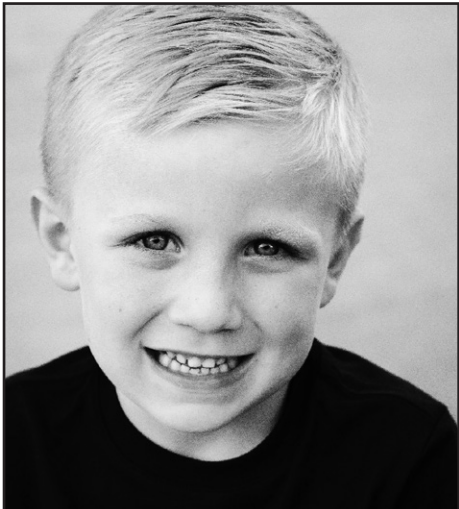


# Daniel Boone Festival Leading Candidates Week 2



Kelly Lakeley Ora Patterson



Carter Mills



Kallie Robinson



Amelia Ledford

The GFWC KY Barbourville Junior Woman’s Study Club is excited to announce this week’s leading candidates for the 2025 Daniel Boone Festival Royalty Races. This is the second week for leading candidates.

In the 2025 miniature queen race, the leading candidate is Kelly Lakeley Ora Patterson. Kelly is the daughter of Kayla Patterson and Kyle Campbell of Barbourville. Kelly attends Calvary Christian School where she is enjoying school, learning about Jesus and helping Miss Ali. Kelly enjoys swimming, going to church, playing with her bubba and

attending Ms Gail’s Dance Studio. Kelly’s future plans are to get a job helping other people like her mommy does.

In the 2025 miniature king race, the leading candidate is Carter Mills. Carter is the son of Dylan Mills and Alex Daniels of Barbourville. Carter attends Barbourville Independent Elementary School where he enjoys learning and playing with his friends. His hobbies include playing baseball, playing roblox, collecting Hot Wheels and collecting monster trucks. Carter’s future plans are to become a policeman.

In the 2025 princess race, the leading candidate is Kallie Robinson. Kallie is the

daughter of Curtis and Lori Robinson of Barbourville. Kallie attends Barbourville Independent Middle School where she enjoys being a part of the middle school dance team, on the volleyball team and on the academic team. Her hobbies include dance, volleyball, crafting and hanging out with her friends and family. Kallie’s future plans are to become an occupational therapist.

In the 2025 queen race, the leading candidate is Amelia Ledford. Amelia is the daughter of Jeremy and Angie Ledford of Barbourville. Amelia attends Knox Central High School where she is a member of the LINK Crew, the volleyball team,

the tennis team, the science Olympiad, TSA and DECA. Her hobbies include playing pickleball and spending time with her family and friends. Amelia’s future plans are to attend college and become an architect..

The 2025 Daniel Boone Festival Royalty Coronation will be held Monday, October 6, at 7:00 pm, at Knox County Middle School. Everyone is invited to attend. Admission is \$5.00. The GFWC KY Barbourville Junior Woman’s Study Club would like to extend a very big thank you to everyone for their continuing support as we work together to better our community.

## City School Sets 2026 Tax Rates

BY BRYLEIGH MIDDLETON  
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The Barbourville Independent Board of Education addressed property tax rates at its recent meeting, alongside a series of financial decisions aimed at maintaining district stability and preparing for future improvements.

The meeting began with discussion of how the motor vehicle tax rates should be set in 2026, to which board members concluded it will remain 53.9 cents per \$100 of assessed value, stating that since it is by state, there is no choice and it has remained the same in recent years.

A prolonged discussion took place regarding property tax rates. With local property tax revenue falling by about \$500,000 due to in-town properties being sold to nonprofits. Chief Financial Officer Jennifer Oliver reported to board members that there are two main options. Tax rates could be left as is at a 70.1 cents per \$100, or they could take the compensating rate, increasing the rate to 70.7 cents per \$100, less than a one percent increase. Oliver stated “you wouldn’t even be able to see a 1% increase with the compensating rate.” It was also reported in support of the compensating rate that those who own \$100,000 worth of property, will hardly see a \$7 increase.

Overall, the motion was passed to set property tax rates at 70.7 cents per \$100 assessed value.

Board members passed motion to approve district funding assurances, stating it simply had to be decided after August.

In discussion of the 2026 working budget, the beginning balance was reported to be the same as the previous year at \$1.6 million, reflected with new projected property tax numbers. Board members were pleased to report this balance still produces a 10% contingency, and only 2% is required. The report was quite impressive in consideration of the 10% contingency that included the projected new property tax numbers and an additional four new staff in Special Education.

A Municipal Advisory Agreement with RSA Advisors, a regulatory check mark before issuing any bonds for districts, was approved by the board.

