



2024 GENERAL ELECTION RACES

*denotes incumbent candidates

**denotes a KFTC New Power PAC-endorsed candidate in the 2024 Primary Election

- Only races with more than one candidate are listed, as KFTC's New Power PAC does not endorse in races with a single candidate
- Candidates with no content have not responded to the 2024 JCKFTC Primary or General Election Voter Guide Surveys

Table of Contents

[KFTC's New Power PAC Endorsement Criteria & Rubric](#)

[Louisville Metro Council Races](#)

[Jefferson County Board of Education Races](#)

[State Legislative Races](#)

KFTC's New Power PAC 2024 Endorsement Criteria & Rubric

Criteria:

The following criteria have been helpful to Democracy Teams and the Executive Committee when considering endorsements. While it is not necessary that a candidate meet each of these criteria to qualify for support, it can be useful to have an assessment of all these factors.

- Does the candidate share KFTC values, as described in [our vision statement](#) and are they good racial justice allies? Does the candidate's personal conduct comport with our values?
- Does the candidate publicly support policies and issues prioritized by KFTC?
- Is the candidate from an under-represented community or constituency?
- Is the candidate trustworthy? Does the candidate demonstrate traits of good community leadership?
- Will the candidate run a credible campaign that we can be proud of? Will their campaign advance the issues and political values we care about?
- Does the candidate have the support of some of our members, allies, supporters?
- Does the candidate want our endorsement and support?
- Will our endorsement help advance the candidate's campaign?
- Looking at past performance, what are the chances that our endorsement will change the outcome of this election?
- Will our endorsement be divisive within our membership base?

Rubric:

In addition to criteria, the Executive Committee or Democracy Teams might use a rubric to assess candidates for endorsements. A rubric is a tool that can be used to evaluate across different metrics and criteria which can sometimes be complex and subjective.

Leaders might use the rubric, for instance, in a race in which there are multiple, good candidates. They might also use the rubric in which there is a candidate who is solid on some criteria, but less so on others, making the endorsement decision more complicated. The rubric can also be used when there are different opinions across leaders or chapters about the endorsement; it can be a place where issues get flagged across a spectrum of criteria and can help inform whether an endorsement might be strategic.

A rubric might include:

Candidate X						
	Perfect	Aspiring	Good Fact	Bad Fact	Alarming	Disqualifying
Vision, values						
Policy positions						
Personal conduct						
Quality of campaign						

In using the rubric, we could weigh candidates against each other while also taking into account viability and the consequence of a race. For example, there might be a candidate who is aspiring (such as they have endorsed most but not all of our vision and policies) and is in a race against a very horrible incumbent. If the aspiring candidate doesn't release their tax returns, we could look at the rubric and maybe place that in the bad facts column of personal conduct or quality of campaign. It would be a way to recognize the imperfections in candidates while also perhaps determining that this candidate is still the preferred candidate in a race with important implications.

In assessing personal conduct, we could consider some consistent questions:

- 1.) What is the issue that's been raised?
- 2.) Is there a pattern?
- 3.) Can it be corroborated or is there sufficient evidence?
- 4.) Is it private or public? Does that matter in this instance?
- 5.) Is there room for an apology, change of behavior, etc?

A rubric can help us to assess candidates across multiple criteria and metrics and it can be a place to ensure that hesitations and concerns get formally flagged while weighed against everything else. It's a tool that can evolve as we use it and learn more.

New Power PAC Levels of Support

Levels of Support indicate the amount of staff and leader capacity and financial resources allocated to the endorsement of candidates.

Level 1 Endorsement

- Targeted Voter Engagement strategies will be developed and executed by leaders and staff in an effort to support the election of the endorsed candidate. Strategies can include, but are not limited to, a data-driven district analysis and in-district canvassing, phone banking, and

texting. **Chapter must commit to conduct at least 5 targeted PAC phone banks or canvasses in this race.**

- Strategic communications strategies will be developed and executed by leaders and staff in an effort to support the election of the endorsed candidate. Communications pieces can include, but are not limited to, New Power PAC postcards distributed to targeted voters, print advertisements, and promoted social media posts to targeted voters.
- The endorsed candidate's name will appear on KFTC's New Power PAC website and will be included in press releases, social media posts, and blog posts announcing or publicizing our endorsement decisions.

Level 2 Endorsement

- Targeted Voter Engagement Strategies may be limited to in-district phone banking and texting. **Chapter must commit to conduct at least 2 targeted PAC phone banks or similar events.**
- Strategic Communications pieces may be limited to promoted social media posts to targeted voters.
- The endorsed candidate's name will appear on KFTC's New Power PAC website and be included in any promotional materials.

Level 3 Endorsement

- The endorsed candidate's name will appear on KFTC's New Power PAC website and be included in any promotional materials.

LOUISVILLE METRO COUNCIL

DISTRICT TWELVE

*Rick BLACKWELL
Jonathan "JJ" JOSEPH

DISTRICT Fourteen

*Cindi FOWLER
Crystal BAST

DISTRICT SIXTEEN

[Matthew Golden](#)
Scott W. REED

DISTRICT EIGHTEEN

*[Marilyn Parker](#)
Mera Kathryn CORLETT

DISTRICT TWENTY

[Marita Willis](#)
*Stuart BENSON

DISTRICT TWENTY-TWO

Rasean L. CRAWLEY
Kevin D. BRATCHER

DISTRICT TWENTY-FOUR

**[Tyra Thomas Walker](#)
Ginny MULVEY-WOOLRIDGE

MATTHEW GOLDEN District Sixteen

Tell us about your story. How does your background qualify you for serving as Metro Councilperson for your district?

My Story: I am a proud District 16 resident and I have served the public my entire adult life. I started as an entry level employee for the Jefferson County Clerk in the summers during college and then, during law school, became a law clerk for the Jefferson County Attorney's office. I earned a position as a trial court prosecutor and over the next two decades, worked my way up until I became the First Assistant County Attorney, the highest appointed position in the office. I lived by the command, "Justice, Justice you shall pursue." After I retired in 2019, the City called me back after a crisis in the bus company and I served as TARC's Interim General Counsel as part of a team of improvers. Following that service, I was asked to serve Louisville Metro Government and became the Chief of Public Services for Louisville Metro overseeing and improving several of the City's departments. I now work for a non-profit.

Serving the citizens of District 16 and Louisville is in my blood.

What do you see as a Metro Council Person's role in opposing white supremacy culture and in addressing racial inequality in local legislation?

There is a quote on a statue right outside the old courthouse. It reads, "Equal and exact justice to all, regardless of persuasion, religious or political." If there is anything that the government should guarantee, it is that. That everyone deserves a fair shake from the people that they place in a position of trust.

What do you see as the role of the Metro Council Office when it comes to environmental justice issues - in the district and across the county?

I am married and have three great kids; a set of 11 year-old twins and a little guy aged 7. One of my key beliefs is that everyone wants the same opportunity for healthy lives for their children. That's what I want for my family and I know that's what people want for theirs. It is critical for us to examine and improve the environmental impact on our citizens' health and I believe that local environmental improvements can have significant impact on life expectancy and life quality. Louisville is lagging behind our peer cities on health. We need to change that.

What is your vision for how your Metro Council Office interfaces with the Jefferson County Board of Education and other education stakeholders, such as students, caretakers, educators, and policy makers?

While I worked for the City, I was able to directly interface with JCPS, the Office of Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods, LMPD, the Juvenile Courts, Federal Partners and GVI for

targeted youth violence reduction. It is critical that Metro Council takes a role in those collaborations; they act as the funder for most of those initiatives. With better collaboration and a holistic approach, Metro Council could be a critical partner in process improvement.

Housing equity continues to be an issue in Louisville – from meeting the needs of our houseless population to ensuring rental and energy costs remain affordable. What is your position on the state of housing in our city? How would you address it as a councilperson?

Every year, Louisville Metro Government invests in housing through a variety of means, from Tax Increment Funding, to infrastructure improvement to forgivable loans. These go to developers and citizens alike. If we make such an investment of tax dollars, we should expect a return that benefits all our citizens which would include those that are least fortunate.

How do you plan to include young voices in your Metro Council district?

One of the things I am most proud of in my present work is that we have set up a Youth Advisory Board to work with District 8 and the Office of Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods with funding and support provided by non-profit partners. I see no reason why District 16 shouldn't have the same and I have a roadmap to do it.

Anything else you would like to add?

We have a lot of work to do for Louisville and I'm not afraid to do my part. Thank you, KFTC, for doing yours with these surveys and candidate studies.

MARILYN PARKER District Eighteen

Tell us about your story. How does your background qualify you for serving as Metro Councilperson for your district?

I have already served on Metro Council as District 18 current representative. I am trusted, accountable, and fiscally responsible. I know what issues concern the district. And Metro Louisville. I am also a small business owner and understand that small businesses are the economic engine of any city.

What do you see as a Metro Council Person's role in opposing white supremacy culture and in addressing racial inequality in local legislation?

I do not believe in white supremacy. All people are created equal. We need to help those in need no matter the ethnicity. Problems arise with lack of parents, poor parenting, drug use and mental illness and we need to address those issues.

What do you see as the role of the Metro Council Office when it comes to environmental justice issues - in the district and across the county?

It would be great if we could get a nice grocery store in west Louisville. The funding is there but it has been difficult for the city to find a food corporation as several have changed their mind. We allotted \$3 M in past budgets for food. A big thank you to Kroger that now has a traveling food van which helps.

What is your vision for how your Metro Council Office interfaces with the Jefferson County Board of Education and other education stakeholders, such as students, caretakers, educators, and policy makers?

JCPS is an entity unto itself and has it's own taxing authority. My office has funded playgrounds at schools, Metro Council as a whole has funded backpack programs, and programs like Junior achievement. JCPS schools and Metro Louisville also has an issue with not having enough traffic guards at our schools. We will be working on recruitment and better pay to alleviate this problem.

Housing equity continues to be an issue in Louisville – from meeting the needs of our houseless population to ensuring rental and energy costs remain affordable. What is your position on the state of housing in our city? How would you address it as a councilperson?

We have programs for rental assistance, LIHEAP energy assistance and homes are not affordable. We need to develop underutilized areas downtown for affordable a housing and make sure that the developers that get the contracts maintain the properties in healthy conditions. WE have funded the affordable housing trust fund with tens of millions of dollars over the past few years and we need to make sure that money is being used to appropriately.

How do you plan to include young voices in your Metro Council district?

Young voices are always welcome in my office!

Anything else you would like to add?

Yes, we need to keep working diligently to assist the public safety issues in our city homicides, drug problems, car thefts and car jackings. Secondly it is governments responsibility to keep our roads and infrastructure repaired and safe.

Marita Willis District Twenty

Tell us about your story. How does your background qualify you for serving as Metro Councilperson for your district?

I am a lifelong Louisvillian loving this community. I moved to J-Town, raised our two children and have lived in this community for over 30 years.

I grew up in a community-focused family always looking to help and give back as many did for us. I love people because of who they are and their possibilities. WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER.

My love for community has given me the opportunity to serve as a volunteer in many capacities.

