

RATES

Continued from 1A

look hard at trying to actually lower your taxes. I'm really proud that the court over the last 20 years has kept your tax rate the same. That can't be said about any other entity in the county."

Magistrate Eddie Saylor said the 13.2 cents per \$100 on was one of the lowest tax rates on real property for any county in the state.

The court unanimously approved setting the 2025 tax rates at \$13.2 center per \$100 on real property and 14.9 cents per \$100 on personal property.

Also set by the court as mandated by the state were the 2025 tax rate for motor vehicles and watercraft at 14.9 cents per \$100 of assessed value and the tax rate for forest fire protection at 2 cents per acre.

Other 2025 tax rates officially recorded at the meeting included:

- Bell County Health Department for both real and personal property at 0.055 cents per \$100.00 of assessed value (the same rate as last year);
- Bell County Garbage and Refuse Disposal District for real property at 3.9 cents per \$100.00 of assessed value (up 0.1 cent from last year);
- Bell County Extension Board for real property at 4.9 cents for \$100.00 of assessed value (same rate as last year), personal property at 5.57 cents for \$100.00 of assessed value, and motor vehicle at 5.57 cents per

\$100.00 of assessed value (down 0.1 cent from last year);

— Bell County Public Library for real property at 8.7 cents per \$100.00 of assessed value (up 0.1 cent from last year) and personal property at 8.7 cents per \$100.00 of assessed value (down 0.25 cents from last year);

— Bell County Board of Education for real property at 72.6 cents for \$100.00 of assessed value (up 3.9 cents from last year) and personal property of 72.6 cents per \$100.00 of assessed value (up 3.3 cents from last year);

— Middlesboro Independent Schools for real property at 53.5 cents per \$100.00 of assessed value (up 3.2 cents from last year) and personal property at 53.5 cents per \$100.00 of assessed value (up 2.0 cents from last year);

— Pineville Independent Schools for real property at 74.4 cents per \$100.00 of assessed value and personal property at 77.0 cents per \$100.00 of assessed value (same rates as last year);

— City of Middlesboro for real property at 6.90 cents per \$100.00 of assessed value and personal property at 23.20 cents per \$100.00 of assessed value (same rates as last year);

Bell County Board of Education to hold Special Called meetings

Staff Report

The Bell County Board of Education will convene in a Special Called Meeting at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, September 17, 2025 at the Bell County Area Technology Center, 9828 US Highway 25E, 2nd Floor, Pineville, Kentucky.

The meeting will be held via video teleconference. The primary location where all members can be seen and heard and the public may attend in accordance with KRS 61.840 is the Bell County Board of Education Administration Office, 9828 US Highway 25E, 2nd Floor, Pineville, Kentucky with the anticipation that four board members will be present and one board member will participate via video teleconference as authorized under KRS 61.826.

AGENDA

1. Call meeting to order, establish quorum, moment of silence, Pledge of Allegiance
 2. Student Recognition
 3. Conduct a work session to review the September 18, 2025 Special Called Meeting Agenda Items
 4. Adjourn
- The Bell County Board of Education will convene in a Special Called Meeting at 5 p.m. on Thursday, September 18, 2025 at the Bell County Area Technology Center. The meeting will be held via video teleconference. The primary location where all members can be seen and heard and the public may attend in accordance with KRS 61.840 is the Bell County Area Technology Center, 9828 US Hwy 25E, 2nd Floor, Pineville, Kentucky with the anticipation that four board members will be present and one board member will participate via video teleconference as authorized under KRS 61.826.

