

March 4, 2022

Given the false and inaccurate information \_\_\_\_ about the library by our county administration, we feel it necessary to inform the public of facts.

Lawrence County State Senator Phillip Wheeler has introduced and sponsored a bill that, if implemented, would be a detriment to the nonpartisan operations of public libraries.

On Wednesday, March 2, 2022, Lawrence County State Senator Phillip Wheeler and Lawrence County Judge Executive Phillip Carter, spoke before the \_\_\_\_\_ regarding Senate Bill 167. The parameters of the bill, if implemented, would gravely negatively impact the *nonpartisan* operation of public libraries across the state of Kentucky.

Let us first address the misinformation spoken by Lawrence County's CJE at Wednesday's meeting.

- "I love the library as well as you all do."
  - Since taking office in January 2019, Mr. Carter has attended no on-site library programs or functions, including the Grand Opening of the newly renovated facility.
  - Mr. Carter's office has distributed candy the last three years during Story Hour Trick or Treat.
  
- "My library had \$6.5 million in the bank and when we questioned them to try to get them to lower the rate or whatever, they wouldn't."
  - Since January 2019, Mr. Carter has attended one library board meeting, on February 14, 2019. Also in attendance were Deputy Judge Executive Vince Doty and federally indicted, former County Attorney Michael Hogan.
  - At the February 14, 2019 meeting, only former County Attorney Michael Hogan spoke and asked the library board to a.) "roll back the tax rate to reflect only what would be needed for operating costs" and b.) "divert excess funds to Lawrence County's school system."
  - The library board has approved a lower tax rate for the last five years – beginning with FY 2017-2018, prior to Mr. Carter's appointment.
  - Deputy Judge Executive attend one additional meeting on June 11, 2019.
  - The 2019-2020 project was funded by revenue accrued by the library district over decades. 2020 state legislation addressed the issue of Unlike the 2007-2009 renovation, the 2019-2020 project was not financed. Tax rates did not increase (in fact, they were lowered).
  
- "They get as much taxes and have more money than I did in the county government."

- “Our library may be different than others. We had a issue when we started questioning the money they went out and tore down a 10 year old building that was really nice and built another one for almost \$4 million.
- “It {2019-2020 renovation} was a disaster.”
- “I can give you a link to what came out in the paper yesterday where they went out over. They paid excessive money to the oversite chairman.”
  - Paid advertisement by a political candidate is not a journalistic news source.
- “When they appoint, they send me two names and if I don’t appoint one of them – they even brought suit against me because they issued me six names. I appointed three and that wouldn’t satisfy them.”
  - The library follows Kentucky Revised Statutes 173.730 and 173.490 when appointing library board members.
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  - Additioanlly in April 2021 the library board submitted six nminees to fill three board vacancies. In July 2021, Mr. Carter again did not abide by KRS 173.730 and 173.490. The library issued a letter to the judge requesting the judge abide by Kentucky statute and appoint members from the names submitted to the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives. Click [HERE](#) to read the letter.

Click [HERE](#) to watch Senator Phillip Wheeler and Lawrence County Judge Executive speak regarding Senate Bill 167, as well as \_\_\_\_ and Dave Sh from the Kenton County Public Library expalingin the importance of nonpartisan shup in public library boards as well as explanations on tax rates, etc.

We’d to provide some education on how public libraries aka Special Purpose Governmental Entities (SPEGE)s operate.

For additional information regarding Senate Bill 167, Statutes regarding library operations, and more [CLICK HERE!!!](#)