- *Metro United Way provided training and leadership development giving me a good perspective on how our residents are served by many great non-profits that service our community. I had the opportunity to work with a diversity of people from across the city that showed me the commonalities Louisvillians share rather than differences.*
- *I've worked in banking for over 17 years. The majority of this time was spent in community development.*
- *I joined the non-profit sector and have been in this field for over 20 years.*

My goal is to be part of the solution and serve where needed. That's why I'm using my experience and knowledge to serve our city as a member of the Louisville Metro Council.

What do you see as a Metro Council Person's role in opposing white supremacy culture and in addressing racial inequality in local legislation?

As a Metro Council member, my role in opposing white supremacy will be seen in the community initiatives and policies I support. I believe how we show up and speak truth to power about how history and present-day practices further white supremacy is imperative. While we can oppose white supremacy culture in practice, we can also advance equity by investing resources in ways that reverse past and present practices. Our budget is a value proposition. My goals as a Metro Council member are to use our budget process to invest in nonprofit leaders, community development initiatives and innovative entrepreneurs in our community who have answers to many of the problems in our community we see as a result of white

supremacist culture who have not had the opportunity to thrive due to the lack of resources and opportunities.

What do you see as the role of the Metro Council Office when it comes to environmental justice issues - in the district and across the county?

While some state and federal laws prevent Louisville Metro Government and its residents from fully investing in a diversity of clean, safe energy sources, our local legislative body can act in ways that curb climate change and repair communities harmed by pollution and environmental degradation.

We can:

- *Invest in green technologies and workforce development initiatives to grow new ways to power our community*
- *Create opportunities for industry to upgrade processes and learn new, clean ways to do business*
- *Monitor, investigate and fine bad actors*
- *Educate our community and champion new ways to live in harmony with our soil, water and air.*
-

We must create spaces for a diversity of climate justice leaders to work together to upgrade our infrastructure, transportation and food systems and built environment if we are going to truly lower greenhouse emissions in our region and repair past harm.

What is your vision for how your Metro Council Office interfaces with the Jefferson County Board of Education and other education stakeholders, such as students, caretakers, educators, and policy makers?

While the Louisville Metro Government and the Metro Council have no statutory requirements related to our public school system, I believe it's imperative that our local municipal governments - Louisville Metro and other small cities - work in concert with JCPS to advance its student achievement and equity goals. As a member of Metro Council, I would champion supporting students, families and educators through investing in affordable housing, public transportation and organizations that provide wrap-around services for a diversity of families and households. Additionally, we should ensure Metro departments like Metro Parks, the Office for Safe and Health Neighborhoods, the Department of Health and Wellness and the Center for Health Equity and the libraries are fully funded to support JCPS stakeholders.

I join Mayor Greenberg's efforts to provide early childhood education for all three and four year olds across the city.

Housing equity continues to be an issue in Louisville – from meeting the needs of our houseless population to ensuring rental and energy costs remain affordable.

What is your position on the state of housing in our city? How would you address it as a councilperson?

I believe we should adopt the value that housing is a human right and therefore should do everything we can - continuously - to ensure every person in our city has a safe and affordable place to call home. We have been talking way too long about this issue and as a member of Metro Council I would use my position to bring stakeholders together to craft and pass the right set of policies that would enable us to house everyone. We must pass ordinances that enhance developers' ability to provide the right mix of housing options across the city based on affordability and the right to housing. We must demand high quality energy efficient housing units for both renters and home-owners. I would champion a higher standard for developers who seek public funds for housing and would support policies that encourage multi-family housing options in every district across the city.

Do you support or oppose Amendment 2 - the school voucher amendment?

OPPOSE

How do you plan to include young voices in your Metro Council district?

I love working with young people! In the various formal and informal ways I've had to mentor young people, I have learned it's essential for my generation to be intentional in creating space for young voices to contribute to the growth and development of our city. If elected, I will continue to avail myself to support young people and expose them to local government, connect them to others from whom they can learn and create opportunities for young people to provide input on city plans and initiatives. I will continue to volunteer and show up as I have.

Anything else you would like to add?

I have been of service to Louisville all my life and I plan to continue doing so as a member of the Louisville Metro Council. I am committed to listening and learning and working with a diversity of voices across the district. I continue to work in partnership with strong organizations across the city.

*Here are other ways in which I have served Louisvillians:
2018 – Kentucky Derby Festival Chair
Currently – Chair Norton's Children's Hospital Foundation
Chair – MSD Board
Chair KY Commission On Women
Board Member Nativity Academy*

Thank you for your passion for Louisville and for considering endorsing my campaign.

TYRA THOMAS-WALKER District Twenty-Four

Tell us about your story. How does your background qualify you for serving as Metro Councilperson for your district?

I am from a union family, beginning with my grandfather, my father, and myself. I have been a union member since 1995, beginning with Teamsters 783 for three years, CWA with Bellsouth to the now AT&T Telecommunications for six years, to now the Jefferson County Teachers Associate(JCTA) the teachers for 15 years, and I have served in two capacities. I was elected as one of the Regional Board Members for 4 years and am currently elected as the Executive Secretary for JCTA. I received an appointment from Governor Beshear to serve on Juvenile Justice Oversight Council which I've held for three years. I was also selected to serve on the Advisory Council for Racial Equity Policy for Jefferson County Public Schools, and I am currently one of the Co-Chairs of the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression. I am also an EmergeKY graduate of 2017.



I have held several leadership roles in the community and with various groups with JCPS and JCTA. I have gone to Frankfort during our Day of Learning to meet with our Legislators to speak about issues that are a concern for Teachers, the Community, and myself to request their support.

I will work on issues regarding crime reduction and getting drugs off of our streets, especially Fentanyl because it is killing our family members and our friends. As a 2nd-hand victim of Fentanyl poisoning by finding my niece unresponsive and administered CPR to her until the first responders arrived, I will fight diligently to ensure our families are safe from this poison and fight the violent crimes we are experiencing.

I also plan to ensure District 24 remains a flourishing community by continuing the work on infrastructure and zoning while preserving the positive history of this community.

What do you see as a Metro Council Person's role in opposing white supremacy culture and in addressing racial inequality in local legislation?

As a Metro Council Person, addressing racial inequality and opposing white supremacy culture involves several key responsibilities such as developing policies that actively propose and support laws that promotes racial equity and combats systemic racism. This can include initiatives that are aimed at improving economic oportunites, education, housing, and healthcare for all.

Engage with diverse communities to understand their needs and experiences. Building relationships with local organizations and advocacy groups can help ensure that the voices of those affected by racial inequality are heard and considered in policy-making. Advocate for transparency in government processes and hold institutions accountable for discriminatory practices. This includes monitoring how policies are implemented and evaluating their impact on different racial groups.

Ensure that resources and funding are distributed in a way that addresses the needs of underserved communities. This might involve revising budget priorities to better support initiatives that reduce disparities.

Overall, a Metro Council Person's role is to lead by example, make informed decisions, and actively work towards creating a more equitable and inclusive community.

What do you see as the role of the Metro Council Office when it comes to environmental justice issues - in the district and across the county?

The Metro Council Office plays a crucial role in addressing environmental justice issues both within the district and across the county. They should advocate for and support policies that address environmental disparities affecting communitis and especially the marginalized communities. They need to include regulations and initiatives aimed at reducing pollution, improving access to green spaces, and ensuring sustainable development practices.

The Metro Council office should ensure that resources and funding are equitably distributed to support environmental justice initiatives. This might involve prioritizing projects that address environmental hazards in underserved areas or supporting local green projects that benefit disadvantaged communities.

The Metro Council office should also promote environmental education and awareness within the community and provide information on the environmental issues and resources for residents to get involved or seek assistance.

The Metro Council office should monitor and review existing policies and their impacts, advocating for reforms where necessary to address the disparities and ensure fair treatment for all residents.

Overall, the Metro Council office should monitor and review existing policies and their impacts, advocating for reforms where necessary to address the disparities and ensure fair treatment for all residents.

What is your vision for how your Metro Council Office interfaces with the Jefferson County Board of Education and other education stakeholders, such as students, caretakers, educators, and policy makers?

My vision for how the Metro Council Office interfaces with the Jefferson County Board of Education and other education stakeholders involves fostering a collaborative and supportive environment to enhance educational outcomes for all students. They establish regular channels of communication with the Jefferson County Board of Education and other education stakeholders to ensure alignment on educational goals and challenges. This includes attending school board meetings, participating in educational forums, and setting up regular briefings or collaborative sessions.

The Metro Council office should advocate for funding and resources to support schools and educational programs. They should partner with the Board of Education and other stakeholders to support and implement educational initiatives and facilitate community engagement. By fostering a strong, collaborative relationship with the Jefferson County Board of Education and other education stakeholders, the Metro Council Office can help create a supportive environment that enhances educational opportunities and outcomes for all students.

Housing equity continues to be an issue in Louisville – from meeting the needs of our houseless population to ensuring rental and energy costs remain affordable. What is your position on the state of housing in our city? How would you address it as a councilperson?

My position on the state of housing in our city is to collaborate with other Metro City Council members and stakeholders to ensure the policies are actively implemented and to monitor the implementation to make sure it's executed and continues to be executed with fidelity. As council person, we have to hold ourselves accountable for the housing inequities and work to make it right for the people of Louisville, Jefferson County, KY.

There are policies in place that address the issues of housing inequity, however, it has proven that it is not effective. Our community is still experiencing deteriorating and inhumane conditions at Dosker Manor and this is disheartening for our community and the elderly community who reside there. There are also other issues regarding affordable housing and residences in our community being evicted. We have to understand that housing is a human right.

My position for the Houseless community will be to address the issues and not penalize them. Metro Council should allocate funding to provide resources that will assist with housing for the Houseless and provide mental health counseling, drug addiction assistance, etc. We have to work to assist with changing the mindset of some of the Houseless community. We should not believe that if we give them a place to live they will be happy and feel safe because in some circumstances that is not always the solution. We have to work to change the mindset and that is going to take time therefore, we are going to need patience and do what is right for the Houseless community.

Do you support or oppose Amendment 2 - the school voucher amendment?

I am opposed to Amendment 2—the school voucher amendment—because I believe it is detrimental to our public education system. Using taxpayer money to fund private education will divert essential resources away from our public schools. This shift in funding threatens to undermine the support that public schools need to ensure academic and social success for all

students. Our focus should be on strengthening and investing in our public schools to provide quality education and equal opportunities for every student.

How do you plan to include young voices in your Metro Council district?

Including young voices in our Metro Council district is essential for creating a community that reflects the needs and perspectives of all its residents. Here's how I plan to ensure that young people have a meaningful role in our decision-making process: Establish youth advisory councils or committees that provide a platform for young people to share their ideas, concerns, and suggestions on local issues. These councils can offer valuable insights and help shape policies that affect their lives. Develop programs and initiatives aimed at engaging young residents, such as town hall meetings specifically for students and young adults, and forums that address issues important to them, like education, employment, and recreational opportunities. Collaborate with local schools, colleges, and youth organizations to create opportunities for students to participate in civic activities, such as internships, service projects, and leadership programs. Utilize social media and digital platforms to connect with young people, gather their feedback, and involve them in discussions on local issues. Creating interactive and accessible online spaces can help reach a broader audience and engage them effectively. By implementing these strategies, I aim to ensure that young voices are not only heard but also play an active role in shaping our community's future. Their perspectives are crucial for creating policies and programs that truly meet the needs of all residents.

