

Kentucky Receives Tobacco Settlement Funds, But Little Of It Goes Toward Prevention

By Melissa Patrick
Kentucky Health News

Kentucky received \$94.4 million for this year's Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) payment, Attorney General Russell Coleman announced last week in a news release.

"Once again, I'm proud to bring home these resources to invest in Kentucky and our rural communities," Coleman said in the release.

The commonwealth has received \$2.96 billion from the nationwide agreement with cigarette manufacturers since 1998. The historic agreement resolved state lawsuits against the tobacco companies for Medicaid and other health costs related to smoking. In addition to the annual compensation, the release says MSA works to reduce underage smoking and decrease new smokers.

Under the settlement terms, participating cigarette manufacturers must make a yearly payment to the states based on an annually adjusted rate per number of cigarettes sold each year.

The presumption was that much of the settlement would go toward tobacco prevention, but it hasn't.

Kentucky designated half of the funds for agricultural diversification, with grants being distributed by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. The remaining funds are split evenly between the Early Childhood Development Fund and the Kentucky Health Care Improvement Fund.

Further, Kentucky's recently passed two-year budget makes cuts to tobacco cessation in the next two fiscal years.

Using MSA money from the state's General Fund, the new state budget allocates nearly \$1.8 million in the 2026-2027 fiscal year and about \$1.6 million in the



2027-2028 fiscal year for smoking cessation efforts, down from \$1.9 million in the 2024-2025 fiscal year and \$2 million in the 2025-2026 fiscal year budgets.

This is far less than the \$56.4 million recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for smoking cessation programs in Kentucky.

"Tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable death and disease in Kentucky, including 37.2% of cancer deaths, and Kentucky has the second-highest smoking-attributable cancer death rate in the country," Doug Hogan, government relations director for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, said in a news release. "The need for robust investments in tobacco prevention and cessation programs in the commonwealth has never been greater.

Bills in both the Senate and House this year aimed at putting the remaining Juul settlement money (about \$6 million) into prevention and cessation efforts for youth were not successful.

Kentucky Health News is an independent news service of the Institute for Rural Journalism, based in the School of Journalism and Media at the University of Kentucky, with support from the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky.

Students Encouraged To Participate In "I Voted" Contest

By Tom Latek
Kentucky Today

Kentucky students are invited to participate in the third annual "I Voted" sticker contest, sponsored by the Secretary of State's office.

The contest is open to all Kentucky students from kindergarten to 12th grade. To enter, students need to send in their best design for an "I Voted" sticker. The winning sticker design will be handed to voters in participating counties during the

2026 general election.

"Will the face of Kentucky voters be a big green monster? You decide," said SOS Michael Adams. "Our youngest Kentuckians are ready to step up with their creative ideas to make November's election a success."

Interested students can submit their design by May 29 at 5 p.m. Eastern Time, by going to the website <https://www.sos.ky.gov/civic-initiatives/Pages/i-voted-sticker-contest.aspx> by May 29 at 5

p.m. ET. Please include your student's name, school, address, and phone number with the submission. To be considered, pictures must be original work and include the words "I Voted." Please upload the pictures in JPEG or PNG format.

The finalists will be chosen by the Secretary of State's Office to go on a ballot to be voted on during the 2026 Kentucky State Fair. The top vote getter's design will be printed on stickers and sent to interested county clerks to provide to general election voters.

UC Fiscal Court

Continued from Page 1
beginning July 1, 2026. Glenda Brown was appointed to a four-year term on the Union County Library board. Her term begins July 1, 2026.

Before the meeting adjourned, the court approved transfers and noted that all claims will be paid.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

4-H NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY • COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
By
ANNETTE BUCKMAN
COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT FOR 4-H

Using Social Media Wisely: Helping Families Stay Safe Online

As social media continues to play a major role in daily life, families are being encouraged to take a more active role in how it is used—especially among youth. Platforms such as Facebook and Twitter (now known as X) allow users to connect instantly with others, share updates, and stay informed. While these tools offer many benefits, experts say responsible use is more important than ever.

According to youth development leaders, social media can be a positive outlet when used appropriately. However, misuse can lead to serious concerns, including cyberbullying, privacy risks, and even theft. In some cases, individuals have unknowingly shared personal details online that made them targets for scams or criminal activity.

Most social media platforms require users to be at least 13 years old, but some young users bypass these rules by entering false information. Adults are encouraged to guide children in setting up accounts honestly and safely.

Parents and caregivers play a key role in helping children navigate online spaces. One of the most important steps is monitoring activity and maintaining open communication. Encouraging children to talk about their online experiences can help prevent small issues from becoming serious problems.

Safety experts recommend several simple but effective practices:

- * Avoid posting personal information such as home addresses, phone numbers, or vacation plans
 - * Only accept friend or follower requests from people you know in real life
 - * Regularly review privacy settings and understand their limits
 - * Monitor tags, photos, and posts that may involve your family
 - * Remind youth that online actions can have real-life consequences
- "Social media is never truly private," one youth educator shared. "Teaching young people to think before they post is one of the most valuable lessons we can offer."
- Community programs, including 4-H and

school enrichment efforts, are increasingly incorporating digital safety into their lessons. These programs aim to equip youth with the skills they need to make smart, responsible choices both online and offline.

