

SHELTON

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politics in multiple roles for approximately 45 years. Shelton said those experiences shaped his belief that public office is rooted in service.

“I try every day to help somebody in one way or another,” Shelton said. “Politics is about service. When you’re an elected official, you’re working for the people.”

Shelton said his decision to run for Congress was driven by the economic condition of the 5th District, which has consistently ranked among the poorest congressional districts in the nation.

“Our district has been at or near the bottom for 40-some years,” Shelton said. “At some point, people have to recognize that doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result doesn’t work.”

A central pillar of Shelton’s campaign is support for congressional term limits. He said long tenures in office can lead to stagnation and disconnect representatives from constituents.

“If you had a coach who finished at the bottom year after year, eventually people would want a different direction,” Shelton said. “It’s the same in politics.”

doesn’t benefit anyone.”

“When the election’s over, it’s time to go to work,” Shelton said. “Your job is to serve the people and do their will as best you can.”

Shelton said he looks to help at least one person every day. He described it as a standard he tries to live by, whether through small gestures or grander overtures.

“I try each and every day to serve somebody, help somebody out in one way or another, no matter whether it’s small or large,” Shelton said. He said that help can range from taking someone to a doctor’s appointment, assisting with work around their property or running errands, to something as simple as holding a door open for a stranger. Shelton said the practice keeps him grounded and reinforces his belief that leadership begins with everyday actions. “I believe we’ve got a responsibility to serve others as best that we can,” he said.

Shelton said his guiding principle in Congress would be very similar: It’s all about service to constituents rather than ideology.

“It’s our job to come together and better our community and our country as whole. That’s the ultimate goal.”

SCHOOL

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Benson was named board secretary at an annual salary of \$6,000.

The board also set its 2026 meeting calendar, including a change to the July meeting date. Members agreed to move the meeting from July 2 to July 7 to avoid the Kentucky High School Athletic Association’s summer dead period, allowing families and staff with student-athletes additional uninterrupted vacation time.

Discussion items included a presentation of the district’s 2024–25 financial audit by Joe Montgomery of Montgomery and Co. Board members received the full report at the meeting, with highlighting key figures and changes. The audit

found the district in compliance with all financial rules and guidelines, with finances trending in a positive direction.

Administrators also reviewed a proposed draft budget for the 2026–27 school year, which must be submitted to the Kentucky Department of Education by Jan. 31. The draft general fund budget totals approximately \$42 million, with SEEK funding estimated at \$14.2 million based on an allocation of \$4,586 per average daily attendance. Officials noted continued enrollment declines and rising assessments affect SEEK calculations. Salary and benefits account for about 66% of the general fund, while contingency funds are budgeted at 13%, exceeding the state-mandated 2%.

Additional discussions covered change orders

Mobile ID program begins

By TOM LATEK  
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT — To help prevent identity theft and deliver modern licensing services, Gov. Andy Beshear said Tuesday that Kentuckians can download Kentucky Mobile ID, a secure digital version of a standard or REAL ID driver’s license or ID accepted for air travel at more than 250 airports.

The app is used at Transportation Security Administration checkpoints to verify a user’s identity and helps protect privacy by sharing only the information needed. The app does not replace a physical ID or driver’s license, which should still be carried at all times.

“Mobile ID offers Kentuckians more options for air travel, while further protecting them from identity theft or having their private information shared,” Beshear said. “We want our families to be safe and feel safe while they are traveling, and this is just another step Team Kentucky is taking to increase safety for our people.”

A Kentucky Mobile ID is stored on the user’s smartphone as a valid form of ID locked behind a mobile phone’s unique PIN, Touch ID or Face ID, so that, if the device is lost or stolen, the ID is locked. The authenticity of the Mobile ID is ensured through verification with the Transportation Cabinet, based on records created when a user applies for a driver’s license or state ID.

To learn more about Mobile ID or how to verify a Mobile ID, visit [drive.ky.gov/mobile-ID](https://drive.ky.gov/mobile-ID)

JACKSON

Continued from A1

his name, Adams described Jackson’s accomplishments as remarkable.

“It is unbelievable to imagine winning 700 games,” he said. “I think about the dedication that takes. All the practices, fundraisers, summer ball and seasons he has been part of over the years. It’s truly remarkable and we’re honored to recognize him for his hall of fame career.”

Coach Jackson himself said the honor came as a surprise and left him feeling humbled.

“I’m very, very honored and very humbled,” Jackson said. “There’s a lot of quality people in Lincoln County, and it’s a great place to live. I’m very fortunate and very blessed to be a part of it.”

Reflecting on his coaching career, Jackson said his greatest joy has come from working with young people and helping guide them both on and off the court.

“Being around the kids is a great feeling, a great opportunity,” he said. “We try to influence them to do the right thing — on the floor, in the classroom and in the community. We want to help them to be high-character kids and great representatives of our program, our school and our community.”