Anything else you would like to add?

I am a passionate social justice activist, advocating in the community and contributing to positive change. I am also a caring, resilient, educated, authentic, leader who will fight for all.

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

RACES

The following JCBE candidates have not yet responded to our JCKFTC Voter Guide Survey.
[The following information is from this Candidate survey on WDRB.](#)

- KFTC is opposed to Amendment 2.

DISTRICT ONE

*[Gail STRANGE](#) - OPPOSED to Amendment 2
[Mark GATTON](#) - SUPPORTS Amendment 2

DISTRICT TWO

[Tricia LISTER](#) - OPPOSED to Amendment 2
[Abby BERTHOLD](#) - not clear on Amendment 2

DISTRICT FOUR

[Trevin BASS](#) - OPPOSED to Amendment 2
[Barbara LEWIS](#) - SUPPORTS Amendment 2
[Destiny LIVERS](#) - OPPOSED on Amendment 2

Gail Strange District One

Tell us about yourself: occupation, education, hobbies, etc.

I retired in November 2023 as Director of Communications from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Currently I am self-employed as a Strategic Communications Consultant. Prior to that I served as Director of Corporate and Community relations for Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corporation. After leaving Brown Williamson, I became the Executive Director of the Louisville Youth Philanthropy Council. An organization dedicated to teaching high school students to run and operate their own 501(C)3.

I began my education at Virginia Avenue Elementary, which is now Carter Elementary. After that I attended junior high at DuValle and matriculated to the Historic Central High School. Following graduation from Central I attended Kentucky State University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Health and Physical Education. I also obtained my Kentucky secondary teacher's certificate. I obtained my Master of Arts Degree in Human Relations and Management from Webster University.

I have served on numerous boards locally and across the country. Most recently I chaired The World Day of Prayer USA. I am currently a member of the Saint John's Center's board and previously served on the Louisville Regional Airport Authority board and chaired the board of the Louisville Urban League among others

I have a granddaughter, three great grandchildren and several great, great nieces and nephews that attend school in Jefferson County. My granddaughter and one of my great, great nieces attend Male High School. They participate in after school activities which I attend and support. Additionally, I take my great, great niece and nephew to Foster each morning. I think Foster is an absolute gem of a school. Each morning the staff greet the students with upbeat music and a smile. If it's raining the staff meet the students with umbrellas. The principal and the teachers are amazing. They care about every aspect of the student to ensure their academic success.

Why did you decide to run?

I decided to run for the Jefferson County Public School board because it would afford me an opportunity to make a difference in the quality of life of future leaders of the city. As the incumbent, I want to continue to advocate for the children and families that live and go to school in District 1. Continuing to serve as the District 1 representative allows me the opportunity to share my many years of experience in strategic planning and leading organizational change to provide the governance and develop the policies needed to guide and continue to improve the quality of education in Jefferson County. A quality education is critically important for every child. For a child to receive a quality education however, it takes vision, planning, and a desire to see all children succeed. To ensure the success of each student, it is important that parents and children have the ability to choose the school that best fits the learning style and provides the necessary resources needed. As a resident of West Louisville which includes District 1, I am committed to bringing my skill sets and desire to see all students succeed, regardless of their zip code or economic status, to the JCPS board. Additionally, if selected to fill this position I could utilize my years of corporate communications to help develop messages that would advocate for and express the interests and the commitment of the JCPS board to empower students, educators and all those that are a part of JCPS to operate at optimum levels. The great Muhammad Ali said, "Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth." There is no room more important in Jefferson County and the city of Louisville than the classroom. It would be my honor to "pay the rent" through service on this board for the education and the success of our city's children.

What is it you hope to accomplish if elected to JCPS Board of Education?

Horace Mann, often referred to as the Father of Common Education, once said, "Education, then, beyond all other divides of human origin, is a great equalizer of conditions of men—the balance wheel of the social machinery." if elected to JCPS Board of Education I would like to develop policies and vision that would lead to the reduction of the academic achievement gap between students of color and economically disadvantaged and other students by a minimum of 85%.

What do you think of school choice and the proposed constitutional amendment related to school choice that will be on the ballot?

I think each student should be afforded the opportunity to attend the school that works best for their interests and learning styles. That also includes the ability to attend a school close to their

home. Which dictates that every school have all of the human, fiscal, and facility resources it needs to help every student that chooses to attend that school flourish. I am opposed to Amendment 2 which will be on the ballot in November.

I am absolutely opposed to using funds designated for public schools being used to support alternative school choices. Diverting tax dollars for alternative school choices reduces the funds that are available to public schools.

Additionally, alternative schools have the luxury of picking and choosing the students they want in their schools. At any time, they can dismiss a student from their school according to their rules and regulations. If that child returns to JCPS the funding that went to that alternative school for that child would not be returned to JCPS. Likewise, vouchers and tuition tax credits also siphon funds from public schools. Parents choosing to send their children to schools outside of JCPS should be fully prepared to bear the cost of that education.

What are your thoughts on JCPS transportation? Any ideas on how you wish to improve the department?

The transportation issue is complicated. The driver shortage plays a critical role in the reality of this matter. However, it is my opinion that more time was needed and more consultation with the consultant hired to look at the logistic of "what went wrong" and what was working. The district also needed to spend more time community resources like TARC and UPS. I believe taking transportation away from magnet and traditional school student was a mistake and inequitable decision. In my opinion it also served to build distrust between the JCPS district, and the Board and the community. This decision particularly adversely impacted the students in and schools in District 1.

Mark Gatton District One

Tell us about yourself: occupation, education, hobbies, etc.

I am currently on disability and not working. This is a highlight of past occupations.
After graduation in 1985, Whittenburg Construction, Captain D's, and Kustus Hydrolics.
Air Force May 1986 - Jan 1995
Riverside Sheriff's Department, 1991-1995
1995, Sunnymeade Veterinary Clinic, Surgery Manager
Mills Detective Agency, Special Police Officer
Brooklawn Youth Services, Direct Care Counselor
Boys Haven, Direct Care Counselor
Oxmoor Mall, Special Police Officer
Spring Meadows Children's Home, Direct Care Counselor
Code 3 Lockouts
St. Joe's Children's Home, Direct Care Counselor
Pop-A-Lock
Charter/Spectrum Communications, Internet and Phone Repair

Schools Attended: Jeffersontown and Camp Taylor Elementary, Durrett High School (8th grade), and Atherton High School. Riverside Academy of Justice, CA, California Specialized Training Institute, Jefferson Community College, Spencerian Community College.

Hobbies included camping, hiking, horseback riding/training, reading, fishing, computer games, and shooting.

Why did you decide to run?

I decided to finally run mainly because of the transportation problems and dismal test scores for JCPS. My Godson whom I raised from 8 years old to 14 years old is losing transportation to school next year. His home school is Iroquois and I got him into Fairdale for the Heavy Equipment course; he wants to operate heavy cranes as his career. I grew up in a construction-working family and am pro-trades in schools. JCPS cut transportation for magnet school students, and we are looking at new ways to get him there. This not only affects us but it also affects around 16,000 magnet school students as well. This is unacceptable. So, instead of just complaining about it want to do something about it with the help of the community. I feel JCPS no longer listens to the parents/guardians, students, and taxpayers of Jefferson County. I want to work for the people of Jefferson County and advocate for them. I feel the Board has lost sight of who they work for. They work for the residents of Jefferson County, not the other way around. This is how I feel as someone that has to fight this battle every year. It's always some kind of drama that didn't need to be.

What is it you hope to accomplish if elected to JCPS Board of Education?

I hope to find a solution to the transportation problems that are currently plaguing JCPS. I want to solicit suggestions from parents/guardians, students, and the residents of Jefferson County. I think it is a problem with many side issues that need to be addressed that have caused this problem.

What do you think of school choice and the proposed constitutional amendment related to school choice that will be on the ballot?

JCTA sent me a packet and asked I fill it out to see if they would give me their support. I agree with a lot of what they stand for but there are a few things I do not. School choice is one of them. If JCPS can't deliver the quality education that parents expect, and students deserve It is the parent's responsibility to seek a better choice. It's not the parent's fault that JCPS has dismal test scores and kids are graduating who can't read or do basic math. If the Board and JCPS did their job, there would be no need for charter schools or a school choice bill. So yes, I am for school choice.

What are your thoughts on JCPS transportation? Any ideas on how you wish to improve the department?

Transportation, my goodness, where to start. It is a hot mess. It's many problems that have come together to create where we are. After talking with other parents/guardians, students and friends, we seem to all agree that it all starts with the behavior of the students. Students acting out while on the busses to include drug use/trafficking, having sex, assault and battery on drivers and other students, etc. Students no longer are being held accountable for anything it seems. Kick those that cause the problems off the busses and you will have more bus drivers. Put video cameras on EVERY bus. If the student(s) can not maintain their behavior on the bus

and in school, they can stay home and learn. If they kids act out like this on the bus, in public and at school, where do you think they learn it? It all starts at home and someone else needs to get involved (CPS, law enforcement, etc).

Excessively long bus routes play another important role. Stop bussing kids all over the county. I recently learned that the West End has not had a school built in about 100 years. WOW! That is absurd. Put kids back into neighborhood schools, fix underachieving schools, repair or build more schools. I realize that there is no simple way to fix the problems but, you have to start somewhere, and everyone isn't going to like it. In short, get the kids off the buses that are causing the problems and JCPS will retain more drivers.

Tricia Lister District Two

Tell us about yourself: occupation, education, hobbies, etc.

I was born in Valley Station back before the city and county school systems were merged. At seven, I moved into the city but didn't really settle into one area of town. I ended up being educated in 6 different Elementary schools. Dixie, Bashford Manor, Chenoweth, and George Rogers Clark Elementary Schools with summer school at Layne and Prestonia Elementary Schools. I had a very happy childhood as the middle child with an older sister and a younger brother. For middle and high school I attended Brown School, which is where I graduated and went straight to Earlham College, a small Quaker College in Indiana, with a short stint at University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. At Earlham I earned my B.A. in mathematics. After graduation, I moved to San Francisco where I worked briefly as a preschool teacher. That job ended when the teachers went on strike, and I was unwilling to cross the strike line. Using my experience working at libraries during college, I landed a job at the California Supreme Court Library for several years. I moved back to Louisville after my first child was born, and was a stay-at-home-mom for eight years. The day my youngest child turned three, I started law school at the University of Louisville. I graduated from law school in 2005 and began my career as a criminal defense and appeals attorney. My three children are all JCPS graduates, attending Brown, Noe, and Manual. While my Children were at Brown, I served on the Brown School SBDM for six years, including serving on two principal selection committees. My kids are all grown-up now, but we all enjoy getting together regularly. My husband and I live in the Highlands with our two dogs. We love live music, going to the theater, running, hiking, and backpacking. I also enjoy reading and playing bridge. In my spare time, I serve on the Boards of The Louisville Bar Association, The Women Lawyers Association (last year, I was the President), Kentucky Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Stage One, and The Political Women's Council

Why did you decide to run?

