

Barr enters competitive race to succeed McConnell

BY BRUCE SCHREINER
AND DYLAN LOVAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Republican U.S. Rep. Andy Barr launched a high-stakes Senate campaign Tuesday, opting to give up his seemingly secure House seat next year and enter the competitive contest to succeed longtime Sen. Mitch McConnell.

Barr touted his congressional experience and support for President Donald Trump’s policies in announcing his candidacy in Richmond, in his district.

“I am running for Senate because that is how I can be most helpful to President Trump’s mission to put America back on the right track,” he told The Associated Press.

His decision ensures that Republicans will have a robust 2026 Senate primary, but it also creates what Democrats see as a potential pick-up opportunity in the Lexington-area House district, where a strong candidate could give them an outside chance in the midterm election.

Barr joins former state Attorney General Daniel Cameron in the race for the Senate seat, which has been held by McConnell for 40 years. Republican businessman Nate Morris also has signaled strong interest in running, portraying himself as a political outsider.

All three have distanced themselves from McConnell while jockeying for Trump’s endorsement, seen as potentially decisive.

“It will be a competitive primary,” said Scott Jennings, a Republican political strategist. “Of course, the 500-pound gorilla is President Donald Trump. If he decides he prefers one of these candidates — or someone else — he can end the primary at a moment’s notice by endorsing that person.”

Barr said via in response to emailed questions that he supports Trump’s immigration and tariff policies. He said the president “is right to negotiate better, more reciprocal, trade deals to secure the resiliency of our supply chains and stop unfair



AP file photo

Republican U.S. Rep. Andy Barr has announced he plans to enter the race to replace the retiring U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell.

practices that harm American workers and businesses.”

The president’s tariff plan has drawn criticism from several sources, including Republicans like McConnell and Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul.

McConnell, the longest-serving Senate party leader in U.S. history, announced in February that he would not seek reelection. McConnell previously relinquished his Senate leadership post.

On the Democratic side, state Rep. Pamela Stevenson is also running for Senate. Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear, who cannot seek reelection due to term limits, has ruled out a Senate bid as speculation continues to build over whether he may run for president in 2028.

A potential wild card for the Senate race is Beshear’s senior adviser, Democrat Rocky Adkins, a longtime state lawmaker with deep political connections.

The last Democrat to win a Senate race in Kentucky was Wendell Ford in 1992.

In the GOP primary, Cameron has the edge in name recognition, having run twice for statewide office: He was elected attorney general in 2019 and lost the governor’s race to Beshear in 2023.

His campaign said in a statement Tuesday that Cameron is the “tried-and-true Trump conservative.”

“Daniel Cameron has earned the respect of Republican primary voters by fighting as Attorney General for conservative values alongside President Trump.”

Barr is making his first bid for statewide office, but his reputa-

tion as a formidable fundraiser will enable him to elevate his profile outside his congressional district, which reaches from the state’s bluegrass region to the Appalachian foothills and includes Lexington, the state’s second-largest city.

Barr is a senior member of the House Financial Services Committee and leads a subcommittee overseeing the Federal Reserve and Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. He competed for the full committee’s chairmanship last year but came

up short, a setback that set his Senate bid in motion.

He entered Congress after defeating a Democratic incumbent in 2012 and has won reelection by wide margins except in 2018, when he fended off a strong challenge from Democrat Amy McGrath.

Democrats have signaled that they plan to target Barr’s district along with a few dozen others nationwide in trying to win back the House next year. Republicans scoff at Democratic hopes of flipping Barr’s district, which seemed

more GOP-friendly after the last round of redistricting.

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judge-executive noted that Old Hopkinsville and Glenwood Mill roads have just been cleared.

Humphries further noted that the community’s East Lake Road Bridge is now closed and will remain closed for the foreseeable future, while the North Tanyard Road Bridge has been reduced to a weight limit of nine tons.

He also pointed to a recent announcement of \$450,000 that has been awarded by the state through its county-city bridge improvement program for a replacement bridge at the Pleasant Hill Church Road in Trigg County.

