



# ELECTION

A guide to the choices facing  
southcentral Kentucky voters  
in the Nov. 8 general election

★ ★ ★ **2016**

## DEBATE IN THE DISTRICT

The Daily News and the Downtown Redevelopment Authority invite the public to meet and greet local candidates and hear discussion about area issues and concerns Tuesday at Debate in the District at La Gala, 601 State St. Doors open at 5 p.m. The 20th District state house candidates speak at 5:45 p.m., with city commission candidates following. Enjoy food and beverage vendors, local nonprofit information booths, a political costume contest, door prizes and giveaways. RSVP to Debate in the District on Facebook.

## U.S. SENATE

## JIM GRAY (DEMOCRAT)

**Office sought:** U.S. Senate, Kentucky  
**Relevant experience:** A successful businessman and seventh-generation Kentuckian, Jim Gray knows Kentucky. Jim's family built a business from the ground up. Gray Construction is now one of the largest construction companies of manufacturing plants in America. Gray's life's work has been about creating real opportunities for people. Gray Construction has created more than 20,000 jobs and has built more than 500 projects in Kentucky. As mayor of Lexington, Jim has put his business experience to work to get the city's finances in order. He took a budget with a \$30 million deficit to create surpluses year after year. Under his leadership, job growth in Lexington increased five times faster than the state average. He reformed the city's health insurance and pension systems, saving taxpayers more than \$100 million. Jim is ready to take this same experience to the US Senate and deliver results for all Kentuckians.

**Social media:** Twitter (@GrayforKentucky), Facebook (facebook.com/GrayforKentucky)

### How should U.S. foreign policy deal with the growing danger of ISIS?

I grew up in Glasgow, where my mother and father started our family's construction business after they served in World War II. This region is home to my family who settled here in the late 1700s. We have called Barren, Cumberland, Metcalfe and Monroe counties home for seven generations.

My experience in building a business and in public service taught me that safety and security is the government's first responsibility. And to do it we must focus intentionally on defeating ISIS. We do it by building strong coalitions, finding them wherever they are and isolating them. That means supporting our allies who are fighting ISIS on the ground. And at home we have to support our own intelligence and law enforcement communities to give them the tools they need to find and defeat terrorists.

Rand Paul's record on national defense and military is clear: He proposed slashing defense spending by 30 percent, he was against the patriot act that allows our intelligence community to track suspected terrorists and he missed 90 percent of his Homeland Security meetings. John McCain said Rand Paul "obviously has a higher priority for his fundraising and political ambitions than for the security of the nation."

### Do you support passage of the 12 separate continuing resolutions in the U.S. Senate to deal with the overall federal budget?

I prefer we stop short-term stopgap continuing resolutions and return budgeting to regular order.

The increase in partisanship has contributed to a breakdown in the regular order traditionally used in the appropriations process. This has led to more frequent use of massive omnibus bills that contain trillions of dollars of spending and



are inherently more difficult to scrutinize due to their size and scope. Legislators like Rand Paul have contributed to this process by amending random bills to force votes on politically sensitive topics. For example, Paul inserted an amendment into a clean water bill for the purpose of political grandstanding. He was given his in-committee vote, which failed, and the water bill passed after his amendment was withdrawn.

Hijacking unrelated bills to make a political point is toxic behavior, and it has made the Senate even more partisan. Instead, we need to focus on restoring normal order to our appropriations process. Unlike Rand Paul, who has been rated as one of the most partisan members of the Senate, I will work with Republicans and Democrats to fix the appropriations process.

### Should the U.S. Congress vote to raise the federal debt ceiling?

Our goal with the national debt should be to reduce and ultimately eliminate it. To get there we have to be practical and grow our way out of this hole. I often say when you're green you grow, when you're ripe you rot. And we can't shrink ourselves to greatness. We have to make investments in Kentucky, in America, in modern roads, bridges and high-speed internet to grow our economy that generates new revenue and pay down this debt.

When I became Lexington's mayor, we inherited a \$30 million deficit and turned it into year after year surpluses. We did it by working with the Republicans and Democrats on the city council to carefully cut waste and make investments. The federal government can do the same and we need senators who can make a difference because of experience like I've had.

Rand Paul grandstands, rarely listens to others and fights with both parties. He'll never get results for Kentuckians with that approach.

