

Barren County Board of Elections inspects equipment ahead of May primary



Submitted Photo

Republican Election Mike Harris and Democrat Election Commissioner Pat Scott begin the machine inspection process.

JEFF JOBE
COMMUNITY PUBLISHER
BARREN COUNTY PROGRESS/JPI

Primary Election and the upcoming early voting period.

GLASGOW — The Barren County Board of Elections met Thursday morning to inspect voting equipment that will be used during the May

Those in attendance included Democrat Election Commissioner Pat Scott, Republican Commissioner Mike Harris, Barren County Sheriff Kent

Keen, and Barren County Clerk Helena Chase Birdwell.

The inspection is a standard procedure required to ensure all voting machines are functioning properly, securely sealed and ready for use by the public. Officials reviewed equipment operation and confirmed readiness for both early voting and Election Day on May 19.

County officials emphasized the importance of the process in maintaining election integrity and ensuring voters have a smooth experience at the polls.

* Watch for election process and updates in the Barren County Progress, the Barren County, Kentucky legal news source.

Glasgow, Barren County officials raise awareness of sexual violence



Mike Heuer | BCP Photo

Glasgow Mayor Henry Royse signs a joint Glasgow-Barren County proclamation making April Sexual Assault and Prevention Awareness Month while joined by (from right) Hope Harbor Executive Director Melissa Whitley, Barren County Judge-Executive Jamie Byrd and two Hope Harbor staffers on Monday.

MIKE HEUER
BCP Community News

to sexual assault survivors.

said, and Hope Harbor staff help to provide that training.

Barren County and Glasgow officials on Monday jointly designated April as Sexual Assault and Prevention Awareness Month and gave special recognition to Hope Harbor Inc.

Among them is Hope Harbor, which is a Bowling Green-based nonprofit sexual trauma recovery center that counsels sexual assault survivors and has a facility located at 204 N. Race St. in Glasgow.

Hope Harbor Executive Director Melissa Whitley and two staff members joined Royse and Byrd as the two civic leaders signed the joint proclamation.

April is National Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and Glasgow Mayor Henry Royse and Barren County Judge-Executive Jamie Byrd signed a joint proclamation designating the month's special status locally during the Glasgow City Council meeting on Monday.

Hope Harbor provides personal safety and awareness by providing education services and training programs for schools, religious organizations, businesses and governmental agencies to better prevent sexual violence and more effectively address it when it occurs, Royse told council members and those in the audience.

Whitley afterward expressed her gratitude for local officials recognizing the services provided by Hope Harbor and raising awareness of its support and prevention programs that are available for victims of sexual violence.

"Whereas in our society, sexual violence continues to escalate, and that makes every person in the commonwealth of Kentucky a victim or survivor, family member, significant other, neighbor or co-worker of a victim or survivor," Royse read from the proclamation.

He said Hope Harbor officials and staff also increase public awareness of sexual violence and provide counseling and other services for survivors, while working to prevent sexual assault in Glasgow and other communities.

"We appreciate you all giving us the opportunity and time, and our community partners in Barren County and Glasgow that we work with on a regular basis," Whitley said.

"We know the importance of awareness and prevention programs, and our staff is out on the front lines working with survivors and victims every day," she added.

He said the Barren River District Health Department reported 461 survivors of sexual violence in 2025, and many volunteers and others in the area are working to provide quality services

Glasgow and Barren County law enforcement officials recognize the importance of training to better enable them to counteract incidents of sexual violence, Royse

Whitley said anyone who needs assistance can visit Hope Harbor's Glasgow office to learn what services are available and obtain help at no cost.

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