

# OPINION

## THE LEDGER INDEPENDENT

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120 Limestone St., Maysville, KY 41056  
maysville-online.com/news/opinion  
(606) 564-9091

**ROD BAKER** Publisher  
rbaker@cmpapers.com ext. 1291

**MARY ANN KEARNS**  
Editor  
mkearns@cmpapers.com  
ext. 1270

**CHAD SHELTON**  
Production/IT Manager  
cshelton@cmpapers.com  
ext. 1224

**JENNIFER DONAHUE**  
Director of Operations and Advertising  
jdonahue@cmpapers.com  
ext. 1240

**EVAN DENNISON**  
Sports Editor  
edennison@cmpapers.com  
ext. 1273

**COMMENT LINE** - 606-564-9091 ext. 1251

## Letters for candidates, issues welcomed

The Ledger Independent welcomes letters to the editor in support of political candidates or ballot issues.

Letters should be limited to about 500 words and should be sent via email whenever possible. Handwritten letters must be legible.

Letters from candidates promoting their own candidacy will be limited to one letter per

candidate.

Political letters should be sent to The Ledger Independent, 120 Limestone Street, Maysville, Ky. 41056 Attn: Editor; or emailed to mkearns@cmpapers.com.

Letters must reach the newspaper by Nov. 2, 2022, and will be published no later than Saturday, Nov. 5. No exceptions will be made.

## Support McKay for Commissioner

Dear editor,  
We are writing in support of Joe McKay for re-election for Mason County Commissioner of District One.

In recent years Joe has been a friendly and helpful neighbor on Fourth Street and someone we could turn to for help when needed. His thoughtful acts like dropping off church bulletins each week were much appreciated.

We have known his family all of our lives, being members of the same church and appreciating his mother and father being great

supporters of St. Patrick's Church and School for many decades.

Multiple generations of our family have had our high school senior portraits taken at his father's photo studio, as well as wedding photos for the 1971 wedding of Kay and Darrell Abney.

Joe is a wonderful man and dedicated Maysville resident and we fully support Joe for Mason County Commissioner.

*Sincerely,  
Kay Hargett Abney and Kathryn Abney Kjarsgaard  
Oak Park, Illinois*

## Please vote for McNeill

Dear editor,  
I'm Gwen Pfeffer, Judge Joe Pfeffer's widow, asking citizens to vote for Judge Owen McNeill.

Owen and Joe were very close over four years. Joe loved to say that Owen had the energy of five people, the genius of Ben Franklin, and the heart of Mother Teresa.

Owen and Joe were a perfect team, landing Enviroflight, PPI and many others.

When Joe passed, Owen was so helpful, checked on me and my family daily and organized the funeral.

Since taking office, Mason County hasn't missed a beat despite Owen wearing two

hats, economic development and being judge for six months.

Since he became judge, Owen has brought in Pepsi, Ross's, Marshalls, Hobby Lobby, and Harbor Freight. He's revitalized downtown with all the grand openings and big things happening.

He's brought in broadband and other amenities like Windstream, charter, Cincinnati Childrens hospital and cancer treatment center.

Please vote for my friend Owen McNeill as Judge Executive.

*Sincerely,  
Gwen Pfeffer  
Widow of Joe Pfeffer  
May's Lick*

## O'Hearn checks all the boxes

Dear editor,  
On (or before) November 8th, I strongly encourage voters in Mason County to cast their vote for Chris O'Hearn for District 2 County Commissioner.

My name is Seth Faulkner, a lifelong Mason County resident who truly cares about our county and its residents. Those who truly know me know that I'm the furthest thing from a politician, but I do believe in the importance of exercising my right to vote. I do not vote based on party affiliation; I vote for individuals who I believe will lead (locally, regionally, and nationally) with integrity and a servant's heart, individuals who I believe have a strong moral compass and truly care about our hometown, state, and country. I encourage you to do the same, whether that means our ballots perfectly align or are in complete opposition of one another.

In my opinion, one candi-

date on this year's ballot who checks all of the boxes is Chris O'Hearn. I have known Mr. O'Hearn for over 25 years. During that time, he has filled many roles in my life, including (but not limited to) coach, mentor, supervisor, colleague, and friend. I know him as a proven leader who is passionate about Mason County, one supports and listens to those in his charge, one who can unite a team, and one who can lead with a cool and calm demeanor. I am appreciative of the opportunities and guidance that Chris O'Hearn has provided me throughout my life; it has been a blessing and a pleasure to work along side and learn from Chris O'Hearn.

