

## Digest

### Daviess Fiscal Court

During its meeting Thursday at the Daviess County Courthouse, Daviess County Fiscal Court took the following actions:

- Presented check from KCJEA Community Outreach Program to Puzzle Pieces
- Heard Treasurer's report for January 2026
- Approved minutes of Feb. 10, 2026, Daviess County Fiscal Court meeting
- Approved all claims for all departments
- Approved contract with The Eric Group for stage rental services at Yellow Creek Park (Easter)
- Approved contract with The Eric Group for production services at Yellow Creek Park (July 4th)
- Approved contract with Star Pyro for public fireworks display at Yellow Creek Park (July 4th)
- Approved agreement with Owensboro Health, Inc for Employee Assistance Program services
- Approved Resolution 04-2026: Subdivision Street Lighting District for Saddle Pointe, Unit 2
- Approved Resolution 05-2026: Subdivision Street Lighting District for Saddle Pointe, Unit 3
- Approved second reading of KOC 921.689 (2026) 01-2026: An Ordinance Amending KOC 921.685 (2025) 02-2025 Section Four
- Approved proposal of Bryant Engineering for recordable easement plat for Daviess County Public Safety Facility
- Approved proposal of Bryant Engineering for water main extension for Daviess County Public Safety Facility
- Approved awarding Bid No. 2526-50: Kirtley Annex roof cap replacement project (Kirtley)
- Approved awarding Bid No. 2526-52: Schertzing Office renovation project (Fiscal Court)
- Approved awarding Bid No. 2526-53: Six (6) community notification siren upgrades (EMA)
- Approved awarding RFQ No. 2526-59: Eight (8) new tarp systems (Transfer Station)
- Reappointed Russell Wilkey (S1T) to the Ethics Board effective March 1, 2026, through Feb. 28, 2029
- Reappointed Steve Reising (SPT) to the Owensboro-Daviess County Regional Airport Board effective March 1, 2026, through Feb. 28, 2030
- Accepted the retirement resignation of Tim Terry effective Feb. 28, 2026
- Accepted the resignation of Heath Stallings effective March 3, 2026

## Resolution supports Imagination Library

**BY LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION**  
FRANKFORT — Reading can open doors for young people that are otherwise shut, and with this mindset, legislators on Tuesday advanced a Senate joint resolution in support of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

During the Senate Families and Children Committee meeting, Senate Minority Whip Cassie Chambers Armstrong, D-Louisville, and others testified that through the initiative, children from birth to age five can obtain books delivered to their mailboxes at no charge.

"I've been working 9-to-5 with Imagination Library to think of ways that we can expand this program so that every Kentucky kid has access to it, and the options we've come up with are varied as a coat of many colors," she said. "And they include things like automatically enrolling our kids in foster care, collaborating with our WIC program around enrollment opportunities and studying how people can enroll as part of the birth certificate process like other states have taken steps to do."

Senate Joint Resolution 54 would direct and organize this work, requiring the state Cabinet for Health and Family Services, the state Department for Libraries and Archives, and Imagination Library to work together and bring ideas to expand access, Armstrong said.

Armstrong thanked Senate President Robert Stivers, R-Manchester, and U.S. Rep. Morgan McGarvey — a former state lawmaker — for their work to bring Imagination Library to Kentucky.

"This has always been a bipartisan program supported greatly by this general assembly, and I just wanted to say to President Stivers and Congressman McGarvey, Kentucky families will always love you for your



David Michael Hargis/LRC/Paxton Media

Senate Minority Whip Cassie Chambers Armstrong, D-Louisville, testifies Tuesday on Senate Joint Resolution 54 in support of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library during a Senate Families and Children Committee meeting.

work with DPIL," she said.

Sen. Amanda Mays Bledsoe, R-Lexington, said she's a big fan of Imagination Library. She asked about local match funding and said it can be a challenge for some communities.

Libby Suttles, state director of Imagination Library of Kentucky, said work is being done to roll out a system to focus on sustainability for expansion of local programs.

"We meet with every partner when they start the program and do a five-year cost estimator to determine what type of financial sustainability a program needs to have," she said.

Suttles said she and others are working closely with all partners on a variety of funding — multiple grants, family foundations, spelling bees, Dolly Parton galas, sing-alongs and other fundraisers.

"So, we're really hoping to be very creative to support local programs to reach their financial goals and sustainability," Suttles said.

Suttles thanked Armstrong for creating the resolution, which gives authority to align resources between the health cabinet and department of libraries. She said this will provide greater outreach to health departments, hospitals, the HANDS (Health Access Nurturing Development Services) program and the Kentucky Department of Corrections. She said some inmates not only read to their children; they hone their own skills.

"We have soft reading spaces in all prisons across Kentucky, so when children come to visit their parents, there's an opportunity to pull a Dolly book off of a bookshelf, sit on a carpeted area,

sit at a table, use crayons, talk about books," she said.

Sen. Shelley Funke Frommeyer, R-Alexandria, said she has a daughter who was born in 2010, and those in Campbell County did a great job of making Imagination Library available to children. She asked how recipients continue to receive books after they move.

Lindsey B. Westerfield, community engagement coordinator of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Kentucky, said the program is connected with the change of address registry of the United States Postal Service.

"When a book maybe arrives at a mailbox, and there is a forwarding address that's been listed with the postal service, that will flag in the system," she said.

Sen. Robin L. Webb, R-Grayson, said Dolly Parton's father couldn't read and Parton was inspired to do something positive. Imagination Library is a good way to help overcome illiteracy, she said.

"I think that is an extension that is a natural one that's going to be very beneficial for reintegration of those inmates and the educational aspect of those children as well," she said.

Sen. Keturah J. Herron, D-Louisville, said she has met with program representatives.

"I'm super impressed by the work that is happening and really, the cost. I think that when you look at and you break down the cost of 60 books over those five years, it's less than \$1.50," she said.

Senate Minority Caucus Chair Reginald L. Thomas, D-Lexington, said education begins at birth, and the program is vital to his granddaughter and all children of Kentucky.

"It's so important that we start emphasizing literacy and reading, and that's what helps children become kindergarten ready," he said.