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The Hart County News-Herald

OPINION

October 15, 2026



Representative Ryan Bivens

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Voice your choice: impact our future, one vote at a time

Whatever plans you may have for the beginning of November, I hope they include a visit to your polling place to cast your ballot in this year’s election. The 2026 General Election will be held Tuesday, November 3. Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. local time. If you’re in line but have not voted by 6 p.m., stay in line. Kentucky law allows voters who are in line at 6 p.m. to cast their ballots.

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.

Election Day is an important opportunity for Kentuckians to exercise one of our most fundamental rights, the right to vote. Our participation in the democratic process helps shape the future of our communities, our state, and our Commonwealth.

Whether you are a first-time voter or have participated in elections for decades, being an informed voter is one of the most important steps you

can take. Voting is about more than simply showing up at the polls. It means taking the time to understand the candidates and issues on your ballot and making decisions based on the information and priorities that matter most to you, your family, and your community.

Before Election Day, make sure you are prepared. Check your voter registration, confirm your polling location, and review Kentucky’s voter identification requirements. If you have recently moved, changed your name, or need to update your registration, make sure your information is accurate.

Important Voter Resources:

- Check your voter registration: <https://vrsws.sos.ky.gov/VIC/>
- Find your polling location: <https://elect.ky.gov/Voters/Pages/Polling-Locations.aspx>
- View the 2026 Election Calendar: <https://elect.ky.gov/Resources/Pages/Election-Calendar.aspx>
- View your county’s sample ballot: <https://web.sos.ky.gov/electionballots/>

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.

Taking a few minutes to review your ballot before you vote can also make the process easier. You do not have to vote in every race, but knowing which candidates and questions will appear on your ballot gives you an opportunity to research the issues important to you and make thoughtful decisions before you arrive at the polls.

Our communities are strongest when citizens take an active role in the democratic process. I encourage every eligible Kentucky voter to make a plan to participate in this year’s election. Check your registration. Know where you vote. Review your ballot. Learn about the candidates and issues.

Whether you vote on Election Day or take advantage of Kentucky’s early voting options, make sure you are prepared to make your voice heard. Your vote matters, and an informed vote can help shape the future for your community, your family, and our Commonwealth. This November, exercise your right to vote 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 Ryan.Bivens@kylegislature.gov and keep track through the Kentucky legislature’s website at legislature.ky.gov.

Political, Yard Sale, Real Estate, and Other Promotional Signs are Restricted on Right of Way

Illegally placed items along state maintained right of way areas are subject to be removed. Political campaigns, residents, business operators and property owners along US and KY routes are reminded no signage is allowed on right of way other than official highway signs for traffic purposes and items approved through a permit process. Non-permitted signs can create additional hazards by blocking sight distance or distracting drivers, particularly at intersections. We are also in the final mowing cycle

of the year and signs can impede progress and become hazardous to mowing crews and passing motorists.

Requests have been received to clear non-permitted signs from right of way areas across the district. With elections and organized yard sale events coming up, anyone wanting to place such signage must do so beyond roadway right of way limits. Along routes with a right of way fence, the fence is included with the restriction and no signage may be attached.

In addition to signs, right of way restrictions also apply to yard sales and peddling activities and associated parking.

It is also illegal to attach signs or items such as flyers, posters, balloons or streamers to stop signs, highway markers or any other road sign or utility pole. Illegal placement on utility poles presents additional obstacles and potential dangers for utility crew

Guthrie Leads Members of Congress in Submitting Amicus Brief in Support of Kentucky Lawsuit Against the EPA

On October 2, Congressman Brett Guthrie (KY-02), Chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, led in filing an amicus brief on behalf of 12 Members of Congress in support of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and other states’ request that the Supreme Court of the United States hear an appeal in a significant Clean Air Act case, Commonwealth of Kentucky, et al. v. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, et al.

Petitioning states argue that the Biden-Harris Administration’s Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) revised the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for fine particulate matter (PM2.5) in 2024 without conducting the “thorough review” required by the Clean Air Act. These revised standards, imposed by the Biden-Harris EPA, will restrict the construction of new American manufacturing plants and energy projects, as well as improvements at existing sites, in many parts of the country.

“For four years, the Biden-Harris Administration imposed countless burdensome environmental regulations that handcuffed American industries and made everyday life more expensive,” said Congressman Guthrie. “I am proud to lead my colleagues in filing this amicus brief in support of the Commonwealth of Kentucky’s lawsuit to vacate the Biden-Harris Administration’s PM2.5 NAAQS finalized rule, arguing that the revised NAAQS was adopted on an incomplete scientific record and without the required thorough review. If implemented, this rule would devastate American manufacturing and energy and stifle American innovation. I am hopeful the Supreme Court will grant the petitioning states a Writ of Certiorari and that the petitioning states will ultimately prevail in court.”

The amicus brief is supported by Reps. Brett Guthrie (KY-02), Rick Allen (GA-12), Troy Balderson (OH-12), Andy Barr (KY-06), Julie Fedorchak (ND-AL), Craig Goldman (TX-12), Morgan Griffith (VA-09), Diana Harshbarger (TN-01), Erin Houchin (IN-09), Nick Langworthy (NY-22), August Pfluger (TX-11), Hal Rogers (KY-05), and Randy Weber (TX-14).

BACKGROUND:

- In 2020, the Trump Administration EPA finalized a rule for the PM2.5 NAAQS under the Clean Air Act, which was conducted as part of the standard 5-year review required under the Act and kept the standard at 12 micrograms/cubic meter.
- In 2024, the Biden-Harris EPA revised the Trump Administration’s EPA ruling, lowering the PM2.5 standard to 9 micrograms/cubic meter.

•Throughout the 119th Congress, the House Committee on Energy and Commerce has held multiple hearings and taken action on legislation to ensure the Clean Air Act continues protecting human health and the environment and without stopping economic development and growth. During this work, the Committee has found that