

Coleman vs. Comer?

Two politicians fuel speculation for 2027 governor's race

BY MCKENNA HORSLEY
KENTUCKY LANTERN

FANCY FARM — Most spectators had their eyes on candidates in Kentucky's upcoming GOP U.S. Senate primary during events surrounding the Fancy Farm Picnic last weekend. However, a Republican and Democrat encouraged speculation about themselves as candidates in the state's 2027 governor's race.

While addressing party faithful — Lt. Gov. Jacqueline Coleman at a Democratic dinner and U.S. Rep. James Comer at a Republican breakfast — mentioned the future statewide races. Both have been seen as possible candidates for the governor's race, which would be wide open with Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear term-limited.

Coleman did not attend the annual church picnic in West Kentucky Saturday, but she was one of the speakers at the Marshall County Democrats' Mike Miller Memorial Bean Dinner the Friday night before. She said not being on the ballot this year factored into her decision to skip the picnic. The picnic typically features politicians as they trade roasts in front of an energetic crowd.

"Although, I do hear that there are some races, like in 2027, that might bring me back to the Fancy Farm stage. I don't know. We'll see," she said, earning chuckles and applause from the room.

Asked to clarify by reporters after her speech, Coleman said "It just means I might be back. Well, you never know."

Coleman, who has been elected as lieutenant governor twice on Beshear's ticket, is seen as a top candidate for the Democratic nomination in the 2027 governor's race. Another rumored candidate is Beshear's senior adviser Rocky Adkins, a former House Democratic floor leader from Eastern Kentucky who ran against Beshear in the 2019 primary.

However, Comer told the Graves County GOP Breakfast Saturday morning that he believes Kentucky Democrats will nominate Coleman.

"There's no question in my life. I mean, it's going to be Jackie Coleman, the lieutenant governor," Comer said.

The congressman then added what he said was the "problem" with Coleman running. He told Republicans that "she is so irrelevant and unknown" that if she was in a picture between two Kentucky icons, boxer Muhammad Ali and University of Kentucky men's basketball coach Mark Pope, that the average Kentuckian still couldn't identify her.

Throughout the day, some Republican speakers hinted that Comer should run for governor himself. Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell was the most enthusiastic of them, saying Comer should get in the race at the Republican breakfast and again on the Fancy Farm Picnic stage.

"I'm for Jamie Comer for governor. Please run. Please," Shell said at the breakfast as the room erupted with cheers.

Comer told reporters after the picnic that it's not a secret that he's "very interested in" the governor's race, but he's



MCKENNA HORSLEY | Kentucky Lantern

Lt. Gov. Jacqueline Coleman talks with reporters after speaking at the Marshall County Democrats' annual bean dinner.

about a year away from making a decision as he is currently running for his U.S. House seat again in the 1st Congressional District in 2026.

Before he was elected to Congress in 2016, Comer served as the state's agriculture commissioner and in the state House of Representatives. He sought the Republican nomination for governor in 2015, but lost the primary to former Gov. Matt Bevin by 83 votes. On the national stage, Comer gained notoriety as the chairman of the House Oversight Committee and leading probes into President Joe Biden and his family.

As for the current support, Comer said he's "humbled" to hear encouragement from all over the state. He believes one reason is because of his rural background, which could win support from voters outside of the state's urban areas.

"The Democrats have dominated the Kentucky governor's race as much as any race in America. Even states like New York and New Jersey ... the Republicans have had more success," Comer said. "So, we've got to look at who we nominate."

When asked why he thought the Democratic nominee would be Coleman over Adkins, Comer said Adkins' record of being "pro-life" on abortion issues and not backing strict gun control laws could cost him support among more lib-

eral Democratic voters, particularly in Lexington and Louisville.

"Unless something happens, Jackie Coleman's (the) overwhelming favorite to be the Democrat nominee for governor," Comer said.

Stephen Voss, a political science professor at the University of Kentucky, said Comer "isn't wrong" when it comes to ideologies and activists struggling to back candidates in cases where "the demand for ideological purity means losing." Regular voters can be more strategic. Voss pointed to the 2020 pres-



AUSTIN ANTHONY | Kentucky Lantern

U.S. Rep. James Comer speaks to the media at the Fancy Farm Picnic on Saturday.

idential election, a race where Joe Biden wasn't the first choice for a lot of Democratic voters, but it was more important to them to beat Donald Trump.

