



EHREN SCHAFFTER, LEFT, and Dakota Jones, right, watch as Union County Clerk Garrick Thompson tosses the silver dollar--picturing President Dwight Eisenhower on one side and the Liberty Bell on the other--that decided the outcome of the District 4 magistrate race. Jones deferred the Schaffter who called "tails." The coin landed with the Liberty Bell up, giving Schaffter the win.

MEMBERS OF THE Union County Board of Elections met Thursday morning to decide the best way to break the tie vote in the district four magistrate race. Pictured are county clerk Garrick Thompson and election board members Pat Donahue, Kathy Stevens and John Mark Brown explaining to the candidates, Ehren Schaffter and Dakota Jones how they reached their decision to decide the race by a coin toss.

District 4 Magistrate Race Decided By A Coin Flip

On Thursday morning, June 18, the flip of a Liberty silver dollar decided the outcome of the Union County District 4 magistrate's race. That comes after a one margin vote first showed Ehren Schaffter as the winner in the May 19, primary, but the report of a person voting on an incorrect ballot forced a recount. Following a recount, a hearing, and much research, with the toss of a coin and the call of "tails", Ehren Schaffter won the tied race Thursday.

Following the May 19, primary, Schaffter had a one vote margin

over incumbent Dakota Jones and Schaffter was initially declared the winner, but a voter came forward saying she was given an incorrect ballot at the polls and had cast her ballot in a magistrate's race in which she was not eligible to vote. Clerk Garrick Thompson reported the issue, noting a "coding error" when her name was placed on the voting registration. A recount of the votes was ordered on June 5, with the results of the race remaining the same--166 for Schaffter and 165 for Jones. Judge Daniel Heady who oversaw the recount then

called for an evidentiary hearing which was held last Friday. After hearing testimony from multiple individuals, Heady ruled that single vote be discarded, leaving the race in a tie at 165 to 165. The judge also noted that Kentucky law is clear that a tie should be broken "by lot" which in Kentucky typically means a coin toss. Heady did offer another option which was for both candidates two withdraw and enter the race as write-in candidates, but he also cautioned that could be a "minefield."

Initially, both candidates indicated they would prefer the write-in option; however, on Thursday in a called meeting of the county board of elections, Thompson said after talking with members of the state board of elections and the secretary of state, and reading the KRS related to tied races, he would recommend that the county follow the KRS 118.425, a law that calls for tied election races to be decided "by lot". In Kentucky that typically happens with the toss of a coin. Thompson also says that while he applauds Judge Heady's work on how to resolve the tie and offer options, another KRS, 117.265, indicates that an individual is not eligible to run as a write-in candidate in a race they lost in the primary election. Thompson again emphasized that he felt the decision should be made by the "flip of a coin, and after discussion, board members Pat Donahue, John Mark Brown and Kathy Stevens standing for Sheriff Jason Thomas concurred with Thompson. During those discussions, Brown said he feels a write-in would probably be the fairest thing, the KRS says differently. "I hate it but we've got to follow the law," Brown said. Kathy Stevens said she feels "it's in black and white" in the KRS. Thompson then re-read aloud Heady's last statement in his opinion that cautioned the candidates that "the best course of action is to follow the law" and determine the outcome

"by lot."

Jones was present at the meeting to hear the discussion, and Thompson spoke with Schaffter on speaker phone to discuss options for the toss. Jones preferred it take place as soon as possible, and Schaffter made arrangements to leave work and come to the courthouse for the toss. Although Jones had the option to make the call when the coin was tossed, he deferred to Schaffter who said he had always heard to call "tails," which he did. Thompson flipped the silver dollar--which pictured President Dwight Eisenhower on one side and the Liberty Bell on the other--when it landed, the Liberty Bell was facing upward on the courthouse floor, giving Schaffter the win.

