

# Beshear vetoes GOP bill spurred by educator opposition to school choice measure

BY VALARIE HONEYCUTT SPEARS  
LEXINGTON HERALD-LEADER

Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear has vetoed a Republican-backed bill that would levy criminal penalties against those who use tax dollars to advocate for or against a public question on the ballot, such as constitutional amendments, which have to be voted on by residents in order to pass.

Senate Bill 59, introduced by Steve Rawlings, R-Burlington, would subject violators to fines. They also could be found guilty of a misdemeanor. Beshear on Tuesday said in his veto of Senate Bill 59 that it is far too broad and violates the First Amendment.

Rawlings said in January when he introduced the bill that during the 2024 election season, many legislators witnessed superintendents and school officials advocate against

Amendment 2, a school choice ballot measure.

"There were newspaper articles, social media, Facebook posts, all advocating strongly against the ballot measure," Rawlings said at the time.

Amendment 2 was a GOP-backed measure that was handily defeated. Kentucky voters have rejected other constitutional amendments in recent years, including one that would have clarified there is no protected right to abortion in the Kentucky Constitution, and another that would have let the legislature call itself into special session. Amendment 1, in 2022, also would have let lawmakers extend their winter sessions.

Current Kentucky law already requires tax dollars not to be used to advocate for or against a public question on the ballot. Rawlings said in January that adding enforceable penalties provides a necessary safeguard and one that upholds

the rule of law and "reinforces that no one, not even government entities, is above it."

In his Tuesday veto, Beshear, a Democrat, said Senate Bill 59 would prohibit members of the General Assembly from speaking from their annex offices or on state or public property about constitutional amendments set to appear on the ballot.

"Many state legislators used these and other state resources in 2022 when Kentucky voters defeated Amendment 2, and again in 2024 when voters in all 120 Kentucky counties rejected a change to the Kentucky Constitution that would have allowed public dollars to flow to private schools," said Beshear.

"We should be protecting the First Amendment and not restricting it."

Rawlings said in a statement Tuesday that Beshear was not accurately describing what SB

59 does.

"This veto misses the mark and misrepresents what Senate Bill 59 actually does," Rawlings said. "The bill does not silence anyone's First Amendment rights; it reinforces a basic principle that taxpayer dollars should never be used for political advocacy. Public officials are free to speak, campaign and express their views, but they should not be doing so on the taxpayer's dime."

Rawlings said this bill would only put enforcement behind the law that already exists, and said the current law "has no teeth."

"This legislation ensures accountability when public resources are misused, while preserving the ability of individuals to speak in their personal capacity," he said.

The Kentucky Legislature could override Beshear's veto when lawmakers return from their break next week.

## SALVATION

FROM PAGE B3

eternity with Jesus in heaven. If you are lost and you died today, you would spend eternity separated from God in hell. Those are the only two options.

The word "saved" is a radical word. If life seems to be going smoothly, you may not feel any need to be saved. If you think you are a basically good person and that your goodness will get you into heaven, then you will not sense any urgency. If you think Jesus came mainly to give us tips for a happier life, then you have not yet understood your

true condition before God. You need to be saved because you are perishing.

The angel told Joseph, "You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). Jesus himself said, "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which is lost" (Luke 19:10). He also said, "I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance" (Luke 5:32). We all need Jesus to save us from judgment because we all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).

My Granny was a bitter and angry woman for much of her life. She was not right with God. She was extremely prejudiced. The n-word rolled easily off her tongue. She

was terrified of death and demanded that my dad never to put her in a nursing home. However, she was almost impossible to please, and all the caregivers quit.

Finally, the agency told my dad they had only one person left — a large Black woman. Dad had no choice. When they arrived at Granny's house, the first words out of her mouth were, "No 'n-word' is going to take care of me." The woman smiled a big, warm smile and said, "Oh, you don't mean that," and then she hugged my Granny. That began an amazing friendship. That kind woman stayed with Granny until the day she died. She read scripture to her every chance she got. She

loved my grandmother into heaven as she gave her life to Jesus before she died.

