

# The Wolfe County News

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C. D. LONG - EDITOR

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## Uncommon Sense

By Dr. Glenn Mollette



## Airline, Weather And Water Problems

Air traffic controllers have been using outdated equipment for decades. Some Federal Aviation Administration, (FAA) facilities are over 50 years old. The Government accountability office reported 51 of 138 air traffic control systems are unsustainable due to age and outdated functionality.

Equipment upgrades have been delayed for at least a decade. Modernization plans are finally underway. The current radar system is a 1960s design which was upgraded in the 1990s. The communication systems date back to the 1970s and 1980s. The upgrades include ERAM, Enroute Automation Modernization, cloud-based radar tracking. Datacom, digital pilot controller communications and ADS-B, Automatic Dependent Surveillance Broadcast, which is precise GPS tracking. The anticipated completion of these updates will not likely be until 2030 with an anticipated budget of 7.2 billion dollars and growing.

In the meantime, American travelers are suffering long layovers and abrupt flight cancellations. Worse, flying has become more dangerous. While it is still touted as the safest form of transportation by the airlines, it doesn't feel quite as safe to some of us.

On top of aging, outdated equipment, we have a big shortage of air traffic controllers. The FAA is 3500 air traffic controllers short of targeted staffing. The shortage causes flight delays and forces many controllers to work mandatory overtime and six-day weeks. The reasons behind these shortages are several. The rapid return to air travel after Covid -19. Pre-pandemic hiring freezes and layoffs. Retirement of experienced controllers. Challenges in training new controllers.

To address this the US Transportation Department is offering incentives to recruit and retain controllers. Air

traffic controllers can make \$140,000 to over \$200,000 a year.

Another problem. Our National Weather Service is understaffed especially ahead of hurricane season starting June 1st. Specifically, 30 out of 122 weather forecast offices lack chief meteorologists. This shortage is concerning given the increasing frequency of billion-dollar disasters- 27 occurred just last year. Officials have warned this could compromise disaster response. The shortages are due to massive retirement numbers. At least 25% have retired from the workforce in the last five years. The starting pay is in the low forty-thousand-dollar range. The hiring process takes about 300 days. High education requirements for the job. There is a high burnout rate. The job is very stressful with long hours especially during severe weather events.

Another problem across America is our water. Many American communities have outdated water systems. These aging systems pose serious health and environmental risks especially in rural areas where populations are declining and funds are scarce.

The American Society of Civil Engineers has given the US drinking water infrastructure a grade of D minus for over a decade due to its deteriorating condition.

In the last five years America has spent around \$370 billion on foreign aid. A big chunk of this went to Ukraine.

America has worked hard. We deserve to have current, up to date aviation systems, accurate up to date weather reporting and a clean drink of water. Let's please use some of this \$370 billion to fix things at home.

Sources USAFACTS, US Bureau of Labor and Statistics, ASCE American Society of Civil Engineers

## County in need of Foster Care Review Volunteers

FRANKFORT, Ky., May 19 – Twenty-six Kentucky counties are calling on compassionate community members to make a difference in children's lives through volunteering with Citizen Foster Care Review Boards. CFCRB volunteers review cases of children in foster care due to dependency, neglect and abuse, and make critical recommendations regarding their care and placement.

"It takes a lot of wonderful people to do this meaningful work, and we are greatly in need of more volunteers to join us," CFCRB State Chair Rosalyn Patton-Pelt said. (Learn more in a brief video at <https://kcoj.info/VolunteerCFCRB>).

Volunteers are needed statewide, but the following 26 counties are in dire need: Boone, Boyd, Bracken, Campbell, Carter, Clay, Elliott, Fleming, Greenup, Hardin, Johnson, Kenton, Laurel, Lawrence, Lewis, Magoffin, Martin, Mason, McCreary, Montgomery, Morgan, Powell, Robertson, Rowan, Whitley and Wolfe.

