# Shelby County Fiscal Court Social Media Policy

## **Social Media Platforms**

This document constitutes the Shelby County Fiscal Court Social Media Policy (the "Policy"). This Policy applies to the following official platforms maintained by Shelby County Fiscal Court:

- Facebook:
  - Dan Ison Shelby County Judge Executive
  - o Jon Park Deputy Judge Executive Shelby County
  - Shelby County
  - Shelby County Animal Control & Shelter
  - Shelby County Road Department
- Other platforms that Shelby County Fiscal Court may elect to use in the future.

## **Purpose**

The purpose of these social media platforms is to provide timely and accurate information regarding Shelby County Fiscal Court initiatives, services, events, programs, and announcements. The Fiscal Court's social media platforms are intended to promote transparency, provide public information, and allow for civil discussion on matters related to county government Shelby County Fiscal Court values citizens' right to free speech and encourages open dialogue. However, to maintain respectful, safe, and constructive engagement, the Fiscal Court reserves the right to review, hide, or delete comments in accordance with this Policy.

## Comments

For purposes of this Policy, "Comments" include all public interaction on Shelby County Fiscal Court's social media platforms, including but not limited to: likes, comments, shares, replies, tags, messages, and reposts.

The Fiscal Court welcomes Comments from the public and seeks to ensure that all moderation of Comments is conducted in a viewpoint-neutral manner.

The Fiscal Court may, however, report users and/or restrict access to its social media platforms if Comments violate this Policy. The Fiscal Court may also report Comments to the respective platform if they are believed, in good faith, to violate that platform's terms of service.

**Notice:** Comments that are not relevant or *germane* to the information, topic, or post may be removed to ensure discussions remain focused, clear, and constructive.

## **Prohibited Content**

Comments may be hidden or removed, and users may be restricted, if they contain, constitute, or link to any of the following ("Prohibited Content"):

## **Shelby County Social Media Policy**

- Malicious or harmful software;
- Advertisements, promotions, or solicitations of a commercial product or service;
- Confidential, private, or personally identifying information;
- Obscene or sexually explicit content lacking serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value;
- Threatening or harassing statements as defined under Kentucky law (KRS 508.075– 508.0801, KRS 525.070);
- SPAM, consisting of repetitive or disruptive unsolicited messages.

#### **Rules**

- 1. Content removed pursuant to this Policy will be retained by Shelby County Fiscal Court for one (1) year.
- 2. Users posting Prohibited Content may be temporarily blocked for up to 48 hours while a determination is made.
- 3. Users who repeatedly or consistently violate this Policy may be restricted for up to six (6) months. Restrictions will apply only to the platform where the violation occurred.
- 4. When access is restricted, the Fiscal Court will provide written notice (when possible through the platform's available contact information) including the reason for restriction and instructions for appeal.
- 5. A record of restrictions will be retained for one (1) year.
- 6. Users may appeal restrictions by submitting a written request for reinstatement through the Fiscal Court's website or designated contact. Appeals will be reviewed in a timely manner.
  - First-time appeals may be granted with a statement of compliance.
  - Repeat violations may require additional justification for reinstatement.
- 7. Any denial of reinstatement will be provided in writing, with the reason for denial stated.
- 8. A user denied reinstatement may reapply after three (3) months.
- 9. Any updates to this Policy will be publicly posted, with changes clearly identified.

## **Public Records & Retention**

Shelby County Fiscal Court's social media accounts are subject to the Kentucky Open Records Act and applicable records retention laws. Content hidden or removed pursuant to this Policy will be retained for one (1) year. All records, including Comments and appeals, will be managed consistent with state law.

## **User-Generated Content**

User-generated content is the opinion of the individual author and does not represent the views of Shelby County Fiscal Court, its elected officials, or its employees. Publication of user Comments does not imply endorsement.

Users should avoid posting confidential or sensitive information, as all Comments are public. The Fiscal Court is not responsible for content removed by the social media platforms themselves or for user-generated content outside of this Policy's scope.

## Safety & Security

Users who make express or implied threats of violence or threats to public safety may be reported to the Shelby County Sheriff's Office or other appropriate law enforcement agencies.