

Stevenson, the top Democrat in the Kentucky House, launches campaign for the US Senate

BY **BRUCE SCHREINER**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Kentucky lawmaker Pamela Stevenson, the top-ranking Democrat in the GOP-led state House, launched her U.S. Senate campaign on Monday, vowing to help “stop the recklessness” in Washington if elected. The seat has long been held by Republican Sen. Mitch McConnell, who is not seeking reelection in 2026.

Stevenson, an attorney and minister, ran for state attorney general in 2023 but lost by a wide margin to Republican Russell Coleman. The only Kentucky Democrats to win statewide that year were Gov. Andy Beshear and his running mate, Lt. Gov. Jacqueline Coleman, who won reelection to second terms.

Known for a fiery speaking style at the Kentucky Capitol, Stevenson pledged to continue



Ryan C. Hermens/AP Photo

Kentucky Attorney General Democratic candidate Pam Stevenson speaks during the Mike Miller Memorial Marshall County Bean Dinner at the Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park Convention Center in Gilbertsville, Ky., on Aug. 4, 2023.

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Smokers have higher risk of strokes

**LIBERTY GILBERT AND
MELISSA PATRICK**
KENTUCKY HEALTH NEWS

A recent study finds that people under the age of 50 who smoke heavily have a higher risk of experiencing an unexplained stroke.

The study, published in *Neurology*, found that this was particularly true in men and people in the 45-49-year-old age group.

“Our findings suggest that continued public health efforts around preventing smoking, especially heavy smoking, may be an important way to help reduce the number of strokes happening to young people,” lead author Phillip Ferdinand, a researcher at Keele University in the United Kingdom and a member of the American Academy of Neurology, said in a news release.

The study looked at 546 people between the ages of 18 and 49 who had had an unexplained stroke. This group was then matched for age and gender with 546 people who did not have a stroke.

A stroke occurs “when a blood vessel carrying oxygen and nutrients to the brain is blocked by a clot (ischemic stroke) or bursts (hemorrhagic stroke). When an artery is blocked, the brain can’t get the blood and oxygen it needs. Brain cells can die from the lack of blood and oxygen,” according to UK HealthCare.

Unexplained strokes are called cryptogenic strokes, which are a type of ischemic stroke caused by a blockage of blood flow, but it is unclear what has caused the blockage, says the release.

The researchers found that people who had an unexplained stroke were more likely to smoke. Of those with unexplained stroke, 33% smoked compared to 15% of those who didn’t have a stroke, according to the release.

After adjusting for factors that could affect the risk of stroke, the researchers found that people who smoked had more than twice the risk of having an unexplained stroke when compared to those who did not smoke. They also found the risk was highest in male participants who had more than three times the risk, and also in people ages 45 to 49 who had nearly four times the risk.

The researchers also looked at how many cigarettes, pipes or cigars a person smoked a day and found that people who smoked the equivalent of more than 20 packs a year had more than four times the risk of unexplained stroke compared to those who did not smoke.

“This risk was especially high in male participants with nearly seven times the risk, and in people ages 45 to 49 who had nearly five times the risk,” according to the release.

The release notes that a limitation of the study is that it primarily looked at people of white European backgrounds, so the results may not be the same

for other populations. However, Healthline reports that the results echo similar findings linking stroke risk with smoking.

Stroke in Kentucky

Stroke is the fifth leading cause of death in Kentucky, according to the Kentucky Stroke Encounter Quality Improvement Project’s 2024 annual report.

The counties with the highest number of patient records in the 2023 SEQIP registry are Letcher, Johnson, Floyd, Pulaski and Harlan counties.

According to the 2021 Kentucky Behavioral Risk Factor Survey, about 4.9% of Kentucky adults have been told by their doctor that they had a stroke. This rate was similar by gender and by race, but significantly increased with age, with the highest prevalence of stroke in adults aged 65 and older (10.5%).

The state Department for Public Health offers a service called Quit Now Kentucky to help Kentuckians of all ages quit smoking. To learn more, go to QuitNowKentucky.org, text QUITKY to 797979 or call 1-800-QUIT-NOW. The services are free and confidential.

Liberty Gilbert is a student at the University of Kentucky College of Communications and Information and a spring intern for the Institute for Rural Journalism in the School of Journalism and Media at the University of Kentucky, which publishes Kentucky Health News with support from the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky.

SHELBY

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personal responsibility for preparedness. Please ensure you have essential supplies, such as flashlights, fully charged devices, and fueled vehicles, readily available,” said Spaulding.

On Saturday, the emergency services alert system announced a flood warning from 11:50 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Sunday.

Later that day, Spaulding reported that rain was expected to start up again once the sun went down and noted that a few flash floods had appeared throughout the county. At that time, he encouraged residents to avoid roadways, especially after dark.

Once the rain had calmed down on Sunday, Shelby County Judge/Executive Dan Ison reported that Pickett’s Dam Road and Brunerstown Road - 6300 Block were not passable.

