Salisbury, Cook running for District 1 in Boyd

BY AARON SNYDER
THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

Boyd County Commission District 1 is the only county fiscal court race — aside from judge-executive — featuring multiple candidates.

Republican David Salisbury currently holds the seat. He is running for re-election.

Cameron Cook, a Democrat, is challenging for the position.

The Daily Independent asked each candidate who they are and why they are running.

The following are their responses.



Cameron Cook

"My family has been a part of the Boyd County community for the past 38 years. I am a proud graduate of Boyd County High School, and I am currently the administrative assistant at Catlettsburg Elementary School.

As a proud member of Poage Masonic Lodge 325, El Hasa Shrine, and Kentucky Motorcycle Association District 5. I understand the importance of community involvement and giving back.

Through this involvement, I have come to understand the needs of the community. In fact, many community members feel confident in sharing their thoughts on the need for change. I often hear these resounding words, 'It's time for a change.'

I would like to be a part of that change. I am old enough to know what needs to be done and young enough to want to make the difference that matters. As commissioner, I will take the needs of our citizens seriously and not have a blanket answer of 'I will see what can be done.'

The citizens of Boyd County deserve to be heard and deserve to have a say in what happens in their community.

I would like to have the opportunity to be that voice and help our community be a better place with better roads and better opportunities.

As your county commissioner, I promise to be a man of action. I will always be available and ready to help the citizens of Boyd County. I believe in doing, not just talking.

Therefore, when questions need to be asked and action must be taken, I am the representative that will seek to solve problems and ensure that solutions are carried out. I have always been told that if you have a complaint, then you should have a solution.

I would like to have the opportunity to be a part of the solution."

David Salisbury

"I want to continue serving as District 1 County Commissioner because I believe good leadership starts with listening to people, understanding their needs, and working hard to make a difference in their lives. After 12 years of serving Boyd County, I remain committed to building a stronger community and creating opportunities for the next generation.

My experience has taught me that being a good leader is about seeing the person in front of you. Whether it is a family looking for better recreational opportunities, a resident concerned about their community, or a business looking to grow, every voice deserves to be heard.

Moving forward, I want to continue improving our parks, expanding youth sports opportunities, and making Boyd County a place where families want to live and raise their children.

I also want to focus on maintaining our roads and infrastructure, supporting local businesses, attracting new jobs, and making responsible decisions with taxpayer dollars. I believe we must continue seeking state and federal grants to help fund improvements while protecting our county's financial future.

I am proud of the progress we have made, including improvements to our baseball parks and accessible playground equipment at Armco Park. I also believe projects that bring recreation, tourism and economic opportunities to our area can help strengthen our entire community.

There is always more work to do. I want to keep listening to the people of District 1, working with my fellow officials, and finding practical solutions to the challenges facing Boyd County.

My goal is simple: to leave Boyd County better than I found it, with stronger communities, more opportunities for our young people, and a brighter future for all our residents. I ask for the opportunity to continue serving with honesty, dedication, and a commitment to putting people first."

Area school board races crowded

BY MARY JANE EPLING
THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

Voters heading to the ballot box will have the option to reshape several school boards across the area, giving a chance for citizens to chime in on some contentious contests.

The Ashland Independent Board of Education has been short of a cohesive governing body in recent years, with disagreement among existing members, especially concerning district finances, sports complexes, career and technical opportunities, public comment and mandated agenda procedures.

This year, current board members Bill Bradley and Joseph Coleman will attempt to retain their seats alongside Board Chair Ashley Layman and Dave Williams.

Current vice chair Don Ashby has declined to run in this year's election after eight years on the board.

"I will take a break and maybe run again in the future," Ashby told *The Daily Independent* on Friday.

Voters will have the opportunity to select two candidates to join Layman and Williams — who still have two years before they're up for re-election — from a pool containing incumbent Bradley and newcomers Kristen M. Epperly, Randall Heaberlin or Max Hunter.

Although Robert Countryman will appear as a candidate on the ballot for Ashland School Board, he has since dropped out of the race.

Voters will then select between incumbent Joseph Coleman or Curtis Edens to determine who will continue serving out a two-year unexpired term, filled after the seat was vacated by former board member Dr. Matt Lewis last year.

Coleman was selected by the board to fill the vacancy in April 2025.

Boyd County

In Boyd County, seats are up in the first, second and fifth districts to join board members Randy Stapleton Jr. and Lisa Wallin.

Incumbent Linda Day will face off against Aaron Prince for District 5. Mike Blankenship will appear on the ballot unopposed to retain his seat in District 2 and Aaron S. Profit and Tammy Pruitt will go head-to-head to take the District 1 seat currently held by Cynthia VanHorn.

