

U.S. Rep. Barr enters competitive race to succeed Sen. McConnell in Kentucky

By **BRUCE SCHREINER** and **DYLAN LOVAN**
Associated Press

Republican U.S. Rep. Andy Barr launched a high-stakes Senate campaign Tuesday, opting to give up his seemingly secure House seat next year and enter the competitive contest to succeed longtime Sen. Mitch McConnell.

Barr touted his congressional experience and support for President Donald Trump's policies in announcing his candidacy in Richmond, in his district.

"I am running for Senate because that is how I can be most helpful to President Trump's mission to put America back on the right track," he told The Associated Press.

His decision ensures that Republicans will have a robust 2026 Senate primary, but it also creates what Democrats see as a potential pickup opportunity in the Lexington-area House district, where a strong candidate could give them an outside chance in the midterm election.

Barr joins former state Attorney General Daniel Cameron in the race for the Senate seat, which has been held by McConnell for 40 years. Republican businessman Nate Morris also has signaled strong interest in running, portraying himself as a political outsider.

All three have distanced themselves from McConnell while jockeying for Trump's endorsement, seen as potentially decisive.

"It will be a competitive primary," said Scott Jennings,

a Republican political strategist. "Of course, the 500-pound gorilla is President Donald Trump. If he decides he prefers one of these candidates — or someone else — he can end the primary at a moment's notice by endorsing that person."

Barr said via in response to emailed questions that he supports Trump's immigration and tariff policies. He said the president "is right to negotiate better, more reciprocal, trade deals to secure the resiliency of our supply chains and stop unfair practices that harm American workers and businesses."

The president's tariff plan has drawn criticism from several sources, including Republicans like McConnell and Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul.

McConnell, the longest-serving Senate party leader in U.S. history, announced in February that he would not seek reelection. McConnell previously relinquished his Senate leadership post.

On the Democratic side, state Rep. Pamela Stevenson is also running for Senate. Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear, who cannot seek reelection due to term limits, has ruled out a Senate bid as speculation continues to build over whether he may run for president in 2028.

A potential wild card for the Senate race is Beshear's senior adviser, Democrat Rocky Adkins, a longtime state lawmaker with deep political connections.

The last Democrat to win a Senate race in Kentucky was Wendell Ford in 1992.

In the GOP primary, Cam-



Rep. Andy Barr, R-Ky., speaks before a gathering to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Kentucky Bourbon Trail at the Frazier History Museum in Louisville, Ky., June 20, 2024.

AP Newsroom File Photo by Timothy D. Easley

eron has the edge in name recognition, having run twice for statewide office: He was elected attorney general in 2019 and lost the governor's race to Beshear in 2023.

His campaign said in a statement Tuesday that Cameron is the "tried-and-true Trump conservative."

"Daniel Cameron has earned the respect of Republican primary voters by fighting as Attorney General for conservative values alongside President Trump."

Barr is making his first bid for statewide office, but his reputation as a formidable

fundraiser will enable him to elevate his profile outside his congressional district, which reaches from the state's bluegrass region to the Appalachian foothills and includes Lexington, the state's second-largest city.

Barr is a senior member of the House Financial Services Committee and leads a subcommittee overseeing the Federal Reserve and Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. He competed for the full committee's chairmanship last year but came up short, a setback that set his Senate bid in motion.

He entered Congress after defeating a Democratic incumbent in 2012 and has won reelection by wide margins except in 2018, when he fended off a strong challenge from Democrat Amy McGrath.

Democrats have signaled that they plan to target Barr's district along with a few dozen others nationwide in trying to win back the House next year. Republicans scoff at Democratic hopes of flipping Barr's district, which seemed more GOP-friendly after the last round of redistricting.

Streaking Journalism is 3-1 early favorite for 151st Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs



By **Gary B. Graves** - Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Red-hot Journalism is the 3-1 morning line favorite for the 151st Kentucky Derby with a favorable No. 8 post position that has tied for the second-most victories in horse racing's marquee event.

Sovereignty is the 5-1 second choice of 20 horses and will start from the No. 18 post outside Sandman, who drew the No. 17 spot on Saturday night and is the 6-1 third choice for the \$5 million Grade 1 race at Churchill Downs.

Bob Baffert's two entrants face longer odds in the Hall of Fame trainer's return to Churchill Downs after a four-year suspension by the historic track after now-deceased colt Medina Spirit failed a postrace drug test after crossing the finish line first in 2021. Rodriguez is a 12-1 choice from the No. 4 post while Citizen Bull is a 20-1 longshot after drawing the No. 1 post.

