

# WAIVER

FROM PAGE A1

grew her flock from 15 birds to more than 80. While most are laying hens, she periodically runs a meat cycle with about 50 birds. It's through that process that she noticed some challenges with small-scale chicken farming in Kentucky.

That's why she's excited that in April, Kentucky became the 49th state to adopt a USDA waiver to allow on-farm processing of poultry. It permits small-scale farmers to harvest up to 1,000 birds themselves while still requiring they meet all food safety regulations.

Rep. Josh Bray, R-Mount Vernon, was a consistent supporter of adopting the practice in the commonwealth.

"I had a constituent bring the issue to me," he wrote in an email. "After discussing, it was pretty clear that other states have safely implemented this existing USDA exemption. Kentucky should be the friendliest farmer state in the country. Cutting red tape and burdensome regulations help keep costs down and, in this case, will make it easier to source locally farm-raised chicken."

Before this special allowance, farmers took their poultry to one of only three USDA meat processors in Kentucky. Slots can fill up a year in advance. Marshall's husband, Joe Marshall, is trained to process chickens, but the only place he could do so is the Kentucky State University mobile unit. Contrary to its name, it's actually unable to be used away from the school for chicken processing.

The price of feed is rising and the birds eat a lot. Transporting the birds is an issue in and of itself. The closest processing facility to Marshall is a 1.5-hour drive, and the next closest is 2.5 hours. Traveling those distances is stressful for the animals and some inevitably die, cutting into Marshall's profit.

"I looked at ways to minimize all of those challenges and found out we were only one of two states that didn't allow

small scale farmers to process chickens on the farm," said Marshall.

## A SEAT AT THE TABLE

That's when Marshall started working with Community Farm Alliance, a state-wide farmer advocacy group that had been pushing to pass the chicken bill for over a decade. Kimmie Ishmael, CFA's Policy Specialist, noted that the only other state that excluded the practice was Arkansas; both states have major industrial poultry producers. She says it was a crucial policy for the growing number of small farmers here.

"Kentucky farmers have an average annual income of less than \$30,000 and this change should lower their costs a lot," she said. "There's a 500% increase in people entering first generation farming, especially in Eastern Kentucky. This was a huge barrier for beginner farmers and farmers of color."

Ishmael sees her role as getting farmers a seat at the table about issues that affect them. She believes many legislators were not aware of the possibility and need for the law; as an agriculture state, accepting the waiver closed a huge opportunity gap in the local food system.

Ishmael helped Marshall develop relationships with state leaders. Marshall hosted a pivotal encounter between food system and governmental leaders at BearFruit & Grow last summer. The Policy for Chickens event featured a panel discussion with four Kentucky farmers sharing how this policy affected their real-life farm businesses.

In addition, Marshall invited a fellow poultry farmer from Tennessee. He set up his processing station and showed people how he adhered to food safety guidelines. The set-up was minimal, just separate stations under a 10x20 canopy tent, accessible to almost any farmer. It went a long way to allay fears about handling waste and potential smells.

About 50 people attended, including farmers, Extension Service staff, university representatives, chefs, and people from other food advocacy groups.

After the event, the president of Kentucky State University and legislators began talking about possible solutions. Rep. Emily Callaway, R-Louisville, attended and went on to co-sponsor House Bill 639. After getting the Kentucky Farm Bureau on board, the effort really started building momentum.

But the 2026 General Assembly was winding to a close, and advocates

thought it wasn't going to make it on the floor again. Marshall said they even began making plans to engage with legislators in the break before the next session. Then the House added an amendment to Senate Bill 73, originally about allowing tallow cosmetic products for home-based processing, and it passed.

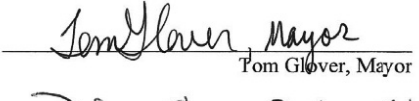
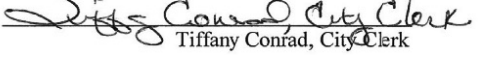
"The legislative session was really getting

down to the wire," Marshall said. "It's taken a lot of effort, but then one day it just happened."

On-farm poultry processing goes into effect July 8. CFA is taking the lead on working with governmental leaders to work out the training program and other program specifics.

Even before it's gone into effect, having a more affordable option for processing is bols-

tering small farmers. Ishmael said she had the honor of sharing about the new law with one experienced poultry farmer. In his 80s, he had loved raising chickens for many years but told her he thought it might be time for him to quit. When she shared about SB73, he began to tear up, so grateful to have a promising way to make his work more viable.

