

Franklin Favorite

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Voters set to cast ballots on Nov. 3

BY BEVERLY BRAGG
FRANKLIN FAVORITE

Simpson County citizens will head to the polls on Nov. 3 to vote for local candidates seeking election or running for re-election in several state and local races. A constitutional amendment also appears on the ballot. Additionally, voters have the option to vote for a straight party ticket for candidates running in the Democrat or Republican party or the Kentucky party or to vote for indi-

vidual candidates.

LOCAL RACES

The following candidates are seeking election or running for reelection in local races.

A vacant seat on the Simpson County Fiscal Court has set up a competitive race in the West District, where Buddy "Pee Wee" Sliger (R) and Nathaniel Downey (D) are vying for magistrate.

The nonpartisan race for Franklin Mayor presents a three-way choice

for voters on Nov. 3. Running are current City Commissioners Kelly Bush and Wendell Stewart, along with citizen Doug Thompson.

The race for the Franklin City Commission has drawn 12 candidates to fill four open seats.

Running are incumbents Jamie Powell and Dale McCreary. Challengers are Ryan Alan Frye, Emerson Kochenderfer, Jr., Nathan A. Brace, Bryan Calvert, William "Bill" Shook, Adrienne McNew, Steve Butt, Tom Otto, Mark Dobbs, and

Suzanne Forshee. City Commissioners are nonpartisan.

Nancy E. Uhls is running to serve as a member of the Simpson County School Board, 2nd Educational District.

Joe "David" Webster is running to serve as a member of the Simpson County School Board, 5th Educational District.

School candidates are nonpartisan.

Christopher Tomlinson is running for Judge in the 49th District.

STATE RACES

Voters in Kentucky will elect one member to the U.S. Senate in the Nov. 3 general election.

Candidates running for the senate seat vacated by retiring Senator Mitch McConnell are Republican Party candidate Andy Barr, Democratic Party candidate Charles Booker, and Kentucky Party candidate Christopher Campbell.

Republican Congressman James Comer is running against

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It's Fall Y'all



Beverly Bragg/Franklin Favorite

Bright yellow mums and stacks of heirloom pumpkins create a colorful autumnal display in downtown Franklin, welcoming visitors to the historic square.

Fiscal Court advances stricter panhandling and public camping regulations

BY BEVERLY BRAGG
FRANKLIN FAVORITE

The Simpson County Fiscal Court advanced updates to its public safety regulations on Oct. 20, voting to implement stricter regulations on local panhandling and soliciting.

The proposed ordinance passed first summary reading after a brief discussion on its legal enforcement and scope. The second summary reading will take place at a future fiscal court meeting.

The ordinance aims to balance constitutional free speech rights with public safety, acknowledging that peaceful panhandling and solicitation, such as holding signs, ringing bells, or verbally asking for donations, is legally protected, while aggressive solicitation that induces fear of bodily harm is not.

During the session, Magistrate Marty Chandler raised questions regarding whether the new regula-

tions would successfully prevent panhandling around the historic courthouse square or directly outside local business storefronts.

County Attorney Sam Phillips clarified the legal boundaries of the ordinance, explaining that while local governments can regulate activities tied to heightened public safety risks, they cannot broadly restrict actions in general public spaces. "The problem is court decisions have basically said that you can't restrict people from panhandling altogether," said Phillips. "You can regulate stuff, but you cannot ban stuff altogether."

Phillips noted that while panhandling from the street, curb, or gutter poses a clear public safety risk, sitting on a sidewalk does not inherently threaten public safety, even if it is considered a public nuisance.

Under the ordinance, passive panhandling, begging, and authorized charitable or political solici-

tation, where permitted, are restricted to the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

However, aggressive solicitation that harasses residents, invades privacy, blocks pedestrian or vehicular traffic, or creates safety hazards in public spaces and medians is unlawful.

The ordinance also establishes strict boundaries around what county officials classify as areas with heightened personal security concerns and heightened personal privacy concerns. Under the ordinance, aggressive solicitation is banned within 20 feet of these designated zones.

Security zones include the entrances to businesses, public venues, and commercial accommodations or businesses. Privacy zones extend to areas within 20 feet of ATMs, financial institutions, public restrooms, operating sidewalk cafes,

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Simpson County outpaces state averages in recent report card

BY BEVERLY BRAGG
FRANKLIN FAVORITE

The Kentucky Department of Education released its annual Kentucky School Report Card on Oct. 15 for the 2025-2026 academic year, showing Simpson County Schools performing above the state average, highlighted by significant growth in various areas and a high graduation rate.

Established in 1990, Kentucky's comprehensive assessment and accountability system mandates annual testing for all public school students. On these subject-area exams, students earn one of four performance tiers:

novice (lowest), apprentice, proficient, or distinguished (highest). Individual student scores are then aggregated to determine overall accountability ratings for both schools and districts.

These annual report cards evaluate schools across multiple metrics, including reading, math, science, social studies, writing, school climate, safety, and English language proficiency. At the high school level, accountability ratings also factor in graduation rates and postsecondary continuing education choices.

The KDE rates schools on performance using a color scale of red (the

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City Commission approve shelter funding, advances address updates

BY BEVERLY BRAGG
FRANKLIN FAVORITE

The Franklin City Commission approved a one-time emergency funding allocation of \$2,500 on Monday to support Franklin Room In The Inn through a critical winter funding gap.

The measure follows a request made at the Sept. 28 Commission meeting by Tom Otto, who presented the organization's urgent financial needs for the upcoming 2026-2027 winter season.

Room in the Inn is a non-profit organization that provides temporary relief during the coldest months of the year to people who are experiencing homelessness.

From Jan. 1 through Feb.

28, eight participating churches in Franklin serve as shelter host sites, alternating each night of the week and offering a warm place to sleep and food to eat.

The Room in the Inn program originated in Nashville in 1986 and has since been replicated in cities and towns across the country. Franklin became a host site in 2014.

"It takes a lot of coordination to pull this all together," noted Mayor Larry Dixon at the city commission meeting on Oct. 26, highlighting Room in the Inn's dedication to supporting Franklin's homeless community.

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What's Inside

A- news, sports, obituaries, classifieds

Weather Forecast

THURSDAY

Sunny

high 77°
low 46°

FRIDAY

Sunny

high 78°
low 52°

SATURDAY

Partly Cloudy

high 73°
low 57°

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