

Trump picks lawyer who served in Bevin administration for federal judgeship in Kentucky

KENTUCKY LANTERN

Republican President Donald Trump is reviving his Democratic predecessor's choice for a federal judgeship in Kentucky.

Chad Meredith, who served in the Republican administrations of Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin and Attorney General Daniel Cameron, is Trump's choice to succeed Judge Danny Reeves in the Eastern District of Kentucky, Trump announced on social media.

Trump announced his plan to nominate Meredith in a post on X, calling him a "courageous Patriot who knows what is required to uphold the Rule of Law, and protect our Constitution. Congratulations Chad!"

Meredith's chance to be nominated by Democratic President Joe Biden in 2022 was tanked by Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, a Republican. Biden abandoned his plans to nominate Meredith after Paul vowed to block his

confirmation in the Senate.

This time Paul is supporting Meredith, the Associated Press reports.

Meredith, the son of state Sen. Stephen Meredith, R-Leitchfield, is a partner in the law firm Squire Patton Boggs.

He served as Kentucky's solicitor general from 2019 to 2021 when Cameron was attorney general and before that as chief deputy counsel in Bevin's administration.

As part of Bevin's legal team, Meredith was involved in decisions about hundreds of controversial criminal pardons and commutations Bevin issued after losing reelection to Democrat Andy Beshear in 2019. Among those pardoned was a man convicted of reckless homicide during a robbery whose family had held a fundraiser for Bevin.

In his prior roles, Meredith also defended laws and policies restricting abortion, a record that drew loud ob-

jections from Democrats when Biden considered nominating him. At that time Meredith had the enthusiastic support of Kentucky Sen. Mitch McConnell, then the Senate's Republican leader.

On Thursday the Kentucky Democratic Party issued a statement criticizing the nomination and highlighting Meredith's role in Bevin's pardons. "Chad Meredith has no business being on the federal bench after helping orchestrate pardons of murderers and child rapists."

After graduating from the University of Kentucky College of Law in 2007, Meredith clerked for Judge John M. Rogers on the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals and also for Judge Amul R. Thapar, now a federal appeals court judge, when he was a judge in Kentucky's Eastern District.

Reeves, who has taken senior judge status, was nominated in 2001 by Republican President George W. Bush.



Chad Meredith is President Trump's choice for a federal judgeship in the Eastern District of Kentucky. He's also the son of state Sen. Stephen Meredith of Leitchfield. (Squire Patton Boggs photo)

SCREAM, from 1

"We loved Halloween. It was our thing. He took that from us in a way," West said, holding back emotion. "But we wanted to take it back. And the best way to do that was to show his last acts of kindness to the world."

Located on Main Street, Scream for Help is a nonprofit center with gaming tables, card tournaments, tabletop games, and seasonal events — but it's more than just fun and fantasy. It's designed to steer youth away from the cycles of trauma and addiction, while connecting families with food pantries, counseling referrals, bill assistance, and more.

"Kids tend to follow the paths of their parents, statistically speaking," West said. "When they're used to everything around

them failing, we want to be the place that doesn't"

West runs the operation with his longtime friend and partner, Josh Young, who has been sober for 15 years. Together, the duo commits over 50 hours a week to the shop, offering services, mentorship, and outreach — all without taking a paycheck.

"We've dedicated our lives to this," West said. "Social work shouldn't look like a gray government building. It should be kid-friendly. Families shouldn't feel like they're being judged or afraid we'll take their kids away. We're here to help keep them together."

The response so far has been overwhelmingly supportive, but sustaining the space will require community buy-in. West emphasized the need for volun-

teers, costume donations, and ongoing financial backing.

"We're not asking people to just say it's a good thing — we need help keeping the lights on," he said. "We need donors, we need backers, and we need people who care enough to show up."

The store will also host its annual Halloween costume drive and participate in ScareFest later this year, partnering with Cosplay for a Cause to provide costumes to kids in need. Every effort, West says, is one more way to reclaim joy and rewrite the narrative around addiction and recovery.