ORDINANCE #2026-01 AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE, KENTUCKY, ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 07/01/26 THROUGH 06/30/27											
WHEREAS, annual budget proposal has been prepared and delivered to the City Council; and											
WHEREAS, the City Council has received such budget proposal and made necessary modifications,											
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDIANED BY THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE that an annual budget total of \$12,524,424.00 is hereby adopted,											
per line item, as follows:											
FIRST READING: C.W. Layton											
SECOND READING: June 15, 2026											
APPROVED: Yes											
MOTION MADE BY: C.W. Layton											
SECOND BY: C.M. Marshall											
VOTE: : All Aye Vote											
 Tom Glover, Mayor  Tiffany Conrad, City Clerk											
ORDINANCE SUMMARY ORDINANCE NO. 2026-01 CITY OF PROVIDENCE, KENTUCKY FISCAL YEAR ANNUAL BUDGET 07/01/26 THROUGH 06/30/27											
Account	Estimated Revenue					Estimated Expenditures					
Special Revenue	\$3,671,857.00					\$3,671,857.00					
Utility Fund	\$5,515,625.00					\$5,515,625.00					
General Fund	\$3,198,392.00					\$3,198,392.00					
PG&RC	\$138,550.00					\$138,550.00					
Grand Total	\$12,524,424.00					\$12,524,424.00					
A complete copy of the itemized budget is available without charge at the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, Providence, KY.											
Prepared and certified by Bobby D. Murray, Attorney											
SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT 2026-2027											
ESTIMATED REVENUE						ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES					
LGEA: Coal Severance	20518					Big Hill Cemetery Maintenance	11200				
LGEA: Mineral Severance	3860					Community Center Maintenance	7291				
Big Hill Cemetery Interest	124					Lakeview Cemetery Maintenance	13600				
Community Center Interest	156					Street Maintenance - Road Aid	67766				
Community Center Rentals	3650					Collection and distribution project	1379000				
Lakeview Cemetery Interest	183					Wastewater Treatment Project	2193000				
Municipal Road Aid	67766										
Lakeview cemetery plots	2400										
Big Hill Cemetery Plots	1200										
Collection and distribution project	1379000										
Wastewater Treatment Project	2193000										
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUE	3671857					TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE5	3671857				
Estimated Expenditures General Fund 2026-2027											
Expenses	PMG&RC	Admin	Code Enf./	EMS	Fire	Police	Sanitation	Street	Park/Cem	Alcohol	Total
Salaries	77611	34800	26000	46000	30000	346080	53000	137200	28000	7200	1469891
FICA	5950	2700	1990	35160	23600	26500	4100	10700	2200	600	113500
Unemployment Tax	140	70	60	1000	750	850	300	450	100	30	3750
Employees Benefits	0	0	0	9600	7200	0	0	2400	0	0	19200
Health Insurance	18164	0	0	44405	44405	75913	21191	29264	10091	243433	
Retirement Employer	8990	1300	4532	80178	53500	60322	9250	26000	4900	1350	250322
Advertising	300	0	750	1000	1000	500	200	2000	200	0	4150
Bank Service Charge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Capital Outlay	0	10000	0	100000	37000	1000	20000	25000	15000	42280	250280
Chemicals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cleaning Supplies	0	0	0	800	500	1500	0	0	0	0	2800
Detention CTR (Trustee)	0	0	0	0	3000	3000	2000	0	8000	0	
Discount & Release Taxes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dues/Subscriptions/Permits	300	2000	0	50000	0	1500	1500	0	0	40	55340
Fire Prevention	0	0	0	500	0	0	0	0	500	0	
Fuel/Oil	0	4500	2000	12000	12000	15000	15000	12000	8500	0	81000
Incentive Pay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Insurance/Liability	15600	0	0	17700	17700	15600	15600	15600	15600	0	113400
Insurance/Life	87	186	186	186	186	0	0	931	0	0	
