

2010 General Assembly Candidate Questionnaire

Personal Information

1. Full Name: **Roger Thoney**
2. Office Sought House Senate
3. District: **67**
4. Party Affiliation: Rep. Dem. Ind. Other
5. Please provide your preferred contact information below:

Address: **17 Meadow Lane #10**
City: **Highland Heights**
State: **KY**
Zip Code: **41076**
County: **Campbell**
Length of Residence: **40+ years**
E-mail Address: **rthoney@fuse.net**
Phone: **859-781-0790**
Fax:
Date of Birth: **3/29/54**
County, State of Birth: **Hamilton County, OH**

Occupation

6. Employer: **Self-employed**
7. Title/Position: **Economic Troubleshooter**
8. Business Address: **17 Meadow Lane #10, Highland Heights, KY 41076**
9. Business Phone: **859-781-0790**
Business E-mail: **rthoney@fuse.net**
10. Facebook Address:
11. Twitter Address:
12. Campaign Web Page: **www.rogerthoney.com**

Education

13. High School: **Campbell County High School**
14. College(s): **University of Kentucky; The Ohio State University**
15. Degree(s) Earned : **BSEE (Electrical Engineering); MSEE; MBA; MS Economics**

Activities

16. Have you ever owned, managed or been an officer of a business? Yes No

If yes, please explain. ***I incorporated my economic troubleshooting activities for a brief period and was the sole owner and officer. I also am Vice President and Treasurer of the Sonny Landham Foundation, Inc.***

17. Are you a member of a chamber of commerce? Yes No

If yes, please list chamber(s).

18. Have you served on the board of directors for a nonprofit or civic organization? Yes No

If yes, please list organization(s). ***The Sonny Landham Foundation, Inc.***

19. Have you run for or been elected to office previously? Yes No

If so, please explain. ***I was a candidate for 4th District U.S. Representative in the 2000 and 2002 Republican primaries and campaigned for Lt. Governor with Sonny Landham in 2003 and for U.S. Senate in 2009.***

20. Are you the incumbent of the position you are currently seeking? Yes No

If yes, how many years have you served?

21. Will you accept contributions from political action committees? Yes No

If you decide to endorse me, I will be honored to accept; however, I have taken a pledge to not accept contributions from political action committees.

I am running for State Representative because I want to try to implement an economic plan that will create enough jobs to increase household incomes throughout Kentucky. This plan is presented under Jobs for Kentucky on www.rogerthoney.com. The current condition of relatively low household incomes in areas such as Eastern Kentucky is unacceptable; and it is time for us to do something about it. People need jobs to pay their bills, so creating jobs should be our top priority. Businesses create the jobs that people need to pay their bills, so we should make Kentucky the most business-friendly state in America. Businesses are our allies, not our enemies; and it is time to repeal the anti-business laws and regulations which have their roots in the hatred of the business class promoted by Karl Marx and those who follow his ideology today. We need someone in Frankfort who understands how jobs are created; who will "put the people first, ahead of self and party;" and who will engage the Marx-based opposition. I will be that person.

Business Climate

22. In 2009, the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce released its **Leaky Bucket** study which asserted the state needs to gain control of spending in specific areas of state government. Check all of the following statements you could support.

Kentucky should reduce expenditures in corrections by revising Kentucky's penal code & privatizing

Services.

Kentucky should reduce Medicaid costs.

Expenditures for Kentucky's Public Employee Health Insurance Program should be reduced to reflect those in the private sector.

None of the above

Additional Comment: *Penalties for relatively minor offenses can be stiff fines rather than jail time; and we can use in-home incarceration more to reduce the cost of operating jails. We could substantially reduce taxpayer spending on Medicaid and SCHIP/KCHIP if we were to implement The Freedom Plan for Health Care Finance Reform (see www.rogerthoney.com). This program will replace Medicaid and SCHIP/KCHIP and result in as much as 90% less taxpayer spending in the early years than currently spent on these programs. It also will reduce the cost of providing health care, so expenditures in Kentucky's Public Employee Health Insurance Program should decline. I cannot support reducing health care benefits for public employees unless it is at their option; however, I can support providing them lower-cost options for which they can pay a lower premium than they currently pay.*

23. Insurance companies are required to cover certain medical services in addition to those required by federal law. Do you support requiring insurance companies to cover additional services? Yes No

Additional Comment: *Forcing insurance companies to cover additional services will further increase health insurance premiums which already are unaffordable for many. Additional services can be offered through policy riders that policyholders can choose to take or not. With riders, we can have a basic policy with an affordable premium and people who want more coverage can opt for the appropriate rider(s).*

24. Kentucky's Constitution requires a balanced budget. If state tax revenues fall below projections resulting in a shortfall, would you favor an increase in taxes, reduction in government spending or consider a combination of the two?