Schaffter's name will appear on the Republican ticket in the November General Election, and he will be sworn in as a magistrate on January 1, unless a write-in candidate files before the August deadline. Should the race be contested by a write-in, Schaffter will have to wait until the November election to know if he will take a seat on the Union County Fiscal Court.

PUBLIC NOTICE


The second reading of the Union County Fiscal Court proposed budget ordinance for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 will be held on Tuesday, June 30, 2026, at a Special Called 9:00 a.m. meeting of the Fiscal Court at the Union County Courthouse. A copy of the proposed budget, with the full text, is available for public inspection at the office of the County Judge/Executive during normal business hours.

KIM NANCE
Fiscal Court Clerk

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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 Thomas A. Eckman. Executor/Administrator: Patricia Eckman, 3252 State Route 871, Morganfield, KY 42437. Date of appointment June 5, 2026. Attorney: Hon., Stephen Arnett, P.O. Box 419, Morganfield, KY 42437.

NOTICE OF OPEN HOUSE

Big Rivers Electric Corporation will hold an open house on Thursday, June 25, 2026, from 3:00 PM until 6:00 PM Central Daylight Time (4:00 PM to 7:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time) as an opportunity to provide written feedback related to Big Rivers' 2026 Integrated Resource Plan. The open house will be held at the Big Rivers Training Center located 300 North Water Street, Henderson, Kentucky. The information available at the open house and instructions for written feedback will also be available on June 25, 2026, on the Big Rivers website, www.bigrivers.com/irp.

PUBLIC NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO. 05192025

WHEREAS an annual budget proposal and message has been prepared and delivered to the Uniontown City Council; and

WHEREAS, the Uniontown City Council has reviewed the LGEA and MRA budget proposal and made necessary modifications;

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF UNIONTOWN, KENTUCKY:

SECTION 1: That the annual budget for LGEA and MRA funds for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027 is hereby adopted as follows:

ANNUAL BUDGET FOR LGEA AND MRA FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2026 TO JUNE 20, 2027		
Resources Available	LGEA Fund	MRA Fund
Fund Balance		
Carried Forward	\$70,000.00	\$80,000.00
Estimated Revenue	\$30,000.00	\$20,000.00
Total		
Resources Available	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
Appropriations		
Street Expenditures	\$10,000.00	\$50,000.00
Recreation	\$5,000.00	
Public Safety	\$35,000.00	
Total		
Appropriations	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Estimated Fund Balance At End of Fiscal Year		
	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00

LaDONNA TAPP, Mayor
City of Uniontown

ATTEST:
Jennifer Buckman, City Clerk
City of Uniontown

-- PUBLIC NOTICE --

**CITY OF UNIONTOWN, KENTUCKY
2026-2027 BUDGET**

AN ORDINANCE adopting the City of Uniontown, Kentucky annual budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027, by estimating revenues and resources and appropriating funds for operation of city government.

WHEREAS, an annual budget proposal and message have been prepared and delivered to the city council; and

WHEREAS, the city council has reviewed such budget proposal and made necessary modifications;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF UNIONTOWN, KENTUCKY:

SECTION 1: That the annual budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027 is hereby adopted as follows:

Resources Available	General	Special Revenue	Utility
Fund Balance			
Carried Forward (Estimated)	\$450,000.00	\$150,000.00	\$100,000.00
Estimated Revenue			
General Fund	\$403,350.00		
Special Revenue Fund		\$50,000.00	
Utility Fund			\$536,800.00
Total Revenue	\$853,350.00	\$200,000.00	\$636,800.00
Appropriations			
General Fund	\$403,350.00		
Special Revenue Fund		\$100,000.00	
Utility Fund			\$536,800.00
Total Appropriations	\$403,350.00	\$100,000.00	\$536,800.00
Estimated Available Resources For Next Fiscal Year			
	\$403,350.00	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00

LaDONNA TAPP, Mayor
City of Uniontown

ATTEST
JENNIFER BUCKMAN, City Clerk
City of Uniontown