

# Givens' Legislative Update

## Week 12 of the '26 Regular Session: The Final Stretch



**Senate report**  
State Sen. David Givens

We're starting to see the final stretch of the 2026 Regular Session take shape in Frankfort.

With only a handful of legislative days left on the calendar, much of the work lawmakers have been focused on for the past several months is now moving through the final stages of the process. Bills are making their way between the House and Senate as both chambers work to finish action before the session comes to a close.

In even-numbered years, the General Assembly meets for 60 legislative days. As we approach the end of that schedule, legislation that clears both chambers will soon begin heading to the governor's desk, where bills may be signed into law, vetoed, or al-

lowed to become law without a signature. Lawmakers will then return to Frankfort for the final days of the session to consider any vetoes and complete the remaining work before the legislature adjourns sine die on April 15.

One major item still under discussion is the state budget, which outlines Kentucky's spending priorities for the next two fiscal years. Members of both chambers are continuing to work through that process as negotiations move forward and lawmakers work toward a final agreement.

The closing days of a session are always busy, but they are also when much of the work that has taken place over the past few months begins to come together.

This week the House passed Senate Bill (SB) 173, legislation I sponsored to strengthen legislative oversight of Kentucky's state health plan. The bill establishes a formal process for lawmakers to review amendments

to the plan, recognizing that health policy decisions — particularly those affecting Medicaid — carry significant long-term implications for the commonwealth. SB 173 is now with the governor for final consideration.

Below are several other measures that advanced through the legislative process this week.

HB 4 creates a new criminal offense for grooming minors, targeting conduct intended to prepare a child for future sexual abuse while protecting appropriate interactions such as parenting, teaching, or coaching.

HB 7 allows school buses to use cameras to identify drivers who illegally pass while students are loading or unloading, establishing a process for issuing fines while protecting privacy and preventing points from being added to a driver's record.

HB 10 increases oversight of executive branch actions during the transition between governors by placing

limits on certain contracts and personnel changes, requiring review of major legal settlements, and expanding transparency requirements.

HB 58 establishes statewide standards for the use of automated license plate reader technology, limiting how data can be collected, shared, and stored while allowing its use for law enforcement, tolling, and recovering stolen vehicles.

HB 78 provides liability protections for firearm manufacturers and sellers from certain lawsuits related to the criminal misuse of firearms or ammunition, with enforcement authority granted to the Attorney General.

HB 139 updates Kentucky's election laws by raising campaign contribution limits, strengthening voter identification rules, improving election administration, and allowing verification of voter eligibility through federal data sharing.

SB 185 creates a

long-term recovery and improvement plan for Kentucky State University, increasing oversight and transparency while focusing on financial stability, workforce-aligned programs, and student success.

HB 189 establishes safety standards for where pedestrians may be along state roadways, while allowing exceptions for emergencies, first responders, utility crews, and designated pedestrian areas.

HB 253 strengthens reading instruction by requiring research-based methods aligned with the science of reading and adds new student safety protections by prohibiting nondisclosure agreements related to abuse.

HB 398 clarifies that the Public Service Commission may approve how utilities recover certain costs associated with retiring power plants.

HB 657 requires background checks for new, reinstated, or out-of-state professional li-

cense applicants while protecting privacy and limiting fees, but does not require checks for routine renewals.

HB 781 directs the cabinet to develop a SNAP education and training plan that helps participants build job skills, connect with employers, and move toward long-term employment.

It is an honor to represent our community in Frankfort, and I appreciate the many conversations I've had with constituents throughout this session. Your perspectives help shape the work we do here, and I anticipate continuing that work on your behalf.

If you have questions or ideas, feel free to contact my office at (502)-564-8100 or email me at David.Givens@kylegislature.gov. You can learn more about bills, committees, and the work of the Kentucky General Assembly by visiting [www.kylegislature.gov](http://www.kylegislature.gov).

# Representative Bivens

## Easter: Salvation, hope, and joy found in Jesus Christ



**State Representative**  
Ryan Bivens

...Morning by morning new mercies I see. All I have needed thy hand hast provided; Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me. — Thomas Chisholm (1923)

In 1923, Thomas Chisholm, a writer from Franklin, Kentucky, wrote "Great is Thy Faithfulness," a hymn that has stood the test of time. The hymn describes God's faithfulness in both providing for our needs and consistency of His character. Easter is a time to remember God's ultimate faithfulness through providing Jesus as our Savior. This week, I would like to take a break from the legislative updates

to reflect on the significance of Easter.

Over 2,000 years ago, God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to earth to die for the sins of the world and resurrect three days later. The miracle of Jesus' resurrection is why we still celebrate Easter today. Easter also serves as a reminder that we all need forgiveness and salvation from our sin. The punishment for all the sins of the world was taken on by Jesus on the cross. Therefore, anyone who accepts this truth of Jesus Christ as the Son of God and our Lord and Savior will be saved from the eternal punishment of sin. It is through His resurrection that we can have eternal life. The Bible teaches us that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, but because of God's great

love for us, He sent His Son as our Redeemer. This free gift of salvation and eternal life is still available for all people.

My faith in God guides me, strengthens me, and gives me peace and hope in a broken world. Because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, I can have a personal relationship with God. I can have peace knowing He loves me, He is in control, and is faithful always. This truth has been transformative for my own life, and it can be for you too. No matter your circumstances, God loves you and desires a relationship with you.

Perhaps you have never attended Sunday services, and, if so, I encourage you to find a church to attend this Easter. Go and learn about Jesus' life, death, and resur-

rection, and the hope you can have through Him. For those who already have a relationship with Jesus, invite someone to church and pray that many more would come to know Him this Easter. In uncertain times like these, we all need hope. Through Jesus, not only can we have hope, but also love, peace, joy, and the promise of life everlasting.

