

Beshear blocks school voucher plan

By Mckenna Horsley
Kentucky Lantern

Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear has vetoed a GOP-backed bill that would opt Kentucky into a scholarship program for K-12 students promoted by the Trump administration and benefiting from a new federal tax credit.

“Kentuckians have said loud and clear: Public dollars should only be used for public education.

The Republican supermajority hasn’t listened. I have,” Beshear said in a Friday Social media post with his full veto message attached. “Today, I am standing with our people and vetoing House Bill 1.”

Though three Democratic lawmakers voted in favor of House Bill 1, members of the party have criticized the program as a voucher system to fund “school choice options” like private and charter schools at the expense of public schools.

Republicans have countered that the bill would allow all K-12 students and their families to potentially benefit from education assistance grants funded by a federal tax credit created under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) touted by President Donald Trump — without having to appropriate state tax dollars.

HB 1 would allow Kentucky K-12 students to receive scholarships for private school tuition and other education assistance funded by donations from people receiving the fed-



Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear waves to the audience after delivering his State of the Commonwealth address on Jan. 7 in Frankfort.

eral tax credit that will become available in 2027 under legislation the OBBBA passed by Congress last year. In addition to tuition, the scholarships may be used for tutoring services, books, internet access and more.

In arguing against the bill, Democrats pointed to rejections of earlier GOP-backed proposals to fund private and charter schools with public dollars from the state Supreme Court and by Kentucky voters. Beshear recalled the vote against the constitutional amendment in 2024 and the recent high court’s decision in his veto message.

Beshear wrote that he knows his veto will be “politicized” and some may respond by attacking teachers’ unions, “as if they are malevolent actors, when in reality, they are our neighbors and friends who have taken on critical jobs despite the low pay.” He added that they “should be appreciated instead of

attacked.”

He also had words for those who may say he did not “buck my political party, as if some edict has been sent to all Democrats on this or any issue.” Beshear said that when he was Kentucky’s attorney general, he filed lawsuits against presidents of both parties as evidence that he has “voiced my criticism and given credit to presidents of both parties.”

“I am, quite simply, standing up for my conviction that if we want to ensure every child gets a world-class education the answer is not diverting students and dollars from public education, but providing sufficient resources to fix public education,” Beshear wrote. “If you believe a charter school can do better because it has more flexibility, then provide our public schools with more flexibility. Don’t hamstring them with requirements you don’t put on other schools and then blame them in direct comparisons.”

HB 1 is the second bill Beshear has vetoed this year. The first was House Bill 314, which would remove the current executive director of the Kentucky Communications Network Authority, or KCNA, and remake its board. The House and Senate, with Republican supermajorities, easily overrode Beshear’s veto on that measure.

During debate on the tax credit bill, Republican lawmakers vowed to override a veto from the governor should he issue one. In the Senate, President Pro Tem David Givens, R-Greensburg, made a direct appeal to Beshear, asking him to either sign the bill or let it lay on his desk as “a positive message to everyone.”

“And if you choose to veto, you know it’s going to be overridden. That is what it is,” Givens said last month. “But I’ll ask you to make your \$1,700 contribution, governor, to a Kentucky SGO and help these kids. It’s a rare opportunity.”

Under the bill, Kentucky may identify eligible scholarship granting organizations (SGO) for students. An SGO can benefit not only private school students, but public school students as well.

The Education Freedom Tax Credit is up to \$1,700 per year for individuals who donate to SGOs, which would then give most of the money to eligible students through scholarships.

Bardstown soldier killed in Iraq crash

By Mark Maynard
Kentucky Today

BARDSTOWN — A soldier from Kentucky has been identified as one of the six U.S. soldiers inside a plane that went down in Iraq on Friday, according to the U.S. Department of War.

Tech. Sgt. Ashley B. Pruitt, 34, was from Bardstown in Nelson County.

The DoW listed the five other airmen who also died in the crash:

Maj. John A. Klinner, 33, of Auburn, Ala.;

Capt. Ariana G. Savino, 31, of Covington, Wash.;

Capt. Seth R. Koval, 38, of Mooresville, Ind.;

Capt. Curtis J. Angst, 30, of Wilmington, Ohio; and

Tech. Sgt. Tyler H. Simmons, 38, of Columbus, Ohio.

All six airmen were supporting Operation Epic Fury at the time of the crash. The incident is under investigation. U.S. Central Command said in a post on X early Friday that their KC-135 plane went down at approximately 2 p.m. ET Thursday in western Iraq.

Sgt. Pruitt was assigned to the 6th Air Refueling Wing, MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, and was supporting Operation



Ashley Pruitt of Bardstown was among six airmen killed last week during Operation Epic Fury during a refueling crash.

Epic Fury at the time of her death.

