

# Women sue to end sales tax on tampons, period products

BY SARAH LADD  
KENTUCKY LANTERN

For about half of every month, Alexandria Baldon and Skylar Davis are either actively bleeding or working through the symptoms of painful medical conditions related to their menstrual periods.



Alexandria Baldon

Unlike most states, Kentucky levies a 6% sales tax on the tampons, pads and other products they need to get through the day.

For Baldon, who has polycystic ovary syndrome, managing her periods has cost as much as \$50 in a month. Her condition causes her to have heavy periods, which require more expensive, higher-capacity products.

Arguing that Kentucky is discriminating against women on the basis of sex by taxing period products like tampons and pads, the two women are asking a Louisville court to revoke the tax and rule it unconstitutional.

Filed in Jefferson Circuit Court, Davis and Baldon say that “menstrual products are medical necessities” and “taxing them while exempting comparable products used by men has no rational justification.”

“Kentucky has made a deliberate choice to exempt

from sales tax the products that people need because of how their bodies work: Medical devices, colostomy supplies and prescription medication, including erectile dysfunction drugs, used almost exclusively by men,” the lawsuit states.



Skylar Davis

“The legislature understood that taxing products needed for biological reasons is wrong, but nonetheless disregarded this biological need of women. While a man in Kentucky can buy Viagra tax-free, a woman cannot buy a tampon or menstrual pad without being taxed.”

The tax, the suit says, is “arbitrary and irrational” and violates the Equal Protection Clause in the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution and the Equal Protection guarantees in the Kentucky Constitution. A spokeswoman for Attorney General Russell Coleman’s office, named in the suit, said that “we have received the lawsuit and are reviewing it.”

Laura Strausfeld, founder and executive director of Period Law, said this is the first known lawsuit in Kentucky to challenge what

advocates call the “tampon tax.” Kentucky is one of 18 states that still tax period products, according to that organization.

Proponents for ending the tax argue that there is no comparable male product that is taxed.

“You cannot go out into the world without these products,” Strausfeld said. “You literally can’t go anywhere unless you’re going to risk bleeding through your clothes.”

Kentucky exempts many products from its sales tax — ranging from most groceries to machinery used in agriculture and manufacturing.

For years, lawmakers in Frankfort have tried to do what Davis and Baldon now ask the court to do. With the exception of the current session, Rep. Lisa Willner, D-Louisville, annually has filed such legislation.

Willner and Rep. Samara Heavrin, R-Leitchfield, tried unsuccessfully in 2023 to make the products tax exempt. This year, Willner, Kentucky House Majority Whip Jason Nemes and Rep. George Brown Jr., D-Lexington, proposed schools provide free menstrual products if they have children in grades 6 through 12 — children around ages 11 to 18.

Willner said that a con-

sistent refrain she’s heard in pushing for the bill in the past is: “Well, it’s just not really that big a deal” and “well, it’s not that much money.”

“I counter with, ‘well, it’s also not that much revenue for the state,’” she said. “So, that argument goes both ways.”

Willner wants to see the lawsuit’s goal succeed — even if that takes the form of the legislature exempting the products from sales tax before the end of session as advocates hope.

“It is a disproportionate tax. It is a tax on women and girls. How can you argue otherwise?” Willner said. “I would prefer that we pass the legislation and remove the tax legislatively, but one way or another, I think that this is an absurd sales tax on a necessary product for so many people.”

The price of period products varies greatly based on brand, absorbency and other factors. Tampons and pads can range from around \$8 for a box of 30 to \$16 and higher. Period panties can cost from \$10 to \$20. Diva cups can cost \$60.

Period Law reports that the average cost of a box of 36-40 brand-name tampons ranges between \$8 to \$11.50, or between 23 cents and 35 cents per tampon, an increase of 36% over the last half decade. Organic products cost more.

On average, a woman will use more than 16,000 tampons or pads over the course of her life and pay approximately \$3,680 to \$5,600 in sales tax over time, according to Period Law.

Skylar Davis, a lifelong Kentuckian, was 9 when she got her first period.

“No one in my class had started their period yet, and I felt so alone and just ... in a weird spot,” she recalled.

She now runs Period Y’all, which provides period products across the state to people who need them.

