

August session of Clinton Circuit Court held

The monthly term of Clinton Circuit Court was held on Thursday, August 6, with Circuit Judge David L. Williams presiding over a heavy court calendar.

The following are cases in which some type of final resolutions were reached, rulings made, or information released pertaining to high profile cases:

In a case in which a plea agreement was reached and sentencing has already been handed down, a hearing has been requested.

According to court records, a KRS 439.3402 hearing was scheduled in the case of Commonwealth vs. Mary Elizabeth Russell and is to be held on September 10, at 2 p.m.

Such a proceeding in Kentucky is where an individual convicted of an offense as a “violent offender” prior to July 14, 1992, can request an exemption from strict violent-offender parole restrictions by proving they were a victim of domestic violence and abuse related to the crime.

The goal would be to remove a prisoner’s “violent offender” classification for a specific older conviction.

If granted, the offender becomes eligible for parole under standard guidelines rather than facing the severe mandatory minimum service requirements applied to violent offenders under KRS 439.3401.

(Additional information on the hearing process can be found by searching online at KRS 439.3402)

Russell had originally been indicted for murder in the death of her husband, Wesley Russell, in August 2024. She was charged in June 2025.

Eventually she entered a plea to a lesser charge of manslaughter and received a 15 year sentence and was formally sentenced in Circuit Court on the lesser charge in July.

In a case involving attempted murder, the court scheduled a pretrial conference for Edward Myngheer for September 10. The defendant is also charged with unlawful imprisonment, assault, wanton endangerment, terroristic threatening and other counts.

Myngheer is scheduled to be present with his attorney, Jay Fleenor, for a case negotiation on Friday, August 28.

In other cases:
* Sentencing was held in the case of Commonwealth vs. Jack R. Brown, pursuant to a Commonwealth motion to revoke pretrial diversion having been heard on July 9.

The defendant was found guilty of possession of a controlled substance 1st degree 1st offense (methamphetamine) with a three year sentence imposed. The Commonwealth opposed probation and the defendant shall receive credit for time

served.

* Sentencing was held in the case of Commonwealth vs. Tiffany Perkins, pursuant to an agreement effectuated on July 9.

Perkins pled guilty to wanton endangerment 1st degree with a five year sentence imposed.

Pursuant to the recommendation of the Commonwealth, the defendant shall serve 82 days in jail, with the balance probated for five years with supervision and also to run concurrently with a four day sentence for DUI, for a total of 82 days to serve. The defendant will receive credit for time served.

A charge of possession of open alcoholic beverage container was dismissed.

* During a pretrial conference, a plea agreement was reached in the case of Commonwealth vs. Naomi Tucker, granting pretrial diversion.

The Commonwealth recommended dismissing the charge of disorderly conduct 2nd degree. Upon a plea of guilty to terroristic threatening 2nd degree, the defendant shall receive a three year sentence, pretrial diverted for five years with supervision.

* During a pretrial conference, a plea agreement was reached in the case of Commonwealth vs. Mitchell Gay Thrasher.

The Commonwealth recommended dismissing charges of possession of drug paraphernalia under two separate indictments and upon a plea of guilty to possession of a controlled substance 1st degree 1st offense (methamphetamine), the defendant shall receive a sentence of three years.

Upon a plea of guilty to possession of a controlled substance 1st degree 1st offense under a separate indictment, the defendant shall receive three years.

Pursuant to the recommendation of the Commonwealth, the two sentences shall run concurrently for three years, probated for five years with supervision.

Final sentencing is scheduled for September 10.

* During a pretrial conference, a plea agreement was reached in the case of Commonwealth vs. Lucian Estell Stevens.

The Commonwealth recommended dismissing charges of possession of an open alcoholic beverage container and leaving the scene of an accident/failure to render aid or assistance. The Commonwealth further recommended amending the charge of failure to maintain insurance 2nd offense to 1st offense.

Upon a plea of guilty to wanton endangerment 1st degree, the defendant shall receive a two year sentence to run consecutively with a separate Clinton Circuit Court indictment, and the defendant agrees to stipulate to revocation.

Upon a plea of guilty to operating a motor vehicle under the influence (aggravating circumstances), the defendant shall pay a \$250 fine and serve four days in jail. Upon a plea of guilty to failure to maintain insurance 1st offense, the defendant shall pay a \$250 fine plus court cost.

