

Grant County candidate filings for the 2026 General Election

BY DEBORAH LUCAS ANGEL
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Grant County Clerk Colton Simpson reported the following list of candidates will be on the ballot on Election Day, Nov. 3.

PARTISAN RACES

(All candidates are registered Republican by party, Simpson noted.)

Magistrate District 1 · Jacquelyn M. Ammer Riler, jacqalynn@gmail.com

Magistrate District 2 · Jeremy Lilly, jillymagistrate@gmail.com

Magistrate District 3 · Leo Lewis Saylor, leo.saylortrailers@yahoo.com

Jailer · Tonya Beagle, tbeagle37@gmail.com

County Clerk · J. Colton Simpson, jcoltonsimpson@gmail.com

Coroner · Patrick Michael Stanley, kyarms@fuse.net

Sheriff · Dennis A. Switzer, II, dswitzer916@gmail.com

Judge/Executive · C. E.

"Chuck" chuckdills901@gmail.com

Property Valuation Administrator (PVA) · Elliot "Eli" Anderson, elliotanderson@gmail.com

County Attorney · Peter W. "Pete" Whaley, kypetelaw@gmail.com

Grant County Constable District 1, Steven Amorese, uniqueaquariumsky@gmail.com

Grant County Constable District 2, Michael Scott Neidigh, dryridgeconstable@gmail.com

Surveyor · David C. Blaker, davidc.blaker@gmail.com

Grant County Clerk's Office."

Crittenden Mayor: James L. Purcell: jimpurcell48@gmail.com

Council: Mary Angenette "Ange" Morris: cakeange@gmail.com

Michelle Bohman: mbohman1976@gmail.com

Robert B. Tanner, Jr.: bobbytannercityofcrittenden@yahoo.com

Bobby Newman: bobby.newman@twc.com

Joseph C. Dusing: dusingky@gmail.com

Corinth Mayor: Charles Dalaney Bishop: dalaneybishop@gmail.com

Council: Paul D. Ollberding: pollberding@fuse.net

Barbara Cook: barbnew746@gmail.com

Jessica Beach: jessicarratcliff.21@gmail.com

Darren Billiter: darrenraybilliter@gmail.com

Dry Ridge

Mayor: Greg Brockman: fh6bro@gmail.com

Council: Brandy Jo Hall: brandy.hall79@yahoo.com

Kenny Edmondson: kennyedmondson99@yahoo.com

Jessica Pelfrey Vincent: jvincent0416@yahoo.com

James Hendy: jamesahendy@yahoo.com

Jeffery D. Decker: jbecker111381@icloud.com

Williamstown Mayor: David A. Henson: d.hensonri@gmail.com

Council: Ronnie Maines: ronniemaines61@gmail.com

Kim A. Crupper: PO Box 37, KY 41097

April Fabela: ahenson6878@gmail.com

Gina Austin Smith: gina_austinsmith@yahoo.com

Robert W. Perry: bperry@wkybb.net

Constable District 1: Steven Amorese: uniqueaquariumsky@gmail.com

Constable District 2: Michael Scott Neidigh: dryridgeconstable@gmail.com

GRANT COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

District 2: Loretta Flerlage: sflerage@zoomtown.com

District 4: Gene Nelson: genenelson4785@yahoo.com

Williamstown Independent Schools Board

Kristie Jo Willoby: k.willoby@ourheritage.bank

Roy Osborne: rosborne72@aol.com

Chris Spivey: cnspivey.cs@gmail.com

Colton Simpson, Grant County Clerk noted, "Per KRS 262.240(1), when exactly three candidates file for Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor, the county clerk can certify the election. Because Grant County had exactly three candidates file for these positions, the soil and water candidates will not be placed on the November 3rd, 2026 General Election Ballot."

Gracie the Giraffe, who went missing after wandering off a Texas ranch, is finally found

BY JOHN HANNA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gracie the Giraffe, who went missing for about two weeks in Texas after wandering off a remote private ranch, was finally found Friday — and the open range appeared to have agreed with her.

The giraffe was spotted about 4 miles (6.4 kilometers) south of her enclosure during an aerial search in the Texas Hill Country, according to Real County Sheriff Nathan Johnson. He said Gracie's owner, Vick Jones, contacted a veterinarian and began putting together a team to bring the giraffe safely back to the ranch.

"She's in good shape," Jones said. "She's standing there, swishing her tail."

Gracie, who is about 3 years old and weighs at least 1,200 pounds, was found within a half-mile of a pond and creek and had plenty of vegetation to feed on, said Jones, adding that she appeared to have been in that area for about a week.

