

# State files lawsuit to protect renters against price fixing

BY TOM LATEK  
KENTUCKY TODAY

FRANKFORT — The state attorney general’s office announced action to protect Kentucky renters against corporate price fixing, by filing a lawsuit against RealPage Inc., a multibillion-dollar real estate software and service company based in Texas.

The suit, filed at U.S. District Court in Covington, also names

several landlord organizations as defendants in accusations of unlawfully increasing prices of Kentucky renters.

According to the attorney general’s office, around 560,000 Kentucky households are occupied by renters, and the number continues to grow. As of 2023, 47.5% of Kentucky renters were “cost-burdened,” meaning they spend at least 30% of their income on rent. At the same time, the growing

cost of rent in Louisville was second highest among all U.S. markets.

Kentucky Attorney General Russell Coleman maintains RealPage operates commercial revenue management software, controlling more than 80% of the rental market. Since at least 2016, the company has collected sensitive and nonpublic data from competing landlords to generate price recommendations for its clients.

That data, which includes rental applications, executed new leases, renewal offers and acceptances and forward-looking occupancy, is fed into an algorithm to recommend the highest possible price a landlord could offer a renter.

The complaint notes, “RealPage replaces competition with coordination. It does so openly and directly, and renters in Kentucky are left paying the price.”

The complaint alleges RealPage and the landlord organizations engaged in unlawful price fixing while violating federal antitrust laws and Kentucky’s Consumer Protection Act. The Attorney General asked the federal court to prevent the defendants from continuing their illegal actions and pay civil penalties up to \$10,000 for each violation.

“Out-of-state corporations are taking advantage of Ken-

tuckians, and they’re circumventing the free market to do it,” Coleman said. “These predatory businesses will face serious consequences in Kentucky.”

The AG’s office credited Chris Lewis, division chief for Consumer and Senior Protection, Chris Lewis, for leading this effort along with Deputy Director for Consumer Protection Jon Farmer and Assistant Attorney General John Ghaelian.

## Senate candidate supports term limits

BY PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

An Elizabethtown businessman seeking the U.S. Senate seat in next year’s election has signed a pledge supporting an amendment to set term limits for Congress.

U.S. Term Limits, which is part of a non-partisan national movement to limit terms for elected officials, praises Michael Faris, for signing the pledge. He is the first signer in the 2026



Michael Faris

U.S. Senate candidate from Kentucky, the organization said.

“Michael’s strong support of term limits shows that there are individuals who are willing to put self-interest aside to follow the will of the people,” USTL President Philip Blumel said. “America needs

a Congress that will be served by citizen legislators, not career politicians.”

U.S. Term Limits has the support of more than 150 pledge signers in Congress.

The term limits amendment resolutions would require a two-thirds majority in the House and Senate and ratification by 38 states, in order to become part of the U.S. Constitution.

Mitch McConnell, 83, who is retiring from the Senate, has held that seat since 1985.

## Kentucky tapping brakes on aggressive speeders

BY TOM LATEK  
KENTUCKY TODAY

FRANKFORT — As part of a month-long safety campaign, Kentuckians are being encouraged by highway safety officials to slow down, obey posted speed limits and help keep everyone on the road safe.

Officials said speed limits are in place to protect everyone on the road. Driving over the speed limit greatly reduces a driver’s ability to react to unexpected situations, such as stopped traffic, road debris or encountering vulnerable road users such as highway workers, pedestrians, bicyclists and motorcyclists.

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet’s Office of Highway Safety is partnering with law enforcement agencies statewide to implement the “Not So Fast, Kentucky” speed awareness campaign through July 31.

Statistics show approxi-



each other on the road. Together, we can prevent crashes and make sure everyone gets home safely.”

Funding for the campaign are provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and distributed by KOHS to law enforcement agencies that applied and were approved for full-year grants.

“With the summer construction season underway, we’re asking drivers to be especially vigilant in work zones,” Transportation Cabinet Secretary Jim Gray

where government crews, contractors or utility companies are doing construction, repairs, resurfacing, inspections or maintenance.

Recently enacted legislation increased penalties for speeding and aggressive driving in work zones. In addition to fines of \$500 or more, drivers could have their license revoked, depending on the violation. Work zones are active job sites where workers are close to traffic. Reduced speeds and attentive driving help prevent crashes and protect everyone.

