

REAL ID is now a reality for air travel

STAFF REPORT

On Wednesday of this week, federal enforcement of the REAL ID Act took effect, impacting Kentuckians and travelers across the U.S. From that date forward, a federally compliant ID, such as a REAL ID, passport or military ID, will be required to board domestic flights or enter secure federal facilities.

Despite common misconceptions, May 7 was not a deadline to obtain a REAL ID, only the date when new identification requirements begin at airport security and federal buildings. Individuals can still upgrade to a REAL ID after that date, though those without one should be prepared to use an alternative form of TSA-approved identification when traveling.

Sen. Jason Howell (R-Murray), who represents Crittenden and other western Kentucky counties in Frankfort, emphasized the distinction, warning of confusion caused by limited public communication and delayed infrastructure improvements. Howell noted that only 37 percent of Kentuckians are currently REAL ID-compliant, among the lowest rates in the country.

People should understand that May 7



is not a cutoff for getting a REAL ID, says Howell and others with full understanding of the federal law.

“If you fly domestically or visit secure federal buildings, you will need a REAL ID, passport, passport card or military ID,” Howell said. “If you do not fly or visit federal facilities, you do not need a REAL ID. A standard driver’s license will still allow you to drive, vote and conduct everyday activities.”

REAL ID legislation originated with a post-9/11 commission recommendation to tighten security for state-issued IDs. The law, signed in 2005, was meant to be fully implemented by 2008, but repeated delays, largely due to state-level implementation hurdles and

the COVID-19 pandemic, have postponed full enforcement until now.

According to the Transportation Security Administration, as of late April, approximately 81 percent of travelers at U.S. airports were already using REAL ID-compliant credentials or other acceptable identification. TSA spokesperson Lisa Farbstein told the Associated Press that travelers without compliant ID may face delays or may not be permitted through checkpoints.

Kentuckians unsure whether they already possess a REAL ID should check their licenses. A star in the upper corner indicates compliance. Enhanced driver’s licenses, available in a few states like Michigan and New York, can also be used for land or sea travel to Canada or Mexico but are not valid for air travel into those countries.

Howell also raises concerns about limited accessibility to licensing centers. While driver’s licensing responsibilities transitioned from local circuit clerks to regional offices under the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet in 2019, office hours remain restricted and staffing issues persist. Lawmakers have passed legislation to allow mail-in re-

newals, mobile units for rural areas, and online services, yet many families still encounter long waits and limited appointments.

To assist with the surge, several pop-up REAL ID licensing events are scheduled across Howell’s 1st Senate District. These are open only to residents of the host county and require preregistration. Crittenden County’s next opportunity is on Aug. 5 at Crittenden County Office Complex. Registration starts July 22 and can be done online. Pop-up license opportunities are restricted to residents of the county where the event is being held.

To get a REAL ID, applicants must bring one proof of identity (e.g., certified birth certificate), one proof of Social Security (card or W-2/1099), two proofs of residency (e.g., utility bill, lease), and documentation of any legal name changes (marriage license or court order). A vision screening is also required for license renewals.

The nearest regional licensing offices for many area residents are located in Madisonville or Paducah.

For more information or to register for a pop-up event, visit drive.ky.gov.

Environmental survey meeting is Thursday

STAFF REPORT

Residents of Livingston County and other nearby communities are invited to a community meeting addressing environmental health concerns in the region. The University of Louisville’s Center for Integrative Environmental Health Sciences (CIEHS) will present findings from a comprehensive study examining potential environmental exposures affecting human health, air and water quality, and local wildlife. The event is scheduled for Thursday, May 8 at 5:30 p.m. at the Grand Rivers Commu-

nity Center.

Livingston, Marshall and McCracken counties have been a central focus of the study due to its proximity to industrial sites and natural resources. The research team conducted extensive air monitoring, wastewater sampling and wildlife assessments to identify potential environmental hazards in the area. The goal is to provide residents with accurate information about their environment and empower them to take proactive steps toward health and safety.

