

UPDATE CONTINUED FROM PAGE FOUR

sentences outside of that restricted period.

The exact language of the amendment reads as follows:

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.

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.

Interestingly 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 decision ultimately rests with Kentucky voters. The question on the ballot gives voters the opportunity to determine whether these additional constitutional restrictions should become part of the governor's clemency authority.

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

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
METCALFE CIRCUIT COURT
CIVIL ACTION NO. 25-CI-00151
COMMISSIONER'S SALE ON
NOVEMBER 5, 2026, AT 12:00 NOON**

**SUSAN WALLIS, et al
PLAINTIFF
VS
BRANDI JO ROBERTSON, et al
RESPONDENTS**

By Virtue of Judgment in the Case Set Forth: I shall sell to the highest and best bidder at the time and place above, the following real estate and improvements thereon in Metcalfe County, located at 990 Froedge Dubree Road, Summer Shade, Metcalfe, Kentucky, PVA Map ID #016-00-00-024.02

Susan Wallis, et al, derived title to by Deed from Janet Sue Key, single, dated August 12, 2005 and recorded on October 4, 2005, in Deed Book 128, Page 737 in the Office of the Metcalfe County Court Clerk.

To be sold on NOVEMBER 5, 2026, at 12:00 noon at the Metcalfe County Judicial Center.

This property is being sold pursuant to an indivisibility action.

Plaintiffs were granted a Partial Default Judgment and Order of Sale on September 9, 2026, From the proceeds and bond interest the Master Commissioner will pay the costs and fees of the sale plus the payment of any Ad Valorem Tax Bills, including those parties' costs and attorney's fees, costs of plaintiff attorney fees \$2,500.00, filing fee \$530.30, claim of Dile Realty \$4,050.00 and any remaining funds will be held until further orders of the Circuit Judge.

The subject property cannot be divided without materially impairing its value and will be sold in its entirety. ALL PROPERTY IS SUBJECT TO ANY/ALL EXISTING R/WS AND EASEMENTS. ANY SALE MAY BE CANCELLED WITHOUT NOTICE. THE COURT, COMMISSIONER AND PARTIES TO THE PROCEEDINGS ARE NOT LEGALLY BOUND BY THE ADVERTISEMENT AND THE CONTENTS OF THE COURT JUDGMENT AND ORDER OF SALE CONTROL. UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE WE ARE UNABLE TO SHOW THE INTERIOR OR EXTERIOR OF ANY PROPERTY. THE PLAINTIFF, THE MASTER COMMISSIONER AND THE COURT SHALL NOT BE DEEMED TO HAVE WARRANTED TITLE OF THE REAL ESTATE TO THE PURCHASER.

For the Purchase price, purchaser may pay cash, or may pay 10% of the purchase price in cash, with the balance of the purchase price secured by a purchase money bond due in thirty (30) days, with good and approved surety on the bond, and bearing interest at the rate of 6% per annum from date of sale until paid, said bond to have the same for and effect as a judgment and remain a prop and superior lien on the property until fully paid. This sale is without warranty of any kind. Purchaser is responsible for the purchase of insurance for the protection of the property post sale and is responsible for paying the 2026 and all following years' ad valorem tax bills. The purchaser is buying property subject to all restrictions, covenants, and easements of record in the office of the Metcalfe County Clerk. Upon payment and delivery of Deed the purchaser shall be entitled to all rights of ownership of the property. The property will be sold free and clear of all rights, liens, interests and claims of all parties hereto.

The property shall be sold with the improvements thereon, "as is". Bidders shall be prepared to promptly comply with the terms of the sale.

**Inquire of the Master Commissioner.
HERBERT B. SPARKS**

**Master Commissioner
PO Box 509
Phone (270) 432-4701**

**Metcalfe Circuit Court
Edmonton, KY 42129
Fax (270) 432-5006**

Herbsparkslaw@outlook.com

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MONEY CONTINUED FROM PAGE FOUR

Closed Session

Next, the court went into a closed session pursuant to KRS 61.810 (1) (c) for litigation and returned approximately 20 minutes later. Judge Wilson stated that no action was taken in closed session.