"Well, we got the 1 (spot) out of the way," joked Baffert, who seeks a record seventh Derby victory. "I'm glad I didn't get the 2 with the other horse."

Filly Good Cheer is the 6-5 favorite from the No. 11 post for the 151st Kentucky Oaks on May 2. La Cara drew the No. 7 post of 14 entrants with 6-1 odds for the \$1.5 million showcase for 3-year-old fillies. Simply Joking (No. 2 post) and Ballerina d'Oro (No. 6) are co-third choices at 10-1 odds.

Journalism's spot drew the most attention for horse racing's marquee event on May 3 for 3-year-olds. He has been the presumptive favorite with a four-race winning streak including

both starts this year along with a fourth in his debut last fall at Santa Anita.

"I'm very pleased," trainer Michael McCarthy said. "What's not to like?"

The No. 8 spot has yielded nine wins in 94 starts since the starting gate was first used in 1930, tied for second most with the No. 10 post (88 starts). The No. 5 post has forged 10 victories in 95 starts.

The most recent Derby winner from the No. 8 post was Mage two years ago.

Those other two spots went to Todd Pletcher-trained Grande (20-1, No. 10), while D. Wayne Lukas' American Promise is a 30-1 long shot from the No. 5. Japan-based Admire Daytona is also a 30-1 choice.

California-based Journalism is coming off a 3/4-length victory over Baeza, an also-eligible Derby entrant, in the Grade 1 San Anita Derby on April 5, the bay colt's third straight graded stakes win that earned 122.5 points during the qualifying season, good for third.

Sandman, trained by Mark Casse, was second on the Derby trail with 129 points after winning the Arkansas Derby. Bill Mott-trained Sovereignty was seventh with 110 and enters with a runner-up finish in the Florida Derby to Tappan Street, whom Louisville-born trainer Brad Cox scratched Saturday morning with a leg injury.

That defection allowed Render Judgment into the field, giving trainer Kenny McPeck a chance to repeat as Derby winner after Mystik Dan's victory last May, a day after filly Thorpedo Anna won the Oaks.

INSPECTION PERIOD FOR THE PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT ROLL

The Livingston County real property tax roll will be opened for inspection from May 5 through May 19, 2025. Under the supervision of the Property Valuation Administrator (PVA) or one of the deputies, any person may inspect the tax roll.

This is the January 1, 2025, assessment on which state, county, and school taxes for 2025 will be due beginning October 1st, 2025.

The tax roll is in the office of the Property Valuation Administrator in the Livingston County Office Building and may be inspected on the dates indicated between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on Saturdays during this period.

Any taxpayer desiring to appeal an assessment on real property made by the PVA must first request a conference with the PVA or a designated deputy. The conference may be held prior to or during the inspection period. **Written documentation supporting your opinion of value will continue to be required;** however, you will be instructed on the best method to submit your documentation after contacting our office regarding your request to have a conference. Scheduled conferences may be conducted in-person or via telephone.

Any taxpayer still aggrieved by an assessment on real property, after the conference with the PVA or designated deputy, may appeal to the county board of assessment appeals.

The appeal must be filed with the county clerk's office no later than one workday following the conclusion of the inspection period. Please contact the county clerk's office to receive instructions on the method the office is using to accept appeals this year and to obtain a form that can be used to file your appeal.

Any taxpayer failing to appeal to the county board of assessment appeals, or failing to appear before the board, either in person or by designated representative, will not be eligible to appeal directly to the Kentucky Board of Tax Appeals.

Appeals of personal property assessments shall not be made to the county board of assessment appeals. Personal property taxpayers shall be served notice under the provisions of KRS 132.450(4) and shall have the protest and appeal rights granted under the provisions of KRS 131.110.

The following steps should be taken when a taxpayer does not agree with the assessed value of personal property as determined by the property valuation administrator.

- (1) Taxpayer must list under protest (for certification) what they believe to be the fair cash value of the property.
- (2) Taxpayer must file a written protest directly with the Department of Revenue, Office of Property Valuation within 30 days from the date of the notice of the assessment.
- (3) This protest must be in accordance with KRS 131.110.
- (4) The final decision of the Department of Revenue may be appealed to the Kentucky Board of Tax Appeals.

Elisha A. Harp
Property Valuation Administrator
Livingston County