Interest/Note Payment	0	0	0	63693	0	0	47217	0	0	0	110910
Landfill Charges	0	0	0	0	0	45100	0	0	0	45100	
Laundry & Cleaning	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maintenance/Repairs	0	20000	0	15000	25000	5000	5000	35000	15000	0	120000
Medical Supplies	0	0	0	40000	0	0	0	0	40000	0	
Miscellaneous	0	0	0	250	1000	1500	0	0	0	0	2750
Office Supplies	1000	5000	1000	500	500	2000	0	0	0	250	10250
Other Supplies	0	15000	0	750	5000	5000	2500	3000	1100	0	32350
PIOLT to WC	0	4010	0	0	0	0	0	4010	0	0	
Postage/Shipping	200	200	200	250	250	400	0	0	0	100	1600
Physical/Drug Testing	400	500	0	800	500	500	500	500	200	0	3900
Professional Fees	75	106700	0	25000	1500	1000	0	0	0	0	134275
Rent/Lease	0	0	0	300	0	0	0	0	300	0	
Telephone	1500	3000	0	3000	3000	6000	0	0	0	9600	26100
Testing/Calibration	0	0	0	1000	750	0	0	0	0	1750	
Training/Travel	1000	1000	2000	2000	3500	3000	1000	1000	0	0	14500
Transfer to Other Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transfer to Utility Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Workman's Compensation	0	0	0	2100	2100	2100	2100	2100	2100	0	12600
Uniforms/Clothing Allowance	0	0	0	5000	5000	5000	1000	4000	1000	0	21000
Total	131230	210780	38532	971373	547241	576451	247744	307600	105991	61450	3198392
Estimated Expenditures Utility Side 2026-2027											
Expenses	Admin-Off	Admin-Sho	Electric	Gas	Sewer Trt	Water Trt	Sewer Dist	Water Dist			Total
Salaries	180600	89200	200000	137940	46865	156200	80000	133000			1023805
FICA	14900	6825	15300	10600	3600	11950	6200	10400			79775
Unemployment Tax	550	300	600	250	150	480	250	400			2980
Employees Benefits	13432	0	0	0	2400	2400	0	2400			20632
Health Insurance	29264	18163	29264	18200	10100	10100	10100	29264			154455
Retirement Employer	34550	15600	34900	24500	8200	27300	13950	23700			182700
Contract Labor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0
Advertising	600	0	100	500	0	1000	0	100			2300
Bank Service Charge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0
Capital Outlay	4100	20000	200000	15000	50000	50000	10000	40000			389100
Chemicals	0	0	0	0	52000	165100	9750	1000			227850
Dues/Subscriptions/Permits	2500	0	500	2500	0	1500	5000	5000			17000
Fuel/Oil	0	12000	15000	12000	10000	10000	10000	12000			81000
Insurance/Liability	15600	15600	15600	15600	15600	15600	15600	15600			124800
Insurance/Life	186	186	186	186	186	186	186	186			1488
Maintenance/Repairs	3200	20000	40000	11000	30000	30000	20000	30000			184200
Miscellaneous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0
Office Supplies	7000	3000	500	500	0	0	0	0			11000
Other Supplies	8000	15000	50000	15000	20000	70000	500	10000			188500
Payment of Borrowed Monies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0
Postage/Shipping	7700	500	600	1000	0	1000	0	0			10800
Physical/Drug Testing	400	500	500	200	200	500	400	400			3100
Professional Fees	18000	0	70000	25000	120000	120000	65000	2500			420500
Purchased Electric/Gas	0	0	1976000	347000	0	0	0	0			2323000
Rent/Lease	6400	0	0	0	0	5000	0	0			11400
Retirement Benefits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0
Security Bond	3040	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			3040
Telephone	1300	1200	0	0	1250	1250	0	0			5000
Testing/Calibration/ Anaylsis	0	0	0	0	0	3000	0	0			3000
Training/Travel	500	1000	1500	4000	1500	2500	500	500			12000
Uniforms/Clothing Allowance	1600	2000	3000	1800	1000	3000	1000	2000			15400
Workmen's Compensation	2100	2100	2100	2100	2100	2100	2100	2100			16800
Total	355522	223174	2655650	644876	375151	690166	250536	320550			5515625
ESTIMATED REVENUE 2026-2027											
UTILITY FUND:						GENERAL FUND:					
Cut-on & Tap Fees	33,100					Ambulance Service	387490				
Electrical Sales	3022312					Building Permits	1000				
Gas Sales	746500					County Ambulance Tax	34889				
Interest Earned	3865					Fire Incentive Pay	33111				
Service Charges	31165					Franchise Fee	72884				
Sew											