

London city council removes controversial mayor

Kentucky Today Staff

LONDON, Ky. (KT) - The London City Council voted to impeach embattled Mayor Randall Weddle and appointed the town's first female mayor, Tracie Handley, to replace him.

The controversial Weddle faced various allegations from the city council, including improper appointments or actions regarding the housing authority and taking actions without the council's approval. The hearing came after several heated meetings.

The hearing at the Laurel County Judicial Center on Main Street on Friday attracted a large crowd to the courtroom.

Retired Kentucky Supreme Court Chief Justice Joseph Lambert presided over the hearing.

Weddle told media outlets he would appeal his removal.

Quinn Minute – Goldilocks and the Three Bears

Rix Quinn

What is the real meaning of the fairy tale about Goldilocks?

To be frank (although Frank is not my name), “Goldilocks and the Three Bears” is more confusing than a stop sign on a rollercoaster track.

First, you have to accept that a bear family owns a fancy two-story deep in the woods. These beasts wake one morning, choose porridge instead of other animals, then go for a walk while it cools.

Obviously, rich bears buy quality products like silver claw clips and expensive fur shampoos. So, why would they leave an unlocked door to tempt intruders?

In walks Goldilocks, possibly a destructive truant with great curiosity, a huge appetite and narcolepsy.

First, she samples some mismatched chairs. She finds one too hard, one too soft and the third just right...so she breaks it. What is that about?

Next, she tastes the first porridge and finds it too hot. The second bowl is too cold. Why? Who cooked this stuff, anyway?

But the third bowl is just right, so she devours it faster than a hyperactive cannibal gulps ladyfingers at a tea party.

Bloated and sluggish, she wanders upstairs. She tries Mom and Pop's twin beds, then passes out in Junior's bunk.

About this time, the bears return. They find her asleep, shake her awake and scare heck out of her. She races out. The bears forget to get a name and address so they can send a bill for the busted furniture.

This story is too scary for me, because I fear any beast that considers me part of a food group.

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Beshear warns of state revenue shortfall

Tom Latek
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) – During his weekly press conference on Thursday, Gov. Andy Beshear warned that there could be a shortfall in state revenue for the current fiscal year, which ends June 30, 2026, and said there are two reasons for the projected shortfall.

“First, the federal tariffs, and the uncertainty surrounding these tariffs, are directly impacting our spending and our economic activity,” he said. “Second, the cuts in the state income tax are going to cost the Commonwealth \$359,000,000 million for this fiscal year. That rate cut is effective January 1, 2026.”

Beshear said as a result, he had

State Budget Director John Hicks contact the Consensus Forecasting Group to meet and provide a new forecast.

“He has made that request, and they agreed to convene on Sept. 16, to make an official revision in the current year's revenue estimate for both the General Fund and the Road Fund. This will tell us if we have a shortfall, and if we do, we will immediately start taking steps to address it.”

The Governor noted, “Let me say I expect a shortfall, but I also expect that we can effectively and we will effectively manage it. There will be more to come when we get the response from the Consensus Forecasting Group, and then we will announce any steps

that we may need to take. States, unlike the federal government, must balance their budget, and we are already making plans on how we might do that, if the Consensus Forecasting Group confirms the expected shortfall.”

The Consensus Forecasting Group is a group of ten economists who give their best estimate of what revenue the state can expect. Members normally meet quarterly before finalizing the estimates in December. That forecast is what the governor's office and legislators will use in crafting Kentucky's next two-year spending plan. They can also approve special estimates, such as what the Governor and State Budget Director are now seeking.

How to become a teacher: Explore the pathways offered at ECU

Submitted by Sarah Baker, Director of Public Relations

RICHMOND — Have you dreamt of becoming a teacher since elementary school, when a teacher made a lasting impression on you? Or have you already worked in the classroom, or even another field, where you have just discovered your passion for teaching? Wherever and whenever you have found your calling to teach, Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) has a pathway for you to earn your degree and make an impact in education.

Learn in person and get teaching experience right on campus.

Founded as a teacher's college over a century ago, ECU's reputation for excellence in teacher education continues today with traditional four-year education degrees. Your degree in elementary education, middle grades education, special education and other fields come with in-classroom experience from Day One at ECU's Model Laboratory School, Kentucky's only P-12 public teaching lab.

Build your major around your passion.

While you can

specialize in different grade levels and areas of education within the School of Education, you may also choose to major in a specific field of study. For example, majors such as history, Spanish and others work directly with the School of Education to prepare you to both learn about and teach your subject of expertise in a secondary school setting.

Fast-track your degree from wherever you are.

If you want to teach elementary education but are seeking flexibility and the opportunity to complete clinicals in your home community, look no further than ECU's fully online Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. Online students receive the same perks as on-campus students, including free textbooks through ECU BookSmart and free tutoring through ECU, as well as the same respected degree that has been offered on ECU's campus for more than 100 years.

Earn your teaching certification while you work.

If you work in a non-teaching role in a Kentucky school district, you can earn your degree in elementary education and initial teacher certification through ECU's Option 9 program in just three years. With the additional option of competency-based education courses, paraeducators can apply their knowledge and experiences from the classroom to their coursework, demonstrating mastery in self-paced modules.

Get a head start on your degree with dual credit.

ECU Dual Credit allows high school juniors and seniors to earn high school and college credit simultaneously. With the teacher education dual credit pathway, you can take classes to speed up your degree and step into the classroom even sooner. Choose from the P-12 education track or special education track and knock out those core courses required for teacher learning and education leadership programs.

Turn your bachelor's into a teaching career.

If you already have a non-teaching degree and are interested in becoming a teacher, ECU's Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) is for you. With options for elementary education, middle grades education, secondary and P-12, school librarian and others, the MAT program allows you to advance

your education and begin a new chapter in your career.

Take it from Breanna Puckett, a recent MAT graduate, who said, “EKU was a game changer for me by providing me with an opportunity to explore out of my comfort zone. These opportunities shaped me into the person I am today to complete my master's degree and be successful with a wonderful career to provide for my future family.”

Expand your opportunities in education with advanced degrees.


If you are already a teacher looking to increase your salary and rank or move into administrative or leadership positions, ECU's graduate programs include a Master of Arts in Education, Rank 1 programs, endorsement programs and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies. ECU also offers an online post-master's Specialist in Education (Ed.S) degree with certification options in school principal, district administrator and superintendent.

Ready to begin your journey toward a career in education? Explore the options at ECU's School of Education.

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