The Commonwealth stated it will oppose probation and final sentencing was scheduled for September 10.

* During a pretrial conference, a plea agreement was reached in the case of Commonwealth vs. Travis L. Powell.

The Commonwealth recommended dismissing the following charges: speeding, reckless driving, possession of drug paraphernalia and marijuana.

Upon a plea of guilty to possession of a handgun by a convicted felon, the defendant shall receive a seven year sentence, serve

10 consecutive weekends in jail, with the balance of the sentence probated for five years with supervision.

Final sentencing is scheduled for September 10.

* During a pretrial conference, a plea agreement was reached in the case of Commonwealth vs. Kyle Norris granting pretrial diversion.

The Commonwealth recommended dismissing charges of criminal mischief 1st degree, burglary 3rd degree, assault 4th degree, and terroristic threatening 3rd degree under separate indictments.

The Commonwealth further recommended amending the charge of wanton endangerment 1st degree (Class C Felony) to Class D Felony.

Upon a plea of guilty to theft by unlawful taking or disposition over \$1,000, the defendant would receive a five year sentence. Upon a plea of guilty to wanton endangerment 1st degree (Class D Felony), a two year sentence.

Pursuant to the recommendation of the Commonwealth, the two sentences shall run consecutively for a total of seven years, pretrial diverted for five years with supervision. The defendant shall also pay restitution in the amount of \$6,500 plus a five percent clerk’s fee and have no contact with the victim, victim’s property, or the victim’s heirs or their property.

* During a motion to revoke probation, in the case of Commonwealth vs. Anthony Richardson, the Court concluded the defendant had violated terms and conditions of probation and revoked same.

The defendant was originally charged with possession of a controlled substance (two charges), et al and will receive credit for time served.

* During a motion to revoke probation, in the case of Commonwealth vs. Tommy Claborn, originally charged with possession of a controlled substance 1st degree 1st offense (meth), the court concluded the defendant had violated terms and conditions of probation and revoked same.

The defendant shall receive credit for time served.

* During a motion to revoke probation, in the case of Commonwealth vs. Christopher Guffey, charged with possession of a controlled substance 1st degree 1st offense (meth) and drug paraphernalia, the court concluded the defendant had violated terms and conditions of probation and revoked same.

The defendant shall receive credit for time served.

* During a motion to void pretrial diversion, in the case of Commonwealth vs. Casey M. Fortin, in lieu of revocation, the court noted the defendant shall receive a sanction of time-served and enroll in and complete anger management.

The defendant was originally charged with possession of a controlled substance 1st offense 1st degree (meth), marijuana, drug paraphernalia and traffic violations.

A review was scheduled for September 10.

* During a pretrial conference, in the case of Commonwealth vs. Spencer Althouse, charged with rape 1st degree, another pretrial conference was scheduled for September 10 with the defendant to appear with council on August 28 for case negotiation.

* During a pretrial conference, in the case of Commonwealth vs. James Shelton, a trial was scheduled for September 22.

Shelton is charged with human trafficking-forced labor, sodomy 1st degree, sexual abuse 1st degree, incest (two counts) and two counts of rape 1st degree.

* During a pretrial conference, a trial date was scheduled for October 21, in the case of Commonwealth vs. Luther Shawn Conner.

Conner is charged with strangulation 1st degree (domestic violence), assault 4th degree, theft by unlawful taking under \$10,000, and four counts of persistent felony offender, et al.

* During scheduled sentencing in the case of Commonwealth vs. Teresa Melton, due to the defendant being in the hospital, sentencing was rescheduled for September 10.

The defendant was originally charged with possession of a controlled substance 1st degree, possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

* During a motion to extend probation, filed by the Commonwealth, in the case vs. John Glenn Diamond, the court agreed to an order extending probation.

The defendant had been charged with DUI 1st offense 1st degree criminal mischief 1st degree, resisting arrest, disorderly conduct 2nd degree, et al.

* During a motion for supervised probation, filed by the Commonwealth in the case vs. Chekiesha Faye Dicken, charged with bail jumping and persistent felony offender, the court granted the motion for Supervised Probation.

