The Licking Valley Courier

P.O. Box 187- West Liberty, Ky. 41472- Phone 606-743-3551
USPS Permit Number 312-040

EARL W. KINNER, Publisher | MIRANDA CANTRELL, News Editor | RICK ADKINS, General Mgr.

RICK ADKINS, Advertising | DAVID PATRICK, Sports

POSTMASTER: Send changes of address and all forms to the above address. The Licking Valley Courier is published on Thursdays 51 weeks a year. Periodicals postage paid at the West Liberty Post Office, West Liberty, Kentucky. Editor reserves the right to edit and/or omit all items submitted for publication.

80,000 Kentuckians lose access to food aid

Gov. blames Trump; says SNAP changes "cruel, unnecessary"

By Sarah Ladd
Kentucky Lantern

Some 80,000 Kentuckians have lost access to the food benefits known as SNAP because of federal changes to the program, Gov. Andy Beshear said in a letter sent to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins and Kentucky's congressional delegation on Wednesday, Oct. 14.

Beshear said that number includes 24,655 children and 6,572 seniors. He asked that federal officials "take action to ensure our most vulnerable citizens, including children and the elderly, do not go hungry for reasons beyond their control."

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program currently provides benefits to 286,921 Kentucky households, according to state data. According to Beshear, just shy of 547,000 individuals are getting assistance — down from 627,164 in October 2025.

Households in Kentucky receiving SNAP get an average of $346 each month, according to state data.

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act, a sweeping budget bill passed by Congress in 2025, made several changes to the program that Beshear and others have said would cause greater food insecurity.

Last November, veterans, the homeless, recent foster care youth and adults ages 54-64 were no longer exempt from work requirements to receive food benefits for themselves and their families through SNAP.

"We should be fighting hunger, not causing it; yet the President's cruel and unnecessary changes to SNAP are causing more than 80,000 Kentuckians – and millions of Americans across our country – to face hunger," Beshear said in a statement.

"School meals and summer programs are what so many children depend on for food," Beshear said. "Because of the President's actions, now even those dependable sources of food will be taken from our most vulnerable kids. It's wrong, and action needs to be taken."

Senior Citizens Menu

Meals Are Served With Water and Milk

Thursday, Oct. 22 — RS Spaghetti Meat Sauce, Broccoli & Cauliflower, Whole Grain Breadstick, Red Grapes, Bowtie Pasta, Chocolate Chip Cookie, 1% Milk.

Friday, Oct. 23 — Chicken Cordon Bleu, California Vegetable Blend, Whipped Sweet Potatoes, Whole Grain White Roll, Banana, 1% Milk, Margarine.

Monday, Oct. 26 — Grilled Chickedn Salad, Oatmeal Crfeam Cookie, Margarine, FF/LS French Dressing , 1% Milk, Chunky Vegetable Soup, Whole Grain White Roll.

Tuesday, Oct. 27 — Chicken Alfredlo, Broccoli, 1% Milk, Whole Grain Breadstick, Margarine, Pineapple. Chunks.

Wednesday, Oct. 28 — No Meals Served.

Thursday, Oct. 29 — Turkey & Stuffing Casserole, 1% Milk, Mixed Fruit, Green Beans, Whole Grain White Roll, ashed Potatoes.

Friday, Oct. 30 — Regional Event - Monster Mash.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Representative Richard White

Voters to Decide on Constitutional Amendment

When Kentucky voters cast their ballots in this year's General Election, they will have the opportunity to decide on a proposed constitutional amendment concerning the governor's authority to issue pardons and commute sentences.

The current Kentucky Constitution is our state's fourth and 135-years old. It is far more detailed than those of other states, with over 260 sections and detailed provisions that other states address through legislation. The document is significant not only for how old and long it is, but also for the way it reflects the social and political priorities and culture of the late 19th century. For example, the original version limited voting rights to white males age 21 and over. And, while it has been amended more than 40 times since 1891, much of its language is still outdated. Voters have considered amendments 12 times (16 proposed amendments) over the past 30 years.

If approved by voters, the proposed amendment on this year's ballot would prohibit any Kentucky governor from granting a pardon or commuting a sentence during the 60 days immediately preceding a general election and during the transition period between an election and the beginning of the next administration. The proposal would not eliminate the governor's existing constitutional authority to grant pardons or reduce sentences outside of that restricted period.

