

Adams announces second annual 'I Voted' sticker contest

FRANKFORT — Secretary of State Michael Adams is inviting all Kentucky students to participate in the second annual “I Voted” sticker contest. The contest is open to all Kentucky students from kindergarten to twelfth grade. To

enter, students need to send in their best design for an “I Voted” sticker. The winning sticker design will be handed to voters in participating counties during the 2026 primary election. “We saw great participation and creativity in our inaugural sticker

contest last year,” said Adams. “I am excited to see what Kentucky students will come up with this year.” Interested students can submit their design at [https://www.sos.ky.gov/civics/initiatives/Pages/i-voted-sticker-](https://www.sos.ky.gov/civics/initiatives/Pages/i-voted-sticker-contest.aspx)

contest.aspx by May 23 at 5 p.m. EST. Please include your student’s name, school, address, and phone number with the submission. To be considered, pictures must be original work and include the words “I Voted.” Please upload the pictures in JPEG or PNG format.

The finalists will be chosen by the Secretary of State’s Office to go on a ballot which will be voted on during the 2025 Kentucky State Fair. The top vote-getter’s design will be printed on stickers and sent to interested county clerks to provide to voters in May 2026.

Kentucky officials urge people not to disturb baby wildlife

FRANKFORT — With spring in full swing, more people are encountering young wildlife as they venture outdoors. The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources is reminding the public to avoid interfering with young wildlife, even if they seem to be alone. While these animals may appear vulnerable, the mother is likely nearby.

“It’s common for wildlife rehabilitators to receive animals that are thought to be orphans. In reality, they were fine before someone with good intentions stepped in, trying to help in the wrong way,” said Dr. Christine Casey, wildlife veterinarian with Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.

Spring is a busy time for many species. Rabbits start nesting as early as February and continue throughout the summer, with mothers returning to the den at dawn and dusk to feed their young. Newly hatched songbirds are often seen on the ground, learning to fly. By April, mother black bears and their cubs have emerged from their dens, with cubs growing more active and exploring their surroundings. Late spring marks the peak of deer fawning season, during which fawns often stay motionless and hidden for their first

month of life, only beginning to follow their mothers once they are strong enough.

“Wildlife parents will often leave their young in a safe spot while they go off to find food, sometimes even in places that are more developed because they know their offspring will be safe there. Almost always, the parent is nearby and will come back to take care of them,” Casey said.

WAYS TO HELP YOUNG WILDLIFE THRIVE

- Observing them from a distance
- Securing trash cans and avoiding leaving food or other attractants outside
- Keeping children and pets away to prevent potential injury or leaving a scent trail that may attract predators
- Checking a property or site for the presence of young animals before mowing or commencing outdoor projects

Under state law, it is illegal to remove young wildlife from the wild. Only state-permitted wildlife rehabilitators can care for orphaned or injured wildlife in Kentucky. A list of approved wildlife rehabilitators, searchable by county and animal type, is available on the department’s website. Kentucky Fish and Wildlife does not accept orphaned or injured animals. Possessing wildlife is only

permitted in very limited cases and is strictly regulated by state and federal laws, both to protect wildlife populations and public health. In Kentucky, it is illegal to keep high-risk rabies carriers, such as raccoons, skunks, bats, coyotes, and foxes, as pets.

These animals are common carriers of rabies, which can cause symptoms in infected individuals, such as uncoordinated movement (e.g., stumbling, falling over), excessive drooling, and aggression. Rabies can be transmitted to people through bites, scratches or saliva entering the eyes, nose, mouth, or open cuts. If left untreated, rabies is fatal.

If a person is bitten by a wild animal, they should immediately contact either their healthcare provider or their county public health department for guidance. To protect pets from rabies, ensure they are up-to-date on vaccinations and prevent contact with wildlife.

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife encourages the public to report animals showing signs of rabies by calling 1-800-858-1549 or reporting observations online. For more information on caring for injured or orphaned wildlife, visit the department’s website at fw.ky.gov, and also see Leave Baby Wildlife Alone!

Attorney general battles unlawful robocalls

FRANKFORT — Kentucky Attorney General Russell Coleman and a bipartisan coalition of 51 attorneys general of the Anti-Robocall Multistate Litigation Task Force are warning multiple voice service providers they could be in violation of state and federal laws by continuing to route robocalls across their networks. In addition to the warning notices that demanded the companies stop transmitting illegal robocalls, the task force has also shared its concerns about these providers with the Federal Communications Commission.

Last year, members of the Task Force called on the FCC to improve the Robocall Mitigation Database (RMD). According to a robocall index, Kentuckians received 58 million robocalls in March of this year.