Leading the community engagement efforts is Dr. Luz Huntington-Moskos, an associate professor at the University of Louisville School of Nursing and Director of the Community Engagement Core at CIEHS. Dr. Huntington-Moskos brings experience in environmental health research, particularly focusing on adolescent health and health disparities. Dr. Huntington-Moskos has a strong commitment to community-based research and has worked with under-resourced populations.



PHOTO BY JOHN HENRY



Bridges | Creek Crossings

Crittenden County road crews have completed installation of a new culvert on the northwest end of Frances Road, allowing the road to re-open after spring flooding. The repaired stretch will remain gravel until paving can be scheduled. Meanwhile, two state highway bridges remain closed. KY 295 at the Lyon-Crittenden line over Livingston Creek is closed, but work has begun on site. KY 387, also known as Dam 50 Road, is closed at Crooked Creek east of KY 91 between the ferry highway and Riverview Park. Both projects are expected to be completed in August. State funding has also been allocated for bridge replacements on KY 654 and KY 2123 in Crittenden County.

MARION POLICE activity report					
Data below provided by Marion Police Department compare police activity for the month of April 2025 to the same month in 2024. The chart also includes the previous month's totals, year-to-date police activity totals and last year's monthly average.					
CATEGORY	APRIL 2025	March 2025	APRIL 2024	2024 YR TOTALS	2024 MONTHLY AVERAGE
Miles driven/patrolled	1,936	1,449	1,553	23,545	1,962.1
Criminal investigations	10	10	8	150	12.5
Domestics	9	9	6	88	7.3
Felony Arrests	1	4	3	48	4.0
Misdemeanor arrests	0	10	8	81	6.8
Non-criminal arrests	4	16	19	112	9.3
DUI arrests	0	2	0	2	0.2
Criminal summons served	3	2	25	51	4.3
Traffic citations	20	26	17	212	17.7
Other citations	9	27	56	285	23.8
Traffic warnings	8	7	3	55	4.6
Parking tickets	0	0	0	1	0.1
Traffic accidents	3	4	1	69	5.8
Security checks/alarms	69	65	55	720	60.0
Calls for service	188	231	206	2,578	214.8



MPD 270.965.3500
Police Chief
Bobby West

On Facebook
Marion Police
Department
Marion-KY

PROPERTY

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Assessment Appeals. The deadline to file that appeal is one workday after the close of the inspection period, which is Wednesday, May 28. Forms and filing procedures are available through the county clerk’s office.

Failure to go through the local appeal process will disqualify a property owner from taking their case to the Kentucky Board of Tax Appeals.

Taxpayers with questions about personal property assessments, such as those involving machinery or business equipment, must follow a separate process. These assessments cannot be appealed locally. Instead, a written protest must be filed directly with the Kentucky Department of Revenue within 30 days of receiving the notice of assessment, as outlined in state law.

See PVA’s legal notice elsewhere in this edition. For more information, contact the Crittenden County PVA office at (270) 965-4600.

APRIL 2025

Weather Yearbook

Coldest Temp
32.2

Warmest Temp
84.5

Wettest Day
3.32

Tues., Apr. 8

Mon., Apr. 28

Sat., Apr. 5

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Average Temp	60.2	60.6	57.2	56.1	56.9	54.1
Coldest Temp	32.2	32.6	31.6	33.5	28.9	29.2
Hottest Temp	84.5	82.7	83.9	82.6	82.3	81.6
Precipitation	9.6	3.5	2.5	6	4.1	2.29
Wettest Day	3.32	0.91	0.88	1.5	1.67	0.88

■ April brought a mix of warm days and steady rainfall to Crittenden County, with temperatures ranging from a low of 32.2°F to a high of 84.5°F. The average high for the month was 70.5°F and the average low was 50.0°F, resulting in a mean temperature of 60.2°F. Rain was a significant feature in April, with total monthly precipitation reaching 9.6 inches, marking the wettest April in the past 10 years. There were 12 days with measurable rainfall, including four days with over one inch recorded. No days reached 90 degrees or dropped below freezing, highlighting a relatively mild and wet spring month for the region.

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Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat. 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.