The exact language of the amendment reads as follows:

Are you in favor of limiting a Governor's ability to grant pardons or commute sentences by prohibiting him or her from granting pardons or commuting sentences during the time period beginning 60 days prior to the general election at which the Governor is elected, and ending when the Governor is sworn in for that term by amending the Constitution of Kentucky as stated below?

It is proposed that Section 77 of the Constitution of Kentucky be amended to read as follows:

(1) The Governor shall have power to:

(a) Remit fines and forfeitures; and

(b) Commute sentences and grant reprieves and pardons, except:

1. In case of impeachment; or

2. For the period beginning sixty days prior to the date of the gubernatorial election and ending the fifth Tuesday succeeding the election.

(2) The Governor shall file with each application therefor a statement of the reasons for his or her decision thereon, which application and statement shall always be open to public inspection.

(3) In cases of treason, the Governor shall have power to grant reprieves until the end of the next session of the General Assembly, in which the power of pardoning shall be vested; but he or she shall have no power to remit the fees of the Clerk, Sheriff or Commonwealth's Attorney in penal or criminal cases.

Under Kentucky's Constitution, the governor has broad clemency powers. A pardon can forgive the legal consequences of a conviction, while a commutation can reduce a person's sentence. These powers are separate from the judicial process and can affect decisions made by law enforcement, prosecutors, juries and judges.

The proposed amendment is intended to establish a constitutional restriction on when those powers may be exercised. It would apply to every governor going forward. The proposed amendment does not eliminate the governor's authority to grant pardons or commute sentences. Instead, it places limits on when that authority may be exercised, raising a practical question about timing.

The issue has received increased attention because of the use of executive clemency near the end of gubernatorial administrations. In December 2019, then-Governor Matt Bevin issued more than 600 pardons and commutations shortly before leaving office. Several of those decisions – as well as the decision-making process itself - generated significant public controversy and scrutiny. In the final days of his administration in December 2015, Governor Steve Beshear issued 197 pardons and commuted six sentences, far more than he had issued earlier in his administration. And, in December 2007, Governor Ernie Fletcher issued 101 pardons and commutations as he was leaving office.

Interesting enough, when Governor Paul Patton was leaving office in 2003, he and his staff reportedly determined that almost 200 pardon applications were justified. However, he told a reporter with the Louisville Courier Journal that he chose not to grant them out of caution that it might appear like political favoritism if any were campaign donors.

The proposal has also been considered over multiple legislative sessions. The sponsor of the legislation that placed it on the ballot has pursued changes for several years. The amendment ultimately received bipartisan support in the General Assembly before being placed before voters.

As with any constitutional amendment, the decision ultimately rests with Kentucky voters. The question on the ballot gives voters the opportunity to determine whether these additional constitutional restrictions should become part of the governor's clemency authority.

As always, I can be reached anytime through the toll-free message line in Frankfort at 1-800-372-7181. You can also contact me via email at Richard.White@kylegislature.gov and keep track through the Kentucky legislature's website at legislature.ky.gov.

Available For Adoption



Photos By Kathy Gullett



This is Penny - a 6 year old female Boxer, very sweet girl.

This is Herbert - a male senior 10 plus years, Shepherd mix, he is a very sweet boy.

For More Information: contact the Morgan County Animal Shelter at 743-2545 or stop by.

Located at 1854 Hwy. 205, West Liberty, Ky. 41472

VOTE FOR
GRANT SORRELL
FOR MAYOR





NOVEMBER 3, 2026

PAID FOR BY GRANT SORRELL

RE-ELECT
LEROY PHIPPS
MAGISTRATE
DISTRICT 5



It has been an honor to serve District 5 over the last two terms. Serving as Magistrate has given me the chance to listen to the concerns of our residents and be a part of making decisions that affect the place we all call home. I'm thankful for the trust and support our community has shown me, and I look forward to continuing to serve with honesty, fairness and dedication.

ON NOVEMBER 3 RE-ELECT
LEROY PHIPPS NO. 3 ON THE BALLOT.

PAID FOR BY LEROY PHIPPS