"Comer lost nothing by campaigning against the lieutenant governor. It's not as though these words cost money, and if he ends up being wrong, and his primary Democratic opponent ends up being someone else, he's done himself no measurable harm by going after her," Voss said. "The important thing is he's auditioning for the role of 'Republican who's going to attack the Dem-

ocratic nominee for governor.' "

If Comer had publicly attacked another rumored Republican candidate, he "steps on toes" and could give publicity to a primary opponent, Voss said. This move doesn't offend GOP primary voters.


Asked if Comer could have risked sending

Democrats the message that Adkins is a stronger candidate, Voss said "if Democratic strategists don't already know that Rocky Adkins would be a strong candidate, then God help them."

In addition to Comer, some have speculated that possible Republican candidates for 2027 could include term-limited Secretary of State Michael Adams and former Republican Senate Floor Leader Damon Thayer.

In 2023, a dozen Republicans ran for their party's gubernatorial nomination. As the majority party with most statewide offices and both control of the state House and Senate, Kentucky Republicans have a larger bench with up-and-coming candidates than the Democrats do for most elections.

This article was originally published by the Kentucky Lantern, a nonprofit news site covering state government and politics, at kentuckylantern.com.



LEGAL NOTICE

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Notice is hereby given that the Daviess County Public Library, Daviess County, Kentucky will receive sealed bids for:

**Construction of a Building Renovation
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Sealed bids will be received at Hafer, 101 E Second St., Suite 101, Owensboro, Kentucky 42303 until **2:00 P.M.**, Local Time, on August 14, 2025. Bids received after such hours will be returned unopened. Bids received shall be publicly opened and read aloud at **3:00 pm on August 14, 2025** at the Daviess County Public Library Facility 2020 Frederica St. Owensboro, Kentucky 42301. All interested citizens are invited to attend. Bids will be received on the construction of a renovation of the existing facility located at 2020 Frederica St. Owensboro, Kentucky 42301. Should bidder withdraw their bid within 60 days after opening without written consent of the Owner or fail to execute a satisfactory contract within 10 days after notice of acceptance, the Owner may declare the bid deposit forfeited as liquidated damages. Contractor can view and see the plans and specifications on file at the following locations:

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Copies of the Plans and Specifications may be obtained from MACO – Evansville Blue, 600 Court Street, Evansville, Indiana 47708 (812) 464-8108 or by accessing website <http://www.hafer-planroom.com/> using your company's active account information. If your company is not currently registered, you may do so by clicking "Register for an account". Registered account holders may download digital files for a nominal fee. Bidders may purchase up to three printed sets of bidding documents by paying a refundable deposit of \$100.00 per set ordered. Deposit checks shall be made payable to "Hafer".

a. Amount of the deposit for up to three sets of bidding documents may be refunded in full when the Plans and Specifications have been returned to MACO – Evansville Blue within ten (10) days after time set for receiving bids and in good re-usable condition. If the Plans and Specifications are returned after this ten (10) day period or in unusable condition, the deposit will be forfeited.


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LEGAL NOTICE

Financial settlements in the estates listed below have been reviewed by the Daviess District Court. Objections or exceptions to these settlements must be filed before 9:30 A.M. on August 26, 2025.

Annette Rowe
Eathel Livers
Grayson Lanham
Adison Lanham
Irvin Clark
Derek Kindle (Trust)
Ashe Gaulsman
Patricia Stevens
Jasmine Sanders
Kadince White
Stephen Lynn
Tyler Munhollon
Kensley Gish
James Head
Reid Roby
Anna Howell
Don Troutman
Hannah Goatee

Jennifer Hardesty Besecker,
Clerk
Daviess District/Circuit Clerk



LEGAL NOTICE

The Probate Division of Daviess District Court made Fiduciary appointments for the month of July 2025, as follows:

Mary Allen, 3813 Jefferson St, 42303, Admin of Dirk Allen estate, 3813 Jefferson St., 42301, on 07/01/2025. Hollie Lindsey, 127 East Washington St., Hartford, KY 42347, Atty.

