

Hart Historical News

BY KENZIE HOUCHENS

GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

The Hart County Historical Society would like to correct the previously published date for the Roy A. Cann Awards Banquet.

The banquet was originally scheduled for February 7, but due to the recent winter storm, the event has been rescheduled for March 7. We appreciate

the community's understanding and apologize for any inconvenience.

Tickets for the banquet are \$25 per person, and tables of 6-8 guests are available by reservation. To reserve a table, please visit the museum in person or call 270-524-0101.

The Historical Society is also proud to announce that our Black History Month window exhibit is now

on display.

This exhibit honors Black women from Hart County who have served in the United States military.

The display will remain up through March, allowing us to

continue celebrating these women during Women's History Month as well.

We invite everyone to stop by, view the exhibit, and join us in supporting and celebrating Hart County's history.

PROGRAM

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Food Service Program or becoming involved are encouraged to complete the Summer Food Service Program Interest Survey. Participants who submit the survey will be contacted by KDE with additional program details and information on upcoming training opportunities. The Summer Food Service Program has long served as a critical safety net for children during the summer months, helping communities across Kentucky ensure that hunger does not take a vacation when school is out of session.



ALLISON BALL AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Independent Auditor's Report

To the People of Kentucky

The Honorable Andy Beshear, Governor

Holly M. Johnson, Secretary

Finance and Administration Cabinet

The Honorable Joe Choate, Hart County Judge/Executive

Members of the Hart County Fiscal Court

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statement**Opinions**

We have audited the accompanying Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Balances – Regulatory Basis of the Hart County Fiscal Court, for the year ended June 30, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statement, which collectively comprise the Hart County Fiscal Court's financial statement as listed in the table of contents.

Unmodified Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the receipts, disbursements, and changes in fund balances – regulatory basis of the Hart County Fiscal Court, for the year ended June 30, 2025, in accordance with accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Commonwealth of Kentucky as described in Note 1.

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles section of our report, the financial statements do not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of each fund of the Hart County Fiscal Court, for the year ended June 30, 2025, or the changes in financial position and cash flows thereof for the year then ended.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS), the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the *Fiscal Court Audit Guide* issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Hart County Fiscal Court and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

As described in Note 1 of the financial statement, the financial statement is prepared by the Hart County Fiscal Court on the basis of the accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Department for Local Government to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The effects on the financial statement of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 1 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material and pervasive.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statement

Hart County Fiscal Court's management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statement in accordance with accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Department for Local Government to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws. This includes determining that the regulatory basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for the preparation of the financial statement in the circumstances. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of a financial statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Hart County Fiscal Court's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statement.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statement, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Hart County Fiscal Court's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statement.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Hart County Fiscal Court's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Other Matters*Supplementary Information*

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statement taken as a whole of the Hart County Fiscal Court. The Budgetary Comparison Schedules are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statement; however, they are required to be presented in accordance with accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Department for Local Government to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws.

The accompanying Budgetary Comparison Schedules are the responsibility of management and were derived from and relate directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statement. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statement and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statement or to the financial statement itself, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the Budgetary Comparison Schedules are fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statement as a whole.

Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information included in this report. The other information is comprised of the schedule of capital assets but does not include the financial statement and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinions on the financial statement do not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon. In connection with our audit of the financial statement, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the financial statement, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated January 12, 2026, on our consideration of the Hart County Fiscal Court's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Hart County Fiscal Court's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Based on the results of our audit, we present the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses included herein, which discusses the following report findings:

2025-001 The Hart County Fiscal Court Did Not Approve All Cash Transfers

2025-002 The Hart County Fiscal Court Lacks Adequate Controls Over Disbursements

2025-003 The Hart County Fiscal Court Lacks Internal Controls Over Payroll

2025-004 The Hart County Fiscal Court's Appropriations Budget Was Materially Overstated On The Fourth Quarter Report

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Ball

Auditor of Public Accounts

Frankfort, KY

January 12, 2026

State law requires the Auditor of Public Accounts to annually audit fiscal courts, county clerks, and sheriffs; and print the results in a newspaper having general circulation in the county. The complete audit and any other audit of state agencies, fiscal courts, county clerks, sheriffs, and property valuation administrators may be viewed in the reports section of the Auditor of Public Accounts' website at auditor.ky.gov or upon request by calling 1-800-247-9126.

209 ST. CLAIR STREET
FRANKFORT, KY 40601-1817TELEPHONE 502.564.5841
FACSIMILE 502.564.2912
AUDITOR.KY.GOV

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