Back in fifth grade, she said, “There would be times I wouldn’t have a product at school, and I would definitely use toilet paper because I was just so embarrassed to even go ask, and I just don’t want students to have to experience that anymore.”

Davis, 35, also has premenstrual dysphoric disorder, a chronic condition that gives her migraines and “mental health shifts” the week before her period.

“I think there’s just a lot of hidden experiences that women go through, and it’s not studied enough,” said Davis. “The stigmatization keeps us from talking to each other about what we’re experiencing, and so I think that leads to us ... dealing with all of this silently.”

Baldon, 25, was diagnosed with polycystic ovary syndrome at 16 and lives with

cysts and heavy periods that last on average nine days a month, but have lasted as long as two weeks.

The Northern Kentucky first-year law student said she has to choose some months between grocery items and the period products she needs.

“It can become quite a burden,” she said. “Especially for law students — we don’t get to have a job, a full-time job, in our first semester.”

For her, the tax is a big deal.

“Women deserve to be able to ... have access to products that are not taxed, and ... as a student, be able to relieve some of that burden off of us while we’re going through school, while we are just trying to just make a way,” she said.

According to the 2025 State of the Period report, stigma around menstruation “surged” in 2023. That report showed 77% of teenagers on average hide their period products on the way to the bathroom, which it calls “shame-induced behavior” that’s even higher for Black students at 83% and low-income students at 82%.

Baldon hopes this legal fight will push back against some of that engrained stigma.

“I think that through this lawsuit, and through, hopefully, it being untaxed through the legislation,” she said, “I think that it will make young women feel more confident in themselves.”

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### TUESDAY

Senior Citizens Nutrition Group, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Colvin Community Center, 230 Freedoms Way, Radcliff. Pinochle, Bingo, Rook, Hand and Foot or Scrabble. Lunch between 11-11:30 a.m. Transportation through CATS, 800-242-8225. POC: 270-351-4079.

Ancestral Trails Historical Society research library, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 201 W. Dixie Ave., E’town. POC: 270-982-0881.

Baptist Health Hardin’s Wellness on Wheels mobile health unit, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Abundant Life Church, 1511 S. Dixie Blvd., Radcliff. Basic health care screenings including, height, weight, blood pressure and body mass index measurements, as well as screenings for thyroid function, cholesterol, glucose levels and anemia. POC: 270-706-5540.

Brown-Pusey House is open for tours and genealogy research, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 128 N. Main St., E’town. POC: 270-765-2515.

Nine Patchers Quilt Guild monthly meeting, 10 a.m., meeting room at Glendale Christian Church, 119 E. Main St., Glendale. No quilting experience necessary. POC: Paula Brawner, 270-234-6645.

RESEA orientation classes, 10 a.m., Kentucky Career Center-Lincoln Trail, 233 Ring Road, Suite 100, E’town. Developing an individualized employment plan, personalized career and labor market insights, resume writing, interview prep, identifying options to achieve higher income and sustainable employment and aiding prompt re-entry into the labor force. POC: Itcareer-center.org.

Explore Genealogy, 3-4 p.m., Hardin County Public Library, 100 Jim Owen Drive, E’town. Interested in exploring family history? Learn the basics and share information together. Facilitated by Ancestral Trails Historical Society. POC: 270-769-6337.

Knights of Columbus bingo, 312 E. Main St., Vine Grove. Doors open at 5 p.m. Bingo at 7 p.m. Full-service kitchen. POC: John Pike, 270-307-1499.

Hardin Fiscal Court meeting, 5:30 p.m., Hardin County Government Building, 150 N. Provident Way, E’town. POC: 270-765-2350.

Elizabethtown Chess Club meeting, 6 p.m., Family Buffet, 121 Towne Drive, E’town. POC: Johnny Owens, 270-272-3061.

Elizabethtown Planning Commission meeting 6 p.m., City Council Chambers, 212 West Dixie Ave., E’town. POC: 270-765-6121.

Estate Planning Workshop, 6 p.m., Kentucky Estate Planning Law Center, 108 E. Poplar St., E’town. Learn about the seven threats to an estate plan at a free workshop. POC: Register at humphries-law.org/workshops.