“Kentuckians continue to be the target of unlawful robocalls, which can be everything from annoying to downright predatory,” said Attorney General Coleman. “Along with attorneys general across the country, we’re fighting back against those who try to take advantage of Kentuckians.”

The task force sent warning letters to nine companies detailing information on the Task Force’s investigation and providing

an analysis of each provider’s illegal and/or suspicious robocall traffic. Those receiving letters were: Global Net Holdings. Global Net Holdings received at least 153 traceback notices for illegal and suspicious robocalls about government and financial imposters and impersonations, Amazon suspicious charges, credit card interest rate reductions, Medicare scams, Chinese package delivery scams, cable discount scams, utility disconnect scams, and others.

All Access Telecom. All Access Telecom received more than 356 traceback notices since the end of 2023 for illegal and suspicious robocalls about political impersonations, cable discount scams, government and financial imposters, Amazon suspicious charges, credit card “courtesy” calls, and others.

Lingo Telecom. Lingo received more than 105 traceback notices since the end of 2023 over robocalls involving Social Security imposters, utility disconnects, Amazon suspicious charges, student loans, and others.

NGL Communications. NGL Communications received at least 100 traceback notices since the end of 2023 for robocalls about COVID financial relief, student loan forgiveness, debt relief, DirecTV discounts, credit

card interest rate reductions, and others.

Range. Range received more than 590 traceback notices since 2019 for robocalls about utilities rebates, Medicare advisors, financial impersonations and credit card interest rate reductions, auto warranties, and others.

RSCom Ltd. RSCom received nearly 1,000 traceback notices since 2019 for scam calls about tax relief, private equity imposters, utilities disconnects, travel scams, student loan forgiveness, and others.

Telcast Network. Telcast received at least 800 traceback notices about illegal and suspicious robocalls about financial and utility imposters, utilities rebates, Medicare advisors, Amazon, tax relief, and others.

ThinQ Technologies. ThinQ Technologies (known as Commio) received more than 500 traceback notices since 2019 about government imposters, debt relief/financing, loan approvals, Amazon suspicious charges, student loan forgiveness, DirecTV discounts, sweepstakes, and others.

Telcentris. Telcentris (known as Voxox) received more than 400 traceback notices since 2019 about scam calls about Social Security imposters, Amazon scam, student loans, and others.

Goodwill Kentucky celebrates expungement program

LOUISVILLE — Goodwill Industries of Kentucky is a leading advocate for individuals seeking a second chance at life after incarceration. Recognizing the significant barriers many face upon reentry, particularly in securing stable employment, Goodwill’s commitment to this cause is exemplified through its expungement program. This initiative, which successfully cleared 6,680 records in 2024, represents a vital step toward rebuilding lives and fostering community reintegration.

Expungement is a legal process that enables individuals who have fulfilled their obligations to society and meet the requirements for expungement, which include maintaining a clean record for five years after serving their sentence, to seal their records from public view, effectively providing them with a fresh start.

For those who have served their time, the stigma of a criminal record can be an overwhelming obstacle, hampering the ability to find work and housing and rebuild personal relationships. In Kentucky, where tens of

thousands remain incarcerated, the challenges upon release can be daunting, but expungement provides renewed hope for success. To provide these second chances, Goodwill partners with the Department of Corrections, Legal Aid Society, Legal Aid of the Bluegrass, AppalReD Legal Aid, and Kentucky Legal Aid to host expungement clinics.

At the clinics, experienced legal professionals work closely with individuals to determine their eligibility for expungement. If they qualify, Goodwill helps guide them through the entire process and provides comprehensive support tailored to their unique situations, ensuring they understand each step and have access to the resources they need. The nonprofit covers expungement fees, which can be as high as \$600 per record, making this opportunity accessible to more individuals. In 2024, Goodwill also partnered with Easy Expunctions to make expungements available daily through a user-friendly virtual platform.

“Second Chance Month is a time to recognize the transformative power of

expungements in the commonwealth,” said Dennis Ritchie, Goodwill’s vice president of strategic partnerships. “By removing barriers to employment and stability, we’re not just clearing records, we are opening doors to new beginnings and providing renewed hope.”

Goodwill’s holistic approach goes beyond just legal assistance. The organization also provides resources such as job training, resume building, and interview preparation, further equipping participants with the skills necessary to succeed in the workforce. By addressing both the legal and practical challenges faced by those reentering society, Goodwill plays a pivotal role in transforming lives and promoting the message that a person’s past does not have to dictate their future.

Goodwill will continue hosting expungement clinics throughout the commonwealth in 2025, offering in-person and virtual options at its Opportunity Centers. For more information or to register for an upcoming clinic, visit GoodwillKY.org/Expungements.

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