

REAL ID IS REALLY COMING

By: *Senator President Robert Stivers*

FRANKFORT, Ky. (April 30, 2025) – In just a few days, Kentuckians will face new federal requirements for air travel and federal building access under the REAL ID Act. Starting May 7, standard driver’s licenses will no longer be accepted for boarding domestic flights or entering secure federal facilities. Only a REAL ID-compliant license, or an alternative like a U.S. passport or passport card, will meet federal standards.

Let me clarify who actually needs a REAL ID.

If you fly domestically or visit secure federal buildings, you will need a REAL ID, passport, passport card, or military ID. If you do not fly or visit federal facilities, you do not need a REAL ID. A standard driver’s license will still allow you to drive, vote and conduct everyday activities. Alternative options, like passports or military IDs, can also substitute for a REAL ID when traveling or accessing federal buildings.

If you do not plan on flying soon or visiting a federal building, you do not need to rush to get a REAL ID by May 7. That is the deadline for enforcement, not the deadline to obtain a REAL ID. Appointments will continue to be available after May 7.

Earlier this month, Kentucky legislators sent a letter to Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem asking for an additional extension. With only 37 percent of Kentuckians compliant, many families may encounter long waits, travel disruptions and avoidable frustrations. Many Kentuckians still face barriers outside their control. Years ago, licensing services moved

from local circuit court clerks to regional offices because clerks could not meet federal security standards. Kentucky was the only state using local offices for driver's licenses at the time.

With the enactment of REAL ID legislation in 2019, licensing transitioned to regional centers operated by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. While the General Assembly has passed laws to help—such as allowing mail-in and online renewals, approving mobile pop-up licensing units to visit unserved counties at least twice annually, and expanding regional offices—day-to-day management of REAL ID remains an executive branch, your governor’s, responsibility.

Several issues persist:

- Public communication has been lacking, resulting in a bottleneck of appointments.
- Regional offices only open one Saturday a month, despite lawmakers urging expanded hours. Staff shortages and morale problems at licensing centers continue to delay services.
- Similar issues, seen during the unemployment insurance backlog and ongoing permitting issues for water permits and construction, have been a recurring trend.

The 25th Senate District has a driver’s licensing regional office in Clay County at 25 Marcum Hill Road, Manchester, KY 40962. To help, a special REAL ID pop-up event is coming to Jackson, Knox, McCreary, Owsley and Whitley counties. Details are as follows:

- Jackson County: August 14. Registration opens July 31 at 8 a.m. Community Room, “Old Courthouse” at the Old Courthouse, 100 Main Street North, McKee, KY 40447
- Knox County: July 22. Registration opens July 8

at 8 a.m., Dec. 10. Registration opens Nov. 26 at 8 a.m., Knox County Senior Center, 130 Harding Street, Barbourville, KY 40906.

- McCreary County: Sept. 18. Registration opens Sept. 4 at 8 a.m., The McCreary County Senior Citizens Center at the McCreary County Park Building, 2255 US Hwy 27, Whitley City, KY 42653

- Owsley County: Aug. 5. Registration opens July 22 at 8 a.m., Owsley County Public Library, 478 KY-11, Booneville, KY 41314

- Whitley County, July 24. Registration opens July 10 at 8 a.m., Dec. 11. Registration opens Nov. 27 at 8 a.m., Courthouse Community Room, 200 Main Street, Williamsburg, KY 40769.

NOTE: Lee County is having their Pop-Up event May 13, 2025 at the Lee County Extension Office, 259 Industrial Park Road, Beattyville, KY. ALL appointments have been filled. However, they do take walk-ins, but appointments have priority.

Pop-up events are only for residents of the county hosting the event. If you plan to visit a regional office or pop-up, you must bring:

- One proof of identity (certified birth certificate),
- One proof of Social Security (card or W-2/1099 form),
- Two proofs of residency (license, utility bill), and
- Proof of any name changes (marriage license, court order).

Visit drive.ky.gov for more information or to register. Please remember a vision screening is now required to renew a Kentucky driver’s license.

It is an honor to serve you in the Kentucky Senate.

Nolan Group Media Policy on use of Artificial Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is being used all across our nation in almost every industry.

So, we want to clearly outline our AI policy and explain how this newspaper, and all the newspapers in our Nolan Group family, will utilize AI in producing our content for you.

Our policy is based on 3 guiding principles:

- Experimentation and testing
- Total Transparency
- Human involvement and control

First - We will continue to experiment with and test carefully different AI programs. Our goal is to provide you with the most complete, comprehensive news and information. Data analysis, workflow, and limited content generation are some areas where AI is currently being used or under review.

AI may be used to help our staff

automate routine tasks, analyze complex data, save time, generate more news, and serve you better.

Second – We will be completely open and transparent about AI use. Whenever AI plays a significant role in providing content, you will know. We will include a notice at the beginning of a story if AI was used in a material way, and at the end of that story we will tell you exactly how the AI technology was used.

Third and most importantly, Humans will always be in charge! Our staff has final authority over our content. When using AI or any other software, our staff understand that even powerful and impressive AI software is still only one tool in our journalist tool kit. We are responsible to you to use it correctly.

Our journalistic ethics require us to correct any factual errors we publish, regardless of what caused the error. That ethics policy remains firmly in place as we begin to utilize AI.

Finally, as we begin this journey using such a powerful, rapidly evolving technology, we expect our uses of AI will change over time. So, we request your help. Please let us know if you ever have issues, questions or concerns about any of our content that involves any use of Artificial Intelligence.

First Friday Willie's Yard Sale

1369 KY 11 South, Booneville, KY

Next to the Holy Family Catholic Church

Open 9 - 11 am

June 6, July 3 and Aug 1, 2025

See you there!

Come and enjoy the bargains!

David and Cindy Evanoff would like to thank everyone that looked for their missing puppy, Mikey. Mikey was never found, but they are just believing he is with someone that loves him as much as they do.



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NEW VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Saturday, May 17
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Lunch and refreshments provided

Registration Is Required!

To register, scan the QR code below, or contact us at 859-986-1500, or volunteer@hospicecp.org

Registration Deadline is Wednesday, May 14



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OWSLEY COUNTY MEDICAL CLINIC 606-593-6395


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