Online Book Club, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Zoom. Register by noon

the Wednesday prior to the meeting at forms.gle/xs3jsa1Mw2GgJ8oS7 to receive an email with the zoom link prior to the meeting. After registration, pick up this month’s selection, “The Night Watchman” by Louise Erdrich. POC: 270-769-6337.

### WEDNESDAY

Baptist Health Hardin’s Wellness on Wheels mobile health unit, 9-11 a.m., Hodgenville Methodist Church, 825 Tonieville Road, Hodgenville. Basic health care screenings including, height, weight, blood pressure and body mass index measurements, as well as screenings for thyroid function, cholesterol, glucose levels and anemia. POC: 270-706-5540.

Tai Chi, 1 p.m., Hardin County Public Library, 100 Jim Owen Drive, E’town. One-hour class. Gentle warm up including the eight brocades, an 800-year-old series on movements designed for maximum benefit to improve balance and flexibility. Can be done seated for those with problems standing. POC: 270-769-6337.

Keep Calm and Craft On, 3-4:30 p.m., Hardin County Public Library, 100 Jim Owen Drive, E’town. Rag Wreath. Registration required at forms.gle/cuY8rhQtj5xk6AkPA. POC: 270-769-6337.

Book Swap, 5-5:05 p.m., Hardin County Public Library, 100 Jim Owen Drive, E’town. Be here at the start; it goes quickly. Bring books no longer wanted and exchange for some to try. Books should be in good condition, gently used, no mold, stains, tearing. POC: 270-769-6337.

### THURSDAY

CASA of the Heartland pinwheel planting, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Elizabethtown Police Department, 300 S Mulberry St, E’town. Lunch sponsored by EPD from Papa Haoles Hawaiian Foods for participants. Free and open to the public. POC: 270-982-2274.

Chaos Gardening, noon-1 p.m., Hardin County Public Library, 100 Jim Owen Drive, E’town. Presented by Amy Aldenderfer, county extension horticulture agent. Chaos gardening is a low-maintenance, creative method in which seeds are randomly scattered, blending annuals, perennials and vegetables to encourage natural, wild growth, allowing for a diverse, resilient and pollinator-friendly landscape. POC: 270-769-6337.

Forest Homeschool Hikes, 1-2 p.m., Bernheim Forest, 2075 Clermont Road, Clermont. Designed for families with K-5 students and homeschool co-ops, these guided programs pair a short, hands-on lesson with a forest hike that brings seasonal topics to life. Cost is \$4 for Bernheim members and \$6 for nonmembers. POC: bernheim.org/event/forest-homeschool-hike-8/.

Grow Green- All That Makes Sense- Mastermind- Part 2, 6 p.m., Zoom. POC: radcliffsba.wildapricot.org/.

### FRIDAY

Hardin County AM Rotary Club meeting, 7 a.m., The Café at Memorial Methodist Church, 631 N. Miles St., E’town. POC: Scott Kisselbaugh, 270-766-8614.

Senior Citizens Nutrition Group, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Colvin Community Center, 230 Freedoms Way, Radcliff. Pinochle, Bingo, Rook, Hand and Foot or Scrabble. Lunch between 11-11:30 a.m. Transportation through CATS, 800-242-8225. POC: 270-351-4079.

Books and Brew, 10:30-11:10 a.m., Zoom. Looking for reading ideas? Talk about what you’ve been reading, connect and share a love of reading. Register in advance for these meetings, which take place via Zoom at forms.gle/3XiRyGT8bhMichqc8. POC: 270-769-6337.

Fish fry, 4-7 p.m., St Christopher Church PLC, 1225 S. Wilson Road, Radcliff, sponsored by The Knights of Columbus Council No. 12623. Baked or deep-fried hand battered fish fillets, French fries or baked potato and vegetable. Shrimp, frog legs, hush puppies, salmon patties. POC: Mark Cobb, 270-300-2901.

Fish fry, 5-7 p.m., Knights of Columbus Hall, 312 E. Main St., Vine Grove. One piece fish meal \$12, two piece fish meal, \$16, 6 piece jumbo shrimp, \$15, 1 piece fried fish and 3 piece jumbo shrimp, \$18, includes French fries, cole slaw, hush puppies, green beans, bread, dessert and drink. Kids’ menu: Grilled cheese sandwich, fries, drink and dessert, \$6. POC: John Pike, 270-307-1499.

