



August 10th, 2010

Kentuckians For The Commonwealth is a statewide, grassroots, membership-lead, social justice organization. We have nearly 7,000 members from Paducah to Pikeville, with the majority of them located in Louisville, Lexington and across the Mountains of Eastern Kentucky, with emerging Chapters in such communities as Bowling Green and Northern Kentucky.

KFTC is a non-partisan organization and does not endorse or oppose candidates. Our efforts are focused on registering new voters, encouraging occasional voters to become active participants in our democracy, and providing all voters with information about where candidates stand on a wide range of issues. We believe that our democracy is best served when there is an active, open, public discussion of critical issues affecting the future of our state.

On behalf of our membership, enclosed is a **Candidate Survey** which is being sent to each of the Kentucky candidates for US Senate and US House. This survey provides a good opportunity for you to share your views and qualifications with a large number of Kentucky voters.

We will be sharing your responses to this candidate survey with our members, allies, and the public at-large in a number of ways prior to the November 2nd Election. We will:

- Post the survey responses on our website, **www.KentuckyElection.org**.
- Mail **50,000 copies** of a Voter Guide by mail to our members, allies, voters we've registered, etc. that will include your survey responses.
- Direct people to survey responses through other outreach methods including extensive phone banks of **50,000** contacts in our database, radio public service announcements, community events, Facebook, email, and more.

We request that you respond to each question with **200 words or less**. Your response will be printed exactly as written without bias or commentary. We reserve the right to print the first 15 words of your response in a table for quick comparison to other candidates as well.

Completed surveys must be received by **Wednesday, September 1st**. Please email your survey responses to **Dave@KFTC.org** or mail them to 250 Plaza Dr, Lexington, KY 40503. We prefer to receive responses by email to cut down on the time it takes to re-type the responses. Please include a web link to a preferred picture to use in our Voter Guide where possible.

I wish you well in the busy months ahead and look forward to receiving your answers. If you have any questions, please direct them to Dave Newton at (859) 420-8919.

Sincerely,
Dave Newton
Lead Voter Empowerment Organizer
Kentuckians For The Commonwealth
www.KFTC.org

Kentuckians For The Commonwealth State Legislative Candidate Survey

1. Over the past few years, mountaintop removal coal mining and the related valley fills has become a widely debated public issue. What is your position on removing the tops of ridge-lines and mountains, then filling valleys with rock and dirt from coal mining? Should more be done to protect Kentucky's streams from mining impacts? What policies would you propose or support?

I accept MTR and will support measures to ensure that streams are clean and flowing, people living nearby are safe, and the reclaimed land can be used by others. We need coal to produce low-cost electricity; and people in Eastern Kentucky need jobs so that they can support their families and enjoy a better quality of life. Coal jobs pay well and the reclaimed land can be used for other job-creating projects. In addition, MTR is safer for workers than mining. I believe that the coal companies should be held responsible to maintain water quality in streams; ensure the safety of those near MTR sites; and leave the site in a condition such that it readily can be used by others. Having low-cost electricity is critical to enabling low-income Kentuckians to enjoy a better quality of life. If the cost of electricity increases, then their cost of living will increase. They not only will pay higher electric rates but also will pay more for food because the producers and distributors of that food will pay more for their electricity. High prices promote poverty and result in less employment, denying many opportunities to enjoy a better quality of life.

2. Currently, over 92% of Kentucky's electricity comes from burning coal. Kentucky's reliance on coal-fired power contributes to some of the lowest electric rates in the nation. However, Kentucky ranks near the top in the nation in carbon dioxide pollution per person (a major cause of global climate change) and in deaths related to pollution from coal-fired power plants. What is your vision for America's and Kentucky's energy future? What energy policies would you support or propose?

My vision for our energy future is to fuel our vehicles with hydrogen. The fuel of the future must become the fuel of the present; and I will work to make this a reality. Our only energy problem is the high price of oil and our heavy dependence upon it. The OPEC cartel controls the price of oil; and we must break this control by reducing our demand for oil and increasing production to become a net exporter (see The Switch and Drill Plan on www.rogerthoney.com).

Carbon dioxide is irrelevant. Claims of global warming/climate change have absolutely no basis in science because the underlying research is inconsistent with several known scientific principles as discussed on www.rogerthoney.com. Research must be consistent with basic principles of science in order to be valid science. This inconsistency renders such research inapplicable to the real world. Also, the focus on carbon dioxide is sophomoric because any alleged effect it may have would be dominated by the greenhouse gas water vapor which is 25-100 times more plentiful. Global warming is about nothing more than providing a justification to control people, which is why they work so hard to blame it on man's activities.

3. In 2005 the legislature made many changes to Kentucky's tax code, including a provision that exempted 300,000 people living below the federal poverty line from paying state income taxes. Some lawmakers have proposed further tax relief for Kentucky families earning just above the federal poverty line arguing that Kentucky's income tax bill on these families is the highest in the nation.

Other lawmakers argue that the significant changes made in 2005 are adequate and families above the federal poverty line should not receive any special tax relief. What policies would you support or propose related to taxes paid by low-wage workers?

I will propose measures to help low-wage workers pay their bills and improve their quality of life; however, I believe that they should pay their fair share of education and other essential government services. The key to helping low-wage workers is to reduce the cost of living by reducing the cost of taxation, regulation, and litigation. The focus on income taxes is myopic. The impact of other taxes, regulation, and litigation on low-wage workers is much more devastating. Many pay more through property taxes, cigarette and alcohol taxes, and taxes on bills such as telephone, electric, etc. than through income taxes; and they pay higher prices for food because of taxes on businesses. I will support measures to eliminate property taxes, reduce taxes on cigarettes and alcohol, and eliminate taxes on bills and business activity. I will support user fees to reduce the burden on all taxpayers. User fees implement the philosophy “those who receive the benefit, pay the bill.” Also, reducing the price of oil and health care will help reduce the cost of living significantly (see The Switch and Drill Plan and The Freedom Plan for Health Care Finance Reform on www.rogerthoney.com).

