

2025 parade celebrates ‘Christmas Through the Decades’



Betsy Smith



Betsy Smith



Betsy Smith



ALLISON BALL
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Independent Auditor's Report

To the People of Kentucky
The Honorable Andy Beshear, Governor
Holly M. Johnson, Secretary
Finance and Administration Cabinet
The Honorable Jason Marshall, Harrison County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Shain Stephens, Harrison County Sheriff
Members of the Harrison County Fiscal Court

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statement

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying Harrison County Sheriff's Settlement - 2023 Taxes for the period September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024 - Regulatory Basis, and the related notes to the financial statement, which collectively comprise the Harrison County Sheriff's financial statement as listed in the table of contents.

Unmodified Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statement presents fairly, in all material respects, the taxes charged, credited, and paid for the period September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024 of the Harrison County Sheriff, in accordance with the basis of accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Commonwealth of Kentucky as described in Note 1.

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles section of our report, the financial statement does not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the taxes charged, credited, and paid of the Harrison County Sheriff, for the period September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the *Audit Program for Sheriffs' Tax Settlements*. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Harrison County Sheriff and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

As described in Note 1 of the financial statement, the financial statement is prepared by the Harrison County Sheriff on the basis of accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the laws of Kentucky to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The effects on the financial statement of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 1 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material and pervasive.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statement

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statement in accordance with accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the laws of Kentucky to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of a financial statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Harrison County Sheriff's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not an absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgement made by a reasonable user based on the financial statement.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statement, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Harrison County Sheriff's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statement.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Harrison County Sheriff's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated July 23, 2025, on our consideration of the Harrison County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Harrison County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting and compliance. Based on the results of our audit, we have presented the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses, included herein, which discusses the following report finding:

2023-001 The Harrison County Sheriff Did Not Have Adequate Segregation Of Duties Over Reconciliations

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Ball
Allison Ball
Auditor of Public Accounts
Frankfort, Ky

July 23, 2025

State law requires the Auditor of Public Accounts to annually audit fiscal courts, county clerks, and sheriffs; and print the results in a newspaper having general circulation in the county. The complete audit and any other audit of state agencies, fiscal courts, county clerks, sheriffs, and property valuation administrators may be viewed in the reports section of the Auditor of Public Accounts' website at auditor.ky.gov or upon request by calling 1-800-247-9126.

209 ST. CLAIR STREET
FRANKFORT, KY 40601-1817

TELEPHONE 502.564.5841
FACSIMILE 502.564.2912
AUDITOR.KY.GOV

Catch This!

You always score when you subscribe!



The *Cynthiana* Democrat

Inspiring And Informative Local News
About Your Family, Your Friends, And Your Community

1 Year Subscription for **\$29.99**
PLUS KY SALES TAX

All Access Includes The Cynthiana Democrat Print Edition & 24/7 @ pmg-ky3.com/cynthiana/

Don't Delay - Order Today! Local delivery area only.
Offer Expires February 7th, 2026!
1 Year \$29.99 + \$1.80 KY Sales Tax = \$31.79

YOUR BILLING INFORMATION

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____
STATE _____ ZIP _____ HOME/PHONE _____
EMAIL _____
CELL PHONE _____
CREDIT/DEBIT CARD # _____
EXPIRES (MM/YY) _____ CVV# _____
(Last 3 digits on back of card)

2 WAYS TO SUBSCRIBE!

- **CALL**
859-234-1035
- **CLIP & MAIL**
P.O. Box 1480
Owensboro, KY 42302

All information and payment required to receive this special non-refundable offer. Offer only available to new subscribers in our local delivery area who have not had a subscription in the last 3 months. If you respond to this offer but do not qualify for introductory pricing, the expiration date will be prorated to match the payment to your current rate. Your subscription includes 24/7 digital access to all content available online. Your subscription expiration stop is automatic after a 28-day grace period. All rates include KY sales tax, where applicable. Yes, I authorize The Cynthiana Democrat to instruct my credit/debit card company to debit my credit/debit card account as I have requested above. Hurry! Offer expires February 7th, 2026.