



Kentucky Rep. Daniel Grossberg looks through some paperwork as the 2025 General Assembly is gavelled in at the state Capitol in Frankfort on Jan. 7. JEFF FAUGHENDER/COURIER JOURNAL

Grossberg

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— and winding road to get to this point. The commission previously found probable cause of three allegations of misconduct to be taken up at the hearing, including:

- A claim Grossberg attempted to “obtain contributions in exchange for possible state catering business or private company” related to a Subway sandwich shop owner who inquired about state catering services;
- A claim he made inappropriate comments to a transgender constituent after consuming several alcoholic drinks during an after-hours meeting at his Capitol office in 2023, including remarks about her genitals;
- And an allegation he’d used his position of power to intimidate a private business — a strip club manager in Louisville who has claimed Grossberg threatened to shut down the location after he was banned over inappropriate behavior, according to the Lexington Herald-Leader.

Grossberg has consistently denied all allegations against him.

At the Dec. 2 meeting, the state ethics commission denied a motion by Grossberg’s lawyers to dismiss the case but granted their motion to prevent the commission’s attorneys from accessing his medical and mental health records. It also moved to allow Grossberg’s lawyers to present certain evidence at the public hearing. Whites previously said Grossberg has been diagnosed in his lifetime with a number of neurodivergent conditions that have affected his interactions and provided records from providers that back up those claims. But at a Nov. 18 meeting, she argued there is “no need” to provide more documents dating back decades for opposing counsel to examine. In a statement after the meeting, Grossberg characterized the push to obtain his medical records as a “fishing expedition.”

Commission attorney Robert Jenkins, meanwhile, argued at that meeting that some documents he was given were from a doctor who has not been licensed for six years and that reports provided over the course of the investigation have shown different diagnoses and have

been unclear as to when Grossberg was undergoing treatment.

While some of the allegations are sexual in nature, both sides have noted the probe is not into violations of the Legislative Research Commission’s sexual harassment policies. The investigation and hearings are seeking to determine whether violations of the state’s code of ethics have occurred, including whether Grossberg used his office for personal gain or taken part in inappropriate conduct. Violations can result in fines and written reprimands or more severe penalties, including recommendations for censure or expulsion.

During the 2025 legislative session, a bipartisan group of lawmakers put forward a bill that would define “sexual harassment” among legislators and legislative employees and agents, and prohibit such behavior. The bill was assigned to a committee but did not receive a hearing.

In a statement, Grossberg said he was pleased to have “my chance to clear my name” at a public hearing, thanking his wife, family members and constituents while describing the remaining allegations as ones that “involve minor issues related to the interpretation of language.” While discussions between commission members and lawyers for both sides have been public at times, testimony and many other aspects of the case have so far been discussed behind closed doors, while the board has been in executive session. Grossberg has been alienated from his party amid the controversy. Grossberg was suspended from the House Democratic Caucus during the summer of 2024 and has faced calls for his resignation from Gov. Andy Beshear and a number of other high-profile Democrats.

He’ll be back in Frankfort in January for the 2026 legislative session, as he won reelection in 2024 after initial reports of the investigation were published after he won his House District 30 primary race. Three other Democrats — Cassie Lyles, Max Morley and Mitra Subedi, who he narrowly defeated in 2024 — are currently raising money to run against him in next year’s primary.

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SNAP

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agenda,” Ellis said in a statement.

The new requirements are the latest in a series of political hurdles for the longstanding food assistance program, which paused benefits for the first time in its more than 60-year history in November amid the nation’s longest government shutdown.

Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins has also called for sweeping changes to the program, which helps feed more

than 42 million Americans per year. More than 600,000 Kentuckians receive SNAP benefits, with 30-57% of households in some southeastern counties reliant on the program. Jefferson County alone has more than 48,000 families receiving benefits. On average, Kentuckians receive almost double the national issuance. In October, the average Kentucky household received \$344 a month, according to state data. In 2024, the average household nationwide received \$187 per month.

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Sexual abuse

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Donnie Stoner: 20 counts. The charges in this case have been merged with a new case, in which Stoner was charged with 35 counts of child sex abuse. His brother, Ronnie, was also charged in the same case. That trial is set for August 2026.

- Christian Academy of Louisville’s girls basketball coach Clarence Moore: 15 counts. Moore was sentenced twice in 2015, once in Jefferson County and a second time in Oldham County. His sentence in Jefferson was for seven years, as well to register as a sex offender for life. His sentence in Oldham will run concurrently for a total of 10 years and run concurrent with his Jefferson County sentence.
- Bardstown City Schools’ football

coach Jeremy Dale: six counts. Dale was sentenced in June over his conduct with four female students. He received 60 days and was granted work release.

- Floyd County Schools girls basketball coach April Bradford: 19 counts. Bradford was already sentenced to three years and six months before the series published. Her good time release date is Aug. 27, 2027, per the Kentucky Department of Corrections.
- “Part of this is it’s coming out of the shadows,” Jeglic said. “It was maintained so long because of the secrecy, the shame of abuse. We want survivors to come forward. We believe them.”
- “We will make change. We will protect them.”
- Stephanie Kuzydym is an enterprise and investigative sports reporter. Reach her at skuzydym@courier-journal.com or on social at @stephkuzy.



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