"It's about showing the humanity behind it all," he said. "Yes, people struggling with addiction have demons. But they don't need to be thrown in a cage.

They need people to fight alongside them."

Anyone interested in supporting Scream for Help can stop by the store, donate costumes, volunteer for upcoming events, or call Chris West directly. The team hopes to grow its network of local partnerships and become a model of grassroots healing — one family at a time.

"We can't do this alone," West said. "It takes a village. And we need our village now more than ever."

Visit Scream for Help on Main Street in Nicholasville or contact Chris West directly by phone. Volunteers, costume donations, and financial contributions are all welcome. Follow them on social media for updates on upcoming events and partnerships.

COMMISSION, from 1

Also passed was Ordinance 187-2025, which establishes the rate for the city's regulatory license fee on alcoholic beverage sales for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026.

New annexation introduced

In a first reading, Ordinance 190-2025 proposed the annexation of 0.49 acres located at 1151 Jessamine Station into the city.

Contract, credit, and grant items approved

Commissioners awarded Bid #2025-282 for road salt, as requested by Doug Blackford. A letter of credit for the Con-

nell Property in the Bethel Harvest development was released upon request by city engineer Brian Claar.

The board also ratified the mayor's signature on Resolution 2025-008, which authorizes the city to apply for a Land and Water Conservation grant to fund the design of Preece Park. Grants Administrator Stephen Pracht presented the resolution.

Multiple hiring requests approved

Human Resources Director Kathy Rhineheimer received approval for several personnel actions, including:

- Hiring a new police officer
- Promoting an officer within the Police Department
- Hiring firefighter recruits

- Hiring a seasonal maintenance worker
- Hiring a tax administrator
- Hiring a building inspector for Planning and Zoning

Tax refunds and payments authorized

Finance Director Laurie Young presented three finance-related items, all of which were approved:

- A 2023 payroll tax refund over \$1,500 due to a filing error
- A 2024 payroll tax refund over \$1,500 for the same reason
- Accounts payable for the current period

Closing items

During commissioner comments, officials discussed Lone Oak-related matters and addressed a proclamation request. No public comments were recorded at the meeting's close.

The Nicholasville City Commission's next meeting is scheduled for July 14.

VENUE, from 1

Speakers during the Dedication included Dr. Mark Troyer (VP for Advancement), Becky Wood (Co-chair, Rita Pritchett Stadium Fundraising Committee), Mark Whitworth (VP for Athletics), Dr. Kevin Brown (Asbury President), Larry Brown (Chairman, Board of Trustees), Dr. Sandra Gray (Asbury President Emeritus). Each shared gratitude and reflection on how God has blessed the project vision since breaking ground in 2023 and beyond.

Dr. Sandra Gray served as the Asbury University President from 2007-2019, and her enduring commit-

ment to Asbury's mission continues to impact the University.

"It is fitting that a president who had such a sense of hospitality and love for our students and the Asbury family is honored in this way," said Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Strategic Partnerships, Dr. Mark Troyer. "Her desire to expand Asbury's reach and impact makes this an easy decision to connect her tenure with a venue that will welcome more students, families, and friends to Asbury University for decades to come."

Following a ribbon-cutting ceremony, Asbury alumni, staff, and commu-

newvista

YOUR COMMUNITY

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTER

New Vista assists individuals and families in the enhancement of their emotional, mental and physical well-being.

- Mental Health
- Substance Use
- Developmental Disabilities
- Primary Care
- Crisis Services



HAPPY 4TH OF JULY

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Republic Services will be running our normal Friday schedule on Friday, July 4th, 2025.

Jessamine County and the city of Nicholasville residential trash and recycling collections will be serviced on their regularly scheduled day the week of July 4th.

We wish our customers in Jessamine County and the city of Nicholasville a safe and happy Independence Day!

Sustainability in Action