

Senator weighs in on data centers, Kentucky's economy

Paul says communities should decide on controversial centers

BY LISA-SOPHIA KACHALOVA
CORRESPONDENT

U.S. Senator Rand Paul (R-Kentucky) made it clear during a recent interview with the Era that the development of data centers should remain an issue for local jurisdictions to decide while also commenting on the direction of Kentucky's economic future.

"Nobody in Washington can know as well or feel as strongly about these types of issues as the people who are close to them so I would keep these decisions local," Paul said. "It ought to be local, not in Washington."

The data center issue has roiled communities across the state, including regionally in Oldham and Mercer counties along with Madison, Indiana. The centers are the byproduct of the massive expansion of artificial intelligence (AI) and have been blamed for affecting ground water and increasing local utility bills.

While he described AI as something that will continue to grow, he also voiced concerns not only



U.S. Sen. Rand Paul speaks earlier this year to the Owen County Republican Party.

about federal decisions to expand the development of data centers, but also about federal use of AI in surveillance.

"I think AI is coming. I

don't think anybody can put the genie back in the box," Paul said. "I think AI will bring benefits, particularly in the private industry and private world, but where I

see potential problems with AI are in government's use in spying or surveilling on its citizenry."

Additionally, Paul discussed current economic issues that he sees affecting Kentucky. He said that inflation, the rising cost of gas, and affordability are some of the biggest concerns facing Kentuckians.

Paul argued that federal spending has been the biggest contributor to inflation, causing higher prices for groceries, housing, and other essentials.

"We've got to quit spending money we don't have," Paul said. "Inflation is very clearly caused by government debt. If we want to have more stable prices and less loss of purchasing power, the first thing is we have to spend less money, we have to be more fiscally responsible."

Paul pointed to his proposal and long-time support for the "Penny Plan," a budget plan that would reduce federal spending by a certain percentage (originally 1%, now 6%) across the board. He said measures such as that would help slow inflation and improve the nation's long-term fiscal outlook without having to eliminate

entire programs or targeting programs favored by one political party.

"The reason I like looking at this is it shows that whether it's a program favored by Republicans or a program favored by Democrats, we cut all the same," Paul said. "You actually could balance the budget, and I think it's a good way of trying to approach the problem."

Paul also discussed rising fuel costs, which he said remain a concern for many Kentuckians, particularly in rural communities.

"We're hearing from people who say, 'for goodness' sake, I know I fill up half my tank of gas now and can't go on vacations,'" Paul said. "Income is not keeping up with inflation and war-induced prices on gasoline."

Paul pointed to the conflict with Iran as a factor behind increased price of gasoline as well as the rising cost of fertilizer, which he says is affecting farmers in western Kentucky.

"The war is what's causing it," Paul said. "I don't think we're better off having fought the war, so I would argue to end the war as soon as possible."

Paul also emphasized the

importance of free, international trade to Kentucky's economy, specifically for car manufacturers.

"One thing that I hear from the car manufacturers is that free trade, international trade, is good for them," Paul said. "The free flow of both parts and cars is good for Kentucky and good for the United States as well. I think that's a debate that we need to continue to have, and try to dispel the fallacies concerning trade, that trade somehow hurts us when I think trade is a benefit."

Looking ahead, Paul listed the automotive, aerospace and logistics industry as industries that will continue to grow and play an important role in Kentucky's economy and future.

"I think Kentucky's got a lot to be proud of," Paul said.

Paul's office regularly hosts telephone town halls for Kentucky residents, allowing constituents to ask questions about discuss issues affecting their communities. Sign up to be notified of the tele-town-halls is available at www.paul.senate.gov/live.

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LEGAL NOTICE

CITY OF CRESTWOOD
ORDINANCE NO. 4 SERIES 2026

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE CITY OF CRESTWOOD BUDGET FOR THE 2026-2027 FISCAL YEAR

WHEREAS, the Commissioners of the City of Crestwood have reviewed the proposed budget for the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year for the City of Crestwood, and;

WHEREAS, the City Commissioners believe that the proposed budget should be adopted for and on behalf of the City of Crestwood.

NOW THEREFORE, be it ordained by the legislative body of the City of Crestwood, Oldham County, Kentucky;

SECTION 1. That the City of Crestwood budget for the 2026 - 2027 Fiscal Year as attached hereto shall be adopted as the budget for the City of Crestwood for the 2026- 2027 fiscal year.