Thriving public schools are the cornerstone of a healthy city and democracy. As a metropolitan school system, JCPS faces many challenges. Transportation, teacher shortages, threats to

break up the district, and a lack of outreach to involve community stakeholder in important decisions. As a criminal defense lawyer, I see firsthand, people in bad situations brought about partially by schools failing to engage students and meet their needs. Our community suffers a loss when children do not thrive in school. As a lawyer, I have experience and skills that can help JCPS navigate the challenges they have been facing. The status quo is not working; it's time for change. I will bring my analytical and negotiation skills to my position on the Board. I will bring my particular skills with being able to read and interpret the law – my knowledge about how to stretch it and how to enforce it.

What is it you hope to accomplish if elected to JCPS Board of Education?

I hope to bring about greater participation by all stakeholders in the problem-solving JCPS badly needs. The public schools are about all of us, and all the voices need to be included. I hope to bring about transparency and ease of participation in Board proceedings. I also hope to improve our relationship with Frankfort, so that we can work together on mutual goals.

What do you think of school choice and the proposed constitutional amendment related to school choice that will be on the ballot?

I strongly oppose the Constitutional Amendment that will be on the ballot this November which would allow state dollars to go to private or charter schools. I am fully in support of JCPS. Taking dollars away from JCPS will not solve anything. I oppose bringing Charter Schools to Louisville. Some studies have shown charter schools to be successful at providing meaningful choices to parents in struggling school systems. Other studies have shown that the addition of charter schools again resolves into inequitable schools. The goal is to provide equitable access to high quality schools for every student. Charter schools have not been shown to achieve this goal. The issue with charter schools is that they don't deliver significantly greater outcomes than public schools. There are a few shining examples, but there are also a few shining examples in public systems. When you compare the best charter school to the worst public school, obviously they look great. When you compare the best public school to the worst charter school, vice-versa. In the end, if they don't deliver better outcomes guaranteed, the risk of removing public dollars from the system is too great. Likewise, vouchers and tuition tax credits take money out of the system and will not help JCPS succeed.

What are your thoughts on JCPS transportation? Any ideas on how you wish to improve the department?

I would like to get more stakeholders involved in problem-solving regarding transportation. More needs to be understood about what is causing the issues. The temporary TARC solution is a good example of creative problem solving. We need more solutions. We need to involve parents, administrators, and community members to look at how we can improve the bussing issues. If it is discipline, let's review the disciplinary process. If it is the routes, let's ask the state legislature to allow for more technology in buses to help ease routes and decrease the number of stops in neighborhoods. There is more than one way to solve this problem. Taking buses from

thousands of students and parents is not the best solution; it was the easiest. All magnet schools should be accessible for all students in the county.

Abby Berthold District Two

Tell us about yourself: occupation, education, hobbies, etc.

I am employed by Northwestern Mutual as a Sr. Learning Experience Designer and I also run my own business, Liam & Hold. I was a teacher and coach for 11.5 years before transitioning into corporate instructional design. I went to elementary school in Lewisville, TX, middle and high school in South Bend, IN. I got my undergrad degree at the University of Dayton in Adolescent to Young Adult Education and Mathematics and my masters at the University of Louisville in Teacher Leadership. In my free time I like to participate in book clubs with some friends, hang with my dogs, redo furniture, and travel with my husband.

Why did you decide to run?

I want to bring a fresh voice, logical thinking, and my experience to the board. I want to take the focus back to student outcomes and influence positive change. When I left the classroom, I was still called to help in some way and I believe this is an excellent way to do that. I believe the extremes are often at odds with each other and a lack of focus on a common goal, which I hope to change. Also, I can't remember, since I've lived here, when a former teacher served on the school board, and I feel like that's a voice often missing.

What is it you hope to accomplish if elected to JCPS Board of Education?

Only prioritize initiatives and policies that directly enhance student learning and achievement. I would love to look at what is currently required and the data behind what that initiative has achieved. I would also love to promote and help aid in more community involvement. To foster a collaborative welcoming environment where parents, teachers, and community members are actively involved and working to help better JCPS. To build strong partnerships with local businesses, non-profits, and educational institutions to support student learning, career readiness, and real-world experiences, aiding both parents and teachers in helping to educate the whole child.

What do you think of school choice and the proposed constitutional amendment related to school choice that will be on the ballot?

As of now, school choice is really in the hands of the voters. If amendment 2 passes on the ballot in November then it will be up to legislators to propose and pass bills pertinent to the amendment. If that happens the voters have spoken, but it is imperative that as a school board member of the largest district in the state that I work with my colleagues to come together as a united force and work with legislators so that we are ALL working together on school bills that are in the best interest of JCPS students while also preserving the foundation of our public

school system and our community. It ultimately always has to go back to what is in the best interest of the kids and what is going to be equitable. I can see this becoming a slippery slope and that's what worries me. I struggle with funds moving to other schools but those schools not being upheld to the same standards public schools are, especially in regards to servicing those with special needs.

What are your thoughts on JCPS transportation? Any ideas on how you wish to improve the department?

I am sure there are some very competent people in the JCPS transportation department already and it's not an easy fix, so I'd like to start there. I don't doubt there is some improvement that can be made, but some of that is multifaceted and includes a driver shortage but also the problems we see on the buses making it difficult for our drivers to adequately and safely do their job. I am curious as to if the project manager was hired to help institute major programs, specifically for the transportation department, and if that has not happened I think it's a very necessary first step. I would also hope that there are continued efforts to look into transportation and that the department/district doesn't just take the current decision as a final one from here on out.

Trevin Bass District Four

Tell us about yourself: occupation, education, hobbies, etc.

My name is Trevin Bass, currently I am a grants contract coordinator for office of safety and healthy neighborhoods with metro Louisville. (OSHN). Prior to accepting this position I was a legislative assistant for district 3. I am a proud JCPS student from elementary - Price elementary, Newburg and Thomas Jefferson middle school and the great Seneca magnet career academy high school. after high school i went to Spalding university in which I obtained my Bachelor of Science in psychology. I have a host of family members who still attend JCPS with my own children as wellbeing students of the system. On my free time I like to relax with my family, listening and creating music, traveling, coaching little league sport, mentoring, and eating my some of favorite dishes.

Why did you decide to run?

My interest in serving on the Jefferson County Board of Education strikes from my ongoing dedication to "being a part of the solution and not just complain about the issues at hand". Over two decades and counting I've served as a mentor, PTA president, vice president of finances and fundraising, a proud JCPS graduate from Seneca HS and overall, a product of what the village looks like. As a father, uncle, cousin etc. I am obligated to ensure the future has a chance with people fighting for them as they'll one day fight for and make decisions for me. my interest is to be a part of the solution for JCPS schools for ALL its students. From experience I

know all schools aren't the same however the purpose of me running is to ensure that majority if not all are the same. some schools my relatives attend isn't as equipped as the one's others attend and that's a temporary issue that will be solved . I am aware of the challenges faced and ready to accept the job to make things better for us all.

What is it you hope to accomplish if elected to JCPS Board of Education?

If elected to the school board, i look to bring positive change starting with transportation and student's educational challenges. I also have a focus on nutrition and employment opportunities as well. the overall focus is to truly have a better education for Kentucky at whole.

What do you think of school choice and the proposed constitutional amendment related to school choice that will be on the ballot?

I believe that everyone should indeed have the choice in which their student attends for education, however I do believe that the bill will provide more issues than intended. HB2 although seems structured to benefit all students, it is concern that it will take away from the public school system as funding and support would be transferred from public to private/ charter effecting students, staff, and overall families who unfortunately wasn't able to benefit from the intended purpose of the bill. HB2 will take away opportunities and careers as it will compete with little to no jurisdiction on qualifications and is needed to be an educator compared to the public school system. Before the bill is approved and executed, we should focus on getting the public schools on a level playing field instead of adding fuel to the fire of destruction.

What are your thoughts on JCPS transportation? Any ideas on how you wish to improve the department?

MY thoughts on JCPS Transportation are as follows: We must reevaluate safety and compensation (is the driver protected? How is the driver supported by its supervisors. Priorities the youth first allowing the older students to travel via third party. Such as TARC etc. What does discipline / consequences look like and how is it carried out? we should go back to suspensions and holding students and parents accountable for transportation is truly a privilege and not abiding by the policy is a safety hazard that should and will be addressed moving forward if elected on the school board.

Barbara Lewis District Four

Tell us about yourself: occupation, education, hobbies, etc.

Hello, my name is Barbara Lewis, and I am excited to run as District 4 Candidate for JCPS School Board. I am a 27, year resident of Louisville, Kentucky, for 25 of those years I have lived and raised my family of within the District 4 and District 1 community. I was raised as the eldest of four in Los Angeles California by a single mother. At the age of 13 I dropped out of school to care for my family, and it was during my late teen years I meet a couple from Louisville, Kentucky who lived in California. They gave me guidance, love and inspiration to reach for my dreams. That couple returned to Louisville Kentucky and shortly after my son and I followed.

As a single mother I wanted more for my than 3-year son and so in my mid 30” s I accomplished my GED through the JCPS Adult School. Shortly after I attend a program through FOUR-C’S Community Child Care Cooperation which assist me in achieving required credentials to open “A Child of The King Child Care Center one of the first childcare centers to earn 4-Stars through the Kentucky Stars Program. From 2014 to 2018 I accomplished my Bachelors of Christian Studies and Pastoral Ministry’s at Campbellsville University, where I am currently scheduled to graduate with my Master of Marriage and Family Therapy Class of 2025.

Much like my educational goals and accomplishments my career goals have served and continues to serve the community in many capacities from the educational plate form, community development. entrepreneurship and spiritual leadership.

Jefferson County Public Schools:

My career with JCPS begin as a School Bus Driver. From the year 2000 to 2002 I transported JCPS student’s safety from their home to their school and back again. In 2017 while attending Campbellsville, University I served as a JCPS preferred sub-statute teacher at Valley High School and continued to work with ECE Behavior and Learning Students until accepting my current position as Valley High School FRYSC- Youth Service Center Coordinator.

My current hobbies are writing, I am currently working on my first book as an author

Why did you decide to run?

I choice the decision to run as JCPS School Board District 4 Candidate, to be a voice for our students, families, and educators by advocating for fair and equitable change that fosters academic, economic, career and mental health advancement for all.

And finally, I have decided to run as a candidate for JCPS School Board District 4 because of my passion for all youth to receive a high-quality education within an environment that promotes physical, mental and emotional wellness. That they may transition into our society as heathy and fully rounded adults.

What is it you hope to accomplish if elected to JCPS Board of Education?

To work in collaboration with fellow JCPS Board members, educators, students, families, FRYSC and community stake holders in addressing our educational crisis within JCPS.

To assess the current curriculum and its effectiveness for all dynamics of students is it working and why or why not.

To address the mental-health crisis among our JCPS students and their families, educators and faculty (special emphasis on our students).

To address the learning gaps within the underserved and minority student community

To address educators and faculty racial equity training and how its applied within the classroom

To implement more intense and effective diversity training for all JCPS educators and faculty throughout the district.

To implement more intense and interactive family and community engagement within JCPS district.

What do you think of school choice and the proposed constitutional amendment related to school choice that will be on the ballot?

My answer to question is this, "All parents should at the least have the right to discuss the future of their child's education this bill gives the families a right to have the discuss" I will speak more on tis matter as we draw nearer to election day in November.

What are your thoughts on JCPS transportation? Any ideas on how you wish to improve the department?

