

Kentucky Supreme Court blocks judge's impeachment

By Tom Latek
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT – The Kentucky Supreme Court issued an opinion and order on Monday, which throws out the impeachment resolution (H.R. 124) approved by the Kentucky House of Representatives against Fayette Circuit Judge Julie Goodman.

In her filing for what is known as a supervisory writ petition, Goodman sought a declaration that

H.R. 124 constituted an encroachment upon the powers of the Judicial Branch, that it was a violation of the separation of powers doctrine, and that it violated her right to due process of law. She further requests that H.R. 124 and the articles of impeachment issued against her be declared void.

The High Court held that Section 110(2)(a) of the Constitution contains a provision which grants the Supreme Court supervisory control of the



Fayette Circuit Judge Julie Goodman

Court of Justice, virtually any matter within that context would be subject to its jurisdiction[,]” and that “the Court should exercise its supervisory power sparingly, and, generally only in cases where no other court has power to proceed.”

The Justices stated, “As

the Legislature is attempting to supersede our authority to both supervise and correct, when warranted, the behavior of sitting judges, as well as the means by which the Judicial Branch addresses ordinary error correction through the appellate process, our authority to issue supervisory writs pursuant to Section 110 in ‘aid of [our] appellate jurisdiction, or the complete determination of any cause, or as may be required to exercise control of the

Court of Justice” is properly invoked.”

As a result, the Justices held, “The General Assembly is hereby enjoined from any further proceedings in the current impeachment action against Judge Goodman.”

They added, “The General Assembly is hereby ENJOINED from further impeachment proceedings against Judge Goodman and is ORDERED to dismiss the current impeachment proceedings against her.”

The Supreme Court decision came on a 5-1 vote, with Justice Shea Nickell dissenting from the majority. Justice Pamela Goodwine did not participate in the case.

You can read the entire 63-page opinion and order by going to: <https://appellatepublic.kycourts.net/api/api/v1/publicaccessdocuments/2639f7dc43e3583e47f7815f8e896f928062a9abfe46c35483fe84273bc00a71/download>.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Students from the Lincoln County Area Technology Center's HOSA – Future Health Professionals chapter pose with Easter baskets prepared for residents at Stanford Crossing as part of an annual community outreach effort.

HOSA

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students and welcomed the interaction.

The visit also created opportunities for personal connections. Several residents asked to take photos with the students, requests they were happy to fulfill.

Those interactions added to the impact of the visit and helped strengthen the connection between students and residents.

Organizers May Arnold and Jamie Waddell said the project benefits both the community and the students involved. They said the hands-on service experience helps students develop a greater

understanding of compassion, empathy and the value of community involvement.

As the HOSA chapter looks ahead, the Easter basket project is expected to remain a key part of the school year, continuing to bring together students and residents through service and community engagement.

Bat tests positive for rabies in Lexington home basement

By Tom Latek
Kentucky Today

LEXINGTON – The Lexington-Fayette County Health Department (LFCHD) is alerting the public that a bat found in the Seven Parks/Elizabeth Street area (zip code 40503) has tested positive for rabies.

The bat was discovered in the basement of a home in that area, so Environmental Health staff will be posting Rabid Animal Placards in the affected area.

LFCHD's Epidemiology and Environmental Health divisions have contacted the individual identified in the bite report to ensure they receive appropriate follow-up care. Residents who believe they or their pets may have had contact with any animal acting abnormally are urged to contact the health department immediately.

Rabies is a fatal but preventable disease. Transmission can occur through a bite or through contact with an infected animal's saliva via the eyes, nose, mouth, or an



SUBMITTED ARTWORK

Rabies is a fatal but preventable disease.

open wound. Bats have very small teeth, and a bite mark may not always be visible. Public health officials say if you are unsure whether or not you were exposed, do not wait to seek guidance.

Residents are encouraged to take the following precautions:

--Keep pets current on their rabies vaccinations — if your pet is not current, vaccinate immediately.

--Do not handle, feed, or approach wild animals

or any animal behaving abnormally.

--If a bat is found inside your home, do not release it; contain it if possible and contact the health department.

--Seek immediate medical attention if you believe you or a family member has been exposed.

To report a potential exposure, contact your local health department.

LINCOLN

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provisions allowing for charges related to excessive use and a two-month service charge if the agreement is not renewed. District representatives said such terms are standard due to the company's upfront investment in infrastructure. It was also noted that approximately 90% of the district's internet service costs are reimbursed annually and that competing bids were more than double the cost.

The board reviewed several discussion items but took no formal action on them.

Those items included proposed calendars for the Early Childhood program for the 2026-27 school year, as well as multiple pay applications related to Lincoln County High School renovation projects. One payment request totaled \$21,894.63 for work on baseball and softball fields, while another included

\$10,371.64 in payments and \$15,865 in direct purchase orders.

The board also reviewed service contract extensions for the upcoming school year, including agreements for fire protection, pest control, waste removal and vending services. Officials said vendor approvals and contract management are handled locally and are not required to be reported to the state.

Additional discussion included a request to advertise for fuel vendors for the 2026-27 school year and a capital funds request that would allow the reclassification of restricted funds for use in the general fund.

The board also reviewed final staffing allocation formulas for Sections 4, 5 and 7, noting no changes from the tentative formulas approved in February.

District officials presented proposed changes to funding for school-related student trips, particularly for state-level competitions. The pro-

posal would cap lodging reimbursement at \$30 per student per night rather than covering full lodging costs. Officials said the district's current policy is more generous than surrounding districts and that the proposed changes would still provide a higher level of support. Registration fees, substitute teacher costs and other expenses would not be covered under the policy and would be determined at the school level or through fundraising.

The board discussed a proposed update to expense reimbursement policies requiring receipts for the current \$50 daily meal per diem for certified and classified staff.

Changes to the district's attendance incentive program were also reviewed. Under the proposal, incentives would be paid at the end of each semester rather than monthly, while maintaining the same total compensation. Eligibility would shift from perfect monthly atten-

dance to 98% attendance per semester, which officials said equates to approximately two missed days. District staff said the change would reduce administrative workload.

The board also discussed the cost and structure of working board meetings. Annual costs for the meetings were estimated at \$16,302, including board member compensation and attorney fees. Officials noted that the board had already taken steps to reduce costs by limiting attorney attendance to one meeting per month. No action was taken on the future of working meetings.

In other discussion, the board reviewed requests related to shortened school schedules for two students receiving medically necessary services, a proposed purchase of the Xello student planning platform for grades 3-12 totaling \$40,090.50 over three years, and a new Family Resource and Youth Services Center contract covering July 1,

2026, through June 30, 2028.

The board also reviewed the district's 2026-27 Nontraditional Instruction (NTI) plan, which includes no changes, and requests to

declare surplus property, including 15 archery targets and a 2007 Hyundai Entour van that is no longer operable.

No public comments were recorded during the meeting.

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