Increase taxes

Reduction in government spending

Combination of the two

Are there taxes you would support increasing? Please comment. *No. We should promote job creation to balance the budget. More jobs will result in more tax revenue and less spending on social programs. We must eliminate all taxes on business activity to reduce the cost of doing business. This will stimulate job-creating investment spending by private-sector businesses. In the short term, we should eliminate unnecessary or wasteful spending and defer construction projects such as some roads, new buildings, etc. to balance the budget. In addition, taxpayer-financed government spending would decline significantly if we were to implement The Freedom Plan for Health Care Finance Reform and change welfare from a handout-based program to a loan-based program.*

25. To help balance the budget, the General Assembly has often relied on one-time "fee transfers" from various state agencies. Do you support using fees generated by various agencies to help balance the General Fund budget? Yes No

Additional Comment: *These fees are user fees consistent with the philosophy that "those who receive the benefit or service pay more of the bill." Excess fees should be swept into the General Fund as a standard practice to help keep taxes lower regardless of spending level. The budget should be balanced in this economic environment by creating more jobs and reducing unnecessary or wasteful spending and political spending (earmarks).*

Education in Kentucky

26. Do you support or oppose the following proposals?

1= Strongly Support

2=Support

3= Unsure

4= Opposed

5= Strongly Opposed

4 Add days to the school year to provide more time for instruction.

4 Increase funding for early childhood development/full-day kindergarten.

2 Reform the teacher compensation system to reward and provide incentives to teachers based on performance.

2 Require collaboration between a superintendent and school council for principal hiring.

4 Raise the compulsory school attendance age to 18.

Additional Comment. ***We cannot afford more spending. We should better utilize the instruction time we have now rather than add more. We need to increase both efficiency and effectiveness in our schools. Early childhood development and kindergarten should be funded by parents instead of taxpayers. Performance pay for teachers and administrators should be applied at the system level not the individual level to reward teamwork. Individual teachers should not be held accountable for individual student performance because they have little control or influence over students' study habits. Whether the drop-out age is raised to 18 should be decided by voters in the local community and they should pay the extra cost. We must begin to decentralize Kentucky and move decision-making out of Frankfort.***

Civil Justice Reform

27. Should the General Assembly pass a constitutional amendment that would allow the legislature to limit non-economic damage awards in civil litigation? Yes No

28. State law requires that all legal actions involving the Commonwealth be assigned to the Franklin Circuit Court. The cost of dealing with a legal proceeding involving the state increases the further a business is located from the Franklin Circuit. Do you think a business should be able to initiate and conduct legal actions involving state agencies in its home venue? Yes No

Additional Comment: ***I want to study this issue more before I take a position; however, I do believe that the venue laws that apply to legal proceedings among individuals and private-sector businesses also should apply to proceedings that involve the Commonwealth. The standing of state agencies should be the same as private-sector businesses in regard to venue.***

Economic Development

29. Please select all of the statements which you feel apply to your views on Kentucky's economic development policies.

Kentucky should provide additional economic development incentives to existing companies to encourage retention and expansion.

Kentucky should provide additional economic development incentives to encourage new companies

to locate to the state.

- The current system of providing economic development incentives to new and existing companies is about right and should be supported by the legislature.
- Kentucky should improve its business climate with changes in its tax code to encourage more companies to locate and remain in the state.
- Kentucky should repeal its current economic development incentive program and offer no incentives.
- Kentucky should provide more incentives for companies to provide educational opportunities for its adult workforce.
- Kentucky needs to expand its incentive programs for small businesses and start-up companies.