As a former JCPS School Bus Driver, I know how essential JCPS transportation is for students and their families. Without transportation many students who are already facing so many other barriers now must add one more to their list "how will I get my child to school". This is a big problem, but I believe it is resolvable. I think that although this has truly affected our students in a negative way, I am happy that currently JCPS is taking new steps to resolving this crisis. For example, establishing community partnership with the Louisville, TARC public bus services. In addition, I believe that establishing community partnerships with local religious organizations as well as pr to providing trained staff to accompany on bus routes that have shown a history of unacceptable behavior, along with increasing sign-on and yearly bonuses for bus drivers would be a solution to increasing the retention rate of good bus.

Destiny Livers District Four

Tell us about yourself: occupation, education, hobbies, etc.

I am running for the Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) Board of Education District 4.

My name is Dr. Destiny Livers. I am currently a Program Coordinator with University Instructors a company that provides impactful instructional services to our K-12 school partners—to enhance the achievement of ALL students and build local talent pipelines. In this role, I help manage staff and provide coaching and support to our staff. I am a former JCPS teacher who spent most of my career at Stephen Foster Traditional Academy. Upon departing from JCPS, I shifted my focus to policy work centered around education. Throughout this transition, I've remained dedicated to advocating for equitable education for JCPS students and actively engaging as a community partner.

I graduated from Jefferson County Public Schools. My educational journey began at Stephen Foster Traditional Academy for elementary school, followed by Barret Traditional Middle School for middle school, and concluded at Louisville Male High School, where I earned my diploma. I went on to receive my Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Louisville. I then went on to obtain my Master of Education in Teacher Leadership, and my Doctor of Education in Leadership from Spalding University.

Furthermore, I have been a member of many committees that impact our students in JCPS. I have served as a JCTA Rep, been a council Member for the School-Based Decision-Making Committee, and served as a community member for Justice Fest, etc.

In my free time, I enjoy serving my community, mentoring the youth, traveling, spending time with family, and indulging in my creative side to experiment with graphic design or other creative efforts

Why did you decide to run?

I am interested in serving on the Jefferson County Board of Education because of my passion for public education and ensuring that students, families, and teachers are supported. Our students deserve access to equitable educational opportunities. I believe that the current issues that JCPS is facing should be considered a state of emergency. School board members play a crucial role in making decisions about the curriculum, budgets, transportation, and other important aspects of education.

I will have the chance to advocate for students, families, and educators, and to work towards improving the quality of education provided to all students. As an education advocate, former JCPS teacher, JCTA rep, and KEA member I understand the importance of the Board of Education and the decisions they make. Serving on the JCPS Board of Education is a way that I can help use my experience, passion, and knowledge to help create a difference. I like to say I am adding the “facts to my fire” (passion) so that I can help create necessary change.

What is it you hope to accomplish if elected to JCPS Board of Education?

I consider myself to be a life-long educator. Should I be elected to the JCPS Board of Education, I aim to help cultivate an educational environment where students, teachers, staff, and the community all feel secure, supported, and valued. In alignment with my vision to ensure that every stakeholder has a voice, I recognize that building and maintaining an equitable educational system requires collective effort. As a former JCPS student and teacher, I am committed to advocating for students and ensuring that they have effective educational and emotional support. I aspire to help co-create and foster a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive

school system. Our students deserve the best educational experiences and curricula to help them grow and learn.

What do you think of school choice and the proposed constitutional amendment related to school choice that will be on the ballot?

I have a strong commitment to strengthening and supporting public education meaning, I am not in favor of the proposed constitutional amendment related to school choice. In the future, it may divert funding away from public schools. Jefferson County Public Schools is a robust and diverse school system that needs resources, staff, and funding. My ultimate goal is to help strengthen the Jefferson County Public Schools system and not take resources and funding away from it.

What are your thoughts on JCPS transportation? Any ideas on how you wish to improve the department?

I am truly concerned about the challenges JCPS faces with transportation. This issue is one of the primary motivations driving my candidacy for the JCPS Board of Education, District 4. I believe in ensuring that all students have reliable access to transportation. Personally, my ability to attend Louisville Male Traditional High School was made possible by having access to reliable transportation options.

The transportation challenge represents an equity issue that requires comprehensive solutions. I recommend exploring partnerships with logistics companies, engaging the community, and maintaining a persistent commitment to revising strategies at a leadership level. Furthermore, I believe that improving driver training and support, implementing improved student behavior management plans, and collaborating with local agencies, transportation experts, and community organizations could be beneficial to ensure that all students have access to transportation.

STATE LEGISLATIVE RACES

SENATE DISTRICT 37

*David YATES

[Calvin Leach](#)

HOUSE DISTRICT 28

[Almaria Baker](#)

*Jared Bauman

HOUSE DISTRICT 29

[Timothy Findley](#)

Chris Lewis

HOUSE DISTRICT 31

[Colleen Orsella Davis](#)

G. Perry Adelman

Susan Tyler Witten

HOUSE DISTRICT 33

*Jason Michael Nemes

Taylor Jolly

HOUSE DISTRICT 36

[William "Woody" Zorn](#)

John F. Hodgson

HOUSE DISTRICT 37

John J. Stovall

Emily Callaway

HOUSE DISTRICT 38

*[Rachel Roarx](#)

Carrie Sanders McKeehan

HOUSE DISTRICT 41

[Sara-Elizabeth Cottrell](#)

[Mary Lou Marzian](#)

HOUSE DISTRICT 46

[Alan Gentry](#)

Bob DeVore

HOUSE DISTRICT 48

[Kate Farrow](#)

*Ken Fleming

Calvin Leach | KY Senate District 27

What's your vision for Kentucky? How will the lives of Kentuckians be improved as a result of your time in office?

- Rebuild this state's economy, which was decimated by two years of draconian lockdowns over a virus with a 3% mortality rate
- Reduce the criminal element and make our communities safer
- Improve our education system, which has been consistently failing our students

Do you support a constitutional amendment to automatically restore voting rights to all Kentuckians with felonies in their past? Why or why not?

I do not have a concrete stance on this.

What is your view on modernizing state election laws? Specifically, do you support allowing early voting, same-day voter registration, extended voting hours, or other election reforms?

Early voting and same-day voting are fine. Extended voting hours are a no-go. If you fail to cast your ballot by the deadline on Election Day then you have missed the boat (or should I say --- "the vote").

Because of recent legislative changes, Kentucky's tax system is rapidly becoming much more inequitable. Kentucky currently has the 17th most regressive tax code among all states, and is failing to use our public dollars for the public good. What are your thoughts on our state tax structure? What would you do to ensure that we have the public dollars we need for the Kentucky that we all need and deserve?

I support continuing to reduce the state income tax to enable hard-working Kentuckians to keep more of what they earn. I will also push to eliminate personal property tax, as Missouri is currently attempting. Lowering taxes is the least we could do to alleviate the financial pressure of inflation caused by the economic mismanagement of the Biden administration.

Most people, across party, class and race lines, are deeply concerned about the threat of climate change, including fires, floods, severe storms, and more. Is addressing the climate crisis a priority for you? What policies do you support to create good jobs and affordable energy while rapidly reducing pollution?

I support reviving the domestic energy sector and getting the price of fuel down to \$1.87 per gallon (as it was during the Trump administration) and not begging OPEC to supply us. On his first day in office, Joe Biden killed 52,000 jobs for blue collar workers by halting the Keystone XL pipeline. That was a disastrous move to kick start his utterly disastrous tenure in office.

Black Lives Matter. What are policy initiatives you would propose while in office to address racial and systemic inequalities?

I would encourage Congress to subpoena Patrice Cullors and her fellow ring leaders to inquire about the expenditure of \$91M in donation money, because it most definitely has not been spent in a manner that would benefit the black community.

Kentucky has the sixth highest incarceration rate in the nation. What will you do to make strides toward ending mass incarceration in Kentucky and reinvesting resources into the communities most impacted by this system?

As of now, I support decriminalizing cannabis. I have seen zero empirical scientific evidence to confirm that cannabis use is anymore harmful than tobacco or alcohol; and until I see otherwise, my stance on this remains. Over 3,000 individuals were incarcerated last year on charges related to cannabis use. Eliminating this restriction will (at least slightly) reduce incarceration.

Do you support a statewide Fairness law to protect LGBTQ people from discrimination in housing, employment, financial transactions, and public accommodations based on sexual orientation and gender identity?

I don't believe anyone should be denied employment based on inherent qualities. Discrimination should not exist.

I think what you're alluding to in this question is --- Will I use my platform to advocate for them to continue shoving their delusional worldview on the rest of the population? My answer to that is no.

Nearly 400,000 low-income Kentuckians qualified for health care for the first time under the Affordable Care Act. But major challenges in affordability and gaps in access to care still remain. How would you ensure access to quality, affordable healthcare to poor and working class individuals across all Kentucky counties? What

are your legislative priorities for the overall health of Black, Indigenous, People of Color? What are your legislative priorities to ensure reproductive health and justice?

This is a long strung-out question. I'm not for depriving anyone of health care that TRULY needs it, but "reproductive health" is a nice code word for abortion. I do not support tax-payer funded abortion, unless there is an extenuating circumstance.

Almaria Baker KY House District 28

What's your vision for Kentucky? How will the lives of Kentuckians be improved as a result of your time in office?

I truly value public education as the great equalizer for our children. I support a clean and healthy environment. As a union member, I support collective bargaining and oppose being a right to work state. I support economic development that is responsive to community, and is unionized and safe.

Do you support a constitutional amendment to automatically restore voting rights to all Kentuckians with felonies in their past? Why or why not?

Yes because they have paid their debt to society and should be treated as full citizens with voting rights.

What is your view on modernizing state election laws? Specifically, do you support allowing early voting, same-day voter registration, extended voting hours, or other election reforms?

I support early/longer voting, same day voter registration and extending voting hours. With this, people are still able to vote regardless of what they may have going on in their lives. So making the process of voting accessible for voters is important to me.

Because of recent legislative changes, Kentucky's tax system is rapidly becoming much more inequitable. Kentucky currently has the 17th most regressive tax code among all states, and is failing to use our public dollars for the public good. What are your thoughts on our state tax structure? What would you do to ensure that we have the public dollars we need for the Kentucky that we all need and deserve?

Kentucky's tax system is regressive at best. I am against increasing our sales tax, but I would support making the top 10% pay their fair share by keeping income tax on millionaires.

Most people, across party, class and race lines, are deeply concerned about the threat of climate change, including fires, floods, severe storms, and more. Is addressing the

climate crisis a priority for you? What policies do you support to create good jobs and affordable energy while rapidly reducing pollution?

Yes it is a priority. I think companies should be regulated (instead of self-regulated). For example, companies like hospitals need to address recycling and disposables which are filling our landfills.

Black Lives Matter. What are policy initiatives you would propose while in office to address racial and systemic inequalities?

By providing truth in historic education, racial and systemic inequalities can be addressed (educating students and even the community).

Kentucky has the sixth highest incarceration rate in the nation. What will you do to make strides toward ending mass incarceration in Kentucky and reinvesting resources into the communities most impacted by this system?

Stop the roll-back of laws and safeguards against small offenses. Offer programs that educate and train incarcerated individuals along with mental health programs to assist with a person's success in returning to society as a productive citizen.

