Representative Bivens: Honoring those who made our freedoms possible



State Representative Ryan Bivens

Let me start by expressing a heartfelt thank you to a group of men and women who dedicated their lives to the service of our nation, making immeasurable sacrifices in the pursuit of freedom, justice, and peace. In a world that often seems more divided by the day, one group of individuals embodies the ideals of unity, courage, and selflessness more than any other, our veterans.

The debt of gratitude we owe our veterans is immeasurable. Their service is the foundation upon which our security and prosperity stand. Each year, we set aside the eleventh day of November as Veterans Day. This important day was established by Congress in 1938 to celebrate the brave men and women, past and present, who have served and continue to serve the United States of America.

Veterans have protected our values, our constitutional republic, and our way of life. They have been ambassadors of hope, peace, and freedom in places where these principles were threatened. Their unwavering dedication to duty, even in the face of personal risk, is an inspiration to us all.

We must also recognize the families of our veterans who have made their own sacrifices. Spouses, children, parents, and siblings have endured the uncertainty of deployment, celebrated homecomings, and supported their loved ones through the physical and emotional toll that service takes. They have shown resilience and strength in the face of adversity, and their role in the support network of our veterans is invaluable.

Kentucky has a long and proud tradition of military service, with 280,000 veterans who call the Commonwealth their home. We have a strong statewide network of programs, organizations, and educational supports to help our veterans as they transition from military service to civilian life and back with their families.

Kentucky is home to programs such as the Kentucky Career Center's Veteran Services that connect veterans with employment opportunities and employers that value their discipline and expertise. Many of our colleges and universities provide veteran support services, counseling services, scholarships, and career support to help set those returning to school up for success. There are countless organizations such as KY VALOR (Veterans Accelerated Licensure Occupational Recruitment), The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), and USA Cares (headquartered in Kentucky) that provide important services to veterans such as job placement, licensing pathways, mental health wellness support, and post-service skills training.

As a legislature, we remain committed to enacting policies to position Kentucky as a pro-military, pro-veteran state. In recent years, the General Assembly has taken steps to strengthen benefits and expand access to care for veterans and prevent veteran suicide by providing support to those who have served and their families.

The legislature has also taken steps to help make service-related relocations easier for service members and their families, including legislation aimed at recognizing professional licensure and education from other states, supporting military-connected children through the Purple Star School Program, and making it easier for relocating military families to register children for school.

During the 2026 Regular Session, we advanced legislation to expand veteran treatment options for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), support veteran well-being, and support relocating military families by recognizing professional licensure from other states, including:

HB 369 includes post-traumatic stress disorder as a qualifying medical condition for hyperbaric oxygen therapy.

HB 436 will allow free greens fees at state park golf courses to veterans who graduate from the PGA HOPE (Helping Our Patriots Everywhere) program and one guest.

HB 36 will allow Kentucky to join interstate compacts for respiratory care, athletic trainers, and licensed dieticians, which would support relocating military families, expand patient access to care, promote license portability, and address workforce shortages.

Since June, we have been holding interim joint committee meetings to discuss important issues and potential legislation for the 2027 Regular Session. The Interim Joint Committee on Veterans, Military Affairs, and Public Protections meets next on November 18th at 11 a.m. ET/ 10 a.m. CT to receive an update from Fort Knox, Fort Campbell, and the Department of Defense. For more information on how to tune in, visit legislature.ky.gov.

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 Ryan.Bivens@kylegislature.gov.

Ky. Democrats flip 9 seats; GOP keeps supermajority

By Tom Latek
Kentucky Today

Democrats flipped nine seats in the Kentucky General Assembly during Tuesday's General Election. However, it wasn't enough to end the Republican supermajority in either the House or Senate.

Two GOP Senate seats went to Democrats in the election, although Republicans still hold a 30-8 majority.

In the Senate, incumbent Lindsey Tichenor of Smithfield, who has represented the Sixth District since 2023, was upset by Democrat Christian Furman, by a 51-49 percent margin. The district includes Oldham, Trimble and a small part of Jefferson County.

In the 36th Senate District, which includes part of Jefferson County, Julie Raque Adams of Louisville, who has held the seat since 2015 and even held a party leadership post (Majority Caucus Chair) at one time, lost to Democrat Sarah Cole McIntosh, 52 to 48 percent.

In the House, seven of the 100 seats changed from red to blue, although Republicans will remain a 73-27 supermajority.

In the 28th District, which includes part of Jefferson County, Jared Bauman, who has served since 2023, lost to Democrat Almaria Baker, 54-46 percent.

In the 29th District, which includes part of Jefferson County, Chris Lewis lost his bid for a second term, 53-47 percent to Democrat Cassie Blausey.

In the 31st District, which includes part of Jefferson County, Susan Tyler Witten, who has held the office since 2023, was defeated by a 57-43 percent margin to Democrat Tim Hall.

In the 33rd District which includes parts of Jefferson, Oldham and Shelby counties, Jason Nemes, who has served since 2017 and is the House Majority Whip, was defeated by Democrat Jennifer Hardin, 52-48 percent.

In the 39th District, consisting of parts of Fayette and Jessamine counties, Matt Lockett, in office since 2021, lost to Democrat Ryan Stanford, 51-49 percent.

In the 48th District, which includes parts of Jefferson and Oldham counties, Ken Fleming who has served for eight years, lost by a 52-48 percent margin to Democrat Suhas Kulkarni, father of Nima Kulkarni, who won re-election in the 40th District.

In the 65th District, which includes part of Kenton County, Stephanie Dietz lost her bid for a third term to Democrat Aaron John Currin, by a 53-47 percent margin.

