

Comer outlines gubernatorial plans during Laurel County visit



Congressman James Comer speaks to Laurel County residents about his bid for governor of Kentucky as a Republican candidate. | PHOTO BY MACEE SWAFFORD

BY MACEE SWAFFORD
STAFF WRITER

LONDON — U.S. Rep. James Comer told Laurel County residents last week that he intends to run for governor of Kentucky in 2027, outlining his vision for the state during a gathering Tuesday at the Laurel County Courthouse.

Comer, a Republican who represents Kentucky’s 1st Congressional District, said he plans to make his formal campaign announcement around the third week of November following the 2026 election.

“I am running for governor, and I’m going to announce about the third week in November,” Comer said.

Congressman Comer spoke about his priorities for Ken-



Incoming London Mayor-elect Matt Orr takes a photo with Congressman James Comer. | PHOTO BY MACEE SWAFFORD

tucky — including economic development, public education, workforce opportunities

and reducing poverty.

He said he believes Kentucky has an opportunity to at-

tract businesses and industries from states facing higher taxes, increased regulations and other challenges.

“We’ve got an opportunity to go on the offense and attract industries,” Comer said. “And I want to keep our best and brightest people in the state.”

Comer also emphasized the importance of creating opportunities for young Kentuckians in rural communities so they do not feel compelled to leave the state for better paying jobs.

“We’ve got to make sure we have an environment where these kids graduating from high school have better opportunities, or at least the same opportunities in these small towns that they would have moving to Nashville, Louisville or Indianapolis,” he said.

Public education was another major point of Comer’s remarks. He said he grew up attending public schools, his mother was a teacher and his children attend public schools.

“I support public education, and I think that’s something that needs to be at the forefront of whoever the Republican nominee is,” Comer said.

Congressman Comer also discussed his approach to economic incentives, saying he believes state incentives should prioritize companies that provide good wages and benefits to their employees.

“I want to make sure that the Republicans start sending you on industries that take care of their employees,” he said.

The congressman said the governor’s office plays a significant role in economic de-

velopment through incentives, infrastructure and workforce investments.

Comer also stressed the importance of cooperation between the governor, state legislators and local officials.

“I want to be a governor that’s accessible and a government that works with the people that are the leaders in the communities, and that’s what we have in this room today,” he said.

Comer acknowledged that Republicans will face a significant challenge in the 2027 governor’s race, noting that Democrats have historically performed well in statewide gubernatorial elections.

He urged those attending

the meeting — including local elected officials, community leaders and other supporters — to help increase Republican voter turnout in rural Kentucky.

“This is going to be a battle,” Comer said. “And I can’t do it without the people in this room.”

Comer said he plans to return to the area after his formal announcement and spend the following year campaigning throughout Kentucky.

The congressman has represented Kentucky’s 1st Congressional District since 2016 and currently serves as chairman of the U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Accountability.



Laurel County Circuit Court Clerk Roger Schott introduces James Comer. | PHOTO BY MACEE SWAFFORD

REPORT

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47, of Brodhead, was indicted on three counts stemming from a July 10, 2026, incident in Laurel County.

Biggs faces a charge of second-degree assault, with the

indictment accusing him of striking a woman in the head, face and stomach — causing serious physical injury. He is also charged with second-degree strangulation.

The third count charges Biggs with being a first-degree persistent felony offender, citing two prior

convictions for first-degree possession of a controlled substance in Rockcastle Circuit Court.

— Joshua Paul Baker, 32, of London, was indicted on one count of prohibited use of electronic means to induce a minor to engage in sexual or other prohibited activities.

The indictment accuses Baker of using a cellular telephone to procure or promote the use of a minor in sexual activity on or about June 19, 2026.

— Dustin Chad Lawson, 42, of Corbin, was indicted on five counts related to a March 12, 2026, incident.

Lawson faces charges of

third-degree assault, resisting arrest, public intoxication, second-degree disorderly conduct and menacing. The assault charge claims that Lawson kicked and kneed a police sergeant, causing physical injury. The disorderly conduct charge claims he kicked the windows and

doors of a police cruiser — creating a hazardous or physically offensive condition.

An indictment is a formal charge that does not imply guilt or innocence. All defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.