4. Kentucky's General Fund (the fund that pays for higher education, K-12, health services, and environmental and public safety) has a \$1.5 billion budget deficit over the next two years. Some legislators want to address the budget deficit by cutting the budgets of these public services. They claim that keeping taxes low will generate economic activity that will produce enough tax dollars to meet the needs of the commonwealth. Other legislators argue that Kentucky needs to raise additional revenue by changing our tax code. These lawmakers suggest raising taxes for wealthier Kentuckians to address what they believe to be a regressive current tax system. What is your position on whether additional tax dollars are needed to adequately fund education and other public structures? What tax policies would you propose or support?

I will support tax policies that stimulate job creation. Our deficits are the consequence of 10±% unemployment – the tax base shrinks and social-program spending increases as unemployment increases. To create more jobs, we must reduce the cost of doing business in Kentucky by reducing the cost of taxation, regulation, and litigation. This includes eliminating all taxes on business activity, including taxes on profit. Profit finances job-creating investment (see www.rogerthoney.com). Taxes on business activity are highly regressive because they increase the cost of living as do regulation and litigation. The demonization of businesses, profit, and the rich is simply a Marx-based propaganda ploy used in making a capitalist economy perform poorly to facilitate a transformation to socialism/communism.

To balance the budget, we should delay construction projects (new buildings, some roads, etc.); our education establishment should change to become more effective and efficient (better results, lower cost); and we must begin to require people to take care of themselves by changing our social programs from handout-based to loan-based. Those who receive the benefit should pay more of the bill. Also, raising taxes on wealthier Kentuckians will lead to many of them moving to Florida; and we will lose all of their taxes.

5. Kentucky is one of the two most difficult states for former felons to apply and receive their voting rights back. Over 186,000 Kentuckians have lost their right to vote because of our disenfranchisement laws. Many Kentuckians argue the right to vote should be restored when a person has paid his or her debt to society. Opponents argue that losing the right to vote is an appropriate punishment for people who commit felonies. What is your position on the issue of restoring voting rights for felons?

I support the rights of victims of felonies, not perpetrators. The more harsh the penalty, the more we value the rights of the victim. Loss of freedom (jail time) is only one part of the penalty. The loss of voting and gun rights is part of the penalty, too; and going through the process of getting them restored is part of paying one's debt to society. In addition, tough penalties help deter crime. I do not support the automatic restoration of rights because it will cheapen the rights of the victim(s); and I believe that the Governor of Kentucky should have the authority to restore lost rights to felons on a case by case basis. We want to encourage people to think long and hard before committing a felony in Kentucky. Having tough penalties is our way to do this. "Don't commit a felony in Kentucky" is the message that we want circulated among criminals and would-be criminals.

6. In 2004 Kentucky spent about \$808 million on the area of economic development. Nearly 71% of this spending was in the form of tax incentives for the businesses. Some studies have suggested that public money be spent on job training is more effective at creating jobs than money spent on tax incentives. However many economic development professionals argue that incentives are a necessary part of competing for scarce jobs. There is also a debate about the degree to which various economic development strategies have been and should be evaluated for results. What steps would you take with regard to Kentucky's economic development, and how would you ensure that public dollars are well spent?

Profitable business investment creates long-term jobs, not job-training programs. I will work to make Kentucky the most business-friendly state in the nation by reducing the cost of taxation, regulation, and litigation and providing a source of venture capital to help finance job creation by new and existing small businesses (see Kentucky Small Business Investment Program (KSBIP) on www.rogerthoney.com).

There should be no taxes on business activity to keep unemployment and the cost of living low and enable low-income workers to enjoy a better quality of life. There also should be no subsidies of business activity. If this were the case, then there would be no public dollars to be "well spent." The KSBIP is an investment program with the expectation that any taxpayer investment will be repaid with interest. The Cabinet for Economic Development will oversee it to ensure that the funds are used to create jobs within Kentucky and that the taxpayers receive their investment with interest.

I will support a job-training tax credit for individuals but not state-subsidization of any particular training program(s). Employers know what training is needed, not politicians, government bureaucrats, or consultants; and a tax credit for individuals will help pay for it.

7. Undocumented immigrants are a growing part of Kentucky's workforce, culture, and communities as they are for many states across the US. This has caused friction in many areas. Some Kentuckians think that undocumented workers are problematic because they take jobs and government services needed by citizens. Other Kentuckians say that immigrant communities make substantial positive

contributions to our state and that their needs are just as important as citizens' needs – and furthermore our economy couldn't function without them. What is your stance on immigration and undocumented workers?

The issue underlying illegal immigration is respect for our laws, our society, and our sovereignty. Illegal entry shows a blatant disregard and disrespect for us. Do we really want such people as guests? Would you invite someone to stay in your home who does not respect your authority? Disrespect for the laws of Mexico has made it a very violent country. Do we want that here? Laws are only words on paper and mean nothing unless people respect them.

Also, does it make sense to import workers while able-bodied Americans are unemployed or collect welfare? If such Americans were employed, then they could enjoy a better quality of life. Spending on social programs would be less and taxes lower. More money would be available to fund education and help those who are disabled. Americans should come first.

We cannot feed, house, and educate the entire world, so limits must be established. Every sovereign nation does this. Our immigration laws establish our limits. We should enforce our immigration laws; and, instead of running away and weakening any movement for improvement in their home countries, illegal immigrants should return home and work to improve living conditions there.