Additional Comment: ***Our economic development strategy should be to make Kentucky the most business-friendly state in the nation by reducing the cost of doing business. We should eliminate all taxes on business activity; reduce the cost of regulation and litigation; and create a pool of venture capital to finance start-ups and small business expansion. We also should work to reduce the cost of health care and health insurance and workers compensation insurance. If this were our normal business climate, then no additional incentives would be needed or should be provided. Many businesses locate within Kentucky because we give them tax breaks. If there were no taxes on business activity, then would they not locate within Kentucky on their own volition? If we further reduce the cost of doing business by reducing the cost of regulation, litigation, health care, and workers' compensation insurance, would they not flood into Kentucky? Why do we not do this? Why is creating jobs not our top priority especially when we have economically depressed areas such as Eastern Kentucky? See Jobs for Kentucky on www.rogerthoney.com, particularly the Kentucky Small Business Investment Program, HB 725, and The Freedom Plan for Health Care Finance Reform.***

30. Should the General Assembly vote to allow expanded gaming?

- Yes
- Yes, but only with existing racetracks.
- Yes, but only with existing racetracks and a local option vote.
- No
- Let the voters decide through a Constitutional Amendment.

Additional Comment: ***We should focus upon creating more jobs throughout Kentucky to balance the budget rather than upon increasing revenue by expanding gaming. Creating more jobs will increase revenue to the state and reduce spending on social programs. In regard to the gaming issue, I believe that voters in each county should decide whether to allow gaming in their county and that counties that do permit it should establish a fund to provide full restitution to organizations victimized by gambling-related embezzlement and to provide for the rehabilitation of addicted gamblers. This fund would be part of the cost of gambling and should be funded by gambling interests or a tax on gambling proceeds. Taxpayers should not have to pay for this.***

Labor Relations

31. Do you support collective bargaining for any of the following groups?

Public school teachers and classified employees Yes No

University staff and professors Yes No

Police and firefighters Yes No

State and local government employees Yes No

I do not support public employee collective bargaining.

Additional Comment: ***I support the principle of economic freedom. I believe that the above-mentioned workers have the right to form a union for collective bargaining if they choose as well as the right to not join one if one is formed. Managements get the unions they deserve; and unions can help workers deal with unfair management practices and actions. However, market power in labor markets is just as bad for an economy as market power in product markets; so the power of unions must be regulated, as we currently regulate monopolies, to ensure that it does not result in above-market compensation for their members. Above-market compensation results in unemployment and the cost of living being higher than they would be otherwise. This hurts low-income households and many retirees who are on fixed incomes.***

32. Should Kentucky enact a "Right-to-work" law that states a person cannot be required to join a union in order to get, or keep, a job? Yes No

Additional Comment: ***Forcing a worker to join a union is a blatant assault on his economic freedom. It is time for us to start recognizing our founding principles of individual liberty and economic freedom as restraints upon our actions.***

33. Kentucky's prevailing wage law requires all government construction contracts in excess of \$250,000 pay a prevailing wage established by the Kentucky Department of Labor. Which of the following would you support? (Check all that apply)

- Repealing the current prevailing wage law to save taxpayer dollars.
- Exempting public education facilities from the prevailing wage law.
- Expanding the prevailing wage law to all government contracts.
- No change

Environment

34. Do you support the current ban of a nuclear power facility in Kentucky? Yes No

Additional Comment: ***Nuclear power facilities have been operated safely for decades.***

35. Please mark **ALL** of the statements which you feel apply to your views on Kentucky's energy strategy.

- The General Assembly must do all it can to protect Kentucky's coal industry and low electricity rates.
- The General Assembly must be proactive in looking at alternative fuels including providing tax incentives and research dollars.
- The General Assembly should force energy companies to use a certain percentage of renewable energy

to reduce greenhouse gases.

The General Assembly must be a leader in reducing carbon emissions by working to reduce the use of coal.

Additional Comment: ***Claims of global warming have absolutely no basis in science whatsoever because the underlying studies are not consistent with known principles of science (see www.rogerthoney.com). "Scientific" work must be consistent with known principles of science in order to be valid science. Reducing carbon emissions is nothing more than a political issue intended to promote wind and solar energy by increasing the cost of competing energy sources. Proponents care little about how their actions will impact low-income household and retirees.***

Workers' Compensation

36. Would you support capping lifetime medical benefits for workers' compensation cases that have not sought medical attention for the injury within five years? Yes No

Additional Comment: ***I will support reasonable measures to reduce the cost of workers' compensation insurance, but I want to research this issue more before I will agree to support such a cap on benefits. I am particularly interested in finding ways to reform our workers' compensation system to reduce legal costs. Also, if we were to implement The Freedom Plan for Health Care Finance Reform (www.rogerthoney.com), then the cost of providing health care would decline and so would medical claims paid by the workers' compensation program.***

Please return this questionnaire to Beverly Standifer by **July 30**.

Mail it to: 464 Chenault Road
Frankfort, KY 40601