Do you support a statewide Fairness law to protect LGBTQ people from discrimination in housing, employment, financial transactions, and public accommodations based on sexual orientation and gender identity?

Support

Nearly 400,000 low-income Kentuckians qualified for health care for the first time under the Affordable Care Act. But major challenges in affordability and gaps in access to care still remain. How would you ensure access to quality, affordable healthcare to poor and working class individuals across all Kentucky counties? What are your legislative priorities for the overall health of Black, Indigenous, People of Color? What are your legislative priorities to ensure reproductive health and justice?

Work to broaden access through medicaid and medicare. Fund programs that educate and work to involve minority populations in the legislative process to gain a better understanding of what is needed in the minority communities. Work for legal protections for women seeking safe healthcare for reproductive health, IVF and birth control.

Timothy Findley, Jr. KY House District 29

What's your vision for Kentucky? How will the lives of Kentuckians be improved as a result of your time in office?

I'm a "get it done, Democrat" running to keep Kentucky moving forward. I have a FAST plan to keep Kentucky moving forward and ensure that all Kentuckians have the opportunity to succeed. FAMILIES, ACADEMICS, SAFETY and TRANSPORTATION. If we together can achieve a more dignified way of life, where parents don't worry about the stress of childcare, where our elderly can retire but still be productive members of our community, and our children get world class education, I would have done my job.

Do you support a constitutional amendment to automatically restore voting rights to all Kentuckians with felonies in their past? Why or why not?

YES! This is a matter of fairness, democracy, and justice. I believe that everyone who has served their time should have the opportunity to participate in the democratic process and have their voices heard. Voting is a fundamental aspect of citizenship and promotes a sense of belonging and responsibility.

What is your view on modernizing state election laws? Specifically, do you support allowing early voting, same-day voter registration, extended voting hours, or other election reforms?

I am a firm believer in not only modernizing state election laws, but actively ensuring accessibility and eliminating barriers meant to complicate voting. By doing this we can improve voter turnout, accessibility, and the overall integrity of the electoral process. I support all of the above measures and welcome suggestions on creating last steps to ensure we eliminate voter suppression efforts.

Because of recent legislative changes, Kentucky's tax system is rapidly becoming much more inequitable. Kentucky currently has the 17th most regressive tax code among all states, and is failing to use our public dollars for the public good. What are your thoughts on our state tax structure? What would you do to ensure that we have the public dollars we need for the Kentucky that we all need and deserve?

Kentucky legislators MUST work towards creating a more progressive and equitable tax system that distributes the tax burden fairly and promotes economic growth and stability for all residents. I believe this should include (but not limited to) Property Tax Reform, Sales Tax Reform, and certainly creating space for Public Input and Transparency.

Most people, across party, class and race lines, are deeply concerned about the threat of climate change, including fires, floods, severe storms, and more. Is addressing the climate crisis a priority for you? What policies do you support to create good jobs and affordable energy while rapidly reducing pollution?

Addressing climate change should not simply be a priority for legislators. It should be a priority for ALL people. This is accomplished by intentional and strategic collaboration between government, businesses, and communities. This is how we achieve long-term environmental change. By implementing environmentally conscious policies and initiatives, we can work towards creating a more sustainable and equitable economy that supports job growth, affordable energy, and a significant reduction in pollution levels.

Black Lives Matter. What are policy initiatives you would propose while in office to address racial and systemic inequalities?

As a black man, and one who has stood on the front lines demanding justice and change, I'm running for office because I understand the need for protest and the need for policy to ensure real change. Policy Initiatives that I will be working on Day 1:

Criminal Justice Reform

Education Equity

Healthcare Access

Housing Policy

Implicit Bias Training

The growing Economic Wealth Gap

to name a few. Its ambitious in Kentucky, but why go to Frankfort if you're simply going to disappear. Also, it's important to know that all candidates can actually say Black Lives in fact do matter.

Kentucky has the sixth highest incarceration rate in the nation. What will you do to make strides toward ending mass incarceration in Kentucky and reinvesting resources into the communities most impacted by this system?

The fact is all previous reforms haven't worked because any reforms that rely solely on a punitive approach that criminalizes poverty and substance use isn't going to address those underlying issues. We should be Investing in rehabilitation programs for incarcerated individuals, including education, job training, mental health services, and substance abuse

treatment, can help reduce recidivism rates and support successful reentry. We should also be reinvesting resources saved from reducing the prison population into communities most impacted by mass incarceration thereby helping to address systemic inequalities, provide support services for individuals affected by the criminal justice system, and promote community development and well-being.

Do you support a statewide Fairness law to protect LGBTQ people from discrimination in housing, employment, financial transactions, and public accommodations based on sexual orientation and gender identity?

YES! As a Pastor and believer, my faith and theology tells me that NO ONE should be treated unfairly, unjust, and discriminated against.

Nearly 400,000 low-income Kentuckians qualified for health care for the first time under the Affordable Care Act. But major challenges in affordability and gaps in access to care still remain. How would you ensure access to quality, affordable healthcare to poor and working class individuals across all Kentucky counties? What are your legislative priorities for the overall health of Black, Indigenous, People of Color? What are your legislative priorities to ensure reproductive health and justice?

Ensuring access to quality, affordable healthcare for poor and working-class individuals across all Kentucky counties requires a comprehensive approach that addresses healthcare disparities and promotes health equity. This is done by investing in and funding, programs to train and recruit healthcare professionals from diverse backgrounds that will help address workforce shortages and improve cultural competency in healthcare delivery, particularly for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities. Investing community health centers that provide primary care, preventive services, and mental health support. Also, protecting and expanding access to reproductive healthcare services for individuals across Kentucky, particularly for marginalized communities.

Colleen Davis KY House District 31

What's your vision for Kentucky? How will the lives of Kentuckians be improved as a result of your time in office?

I envision a Kentucky that uplifts all Kentuckians: where our schools and teachers are supported, our workers are well-paid, our people have access to quality healthcare including reproductive care, our diversity is celebrated, and our beautiful land is protected. If elected, I will work towards reversing the legislative trends in each of these areas.

Do you support a constitutional amendment to automatically restore voting rights to all Kentuckians with felonies in their past? Why or why not?

Yes. Voting should be a right. Moreover, systemic racism and classism plays a major role in felony convictions for poor people and minorities, particularly Black people. In other words, we are taking votes away from Black people because of racism and classism more than because of individual actions. Restoring voting rights would fix this.

What is your view on modernizing state election laws? Specifically, do you support allowing early voting, same-day voter registration, extended voting hours, or other election reforms?

Yes; voting should be as easy as possible while still ensuring election integrity. Early voting, same-day voter registration, and extended voting hours all accomplish these goals.

Because of recent legislative changes, Kentucky's tax system is rapidly becoming much more inequitable. Kentucky currently has the 17th most regressive tax code among all states, and is failing to use our public dollars for the public good. What are your thoughts on our state tax structure? What would you do to ensure that we have the public dollars we need for the Kentucky that we all need and deserve?

We need to eliminate tax loopholes for corporations, we need more tax breaks for low-income earners, and we need a wealth tax independent of income (in addition to our income tax).

Most people, across party, class and race lines, are deeply concerned about the threat of climate change, including fires, floods, severe storms, and more. Is addressing the climate crisis a priority for you? What policies do you support to create good jobs and affordable energy while rapidly reducing pollution?

Yes. We need to heavily penalize corporations that contribute the most to pollution and create strong incentives for green jobs: in their innovation, support, for workers to take green jobs, and for consumers to use sustainable products and green energy.

Black Lives Matter. What are policy initiatives you would propose while in office to address racial and systemic inequalities?

I will advocate for bail reform, expansion of WIC benefits, community oversight boards with subpoena power over governmental agencies including police departments, bills allowing for and encouraging DEI initiatives in school districts and at state universities, and bills protecting teachers' ability to teach history accurately and all literature by Black people, women, and other minorities.

Kentucky has the sixth highest incarceration rate in the nation. What will you do to make strides toward ending mass incarceration in Kentucky and reinvesting resources into the communities most impacted by this system?

I will advocate for bail reform to keep people at work while charged with a crime. I will promote expansion of charges for which diversion is available, and as stated above, I will promote community oversight boards with subpoena power. More broadly, I will promote economic investment in areas with lower employment and investment in public education, including early childhood education.

Do you support a statewide Fairness law to protect LGBTQ people from discrimination in housing, employment, financial transactions, and public accommodations based on sexual orientation and gender identity?

Yes. Absolutely.

Nearly 400,000 low-income Kentuckians qualified for health care for the first time under the Affordable Care Act. But major challenges in affordability and gaps in access to care still remain. How would you ensure access to quality, affordable healthcare to poor and working class individuals across all Kentucky counties? What are your legislative priorities for the overall health of Black, Indigenous, People of Color? What are your legislative priorities to ensure reproductive health and justice?

Medicaid does not cover many basic needs, like dentures for example. I will work to expand Medicaid coverage. Also, Medicaid reimbursement rates are so low, many providers don't take it because it doesn't cover the cost of the service, resulting in lack of access even when the care is technically "covered" by Medicaid. I will promote increasing Medicaid reimbursement rates for some care. I will also advocate a state incentive for physicians and mid-level providers to practice in under-served areas (urban and rural).

Woody Zorn KY House District 36

What's your vision for Kentucky? How will the lives of Kentuckians be improved as a result of your time in office?

Legislators try hard to look like they are taking dramatic, solid actions, but really, all they are doing is trying to prevent a primary challenge from someone more extreme than they are and making problems worse for everyone else.

The so-called "Safer Kentucky Act," which my opponent is one of the principal architects of, is a prime example. Instead of making people safer, it criminalizes poverty and will break an already over-taxed correction system in the state.

I want to address real problems for real people: affordable housing, education, healthcare, and yes crime to help create a better Kentucky for everyone.

Do you support a constitutional amendment to automatically restore voting rights to all Kentuckians with felonies in their past? Why or why not?

Yes, I support a constitutional amendment to automatically restore voting rights.

We want these individuals to stay out of jail and become contributing members of society. They need to feel they have a vested interest in the community. Voting is a fundamental part of being part of the community.

What is your view on modernizing state election laws? Specifically, do you support allowing early voting, same-day voter registration, extended voting hours, or other election reforms?

Kentucky has made several improvements to our voting laws in recent years, but here is another example of self-serving legislators trying to look tough and actually making things worse.

One legislator this session wanted to end early voting because “Election Day is sacred,” and having more days to vote makes it less special. Going to church on Wednesday doesn’t make going to church on Sunday less sacred. The act of voting is sacred in a democracy, and giving people more opportunities to vote is a good thing.

I support expanding early voting, same-day voter registration, and extended voting hours.

Because of recent legislative changes, Kentucky’s tax system is rapidly becoming much more inequitable. Kentucky currently has the 17th most regressive tax code among all states, and is failing to use our public dollars for the public good. What are your thoughts on our state tax structure? What would you do to ensure that we have the public dollars we need for the Kentucky that we all need and deserve?

The legislature’s recent obsession with getting rid of the income tax is not only putting an undue burden on poor and working-class people, but it’s terrible public policy.

All any honest person needs to do is look at the trainwreck of the state of Kansas. Again, our legislature is too afraid to turn their back on 40 years of failed Republican orthodoxy because they are afraid of a primary challenge.