SECTION 2. The legislative body of the City of Crestwood finds and declares that: The budget as adopted is in the best interest of the populace of the City of Crestwood and that the income and expenditures as set forth in said budget are within the fiscal guidelines for funds which may be expended by the City of Crestwood for the 2026 - 2027 fiscal year.

The first reading of this Ordinance having been conducted on the 13th day of May 2026 at 7:30 p.m. at which time residents of the City of Crestwood could make any comments in regard to the budget, and the second reading of this Ordinance having been conducted on the 10th day of June 2026, at the hour of 7:00 p.m., which after being considered by the City Commissioners of the City of Crestwood the Ordinance is duly adopted by the City of Crestwood, Oldham County, Kentucky.

THE CITY OF CRESTWOOD

By: Jim Kramer, Mayor

ATTEST:
 Erika Cordova, Clerk

	City of Crestwood Proposed Budget For The Fiscal Year July 1, 2026 Through June 30, 2027 Forecasted 2026 • 2027 Budget			
	Building Fund	General Fund	Road Fund	TOTAL
Budgeted Receipts				
Property Taxes		600,000		600,000
Telecommunications Tax		24,000		24,000
Mineral Severance		9,000		9,000
Interest Bldg Reserve Fund		25		25
Municipal Aid			250,000	250,000
Interest Income - Road		-		-
Interest Income - General		-		-
Insurance Assessments		1,900,000		1,900,000
Miscellaneous Income		-		-
Rental Income	700,000	-	-	700,000
Total	700,000	2,533,025	250,000	3,483,025
Budgeted Expenditures				
Property Maintenance	300,000			300,000
Interest - Bldg	230,000			230,000
Park Expenses/ Repairs		50,000		50,000
Park Equipment and Upgrades		100,000		100,000
Rent		5,000		5,000
Bank and other Service Charges		1,500		1,500
Legal & Auditing		80,000		80,000
Legal Advertising		4,000		4,000
Professional Services		100,000		100,000
Utilities		190,000		190,000
Tax Assess & Collect		40,000		40,000
Office Supplies and Postage		5,000		5,000
Licensing and IT Support		20,000		20,000
Insurance 90,000 90,000				
Memberships & Dues		38,000		38,000
Salaries & Wages		111,200		111,200
Payroll Tax		11,120		11,120
Landscape Maintenance		150,000		150,000
Other - General Fund		26,000		26,000
Pavillion		10,000		10,000
Property Tax Refunds		5,000		5,000
Insurance Refunds		15,000		15,000
General Repairs		425,000		425,000
Donations		100,000		100,000
Police Support	0	75,000		75,000
OCED		80,000		80,000
Miscellaneous		45,000		45,000
Park - Maintenance		100,000		100,000
Storm Water Maintenance		75,000		75,000
Storm Water Utility Fee		175,000		175,000
Road Maintenance - Rd.			200,000	200,000
Snow Removal/Salting • Rd.			200,000	200,000
Total Budgeted Expenditures	530,000	2,126,820	400,000	3,056,820
Transfers In (Out)	(150,000)	-	150,000	-
Budgeted Surplus	20,000	406,205	-	426,20



LEGAL NOTICE

CITY OF CRESTWOOD
ORDINANCE NO. 3, SERIES 2026

SUBJECT: AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE CITY COMMISSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING SPECIFIC DEPARTMENTS OR THE CITY OF CRESTWOOD, OLDHAM COUNTY, KENTUCKY.

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Revised Statutes Chapter 83A.140 requires all administrative and service functions shall be classified under departments and created by ordinance.

NOW THEREFORE, be it ordained by the City of Crestwood, Commonwealth of Kentucky that:

- SECTION 1**
- The following Departments shall be established for the City of Crestwood:
1. Parks and Events-includes oversight, maintenance, and improvement of city parks, green spaces, and recreational facilities. Also includes planning, coordination, and execution of city-sponsored events and programs.
 2. Public Services and Utilities-includes maintenance and construction of streets, roads, street lighting, AND signage. Also includes water and stormwater drainage, snow removal, and telecommunication systems.
 3. General Government Administration-includes general functions of the city, including finance, administration, personnel, elected officials, public buildings, safety and security, and insurance coverage.
 4. Business and Economic Development-includes promotion of economic development and business growth within the City. Also includes acting as liaison between the City and the business community with regard to rental property.
 5. Real Estate Acquisition, Construction, and Development-includes acquisition, construction, development, and management of City real estate projects.

All administrative and service functions of the City shall be classified under departments created by ordinance which shall prescribe the function of the department and the duties and responsibilities of the Superintendent and his/her team.