Jackson credited the success of the program to those around him, including his coaching staff, players, administrators and family.

“I’m surrounded by a great staff, great players and great administration,” he said. “And I’m very fortunate and blessed to have the beautiful family I have at my home that has supported me for all these years; I could never have done it without them.”

Jackson closed by thanking the Lincoln County community for its continued support.

“I appreciate them for all that they’ve done,” he said. “We’ve got great people in this community and they work very, very hard for our community and for the kids in our school district. I’m very fortunate and very blessed to be a part of it.”

The following is the proclamation read at the ceremony on Tuesday:

PROCLAMATION  
HONORING COACH JEFF JACKSON

ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 700TH CAREER VICTORY

WHEREAS, Coach Jeff Jackson has devoted his career to the young people of our community, serving as a leader, mentor and educator through the game of basketball; and

WHEREAS, through decades of dedication, discipline and unwavering commitment to excellence, Coach Jackson has achieved the extraordinary milestone of 700 career victories, placing him among the most accomplished high school basketball coaches in the Commonwealth of Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, Coach Jackson’s success extends far beyond wins and losses, as he has consistently instilled in his players the values of teamwork, perseverance, accountability and respect — preparing them not only for competition on the court, but for success in life; and

WHEREAS, Coach Jackson’s leadership has brought pride and recognition to his school, his athletes and the entire community, creating a lasting legacy that will be felt for generations; and

WHEREAS, the impact of Coach Jackson’s career is measured not only by championships and records, but by the countless lives he has influenced, the character he has helped build and the standard of excellence he has set for student-athletes and coaches alike;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, J. Woods Adams III, along with the Magistrates of Lincoln County, do hereby recognize Coach Jeff Jackson and proclaim today, Jan. 13, 2026, to be in Lincoln County, Kentucky,

JEFF JACKSON DAY,

in recognition of his 700th career victory, his outstanding contributions to high school athletics and his enduring service to the youth and families of this community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand this 13th day of January, 2026.

Your

COMMUNITY

Your

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15

Creating Pottery for the Anagama Kiln: 6:30-9 p.m. Art Center of the Bluegrass, 401 W Main St. \$150.00. [go.artcenterky.org](https://go.artcenterky.org)

JCEF Thursday Night Bingo: 6:30-9 p.m. JCS Annex, 847 Wilmore Rd. \$20.00.

Mosaic Snowman Workshop: 5-6 p.m. Art Center of the Bluegrass, 409 W. Main Street. \$25.00. [go.artcenterky.org](https://go.artcenterky.org)

Sounding Joy Women's Choir: 7-8:30 p.m. Norton Center, Grant Hall, Room 114, West Walnut Street. \$0.00 - \$45.00.

Watercolor Club: 6-7:30 p.m. Art Center of the Bluegrass, 409 West Main Street. \$62.50. [go.artcenterky.org](https://go.artcenterky.org)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16

Nathan Meltzer at the Norton Center of the Arts: 7:30 p.m. Norton Center for the Arts, 600 W Walnut St., [nortoncenter.com](https://nortoncenter.com)

MONDAY, JANUARY 19

Beginning/Intermediate Pottery: 5:30-7:30 p.m. Art Center of the Bluegrass Ceramics Studio, 401 W Main St. \$175.00. [go.artcenterky.org](https://go.artcenterky.org)

Resonance Men's Choir: 7-8:30 p.m. Chapel, First Christian Church, 555 East Lexington Avenue. \$0.00 - \$45.00.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21

Handbuilding with Clay: 6-8:30 p.m. Art Center of the Bluegrass, 401 W Main St. \$125.00. [go.artcenterky.org](https://go.artcenterky.org)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22

BINGO for Adults: 2-3 p.m. Lincoln County Public Library, 201 Lancaster Street. Free. [lcpinfo.org](https://lcpinfo.org)

Creating Pottery for the Anagama Kiln: 6:30-9 p.m. Art Center of the Bluegrass, 401 W Main St. \$150.00. [go.artcenterky.org](https://go.artcenterky.org)

JCEF Thursday Night Bingo: 6:30-9 p.m. JCS Annex, 847 Wilmore Rd. \$20.00.

Sounding Joy Women's Choir: 7-8:30 p.m. Norton Center, Grant Hall, Room 114, West Walnut Street. \$0.00 - \$45.00.

MONDAY, JANUARY 26

Beginning/Intermediate Pottery: 5:30-7:30 p.m. Art Center of the Bluegrass Ceramics Studio, 401 W Main St. \$175.00. [go.artcenterky.org](https://go.artcenterky.org)

Resonance Men's Choir: 7-8:30 p.m. Chapel, First Christian Church, 555 East Lexington Avenue. \$0.00 - \$45.00.

Church Event? School Event? Retirement party?

It's FREE!

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