The joy of Jesus' resurrection and defeat of death has not waned since that first Easter. I pray that all would come to know and experience the joy of Jesus in their own lives.

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 [Ryan.Bivens@kylegislature.gov](mailto:Ryan.Bivens@kylegislature.gov) and keep track through the Kentucky legislature's website at [legislature.ky.gov](http://legislature.ky.gov).

# Garcia selected as 2026-27 Spirit Master at WKU

Thirty-two Western Kentucky University students, including one local student, have been selected as Spirit Masters for the 2026-27 year. Spirit Masters, known as the official student ambassadors of WKU, serve to preserve traditions, strive for excellence and make the spirit of WKU contagious. They do this through ser-

vice to the university.

According to the organization's mission, Spirit Masters work with each other and WKU officials to extend the spirit of WKU to others so they, too, can understand how "The Spirit Makes the Master." Spirit Masters were first presented to the University in the spring of 1981. Fourteen WKU stu-

dents have been newly selected as Spirit Masters for 2026-27, including Alexa Garcia, a junior from Greensburg majoring in Spanish with a concentration in Professional Legal Studies.

For more information about WKU Spirit Masters, visit <https://www.wku.edu/spirit-masters/> or email [spirit-masters@wku.edu](mailto:spirit-masters@wku.edu).

*Are you struggling with addiction or alcoholism?*

**GET IN TOUCH**

Let us help you find your identity in Jesus Christ



**Free 12-Month - 3-Phase Addiction Recovery Ministry**

*"Here at Pierce we are a Free 12 month 3 phase addiction recovery ministry whose goal is to give back to the community by helping men who have struggled with addiction or alcoholism find their identity in Jesus Christ. Then we help them acquire a skill set so finding a job is easier for them and they will have some hands-on training before being introduced back into society. During the last phase of the program help them get reintegrated back into society and help them find housing and jobs etc."*

Sincerely,  
Daniel Melton, Director

**Pierce Community Ministries**

4555 Hwy 218 - Greensburg Ky. 42743  
Available 24 Hours/day - 7 Days/week  
(270)565-2882 - (606)280-2456 - (270)299-6137  
[Piercerestore@gmail.com](mailto:Piercerestore@gmail.com)



**Public Notice**

Commonwealth of Kentucky  
Court of Justice  
Eleventh Judicial District Court  
Green County  
Probate Division  
Karen Gilpin, Clerk

In compliance with SECTION 25.185 AND SECTION 242 **KENTUCKY REVISED STATUTES** NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following **SETTLEMENTS OF ACCOUNTS** have been filed in the office of the clerk and exceptions to same, if any, must be filed before **April 27, 2026** on which date at 1:00 p.m. prevailing time a hearing will be held in the Green County Judicial Center.

NAME OF WARD OR DECEDENT	NAME OF FIDUCIARY	CAPACITY OF FIDUCIARY	KIND OF SETTLEMENT	
EDNA S. PRUITT	CHRIS PRUITT	ADMINISTRATOR	PROPOSED FINAL	

In compliance with SECTION 424.30 AND SECTION 424.120 **KENTUCKY REVISED STATUTES** NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following **FIDUCIARY APPOINTMENTS** have been made by the court.

NAME ADDRESS OF DECEDENT OR WARD	NAME & ADDRESS OF FUDICIARY	NAME & ADDRESS OF ATTY REPRESENTING	DATE OF APPT	CREDITORS MUST FILE CLAIMS BY
DONNIE THOMPSON 1000 Bloyd's Bluff Road Mt. Sherman, KY 42764	NEVA FAYE THOMPSON 1000 Bloyd's Bluff Road Mt. Sherman, KY 42764	ALECIAR. ABSHER 116 S. Main Street Greensburg, KY 42743	03/04/26	09/04/2026
BRENDA SUE McDANIEL 754 Ira Wright Road Summersville, KY 42782	CASSIDEY DISNEY 911 Ira Wright Road Summersville, KY 42782	R. ADAM STEARMAN 101 N. Public Square Greensburg, KY 42743	03/04/26	09/04/2026
ALTIE JANE CRUMPTON JUDD 1445 R.W. Thompson Road Greensburg, KY 42743	WILLIAM DAVID JUDD 1425 R. W. Thompson Road Greensburg, KY 42743	RUSSELL W. GOFF 116 S. Main Street Greensburg, KY 42743	03/22/2026	09/22/2026
	ROLLIN DALE JUDD 4242 S. Jackson Hwy. Horse Cave, KY 42749			
DONNA FAYE WRIGHT 2921 Columbia Hwy. Greensburg, KY 42743	JAMES WESLEY WRIGHT, JR. 220 Raymond Despain Road Greensburg, KY 42743	RUSSELL W. GOFF 116 S. Main Street Greensburg, KY 42743	03/23/26	09/23/2026

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that Green County Fiscal Court, 203 West Court Street, Greensburg, KY 42743 has filed an application with the Energy and Environment Cabinet to remove the bridge deck, beams and substructure and replace entire bridge with 5 precast concrete box beams on new abutments for a single span 38-foot-long bridge by 20-foot wide. The bridge is located off Doc Ward RD, near Summersville, Kentucky; from Elizabethtown, KY take the Lincoln Parkway to 31E for 1.8 miles then turn onto Greensburg Road or KY-61. Stay on 61 for 16 miles, turn right onto Hudgins Hwy for 2.1 miles. Then turn left onto Doc Ward Road, proceed for .9 miles and you will be at Doc Ward Road Bridge crossing over Little Brush Creek. Any comments or objections concerning this application shall be directed to: Kentucky Division of Water, Surface Water Permit Branch, Flood Plain Management Section 300 Sower Blvd, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. Phone: (502) 564-3410.