Timberdoodle Sky Dance 7:15-10 p.m., Bernheim Forest, 2075 Clermont Road, Clermont. Discover Bernheim’s nocturnal wildlife during guided hikes featuring seasonal sights and sounds of the forest. Programs include frog choruses, woodcock courtship and other nighttime surprises. Cost is \$15 for Bernheim members and \$20 for nonmembers. POC: bernheim.org/event/creatures-of-the-night-timberdoodle-sky-dance-2/.

### SATURDAY

Adjutant General’s Corps Regimental Association Gold Vault Chapter visit, 9-11:30 a.m., Carl M. Brashear Radcliff Veterans Center, 100 Veterans Drive, Radcliff. Public invited to join in social hour with veterans center residents. POC: To reserve your spot, chapter president Todd Crofoot 585-690-6378.

Safe Harbor Club Community Prayer, 9:30-11:30 a.m., 200 Joe Prather Highway, Vine Grove. Donations accepted. POC: Judy Conway, 270-300-1896.

Food pantry, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Christ Dependent Ministries, 5687 S. Wilson Road, E’town. POC: 270-900-1231.

You Fly Reading Program, 12:45-3:30 p.m. Room 209 Regional Postsecondary Center, Elizabethtown Community and Technical College, 600 College Street Road, E’town. Comprehensive phonics reading program for second-12th grade. POC: Marcus Dixon, 502-435-1638, Joyce Beasley, 270-401-2737, or the Rev. Brenda Skillman, 270-766-8653.

Meet the Author, Lee Wright, author and creator, The Grand Mystics Saga, noon-4 p.m., 1980 N. Dixie Ave., E’town. POC: 270-763-0288.

Open Door Community Kitchen free meal, 4:30-6 p.m., Vine Grove United Methodist Church, 306 High St., Vine Grove. POC: Dan Paddock, 270-945-4997 or 270-877-5231.

The Essential Moon, 7:30-10:30 p.m., Bernheim Forest, 2075 Clermont Road, Clermont. Learn about the moon’s history and significance with a NASA/JPL Solar System Ambassador, followed by telescopic viewing and a laser-guided night sky tour. Cost is \$15 for Bernheim members and \$20 for nonmembers. POC: bernheim.org/event/the-essential-moon/.

### SUNDAY

Knights of Columbus Easter Egg Hunt, 2 p.m., K of C Hall, 312 E. Main St., Vine Grove. Pictures with the Easter Bunny. If inclement weather, candy will be handed out inside and will draw for grand prize. POC: Knight of Columbus Council 3379 on Facebook.

### MONDAY

Cooking through the Calendar, 1-2 p.m. March 30, Hardin County Public Library, 100 Jim Owen Drive, E’town. Dayna Fentress, county extension agent for family and consumer services, will present this month’s recipe, Shrimp Creole. POC: 270-769-6337.

Heartland Squadron of Civil Air Patrol open house, 6:30-8:30 p.m. March 30, Army National Guard Recruiting Center, 205 W. Warfield St., E’town. Youth ages 12-18 who are interested in aviation, leadership, fitness and serving their community are invited to attend with their parents or guardians. Learn about CAP’s cadet program, aerospace education, leadership training, character development, and emergency services missions. POC: Melanie Gledhill, mgledhill@kywg.cap.go.

Celebrate Recovery, 6 p.m., St. Stephen Baptist Church, 757 S. Woodland Drive, Radcliff. Connection time starts at 5:15 p.m. Find help, hope and healing for your hurts, hangups and habits. POC: Richard

Lockette, 270-401-7400.

### ONGOING

Adult, child and infant CPR certification with basic first aid, sponsored by American Heart Association certified instructors. \$75 registration required before all classes. POC: 270-763-2915.

Al-Anon, in-person and Zoom. Al-Anon Family Groups are a fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience, strength, and hope in order to solve their common problems. POC: kyal-anon.org.

American Legion Post No.

113 service officer, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesdays walk in, other days by appointment, 1251 Ring Road, E’town. POC: Bob Craig 270-370-2589 or robertcraig422@outlook.com.