In my opinion, there is no better candidate to represent our county than Chris O'Hearn. I encourage voters to vote Chris O'Hearn for District 2 County Commissioner on (or before) November 8th.

*Seth Faulkner  
MCHS Principal*

## HOW YOU SEE IT

### Vote for change

Alright now all Mason County and Maysville voters we have 11 more days. Let's get

out and vote, vote for change. Don't settle for what we have, the good old boys club downtown. Vote for a change.

# Ask before you vote

Dear editor,  
Until the 1990's Mason County's local economy regularly supported better governmental services than any other Kentucky county, not in a large urban area.

During that period, rural tobacco and dairy revenue balanced Maysville's industrial and retail activity. Tax revenue from this broad range of economic activity provided the superior services all of us came to expect. Our relatively low tax burden and high level of public services created an environment attractive to new residents and businesses.

Because we are looking at Mason County's economic trends over decades, all figures are stated in 2022 dollars. In 1978 Mason County dairy farmers generated \$25 million in revenue, but only \$1.2 million in 2017. In 1982 Mason County farmers generated \$50 million in tobacco sales but less than \$10 million in 2017. These two changes cost Mason County \$63.8 million each year.

Tobacco and dairy's profitability supported crop rotations that were several years long. Their loss forced over 16,000 acres of

highly erodible land into perennial no-till corn and soybean. Even with the best no-till practices, erosion from these extra acres will take 733,131 tons of Mason County topsoil each year.

Perennial no-till row crops cause unsustainable soil loss but provide less than half of the rural income, when tobacco and dairy fully contributed. Lower income per acre causes lower real estate property assessments and tax revenue. As rural land provides less tax revenue, other taxpayers face hard choices. Will they reduce the services they expect from local tax districts or increase their contribution to replace the lost rural tax revenue? Higher tax rates or fewer services will make Mason County less desirable, causing property values to drop countywide.

To avoid those two choices, we need a way to Grow Rural Investment & Profits. Buffalo, hemp, confinement hogs, or poultry are but a few options that have been investigated and found unworkable. Recent declines in Mason County's population make finding new tax revenue even more

critical.

Both Kentucky and Mason County require a reclamation bond be posted before any work starts. That bond assures large-scale solar land can be returned to agriculture.

If Mason County recruits 6,000 acres of large-scale solar, those acres will be protected from no-till corn and soybean ag chemicals and soil erosion for 30 years. Those acres will also pay an extra half a million dollars in local tax each year. Over those 30 years local tax districts will receive over \$15 million of tax money from outside our county. Everyone likes services that are paid for by others.

Before you vote, ask our county commissioner candidates, "If you do not favor large-scale solar, how do you propose to change our current trends of: 1) Unsustainable soil erosion, 2) Declining Population, 3) Declining tax base to support local services?"

Supporting information available at s4-mc.com/12  
*Charles W (Bill) Marshall  
Maysville*

## We need leaders like O'Hearn

Dear editor:  
We support Chris O'Hearn for reelection as county commissioner.

A lifelong Mason County resident, Chris is an honest, highly successful, hard-working member of our community. Chris's dedication to the field of education as a teacher, principal and as a state champion basketball coach has provided him with an

incomparable training ground for the role of county commissioner.

What we admire most about Chris is that he is approachable. He listens to everyone's concerns and makes the best decisions for our Mason County community. Since Chris has been in office, our community has flourished. Despite our experiences with the COVID virus, storefronts have filled up, people are out and liv-

ing again, AND our taxes have not gone up.

We need compassionate leaders like Chris O'Hearn to keep our county prospering. Please join us on November 8, 2022, in voting for his continued leadership for Mason County. Reelect Chris O'Hearn Mason County Commissioner!

*Steve and Margie Appelman  
Maysville*

## Former MPD Chief supports Wood

Dear editor,  
I am writing this letter in support of Commissioner Andrew Wood, who is seeking re-election as a

Maysville City Commissioner. As the former Chief of Police, I have had the opportunity to work with Commissioner Wood on several different items of city business and always found him to be a critical thinker, honest and an all-around good person.

In 2020 Maysville was experiencing some turmoil, like many other communities in our nation.