Getting the 10-foot-tall giraffe home to the Cedar Hollow Ranch, about 100 miles west of San Antonio,

was taking some work.

Veterinarians needed time to sedate Gracie and put a hood over her eyes, Jones said. From there, Gracie will be moved with an open-pasture trailer to a taller, enclosed trailer made for giraffes for the trip back to the ranch.

Parts of the remote area cannot be reached by car, which prompted the search by helicopter. While Real County's 2,700 residents were urged to keep an eye out for her, Gracie was found on private property where no one lives, Jones said.

"We didn't bother her," Jones said of the sighting. "She's got water. She looked in really good shape."

The Texas Hill Country has one of the largest concentrations of exotic captive animals in the U.S. Johnson said this week he's had reports of missing wildebeests, water buffalo, zebras and monkeys, though never a giraffe previously.

The area has a mild climate and rugged terrain — and plenty of vegetation for Gracie to eat. In Africa, giraffes thrive best in dry and

semidry savannahs and grasslands.

Jones believes that Gracie, who arrived at the ranch in May, didn't mean to leave it. She had been wandering up to a rocky area to feed on trees growing out of the rock and had always come back to the ranch's giraffe enclosure.

Jones said Gracie wandered into the rocky area, fed, and came down on the wrong side of the gate. At that point, he said, it was easier for her to keep walking in the same direction than to try to go back.

The area wasn't fenced because giraffes had not been going there until Gracie did — and building a fence requires jackhammering through rock to put up the posts. But Jones said he plans to have a fence put up now, and Gracie will stay in the ranch's giraffe enclosure until it's ready.

Despite Gracie's size, she wouldn't have harmed a person who encountered her off the ranch, Jones said.

"If you move toward her, she's taking off," he said.

SENATOR

FROM PAGE A1

across the state, including regionally in Oldham and Mercer counties along with Madison, Indiana. The centers are the byproduct of the massive expansion of artificial intelligence (AI) and have been blamed for affecting ground water and increasing local utility bills.

While he described AI as something that will continue to grow, he also voiced concerns not only about federal decisions to expand the development of data centers, but also about federal use of AI in surveillance.

"I think AI is coming. I don't think anybody can put the genie back in the box," Paul said. "I think AI will bring benefits, particularly in the private industry and private world, but where I see potential problems with AI are in government's use in spying or surveilling on its citizenry."

Additionally, Paul discussed current economic issues that he sees affecting Kentucky. He said that inflation, the rising cost of gas, and affordability are some of the biggest concerns facing Kentuckians.

Paul argued that federal spending has been the biggest contributor to inflation, causing higher prices for groceries, housing, and other essentials.

"We've got to quit spending money we don't

have," Paul said. "Inflation is very clearly caused by government debt. If we want to have more stable prices and less loss of purchasing power, the first thing is we have to spend less money, we have to be more fiscally responsible."

Paul pointed to his proposal and long-time support for the "Penny Plan," a budget plan that would reduce federal spending by a certain percentage (originally 1%, now 6%) across the board. He said measures such as that would help slow inflation and improve the nation's long-term fiscal outlook without having to eliminate entire programs or targeting programs favored by one political party.

"The reason I like looking at this is it shows that whether it's a program favored by Republicans or a program favored by Democrats, we cut all the same," Paul said. "You actually could balance the budget, and I think it's a good way of trying to approach the problem."

Paul also discussed rising fuel costs, which he said remain a concern for many Kentuckians, particularly in rural communities.

"We're hearing from people who say, 'for goodness' sakes, I know I fill up half my tank of gas now and can't go on vacations,'" Paul said. "Income is not keeping up with inflation and war-induced prices on gasoline."

Paul pointed to the conflict with Iran as a factor

behind increased price of gasoline as well as the rising cost fertilizer, which he says is affecting farmers in western Kentucky.

"The war is what's causing it," Paul said. "I don't think we're better off having fought the war, so I would argue to end the war as soon as possible."

Paul also emphasized the importance of free, international trade to Kentucky's economy, specifically for car manufacturers.

"One thing that I hear from the car manufacturers is that free trade, international trade, is good for them," Paul said. "The free flow of both parts and cars is good for Kentucky and good for the United States as well. I think that's a debate that we need to continue to have, and try to dispel the fallacies concerning trade, that trade somehow hurts us when I think trade is a benefit."

Looking ahead, Paul listed the automotive, aerospace and logistics industry as industries that will continue to grow and play an important role in Kentucky's economy and future.