AGENDA

1. Call meeting to order, establish quorum, moment of silence, Pledge of Allegiance
2. Consent Items
 - a) Approve Fundraising Requests, Out of State Field Trip Requests, EKV Advantage Program MOU, August 18, 2025 Special Called Meeting Minutes and August 19, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
3. Public
4. Management/Student Support/Instruction/Delivery Targets/PES
 - a) Approve Shortened School Day for Students-Bell Central, Bell High, Frakes and Right Fork
 - *b) Discuss and Consider Action-Additional Preschool Room
5. Facilities
 - a) Approve Pay Applications
 - *b) Discuss and Consider Action-Bell High Football and Track Facilities
 - *c) Discuss and Consider Action-Construction Projects-Bell High and Bell Central
6. Personnel
 - a) New Employees/Resignations Report
 - *b) Discuss and Consider Action-Additional Preschool Teacher and Paraeducator
 - *c) Discuss and Consider Action-Create Additional Virtual School Teacher Position
7. Finance
 - a) Approve Payment of Bills
 - b) Approve FY26 Working Budget
8. Superintendent's Report
 - a) Enrollment/Attendance Update
 - b) Site Visits
9. Other Items Board May Wish to Discuss
10. Adjourn



(PHOTO BY JAY COMPTON)

JROTC Cadet Staff Sergeant Shawna Bussell served as the emcee for Thursday's Patriot Day program at Middlesboro High School.

9/11

Continued from 1A

on September 11, 2001 as trumpeters Sudie Howerton and Leah Spencer played Taps.

JROTC Cadets Dylan Craig, Alyssa Goins, and Taylyn Ayers posted the

colors, raised the U.S. flag and lowered it to half-staff as the MHS band played the National Anthem.

The MHS Choir then sang America the Beautiful.

Bussell closed the program by recognizing

the first responders from the Middlesboro Police and Fire Departments who were in attendance.

"We are deeply grateful to our first responders who are with us today. They are a very special group who dedicate their lives each and every day

protecting and serving others," she said. "Your bravery, selflessness, and tireless commitment in times of crisis remind us of the strength and compassion that hold our community together."

FISCAL

Continued from 1A

over 20 projects that had applied for FEMA funding in the county.

"Just as soon as they give us the marching orders we're ready to move forward," he said.

Brock said an NRCS project had been approved for Weiser Branch.

Lincks added that Balkan Road was the first project FEMA saw and they had been to the site three times.

"That should be the first one to get the go-ahead. I know the Judge wants to

move on it first," he added.

In a separate matter, Saylor also pointed out that the bill to the Clay County Jail was again significantly lower last month.

"Hopefully, that position we approved for (Commonwealth's Attorney Mike) Taylor is part of that," he said. "The Rocket Docket program seems to be working."

Brock agreed and said the savings on inmates was "100-percent" because of that program.

In other business, the court:

- hired Katherine

Duffey as part-time dispatcher at \$11.25 per hour effective Sept. 11, 2025;

— hired Kevin Collins as part-time deputy jailer at \$10.00 per hour effective Sept. 11, 2025;

— hired Caitlyn Campbell as part-time EMT at \$11.50 per hour effective Sept. 11, 2025;

— change Augustina Brock and Cesar Salinas from part-time deputy jailers to full-time deputy jailers effective Sept. 11, 2025;

— change Jessica Wagers from full-time Paramedic to part-time Paramedic effective Sept. 11, 2025;

— approve payment to Green Construction Company for the amount of \$296,454.40 for Pay Application #21, Mid-South Power Services for the amount of \$121,591.57 for Pay Application #2, and UES for the amount of \$5,110.00 for Invoice #0289 and \$2,200.00 for Invoice #4365 for Flash Steelworks (to be paid when funds are available);

— accept checks in the amount of \$92,693.16 from Sheriff Mitch Williams, and in the amount of \$44,112.66 from County Clerk Debbie Gambrel.

PSC

Continued from 1A

submitted at any time at <https://psc.ky.gov/Case/SearchCasesPublicComments>, emailed to PSC.comment@ky.gov, or mailed to 211 Sower

Boulevard, Frankfort, KY 40601. All comments should include the commenter's name, address, and the case number.

The complete application, a description of the review process, public comments, and other case

filings are available at <https://psc.ky.gov/Case/ViewCaseFilings/2025-00113> and <https://psc.ky.gov/Case/ViewCaseFilings/2025-00114>.

The PSC is an independent agency attached for

administrative purposes to the Energy and Environment Cabinet. It regulates more than 1,100 gas, water, sewer, electric and telecommunication utilities operating in Kentucky and has approximately 90 employees.



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TN Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services | This project is funded under a grant contract with the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.

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