Fairview Independent

Those in the Westwood part of Boyd County won't have the option to shake things up aside from a rogue write-in candidate. Without a write-in, the ballot instructs voters to select 3 candidates to round out Fairview Independent's Board of Education without change.

Those on the ballot include incumbents Doug Campbell, Cory Fitzpatrick and Jennifer "Susie" Howard. The lone newcomer on the ballot, Peter Lunsford, has since dropped out of the race.

Greenup County

This will be the first election affecting the Greenup County Board of Education following controversy last year that led to multiple resignations.

District 1 voters will have a choice between incumbent Nick Fannin or Richard Howerton.

In District 2, the options include Jason Crum, former Raceland-Worthington School Board member Brad Fairchild, or incumbent Angela Pannuti.

In District 3, it's incumbent Katherine Meadows versus Samuel Perkins.

Abe Haislop will run unopposed to retain their seat for District 4.

Raceland-Worthington

In another school district that's saw some contention in recent years, voters will see two new names in a field mostly crowded by incumbents.

Patrick Bloss, who filled a board vacancy, will run unopposed to retain his seat for the remainder of the unexpired term.

Voters will have the option to select three from a field including incumbents Sandra Loperfido, Don Rambo and Michael Snoddy, and newcomer David Stapleton.

Russell Independent

In Russell, voters will select three from a field including incumbents John Jones and Johnny Highfield and newcomers Melissa Addis, Brenda "Bren" Martin or Lucas Stuart.

Carter County

In Carter County, District 2's seat will likely be retained by Miranda Tussey who is running unopposed to retain her position.

Voters in District 5 will have the option to choose between the incumbent, Chris Perry, or newcomer Katrina Tackett to join existing members Michael Sammons, Stacy Brooke Holley and Patrick Ferry.

RUSSELL

From Page A2

Mayor, I will keep our team moving forward according to plans. Above all else, I believe that if we put God first and seek His guidance, everything else will fall into place.

I ask for your vote on Nov. 3."

Don Fraley

"My priorities for Russell:

• A new water plant without borrowing money — I have a plan to provide Russell with a new water plant without taking on new debt.

• Improve stormwater drainage — Address stormwater runoff problems that are negatively affecting residential neighborhoods and work toward lasting solutions.

• Upgrade water distribution lines — Modernize aging water lines while protecting the city's financial stability and avoiding additional borrowing.

• Make Russell business-friendly again — Create an environment that welcomes businesses, encourages investment, supports local employers, and brings new jobs.

• Bring new industries to Russell — I am currently in discussions with representatives of three major developers interested in locating in Russell if I become Mayor. My past record of development in Russell has helped open these doors, and I intend to pursue these opportunities.

• Keep Russell debt-free and reduce property taxes — Maintain responsible financial management, keep Russell debt-free, and work toward reducing property taxes while protecting essential city services.

• Keep Russell first — Work cooperatively with neighboring cities and regional partners while always putting Russell and its citizens first.

• Maintain first-class police and fire departments — Keep Russell safe by supporting professional police and fire departments with knowledgeable leadership.

Experience makes a difference.

As a former mayor, I understand what it takes to manage city finances, improve infrastructure, and attract economic development. My record demonstrates what can be accomplished with experience, sound planning, and a commitment to the people of Russell.

I believe we can invest in our city's future without sacrificing our financial independence or placing unnecessary burdens on our taxpayers.

My promise to Russell: I will put Russell first, pursue new opportunities, protect our citizens, and work toward a stronger financial future for our city.

I did it before. I can do it again.

Don Fraley for Mayor: Proven Leadership. Responsible Spending. A Stronger Russell."

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
ORDINANCE NO. 101, 2026

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ASHLAND, KENTUCKY, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING CHUCK D. CHARLES, MAYOR, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE SALVATION ARMY OF ASHLAND, THE SUB-RECIPIENT OF $10,000.00 FOR OPERATING COSTS FROM THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT.

* * * * * * * *

/s/CHUCK D. CHARLES
MAYOR

ATTEST:

/s/SUSAN W. MADDIX
CITY CLERK

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:
September 10, 2026
READOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:
September 24, 2026

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the titles of Ordinance No. 101, 2026 is a true and accurate summary of the contents of the ordinance prepared by the Legal Department of the City of Ashland, Kentucky, consisting of attorneys licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

/s/Andrew K. Wheeler
Corporation Counsel

Subscribed and sworn to before me by Andrew K. Wheeler this 24th day of September, 2026. My commission as a Notary Public will expire April 9, 2028.

/s/CHRISTINA DANAE TRAVIS
NOTARY PUBLIC
STATE OF KENTUCKY AT LARGE
ID# KYNP87437

Published: October 31, 2026