London-Corbin Airport Board Accepting Bids to Construct a 60’x80’ Box Hangar

London - Corbin Airport Board will receive sealed Bids from Contractors until 1:00 P.M. Local Time, Wednesday, September 23, 2026 for the project entitled **“B6 Hangar”**. This project consists of the construction of a 60’x80’ box hangar and modifications to existing concrete slab.

All Bids must be mailed or delivered to: London - Corbin Airport, Attn: Matthew Singer, 566 Hal Rogers Drive, London, Kentucky 40744, sealed envelopes must be marked **“B6 Hangar - London - Corbin Airport – DO NOT OPEN”**. No faxed or emailed Bids will be accepted.

A mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting will be held at 11:00 A.M. Local Time on Thursday, September 10, 2026. All Contractors shall meet in Terminal Building. Attendance at this meeting by an appropriate Contractor representative is mandatory in order to be eligible to submit a bid

To request electronic copies of the Instructions to Bidders, Bid Form, Contract Form, Plans, Specifications, Bid Bond Form, Performance and Payment Bond, and other contract documents, email the designer at hangarbid@gmail.com. Include the contractor’s full contact information in the request.

The project is funded partially with federal funds, therefore is subject to the following provisions: Buy American Preference, Davis Bacon Act, Debarment and Suspension, Federal Fair Labor Standards Act, Foreign Trade Restriction, Lobbying Federal Employees, and Procurement of Recovered Materials.

London - Corbin Airport Board, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all Bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit Bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color or national origin in consideration for an award.

The Bid inclusive of all required forms, which shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope, shall be clearly labeled on the outside of the envelope with the name of the project, the vendor’s name and address, project title, and date/time of bid opening (so as to guard against premature opening of any bid). **Failure to show these items on the outside of the envelope will result in the bid being returned to the Bidder unopened.**

Each Bidder must deposit with his Bid Security in the amount of 5 percent of his Bid in the form and subject to the conditions provided in the Instructions to Bidders. 100% Performance and Payment Bonds will be required.

Withdrawal of Bid: Any Bidder, upon his or his authorized representative’s written request, will be given permission to withdraw his Bid not later than the time set for opening thereto. At the time of opening of Bids, provided written request has been submitted prior to the time of the opening and when such Bid is encountered it will be returned to the Bidder unopened. Unless contrary to the laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, no Bidder may withdraw his Bid within 60 days after the actual date of the opening thereof without Owner’s consent.

Award will be made to the lowest responsible qualified Bidder, if awarded. London - Corbin Airport Board reserves the right to reject any/and/or all Bids, to waive any formalities and informalities in the Bids received and to accept any Bid which in its opinion may be in their best interest.

Henry Heaberlin, Chairman
London - Corbin Airport Board

London-Corbin Airport Board Accepting Bids to Construct an 80’x100’ Box Hangar

London - Corbin Airport Board will receive sealed Bids from Contractors until 1:00 P.M. Local Time, Wednesday, September 23, 2026 for the project entitled **“B8 Hangar”**. This project consists of the construction of an 80’x100’ box hangar and modifications to existing concrete slab.

All Bids must be mailed or delivered to: London - Corbin Airport, Attn: Matthew Singer, 566 Hal Rogers Drive, London, Kentucky 40744, sealed envelopes must be marked **“B8 Hangar - London - Corbin Airport – DO NOT OPEN”**. No faxed or emailed Bids will be accepted.

A mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting will be held at 11:00 A.M. Local Time on Thursday, September 10, 2026. All Contractors shall meet in Terminal Building. Attendance at this meeting by an appropriate Contractor representative is mandatory in order to be eligible to submit a bid

To request electronic copies of the Instructions to Bidders, Bid Form, Contract Form, Plans, Specifications, Bid Bond Form, Performance and Payment Bond, and other contract documents, email the designer at hangarbid@gmail.com. Include the contractor’s full contact information in the request.

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The Bid inclusive of all required forms, which shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope, shall be clearly labeled on the outside of the envelope with the name of the project, the vendor’s name and address, project title, and date/time of bid opening (so as to guard against premature opening of any bid). **Failure to show these items on the outside of the envelope will result in the bid being returned to the Bidder unopened.**

Each Bidder must deposit with his Bid Security in the amount of 5 percent of his Bid in the form and subject to the conditions provided in the Instructions to Bidders. 100% Performance and Payment Bonds will be required.

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