These results have not yet been certified by the county board of elections. Once they are, any race where the margin was less than one-half percent is subject to an automatic recount.

Results

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In the 5th District race for Board of Education member, Emily Bishop unseated long-time member Marshel Davis. In a very tight race between Bishop and Charity Ferguson, Bishop won with 286 votes. Ferguson totaled 255 votes and Davis totaled 112 votes.

Andy Barr received almost 81% of the votes in Green County in the race for United States Senator. Statewide, he defeated Charles Booker by about 172,000 votes. Christopher Campbell ran as a candidate for the Kentucky Party. He received just over 2% of the votes statewide and locally. Barr will take the place of Mitch McConnell, long-time senator from Kentucky.

Brett Guthrie was re-elected to serve as Congressman from Kentucky in the 2nd District. He defeated Megan Winfield and Thomas Loecken, by gaining 63% of the votes. In Green County, Guthrie racked up almost 84% of the votes.

Ryan Dale Bivens retained his role as State Representative of the 24th District, which includes Green County. He defeated Johnny Pennington by almost 7,000 votes.

Several local races were unopposed in Green County and the winners in the primary elections knew that they were automatically elected.

County-wide officials who were unopposed in the General Election include James Bonta as Green County Judge-Executive, Jessica Shofner Baker as County Clerk, Russell Goff as County Attorney, Robby Beard as Green County Sheriff, Tommy Pepper as Jailer, David Taylor as Coroner, Sean Curry as PVA, and Brian Ferguson as County Surveyor.

In the five magisterial races, none of the people faced opposition in the General Election. Andrew Parson in the 1st District, Tim Darnell in the 2nd District, Terry Aaron in the 4th District and Charles Judd in the 5th District were all re-elected. Heather Moss is the new magistrate on Fiscal Court, representing the 3rd District.

In the Constable races, Albert Lee Ray in the 1st District, James W. Adkins in the 4th District and Jerry L. Davis in the 5th District won their elections. All ran unopposed.

Debra Lambert was elected to serve as the Justice of the Supreme County, 3rd District. Greg Lay will serve as the Judge of the Court of Appeals, 3rd Appellate District. In the District Judge races, Amy Sullivan Anderson and William "Mike" Hall will continue serving in the 11th Judicial District, 1st and 2nd Divisions, respectively. None of these four faced opposition.

There was one Constitutional Amendment on the ballot which passed easily in Green County and across the state. The amendment prohibits the governor from giving pardons and reprieves during the election period which includes 60 days prior to the election and almost five weeks after the election. That amendment passed by more than 500,000 votes. In Green County, it passed by more than 1300 votes.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Green County Fiscal Court shall conduct a second reading and consider adoption of a proposed ordinance amending the Green County budget for fiscal year 26-27 to include unanticipated receipts in General, Road, Opioid Settlement Agreement, and Workforce Development in the amount of $1,808,324.48; expenditures will increase in the area of Reserve for Transfer. The reading will be conducted on November 23, 2026 at 5 P.M. in the courtroom of the Green County Courthouse. A copy of the proposed ordinance with full text is available for public inspection at the office of the County Judge/Executive, 203 West Court Street, Greensburg, KY 42743 during normal business hours.

NOTICE OF BID FOR CONSULTANTS

The Green County Fiscal Court is seeking "SEALED BIDS" from qualified consultants with expertise in Emergency Planning, Disaster Recovery, and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) management, who are interested in providing professional consulting services to assist Green County in applying for and managing Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grants to address existing hazards and mitigate the effects of future disasters.

The bidder should include their professional qualifications, years of experience, and relevant work history as proposals will be scored using these criteria. The bidder should also include the proposed scope pf wok and how they will charge for their services.

The proposals must be delivered by hand or through the mail to Green County Fiscal Court, 203 West Court Street, Greensburg, KY 42743 and clearly marked as "Sealed Bid for Disaster Recovery Services."

Responses must be received by 4 PM Central Time on Friday, November 20, 2026, as no late proposals will be accepted. Proposals will be opened at the Green County Fiscal Court Monthly Meeting on Monday, November 23, 2026, beginning at 5 PM Central Time. Green County Fiscal Court reserves the right to accept or reject any proposals submitted.

PUBLIC NOTICE
GREEN COUNTY EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Pursuant to Section 324, Title III of the 1986 Federal Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986, 42 U.S.C., 11001 et seq., the following information is provided in compliance with the Community Right – to – Know requirements of the SARA Law, and the open meetings and open records provisions of KRS 61.800, 61.805, 61.810, 61.823, 61.826, 61.835. Members of the public may contact the Green County Emergency Planning Committee by writing Adam Whitlock, Chairman of the Green County Local Emergency Planning Committee, 203 W. Court St., Greensburg, KY 42743.

The Green County Local Emergency Planning Committee conducts meetings at the Green County Emergency Management Room, 203 W. Court St., Greensburg, KY 42743, or at other locations, in accordance with the Kentucky Open Meetings Law. Members of the public may request to be notified of regular or special meetings as provided in KRS 61.820. Records of the planning committee, including the county emergency response plan, material safety, data sheets, and inventory forms, or any follow-up emergency notices as may be subsequently be issued, are open for inspection, and members of the public who wish to review these records may do so 8:00 -4:00 central time, at the Green County Emergency Management room, as required by the Kentucky Open Records Law. The local 24 – hour telephone number for purposes of emergency notification, as required by SARA Law is (270) 932-4911.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Lake Cumberland Area Development District's Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 19th, 2026 at 11:00 am CT (12:00 pm ET), in the large conference room at the Lake Cumberland Area Development District office in Russell Springs. This meeting will also be available by Zoom.