

COMMUNITY

White Update cont. from pg. 9

pardons, except:

1. In case of impeachment; or
2. For the period beginning sixty days prior to the date of the gubernatorial election and ending the fifth Tuesday succeeding the election.

(2) The Governor shall file with each application therefor a statement of the reasons for his or her decision thereon, which application and statement shall always be open to public inspection.

(3) In cases of treason, the Governor shall have power to grant reprieves until the end of the next session of the General Assembly, in which the power of pardoning shall be vested; but he or she shall have no power to remit the fees of the Clerk,

Sheriff or Commonwealth's Attorney in penal or criminal cases.

Under Kentucky's Constitution, the governor has broad clemency powers. A pardon can forgive the legal consequences of a conviction, while a commutation can reduce a person's sentence. These powers are separate from the judicial process and can affect decisions made by law enforcement, prosecutors, juries and judges.

The proposed amendment is intended to establish a constitutional restriction on when those powers may be exercised. It would apply to every governor going forward. The proposed amendment does not eliminate the governor's authority to grant pardons or commute sentences. Instead, it places limits on when that authority may be

exercised, raising a practical question about timing.

The issue has received increased attention because of the use of executive clemency near the end of gubernatorial administrations. In December 2019, then-Governor Matt Bevin issued more than 600 pardons and commutations shortly before leaving office. Several of those decisions – as well as the decision-making process itself - generated significant public controversy and scrutiny. In the final days of his administration in December 2015, Governor Steve Beshear issued 197 pardons and commuted six sentences, far more than he had issued earlier in his administration. And, in December 2007, Governor Ernie Fletcher issued 101 pardons and commutations as he was

leaving office.

Interesting enough, when Governor Paul Patton was leaving office in 2003, he and his staff reportedly determined that almost 200 pardon applications were justified. However, he told a reporter with the Louisville Courier Journal that he chose not to grant them out of caution that it might appear like political favoritism if any were campaign donors.

The proposal has also been considered over multiple legislative sessions. The sponsor of the legislation that placed it on the ballot has pursued changes for several years. The amendment ultimately received bipartisan support in the General Assembly before being placed before voters.

As with any constitutional amendment, the

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Star Theater Events

October 24

11:30 AM Ancient skies ancient mysteries

1:30 pm Violent Universe

3:30 pm Laser: Frite Lite

Area

The Post Clinic, 15 Sterling Ave., Mt. Sterling, KY, offers free medical and dental healthcare services to all uninsured, under-insured, unemployed, and under-

employed persons from all areas. To schedule an appointment or for more information, call 859-498-0231. Check out their website at www.postclinic.org

Disabled American Veterans Chapter 143 Serving Bath, Fleming, Menifee, Montgomery, and Rowan Counties Meeting every 3rd Saturday of the months at 1 p.m. at the Salt Lick Fire Department

Sen. Steve West recognized by Kentucky Chamber for School Leadership Legislation

AWARD HIGHLIGHTS WEST'S WORK ON SB 4 TO STRENGTHEN TRAINING AND SUPPORT FOR KENTUCKY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

Sen. Steve West, R-Paris, received the 2026 MVP Award from the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce for his legislative leadership, including his sponsorship of Senate Bill (SB) 4, which establishes a statewide leadership development program for new school principals.

West, chair of the Senate Education Committee, was presented with a commemorative baseball bat as part of the recognition. He was among 15 lawmakers that the chamber named legislative MVP's following the 2026 Regular Session.

"A principal's leadership touches every part



Sen. Steve West, R-Paris, receives the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce's 2026 MVP Award from Annie Santos, public affairs manager for the Chamber.

of a school, from the support teachers receive to the expectations we set for students," West said.

dence. I appreciate the Kentucky Chamber's recognition and its commitment to this work. By bringing educators and the business community together, we can build on the Chamber Foundation's investment in school leadership and give more principals access to tools that will benefit their teachers, students and communities."

SB 4 establishes a statewide principal leadership development practicum beginning with the 2027-28 school year. The Kentucky Department of Education will develop and operate the four-year framework, which provides professional learning and mentorship during the first two years, an intensive leadership program in the third year as funding is available and optional advanced training in the fourth year.

The third-year program will be established in partnership with the Kentucky Chamber Foundation and include intensive summer training followed by sessions throughout the school year. The approach builds on the Foundation's Leadership Institute for School Principals, offered in

partnership with the Truist Leadership Institute.