Most people, across party, class and race lines, are deeply concerned about the threat of climate change, including fires, floods, severe storms, and more. Is addressing the climate crisis a priority for you? What policies do you support to create good jobs and affordable energy while rapidly reducing pollution?

Climate change is real, and we must take decisive action. Energy providers want to move towards renewable energy. Again, our legislature would try to force businesses to act like it's 1950 instead of preparing for 2050.

We have several research universities in Kentucky. I would provide them with funding to explore new technologies and create incentives for entrepreneurs to make Kentucky the leading renewable energy provider. We were the leading provider of coal in the 20th century. We can be the leading provider of renewable energy in the 21st century.

Black Lives Matter. What are policy initiatives you would propose while in office to address racial and systemic inequalities?

You don't fix crime by making poverty a crime. You create more criminals that way.

We need a complete overhaul of our criminal justice system and well as a laser focus on addressing the causes of crime. This needs to be led by experts in the field and not by politicians who are more concerned about getting re-elected than making things better.

Improved education, healthcare, and affordable housing, regardless of your zip code, are keys to reducing crime and addressing racial and systemic inequalities.

Kentucky has the sixth highest incarceration rate in the nation. What will you do to make strides toward ending mass incarceration in Kentucky and reinvesting resources into the communities most impacted by this system?

The first step would be to vote against the so-called "Safer Kentucky Act. A dangerous, unfunded mandate that will likely break a severely overtaxed corrections system.

Legalization of recreational marijuana will reduce mass incarceration. Still, we need to address the root causes of crime by investing in public education, mental health treatment and building a solid economy in rural areas and the inner city.

Do you support a statewide Fairness law to protect LGBTQ people from discrimination in housing, employment, financial transactions, and public accommodations based on sexual orientation and gender identity?

Yes, support a statewide Fairness Law. As an educator, I can tell you that the war on LGBTQ people has had a severe detrimental effect on our youth. Treating someone else like a human shouldn't even be a discussion. Still, again, our legislature would rather hurt people to make themselves look tough.

Nearly 400,000 low-income Kentuckians qualified for health care for the first time under the Affordable Care Act. But major challenges in affordability and gaps in access to care still remain. How would you ensure access to quality, affordable healthcare to poor and working class individuals across all Kentucky counties? What are your legislative priorities for the overall health of Black, Indigenous, People of Color? What are your legislative priorities to ensure reproductive health and justice?

The best thing the legislature can do for healthcare is stop pretending that ideology is science and listen to the professionals. Politics doesn't belong in education, and it doesn't belong in healthcare.

I fully support the proposed medical school at Eastern. I would support adding additional medical schools and nursing programs through our state university system.

Rachel Roarx KY House District 38

What's your vision for Kentucky? How will the lives of Kentuckians be improved as a result of your time in office?

I strive to make Kentucky a better place for all people. I want the lives of working class people and their families in District 38 to be improved by my service.

Do you support a constitutional amendment to automatically restore voting rights to all Kentuckians with felonies in their past? Why or why not?

Yes. Once you have served your time, it's important for you to fully participate in society. Jail and prisons need improvement and folks that have directly experienced the corrections and Justice systems are key stakeholders in being a part of solutions. Parents with children need to be engaged in school board elections and demonstrating the civic duty of voting for their children.

What is your view on modernizing state election laws? Specifically, do you support allowing early voting, same-day voter registration, extended voting hours, or other election reforms?

I am supportive of safe, secure ways to make voting for convenient. Yes I am supportive of these efforts.

Because of recent legislative changes, Kentucky's tax system is rapidly becoming much more inequitable. Kentucky currently has the 17th most regressive tax code among all states, and is failing to use our public dollars for the public good. What are your thoughts on our state tax structure? What would you do to ensure that we have the public dollars we need for the Kentucky that we all need and deserve?

It's important that we help taxpayers save money whenever possible and taxpayers expect that government perform vital services. Regressive taxes hurt the middle class and I am opposed to such efforts. We must invest in our public schools, our roads, and childcare if we are going to make a better commonwealth.

Most people, across party, class and race lines, are deeply concerned about the threat of climate change, including fires, floods, severe storms, and more. Is addressing the climate crisis a priority for you? What policies do you support to create good jobs and affordable energy while rapidly reducing pollution?

Yes. First of all, we must ensure access to clean drinking water for all Kentuckians. I am supportive of expanding infrastructure for electric vehicles and passing legislation that strengthens our environmental protections. Job training and diversification is key. I support our labor unions as we work towards these goals together.

Black Lives Matter. What are policy initiatives you would propose while in office to address racial and systemic inequalities?

Restoration of voting rights is vital. Investing in re-entry programs and addressing gun violence in our city are ways that I seek to improve these realities. I am supportive of initiatives that help first time home buyers, educational access, and civics.

Kentucky has the sixth highest incarceration rate in the nation. What will you do to make strides toward ending mass incarceration in Kentucky and reinvesting resources into the communities most impacted by this system?

Our laws are key. I work with law enforcement, corrections, and those who have been impacted by the Justice system to find solutions for how to impact Re-entry programs and recovery services. Wrap around services, housing, good jobs, good schools, and good healthcare are all top of mind when trying to address root causes.

Do you support a statewide Fairness law to protect LGBTQ people from discrimination in housing, employment, financial transactions, and public accommodations based on sexual orientation and gender identity?

Yes absolutely!

Nearly 400,000 low-income Kentuckians qualified for health care for the first time under the Affordable Care Act. But major challenges in affordability and gaps in access to care still remain. How would you ensure access to quality, affordable healthcare to poor and working class individuals across all Kentucky counties? What are your legislative priorities for the overall health of Black, Indigenous, People of Color? What are your legislative priorities to ensure reproductive health and justice?

Finding ways to ensure all folks have access to affordable healthcare is top of mind. I have found that in my time in the Kentucky General Assembly that we do this in a variety of ways that are often occur piecemeal over time. Addressing prior authorization and the benefits cliff are both good next steps. I speak highly of how our union labor and skilled trades prioritize good

healthcare and I encourage individuals to pursue these careers. We have data on black maternal health in our state and we know we need to improve. Access to care is still a barrier. Women deserve to make the choices about their bodies. I will continue to fight for policies to help improve healthcare access and affordability for all people.

SARA-ELIZABETH COTTRELL KY House District 41

What's your vision for Kentucky? How will the lives of Kentuckians be improved as a result of your time in office?

My focus is in education, on providing opportunities for all Kentucky children to develop the skills they need to succeed in life. I support high-quality literacy programs, reduced testing in early childhood, incentivizing employers to give PTO for adults volunteering in schools, and empowering families to choose the education that best fits their needs. Strong schools, strong jobs, and a family- and business-friendly tax code have been shown in other states to lift society in general. Let's get it done here, too.

Do you support a constitutional amendment to automatically restore voting rights to all Kentuckians with felonies in their past? Why or why not?

I am open to all research and discussion regarding restoring voting rights to those who are ready to engage in our democratic system and make their voice heard at the ballot box.

What is your view on modernizing state election laws? Specifically, do you support allowing early voting, same-day voter registration, extended voting hours, or other election reforms?

I support policies that make it easy to vote while ensuring secure elections. I support early voting and extended voting hours. I applaud our Secretary of State for making it easier to vote and for running secure elections held up as a model for all states.

Because of recent legislative changes, Kentucky's tax system is rapidly becoming much more inequitable. Kentucky currently has the 17th most regressive tax code among all states, and is failing to use our public dollars for the public good. What are

your thoughts on our state tax structure? What would you do to ensure that we have the public dollars we need for the Kentucky that we all need and deserve?

Because Kentucky's income tax is a flat percentage, cutting the income tax benefits everyone with a job. I support continuing to reduce the income tax to zero. Shifting the revenue needed from income tax to usage-based tax (sales tax on luxury items) reduces the tax burden on everyday Kentuckians and shifts it to those more able to bear that weight.

Most people, across party, class and race lines, are deeply concerned about the threat of climate change, including fires, floods, severe storms, and more. Is addressing the climate crisis a priority for you? What policies do you support to create good jobs and affordable energy while rapidly reducing pollution?

I support the policies of the YCCD: Price carbon. Rebate the revenue. Roll back regulations. Inspire others to follow our lead. I support building the tree canopy in such a way that reduces pollution but does not drive up homeowner insurance prices. As the child of an internal systems analyst at a nuclear power plant, I grew up assured of the safe, clean, effective power of nuclear energy and support all investments in bringing nuclear to Kentucky.

Black Lives Matter. What are policy initiatives you would propose while in office to address racial and systemic inequalities?

While I wholeheartedly agree that black lives matter, I reject the Marxist and exploitative practices of the organization indicated by using the capital letters on those words. I propose implementing educational policies used by schools known as "gap-busters" who have proven time and time again that it is possible to quickly close the racial gap in learning outcomes. Government-subsidized housing has a vested interest in staying cheap (read: not a nice place to live), so I support policies that help people buy their own home and build their own wealth, such as empowering minority students to train in high-income professions, shoring up robust fair-housing laws, incentivizing minority home-owners who move to a less diverse area, and supporting child-arrival undocumented immigrants.

Kentucky has the sixth highest incarceration rate in the nation. What will you do to make strides toward ending mass incarceration in Kentucky and reinvesting resources into the communities most impacted by this system?

We must support our police, combat the drug trade with all our might, and penalize violence to the fullest extent of the law. However, we must also invest in programs that help people escape cycles of crime and choose a path that affirms their dignity and inspires their contribution in our society.

Do you support a statewide Fairness law to protect LGBTQ people from discrimination in housing, employment, financial transactions, and public accommodations based on sexual orientation and gender identity?

I am open to all laws that fight discrimination and also do not violate Kentuckians' First Amendment and property rights.

Nearly 400,000 low-income Kentuckians qualified for health care for the first time under the Affordable Care Act. But major challenges in affordability and gaps in access to care still remain. How would you ensure access to quality, affordable healthcare to poor and working class individuals across all Kentucky counties? What are your legislative priorities for the overall health of Black, Indigenous, People of Color? What are your legislative priorities to ensure reproductive health and justice?

I support policies that ensure open and fair pricing policies across healthcare needs, including copay caps. I support policies that enable the free market to drive up healthcare quality, including ending CON laws.

Birth control and childbirth do not have to be complicated or controversial subjects. Preventing pregnancy can be made absurdly easy and inexpensive. A woman's body is designed to give birth and all women, including at-risk women of color, deserve education and options for preparation and childbirth itself, including access to certified nurse midwives and birthing centers. The abortion rate for Black women is almost five times that for White women, and it's time for that genocide to end.

MARY LOU MARZIAN KY House District 41

What's your vision for Kentucky? How will the lives of Kentuckians be improved as a result of your time in office?

Support public education, early childhood education, reproductive freedom, address climate change. Support gun safety legislation.. sponsor EITC.

Do you support a constitutional amendment to automatically restore voting rights to all Kentuckians with felonies in their past? Why or why not?

Always have

What is your view on modernizing state election laws? Specifically, do you support allowing early voting, same-day voter registration, extended voting hours, or other election reforms?

