



Vote for Republican Candidate Keith Dalton Clinton County Judge/Executive

#5 on the Ballot

Paid for by Candidate

James Robert Kenoyer graduates from Dispatch Academy

Governor Andy Beshear announced last week that 24 dispatchers from across Kentucky graduated from the Department of Criminal Justice Training's (DOCJT) Public Safety Dispatch Academy and are now ready to begin answering the call to aid both citizens and law enforcement officers of the commonwealth.

James Robert Kenoyer, of Clinton County 911, was among those 24 individuals who graduated from the Dispatch Academy.

"The critical lifeline you provide for Kentuckians during their darkest and most difficult moments is truly heroic," Governor Beshear said. "The entire commonwealth thanks you for your dedication and commitment to public service, and we wish you the best in your careers."

Dispatch basic training is mandatory for any sworn or civilian employee who will dispatch law enforcement officers by radio at a Criminal Justice Information Systems agency. Graduates of the academy have successfully completed a highly structured and comprehensive curriculum to satisfy mandated training requirements. Over four weeks, the graduates of Class 170 received 164 hours of academy instruction to satisfy these requirements. Major training areas included identifying the role and responsibilities of the dispatcher, correct phone and radio procedures, handling emergency and nonemergency calls for service, using emergency medical dispatch protocols, and using the state and national criminal databases.

"I am proud of everything you've achieved at the academy," DOCJT Commissioner Mike Bosse said. "These four weeks of rigorous training have prepared you to serve your communities with skill, integrity, and dedication. I have no doubt your efforts will make a meaningful difference, and I wish you every success as you begin this important work."

DOCJT provides basic training for city and county police officers, sheriffs' deputies, university police and airport police throughout the state, only excluding the Louisville Metro Police Department, Lexington Police Department, Bowling Green Police Department, Owensboro Police Department and Kentucky State Police, each of which have independent academies.



James Robert Kenoyer

Opinion: Kentuckians want a senator, not a rubber stamp; McGrath Dems' only real choice

By Al Cross

This column was written before last week's debate among four candidates in the Democratic primary for the U.S. Senate.

"Kentucky is in play this year. Believe it," U.S. Senate candidate Amy McGrath told her email list last week. Perhaps she felt obliged to add those two words because so few people think Democrats have a chance to win the seat of retiring Republican Mitch McConnell.



Al Cross

McGrath, primary front-runner Charles Booker and other Democrats have to insist they're not on a fool's errand as they try to raise money and support in a state that last elected a Democratic senator 34 years ago and gave President Trump 30-point margins. But they're not without talking points.

They can argue, with fresh evidence, that Trump's influence is waning, even as the most prominent Republican candidates compete to see how far they can stick their noses up his hindquarters. Sixth District U.S. Representative Andy Barr and businessman Nate Morris are ready targets for Democratic attack ads saying

they would be rubber stamps for the president. "I'll always stand with Trump," front-runner Barr vows in TV ads.

Kentuckians don't want a rubber stamp. Last week's Emerson College poll asked likely primary voters if a Trump endorsement would make them more or less likely to vote for that candidate; 28.6 percent said more likely and 39.4 percent said less likely.

That reflects the poll finding that Kentucky has more anti-Trump Republicans (the 13 percent who said "less likely") than pro-Trump Democrats (7 percent said "more likely"). And the anti-Trump vote is actually larger, because the poll didn't measure independents, who can't vote in Kentucky primaries and are shunning Trump nationally.

The election will be a referendum on Trump, but that's not all. It will also be Kentuckians' choice of the direction the nation should take. This is a conservative state, and Booker is an outspoken liberal (as is state House Minority Leader Pam Stevenson, who's polling at 3%). We are highly unlikely to elect a senator who favors a guaranteed minimum income, abolition of ICE, and other left-wing causes. And, sad to say, our lingering racism makes a Black liberal's election all the more unlikely.

"Obviously, he's gonna be a longshot," former 3rd District Representative John Yarmuth said as he explained his recent endorsement of Booker, announced in a press release: "Out of the entire field, Charles is the only person poised to build the coalitions needed to win in November." McGrath can't do that, Yarmuth told me, because she has "proven that she cannot run an effective campaign. She's never been able to make a case as to what she's for, and I have yet to run into any Democrat who's excited about her candidacy."