* During an expungement hearing in the case of Commonwealth vs. Hannah R. Murphy, originally charged with unlawful imprisonment, the Court granted an expungement in the matter.

* During an expungement hearing in the case of Commonwealth vs. Whitney Claborn, originally charged with possession of a controlled substance and marijuana, the Court granted the expungement in the matter.

* During a pretrial conference, in the case of Jada Shelton, charged with possession of a controlled substance 1st degree 1st offense, drug paraphernalia and tampering with physical evidence, the defendant did not appear and an order of arrest was issued.

Several other cases were on the August docket and were continued for various reasons, including effectuation of service, some inmates not being made available by other facilities and several defendants had future pretrial conference dates scheduled.

Also, some defendants appeared for arraignment, waiving formal proceedings and entering not guilty pleas and having pretrial conference dates set.

The next session of both the Clinton County Grand Jury and Clinton Circuit Court is scheduled for Thursday, September 10, at 9 a.m.

Clinton County Grand Jury returns August indictments

The Clinton County Grand Jury convened in regular session on Thursday, August 6, and handed down true bills charging a total of eight individuals in open circuit court.

The following indictments were returned by the grand jury in August:

* Jaclyn L. Polson, 46, the alleged offenses of criminal abuse 1st degree and knowingly abuse/neglect of an adult (Class C Felonies).

The alleged offenses occurred on or about January 1 through May 12, 2026.

* David M. Taylor, 42, the alleged offenses of tampering with physical evidence and possession of a controlled substance 1st degree--methamphetamine (Class D Felonies).

* Luther Hatten, 29, the alleged offenses of public intoxication and menacing (Class B Misdemeanors); resisting arrest and disorderly conduct 1st degree (Class A Misdemeanors); and, assault 3rd degree (Class D Felony).

The alleged offenses occurred on or about June 25.

* Lawrence N. Saffell, 65, the alleged offenses of careless driving; operating a motor vehicle while under the influence; resisting arrest (Class A Misdemeanor); and possession of a controlled substance 1st degree--methamphetamine (Class D Felony).

The alleged offenses occurred on or about July 13.

* David Dixon, 59, the alleged offenses of operating a motor vehicle while license is revoked or suspended for driving under the influence third or subsequent offense, aggravating circumstances, (Class D Felony); and possession of marijuana (Class A Misdemeanor).

The alleged offenses occurred on or about September 7, 2025.

* Marco A. Anaya, 21, the alleged offenses of terroristic threatening--two counts (Class D Felony); reckless driving; and criminal mischief 2nd Degree (damage over \$500, but less than \$1,000).

The alleged offenses occurred on or about July 3.

* Samual Porter, 62, the alleged offense of Possession of a Handgun by a Convicted Felon--two counts (Class C Felony).

The alleged offenses occurred on or about March 22, 2025 and September 30, 2025.

* Jonathan M. Biven, 46, the alleged offense of theft by unlawful taking or disposition, more than \$10,000, but less than \$1 million (Class C Felony).

The alleged offense occurred on or about January 1, 2019 through September 30, 2024.

(Editor’s Note: An indictment is a statement of probable cause to believe an offense has been committed and further court proceedings are warranted. Individuals named in a true bill are presumed innocent until proven guilty in court.)



PROPOSED TAX NOTIFICATION

The Clinton County Board of Education is proposing a general fund tax levy of 59.7 cents on real property and 59.7 cents on personal property.

The General Fund tax levied in fiscal year 2026 was 59.6 cents on real property and 59.6 cents on personal property and produced revenue of \$3,146,354.88. The proposed General Fund tax rate of 59.7 cents on real property and 59.7 cents on personal property is expected to produce \$3,381,521.59. Of this amount, \$465,244.30 is from new and personal property. The compensating tax for 2027 is 57.3 cents on real property and 57.3 cents on personal property and is expected to produce \$3,245,581.02.

The proposed rate is expected to generate more revenue than received in the preceding year. The general areas to which revenue of \$235,166.71 above 2026 revenue is to be allocated are as follows: Cost of collections, \$9,406.67 and instruction, \$225,760.04.

This information is published pursuant to KRS 160.470. The proposed tax rate is not subject to recall under KRS 132.017.

The General Assembly has required publication of this advertisement and information contained herein.

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