SECTION 2

The Mayor shall, at the first regular meeting of each year, designate each Commission Member to be a Superintendent of a specific department(s) established under this section. Each Superintendent shall have oversight said department(s). Each Commissioner and the Mayor shall oversee these specific City departments. However, the Mayor may delegate responsibility for overall oversight of any or all departments to a city administrative officer established pursuant to KRS 83A.090.

SECTION 3

The invalidity of any Section, clause, sentence, or provision of this Ordinance shall not affect the validity of any other part of the Ordinance which shall be given effect without such other invalid part.

SECTION 4

Any Ordinance or part of an Ordinance in conflict herewith is hereby repealed. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its passage and publication as required by law.

The first reading of this Ordinance having been conducted on the 13th day of May 2026 at 7:30 p.m. at which time residents of the City of Crestwood could make any comments in regard to this Ordinance, and the second reading of this Ordinance having been conducted on the 10th day of June 2026, at the hour of 7:00 p.m., which after being considered by the City Commissioners of the City of Crestwood the Ordinance is duly adopted by the City of Crestwood, Oldham County, Kentucky.

ATTEST:
 Erika Cordova, Clerk

THE CITY OF CRESTWOOD
By: Jim Kramer, Mayor



LEGAL NOTICE

CITY OF RIVER BLUFF
ORDINANCE NO. 2, SERIES 2026-2027

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF ALL REAL PROPERTY WITHIN THE CORPORATION LIMITS OF THE CITY OF RIVER BLUFF, KENTUCKY, AND THE LEVYING OF AN AD VALOREM TAX THEREON FOR CITY PURPOSES

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of KRS 92.280 et seq., the City of River Bluff is authorized and empowered to provide a system for the assessment, levy and collection of all City taxes; and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Constitution Section 169 requires all governmental bodies to have a fiscal year which begins on July 1, unless otherwise directed by law;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained by the City of River Bluff, Kentucky:

1. The following provisions shall apply for the period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 which shall be the fiscal year of the City of River Bluff.
2. Under authority contained in Section 132.285, Kentucky Revised Statutes, the City of River Bluff hereby adopts January 1, 2026 as the annual assessment date for all real property and improvements therein subject to ad valorem tax by the City and elects to use the annual assessment of the Property Valuation Administrator of Oldham County, Kentucky as the basis for all City property taxes for the fiscal year July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.
3. The City Treasurer shall obtain an appropriate listing from the Property Valuation Administrator's books after they have been supervised and corrected by the Oldham County Board of Equalization. Said listing shall include all property located in the corporate limits of River Bluff assessed as of January 1, 2026.
4. There is levied for the fiscal year July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027 a tax of thirteen cents (\$0.13) per one hundred dollars (\$100.00) assessed valuation on all taxable property within the City.
5. (a) A discount of 2% of the tax due and owing shall be allowed on all tax bills paid prior to October 1, 2026.
(b) The full amount of the tax due and owing shall be paid if payment is made after October 1, 2026 and before November 1, 2026.
(c) The full amount of the tax due and owing plus a 2% penalty thereon shall be paid if payment is made after November 1, 2026 and before December 1, 2026.
(d) All payments made after December 1, 2026 shall be in the full amount of the tax due and owing plus a penalty of 10% thereon.
(e) Interest shall be charged on all tax payments due and owing with interest accruing from December 1, 2026 at the rate of 12% per annum.
(f) The City shall have liens on delinquent taxpayers' properties. The liens shall include penalties against the aforesaid taxpayers for costs, as same may exist from time to time, associated with the City obtaining, recording and releasing the liens.
6. The City Treasurer is authorized and directed to prepare and deliver tax bills pursuant to the provisions of this ordinance by the 15th day of September, 2026.
7. Each tax bill shall contain the lot number of the assessed property, the total valuation, the name of the owner of record, the tax rate and the total tax due.
8. All omitted property shall be assessed and taxed in the manner provided by the Kentucky Revised Statutes.
9. Collection of delinquent taxes shall be made in the manner provided by the Kentucky Revised Statutes.
10. The proceeds of such taxes are to be used for the general operating purposes of the City, all necessary capital expenditures and for any and all other purposes permitted by law.
11. This ordinance shall take effect from and after its passage, all approval and publication as required by law.
12. Passed and approved this 23rd Day of June, 2026.

FIRST READING: April 28, 2026
SECOND READING: June 23, 2026

CITY OF RIVER BLUFF, KENTUCKY
Bryan J. Dillon, Mayor

ATTEST:
Katie Buhts, City Clerk