### What does a common-sense U.S. immigration policy look like?

No one can deny that our immigration system is broken, it's an economic security problem as well as a national security problem. I support the bipartisan, comprehensive immigration reform bill that passed the Senate two years ago with the support of Bob Menendez, Marco Rubio, John McCain, Michael Bennett and Lindsey Graham.

That legislation contained revised work visa rules options for agriculture, an improved business immigration system for workers in STEM fields, a streamlined verification system for employers and a carefully regulated path to citizenship. It isn't perfect, but it strengthens border security, it is fair to taxpayers, and it will solve the problem in a practical way. True to form, Rand Paul voted against it.

## RAND PAUL (REPUBLICAN, INCUMBENT)

**Office sought:** U.S. Senate, Kentucky  
**Relevant experience:** I've spent the last six years of my time in the Senate working on behalf of all Kentuckians and defending them from the federal government's attempts to over regulate their businesses and lives. I've been a leading voice in pushing for a balanced budget and tackling our country's enormous debt, fought tirelessly to defend Kentucky from President Barack Obama's war on coal, and I have led the efforts to stop sending our money overseas to haters of America and instead keep it here in Kentucky where it belongs. Kentucky needs a senator who has a strong record of standing for them, no matter what, and who is committed to addressing the issues facing this country and our families here at home in the commonwealth. With a nearly perfect vote attendance record in the Senate, and returning more than \$2.5 million from my office budget back to the Treasury, I'm confident that these last six years reflect my dedication to the people of Kentucky and the type of ideals we stand for.

**Social media:** Twitter (@RandPaul), Facebook (www.facebook.com/RandPaul)

### How should U.S. foreign policy deal with the growing danger of ISIS?

ISIS is a threat to our national security and the world at large, so that's why we must take a tempered and prepared approach to addressing the threat they pose.

The first thing we must do is stop arming and training the allies of ISIS and instead arm the Kurds. By arming our own allies and insisting on Arab boots – not American – on the ground, we can begin to defeat ISIS. I've personally invested my time in the Senate fighting against sending money and weapons to these haters of America.

I've also worked to make sure any efforts that require the use of military forces against ISIS are approved of by Congress. This president has continued his unending wars through vague and out-of-date war authorizations. The amendment that I introduced to the National Defense Authorization Act stated that we needed a new declaration of war by Congress.

While we must face ISIS and take on the challenges that they pose against our national security, we must do so within constitutional means and an agreed strategy.

### Do you support passage of the 12 separate continuing resolutions in the U.S. Senate to deal with the overall federal budget?

I have been clear that I will not support any spending bill that continues to add to our nation's mounting debt. We must review all spending and fund the government at a level that will not bankrupt our country. I have led by example in examining my own office budget and returned \$3 million to the taxpayers since taking office.

Congress cannot effectively examine spending when faced with a take it or leave it massive end of year bill that spends more than \$1 trillion. I support taking up each of the 12 annual spending bills one by one so Congress can examine all spending and make much needed adjustments. Unfortunately, Harry Reid and President Obama



continue to block Congress from doing just that.

Funding government agencies individually will not be enough to solve our debt problems, however. We need a balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which I have co-sponsored and voted for. That would require the government by law to balance the budget every year. And I have shown just how that can be done by introducing a plan to balance the budget in five years without raising taxes or cutting Social Security, Medicare or VA benefits.

### Should the U.S. Congress vote to raise the federal debt ceiling?

I have voted against raising the debt ceiling and the spending levels that have been driving our debt every time they have come up, and I will continue to do so. Any future debt ceiling increases need to be matched with true budget reforms such as a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution.

That's why I've focused my time in the Senate being a leader on budget reform, particularly establishing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. Between my own legislation and other pieces of legislation that I have supported, which would establish it, I've fought to give a balanced budget amendment a shot of becoming the law of the land.

If you look at my plan to balance the budget in five years, you can see that a balanced budget can be a reality without raising taxes or cutting Social Security, Medicare or VA benefits. Making sure that we reign in the federal government's excessive and irresponsible spending is key to getting our country back on the right track.

### What does a common-sense U.S. immigration policy look like?

Any immigration reforms must start with securing the border, properly screening visitors before they arrive and stopping sanctuary cities. I have written bills to do exactly that. Only when our country is secure should we make changes to our legal immigration system.

