



Legislative Update

Senator Robin L. Webb

With spring in full bloom across eastern Kentucky and the days turning warmer and longer, the people are preparing for the work ahead. This time of year reminds us that while one season ends, another begins. Although the 2025 Regular Session concluded in March, back in Frankfort the work on behalf of Kentuckians does not pause. The way the legislature proceeds will look quite different.

Since adjourning the session, it has been a particularly busy time in the district – from graduations to agriculture events and groundbreakings, from finalizing long-awaited projects to celebrating new investments in our district. Several notable events occurred across the district over the past month, including two exciting ribbon cuttings to spotlight the value of local partnerships and public investment in our schools.

At Cannonsburg Elementary, students, educators, families, and local leaders gathered to celebrate the re-opening of the school following a two-year, \$11.8 million renovation. With expanded classrooms, a new cafeteria and library, upgraded safety infrastructure, and long-overdue facility improvements, this project marks a significant step forward for education in the region. The majority of the funding – over \$7 million – was awarded through state investment which reinforces the importance of our shared commitment to public education. When students took the stage to thank us, it was a powerful reminder of why this work matters.

That same day, I joined community leaders at Boyd County High School for the ribbon cutting of the new Career and Technical Center, which is another critical investment in our region’s future. This facility will offer students hands-on training and career preparation in a range of fields and equip them with the tools they need to pursue opportunities right here at home. I was proud to support this project alongside Boyd County Schools and local government partners. Together, these efforts reflect our determination to invest in infrastructure that uplifts students, strengthens families, and builds the foundation for long-term economic growth throughout the district.

Looking toward June, legislators will soon return to Frankfort as we enter what is known as the interim joint session. This phase of the legislative calendar is not a break from duty. It is a period of deeper focus before the next session commences. This is when lawmakers review past legislation, examine pressing issues, and study the policy decisions that shape everyday life across the commonwealth.

For me, this interim is a time to listen, ask better questions, and prepare. With a 60-day budget session on the horizon in 2026, the work we do over the next several months will influence how we invest in education, health care, public safety, and rural economic opportunity. This is where the foundation is built. I plan to take an active role in that process.

During the regular session, the General Assembly debates and votes on bills. The pace is fast and decisions are made quickly. The interim slows that pace down. It gives us time to look closely at the effects of laws already passed and to gather information about the challenges ahead.

Interim committees meet jointly with members of both the House and Senate. They hear from experts, review data, and consider testimony from Kentuckians affected by state policy. This is when ideas are refined. This is when better policy begins to take shape.

I serve on five interim joint committees. These are not ceremonial roles. Each committee meets regularly to consider real issues that affect families, workers, and communities across the common-

wealth. Below is a summary of the work ahead.

Interim Joint Committee on Agriculture

In our part of the state, agriculture is more than a job. It is a way of life. This committee focuses on farm safety, conservation programs, food systems, and rural economic development. We also review policies involving crop insurance, disease control, and livestock health. I will be watching closely how recent changes in funding affect access to grants and loans that support small and family-owned farms. This includes attention to the administration of the Tobacco Master Settlement funds and the role of the Kentucky Office of Agricultural Policy. Rural prosperity begins with smart investment in agriculture, and I will continue to advocate for that.

Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue

This committee reviews how Kentucky raises and spends public dollars. We examine budget forecasts, tax structures, and state investments in infrastructure, education, and health services. Every policy depends on how the budget is constructed. This interim will be critical in shaping the next biennial budget. I will continue pushing for equitable funding across regions and fairness in state resource distribution. The needs of rural communities deserve full consideration.

Budget Review Subcommittee on Justice and Judiciary

The justice system involves real people and serious decisions. This subcommittee reviews funding for the courts, public defenders, corrections, and law enforcement. I will focus on access to justice in rural areas. That includes ensuring our courthouses are funded, our victims are supported, and our mental health services for justice-involved individuals are not overlooked. Budgeting for justice requires more than numbers. It requires a commitment to fairness and dignity.

