfere with public participation, but legislators themselves may have limited access to bill substitutes before a vote, let alone journalists whose job it is to inform the public. Overall, these fast-tracking methods are unnecessarily hasty and may lead to careless mistakes or laws that are out of step with public opinion. Lawmaking should not be reduced

to power plays, but be approached with careful consideration of intended and unintended consequences. Among the bills that were passed using one or more of these maneuvers were:

- HB 4, restricting diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs and constraining instruction in public postsecondary institutions.
- HB 90, originally focused on free-standing birthing centers, but last-minute additions included abortion-related provisions.
- HB 241, a two-page bill allowing school districts to adjust calendars due to weather-related

emergencies had multiple provisions about virtual education programs added on the Senate floor.

- HB 695, included last-minute changes to the state Medicaid program by adding mandatory work requirements for able-bodied adults.
- HB 775, a four-page bill on development districts that transformed to a 108-page bill making substantive taxation changes beyond develop-

ment districts.

- SB 202, a five-page shell bill making innocuous word changes that became a 60-page bill to regulate the sale of cannabis-infused beverages. Prior to these past two sessions, the League made recommendations to the General Assembly on how to strengthen public participation by respecting the Democracy Principle.

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