Robert Hartgrove, 2308 Crescent Hill Dr., 42303 and Julie Stallings, 4450 Medley Rd., 42301, Co Execs of Shirley Hartgrove estate, 3024 Sterling Ct., 42303, on 07/01/2025. Marty Jacobs, 1110 Frederica St., 42301, Atty.

Ronald Burden, 2426 George Lane, 42303 Admin of Debra Burden estate, 4236 Yewells Landing W., 42303, on 07/01/2025. A.V. Conway, II PO Box 25, Hartford, KY 42347

Margaret Moberly, 367 West Lake Loop, Madisonville, KY 42431, Exec of Elenor Renshaw estate, 2974 Chippewa Dr, 42301, on 07/01/2025. R. Scott Plain, 401 Frederica St., STE 204D, 42301, Atty.

David Thomas 2704 Summer Point Court, 42303, Exec of Donnis Flagg estate, 1536 East 20th St., 42303, on 07/01/2025. Hollie Lindsey, 127 East Washington St., Hartford, KY 42347, Atty.

Monica Davis, 5290 Curdsville Delaware Rd., 42301, Admin of Jeffrey Davis estate, 5290 Curdsville Delaware Rd., 42301, on 07/01/2025. Nicholas Hetman, 100 West Third St., Suite302, 42303, Atty.

Joyce Dull, 1923 Clinton Pl. East, 42301, Exec of Mary Talbott estate, 805 East 5th St., 42301, on 07/02/2025.

Lana Galloway, 3801 Boulder Lane, 42303, Exex of Henry Eugene Lott estate, 3801 Boulder Lane, 42303, on 7/02/2025. Terra Knight, 209 West 4th Street, 42303, Atty.

Damian Clements, 3414 South Griffith Avenue, 42301, Exec of William Kirkman estate, 1205 Cedar Street, 42301, on 7/8/25. Scott Plain, 401 Frederica St, 204D, 42301, Atty.

Carolyn Bidwell, 5255 Newbolt Road, 42303, Admix of Thomas Early estate, 2415 Southtown Blvd, 42301, on 7/8/25.

Kimberly Riney, 4001 Horseshoe Trace, 42303, Exex of Kenneth Raley estate, 8 Quail Ridge Ct, Apt A, 42303, on 7/8/25. Charles Kamuf, II, 221 West Second Street, 42303, Atty.

Melissa Carwile, 426 Camden Circle, 42301, Exex of Michael Bennett estate, 2611 Winding Way, 42303, on 7/8/25.

June Lanham, 501 Jeff Place, 42301 and Jerry Maglinger, 4119 Doe Ridge Ct., 42301, Co Execs of Molly Maglinger estate, 501 Jeff Place, 42301, on 07/09/2025.

Janet Higdon, 1013 E. Byers Ave., 42303, Exec of Doris Morris estate, 3538 Cannonade Loop North, 42303, on 07/15/2025. Ed Hoskins, 209 West Fourth St., 42303, Atty.

Leigh Strahan, 2526 E. 8th St., 42303, Admin of Lawrence Strahan estate, 2526 E. 8th St., 42303, on 07/15/2025. T. Tommy Littlepage, 608 Frederica St., Suite 200, 42301, Atty.

Angela Rene Weaver, 4731 Water Wheel Way, 42303, Exex of Waymon William Stephens estate, 2833 Tanglewood Drive, 42303, on 7/15/25. Charles Kamuf, II, 221 West Second Street, 42303, Atty.

Irvin Jeffery Kingcade, 2994 Newbolt Road, 42303, Exec of Henrietta Kingcade estate, 2974 Newbolt Road, 42303, on 7/15/25. Hollie Lindsey, 127 East Washington Street, Hartford, Ky, 42347, Atty.

Katrina Starks, 2711 East Yellowstone Drive, 42301, Exex of Timothy Jean Riley estate, 2046 Pebble Wood Drive, 42301, on 7/15/25. Hollie Linsley, 127 East Washington Street, Hartford, Ky, 42347, Atty.