Interim Joint Committee on Families and Children

This committee focuses on services that help Kentuckians meet their basic needs. That includes support for children and adults in crisis, nutrition programs, foster care, and child protection. These services are essential in rural areas where access can be limited by geography, staffing shortages, or weak infrastructure. I will work to ensure federal dollars are used effectively and that state policies meet the real-world needs of families in my district.

Interim Joint Committee on Natural Resources and Energy

Kentucky’s future depends on responsible management of our natural resources. This committee reviews issues tied to water systems, utilities, environmental protections, and energy development. I continue to support a balanced approach. We must protect our land and water while also recognizing the role of energy and natural resource jobs. Flood mitigation and water infrastructure investment will be key issues in this interim. I will be a strong voice for smarter, forward-looking policy in these areas.

In addition to interim joint committees, I serve on several statutory committees established under Kentucky law or authorized as permanent subcommittees of the Legislative Research Commission. These committees meet regularly to review complex financial, infrastructure, and agricultural matters. Their proceedings are open to the public and the press.

Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee

This committee is tasked with reviewing how state dollars are spent on capital construction and public infrastructure. That includes oversight of emergency repair accounts, the leasing or purchase of state-owned properties, and bond issuances for both state government and local school districts. I will

continue to monitor how capital investments are allocated and whether they are serving the long-term needs of our communities.

2026–2028 Budget Preparation and Submission Committee

As Kentucky prepares for the biennial budget, this committee plays an important role in setting the framework for how agencies draft and submit their spending plans. The committee provides guidance on budget instructions, formats, and requirements, to ensure consistency and accountability across government. This work will help shape the foundation of the 2026 budget session, and I intend to approach it with the seriousness it deserves.

Tobacco Settlement Agreement Fund Oversight Committee

This committee reviews the use of Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement funds, with a focus on agricultural development, public health, and early childhood investments. We evaluate grants and loans issued by the Agricultural Development Board and examine how those resources are being used to diversify farm income, support rural communities, and advance long-term planning for Kentucky agriculture. I remain committed to preserving the original intent of these funds and ensuring they reach the people and programs they were designed to help.

The legislative process works best when people are involved. Interim Joint Committee meetings are open to the public. They are also streamed online and archived for review. Anyone can watch, read, or participate.

Over the next few months, these issues will be a focus, and listening to constituents to hear what is working and what is not, is vital to how we move forward on them. That feedback shapes how I serve. Being a public servant means showing up, following through, and carrying local

voices into every conversation in Frankfort. Whether we are talking about roads, rivers, classrooms, or courtrooms, the goal is good policies that serve the people where they live.

The interim session may not make the headlines, but it is where thoughtful work begins. I look forward to continuing that work with care and with the same commitment I brought to the regular session.

You can visit legislature.ky.gov to find the full 2025 Interim Calendar. The site includes meeting schedules, livestream links, and documents from past discussions. You can also contact my office directly to share your views, ask questions, or get help with a specific issue. I can be contacted by email at SD18@cm.kylegislature.gov or through the General Assembly Message Line at 1-800-372-7181. Kentuckians with hearing loss can use Kentucky Relay by dialing 711.

Vanceburg Tree Planting



Brenda S. Bear/LEWIS COUNTY HERALD

A tree planting ceremony was held at the City Building on Wednesday, May 21, in memory of Cheslee H. Willis. The original dogwood tree, planted years ago by Mr. Willis, was lost during a storm a few years back. In its place, a new dogwood tree was planted to honor his memory. A photograph from 1995 shows Mr. Willis planting the original tree. Mr. Willis dedicated over 21 years of service as a city employee. Several members of his family attended the ceremony and are pictured with Mayor Blankenship. From left to right: daughter Kathy McCann, granddaughter Kirsten McCann, Mayor Blankenship, grandson Kolby McCann (in back), grandson Rickey Underwood, and granddaughter Katie Masters.

Card of Thanks

We, the family of Ronnie Enix, would like to extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who supported us during our time of loss.

To Globe Family Funeral Chapel, thank you for your compassionate care in guiding us through such a difficult time.

We are especially grateful to ministers Bobby Buckler and Jason Caudill for their comforting words, prayers, and the beautiful service that truly honored Ronnie’s life and faith.