What is your own salvation story, and when was the last time you told it to someone? In what ways have you been trying to earn God's favor instead of trusting in Christ alone? Who in your life still needs to hear the good news of salvation? We have just celebrated the resurrection of Jesus Christ, an event so history transforming, that billions of people have been saved, just as God planned. May God be glorified as we make our lives available to share the Good News of the Gospel with others.

Al Earley is the Pastor of La Grange Presbyterian Church.



## LEGAL NOTICE

CITY OF BARDSTOWN  
BARDSTOWN, KY  
WITHROW CREEK PUMP STATION REPLACEMENT  
CONTRACT 1

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed Bids for the construction of Contract 1 – Withrow Creek Pump Station Replacement will be received, by the City of Bardstown, at the office of the City Civil Engineer, until 2:00 p.m. local time on May 5, 2026, at which time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read. The Project consists of screening equipment in screening structure, piping, flow splitter box, divided wetwell, replacement pumps and controls, valve vault, flow meter vault, electrical service, force main installation and connection to existing force main, influent gravity sewer installation from existing pump station to new pump station site, electrical/control building, SCADA integration, site work and access road improvements, water service and appurtenances, demolition work at the existing pump station site, and related improvements at Withrow Creek pump station.

Bids will be received for a single prime Contract. Bids shall be on a lump sum basis as indicated on the Bid Form.

The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is: Lynn Imaging, 328 Old Vine Street, Lexington, KY 40507, Phone: 859-699-5105, Website: www.lynnimaging.com. Prospective Bidders may obtain copies of the Bidding Documents from the Issuing Office as described below.

Bidding Documents also may be examined online at: Builders Exchange of Kentucky, Inc. www.bxkentucky.com and McGraw-Hill Construction/Dodge www.mcgraw-hill.com.

Bidding Documents may be obtained from the Issuing Office from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Bidding Documents are available by electronic download (as portable document format (PDF) files) for a non-refundable charge of \$330.00. Alternatively, printed Bidding Documents may be obtained from the Issuing Office either via in-person pickup or via mail, upon Issuing Office's receipt of payment for the Bidding Documents. The non-refundable cost of printed Bidding Documents is \$360.00 per set, payable to "Lynn Imaging", plus a non-refundable shipping charge. Upon Issuing Office's receipt of payment, printed Bidding Documents will be sent via the prospective Bidder's delivery method of choice; the shipping charge will depend on the shipping method chosen. The date that the Bidding Documents are transmitted by the Issuing Office will be considered the prospective Bidder's date of receipt of the Bidding Documents. Partial sets of Bidding Documents will not be available from the Issuing Office. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for full or partial sets of Bidding Documents, including Addenda (if any) obtained from sources other than the Issuing Office.

If Owner awards the contract for the Work, such award will be to the responsible Bidder submitting the lowest responsive total Bid. The project is planned to be funded by a Kentucky Infrastructure Authority (KIA) Fund B Revolving Loan and is subject to the requirements of that funding program.

A pre-bid conference will be held at 10:00 a.m. local time on April 20, 2026 at the Bardstown City Hall Annex, 116 North Fifth Street, Bardstown, KY 40004. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is highly encouraged but is not mandatory.

Bid security shall be furnished in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.  
Owner: City of Bardstown  
By: Jessica Filatreau, P.E.  
Title: City Civil Engineer  
Date: April 8, 2026



# LEGAL NOTICE

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### PURSUANT TO KRS 424.130

The Bardstown Independent School District will publish a full list of delinquent school taxes in the Kentucky Standard on Sunday, April 19, 2026. The list will contain the name, address, and tax amount due as of April 14, 2026.

All delinquent tax information will be available Monday, April 20, 2026, online at [www.bardstown.kyschools.us](http://www.bardstown.kyschools.us) To view the list, see QUICK LINKS, then choose PROPERTY TAXES, then choose DELINQUENT TAX SALE to locate the link to view the 2025 Property Taxes available for sale.

Unpaid tax claims as of 10:00 a.m. Friday, May 22, 2026, will be sold for cash.

All individuals wishing to participate in the sale must register with the office below between the dates of Wednesday, May 6, 2026, through Tuesday, May 12, 2026, 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Place: Bardstown Independent Board of Education  
308 N. Fifth St.  
Bardstown, KY 40004  
Date: Friday, May 22, 2026  
Time: 10:00 a.m.