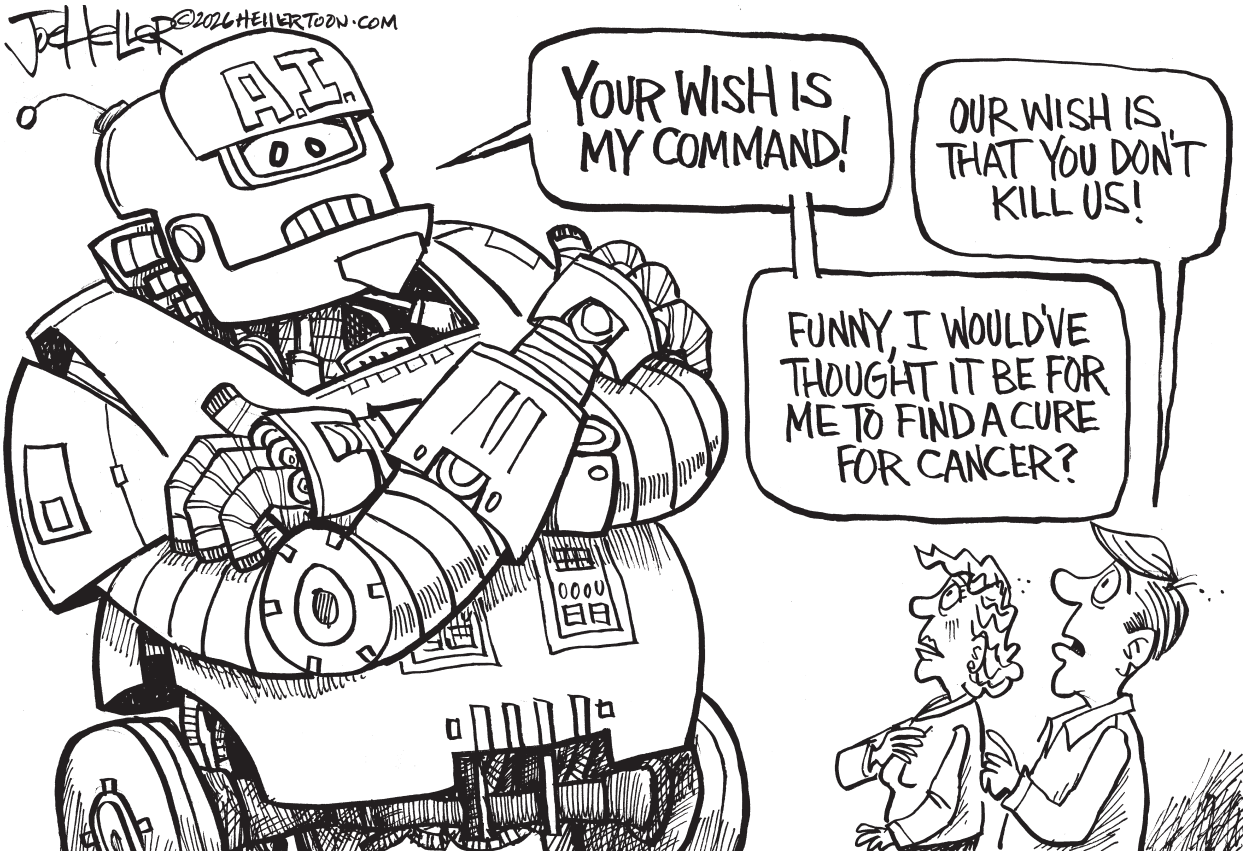


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OPINION

October 7, 2026



Legislative Update

Make your voice heard by voting

Amy Neighbors State Representative

Election Day is an important opportunity for Kentuckians to exercise their right to vote and participate in the democratic process that shapes the future of our communities and our Commonwealth. Whether you are a first-time voter or have participated in elections for decades, one of the most important things you can do is make sure you are informed before casting your ballot.

Voting is more than simply showing up at the polls. It is taking the time to understand who and what is on your ballot, learn about the candidates and issues before you, and make decisions based on the information that matters most to you and your community.

The 2026 General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 3. Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. local time, and Kentucky law provides that voters who are in line at 6 p.m. are permitted to cast their ballots. Before Election Day, voters should make sure their registration information is current and confirm where they are supposed to vote.

For those who need to vote before Election

Day, Kentucky also provides several opportunities for absentee and early in-person voting. Eligible voters may cast their ballots during Excused In-person Absentee Voting from October 21-23 and October 26-28. Voters who do not qualify for excused absentee voting will have the opportunity to vote early from October 29-31 during In-Person No-Excuse Absentee Voting. Voters who wish to vote by mail must request an absentee ballot by October 20.

