

Most new voters reject major parties

By Tom Latek
Kentucky Today

Kentucky Secretary of State Michael Adams announced on Friday that leading up to the May 19 primary election, most new voters registering in February rejected the two major parties.

According to Adams, of 2,606 net new registrants, nearly two-thirds registered under other political affiliations, most of them as independents.

"Independents are out-registering Republicans and Democrats, leading up to party primaries in which Independents cannot vote," Adams said. "It's no wonder that both Republican and Democratic legislators are filing bills to open our primaries to Independents."

In February, overall registration rose by 6,777 voters, while 4,171 voters were re-

moved from the rolls: 3,476 who were deceased, 327 felony convicts, 237 who moved out of state, 63 adjudged mentally incompetent, 27 who voluntarily de-registered, 23 non-citizens, and 18 duplicate registrations.

Republican registration grew by 1,174 voters, a .07 percent increase from January. Democratic registration accounts for 41 percent of the electorate, with 1,373,995 voters. Democratic registration fell by 261, a .02 percent decrease. There are 376,201 voters now registered under other political affiliations (mostly independent), making up 11 percent of the electorate. "Other" registration rose by 1,693, a .45 percent increase.

2026 will see the all-important mid-term election, where voters will have plenty

of races where they can voice their choices. Among them, the U.S. Senate seat currently held by Republican Mitch McConnell of Louisville. The 83-year-old has been in that office since 1985 and is the longest serving U.S. Senator in Kentucky history. He has announced he is not seeking an eighth term.

In addition, Kentucky's six Congressional seats, all 100 in the Kentucky House and the even-numbered state Senate districts, will also appear on the ballot in 2026. In addition, there will be many city and county races.

While the primary election itself will be May 19, there will be three days of early in-person voting on Thursday, Friday and Saturday (May 14-16) prior to Election Day. Check with your local county clerk's office to find early voting locations.

PRE-K

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They could fill Rupp Arena."

Beshear said his proposed budget contains funds for Pre-K for All. "This is in states all over the country," he said. "It's not partisan. I've heard a little bit of that in Frankfort, that Pre-K for All is partisan. Let me remind everybody, 4-year-olds can't vote."

"This is a need for our children," the governor said.

The Kentucky Association-School Administration (KASA) supports the effort, Beshear said.

John Stewart, President of the Board for the Community and Technical College Foundation of Ashland, said, "When a child starts behind, catching up becomes harder each year. When thousands of kids start behind, the long-term impact touches our entire state."

"Investing in education at every level sends a powerful message," he

added. "It says Kentucky believes in its children. It says we are serious about economic growth, that we understand generational change doesn't happen by accident."

Ann Perkins, Executive Director of Safe Harbor of Northeast Kentucky, said the emergency shelter and advocacy center has housed 10,000-plus children since it opened.

"I cannot emphasize enough the value of Pre-K and what it would mean to our families," Perkins said.

Perkins said reasons for Pre-K for All are as follows: strong brain development, better kindergarten readiness, social and emotional growth, long-term academic benefits, supporting working families and economic return on investment.

"Pre-K for All is common sense for the commonwealth," Perkins said.

property owner has agreed to demolish the building.

The mayor also said the owner of the former JC Video building on Main Street has agreed to demolish that structure as well. A third property owner has appealed a similar matter and that case is

continuing through the legal process.

Council members also approved declaring a city-owned vehicle as surplus property and authorized its sale at public auction.

The meeting agenda included financial reports and routine business items.



Dennis Brown/LEWIS COUNTY HERALD

Gov. Andy Beshear addresses gathering at Ashland on the benefits of Pre-K for All. "This is a need for our children," the governor said.

Real Estate Public Auction March 21, 2026 @ 10:00 am

96 +/- acres of Lewis County Prime Real Estate

Offered in 5 tracts

Property address is 14791 W. KY 9, Tollesboro, KY 41189

Auction will be held at the Tollesboro Fire Department

3524 W KY 10, Tollesboro, KY

Multi-Par auction, live and on-line

go to www.chuckmarshall.com to register and bid on-line.

On-line bidding starts March 16, 2026 5:00 pm

Located just east of Tollesboro, KY, fronts on the AA Hwy, utilities available. Would be perfect for residential development, commercial opportunity, farming or as an investment

TRACT 1: 2.0 +/- acres, fronts AA Highway

TRACT 2: 2.26 +/- acres fronts AA Highway

TRACT 3: 31.1 +/- acres backs up to Cabin Creek, has a pond and some wooded area

TRACT 4: 25.7 +/- acres backs up to Cabin Creek, has a pond and some wooded area

TRACT 5: 35.2 +/- acres backs up to Cabin Creek, has a pond and some wooded area

NEW SURVEY PROVIDED

For inspection prior to the auction, contact Chuck Marshall @ 606-782-0374 or

Ronnie Lawson @ 859-494-9305

REAL ESTATE TERMS

There will be a 7% Buyers Premium added to the final bid price to determine the purchase price. 10% of purchase price (non-refundable) is due on the day of auction for the purchase of the property. Balance due at closing in 30 days, on or before April 20, 2026. 2026 property taxes will be prorated at closing. Property will be available for crop purposes. Note: No financial contingencies. Property selling is subject to all recorded or unrecorded easements, restrictions and covenants.

