

Candidate Spotlight: Robin Kunkel

Special to the Winchester Sun



Robin Kunkel is running for a seat on the Winchester City Commission

1) I am 36 years old, and I moved to Winchester to live with my husband, Billy Swanson. We have two kids, one in elementary school and one a toddler. I received my K-12 education in Campbell County Public Schools in Northern Kentucky, and I graduated from Transylvania University in 2012 with a Bachelor of Arts in Technical Theatre. I ran for City Commission once before in 2022.

2) I've considered running for public office since meeting with the Lexington Mayor's Office prior to moving to Winchester. While trying to get changes made to the city's landscape, I saw how different the skill sets were inside and outside the office. Inside, people were waiting for others to come to them, assuming they had the information they needed, until someone told them otherwise. Outside the office, in the community, we sought out our neighbors. We knew we didn't have it all figured out and needed to bring more people into the conversation to make smart decisions. I thought, "What a difference it would make to have someone in that office who knew how to build relationships like this." What a difference it makes to have working-class people not just come to the table when invited, but to build the table to begin with. I was moved again to run for city commission when I had trouble finding information on the city website and in person at city hall, once I moved to Winchester. I saw a lack of certainty about what information can be accessed by the public and in what forms. I saw the expectation that more people should be participating in their local government, without

option in the county). I'd like the city to use renewable energy sources when we have the funds to invest. Though sometimes the upfront cost may be higher, the long-term cost is more effective.

4) I think I'll be able to bring more insight and experience than just my own. My skills are in asking people who know more than I do about an issue, identifying who will be impacted by the decisions we're making, and bringing more people into the room to find the best solution. I'm also passionate about questioning the way things are. Just because we're used to doing things a certain way doesn't make it the only or best way to do them.

5) Your participation matters. If you elect me, I welcome you to disagree with me and to help me understand your perspective. I want to do what's best for Winchester, and I'll need your input to do that well. For example, I recently issued a statement outlining ways to increase housing development. A friend disagreed with some of my suggestions and emailed me a detailed response as to why, which is incredibly helpful. Unlike this person, I don't have years of experience on the planning commission, and now I have homework from him to better understand his concerns.

6) I would like to see the K-Count numbers start going back down. The K-Count is a "point-in-time" count of persons experiencing homelessness on a single night in Kentucky. In the 2025 count, Clark County had one of the highest percentages of unhoused people among Kentucky's 120 counties. I'd like to see eviction rates down, jail capacity down, and fewer people needing to use emergency utility assistance.

anyone asking why people weren't.

3) The top two issues I see facing Winchester over the next few years are the need for affordable housing and the ever-rising cost of utilities. I would like to see the commission work with the Building Inspection Department and the Zoning Board to increase the number of smaller, lower-cost units near public transportation. I'm interested in what building requirements could be changed to encourage the type of development we need, though I recently received some feedback that there may be problems with that approach and that it needs further research. Tax breaks for developers should also be considered. I propose that the city adopt a Renter's Bill of Rights to prevent many forms of discrimination and ensure that tenants have seats on city boards and commissions that make decisions about housing. To address utility prices, I would like to see the commission conduct a feasibility study on establishing a publicly owned electric provider to serve the city (not to compete with the existing rural

May 5th declared 'Wanda Bachman Day' in Winchester

The following photo depicts Winchester Mayor JoEllen Reed (far left) recognizing Bachman.



CITY OF WINCHESTER, KY COMMUNITY INFORMATION FACEBOOK PAGE
As Wanda Bachman celebrated her 100th birthday, the City of Winchester celebrated as well by declaring Thursday, May 5, to be "Wanda Bachman Day."

Internal poll shows Dotson with 20-point lead in primary

Ryan Dotson for US Congress press release

WINCHESTER - The Ryan Dotson for U.S. Congress campaign today released the results of an independent poll showing Ryan Dotson with a commanding 20-point lead in the Republican primary for Kentucky's 6th Congressional District.

Ryan Dotson: 41.40%
Ralph Alvarado: 20.80%
Undecided: 34.20%
Other: 3.60%
Ryan Dotson issued the following statement:

"These numbers reflect where this race stood before the Washington establishment came out in full force to back establishment candidate Ralph Alvarado. I am the ONLY candidate in this race born and raised in Kentucky who has stayed here my entire life. Washington won't decide this election - Kentucky will."

The survey of 404 likely Republican primary voters was conducted by IMG research from April 22-24, 2026.

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Public Notices

Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Winchester Historic Preservation Commission will hold a meeting on Thursday, May 21st, at 5:00 PM in the City Commission Chambers located at 32 Wall Street, Winchester, KY. The agenda can be viewed on the City of Winchester's website under Agendas & Minutes.

Winchester Sun:
May 9, 2026
MEETING 5.21.26

Do you have available jobs?
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INSPECTION PERIOD FOR THE PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT ROLL

The CLARK County real property tax roll will be opened for inspection from May 11 through May 26, 2026. Under the supervision of the property valuation administrator (PVA) or one of the deputies, any person may inspect the tax roll.

This is the January 1, 2026, assessment on which state, county, and school taxes for 2026 will be due about September 15, 2026.

The tax roll is in the office of the property valuation administrator in the county courthouse and may be inspected between the hours 8 am and 4 pm.

Any taxpayer desiring to appeal an assessment on real property made by the PVA must first request a conference with the PVA or a designated deputy. The conference may be held prior to or during the inspection period. Written documentation supporting your opinion of value will continue to be required. However, you will be instructed on the best method to submit your documentation after contacting our office regarding your request to have a conference. More specific instructions regarding how conferences will be held this year are available online at www.clarkpva.com and will be posted at the entrance to the PVA's office, located at: 34 S Main St Ste 7 Winchester, KY 40391.

Any taxpayer still aggrieved by an assessment on real property, after the conference with the PVA or designated deputy, may appeal to the county board of assessment appeals.

The appeal must be filed with the county clerk's office no later than one work day following the conclusion of the inspection period. Please contact the county clerk's office to receive instructions on the method the office is using to accept appeals this year and to obtain a form that can be used to file your appeal.

Any taxpayer failing to appeal to the county board of assessment appeals, or failing to appear before the board, either in person or by designated representative, will not be eligible to appeal directly to the Kentucky Board of Tax Appeals.

Appeals of personal property assessments shall not be made to the county board of assessment appeals. Personal property taxpayers shall be served notice under the provisions of KRS 132.450(4) and shall have the protest and appeal rights granted under the provisions of KRS 131.110.

The following steps should be taken when a taxpayer does not agree with the assessed value of personal property as determined by the property valuation administrator.

- (1) Taxpayer must list under protest (for certification) what they believe to be the fair cash value of their property.
- (2) Taxpayer must file a written protest directly with the Department of Revenue, Office of Property Valuation within 30 days from the date of the notice of assessment.
- (3) This protest must be in accordance with KRS 131.110.
- (4) The final decision of the Department of Revenue may be appealed to the Kentucky Board of Tax Appeals.

Jada Brady
Property Valuation Administrator
Clark County