The deadline to register to vote for the General Election is 4 p.m. local time on October 5. If you have recently moved, changed your name, or otherwise need to update your voter registration, make sure your information is accurate before the registration deadline. You can use the voter services provided by the Kentucky Secretary of State and State Board of Elections to verify your registration and find your polling location. Voters should also review Kentucky's voter identification requirements before heading to the polls.

Check your voter registration by clicking: <https://vrsws.sos.ky.gov/VIC/>

Find your polling location by visiting: <https://elect.ky.gov/Voters/Pages/Polling-Locations.aspx>.

View the 2026 Election Calendar by clicking: <https://elect.ky.gov/Resources/Pages/Election-Calendar.aspx>.

The Kentucky Secretary of State and State Board of Elections provide voters with the tools they need to prepare, including information about voter registration, election deadlines, polling locations, absentee voting, sample ballots and other election information.

It is important to know what races and issues are on your ballot before you vote. You do not have to vote in every race, but reviewing your ballot in advance allows you to make informed decisions about the races and issues before you. The Kentucky State Board of Elections website allows voters to review a sample ballot. A sample ballot can help voters familiarize themselves with the races and questions they will encounter before they arrive at the polls.

You can view the sample ballot for your county by visiting

<https://web.sos.ky.gov/electionballots/>.

Our communities are strongest when citizens take an active role in the democratic process and take the time to understand the choices before them. I encourage every eligible Kentucky voter to make a plan to participate in this year's election. Check your registration, know your polling location, review your ballot, and research the candidates and issues that will appear before you. Whether you vote on Election Day or take advantage of Kentucky's early voting options, taking the time to be informed helps ensure you are prepared to make your voice heard. Your vote is an opportunity to help shape the direction of your community and our Commonwealth. This November, exercise your right to vote, participate in our democracy, and make your vote an informed one.

As always, I can be reached anytime through the toll-free message line in Frankfort at 1-800-372-7181. You can also contact me via email at Amy.Neighbors@kylegislature.gov and keep track through the Kentucky legislature's website at legislature.ky.gov.

IDA seeks construction timeline for Cumberland River Industrial Park



The Industrial Development Board, from the left, Brian Scott, Michell Bell, Elijah Wilson, Bob Howlett, member of the public visiting, and board member Jim Neathery, met at the site of the Cumberland River Industrial Park with the project's engineering firm representative Tucker England and the project manager Brad Johnson with Stewart Richey, the contractor for the utility work at the site last week.

Photo by Greg Wells

By Greg Wells
CCN—Editor

Work at the Cumberland River Industrial Park is awaiting final approvals for utility structures after permitting delays and elevation issues— regarding the storm drain on Ky-61, Columbia Rd. —which slowed the project, contractors told the Cumberland County IDA at its Wednesday meeting last week.

Meeting at the park, board members requested a written construction timeline and stressed the importance of keeping the project moving. The contractor and project engineer said they could provide a more reliable schedule once final submittals were returned and approved.

Tucker England of Precision Engineering said all outstanding requests for information had been answered. He attributed delays to a lengthy state permitting process and elevation questions that required careful review.

“It’s something that you definitely would want to take more time on the front end making sure is right than on the back end paying for it,” England said.

Brad Johnson, the contractor representative, said discrepancies could have left pipes exposed or improperly positioned relative to the roadway.

Stewart Richie, the contracting company, plans to begin with sanitary sewer installation, followed by storm drainage, water and gas lines. The contractor expected final structure submittals back within about a week, followed by engineering review and fabrication. No firm completion date was provided.

School buses parked in the construction area must also be moved before work begins there. Board members said school officials were willing to cooperate but faced space constraints, including playground equipment temporarily stored near the bus

garage. Contractors will coordinate directly with school personnel on timing.

The board also discussed potentially using additional approved grant funding to extend work beyond the current scope. Whether that money can be used will depend on timing and confirmation from the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development.

In other business, the board heard a report from Board President Elijah Wilson on a Tennessee Valley Authority economic development training session in Nashville. The discussion highlighted free mapping, research, site planning and marketing assistance that could help promote the park to prospective employers.

Wilson said TVA's new local contact, Christian Howard, had approached about helping Cumberland County make fuller use of those resources.

“We don’t have any paid staff. We’re a relatively small rural community and we got one site,” Wilson said he told him.

He said he was also made aware of TVA workforce training grants that could help organizations purchase equipment for job training.

The treasurer reported an adjusted regular-fund balance of \$179,071.19 as well as three certificates of deposit held; \$47,293.18, \$350,000 and \$30,641.80. Two of those are the revolving fund, which once fully funded will be a lending resource for local businesses in need of funding for expansion, while the larger of the three is IDA funds disbursed from the state and earmarked for grant-matching, property payments and other needs.

The board voted to move its next meeting from Oct. 28 to Nov. 4 at 11 a.m. A construction update will remain on the agenda.

Letters to the Editor

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