He reported that the following roads were open but to use extreme caution: Scott Station/Harrington Mill, Drane Lane/Eminence Pike, Fox Run/Orphan Lane, Antioch Road, Hebron Road, and Anderson Lane.

“We thank our County Road Department and Emergency Services for all their hard work during the storms this week,” Ison said in a Facebook post.

Once the sun had come out again on Monday, Ison released a video thanking the road crews and emergency services team for their hard work and diligence during this time, and updated citizens

on flood waters and road closures.

He reported that Bardstown Trail in Waddy had a mudslide on the road, which the road crews were trying to stabilize. He announced that both Zaring Mill Road and Locust Lane were dealing with parts of the road being washed away. Ison stated that most of the parts of the road that were washed away had recently been repaired.

“We are addressing these issues along with potholes,” Ison said.

During the storms, Grove Hill Cemetery reported that

multiple trees had fallen on the property and that damage had been done.

Several Shelby County residents reported flooding in their homes.

Overall, compared to surrounding counties, Shelby

County received the lower end of the flooding and damage, although some damage was done. Road crews and other county agencies are surveying, repairing, and stabilizing roads flooded or damaged during the storm.

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OBITUARY

Geraldine Frances Coleman Long, 83

Geraldine Frances Coleman Long, 83, Shelbyville, died Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at U. of L. Health Louisville following a brief illness. A native of Louisville, she was the daughter of the late John Joseph Coleman and Mary M. Roth Coleman.

Geraldine was employed in the medical field, processing health insurance claims for doctors’ offices. She was an accomplished horsewoman and enjoyed riding for many years. Additionally, she was a golfer and an avid tennis player. She was Catholic by faith.

In addition to her parents, one sister, Marie Swinehart, preceded her in death. Survivors include her lov-

ing husband of 62 years, Charles R. Long, Jr. of Shelbyville; three children, Christine Michelle Long of Louisville, Charles R. Long III (Amy) of St. Louis, MO and Bridget Kathlene Long (Becky Herron) of Simpsonville and two grandsons, Coleman Long and Rory Long.

Cremation has been selected in accordance with her wishes. No services are planned at this time, again in accordance with her wishes.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Webb Funeral Home. Online condolences may be expressed at www.webbfuneral-home.com.

Shelby's unemployment rate still among state's best

THOMAS J.BARR
THE SENTINEL NEWS

FRANKFORT— The claims for unemployment benefits rose in Shelby County for the month of February.

However, those unemployment numbers still rank among the lowest in the state, according to figures released by the Kentucky Center for Statistics, an agency within the Kentucky Education and Labor Cabinet.

For the month, Shelby County’s unemployment rate was 4.8 percent, compared to the 4.3 percent in January 2025 and the 4.2 percent in February 2024.

Of the total labor force of 26,224, the report said that 1,256 were listed as unemployed.

The Kentuckiana Regional Planning and Development Agency region has some of the lowest unemployment rates in Kentucky.

Woodford County recorded the lowest jobless rate in the commonwealth at 3.9%. It was followed by Fayette County, 4.2%; Scott County, 4.3%; Jessamine and Oldham counties, 4.5% each; Boone, Harrison and Todd counties, 4.6% each; Bourbon County, 4.7%; and Caldwell, Franklin, Graves, Kenton, Shelby, Union, Warren and Washington counties, 4.8% each.

Magoffin and Wolfe counties recorded the state’s highest unemployment rates at 11.1%. It was followed by Elliott County, 10.9%; Lewis County, 10.6%; Martin County, 10.3%; Carter and Menifee counties, 9.6% each; Lawrence County, 9%; Breathitt County, 8.7%; and Jackson and Morgan counties, 8.4% each.

Unemployment rates rose in 83 counties, fell in 33 counties and stayed the same in Grant, Graves, Knox and Pulaski

counties between February 2024 and February 2025.

A part of the KIPDA district, Shelby County’s jobless rate of 4.8 percent was among the best. Oldham County led the ADD with a 4.5 percent unemployment rate.

Shelby followed with its 4.8 percent rate, with Henry County next at 5.4 percent. Jefferson and Trimble counties reported 5.5 percent, while Spencer County was next at 5.7 percent. Bullitt County recorded the highest at 6.2 percent.

Overall, the district’s unemployment rate was 5.5 percent, compared to 4.9 percent in January and 4.6 percent in February 2024.

Kentucky’s county unemployment rates and employment levels are not seasonally adjusted because of small sample sizes. Employment statistics undergo sharp fluctuations due to seasonal events such as weather changes, harvests, holidays, and school openings and closings. Seasonal adjustments eliminate these influences and make it easier to observe statistical trends. The comparable, unadjusted unemployment rate for the state was 5.5 percent for February 2025, and 4.5 percent for the nation.

Unemployment statistics are based on estimates and are compiled to measure trends rather than actually to count people working. Civilian labor force statistics include non-military workers and unemployed Kentuckians who are actively seeking work. They do not include unemployed Kentuckians who have not looked for employment within the past four weeks. The data should only be compared to the same month in previous years.

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