

# How Kentucky's athletics super power turned into a weakness, 1B

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# LEXINGTON [kentucky.com](http://kentucky.com) HERALD-LEADER



Board members speak during a school board meeting Aug. 18, 2025, at Fayette County Public Schools Central Office in Lexington.

## Gorton criticizes Carter's mayoral campaign mailer

BY ADRIAN PAUL BRYANT  
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Lexington's mayoral race is officially nonpartisan, but one candidate has decided to let voters know where she stands within party lines.

Raquel Carter, who is aiming to unseat two-term incumbent Linda Gorton, has let voters know she's a Democrat with a new mail ad from her campaign. The mailer places the word "Democrat" in her campaign logo.



Raquel Carter

A quote on the same page of the mailer reads, "With Trump's policies and chaos in Washington making life harder for us all, I'm running for mayor because we need new, bold leadership focused on the future — holding us back in the past."

Carter told the Herald-Leader she's been consistently asked about partisan politics while she's been on the campaign trail.

"As I've been talking to voters, they bring up two things: first, the mayor's dismal response to the snow removal crisis a couple of months ago, and second, partisan politics," Carter said. "I'm not afraid of being a Democrat, but I'm running for mayor to work for everyone who lives in this city and clean up the mess this mayor has left behind."

"Our people-powered cam-

SEE JOBS, 4A

SEE CARTER, 4A

## Fayette parent petitions to save school sustainability jobs

BY VALARIE HONEYCUTT SPEARS  
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A Fayette County parent has started a petition against the school district laying off its two-person Sustainability Team, who are among a growing number of Fayette County Public Schools employees to be let go as the district deals with

significant financial issues. Amy Sohner says the decision to eliminate that team will "cost students, classrooms, and our community far more than it will ever save."

Several people — the district won't say how many — were laid off at FCPS' Central Office Tuesday after Superintendent Demetrus Liggins announced the district has had faulty ac-

counting practices dating back to 2008 that are causing new budget strife. The severity of the problems has led interim Chief Financial Officer Kyna Koch to recommend that the district get a short-term loan to pay its expenses.

Additionally, district officials say two finance employees have been placed on paid leave pending an investigation. A

third finance employee is also away from the job on medical leave.

The parent's petition is asking the district to reinstate the Sustainability Team immediately and to protect the programs that are simultaneously teaching kids and funding their education.

## Beshear, others pay tribute to civil rights icon P.G. Peoples

BY BETH MUSGRAVE  
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P.G. Peoples left his mark on many people in Lexington and Kentucky.

Peoples, 80, died Tuesday, April 28, at his office at the Urban League, where he spent 55 years as its president and CEO. During his tenure at the



P.G. Peoples

He was a fixture in the city's civil rights movement, pushing for equality in the city's institu-

nonprofit, the civil rights leader helped expand job training, scholarship programs and was a pioneer in affordable housing in Lexington.

tions from city council chambers to kindergarten classrooms. He served on dozens of boards and commissions in Lexington and Kentucky during his five decades of public service.

Mayor Linda Gorton has known Peoples for decades. "P.G. Peoples fought to make Lexington a better place for over five decades through the Urban League," Gorton said. "It was

an honor to work with him to improve education, job training, housing and more. We began a long friendship when we served together on the very first FCPS (Fayette County Public Schools) Equity Council. I loved him dearly! Our city is a better place because of his strong leadership."

### GOV. BESHEAR, JOHN CALIPARI, OTHERS REMEMBER PEEPLES

In a social media post, Gov. Andy Beshear praised Peoples for his tenacity and decades of public service.

"Kentucky has lost a true leader with the passing of P.G.

Peoples, a civil rights champion who led the Lexington Urban League for five decades and transformed communities across Kentucky and beyond. He championed civil rights, education, affordable housing and more and made an undeniable difference in the lives of many," Beshear said. "This is a great loss, but his impact will be felt for generations."

An avid University of Kentucky basketball fan, the civil rights leader was also friends with former UK basketball coach John Calipari. In a social media post, Calipari said Pee-

SEE PEEPLES, 3A



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