## Springfield veterinarian charged with conspiracy to commit fraud

STAFF REPORT

Veterinarian Laura Webb of Springfield Animal Clinic has been charged as part of Department of Justice’s 2025 National Health Care Fraud Takedown.

On Tuesday, July 1, United States Attorney Kyle G. Bumgarner of the Western District of Kentucky announced criminal charges against five defendants in connection with alleged schemes to defraud Medicaid and divert controlled substances. The charges filed in federal court are part of the Department of Justice’s 2025 National Health Care Fraud Takedown.

A press release from the Western District of Kentucky states, “Ashley Barnett, 41, of Louisville, Laura Webb, 37, of Springfield, and Rachel Goldstein, 43, of Jeffersonville, Indiana, were charged by information. According to the information, Barnett and Webb, both doctors of veterinary medicine, were charged in a conspiracy to illegally use a DEA registration number issued to another.” The press release lists additional

charges against Barnett and Goldstein include conspiracy to obtain a controlled substance by misrepresentation, fraud, forgery, deception, or subterfuge, health care fraud, and theft.

“Health care providers must be trusted to appropriately prescribe highly-addictive medications only to those in need. Doing otherwise only exacerbates the opioid epidemic that has ravaged our Commonwealth and destroyed families,” said U.S. Attorney Bumgarner. “As alleged in each of the charging documents, these defendants breached that trust and illegally diverted controlled substances. While these defendants are professionally obligated to help communities, the charging documents allege that they have unfortunately done the opposite. They will be held to account.”

“This record-setting Health Care Fraud Takedown delivers justice to criminal actors who prey upon our most vulnerable citizens and steal from hardworking American taxpayers,” said Attorney General Pamela Bondi. “Make no mistake — this

administration will not tolerate criminals who line their pockets with taxpayer dollars while endangering the health and safety of our communities.”

The charges announced last week by U.S. Attorney Bumgarner are part of a nationwide law enforcement action that resulted in criminal charges against 324 defendants for their alleged participation in health care fraud and illegal drug diversion schemes that involved the submission of over \$14.6 billion in alleged false billings and over 15 million pills of illegally diverted controlled substances. The defendants allegedly defrauded programs entrusted for the care of the elderly and disabled to line their own pockets. The United States has seized over \$245 million in cash, luxury vehicles, and other assets in connection with the takedown.

A complaint, information, or indictment is merely an allegation. All defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.



Photo by Luis Santoyo/lawnstarter.com

The website lawnstarter.com has released its list of the Best BBQ cities, with Louisville and Lexington ranked in the Top 100.

## Kentucky has two cities ranked in the Top 100 for BBQ

BY DENIS HOUSE  
PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

Kentucky is known for several things, including basketball, bourbon, and horse racing.

When one thinks about BBQ, the Bluegrass State is probably far down the list when it comes to the best cities in the United States. Surprisingly, Kentucky boasts two of the Top 100 cities, and Owensboro isn’t one of them.

According to a recent study by lawnstarter.com, Louisville is ranked 24th and Lexington, 83rd, the only two cities to make the Top 500 list. To find out which cities have the best BBQ scene, the website looked at 13 metrics across nearly 500

of the biggest U.S. cities to rank the 2025 Best BBQ Cities in America.

“Authenticity and history are key components in identifying a true barbecue city,” said Tyler White, the Culinary Institute Program Manager at the University of Tennessee. “Aficionados should look for cities and regions that have a history of great pitmasters and family-owned businesses. The best barbeque cities have plenty of independently owned barbeque restaurants.”

Louisville came in with an overall score of 26.76, while Lexington scored 19.53. Louisville ranked 47th in consumer satisfaction, 20th in access, 100th in competition

awards, and 25th in elite BBQ memberships, while Lexington ranked 72nd, 110th, 100th, and 62nd, respectively.

While Owensboro is known, at least in Kentucky, as the “BBQ Capital of the World,” the city’s population wasn’t large enough to be included in lawnstarter.com’s list. But the city, part of the Western Kentucky BBQ Belt, has three well-known restaurants (Ole South Barbeque, Old Hickory Bar-B-Q, and Moonlite Bar-B-Q Inn) along with hosting the BBQ & Barrels Festival and the International Bar-B-Q Festival.

According to herkentucky.com, the top five

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