Thousands of children are placed in foster and other out-of-home care each year in the commonwealth. CFCRBs are teams of court-appointed vol-

unteers who conduct interactive reviews on the children's cases and make recommendations to the Cabinet for Health and Family Services and state courts for each child. Boards recommend services to help children and advocate for placing children in safe, permanent homes as soon as possible, whether with their parents, other relatives or an adoptive family. The CHFS oversees the state foster care program.

Volunteers generally review cases one day a month.

Potential volunteers are required to apply, consent to criminal record and Central Registry checks and complete six hours of initial training. The

training includes two sessions held via Zoom and two self-study webinars. Those interested are encouraged to apply as soon as possible so they can be screened and, if approved, scheduled for training.

Once a potential volunteer has completed training, the local Family Court or District Court judge recommends their appointment to the local CFCRB.

To apply and get more information, visit <https://kcoj.info/CFCRBVolunteer>. A CFCRB recruitment flyer is available at <https://kcoj.info/CFCRBRecruitmentFlyer> to be shared in communities.

The Kentucky General Assembly created the state Citizen Foster Care Review Board in 1982 to decrease children's time in out-of-home care.

More than 700 dedicated

volunteers across the state serve as members of the Kentucky CFCRB. The average length of service is six years, demonstrating a long-term commitment to children in need.

CFCRBs review each child's case in foster care at least once every six months as required by statute. In fiscal year 2024, volunteers reviewed 19,565 cases involving 11,301 children in out-of-home care. Learn more at <https://kcoj.info/CFCRB2024>.

The Administrative Office of the Courts administers the CFCRB program. The AOC is the operations arm for the state court system and supports the activities of nearly 3,300 employees and 412 elected justices, judges and circuit court clerks. The AOC also executes the Judicial Branch budget.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### COMBINED NOTICE

#### NOTICE TO PUBLIC OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND NOTICE TO PUBLIC OF REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

\*Date 5/23/25

City of Campton (Name of Applicant)

P.O. Box 35 Campton, KY 41301 606-398-7245  
(Street, City, Zip Code) (Telephone #)

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for the activities to be undertaken by the *City of Campton*

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS, AND PERSONS:

Request for Release of Funds

On or about June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025, the *City of Campton* will submit a request to the Department for Local Government for the release of Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) funds under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (PL 93-383) to undertake the following project:

Campton Water Treatment Plant Improvements Project (Project Title or Name)  
(Purpose or Nature of the Project)

The 2023 WTP Improvement Project will improve the current operating conditions of the existing WTP by replacing, rehabilitating, and updating the following items: membrane filters, high service pumps, raw water pumps, telemetry, chemical feed systems, metering pumps, filter controls, laboratory equipment/analyzers, various controls, valves & piping. The existing WTP was constructed in 2011. These improvements will improve finished water quality, operations, maintenance, reliability and redundancy to allow the WTP to meet future water demands and regulatory requirements. The project will include an comprehensive assessment and evaluation of the WTP and provide a targeted areas for improvements. The upgrades are necessary to improve the water distribution system.  
(Location – City, County, State – of Project)

9302 (Census Tract(s))

Finding of No Significant Impact

The *City of Campton* has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (PL-91190) is not required. An Environmental Review Record (ERR) respecting the within project has been made by *City of Campton* which documents the environmental review of the project and more fully sets forth the reasons why such Statement is not required. This Environmental Review Record is available upon request, at the City of Campton Office, 678 Main Street, Campton, Ky. 41301 between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. No further environmental review of such project is proposed to be conducted.