Diane Lillpop, 3611 Briarcliff Trace, 42303, Extx., of Betty Neal estate, 42303, on 7/16/2025. Hollie Lindsey, 127 East Washington Street, Hartford, KY 42347, Atty.

Lisa Harmon, 1501 St Rt 798, Calhoun, Ky, 42327, Admin of Tresia Lindsey estate, 1821 N Chesterfield Drive, 42301, on 7/15/2025. Terra Knight, 209 W Fourth Street, 42303, Atty.

Diane Lillpop, 3611 Briarcliff Trace, 42303, Exec of Betty Neal estate, 3611 Briarcliff Trace, 42303, on 07/16/2025. Hollie Lindsey, 127 East Washington St., Hartford, KY 42317, Atty.

Martha Prickett, 2979 Waterside Way, 42303, Exec of Theophilus Prickett, 2979 Waterside Way, 42303, on 07/16/2025. Hollie Lindsey, 127 East Washington St. Hartford, KY 42347, Atty.

Ashley Powers, 5752 Hwy 144, 42303, Admin of Kevin Jones estate, 8909 Hwy 764, 42378, on 07/16/2025. Frank Brancato, 111 West 2nd St., 42302, Atty.

Kristie Westerfield, 21 Bratcher Lane, Beaver Dam, KY 42320, Extx., of Jacky Jackson estate, 2851 Settles Road, 42303, on 7/22/2025. Terra Knight, 209 West Fourth Street, 42303, Atty.

Kristin Hagan, 626 New Cut Road, Whitesville, Ky, 42378, Exec of Vivian Bratcher estate, 3004 Asbury Place, 42303, on 7/22/25. Nicholas Keller, 5735 Grady Court, 42366, Exec of Charity Keller estate, 5735 Grady Court, 42366, on 07/22/2025. Sam Lee, 209 W. Fourth St., 42303, Atty.

Larry O'Bryan, 5117 Pleasant Point Road, 42366, Exec of Charles Cobb estate, 1900 Pleasant Valley Rd., 42303, on 07/22/2025. Ed Hoskins, 209 West Fourth St., 42303, Atty.

Wilma Quinn, 10070 Comer Elba Rd., Calhoun, KY 42327, Admin of Connie Mullins estate, 601 East 22nd St., 42303, on 07/22/2025. John Stevenson, 100 W. Third St., 42302, Atty.

John Durbin, 3714 Haywood Court, 42303, Admin., of Bonnie Morris estate, 5444 Highway 144, 42303, on 7/22/2025. David Johnson, 4830 Towne Square Court, 42301, Atty.

Jay Millay, 4907 Hwy 81, 42303, Admin of Sandra Millay estate, 4907 Hwy 81, 42303, on 07/22/2025.

Jennifer Minton, 3319 Shadewood Terrace, 42303, Admin of Dana Minton estate, 409 West 8th St., 42301, on 07/22/2025. Kimberly Wells, 2439 O'Bryan Blvd, Apt D, 42301, Admin of Sharon Gayle Crisp estate, 2157 Ottawa Drive, 42301, on 7/22/25.

Travis Barrient, 2411 Elder Dr., 42301, Exec of Betty Cason estate, 2501 Old Hartford Rd., 42303, on 07/29/2025. Clifton Boswell, 1402 East Fourth St., 42303, Atty.

Stella Payne, 9978 Hwy 456, 42301, Exex of Stacy Ann Wright estate, 10008 Highway 456, 42301, on 7/29/25. David Johnson, 4830 Towne Square Court, 42301, Atty.

Suzanne Kahn, 7424 Greenbriar Drive, Evansville, IN, 47710, Exex of Betty Barnard estate, 937 Griffith Avenue, 42301, on 7/30/25. Scott Plain, 401 Frederica St 204D, 42301, Atty.

Cathy Dee Perrin, 4680 Hunters Ridge, 42303, Exex of Ermagene Parks estate, 797 Live Oak Place, 42303, on 7/30/25. Hollie Lindsey, 127 East Washington Street, Hartford, Ky, 42347, Atty.

Any person having claims against an estate are notified to present them to the Fiduciary, verified according to law, within 6 months of the date of appointment of the Fiduciary.

Jennifer Hardesty Besecker, Clerk
Daviess District/Circuit Clerk