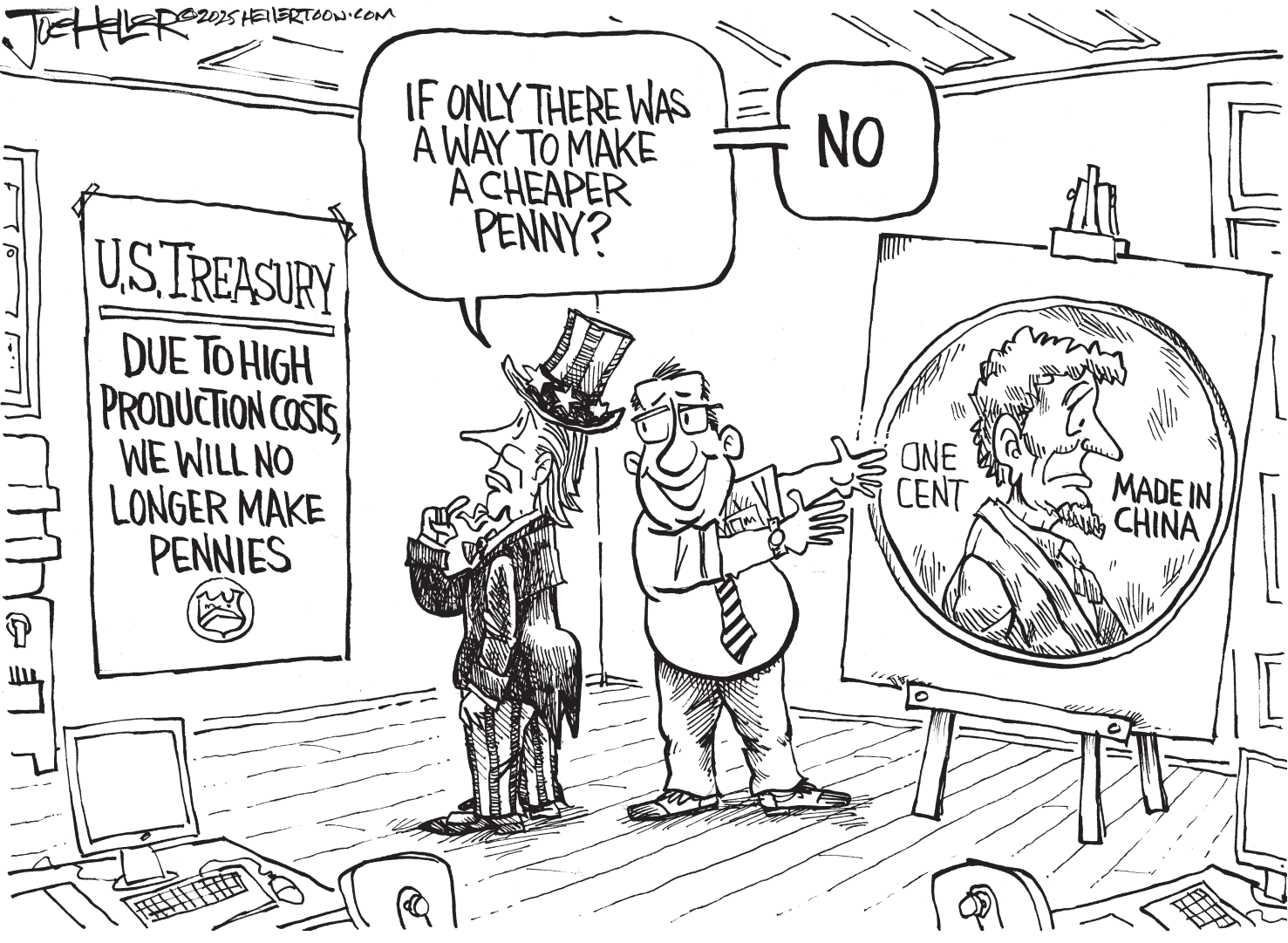


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The Herald News

OPINION

JUNE 04, 2025



East Kentucky Senator Switches Political Parties

Senator Robin Webb has announced her decision to become a Republican



By **JEFF JOBE**
Jobe Media Group,
Publisher

The Kentucky State Senate has gained another Republican. Senator Robin Webb will no longer be the Democrat from the community in which I grew up, Greenup.

On Friday, May 30, she announced she would be changing her party affiliation. She is leaving the six Democrats now serving with her and joining the thirty-one-member Republican caucus, giving the 38-member body a 32-Republican-to-6-Democrat breakdown.

Webb has served in this position since 2009 and held a position in the Kentucky House of Representatives before the Senate when she was first

elected in 1998.