Public Comments

All interested agencies, groups, and persons disagreeing with the ERR decision are invited to submit written comments for consideration by the *City of Campton* Office. Such written comments should be received at 941 N Main Street Hazard, KY 41701 or courtney@kradd.org on or before June 6<sup>th</sup> 2025. All such comments so received will be considered prior to authorizing submission of a request for a release of funds or taking any administrative action on the within project prior to the date specified on the proceeding sentence. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

Environmental Certification

The *City of Campton* will undertake the project described above with Appalachian Regional Commission funds from the Department for Local Government under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. *The City of Campton* is certifying to the state that City of Campton and Katherine May, in her official capacity as Mayor consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to environmental reviews, decision making, and action; and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The legal effect of the certification is that upon its approval *City of Campton* may use the Appalachian Regional Commission Grant funds and the state and HUD will have satisfied their responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities.

Objection to Release of Funds

The state will accept objections to its release of funds and the *City of Campton* certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission dates or it's actual receipt for the request (whichever is the later) only if they are on one of the following bases:

- The certification was not in fact executed by the *City of Campton's* Certifying Officer.
- The *City of Campton* has failed to make one of the two findings pursuant to S58.41 or to make the written determination decision required by SS578.57, 58.53 or 58.64 for the project, as applicable.
- The *City of Campton* has omitted one or more of the steps set forth at Subparts F and G for the preparation and completion of an EA.
- No opportunity was given to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation or its Executive Director to review the effect of the project on a property listed on the National Register of Historic Places, or found to be eligible for such listing by the Secretary of the Interior, in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.
- The recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR part 58 before approval of the release of funds and approval of the Environmental Certification by HUD or the State.
- Another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality.

Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to the Department for Local Government, Office of Federal Grants, 1024 Capital Center Drive, Ste. 340 Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.

Objections to the release of funds on bases other than those stated above will not be considered by the state. No objection received after May 30, 2023 will be considered by the state. Potential objectors should contact the Department for Local Government to verify the actual last day of the state Comment period.

(Name of Certifying Officer of Applicant/Title) Katherine May, Mayor

(Address) 678 Main Street Campton, KY 41301

## Household Hints

✓Repurpose the cardboard roll from toilet tissue. When moisture and dampness are in the bathroom after showering, place the cardboard roll under the toilet seat for quicker drying of any moisture that may have collected.

✓Neutralize a stinky odor in shoes by placing a tea bag in each shoe at night.

✓Soften and dissolve a spot of superglue on a metal surface by holding a cotton ball soaked with 3 percent hydrogen peroxide over the spot for 30 seconds (repeat this process if necessary), then scrape with the edge of a plastic (credit) card or hard bristle toothbrush that won't damage the metal.

✓Clean granite and marble countertops with warm soapy water and a cloth; rinse with plain water; and, wipe with a dry towel to remove any excess moisture.

✓Never use windex to clean a computer monitor screen or a TV screen. Windex contains alcohol and ammonia which can damage the anti-glare coating on the screens.

✓Wear cotton garden gloves for dusting the small accessories (what nots) in your house. Lightly spraying the items with an antibacterial cleaning solution will help to eliminate germs.

✓After a shower bath, use a soap dispenser dish brush to clean the shower of residual soap spots. Reportedly, dish soap is a good bathroom cleaner.

✓A sponge or cleaning cloth wrapped with duct tape can be used to remove pet hair from upholstered furniture or automobile seats or carpeting.

✓A swiffer (used on floors) and swiffer cloth can be used to remove dust, etc. from woodwork and wipe down walls and cobwebs.

✓To clean lint from dry a dryer lint filter, wrap a cleaning cloth around a wooden paint stick. The stick will fit into the narrow opening of the filter.

### Renew Your Subscription



#### DO YOU HAVE AN OPINION?

The Wolfe County News welcomes your comments about current events in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must be signed and include the writer's address and phone number for verification.

Letters to the Editor should be brief and to the point, no more than 500 words. The News reserves the right to edit (or reject) all letters submitted for publication.

Letters should be mailed to: The Wolfe County News P.O. Box. 129 Campton, Ky. 41301

Opinions expressed in letters to the editor or guest editorials are not necessarily those of the publisher.



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