

MASSIE

Cont. from page 1

the fall. Kentucky election law has a “sore loser” prohibition, preventing someone from running in a general election if they were a primary candidate. Another statute prevents someone defeated in a primary from running as a write-in candidate for the same office in the general election.

But even if he doesn’t take up the crowd’s offer on a presidential campaign, he could consider a run for Kentucky governor in 2027 — he previously didn’t rule out the possibility earlier this year.

Trey Grayson, a former Republican secretary of state in Northern Kentucky, said running for governor would make “some sense as a potential next step” for Massie. The only candidate to formally announce a run so far is Democratic Lt. Gov. Jacqueline Coleman. Rumored Republican candidates are US Rep. James Comer and Secretary of State Michael Adams. Republican state Senate President Robert Stivers also hasn’t ruled out a run.

Massie did lose by 10 points, according to unofficial results, but “he was running against the president of the United States for a congressional seat,” Grayson said. Massie’s following as a Liberty Republican could

be “a different sort of base of support than” someone like Comer, “so there would be a lane for somebody like him in that race.

“All that being said, he did lose. And I don’t think his concession speech did him any favors,” Grayson said.

While Massie’s remarks were well-received in-person, some Republicans online bashed Massie’s opening joke, which was that he would have come to the stage sooner to speak “but I had to call my opponent and concede, and it took a while to find Ed Gallrein in Tel Aviv.”

Over the weekend, Politico reported that the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) and other pro-Israel interest groups have spent \$9 million against Massie, who often supports isolationist politics and opposes foreign aid. AIPAC congratulated Gallrein in a statement: “Our community was proud to support Gallrein and help ensure Massie’s defeat.”

Massie also faced fierce attacks on his personal life leading up to Tuesday, Grayson noted. Massie said he was consulting legal counsel after an interview with former girlfriend, Cynthia West, went viral on X and she accused Massie of offering her hush money to

drop a complaint against his ally Indiana Republican US Rep. Victoria Spartz. He has repeatedly denied this.

“He wouldn’t be the first person to say, ‘I’m good, I’m done. I can go do something else,’” Grayson said.

Blake Gober, who is a former campaign manager for US Rep. Andy Barr’s US Senate campaign, said that Massie’s “elected political career is over.”

Massie ally, Kentucky Republican US Sen. Rand Paul, son of the aforementioned Ron Paul, hasn’t ruled out a presidential run himself. If Paul does that, maybe Massie runs for U.S. Senate, Gober said, but he doesn’t “see a path” to being elected.

On the governor question, Gober said Massie and Comer have “a cordial, if not friendly, relationship,” and would not see Massie run against him in that race.

Massie does “100%” have a non-political future, Gober said.

“I think that he is technically a genius. He will, for sure, make sure everybody knows he has two degrees from MIT,” Gober said. Massie could be influential in Republican politics with groups like Young Americans for Liberty or Reason Foundation, a Libertarian think tank, to work on writing legislation.

Massie could also back other political candidates he agrees with and help fundraise for them, or “write a book that probably would become a New York Times bestseller,” Gober said.

“Also, he can go into the private sector and probably make a whole ton of money,

so he has an extremely bright future, and just because his elected political career is over, in my opinion, doesn’t mean that his future is any less bright,” Gober said. “As far as having influence politically, some of that is based upon what he does between now and January — when he’s no longer in Congress.”

Stephen Voss, a political science professor at the University of Kentucky, said that Massie’s concession speech “clearly was teasing some kind of future activity.” If Massie doesn’t seek another office, he could appear on news shows as a spokesperson on politics, kind of like Scott Jennings on CNN or find work at a think tank to reshape policy, Voss said.

“Massie’s built a substantial national following,” Voss said. He’s become almost a household name, which not a lot of members of Congress are able to do, and he’s giving voice to a segment of the electorate that doesn’t have a lot of spokespeople.”

What does this mean for

Liberty Republicans?

Throughout Massie’s seven terms in Congress, he became a leader of Liberty Republicans in Kentucky, with several of them being elected to the state legislature and in local positions in Northern Kentucky.

Voss said that Massie’s loss might make Liberty Republicans “more cautious” and cause legislators to “pick their battles a little more selectively.”

“I’m not sure the Liberty Republicans needed Massie’s loss to convince them that they needed to play ball most of the time. I would look back at when you know some of the Liberty Republicans were more disempowered within the state legislature as a message that already got through,” Voss said before adding that the caucus was “much more cooperative this last legislative session, almost almost sleepy.”