I have introduced legislation to do just that. My Trust but Verify proposal requires the border to be secured before any reforms to our legal immigration system are implemented.

My SECURE Act prevents terrorists from entering the country through our visa system. It would set a waiting period for background checks and pause visas for countries with a high risk of terrorism until we can properly screen visitors.

My Protecting American Citizens Together Act puts an end to sanctuary cities by holding back federal grants to cities that refuse to notify federal immigration authorities and detain an illegal immigrant they have arrested.

Fixing our broken immigration system is important and a necessary part of permanently stopping illegal immigration, but it cannot come before border security and other measures to protect our country.

## DAILY NEWS ELECTION 2016 VOTERS' GUIDE

The Daily News asked candidates in general election races of local interest to respond to written surveys detailing their positions on select issues. The candidates were given word limits for their responses to each question. Some candidates chose not to use all of their allotted space. Their answers have been minimally edited.

Surveys of candidates for Glasgow City Council are available online at [www.bgdailynews.com](http://www.bgdailynews.com).

Democrats, Republicans and Independents  
are supporting

# Speaker Pro Tempore Jody Richards

OUR STATE REPRESENTATIVE



## Working Together: The Secret to our Success in Bowling Green/Warren County

As your State Representative, I am proud to champion legislation that has enabled our Commonwealth to be at the forefront nationally in job creation and economic development. The prestigious Governor's Cup has been awarded to Kentucky two consecutive years because of our strong bi-partisanship support to create a healthy landscape for businesses to prosper. Over \$943 million was invested in the Bowling Green area in 2015, leading to the creation of over 1,000 new jobs. It's no surprise with our dedicated workforce that Kentucky has become the largest aluminum producer in the United States and third largest automobile manufacturing state.

It is an honor to be your voice in Frankfort.

*Jody Richards*

# BOLD VISION • FRESH IDEAS • REAL RESULTS

Paid for By Richards for Representative, Norman Harned-Treas.

## STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES – 20TH DISTRICT

### MELINDA HILL (REPUBLICAN)

**Office sought:** 20th District state representative (part of Warren County)

**Social media:** Twitter (@melindahillbg), Instagram (ElectMelindaHill), Facebook (Electmelindahill), website (Electmelindahill.com)

**Much has been said about the state's pension system and its continued underfunding. What needs to happen in the upcoming session to fix that?**

Much NEEDS to be said about the state pension systems! The Democrats dug a hole. The hole is getting deeper, and they try to hide the fact that their own pensions are not in the hole.

Our state has a financial hole of critical proportions. It is jeopardizing the retirement payments of every state employee except the legislators themselves! Under the Democrats' watch the hole has grown to \$36 billion. Financial "holes" without any indication of action to fill them have consequences! Kentucky's bond rating has been downgraded to the third lowest in the country because of this critical debt so now we have to pay higher interest on money borrowed for things like roads.

We are morally obligated to fix the problem. First, stop digging! We will have to look at changes to the state employee retirement plans without jeopardizing those who are currently eligible.

Next – start aggressively filling in the hole. Cut wasteful spending in other areas and direct the savings towards the underfunded retirement systems. Strengthen the board that oversees the investments. Stop paying millions to fund managers.

Finally, we cannot afford to continue letting career politicians be responsible for the financial condition of this Commonwealth.

**What do you think of Gov. Matt Bevin's plans for Medicaid that were expanded under Gov. Steve Beshear?**

Reducing the number of uninsured Kentuckians is a laudable objective. The expansion under Gov. Beshear resulted in nearly a half million new people on Medicaid, but expansion comes with a cost. The federal government covers some of the cost, but with an additional half million



people being insured, the cost to Kentucky is higher and, as mentioned above, we have a \$36 billion hole to fill.

Governor Bevin's proposal does several things. It keeps everyone on the rolls, and adds some reasonable level of premiums (except for children and pregnant women) based on income to give each resident some "skin in the game." It eliminates some of the non-critical insurance such as dental and vision, but also adds rewards for desirable health behaviors and penalties for misuse.

If the federal government rejects Bevin's plan, we will not be able to afford the system as it exists from Beshear and the expansion may have to be rolled back. The feds may want to continue to send the taxpayers even farther into our \$20 trillion hole, but in my opinion those are NOT Kentucky values and I will not support even more "crisis spending" in Frankfort.