American Red Cross is recruiting blood drive volunteer. Manage the registration process and oversee the hospitality area at blood drives in Hardin, LaRue and Hart counties. If you are available to work a five- to six-hour shift at least once a month, call or email. POC: kyvolunteerservices@redcross.org or Stacy at 502-612-9202.



## LEGAL NOTICE

### MASTER COMMISSIONER SALES

To comply with the orders of the Hardin Circuit Court, the Commissioner will sell the property described in the following action online through Lewis Auction Company, LLC at lewisauktion.hibid.com beginning Wednesday, April 1st, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. through April 23rd, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. Said property shall be sold pursuant to the Orders of the Hardin Circuit Court, Civil Action 24-CI-01954, in order to effectuate a partition of said property.

By noon on April 24th, the successful bidder shall either pay cash or check, if paying in full, or make a deposit of 10% with the balance on a credit of thirty (30) days. Said payment shall be made payable to Hardin County Master Commissioner and taken to Lewis Auction Co., LLC located at 228W. Dixie Avenue, Elizabethtown, Kentucky. In the event the successful bidder desires or elects to credit the balance, he or she will be required to produce one of the following:

1. An irrevocable letter of credit (MUST HAVE THE ORIGINAL, NO COPIES) from lending institute at the time of the sale. Please note that a loan commitment or bank statement will not be sufficient.
2. Post bond and furnish an acceptable surety thereon. If a purchaser chooses to use a surety for the remaining balance of property purchased, THE SURETY MUST PROVIDE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TO THE MASTER COMMISSIONER BY 2 PM THE MONDAY PRIOR TO THE SALE AND BE PRESENT AT THE TIME OF THE SALE (If a married individual intends to act as surety, their spouse must also sign.):
  - (i) A COPY OF A DEED WHICH IS UNENCUMBERED AND A COPY OF THE STATEMENT OF VALUE FROM THE PROPERTY VALUATION ADMINISTRATOR (PVA OFFICE), TO WHICH THIS BOND WILL ATTACH.
  - (ii) A COPY OF THE CURRENT ACCOUNT STATEMENT. A SWORN FINANCIAL STATEMENT WHICH SHOWS A NET WORTH OF AT LEAST 2 1/2 TIMES THE SALE PRICE.
3. AN IRREVOCABLE LETTER OF CREDIT (MUST HAVE THE ORIGINAL, NO COPIES) FROM THE LENDING INSTITUTE TO THE SURETY.

The down payment, in addition to either an irrevocable letter of credit (MUST HAVE THE ORIGINAL, NO COPIES) or acceptable surety (see requirements above), must be produced at the time of the sale. Said bond and/or irrevocable letter of credit shall be for the unpaid purchase price and bear interest at the rate of six percent (6%) per annum from the date of sale until paid. (Unless otherwise court ordered)

- (a) The purchaser shall be required to assume and pay all taxes or assessments upon the property for the current tax year and thereafter.
- (b) All properties are sold subject to the judgment and order of sale in each case which should be reviewed carefully prior to purchase. The Judgment and Order of Sale can be reviewed at the Hardin Circuit Clerk’s office, 120 E. Dixie, Elizabethtown, Ky.
- (c) The Master Commissioner does not obtain a title search or investigate for further liens on the properties listed below nor conduct or authorize a survey of the property. **the purchaser is responsible for title searches and/or any additional liens not named in the judgment and order of sale and for the results of any good and accurate survey of the property.**
- (d) The Master Commissioner does not have access to the properties listed below and therefore makes no representation or warranty of any kind as to the conditions of these properties.
- (e) If purchasing as a Corporation, LLC, or Trusts please provide the Master Commissioner’s Office by the Monday prior to the sale date with the following:
  - 1.) An updated certificate of good standing for the entity for which they are purchasing.
  - 2.) Entity must provide its EIN Number
  - 3.) Resolution- Proof that the person bidding is authorized to bid on behalf of the entity.
  - 4.) Identification: Current Driver’s License and SSN

### SALE NO. 1

Estate of Cecil Hazelwood vs. Hildrith Jean Drake-McKenzie, et al (24-CI-01954)  
5301 SOUTH DIXIE HIGHWAY, ELIZABETHTOWN, KY  
MAP ID# 224-00-00-012  
Recorded in Deed Book 1315 Page 082 in the Hardin County Clerk’s Office