

Wise elected to Senate leadership position

BY DENNIS GEORGE
PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

Members of the Senate Republican caucus have selected State Sen. Max Wise (R-Campbells-ville) as the Majority Floor Leader when the General Assembly convenes in January.



Max Wise

The position, one of five leadership positions that members of the Republican super majority voted on last week. Wise ran for the position when Damon Thayer decided to not run for another term in the upper chamber.

“I’m coming into my 10th year in legislative office, and I’ve kind of played the long game of waiting to see wait for an open seat that would suit my skill set,” Wise said. “I felt like this position was one I really couldn’t pass up.”

He defeated Sen. Julie Raque Adams who was also interested in the position.

“I would rather have competed in a three- or a five-person Republican primary then run against a colleague like Julie, who is a good friend,” Wise said. “It was one the most difficult things I’ve done and since I’ve been in office. But when the opportunity presents itself, you’ve really got to weigh the options of, is it worth passing over and wait-

ing, or is it worth running for? You miss 100% of the shots you don’t take.”

As the floor leader, Wise is in a position to determine which bills will be brought to the Senate floor. He described the position as the quarterback of the team. As part of leadership, he will have a more direct voice in the future of the state.

“The Senate floor leader works with the other four members of leadership in really determining and guiding what our state policy is going to look like with all forms of legislation,” he said. “That means I will now be the one determining which bills to kill and which bills will get to the Senate floor.”

Wise understands that not allowing a bill to get a vote from the entire Senate will not sit well with members of either party.

“When I ran for this position, we had to give a five-minute speech to all of our caucus members,” he said. “The one thing I said to everybody is that I’m going to treat each and every one of them with the full and utmost respect. I’m not going to be one to strongarm people. I’m not going to be one to lose my temper. I do think emotional stability and temperament has to do with this position.”

That means having a conversation with a Democrat or a Republican to explain why a bill did not get a vote. It might

be at a time, Wise said, the bill may not have the votes to pass. Leadership may also determine it is not the right time for the bill to be considered.

“If you can explain to people that maybe is not worth fighting for in 2025 but maybe it needs to come back in 2026,” Wise said. “This Commonwealth has survived for many years and many decades, and we can continue to survive regardless of how much legislation we have to pass.”

Wise joins Robert Stivers (Senate President), David Givens of nearby Greensburg (Senate Pro-Tem), Mike Wilson (Majority Whip) and Robby Mills (Majority Caucus Chair) in the Republican leadership positions.

RIVER

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At this time, the project still has not been approved. However, Metcalf said they are optimistic it will be approved in the next month. He said after speaking with Nelson County Engineer Brad Spalding, they believe it will be a good winter project for the department.

The city also held a first reading for a new flood plain ordinance that would allow the Nelson County Engineer to administer the provisions of the ordinance for New Haven. Metcalf said they have transitioned the role of Flood Plain Administrator away from the Director of Planning and Zoning to the city and county engineers. Metcalf said the nature of the role was primarily an engineering function — making the transition essential to the role.

“The county recommended this two months ago,” Metcalf said. “We put that before the Planning Commission. They did a public hearing. The commission voted 11-0 to do that. ... The county,

on Tuesday, we adopted it on second reading, cities getting ready. Bardstown is getting ready to do the same thing. We’re still waiting on all the cities to comply.”

The city engineer will preside over Bardstown, while the county engineer will preside over New Haven, Bloomfield and other areas of the county as the Flood Plain Administrator. The Board of Commissioners will hold its second reading for of the ordinance during its December meeting.

Also at Thursday’s meeting, the Board agreed to modify their pay extension agreement, following in LaRue County’s lead. City Clerk Joanie Corbin said typically when customers come in to pay their water and sewer bill and ask for an extension, she has to keep track and follow up. However, LaRue County makes customers come in to sign an extension agreement — the responsibility falling on the customer remembering to pay.

Corbin also suggested they allow only three extensions per customer, per year. Commissioner Fred DeWitt said they can see how things go

for a year with the new reevaluate next year.

extension agreement and The New Haven Board

of Commissioners will on Dec. 19 at 5 p.m. at

meet again next month New Haven City Hall.



KATELYN NORRIS/The Kentucky Standard

Local veterans gathered together with Bethlehem High School students to celebrate their service with a special Thanksgiving meal last week.

VETERAN

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On Thursday, the cafeteria was overflowing with students and veterans as grandparents joined grandchildren, parents joined children and community members sat shoulder to shoulder with Bethlehem students. Adorning many of the walls in the café were signs celebrating Veterans Day, thanking members of the Armed Forces for their services.

Also in attendance on Thursday was Bardstown-Nelson County Veterans Park Chairman Jerry Janes. He spoke to students about the ongoing project and the committee’s hopes for the park as it comes to life during its construction.

Janes outlined their main goals for the park and some of the features within it including memorials for the six branches and the six major wars/conflicts.

The park’s mission is: to establish a formal gathering place to recognize the service of all

Nelson County veterans, past and present.

- to develop a community park sponsored by local veterans that will showcase their commitment to community beyond service to country.

- to encourage appreciation and sense of military history focused on the sacrifices made by Nelson County veterans.

- to enrich the education of children by providing opportunities for schools to visit the park for educational purposes using online digital technology.

- to support community sponsored events in a prominent location that is easily accessible to the public.

- to promote the Bardstown-Nelson County Veterans Park to support the hospitality and tourism industry of our community.

The Bethlehem students are also getting involved with the park as each class has an ongoing competition to raise funds for it. It’s \$150 to have a dedicated sponsor

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Shop tools:

welders, vises, table saw, clamps, air tanks, air compressor, fencing, tools of every sort. Check out the website for all the pictures. Too many to mention!!!

Surplus House items:

Mr. Wimsett has sold his rentals and has left over lighting, electrical, plumbing and other household fixtures.

Sale Terms: Cash or personal check day of sale with proper identification. A 10% buyers premium will be added to all final bids to determine final sales price. A Ky sale tax of 6% will be added to sales price unless there is a farm exemption or resale certificate presented at checkout. Forms are on website.

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