The Eastern Kentucky politician announced her plans to switch parties to become a Republican on Friday in a release from the Republican Party of Kentucky. All remaining Democrats in the Senate serve the areas of Lexington and Louisville. This is a bold move for the communities she serves: Boyd, Carter, Greenup, and Lewis counties.

“While it’s cliché, it’s true: I didn’t leave the party—the party left me,” Webb said in a news release. “The Kentucky Democratic Party has increasingly alienated lifelong rural Democrats like myself by failing to support the issues that matter most to rural Kentuckians.”

The senator also said her former party “continues its lurch to the left and its hyperfocus on policies that hurt the workforce and economic development in my region.”



▲ PHOTO | LRC
Kentucky Senator Robin Webb has announced her political affiliation change from Democrat to Republican on Friday, May 30, 2025.

Webb ultimately says the Democrat party no longer represents her values.

“It has become untenable and counterproductive to the best interests of my constituents for me to remain a Democrat,” she said, adding she plans to continue to be a “fearless advocate” for rural Kentucky and

WEBB, Continued on page ten

Wise Recognized as 2025 Kentucky Family Champion

As Senate Majority Floor Leader, helped drive pro-family, pro-faith, and fiscally responsible bills to the finish line.

Senate Majority Floor Leader Max Wise, R-Campbellsville, has been named a 2025 Kentucky Family Champion by The Family Foundation of Kentucky, earning a 96 percent rating on the group’s legislative scorecard. The recognition honors his leadership in guiding key pro-family and pro-Kentucky bills through the legislative process and into law. Wise was pivotal in advancing legislation that supports Kentucky families, protects parental rights, and defends taxpayers from political overreach.

“Being a champion for Kentucky families means standing firm on principle, listening to parents, and making sure government stays focused on what matters,” Wise said. “I’m proud of what we accomplished this session and grateful to work alongside colleagues who share a deep commitment to our values.”



▲ PHOTO | DAVID HARGIS, PHOTOGRAPHER, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE, LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION
Senate Majority Floor Leader Max Wise delivers remarks during an event in the State Capitol Building Rotunda.

Wise helped lead the charge on numerous bills supported by the Kentucky Family Foundation. They include:

- Senate Bill (SB) 2, which he sponsored, stops taxpayer dollars from being used for transgender surgeries or hormone treatments for inmates, while ensuring continued

access to medically necessary care. The bill was vetoed by the Governor, but enacted through legislative override.

- SB 19 reinforces religious expression in schools through a daily moment of silence and other measures to protect students’ rights.

- SB 132 protects medical conscience for healthcare providers who object to participating in specific procedures based on deeply held beliefs.

- SB 181 strengthens parental oversight in schools by requiring employees to use traceable electronic communication systems when messaging students.

- SB 183 requires proxy advisers for Kentucky’s public pension systems to base shareholder voting recommendations on financial merit, not political or social agendas. It enhances transparency, reduces reliance on activist-driven firms, and

CHAMPION, Continued on page ten

•SIGN

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by Miller, seconded by Magistrate Kevin Crain, and approved to table the issue until the next meeting to allow time to check into the situation.

Next was the approval of the fiscal year, 2025/ 2026 Salary Schedule. Treasurer Page Edwards noted, “These are the same figures that are in the budget. We just have to have a separate motion and second on the actual salary schedule.”

The motion to approve the salary schedule was made by Bragg, seconded by Miller, and approved.

The next item was the discussion on the chip seal for each magistrate’s district. Road Supervisor Chris Compton was asked how many miles were done last year, he replied, “About 7 miles.”

Each magistrate was to compile a list of the roads in their district to provide to Compton for chip seal. At the time of the meeting, he only had lists from 2 of the 4 magistrates.

The request to add the remaining quarter mile of Fletcher Road to the road maintenance list was discussed. Bragg said that he had looked at the road and it had a bad bridge tile and only went to one house. He is going to check on the cost.

The April financial statement, budget transfers, and inter-fund transfer for the jail were all approved.

The claims were approved with only one small clarification. Miller asked about the \$1,000 claim for Matt’s Express and Judge Wilson replied they were the crew who moved the gazebo.

Someone commented that the gazebo looked very at home in Sulphur Well Park like it had always been there and belonged there.

The DES, Recycling, and Road department reports were included in the magistrate’s packets for review.

In other business, Crain noted that everyone seemed to be happy about the trash being picked up on the roads. The question of when the next tire recycling event would be was asked and Recycling Center Coordinator Kim Jandt replied that it only occurs every three years.

Judge Wilson told everyone that Magistrates Miller and Crain along with Supervisor Compton took a load of shovels, tarps, and other needed equipment to Somerset to help with the recovery there.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

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