“That’s great news,” he said of the funds as he thanked the office of Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear for its work on behalf of the county.

Humphries said the planned bridge improvement is a combined effort of the Kentucky legislature and governor’s office.

In other business:

• Magistrates approved a list of recent expenditures that totaled \$80,995.37 and included some of the following: \$16,930 to the Christian County treasurer for inmate boarding at the Christian County Jail in March, a payment of \$23,024.08 for concession stand improvements at the Trigg County Recreation Complex, more than \$9,000 to Rogers Group for road materials and \$4,726.38 for filing cabinets for Trigg County Clerk Carmen Finley’s office.

• The judge said a tire roundup is slated for 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. today and Friday and from 7:30 a.m. to noon at the Trigg County Road Department garage on Old Hopkinsville Road.

• Humphries also noted that he will be attending an upcoming South Western Kentucky Economic Development Council meeting on April 28 that will include discussion of prospects for the spec building in the county’s Interstate 24 Business Park.

Reach Tonya S. Grace at 270-887-3240 or tgrace@kentuckynewera.com.

LEGAL NOTICE

Invitation to Bid

Trigg County Fiscal Court will be accepting sealed bids for chip and seal of county roads. Bids will be accepted at Trigg County Judge’s Office, 38 Main Street, PO Box 672, Cadiz, KY, 42211. All bids must be received no later than Friday, May 2, 2025, at 4:00 PM. All interested parties can receive a copy of bid specs by contacting Trigg County Judge’s Office at 270-522-8459. Bids will be opened on May 5th, 2025, at the Fiscal Court Meeting at the Courthouse Meeting Room. Trigg Fiscal Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice

Notice is hereby given that the Periodic Settlement of the Estate of John Brandon, deceased, Case No. 22-P-00026, has been filed with the Trigg District Court by Lori Ricks, Executrix of the Estate, and was approved April 17th, 2025, Trigg District Court, at the Trigg County Justice Center, Cadiz, KY. Any exceptions to the settlement must be filed prior to the hearing. Attorney for the estate, Leah A. Morrison, 1101 College Street, P.O. box 770, Bowling Green, KY 42102-0770. This 18th day of April 2025 /s/ William Clay Stevens, Deputy Clerk Trigg District Court 41 Main Street Cadiz, KY 42211 270-522-6270

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice

Fiduciary appointments have been made by the Trigg District Court as follows: Case No. 25-P-00029 appointed Kristi M Miller as Executrix for the Estate of Kitty Rachelle Simmons, deceased on January 12th, 2025, 332 Meadow Brook Dr, Cadiz, Ky 42211 All persons having claims against said estates are notified to present them to the Fiduciary verified according to law not later than six (6) months from date of qualification of personal representative. This 21st day of April 2025 /s/ William Clay Stevens, Deputy Clerk Trigg District Court 41 Main Street Cadiz, KY 42211 270-522-6270

LEGAL NOTICE

Advertisement for Bids

The County of Trigg will accept sealed bids in the County Judge/Executive’s Office until 4:00 P.M. on Friday, May 2, 2025, for Fiscal Year 2025-2026, for the following items:

- Gasoline per gallon for undetermined amount
A. Must Include Rack Price-Mark Up - State Tax - Total Price
- Diesel fuel, on-road and off-road, for undetermined amount
A. Must Include Rack Price-Mark Up - State Tax - Total Price
- Liquid asphalt per gallon for undetermined amount (RS-2, AE-200)
- Crushed limestone including sizes DGA, 610, 57, 23, 8M, Chn Lin II, Class I Sand (picked-up and delivery prices)
- Bituminous concrete surface mix, furnished, delivered, placed, compacted, and rolled on various county roads in all parts of Trigg County, priced per ton

All material shall conform to current specifications of the Kentucky Department of Transportation.

Bids will be opened at the May 5th, 2025, Fiscal Court meeting at the Courthouse Meeting Room at 6:00 P.M.

Trigg Fiscal Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Stanley H. Humphries
Trigg County Judge/Executive

Trigg County Fiscal Court
P.O. Box 672
Cadiz KY 42211