In 2023, some Liberty-aligned Republicans were removed from some committees at the end of the session, and said it was a punishment for bucking

leadership. Massie came to their defense at the time and said the move had “an air of pettiness that voters detest.” The lawmakers were later added back to their assignments.

Some Liberty allies had wins on Tuesday, like Chet Hand in the Republican primary for Boone County judge-executive, Grayson said. That shows “that there’s still a lot of vibrancy in this Liberty movement inside the Kentucky Republican Party,” but Massie’s loss also “doesn’t help” the Liberty Republicans.

Gober said that if Massie doesn’t run for governor, he could see someone from that wing of the party throwing their hat in the right. That could be someone like state Rep. Savannah Maddox, R-Dry Ridge, who initially declared a 2023 run for governor but ended her campaign in 2022.

“I think that that would be a dumb decision personally, but obviously we don’t know what’s going to happen between now and then,” Gober said.

FISCAL COURT

Cont. from page 1

partment at a pay rate of \$12 per hour.

Magistrates also discussed covenants related to the Tollesboro Industrial Property.

Fiscal Court also ap-

proved claims and fund transfers presented for county funds.

The next regular meeting of Lewis County Fiscal Court is scheduled for June 8 at 3:00 p.m.

COUNCIL

Cont. from page 1

proposal prior to final action next month.

A resolution approving the municipal road aid contract for fiscal year 2026-2027 was also approved.

Council was also introduced to Alexandria “Alex” Miller, the city’s new assistant clerk.

Billman outlined several ongoing improvement projects throughout the city, including renovations at Veterans Park, repainting trash cans, paving work and repairs connected to utility projects. He said the city is currently seeking bids for paving and utility repair work, including improvements along Court Street and portions of Front Avenue.

Officials also discussed several downtown proper-

ties and surplus items.

Council approved declaring a 2001 GMC Sierra dump truck as surplus property for sale after officials said the city no longer needed the vehicle due to the addition of newer equipment.

Council also approved selling surplus real estate, with discussion indicating a reserve price would likely be established before sale.

A lengthy discussion followed regarding city-owned property on Halbert Avenue. Some council members argued the property should be retained for possible future development, while others said the city has not moved forward with plans and should sell the property due to ongoing maintenance and trespassing concerns. The motion

to sell the property initially resulted in a tie vote before Mayor Billman cast the deciding vote in favor of the sale.

Council members also discussed internet access issues affecting vendors participating in the city’s Food Truck Fridays events at Veterans Park. Officials said they would explore adding internet service to improve vendor operations and credit card processing.

ELECTION

Cont. from page 1

cent.

In the Democratic race for the Fourth Congressional District, Melissa Claire Strange received 135 votes, or 69.59 percent, while Jesse Russell Brewer received 59 votes, or 30.41 percent.

Districtwide unofficial results showed Strange defeating Brewer with 30,108 votes, or 72 percent, compared to 11,461 votes, or 28 percent.

A total of 3,152 ballots were cast out of the 9,830 registered voters in Lewis County, representing a 32.07 percent voter turnout. Statewide voter turnout was reported at 25.67 percent.

Follow the QR codes for cumulative and expanded Lewis County results.



Greenup crash claims Lewis County woman

By Dennis K. Brown

A Vanceburg woman was killed Wednesday night in a two-vehicle collision in Greenup County, according to Kentucky State Police.

Kentucky State Police Post 14 said troopers responded about 9:25 p.m. to the crash near the intersection of Industrial Parkway and County Road 1630.

The preliminary investigation indicates a vehicle

operated by 21-year-old Abigail Miller of Vanceburg crossed the center line and struck another vehicle head-on.

Miller was pronounced dead at the scene by the Greenup County Coroner.

Two occupants of the second vehicle were transported to a local hospital for treatment of injuries.

The collision remains under investigation by Kentucky State Police Post 14.

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MEMORIAL DAY

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WE WILL NEVER FORGET.

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Today, we honor the brave men and women who gave their lives in service to our country.

★ From ★

Lewis County Judge Executive

GEORGE SPARKS

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LEWIS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS:

SUMMER READING KICKOFF 2026

☆ 10AM-2PM June 6th 2026 @ the Black Oak Recreation Park ☆

Petting Zoo ☆ Games ☆ Crafts ☆ Food

one free snowcone voucher per summer reading participant!

zebra, kangaroo, sheep, goat, camel, mini horses, etc.