To our family and friends, your love, prayers, and presence meant the world to us.

And to the members of our community who brought food, comfort, and support, your kindness will never be forgotten.

With heartfelt thanks,
The Enix Family



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KBC Blood Drive June 5

Herald Report

It’s the Summer of Saving at Kentucky Blood Center. To save donors cash as a thank you for saving local lives, KBC will feature exciting money-saving giveaways and promotions throughout the summer, including a chance to win free gas for a year.

One lucky donor who gives blood June 1–30 will win a 52 \$50 Marathon gift cards, through a partnership with Clark’s Pump-N-Shop.

Those who give blood at this upcoming drive will be entered into the giveaway. Plus, all donors will receive a “Kentucky Donor” T-shirt and a coupon for a buy one, get one free slice of Hanger 54 Pizza at Clark’s Pump-N-Shop. More information on the giveaway is available at kybloodcenter.org/events/summer-of-saving-win-free-gas-for-a-year.

Tollesboro Community Thursday, June 5 from 1:30–6:30 p.m. Tollesboro Christian Church, Family Life Center Activity Room, 3684 W KY 10, Tollesboro, KY 41189.

Blood donations historically dwindle during the summer be-

cause of warm-weather activities, family vacations and no school. The need for blood doesn’t take a break, however, and transfusion levels often increase as donation frequency decreases.

Blood donors must be at least 17 years old (16 with parental consent), weigh at least 110 pounds, be in good general health, show a photo I.D. and meet additional requirements. Sixteen-year-old donors must have a signed parental permission slip, which can be found at kybloodcenter.org.

Appointments are preferred but walk-ins are welcome. To schedule a donation, visit kybloodcenter.org or call 800.775.2522.

About Kentucky Blood Center KBC, the largest independent, full-service, nonprofit blood center in Kentucky, has been saving local lives since 1968. Licensed by the FDA, KBC’s sole purpose is to collect, process, and distribute blood for patients in Kentucky. KBC provides services in 90 Kentucky counties and has donor centers in Lexington, Louisville, Frankfort, Pikeville, Somerset, and the Tri-County area (Corbin).



Truck Driver/Laborer

Lewis County Road Department
Vanceburg, KY

- Starting Date June 16, 2025
- \$12.00 per hour
- Full-Time

Lewis County Fiscal Court is accepting applications for a full-time truck driver at the Lewis County Road Department. The pay range for this position is \$12.00 – \$13.00 per hour based on experience, plus a generous benefit package. Please apply at Lewis County Judge Executive Office, 112 Second St., Room 201, Vanceburg, KY 41179.

Lewis County Road Department Truck Driver’s Job Description

Position Summary

Under supervision, performs a variety of work, normally under the supervision of the assistant director or director who issues work orders.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Clean ditches, catch basins, culverts, storm sewers and other drainage structures.
- Uses chainsaws, weed eaters, and other similar power tools.
- Uses shovels, rakes, mattock tool and a variety of other hand tools as needed.
- Load limbs into woodchipper and trucks.
- Performs routine inspections and preventive maintenance on assigned equipment; reports/refers defects or needed repairs to supervisor.
- Performs other duties as assigned or required.

Position Dimensions

Education and Experience:

- One year of related experience operating tractors or heavy machinery including semi- skilled maintenance or construction experience.
- Requires possession of a Commercial Driver’s License – Class.

Special Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

- Knowledge of a variety of semi-skilled maintenance and manual tasks.
- Ability to understand and follow oral and written instructions.
- Ability to perform heavy manual work for an extended period under varying weather conditions.
- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with officials, employees, and the public.
- Ability to perform and/or promote preventive maintenance.
- Some knowledge of occupation hazards and proper safety precautions.
- Ability to lift heavy items.

Comments

Must display the following:

- Positive communication.
- Commitment to serving the county’s best interests.
- Adherence to the applicable provisions of the Department Rules and Regulations, the Personnel Policy Manual, the Lewis County Administrative Code, and any other procedures, rules, regulations, and policies set forth by appropriate authorities.
- Must be 21 years or older.

Public Notice 21,22c