Congressman Andy Barr reacted to the death of Tech Sgt. Pruitt on social media.

“Praying for the family and friends of TSgt. Ashley Pruitt of Bardstown. God bless her memory and her ultimate sacrifice in Operation Epic Freedom to rid the world of the largest state sponsor of terror. Her legacy will never be forgotten.”

Sgt. Pruitt is the second soldier from Kentucky who has been killed during Operation Epic Fury. Sgt. Benjamin Pennington of Glendale was the other. He died on March 9 after an enemy attack at Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia.

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described in the following Civil Actions in the main hallway on the first floor of the Lincoln County Courthouse, on APRIL 7, 2026 at the hour of 10:00 A.M. or as soon thereafter as said property can be sold. The purpose of the sale is to satisfy the Judgements of the Lincoln Circuit Court in the amounts hereinafter set forth, together with interest, advances for the protection of the property, costs and attorney fees as authorized and provided in said Judgements. The hereinafter described real properties will be sold and conveyed on the following terms and conditions:

1. Subject to valid and existing easements, restrictions, reservations, conditions, covenants, and limitations apparent or of record in the chain of title.
2. The purchaser shall either pay the entire purchase price at the time of sale; or if the sale is made on credit, the purchaser shall pay a minimum deposit of 10% of the purchase price with the balance due in 30 days. If the sale is made on credit, the purchaser shall pay the required deposit at the time of sale and execute bond for the balance due bearing interest at the rate the Judgement bears from the date of sale until paid, with SURETY THEREON AND SAID SURETY MUST BE PRESENT AT THE SALE AND BE APPROVED BY THE MASTER COMMISSIONER and the bond shall be secured by a lien upon said property sold which shall have the full force and effect of a judgement.
3. The real properties shall be sold free and clear of all liens, indebtedness, interest and claims of the parties to the proceeding, subject to any and all applicable statutory rights of redemptions, including and Right of Redemption granted to the United States of America pursuant to 28 U.S.C Sec. 2410.
4. Delinquent ad valorem taxes will be paid out of the proceeds of sale. The purchaser will be responsible for payment of the 2026 ad valorem taxes. Possession of the real property will be given to the purchaser with the delivery of the deed of conveyance thereto.

SALE NO.1 SELECT PORTFOLIO SERVICING, INC. V FRANK J. PARNASS ET AL.; CIVIL ACTION NO 25-CI-00342; JUDGMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$199,045.41; PLUS COURT COST, INTEREST AND ATTORNEY FEES AND INTEREST AT THE RATE OF 6%; BEING LOT #9-20 COUNTRY MEADOWS SECTION 2 AS SHOWN BY PLAT OF SALE AT PLAT SLIDE B-6 AT 457 COUNTRY DRIVE HUSTONVILLE, KY; SEE DEED BOOK 476 PAGE 427 PVA PARCEL #009-04-07-001.00 SALE #2 BANK OF AMERICA N.A. V

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JAMEA A. GOODE ET UX ET AL.; CIVIL ACTION NO 25-CI-00104; JUDGMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,934.24 PLUS COST, ATTORNEYS FEES AND INTEREST AT THE RATE OF 8.75%; BEING THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 116 SPRING VALLEY ROAD DANVILLE, KY; BEING LOTS 67, 68 & 69 AS SHOWN BY PLAT OF RECORD PLAT FILE 73A & 73B IN THE OFFICE OF THE LINCOLN COUNTY CLERK; SEE DEED BOOK 306 PAGE 742 AND PVA MAP #14A-001-02

SALE #3 LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC V NINA E. MILLER HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES ECT. ET AL.; CIVIL ACTION NO. 25-CI-00331; JUDGMENT IN THE SUM OF \$80,383.80 PLUS COST AND ATTORNEY FEES AND INTEREST AT THE RATE OF 5.125%; BEING THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 125 KY 3276 WAYNESBURG, KY 40489; SEE DEED BOOK 396 PAGE 8 AND PVA MAP #58A-003-01B BS 68A003-01A SALE #4 (via Special Master Commissioner) BOBBIE SIMMONS vs JASON MILLER, CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-CI-00299; JUDGMENT AMT: N/A — ACTION IN PARTITION; PROPERTY ADDRESS/DESCRIPTION: 00 EPHESUS SCHOOL ROAD — 0.39 ACRES, MAP ID: 076-00-06-007.01, DB 462, PAGE 470. ROBERT R. BAKER MASTER COMMISSIONER LINCOLN CIRCUIT COURT JOHNNY BOLTON SPECIAL MASTER COMMISSIONER LINCOLN CIRCUIT COURT

Interior Journal: Mar. 19, 26 and Apr. 2, 2026 SALE 4.7.26

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