Although all information in all advertisements is obtained from sources deemed reliable, the auctioneer/broker and owners make no warranty or guarantee actual or implied as to the accuracy of the information. Prospective buyers should avail themselves of the opportunity to make inspection of property prior to bidding. Our company is not responsible for accidents. All property to sell in "as is condition".



Chuck Marshall, Broker, Auctioneer

10,11c

JORDAN

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greatness when I hear it," Levine said. "Once I turned around and saw what you were doing, the effortless, smooth power you were able to deliver... that is the sign of a really, truly great voice."

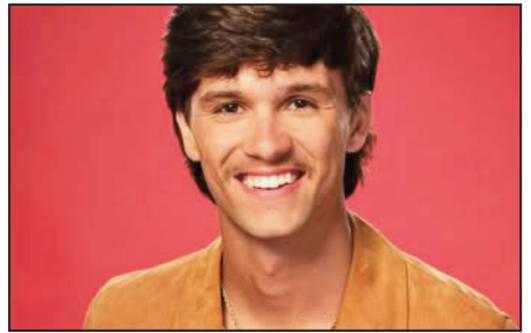
Jordan said he had long imagined what it would be like to compete on the show, having grown up watching it as a fan.

"My mindset through the whole thing was that Kelly Clarkson was exactly who I wanted," Jordan said, noting her versatility as a performer. "But I always remembered a moment growing up watching the show and thinking that if I ever made it on there, I might go with Adam Levine because I felt like we would be a good fit."

Jordan said Levine's pitch during the audition ultimately convinced him.

"The thing that sold me for Adam over Kelly was the way he pitched himself and the way he hit every nail that I wanted to hit on the aspect of what I want to improve in myself as an artist," Jordan said.

Jordan said his interest in music began when he



THE LEWIS COUNTY HERALD
Lewis County native Hunter Jordan.

spent the night with his grandfather and saw several of his grandfather's friends playing guitars.

"I saw them doing that and thought, 'I want to do that too,'" Jordan recalled. "From then on, each new song I learned I did by ear."

He later began singing in middle school and said involvement in musical theatre helped him develop his stage presence.

Jordan's audition opportunity came after he was encouraged to respond to a nationwide open call following a performance opening a Louisville show for Bryce Leatherwood, the winner of Season 22 of *The Voice*.

"I typically don't have anxiety on stage, but stepping in front of those coaches on a show I grew

up watching definitely brought some pressure with it," Jordan said. "But at the same time this is what I feel like I was born to do, so I ran with it."

Jordan will next appear on *The Voice* during the Battle Rounds, which begin March 16.

In the meantime, he has several Kentucky performances scheduled, including a recent sold-out show at the Washington Opera House, along with upcoming appearances in Lexington and Richmond.

"I'm really appreciative for the success I've had from the show so far and am excited for my upcoming shows in Kentucky," Jordan said. "It's a place I will always hold very near and dear to my heart, and my hope is to represent it well."

COUNCIL

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Council Member Joni Pugh, who also serves with the Chamber of Commerce, updated members on plans for May Fest. Pugh said the event is scheduled for Saturday, May 9.

During discussion about cleanup following the festival, Joe Billman said the city would cover the cost of garbage disposal for that event and other similar activities in the future.

"These events benefit the city and especially the downtown area," Billman said.

Council also authorized the city attorney to pursue legal action against businesses that are not reporting or paying the city's payroll tax.

Council authorized City Attorney Stephen McGinnis to file suit against the owner of a dilapidated property on Main Street that had previously housed Kenny's Restaurant and Kegley's Furniture. Billman later reported the

property owner has agreed to demolish the building.

The mayor also said the owner of the former JC Video building on Main Street has agreed to demolish that structure as well. A third property owner has appealed a similar matter and that case is

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Tollesboro Vol. Fire Dept.
Fish Fry
April 11 4-7pm
DINE-IN OR CARRY OUT
GARY THOMAS MEMORIAL FIRE STATION
3524 W KY 10, TOLLESBORO, KY

FIRE TRUCK FOR SALE - SEALED BIDS

Tollesboro Volunteer Fire Department

The Tollesboro Volunteer Fire Department is accepting SEALED BIDS for the sale of the following vehicle:

1991 Chevrolet Kodiak Fire Pumper

- Pierce body
- 1000 GPM Waterous pump
- 1000-gallon water tank
- 5-speed transmission with 2-speed rear
- Only 11,959 miles
- Passed pump test in February
- Outstanding condition



The vehicle is being sold AS-IS, WHERE-IS, with no warranties expressed or implied.

Additional specifications, condition details, or to arrange an inspection, contact: Chief Lee Thomas at 606-584-3327

Chief Lee Thomas - 606-584-3327

Bid Submission

Sealed bids must be clearly marked "Vehicle Bid" on the outside of the envelope and received no later than:

5:00 p.m. - April 10

Mail or deliver to: Tollesboro Volunteer Fire Department
P. O. Box 82
Tollesboro, KY 41189

Bids will be opened at 7:00 p.m. April 11 following the Fish Fry at the fire department.

The Tollesboro Volunteer Fire Department reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive informalities in the bidding process. Successful bidder must remit payment within 10 days of award. Truck may be picked up after title transfer is completed.

Public Notice