

# District 4 Magistrate Race Is Declared A Tie

After a week of recounting ballots in the District 4 magistrate's race from the May 19, primary election, and hearing testimony from the county clerk, a deputy clerk, and the voter who cast an improper ballot due to a clerical error, Judge Daniel Heady issued a ruling Friday, June 12, that declares the race ended in a tie between Ehren Schaffter and Dakota Jones.

In a nine-page opinion, Heady provides a summary of how the error was made, when the error was determined, and the recount proceedings that followed. On June 5, three recount officials provided by the Union County Board of Elections conducted a manual and hand recount of all 18 voting machines. The result of that recount remained the same as the findings of the original vote count at the conclusion of the May 19, election.

Heady's opinion also notes that on June 9, an evidentiary hearing was held to further address the issue of the contested/improper ballot in question. Heady heard testimony from four individuals including the person who reported she had been given an incorrect ballot. Both Jones and Schaffter were also allowed to make statements at that hearing.

Following the hearing the court instructed the clerk file of record and under seal a copy of all 336 voters who cast votes in Magisterial District 4 and verify that those voters were properly registered and indexed in the correct voting district. Jones and Schaffter were also allowed to review the list to determine whether they recognized the names of any other voters who might have moved or for other reasons should not have been allowed to cast a ballot.

On Friday County Clerk Garrick Thompson testified that all entries had been reviewed and other than the ballot in question, were properly registered in the correct district.

Heady noted in his opinion that due to the clerical error, the ballot in question is improper and invalid; thus, that vote was rejected, reducing the total vote count for Schaffter from 166 to 165, tying the 165 votes cast for Jones.

Under Kentucky law, in the case of a tie vote, the board of elections may determine the winner of the race "by lot." Typically, the tie breaker has been conducted by the toss of a coin, but that must be determined by the Board of Elections. In his findings, Heady says that to avoid the unpleasantness of allowing the flip of a coin, there is another option for the candidates. Schaffter and Jones could agree to both withdraw and file as write-in candidates in the November general election. Heady did caution, however, that they must do so before the Board of Elections makes a determination and not only would both candidates have to agree, the matter would also have to be agreeable to the local board of elections, political bodies, and potentially approved by the Kentucky Secretary of State and the State Board of Elections.

He further cautioned that should both men opt to run as a write-in, there is the possibility that additional write-in candidates could also file. In his final remarks, Heady added that there are "potential minefields or obstacles involved with this alternative to which he is not aware, and so candidates are forewarned again that the best course of action may ultimately be the simplest and easiest, and exactly what the law directs, which is to just flip a coin as each candidate would have an equal 50/50 chance."

At press time Tuesday morning, neither Schaffter nor Jones had withdrawn from the race. A special called county board of elections meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 18, at 9:00 a.m. in the county clerk's office. The meeting is open to the public.

## KSP Issue Proactive Patrol Reminder

The Kentucky State Police would like to offer periodic reminders to drivers who travel area roadways. The agency strives daily to ensure the safety of the motoring public. Some of these proactive measures include

various roadside safety checkpoints and saturating known problematic areas in the district through general patrol tactics.

The Kentucky State Police utilizes traffic safety checkpoints to promote safety for mo-

torists using the public roadways and to provide a deterrent for those who violate laws contained in the Kentucky Revised Statutes.

The intent of a traffic safety checkpoint is to provide for a high visibility, public safety service, focusing on operator impairment, vehicular equipment deficiencies (confirming appropriate registration and insurance of vehicles) and the valid licensing of drivers. Other violations of law and/or other public safety issues that arise will be addressed.

These checkpoints will allow the Kentucky State Police the opportunity to periodically concentrate its efforts in checking for violations of Kentucky traffic and regulatory laws that will ultimately increase the safety of the citizens within the Commonwealth.

Post 16 serves the following counties: Henderson; Daviess; Union; McLean; Ohio and Hancock.



# COME JOIN THE FUN!

## 76th ANNUAL

# UNION COUNTY FAIR

### Sturgis, KY

### Wednesday, June 17, 2026

5:30 P.M., Arena ..... Miss Pre-Teen Pageant  
6:30 P.M., Track ..... ATV Rodeo  
6:30 P.M.-9:00 P.M., Pavilion Stage ..... Musical Entertainment  
7:00 P.M., Arena ..... Miss Teen Pageant

### Thursday, June 18, 2026

6:00 P.M., Arena ..... Pedal Tractor Pull  
6:30 P.M.-9:00 P.M., Pavilion Stage ..... Musical Entertainment  
7:00 P.M., Track ..... Dirt Drags  
8:00 P.M., Arena ..... TBD