Booker has all the excitement so far, reflected in his la-

bor-union and activist-group endorsements and his growing lead over McGrath: 36% to 18% in the poll, up from 30-19 two months earlier. McGrath can't seem to shake the label of two-time loser as a Democratic nominee - Barr in 2018 and to McConnell in 2020, despite raising \$93 million.

Booker is also a two-time loser, to McGrath in the 2020 primary, and to Sen. Rand Paul in 2022. But there seems to be a sense among Kentucky Democrats that McGrath let the party down and doesn't deserve a third strike. But unless fellow moderate Dale Romans (polling at 2%) miraculously jump-starts his campaign, McGrath is the only realistic chance Democrats have. As the Iran War looms larger in the race, her record as a Marine fighter pilot gives her an opening for another look by voters.

Former Lt. Governor Crit Luallen said McGrath has improved her campaign style and hired better advisers, including Gov. Andy Beshear's media team. "She's not a perfect candidate, but she has had the courage to step up, knowing how she would be attacked and maligned," Luallen said. But McGrath and her team will have to run an exceptional campaign in the next six weeks to catch up to Booker, who is an inspiring campaigner. As Yarmuth says, "He knows what he stands for."

Democrats have a better chance to pick up Barr's seat, for which both parties have primaries. Former state Representative Cherynn Stevenson has support from the AFL-CIO and Lt. Governor Jacqueline Coleman, and former federal prosecutor Zach Dembo has out-raised the five-candidate field with help from Louisville activist Christy Brown.

Former state Sen. Ralph Alvarado, one of three major Republican candidates, is the first in the 6th to start TV ads, and he says "Being with President Trump from the beginning means I'll be with him 'til the end." That's very close to saying "always," as Barr does, but Alvarado refers to his support of Trump in three elections. Perhaps he wants to keep Democrats from credibly calling him a rubber stamp.

Al Cross, a Clinton County native, is professor emeritus of journalism at the University of Kentucky. He was the longest-serving political writer for the Louisville Courier Journal (1989-2004) and national president of the Society of Professional Journalists in 2001-02. He joined the Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame in 2010. Reach him at al.cross@uky.edu The NKyTribune is the home for his commentary which is offered to other publications with appropriate credit.

THINGS TO DO

Clinton Fiscal Court April meeting agenda

The following is the agenda for the Clinton County Fiscal Court March regular meeting to be held this Thursday, April 16.

- * Call to Order
- * Pledge of Allegiance
- * Prayer
- * Approval of Minutes
- * Treasurer's Report
- Monthly
- Transfers
- * Claims & Bills
- * Department Head Reports
- * First Reading Budget FY 2026-27
- * Budget Amendment 2025-27 Second Reading
- * Annual Fire Department Contribution
- * Conservation District 2026-27 Budget
- * Extension District 2026-27 Budget
- * Radio antenna tower lease agreement
- * Other Business
- * Personnel KRS 61.810(f) -- (requires closed session and only entered into if needed)

The meeting will be held in the upstairs courtroom of the courthouse and is open to the public

Benefit and auction for Scott Burk

A benefit and auction for Scott Burk, who has been diagnosed with Stage 3 colon cancer, will be held Friday, May 1, starting at 5 p.m. at the Clinton County Community Center. Food, including Sloppy Joe's or hot dogs with chips and drink or pinto beans, corn bread and drink will be served at 5 p.m. with an auction to follow at 7 p.m. For more information contact Jennifer Crabtree at 606-328-8676; Rhealey Elmore at 606-688-2810; or Geraldine Pierce (at City Mart) at 606-387-8685.

29-2

Park board to meet

The Clinton County Recreation/Park Board is scheduled to hold its regular meeting Thursday, April 30 at 5 p.m. at Mountain View Park. The meeting is open to the public.

29-3

Prime 118 +/- Acres Offered in Tracts ONLINE ONLY ABSOLUTE AUCTION

Hwy 127/ Cooney Lee Rd./ Flowers Ln.
Pall Mall, TN 38577

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