As technology continues to evolve, one message remains clear: staying informed, involved, and aware can help families enjoy the benefits of social media while avoiding its risks.

4-H Project Days – Fair Projects

Union County 4-H will host Project Days on June 2nd & 3rd! Youth will prepare projects for the 4-H Fair exhibits. Call the Extension Office to sign up: 270-389-1400. Registration Deadline: May 22nd

Union County Fair - June 15-20th - Now is the perfect time to start working on 4-H exhibits. While the Fair Book is not yet available, the 4-H Project Book is ready for pickup at the Extension Office. Stop by to grab a project and get started! Call 270-389-1400 for more information

Speech & Demonstration Contest – May 5th at the Union County Extension Office 4-H Summer Camp -June

9-12th
Who can attend:
* Ages 9-14 (by first day of camp)
* Age 8 if entering 4th grade

* Ages 15-17: CIT (Counselor in Training) or Teen Leader

Call 270-389-1400 for details and registration

Educational programs of the Cooperative Extension Service serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expressions, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability.

Follow Us On Facebook!

To keep up with all the fun events happening in the Union County 4-H Program follow Union County 4H on Facebook for all the latest news, events, and information about 4-H. There you will find interesting articles related to youth/4-H and much more!

Subscribe To The Sturgis News

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE FOLLOWING ESTATE HAVE BEEN PROBATED IN UNION DISTRICT COURT. PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS TO FILE AGAINST SAID ESTATES MUST FILE SAME NOT LATER THAN SIX MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THE APPOINTMENT OF THE FIDUCIARY.

Estate of Ruby G. Forker. Executor/Administrator: Joyce Paris Brown, 104 North King Street, Sturgis, KY 42459. Date of appointment April 23, 2026. Attorney: C. Michael Williamson, 209 West Main Street, P.O. Box 5, Morganfield, KY 42437.

KELLY BROOK APARTMENTS

aka
Public Housing Corporation
of Sturgis

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Sturgis, KY 42459

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PUBLIC NOTICE

AMENDING ORDINANCE
OF THE CITY OF UNIONTOWN, KENTUCKY,
CHAPTER 32 SECTION 32.01 -C#1

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF UNIONTOWN, KENTUCKY, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 32.01-C#1 Each council member shall receive the sum of \$1200.00 annually as their compensation .

All other ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are, to such extent, hereby repealed.

CITY OF UNIONTOWN
BY: LADONNA TAPP, MAYOR

FIRST READING: April 20,2026
SECOND READING: April 23,2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

AMENDING ORDINANCE
OF THE CITY OF UNIONTOWN, KENTUCKY,
#05102010 SECTION 2- B & SECTION 2-C .

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF UNIONTOWN, KENTUCKY, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 2.Amending golf cart section 2 -B a copy of the permit will be provided to the City of Uniontown for their records. Section 2-C the permit which identifies that the golf cart is within compliance of this ordinance and is thereby allowed to be operated upon those roadways identified herein.

All other ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are, to such extent, hereby repealed.

CITY OF UNIONTOWN
BY: LADONNA TAPP, MAYOR

FIRST READING: April 20,2026
SECOND READING: April 23,2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

AMENDING ORDINANCE
OF THE CITY OF UNIONTOWN, KENTUCKY,
CHAPTER 31 SECTION 31.21 -E#1

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF UNIONTOWN, KENTUCKY, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 31.21-E#1 The Mayor shall receive as their annual compensation the sum of \$2400.00.

All other ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are, to such extent, hereby repealed.

CITY OF UNIONTOWN
BY: LADONNA TAPP, MAYOR

FIRST READING: April 20,2026
SECOND READING: April 23,2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Union County Fiscal Court will accept sealed bids on the following items until 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at the Union County Courthouse. Bids may be mailed to the office of the County Judge/Executive at Union County Fiscal Court P.O. Box 60 Morganfield, KY 42437, marked "sealed bid".

The bids will be publicly opened and read at the regular meeting of the Union County Fiscal Court at 9:00 a.m. Tuesday May 12, 2026. Copies of the specifications may be obtained by calling 270-389-1081 and we can mail, email or fax these to you, Monday thru Friday, from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Items to Bid:

1. Bituminous concrete hot mix
2. Bituminous cold mix
3. Binder Mix
4. Flowable Fill
5. Crushed stone in various sizes
6. Corrugated steel circular pipe with bands
7. Corrugated steel pipe arch with bands
8. Coated corrugated pipe with bands
9. Plastic Pipe with bands
10. Portland cement concrete — 3500 PSI AND 4000 PSI compressive strength plant mixed, delivered to site
11. Prestressed concrete box beams (12" length thru 100" length) (HS -25 loading to meet KY State Highway laws)
12. Treated timber for Bridges (HS-25 loading to meet KY Highway specifications)

The Blacktop shall be laid before October 30, 2026, or a ten percent (10%) penalty will be assessed against the bidder. (Unless authorized by the Union County Engineer and the Union County Fiscal Court). Prospective bidders shall execute a non-collusive bid statement. All bids are to be made in accordance with the specifications and shall be submitted in multiples of SEVEN (7) copies. Union County Fiscal Court reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or parts thereof, so received and to waive all formalities in the bidding. The Union County Fiscal Court also reserves the right to award contracts to separate bidders if it appears that the lowest and best bids submitted on the foregoing materials are by different bidders. 5/6c