

Military action in Venezuela emerges as a GOP primary issue in Kentucky

BY BRUCE SCHREINER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Donald Trump's military intervention in Venezuela has emerged as a flash point in the closely watched Republican primary campaign between Kentucky U.S. Rep. Thomas Massie, a long-running Trump antagonist, and retired Navy SEAL officer Ed Gallrein, who has the president's backing.

Massie, showing his non-interventionist leanings, fired off a series of social media posts criticizing the dramatic action that captured Nicolás Maduro and removed him from the South American country.

"Wake up MAGA," Massie wrote. "VEN-

EZUELA is not about drugs; it's about OIL and REGIME CHANGE. This is not what we voted for."

The congressman claimed that Trump wrongly circumvented Congress when ordering the attack.

"In the Constitution, the Founders vested war making power in Congress, not the Executive branch," he wrote.

Gallrein responded that Massie had "shown his true colors" by criticizing the military operation, and said the congressman's stance "is not what the people of this district expect from a Republican."

"This operation sends a clear message: the United States will not allow rogue regimes to enable

criminal networks or use oil and other resources to fuel our global adversaries," Gallrein said on social media. "Holding bad actors accountable is how we restore law and order, deter aggression, and protect American families."

Gallrein added that American intervention "opens the door to a new chapter for the people of Venezuela — one defined by decades of oppression, but by the possibility of peace and prosperity."

Gallrein is a farmer and businessman who had a long military career. Gallrein says he was part of the military operation decades ago that toppled another Latin American strongman: Panama's Manuel Noriega. He is

Trump's choice to challenge Massie, a maverick who has had an up-and-down relationship with Trump.

The primary election in May will test Trump's hold over Republican politics. The sudden emergence of Venezuela as an issue will test the president's ability to hold together his coalition during a challenging election year for Republicans that could be defined by domestic concerns like health care and affordability.

The libertarian-leaning Massie has won reelection by lopsided margins since entering Congress in 2012 — even when he incurred Trump's wrath.

The military action in

Venezuela is the latest example of Massie standing up to Trump.

The congressman opposed the massive tax breaks and spending cuts package last year that Trump calls "beautiful" but Massie says will grow the national debt and hurt the economy. Massie said the president lacked authority to attack Iran's nuclear sites without congressional approval. And Massie was at the forefront of efforts to force the public release of case files on the sex trafficking probe into the late Jeffrey Epstein.

In his bid to unseat the congressman, Gallrein has the president's vaunted political operation on his side, and a super

PAC launched by Trump aides has run ads attacking Massie. But he will confront an entrenched, well-funded incumbent in Massie.

Trump on Monday reiterated his support for Gallrein on his social media platform and urged other Republicans to stay out of the May primary.

"I have heard that there are other Candidates exploring a run for this seat, but I am asking all MAGA Warriors to rally behind Captain Ed Gallrein, the Candidate who is, far and away, best positioned to DEFEAT Third Rate Congressman Thomas Massie, a Weak and Pathetic RINO from the beautiful Commonwealth of Kentucky," Trump said.

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS
 Notice is hereby given that the Lyon County Fiscal Court will accept sealed bids for the surplus property listed below. Sealed bids will be received in the office of the County Judge/Executive, P.O. Box 598, Eddyville, KY 42038, until 1:00 p.m. on January 8, 2025, at which time said bids will be opened and read aloud at the Lyon County Courthouse. Successful bidders shall pay and remove surplus property within 30 days of bid opening. Lyon County Fiscal Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids. For further information contact the Judge/Executive's office at above address or call 270-388-7311.

*** 8 Blue Chairs (low back), 2 Blue Chairs (high back)**
 Jaime Green-Smith
 Lyon County Judge/Executive

Public Notice for Public Hearing Related to the Caldwell County Judicial Center Project

The Caldwell County Project Development Board has scheduled a public hearing for a proposed Kentucky Court of Justice Facility for Tuesday, February 10th at 6 pm CST. The purpose of the hearing is to receive site proposals from property owners and present them for open discussion. The hearing will be held in the Caldwell County Courthouse, in the Circuit Courtroom, located at 100 E. Market Street, Princeton, KY 42445.

Details of the proposed project are available for examination at the Office of the Caldwell County Judge/Executive, 100 E. Market Street, Room 27, Princeton, KY 42445, between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, until end of day Monday, February 9, 2026.

Interested property owners should submit plats of property to be considered, asking price, and statements of any known historical or environmental concerns. Individuals who wish to submit proposals or comment on the proposed facility may present comments in the following manner:

1. Drop off or mail written proposals or comments at the above address for the Judge/Executive's office.
2. Email written proposals or comments to imdunning@ky.gov with subject line: KCOJ Facility - Site Proposal.
3. Public comments shall also be received at the public hearing.

Notice of Noncompliance

Pursuant to KRS 65A.040, the Kentucky Department for Local Government hereby gives public notice that as of December 2, 2025, Lyon County Rural Fire Protection District #1 is in violation of Kentucky Law for failure to comply with the reporting requirements of KRS 65A.020. The last known point of contact for Lyon County Rural Fire Protection District #1 is Kevin Miller, who may be reached at (270) 703-3867 and/or PO BOX 161 EDDYVILLE, KY 42038. The last known Board Members are: Jonas Yoder, Curtis Brown, Randall Ramey, Denis Trimm, Luke Garrett, Kevin Miller. The district was noncompliant with FY2022 - Audit Every 4 Years. The Auditor of Public Accounts has been notified and state funding for this entity will be withheld until further notice. Department for Local Government encourages this entity to comply with the law.

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