

School Board sets 2027 tax rates, accepts bids on Madison Southern tennis court

Blake Vickers
Richmond Register

The Madison County School Board set tax rates for the 2027 fiscal year. During their Sept. 10 meeting, they also accepted bids to build a tennis court at Madison Southern High School.

While motor vehicle and water craft rates remain at \$0.55.80 cents per \$100 of assessed value (the same as they've been since 1983), the district is slightly lowering the tax rates on real and personal property, which have been set at \$0.61.7 and \$0.63.3 cents per \$100 dollars of value, respectively. Last year, real property rate was set at \$0.61.8 cents per \$100 dollars of value.

The Allen Company will handle demolition, draining, and asphalt duties on the project at a cost of \$371,210. While court surfacing and net posts will be completed by Tennis Technologies for \$81,406. Fencing on the project will be done by East Fence for \$522,616.

MADISON COUNTY SCHOOLS POLICE DEPARTMENT INTERLOCAL AGREEMENTS

The board approved of several interlocal agreements for the Madison County Schools Police Department. The first of those agreements is with the Madison County Sheriff's Office. It allows members of the school police department jurisdiction off campus when they're traveling to and from schools.

A communications agreement was also agreed to, this time with the Madison County



BLAKE VICKERS — RR FILE PHOTO

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Fiscal Court, to allow the department to use the county's 911 services for dispatching and emergency communication. For their part, the fiscal court agreed to this during a meeting last month.

NEW HIRES

An emergency certification was passed for an science teacher at Farristown Middle School.

"This doesn't mean that we're letting anybody off the street come and teach science. These are certified teachers. They may just lack one particular qualification to some degree just to teach that subject. It doesn't mean they don't know what they're doing," Cobb said.

A Pre-school paraeducator position were approved of for

Silvercreek Elementary School and Shannon Johnson Elementary School. The paraeducator will work four days a week, splitting services between the two schools.

Two paraeducator positions were approved of for Glenn Marshall Elementary School. As was an LBD paraeducator at Madison Southern High School. An LBD teacher was hired at Waco Elementary School. A teaching position was also created at Daniel Boone Elementary School. That position will be paid for in part with Title I funds.

A school nurse position was also created during the meeting. It will be a district-wide position, meaning that nurse would serve every school in the district.

"in case we need it.

We're going through the process now to see if we will need it. So it may be something we don't have to have, but we're going to create (the position) just in case," said Superintendent Randy Neeley.

Currently, there is a nurse working at every school in the district. This position was created in the scenario that the district needs a floating nurse.

An assistant band director and assistant basketball position were set up for Madison Southern High School. Those roles will be paid for with athletic funds. While Madison Central High School had two athletic site manager positions created, also using athletic funds. That school also had two paid football

assistant positions created using athletic funds.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Board agreed to approve a memorandum with Head Start to use that program's services. A contract was also agreed to with Supreme Cleaning

Services to provide cleaning services for the school board building.

"They actually bid that out and we're able to save a little bit of money, in my understanding," said Board Chair Lori Cobb.

It is a one year contract, with the ability to renew it up to five more times if the board chooses to. There were 5 total proposals for that cleaning contract. The board is able to exit it if it wishes to, and the company will be on site to clean the building Monday through Friday.

The board also approved the purchase of 110 new chromebooks for Shannon Johnson Elementary School. It comes at a cost of \$44,440 and will be pulled from Title I funds.

FOR RENT

New 1 Bedroom apts in Berea, water and sewer included. Washer and dryer hook up. 1 year lease , no pets , taking applications. 859-621-8719.

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FISCAL

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this year. We are at \$0.046 for real property rates (per \$100), \$0.046 personal (per \$100), and out motor vehicle never changes. It's \$0.035 (per \$100)," said Madison County Library Executive Director Christina Cornelison.

The Madison County Health Department set their real property tax rates at \$0.047 per \$100. While personal property and motor vehicle/ water craft rates were set at \$0.05 per \$100.

The Madison County Extension office set their rates at \$0.018 per \$100 for real property rates, \$0.0272 per \$100 for tangible property rates, and \$0.0272 per \$100 for inventory rates.

The Red Lick Watershed Conservancy District set rates at \$0.05 per \$100.

Madison County EMS set their real property rates at \$0.042 per \$100 and \$0.060 per \$100 for motor vehicle/water craft rates.

A representative from Berea Community Schools was scheduled to make a presentation regarding their tax rates, but did not show up for the meeting. While the Madison County School District is set to approve their tax rates for the year during their next meeting on Sept. 10.

EMS PRESENTATION

Tonya Donselman of the county EMS services also gave a quick debrief to the fiscal court on the services those tax rates are going towards.

"In 2025, Madison County EMS made over 21,000 calls for service. That is probably the third or fourth largest EMS service in the country. In response to our increased run volume last year, we were able to add another impact truck. So we added another crew that's on during our peak hours to help with that increased run volume," Donselman said.

The Madison County EMS is the second business emergency service in the county, just below the Richmond Police Department. The service is also working to expand their work-

force and development initiatives. They've added paramedic classes, EMT classes, and advanced EMT classes in the last few years. This past Spring, Madison County EMS graduated their first EMT class through the Ignite program and ECU. Donselman said that one of those graduating students has joined up with the county.

Madison County EMS is also in the 2% of EMS services in the country to offer whole blood services. Simply put, whole blood is blood the way it is found in the human body. Meaning it contains red blood cells, white blood cells, platelets, and plasma.

"Over 22 people in our community have received whole blood as of the first of this month. We're proud to have that in our community. It's going spectacularly well," Donselman said.

Madison County EMS is partnering with the Kentucky Blood Center for a blood drive on Sept. 14. It will be located at station 3 over at 556 South Keeneland Drive.

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Notice is hereby given that Donna McKinney 2874 Bates Creek Rd Richmond, KY 40475 has filed an application with the Energy and Environment Cabinet to building a home on private land 10 miles from downtown Richmond. Stream is on Bates Creek Rd. Any comments or objections concerning this application shall be directed in writing to DOWFLOODPLAIN@ky.gov or Kentucky Division of Water Floodplain Management Section 300 Sower Blvd. Frankfort, KY 40602 Call 502-564-3410 with questions.

Request for Proposals – Pizza for Madison County Schools

Madison County Schools is requesting proposals from qualified vendors to provide pizza to the students of Madison County Schools in accordance with the specifications and requirements outlined in the Request for Proposal (RFP). To request a copy of the RFP and related specifications, please email Dustin Brumbaugh at dustin.brumbaugh@madison.kyschools.us.

Proposals must be received no later than Tuesday, September 29, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. EDT.