The revised BG-1 form based on accepted bids of \$4,145,000 was approved in regards to the total amount of bonds necessary to net the acquisition amount. Board members approved a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the Barbourville Independent School District Finance Corporation to issue revenue bonds. It was reported that the potential bonding capacity is \$13.5 million, with a projected additional bonding capacity of \$1.2 million after July 1, 2026, a \$1.4 million increase after July 1, 2028, and a \$1.6 million increase by July 1, 2030.

The regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting ended with administrative updates from Principal Brian Carey and Family Resource and Youth Service Center Director Samantha Daniels.

Carey reported that attendance for the schools stand at a 94.63%, with a total enrollment of 726, with 336 in high school, 181 in middle school, and 209 in elementary, and most importantly, the want for a Senior class trip to Orlando, FL. Carey stated “this senior class has more money than any senior class I’ve had since I’ve been here.” It was reported that the students had raised approximately \$30,000 since their freshman year. Board members were in favor of the class trip, and stated it should take place during spring break, so it will be their time off, it will be less expensive, and they could still be held accountable for any actions, considering they are still current students at the school.

Daniels reported the grandparents breakfast expe-

## Council Clarifies Tax Concerns as New Budget and Tax Rate Approved



The Barbourville City Council met in special session on Wednesday, September 10, 2025. Photo by Bryleigh Middleton

BY BRYLEIGH MIDDLETON  
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At the previously held monthly meeting on September 4 city council board officials called to order for a special meeting on September 10 to discuss Ordinances 2025-6 and 2025-7, key proposals that outline next year’s budget allocations, funding priorities, and potential tax adjustments.

Ordinance 2025-6 requested approval for the amending of the City of Barbourville’s annual budget for the Fiscal year. It was reported that the city has had to make changes to income and expenses due to an increase in property tax collections, insurance premium tax, school tax commission, carryover of unexpended HBI funds, additional reimbursement of SRO funds, Brownfield Grant revenue and expense, and increases and decreases in recreation revenue. Expenses also include capital expenditures for city hall and fire department, rent expense, and contingency fund, police department salaries and related taxes, street repairs, and increases in recreation utilities, salaries, supplies and ball park maintenance.

The changes to the budget include an increase in things such as Administration with an increase from \$1,820,160 to \$2,424,235, the Police Department increased from \$1,423,621 to \$1,428,621, Street Department increased from \$1,089,238 to \$1,116,175, the Fire Department increased from \$742,741 to \$797,248, and the Recreation Fund from \$319,800 to \$346,000. The Tourist & Recreation Fund remained the same,

with a budget of \$750,000.

In conclusion, the total of the amended budget came to \$6,862,279, and the ordinance was adopted and approved.

Most importantly, City Council board member, Ronnie Moore, mentioned citizens of Barbourville have expressed their concern and frustration in regards to taxation and tax raises in general. Moore wanted to give clarity to readers and citizens, stating “I want our citizens to understand something - as long as I’ve been on council, we’ve never raised our tax rates to the maximum.”

“Some of our citizens do not understand that the fire department and the city hall was grant money, free money,” stated Moore.

This discussion came about in reference to Ordinance 2025-7, which levies the annual Ad Valorem tax for city purposes, within the corporate city limits of Barbourville.

Kentucky Revised Statute (KRS) 92.280 requires that the legislative body of each city annually levy on Ad Valorem tax for city purposes, along with KRS 92.330 requires all taxes be levied by ordinance, and KRS 83A.130, 140, 150 that require the legislative body to provide sufficient revenue to operate city government. As well as KRS chapter 132 that requires the city has calculated the tax rate for real and personal property in accordance.

Moore would go on to briefly explain that tax payer dollars are not contributing to new buildings such as the new City Hall and fire department.

Ultimately, an Ad Valorem tax rate of .296 cents on each \$100 assessed value of

real and personal property was levied as required under the laws of the state of Kentucky.

All taxes will be due and payable at city offices, and taxes paid prior to the due dates will receive a 2% discount, taxes paid up to 30 days after the due date will be at a face amount, taxes paid more than 30 days after the due date will be charged a 10% penalty, and taxes paid more than 60 days after the due date will be charged an interest rate of 11% per annum calculated from the due date.

Ordinance 2025-7 was adopted, and applies to the 2025 calendar tax year assessment and all receipts shall be used for the city purposes and accounted for in the 2026 Fiscal year and subsequent Fiscal years in reference to delinquent collections.

In closing, Mayor David Thompson presented resolution 2025-5.

Resolution 2025-5 is the approval of a lease for the financing of a project, providing for the payment and security of the lease, authorizing the execution of various documents related to the lease, and making certain designations regarding the lease.

The resolution was provided due to the fact the Fire Department is in need of a new Tanker Truck, as they are required to maintain a certain level of equipment, but cannot apply for a loan themselves.

The department applied for the loan through the city, who applied for the loan through the Kentucky Association of Counties Leasing Trust.

However, the loan will be paid off by The Fireman’s Club.

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