Commissioner Andrew Wood and the Late Mayor Charles Cotterill came to my office and asked what they could do to help the police department during these trying times. As the Chief of Police, I requested support in getting body cameras for the officers to help promote transparency. Commissioner Wood gave me his unwavering support and was very instrumental in getting the body cameras approved during a city commission meeting. This was a big ask on my part due to the expense of the body cameras,

but Commissioner Wood knew this was critical

in gaining the trust and support of our community.

Future performance is best predicted by past behavior, and I know from my own personal experience with Commissioner Andrew Wood, that he will continue to have the best interest of the citizens of Maysville if re-elected as city commissioner.

*Sincerely,  
Jared Muse  
Retired Chief of Police  
Maysville*

## Working across the aisle for Kentucky

As I travel across Kentucky, I'm often asked if Congress is as angry a place as the media depicts.

The answer is, of course not. Sure, Republicans and Democrats disagree on many subjects, but our relations with each other are more often than not cordial and respectful, nothing like the vitriol of the internet.

In fact, because we know our areas of agreement are limited, we try hard to find conversations concerning areas we can agree upon.

Some of my most significant accomplishments in the Senate have come from reaching across the aisle and working with Democrats. For example, I recently teamed up with Senator Cory Booker to end mandatory animal testing for new drugs, and just last month the Senate unanimously passed our bill.

I've been a physician far longer than I've been a Senator and helping people has always been a core value of mine. So when I first ran for office, I promised to shake things up and write Washington a prescription for positive change. I promised to offer bold solutions to our problems, whether that meant working with Democrats or standing up for what's right, even if the fight would get lonely sometimes.

Some of the areas where I've made great strides have been on issues Republicans typically shy away from, like a realist foreign policy view, criminal-justice reform, and protecting your privacy.

In addition to being a leading voice for bringing our troops home from far-flung conflicts, I've teamed up with progressive

Democrat Senator Chris Murphy to block arms sales to countries like Saudi Arabia because of their wartime blockade of Yemen that has led to mass starvation.

And on the issue of privacy, I have regularly spoken out against the government's surveillance programs and have worked with Democrat Senator Ron Wyden to require the government get a judicial warrant before searching an American's phone. One of our recent bills, the "4th Amendment is Not for Sale Act," closes the legal loophole that allows the government to buy Americans' personal information without a warrant.

Perhaps the most significant area of my bipartisan efforts has been justice reform. From day one of my time in the Senate I have been committed to fixing our broken justice system and I have introduced and cosponsored over two dozen bipartisan bills addressing these issues.

I've teamed up with Senator Cory Booker many times on bills like the "RESET Act" to address the issue of mandatory minimum sentencing. I successfully pushed for the "First Step Act" to become law. And, in the wake of the Breonna Taylor shooting, I introduced the "Justice for Breonna Taylor Act," which would ban no-knock warrants nationwide. Most recently, I again worked with Senator Booker to strengthen and pass the Emmett Till Anti-Lynching Bill, making lynching a federal crime.

In addition, I have introduced legislation to protect pregnant women in federal custody, which helps guarantee their health and

safety and give birth in humane conditions. My proposals would bring much-needed reform to a system that often disproportionately punishes minorities and low-income Americans while also providing second chances to those who have made mistakes in the past but are willing to turn their lives around.

I've also worked with Senator Kirsten Gillibrand on the Military Justice Improvement Act to better address and professionalize how the military handles and prosecutes serious crimes like sexual assault.

But, just like I work with both sides of the aisle, I also hold both sides accountable. Many know me to be quite an outspoken critic of wasteful spending, and its because I have Kentuckians' best interests in mind. Every dollar we waste or send overseas is a dollar that could have been spent on roads and bridges here at home.

Every time your government tries to spend its way out of a problem, I'm there to propose a solution that not only funds our needs, but also does it in a fiscally responsible way. Take for example my recent legislation that would allow unspent COVID-19 funds to be used for federal disaster relief.

My number one priority is putting Kentucky first and doing the best job I can to represent all Kentuckians, no matter what it takes. Whether I'm working across the aisle with Democrats or taking a stand to protect your tax dollars, I'm truly honored to be the one that gets to fight for you every day in Washington, and I look forward to continuing my efforts on your behalf.

Rand Paul is the junior U.S. Senator from Kentucky