"I think Kentucky's got a lot to be proud of," Paul said.

Paul's office regularly hosts telephone town halls for Kentucky residents, allowing constituents to ask questions about discuss issues affecting their communities. Sign up to be notified of the tele-town-halls is available at www.paul.senate.gov/live.

Peer named to Miami University Dean's List

Karaline Peer of Dry Ridge was named to the Dean's List at Miami University for the 2026 spring semester.

Miami University students who are ranked in the top 20% of undergraduate

students in their division for the 2026 spring semester have been named to the Dean's List, in recognition of academic performance.

Congratulations to Peer for this academic achievement.

**YOUR CUSTOMER
JUST READ THIS AD.
ADVERTISE WITH US.**

NOTICE

Duke Energy Kentucky, Inc. (Duke Energy Kentucky or Company) hereby gives notice that, in an application to be filed no later than July 1, 2026, Duke Energy Kentucky will be seeking approval by the Public Service Commission, Frankfort, Kentucky, of an adjustment of its Pipeline Modernization Mechanism (Rider PMM) rates and charges proposed to become effective on and after January 1, 2027. The Commission has docketed this proceeding as Case No. 2026-00162.

DUKE ENERGY KENTUCKY PRESENT AND PROPOSED RATES

The present and proposed rates charged in all territories served by Duke Energy Kentucky are as follows:

Residential Service – Rate RS

Present Rates	
Rate RS, Residential Service	\$0.27/ccf
Proposed Rates	
Rate RS, Residential Service	\$0.35/ccf

General Service – Rate GS

Present Rates	
Rate GS, General Service	\$0.08/ccf
Proposed Rates	
Rate GS, General Service	\$0.10/ccf

Firm Transportation Service – Large Rate FT-L

Present Rates	
Rate FT-L, Firm Transportation Service – Large	\$0.00489/ccf
Proposed Rates	
Rate FT-L, Firm Transportation Service – Large	\$0.00646/ccf

Interruptible Transportation – Rate IT

Present Rates	
Rate IT, Interruptible Transportation	\$0.00227/ccf
Proposed Rates	
Rate IT, Interruptible Transportation	\$0.00305/ccf

IMPACT OF PROPOSED RATES

These rates reflect an increase in gas revenues of approximately \$25,018,289 for 2027 to Duke Energy Kentucky. The allocation of this estimated increase among rate classes is as follows:

Rate RS – Residential Service	\$21,065,400	84.2%
Rate GS – General Service	\$ 3,716,217	14.9%
Rate FT-L – Firm Transportation Service (Includes DGS)	\$ 188,388	0.8%
Rate IT – Interruptible Transportation Service	\$ 48,285	0.2%

The average monthly bill for each customer class to which the proposed rates will apply will increase (decrease) approximately as follows:

Rate RS – Residential Service	\$ 4.00	3.64%
Rate GS – General Service	\$ 7.80	1.25%
Rate FT-L – Firm Transportation Service (Includes DGS)	\$ 25.91	0.42%
Rate IT – Interruptible Transportation Service	\$ 70.66	0.64%

The rates contained in this notice are the rates proposed by Duke Energy Kentucky; however, the Commission may order rates to be charged that differ from the proposed rates contained in this notice. Such action may result in a rate for consumers other than the rates in this notice.

Any corporation, association, body politic or person with a substantial interest in the matter may, by written request within thirty (30) days after publication of this notice of the proposed rate changes, request leave to intervene; intervention may be granted beyond the 30-day period for good cause shown. Such motion shall be submitted to the Kentucky Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 615, 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602-0615, and shall set forth the grounds for the request including the status and interest of the party. If the Commission does not receive a written request for intervention within thirty (30) days of the initial publication, the Commission may take final action on the application.

Intervenor may obtain copies of the application and other filings made by the Company by requesting same through email at DEKInquiries@duke-energy.com or by telephone at (513) 287-4366. A copy of the application and other filings made by the Company are available for public inspection through the Commission's website at <http://psc.ky.gov>, at the Commission's office at 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and at the following Company office: Erlanger Ops Center, 1262 Cox Road, Erlanger, Kentucky 41018. Comments regarding the application may be submitted to the Public Service Commission through its website, or by mail at the following Commission address.

For further information contact:

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY P.O. BOX 615 211 SOWER BOULEVARD FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40602-0615 (502) 564-3940	DUKE ENERGY KENTUCKY 1262 COX ROAD ERLANGER, KENTUCKY 41018 DEKInquiries@duke-energy.com (513) 287-4366
--	---