Absolutely

Because of recent legislative changes, Kentucky's tax system is rapidly becoming much more inequitable. Kentucky currently has the 17th most regressive tax code among all states, and is failing to use our public dollars for the public good. What are your thoughts on our state tax structure? What would you do to ensure that we have the public dollars we need for the Kentucky that we all need and deserve?

We have the dollars we need but the Republicans are giving them away in tax cuts. This needs to stop and Republicans need to be defeated

Most people, across party, class and race lines, are deeply concerned about the threat of climate change, including fires, floods, severe storms, and more. Is addressing the climate crisis a priority for you? What policies do you support to create good jobs and affordable energy while rapidly reducing pollution?

Yes. Ban plastic bags, straws, styrofoam. Renewable portfolio standards. Invest in reliable clean public transportation.

Black Lives Matter. What are policy initiatives you would propose while in office to address racial and systemic inequalities?

Educate police on diversity. Ban no knock warrants. Scholarships:tuition forgiveness for minorities entering college to become teachers. Young people need role models.

Kentucky has the sixth highest incarceration rate in the nation. What will you do to make strides toward ending mass incarceration in Kentucky and reinvesting resources into the communities most impacted by this system?

Divert folks from incarceration who have non violent marijuana:drug crimes. Restore voting rights. Make expungement less onerous

Do you support a statewide Fairness law to protect LGBTQ people from discrimination in housing, employment, financial transactions, and public accommodations based on sexual orientation and gender identity?

Yes and have always sponsored

Nearly 400,000 low-income Kentuckians qualified for health care for the first time under the Affordable Care Act. But major challenges in affordability and gaps in access to care still remain. How would you ensure access to quality, affordable healthcare to poor and working class individuals across all Kentucky counties? What are your legislative priorities for the overall health of Black, Indigenous, People of Color? What are your legislative priorities to ensure reproductive health and justice?

I am pro choice and we need to stop war on women. Medicaid: Medicare for all. Healthcare is a right, not a privilege

Alan "Al" Gentry KY House District 46

What's your vision for Kentucky? How will the lives of Kentuckians be improved as a result of your time in office?

My vision is that every Kentucky resident, regardless of age, race, gender, disability, religion, or sexual orientation can be provided an equal opportunity to succeed and contribute to society in a positive way without any form of discrimination. A state where a strong public education is accessible and produces a dynamic workforce that fills good-paying jobs, safe workplaces, delivers affordable health benefits, and retirement benefits that reward years of service. A state that is compassionate and helpful to those who stumble, fall behind, battle an addiction, or face any other financial adversity by providing services that assist, inspire and propel them back onto a pathway towards self-sustainability. A state where its residents are proud to say they are Kentuckians.

Do you support a constitutional amendment to automatically restore voting rights to all Kentuckians with felonies in their past? Why or why not?

Yes. Those that are convicted of a crime should face the consequences of their unlawful actions. However, after their sentence is served, the state should be committed to providing them the opportunity to atone from their mistakes and become and contribute to society in a positive way. This starts by restoring their privileges as a citizen and be afforded the same opportunities for success that their fellow citizens are granted.

What is your view on modernizing state election laws? Specifically, do you support allowing early voting, same-day voter registration, extended voting hours, or other election reforms?

I support election laws that will increase voter access and participation in our elections. This includes early voting options, extended hours and same-day voter registration as long as enough poll workers are available to adequately handle the tasks necessary to ensure a fair process.

Because of recent legislative changes, Kentucky's tax system is rapidly becoming much more inequitable. Kentucky currently has the 17th most regressive tax code among all states, and is failing to use our public dollars for the public good. What are your thoughts on our state tax structure? What would you do to ensure that we have the public dollars we need for the Kentucky that we all need and deserve?

In 2017, the Republican Party gained super majority control of the House & Senate. It was also then that the "Great Tax Shift" began to reduce the overall tax burden of the highest earners while increasing the tax burden on our lowest earners. The 1st step was to move from a progressive income tax structure, like our federal system, where higher earners pay higher rates, to a regressive "flat" structure where everyone pays the same rate. They then began reducing the income tax rate, while simultaneously adding over 70 sales taxes on a variety of services and items not previously taxed. This Great Tax Shift is resulting in the reduction of tax burden for the wealthy and an increase on the poor, leading to more wealth gaps and inequities. This needs to be stopped.

Most people, across party, class and race lines, are deeply concerned about the threat of climate change, including fires, floods, severe storms, and more. Is addressing the climate crisis a priority for you? What policies do you support to create good jobs and affordable energy while rapidly reducing pollution?

I would not only support sensible climate policies, but also a wide array of environmental policy that would ensure our citizens clean air & water, healthy management of wildlife and forest resources, and the promotion of recycling and safe waste management practices. As a former practicing Geologist/Hydrogeologist, and former private consultant in the Environmental industry, I understand these topics quite well and the importance of them on human health and within the planet we live.

Black Lives Matter. What are policy initiatives you would propose while in office to address racial and systemic inequalities?

I'm a big proponent of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives that promote and produce equitable opportunities for all, especially to under-served populations. Under the current environment in Frankfort, it is probably far less important introducing new initiatives than it is protecting the ones we have (ie DEI) and preventing our state from moving backward. We've actually made large strides in this country since the 1960's, but much work is still needed. The DEI movement is the most consequential movement I've seen in decades and must be protected.

Kentucky has the sixth highest incarceration rate in the nation. What will you do to make strides toward ending mass incarceration in Kentucky and reinvesting resources into the communities most impacted by this system?

Again, we must stop the recent movement of restoring old "lock-em up" policies that do nothing to address our root problems. Continued focus on investment in services that promote & increase rehabilitation and successful re-entry to society must be stressed. Advancing policies that focus on this and remove barriers to successful re-entry into the workforce & housing will always be favored by me.

Do you support a statewide Fairness law to protect LGBTQ people from discrimination in housing, employment, financial transactions, and public accommodations based on sexual orientation and gender identity?

Yes. I will always support policies that reduce discrimination of all kinds.

Nearly 400,000 low-income Kentuckians qualified for health care for the first time under the Affordable Care Act. But major challenges in affordability and gaps in access to care still remain. How would you ensure access to quality, affordable healthcare to poor and working class individuals across all Kentucky counties? What are your legislative priorities for the overall health of Black, Indigenous, People of Color? What are your legislative priorities to ensure reproductive health and justice?

I've long felt that if we can truly focus on policies that generally put people to work, in good-paying jobs, with access to affordable care, where all citizens have equal opportunity to a solid education and these jobs, without discrimination of any kind, then we would live in a much better and productive place.

Kate Farrow KY House District 48

What's your vision for Kentucky? How will the lives of Kentuckians be improved as a result of your time in office?

I have often said that we need to do more to improve the lives of as many Kentuckians as possible, which means legislating from a Common Ground, Common Sense approach. We need mainstream, not extreme. I will be an advocate for fully funding our public schools, protecting a woman's right to choose, increasing wages and reducing inflation, and protecting our natural environment. I believe these to be the cornerstones of a stronger, healthier and more prosperous commonwealth where all Kentuckians can thrive.

Do you support a constitutional amendment to automatically restore voting rights to all Kentuckians with felonies in their past? Why or why not?

I believe a healthy democracy is based on the highest involvement of all people affected. Crimes have associated Punishments. These punishments have lengths that we expect convicted criminals to fulfill. Past the fulfillment of that obligation, and their return to society, I believe they should be afforded the same voting rights as others in their communities.

What is your view on modernizing state election laws? Specifically, do you support allowing early voting, same-day voter registration, extended voting hours, or other election reforms?

I support allowing for anything that will enhance the ability of citizens to participate in democracy. Our election laws have to move with the times and technology. And with so many people working remotely and sometimes multiple jobs and odd shifts, it is important that we do what we can to accommodate the needs of those who wish to be heard with their vote, not silence them with unnecessary barriers to participation.

Because of recent legislative changes, Kentucky's tax system is rapidly becoming much more inequitable. Kentucky currently has the 17th most regressive tax code among all states, and is failing to use our public dollars for the public good. What are your thoughts on our state tax structure? What would you do to ensure that we have the public dollars we need for the Kentucky that we all need and deserve?

We need to look at reforming our tax code to allow for new and innovative ways to secure the funding necessary to take care of All Kentuckians. Reductions in the income tax rate are going to hurt our commonwealth in the long term and will have a negative effect on those that need help the most. As a legislator I will advocate for tax modernization that is focused on ensuring that Kentucky has the resources to take care of our people.

Most people, across party, class and race lines, are deeply concerned about the threat of climate change, including fires, floods, severe storms, and more. Is addressing the climate crisis a priority for you? What policies do you support to create good jobs and affordable energy while rapidly reducing pollution?

Our Commonwealth has seen 2 large solar energy projects in the mountains of Appalachia come to fruition as well as the successful harnessing of hydropower in Berea. We have the ability to do big important things in the fight against climate change, but we need to have leaders in Frankfort that will make that a priority. I will be a champion for renewable energy efforts and a just transition away from coal and fossil fuels.

Black Lives Matter. What are policy initiatives you would propose while in office to address racial and systemic inequalities?

Like many Kentuckians, I want to live in a state where everyone feels included, respected and has a fair shot to succeed in life. We need to take a hard look at how our public institutions, our private companies and our communities are working together to make our society more equitable. Unfortunately, I don't have the silver bullet answer to this problem, but I pledge to you

that I will work to convene stakeholders, activists, other elected officials and impacted community members to begin the process of creating a more just Kentucky.

Kentucky has the sixth highest incarceration rate in the nation. What will you do to make strides toward ending mass incarceration in Kentucky and reinvesting resources into the communities most impacted by this system?

With one of the highest incarceration rates in the nation, we cannot arrest our way out of society's problems. We need to focus on making investments in marginalized communities to offer them ways to grow themselves out of poverty with access to better wage jobs, and support their path to higher education with real dollars. Our prison population is also filled with people suffering from addiction and mental illness, and prison is not an effective path to recovery. We should focus our efforts on deflection and diversion programs instead of jail sentences for those that are struggling with these issues. I will always work to find solutions that put dangerous criminals behind bars but provide rehabilitation for our fellow Kentuckians who need treatment instead of incarceration.

Do you support a statewide Fairness law to protect LGBTQ people from discrimination in housing, employment, financial transactions, and public accommodations based on sexual orientation and gender identity?

Yes. Discrimination in any form is just wrong.

Nearly 400,000 low-income Kentuckians qualified for health care for the first time under the Affordable Care Act. But major challenges in affordability and gaps in access to care still remain. How would you ensure access to quality, affordable healthcare to poor and working class individuals across all Kentucky counties? What are your legislative priorities for the overall health of Black, Indigenous, People of Color? What are your legislative priorities to ensure reproductive health and justice?

I will aggressively fight back against any legislation that would repeal the Medicaid expansion and threaten Kynect. Thousands of Kentuckians have seen better health outcomes because of this vital program. Ensuring that rural hospitals remain open and that our folks throughout Kentucky have access to care will be a priority for my legislative work. As we all know, communities of color have to deal with healthcare treatment disparities, we need to provide funding designated to increase health screenings in marginalized communities as well as provide training and guidance from experts to our providers to ensure that they are truly treating their patients that are people of color. I will work tirelessly to repeal our state abortion ban and provide reproductive healthcare to women.

HAVE QUESTIONS? ASK A KFTC ORGANIZER?



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