The existing institute focuses on practical leadership skills, including managing change and building strong school cultures. According to the foundation, more than 600 principals representing 112 Kentucky counties have graduated from the program.

SB 4 was a Senate priority measure during the 2026 Regular Session and became law April 14 after the General Assembly overrode the governor's veto.

The Kentucky Chamber's annual MVP recognition honors legislators whose work advances its policy priorities, strengthens Kentucky's business climate and supports economic growth. For more information, visit kychamber.com.

Learn more about

reached anytime through the toll-free message line in Frankfort at 1-800-372-7181. You can also contact me via email at Richard.White@kylegislature.gov and keep track through the Kentucky legislature's website at legislature.ky.gov.

West is a member of the Education Assessment and Accountability Review Subcommittee and the Kentucky Housing Task Force.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL PRINCIPALS MONTH

Photo courtesy of Rowan County Schools-Kentucky

Facebook page

Rowan County Schools celebrates National Principals Month!

Rowan County Schools would like to thank their principals and assistant principals for supporting teachers, encouraging students, and leading with care every day.

Thank you!!!

RESCHEDULED MEETING

VOTING MACHINE

INSPECTION NOTICE

Rowan County Board of Elections will be inspecting voting machines on Tuesday, October 20, 2026, starting at 10:00am in the Rowan County Clerk's Office. The public is invited to observe.

Legal Notice

Waltz Towing located at 6765 Cranston Rd, Morehead, KY 40351, will be auctioning off the following vehicles listed below.

Aaron Lee Guinn

Lein Holder: Eagle Financial Services

2014 Ford Focus

Vin #1FADP3F28EL228766

The auction will be held on October 26, 2026 at 10:00 am.

If you have any questions you can call 606-776-4829.

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- WATCH DOG of what is taking place in the communities.

* The Rowan County News * The Carlisle Mercury * Flemingsburg Gazette * Bath County News-Outlook *

859-289-6425

Petrea Allison 859-473-2137 or email petrea@kynewsgroup.com

Melissa Mitchell 859-473-2719 or email melissa@kynewsgroup.com

Rowan County General Election

Sample Ballot

STRAIGHT PARTY

☐ Republican Party

☐ Democratic Party

☐ Kentucky Party

UNITED STATES SENATOR

☐ Andy BARR
Republican Party

☐ Charles BOOKE
Democratic Party

☐ Christopher CAMPBELL
Kentucky Party

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE
IN CONGRESS

5th Congressional District

☐ Hal ROGERS
Republican Party

☐ Neal PILLEKORF
Democratic Party

☐ Mikal WEIN
Independent

☐ Gerardo SERRANO
Independent

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

99th Representative District

☐ Richard Lee WHITE
Republican Party

☐ Wes Markwick DALEY
Democratic Party

PROPERTY VALUATION ADMINISTRATOR

(Vote for One)

☐ Camren Eldridge SWIM
Democratic Party

COUNTY JUDGE/EXECUTIVE

(Vote for One)

☐ Harry CLARK
Democratic Party

COUNTY ATTORNEY

(Vote for One)

☐ Cecil R. WATKINS
Democratic Party

COUNTY CLERK

(Vote for One)

☐ Kristi Smith BAILEY
Republican Party

☐ Brian MASON
Democratic Party

SHERIFF

(Vote for One)

☐ Matt SPARKS
Democratic Party

JAILER

(Vote for One)

☐ Wes COLDIRON
Republican Party

ALL PRECINCTS

CORONER

(Vote for One)

☐ John P. NORTHCLIFF
Democratic Party

Write in

COUNTY SHERIFF

(Vote for One)

Write in

ALL PRECINCTS

MAGISTRATE

1st Magisterial District

(Vote for One)

☐ Richard EASTON
Republican Party

☐ Kevin ANDERSON
Democratic Party

Write in

CONSTABLE

1st Magisterial District

(Vote for One)

☐ Scottie JUMPER
Republican Party

Write in

NORTH MOREHEAD,
BRUSHY, COURTHOUSE,
FLEMING, AND PINE HILLS

MAGISTRATE

2nd Magisterial District

(Vote for One)

☐ Darrell GLOVER
Democratic Party

Write in

CONSTABLE

2nd Magisterial District

(Vote for One)

☐ Harry R. "Randy" STEELE
Democratic Party

Write in

UPPER FARMERS, THOMAS
ADDITION, BLUE STONE,
AND LOWER FARMERS

MAGISTRATE

3rd Magisterial District

(Vote for One)