Sheriff's Department

The Sheriff's Office manager, Lynn Lunz, addressed the court to request \$25,000 of funds to be used for payroll, postage, fuel, and office supplies. The funds are needed to keep the office running until property tax collection begins. After motions by Bragg and Crain, the funds were approved.

Financials

There were two

interfund transfers, both of which were to transfer state LARP funds to the road fund. Both were approved.

The claims held nothing unexpected and were approved.

The DES, recycling, and road department reports were provided for review.

With no other business on the agenda, the meeting then adjourned.

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**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
METCALFE CIRCUIT COURT
CIVIL ACTION NO. 25-CI-00116
COMMISSIONER'S SALE ON
NOVEMBER 5, 2026 @ 12:00 PM**

**SHARON WHITEHEAD
PLAINTIFF
VS
BOBBY WHITLOW
RESPONDENT**

By Virtue of Judgment in the Case Set Forth: I shall sell to the highest and best bidder at the time and place above, the following real estate and improvements thereon in Metcalfe County, located at 425 Phillip Whitlow Road, Summer Shade, Metcalfe, Kentucky, PVA Map ID #015-00-00-014.03.

Sharon Whitehead derived title to this property by Deed from Jeffrey Bass and Sonya Bass, dated January 28, 2015, and recorded on February 2, 2015, in Deed Book 153, Page 570 in the Office of the Metcalfe County Court Clerk.

To be sold on NOVEMBER 5, 2026, at 12:00 noon at the Metcalfe County Judicial Center.

This property is being sold pursuant to an indivisibility action.

A Judgment and Order of Sale was entered in this case on September 24, 2026, directing the Master Commissioner to sell the above-described property. From the proceeds and bond interest the Master Commissioner will pay the costs and fees of the sale plus, unpaid property taxes in the amount of \$4,737.98, the sum of \$18,000.00 to Plaintiff, for unpaid past-due payments per parties' agreement, attorney fees in the amount of \$3,380.00, and any remaining funds will be held until further orders of the Circuit Judge.

The subject property cannot be divided without materially impairing its value and will be sold in its entirety. ALL PROPERTY IS SUBJECT TO ANY/ALL EXISTING R/WS AND EASEMENTS. ANY SALE MAY BE CANCELLED WITHOUT NOTICE. THE COURT, COMMISSIONER AND PARTIES TO THE PROCEEDINGS ARE NOT LEGALLY BOUND BY THE ADVERTISEMENT AND THE CONTENTS OF THE COURT JUDGMENT AND ORDER OF SALE CONTROL. UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE WE ARE UNABLE TO SHOW THE INTERIOR OR EXTERIOR OF ANY PROPERTY. THE PLAINTIFF, THE MASTER COMMISSIONER AND THE COURT SHALL NOT BE DEEMED TO HAVE WARRANTED TITLE OF THE REAL ESTATE TO THE PURCHASER. PERSONAL PROPERTY, INCLUDING THE MOBILE HOME, WILL NOT BE SOLD.

For the Purchase price, purchaser may pay cash, or may pay 10% of the purchase price in cash, with the balance of the purchase price secured by a purchase money bond due in thirty (30) days, with good and approved surety on the bond, and bearing interest at the rate of 6% per annum from date of sale until paid, said bond to have the same for and effect as a judgment and remain a prop and superior lien on the property until fully paid. This sale is without warranty of any kind. Purchaser is responsible for the purchase of insurance for the protection of the property post sale and is responsible for paying the 2026 and all following years' ad valorem tax bills. The purchaser is buying property subject to all restrictions, covenants, and easements of record in the office of the Metcalfe County Clerk. Upon payment and delivery of Deed the purchaser shall be entitled to all rights of ownership of the property. The property will be sold free and clear of all rights, liens, interests and claims of all parties hereto.

The property shall be sold with the improvements thereon, "as is". Bidders shall be prepared to promptly comply with the terms of the sale.

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