



# WINCHESTER CITY COMMISSION WRAP-UP

Information from the Thursday, May 22, 2025, special meeting.

## Elkins gives legislative update

The Winchester Board of Commissioners met in special session at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, May 22, at which time State Sen. Greg Elkins provided an update on the recent legislative session. Elkins shared that the latest session was a "short session" primarily focused on making necessary amendments to existing legislation.

Many of Elkins' committee appointments changed. He was made vice chair of the State and Local Government Committee.

"To me, local control is very important," Elkins said.

Additionally, he served on the Natural Resources and Energy and the Transportation Committees. He was also assigned as co-chair of the Legislative Oversight Investigative

Committee.

Elkins said the Kentucky Capitol building will be renovated starting in June 2025. The building will be closed completely for approximately four years for about \$200 million in improvements. The building is about 100 years old and has been neglected, Elkins said.

Elkins also provided an update about numerous bills passed during the session.

Some of the highlights included:

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DON'T MISS  
THE NEXT  
MEETING!

The Winchester  
Board of  
Commissioners will  
meet at 4:30 p.m.  
and 5:30 p.m. on  
Tuesday, June 3.

## What's Inside?

In other business - page 2

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— House Bill 1 reduced state income taxes from 4% to 3.5% effective Jan. 1, 2026.

— House Bill 160 allows for more manufactured housing by relaxing restrictions to address the need for more affordable housing.

— House Bill 10 allows property owners to submit a petition to law enforcement to remove squatters. The bill also creates criminal charges for squatting and defines squatting more clearly.

— House Bill 520 excludes law enforcement records from open records requests if the records pose a danger to an informant or disrupt an active investigation. Elkins said this bill does not reduce transparency, but rather increases safety for law enforcement officers to complete their investigations.

— House Bill 622 amends the budget to reimburse school districts up to \$20,000 for having a School Resource Officer (SRO) on campus. The bill does not currently include reimbursement for private schools that employ SROs. Elkins said Gov. Andy Beshear vetoed that portion of the bill. Elkins would like to see that portion of the bill revisited in the future, stating, "Every school child

should be protected by a School Resource Officer."

— House Bill 684 removed the ability to use credit or debit cards as identification when voting, allows caregivers to cast an excused in-person ballot for qualified voters and requires video surveillance at election drop boxes to have enough storage to maintain those videos for 60 days.

— Senate Bill 202 addresses cannabis-infused drinks and places restrictions on cannabinoid levels in these drinks to 5 milligrams per 12-ounce serving. Additionally, packaging must include this information.

Elkins also discussed some bills that did not pass this session, focusing on a bill he championed during the session. This bill, referred to as a school bus safety bill, would make it a criminal penalty to pass a school bus with the stop arm out. It would raise the fine for this offense from \$300 to \$500, and the additional \$200 would go to local school districts to aid in purchasing stop arm cameras and video storage.

For a full recording of Elkins presentation, which includes information about a variety of other bills, visit the City of Winchester's page on YouTube or find the recording posted on the City of Winchester, KY Community Information Facebook page.

## IN OTHER BUSINESS

In other business, the commission:

— approved the second reading of an ordinance annexing 31.818 acres of land in South Western Clark County to the city.

— approved the second reading of an ordinance annexing 4.225 acres of land in South Western Clark County to the city.

— approved the second reading

of a change of zoning classification for 23.515 acres at 3315 Colby Road from Agricultural (A1) to Planned Development (PD) zoning.

— approved an order accepting the bid from Kentucky River Foothills for \$10,000 and transferring properties owned by the City at 204 Winn Ave., 4 Mutual Ave., 8 Mutual Ave. and 20 Mutual Ave. The bid was \$2,500 for

each lot.

— approved a contract of sale between the City of Winchester and Rodney Butler for property at 17 Lincoln St. as part of the Lincoln Street Redevelopment Project Phase II. Commissioner Shannon Cox recused himself from the vote because he serves on the Habitat for Humanity board of directors.