### Friday, June 19, 2026

6:30 P.M., Track ..... Tractor Pull  
6:30 P.M.-9:00 P.M., Pavilion Stage ..... Musical Entertainment  
7:00 P.M., Arena ..... Fun Rodeo

### Saturday, June 20, 2026

8:00 A.M., Expo Center ..... 4-H Country Ham Breakfast  
9:00 A.M., Expo Center ..... Livestock Shows  
12:00 P.M., Expo Center ..... Sunshine Day  
4:00 P.M., Expo Center ..... Farm Bureau Day  
6:30 P.M.-9:00 P.M., Pavilion Stage ..... Musical Entertainment  
7:00 P.M., Track ..... Demo Derby  
7:00 P.M., Arena ..... Whippoorwill Rodeo

The Union County Fair Board would like to express its appreciation to the following businesses and individuals for their support and contributions to the success of the Union County Fair.

- Jim David
- Little Kentucky Smokehouse
- Kentucky Farm Bureau
- Kentucky Farm Bureau Insurance Union County
- Old National Bank
- Livingston County Livestock
- Riverview Coal
- Ervin Cable Construction
- VGC
- H&R Agri
- Deaconess Union County Hospital
- Southern States Morganfield
- Sturgis Airport
- Asgrow
- Channel
- Kentucky America Seeds
- Zoetis
- Nutrien Ag Solutions
- O'Nan Excavation Services
- Agriselect
- Commonwealth Agri Solutions
- State Farm, Carrie Divine
- CTL Services
- Iron Stein Coffee
- Kate Faupel Chevrolet GMC
- Ford
- Jeff Ratley Trucking
- A New Leaf
- Helena
- Planters Bank
- CGB
- Stone Veterinary Clinic
- United Community Bank
- Simmons Transport
- Crittenden County Farm Bureau
- Hutson
- Sturgis Airport
- Farm Credit Mid-America
- Ervin Cable Construction
- WW Seeds, Inc
- C Plant Federal Credit Union
- Hitch and Go Trailer Sales
- Maloney Cattle Company
- Beverage Barn
- Jen's General Store
- Rideout/Tri-State Towing
- CornerPost Fence Company
- Ellie D Boutique
- Brockman Septic Service
- Boehringer-Ingelheim
- Showtime Trucking LLC
- James Septic Service
- Fiesta Alcapulco
- Jones Repair Service
- Saturn
- West Kentucky Electrician
- Inspection
- E & E Services
- Sturgis Antique Mall
- Brown's Welding
- Circle O Farm
- Whitsell Funeral Home, Inc
- Clements Drug Store
- Gate Keeper Cattle Co.
- Mine Safe
- Corner Drug Store
- Red Hat Realty
- Vaughn, Geiger and Associates
- Molcajete
- United County Corn Growers
- Kiwanis
- J & N Motorsports
- Walmart
- Jonathan Steward Electric
- Tractor Supply Co.
- Country Fresh Meats and Farmers Market
- WMSK
- The Sturgis News
- Well Brothers Feeds
- Market Street Listening Room

## SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

### Union County Board of Elections

### THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2026

9:00 A.M.

### UNION COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

*This meeting is open for the public to attend.*

Thank You,

### Garrick Thompson

### Union County Clerk

## -- PUBLIC NOTICE --

### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed Bids for replacement of the existing bridge, located on William Ball Road in Union County, Kentucky, for the Union County Fiscal Court will be received by the Union County Fiscal Court at the Union County Judges Office, 1st floor, Courthouse, Morganfield, Kentucky 42437, until 8:30 A.M. Central Standard Time on Tuesday, July 14, 2026, at which time they will be opened and publicly read aloud at the 9:00 regular court meeting in the 2nd floor courtroom. The new bridge is to be 50 feet long and 24 feet wide. It will require a 0 degree skew and the deck replacement.

The Contract Documents, including technical specifications, may be examined at the following locations:

Union County Judge Office Courthouse -100 West Main Street Morganfield, KY 42437

Copies of the Bid Documents may be obtained at the office of Union County Judge Executive, 100 W Main Morganfield, Kentucky 42437.

A Bid Bond payable to the Owner must accompany each Bid for five percent (5%) of the total amount of the bid to insure the execution of the contract for which the bid is made.

No Bidder may withdraw his bid for a period of ninety (90) days after closing time scheduled for the receipt of bids.

The results will be released only after approval of the County of Union, Kentucky.

The County of Union, Kentucky shall reserve the right to waive informalities and to reject any or all bids.

The Union County Fiscal Court, Kentucky shall reserve the right to waive any irregularities or informalities and to reject any or all bids.

*Come Out and Have A Good Time at the Union County Fair!*

For Additional Information, You May Contact  
The Union County Fair Office

## (270) 374-4214