☐ Charlie WINKELMAN
Democratic Party

Write in

CONSTABLE

3rd Magisterial District

(Vote for One)

Write in

HOGTOWN, CLEARFIELD,
CITY HALL, DRY CREEK, AND
WEST MOREHEAD

MAGISTRATE

4th Magisterial District

(Vote for One)

☐ Joshua Dale PLANE
Republican Party

☐ Rob HAMM
Democratic Party

Write in

CONSTABLE

4th Magisterial District

(Vote for One)

☐ Larry Lee STEVENS
Democratic Party

Write in

RODBURN, EASTDON, PINE
GROVE, AND CHRISTY

DISTRICT JUDGE

21st Judicial District

1st Division

(Vote for One)

☐ William "Willie" ROBERTS

Write in

DISTRICT JUDGE

21st Judicial District

2nd Division

(Vote for One)

☐ Don BLAIR

Write in

ALL PRECINCTS

MEMBER BOARD OF EDUCATION

1st Educational District

(Vote for One)

☐ Jeffrey D. PATRICK

Write in

MEMBER BOARD OF EDUCATION

5th Educational District

(Vote for One)

☐ Gabe BROWN

Write in

NORTH MOREHEAD,
COURTHOUSE, FLEMING,
AND THOMAS ADDITION

MAGISTRATE

5th Magisterial District

(Vote for One)

☐ Gabe BROWN

Write in

CONSTABLE

5th Magisterial District

(Vote for One)

Write in

NONPARTISAN CITY BALLOT

MAYOR

City of Lakeview Heights

(Vote for One)

☐ Donald J. LAMB

Write in

CITY COMMISSIONERS

City of Lakeview Heights

(Vote for up to four)

☐ Carlos MARIN

☐ Dana C. STINSON

☐ Larry S. MOORE

☐ Sam MASON

Write in

PART OF BLUE STONE

MAYOR

City of Morehead

(Vote for One)

☐ Jim Tom TRENT

Write in

CITY COUNCIL

City of Morehead

(Vote for up to six)

☐ Mickey REFFITT

☐ Billy "BG" POE

☐ Darrell V. LITTLETON

☐ Dean HARDIN

☐ Michelle Enrick WHITE

☐ Michael "Coach" KASH

☐ Rodney HITCH

Write in

NORTH MOREHEAD,
COURTHOUSE, FLEMING,
THOMAS ADDITION,
CITY HALL, AND RODBURN

MAYOR

City of Morehead

(Vote for One)

☐ Jim Tom TRENT

Write in

CITY COUNCIL

City of Morehead

(Vote for up to six)

☐ Mickey REFFITT

☐ Billy "BG" POE

☐ Darrell V. LITTLETON

☐ Dean HARDIN

☐ Michelle Enrick WHITE

☐ Michael "Coach" KASH

☐ Rodney HITCH

Write in

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 1

Are you in favor of limiting a Governor's ability to grant pardons or commute sentences by prohibiting him or her from granting pardons or commuting sentences during the time period beginning 60 days prior to the general election at which the Governor is elected, and ending when the Governor is sworn in for that term by amending the Constitution of Kentucky as stated below?

It is proposed that Section 77 of the Constitution of Kentucky be amended to read as follows:

(1) The Governor shall have power to:

(a) Remit fines and forfeitures; and

(b) Commute sentences and grant reprieves and pardons, except:

1. In case of impeachment; or

2. For the period beginning sixty days prior to the date of the gubernatorial election and ending the fifth Tuesday succeeding the election.

(2) The Governor shall file with each application therefor a statement of the reasons for his or her decision thereon, which application and statement shall always be open to public inspection.

(3) In cases of treason, the Governor shall have power to grant reprieves until the end of the next session of the General Assembly, in which the power of pardoning shall be vested; but he or she shall have no power to remit the fees of the Clerk, Sheriff, or Commonwealth's Attorney in penal or criminal cases.

☐ YES

☐ NO

ALL PRECINCTS

ELWOOD CAUDILL JR., COUNTY CLERK OF ROWAN COUNTY,
DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE COPY OF THE
FACES ON THE VOTING MACHINES AND PAPER BALLOTS AS
THEY WILL APPEAR IN THE PRECINCTS LISTED IN ROWAN
COUNTY, KENTUCKY FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION TO BE
HELD TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026.

ELWOOD CAUDILL JR., CLERK
ROWAN COUNTY, KY

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