**What makes you qualified for this post?**

My qualifications include education, a long, diverse work history, almost six years in local government and a lifetime of being a local Kentuckian. I have an accounting degree and MBA which allow me to understand the financial impacts of legislation. I have a work background – which spans 32 years – in local, non-profit, banking, family owned and education positions.

Serving as a City Commissioner has given me an in-depth understanding of local government. I have seen first-hand how bad state legislation can negatively impact cities. During my tenure, I have worked with fellow commissioners to put forth \$53 million in capital projects and guide a staff of 746 employees. We never raised taxes, and increased the rainy day fund to \$20.5 million. I have worked tirelessly as a member of JDIP and ITA to create thousands of new jobs for our area.

I am hard-working, a fiscal hawk, a job creator and much too proud of my state to allow it to continue as one of the worst-run states in the country. It is time for fresh ideas in our state government and my background will allow me to do just that – to help lead us to a better Kentucky!

### JODY RICHARDS (DEMOCRAT, INCUMBENT)

**Office sought:** 20th District state representative (part of Warren County)

**Social Media:** Website (representativejodyrichards.com), Facebook, (www.facebook.com/SpeakerRichards/), Instagram (www.instagram.com/speakerrichards/), Twitter, (@speakerrichards), Email (representativejodyrichards@gmail.com)



**Much has been said about the state's pension system and its continued underfunding. What needs to happen in the upcoming session to fix that?**

The Kentucky General Assembly has made significant changes to the Kentucky Employees Retirement System (KERS), which will solve the system's funding problems over time if the legislature meets the required payments and the system's investments meet their goals. The legislature provided more than \$1.2 billion in additional pension funding in the current biennial budget. Pension investments suffered during the recent recession, but the continuing problem is the investment strategies of the KERS and the Kentucky Teachers Retirement System (KTRS). The General Assembly authorized an extensive audit of the retirement system which will identify flaws in the investments strategies and provide guidance moving forward. The legislature has set aside an additional \$125 Million for pensions that can be allocated where it is most needed during the upcoming legislative session. Further, I support and will vote to make the Commonwealth's legislative pension plan fully transparent, including all retirement systems. I give my guarantee to Kentucky citizens, including current employees and retirees participating in Kentucky's retirement system that I will be vigilant in my study and use all information to place the retirement systems on a solid foundation and that will keep the systems healthy and financially sound.

**What do you think of Gov. Matt Bevin's plans for Medicaid that were expanded under Gov. Steve Beshear?**

While Kentucky has a history of having a large number of uninsured citizens, the Commonwealth has made recent gains in coverage and in health-care outcomes. Preventive screenings for diabetes, cholesterol and cancer have doubled, emergency room visits have decreased and low-

income Kentuckians with chronic conditions receiving regular care has increased. I am hopeful that Governor Matt Bevin's Medicaid plan will continue that progress, but I am concerned that the working poor and our most vulnerable populations may face a loss of coverage. I am also concerned that Governor

Bevin's new system is one that the state's budget can afford. Ultimately, the federal government will decide the merits and the fate of Governor Bevin's plan. I would encourage state and federal authorities to work together to reach a morally and fiscally responsible solution that preserves the gains Kentucky has made in recent years and fits within the constraints of the Commonwealth's budget. Any plan must be affordable and it needs to ensure our dollars are used for the people of Bowling Green and Warren County, not the people working in Washington D.C.

**What makes you qualified for this post?**

It is my pleasure to represent Bowling Green as a State Representative of the 20th District and to serve as Speaker Pro Tem, being elected by the entire 100 members of the Kentucky House of Representatives. I hold a BA degree in English and a MA in journalism and for seven years was an English and journalism teacher at Western Kentucky University. In addition, I often teach a course in Kentucky government at WKU. My experience includes being Chair of the House Education Committee, being elected as Speaker of the Kentucky House of Representatives, serving as Chair of the 16-state Southern Legislative Conference and Chair of the Legislative Committee of the Southern Regional Education Board. After working in the year-book industry for several years, I started and ran Superior Books, a wholesale book company marketing a wide variety of books mostly outside of Kentucky for thirty years. In this capacity I purchased books, trained and managed a sales force and marketed books to all fifty states. I have had a broad variety of pertinent experiences including being a university teacher, starting and running a successful business, being a State Representative and Speaker of the House of Representatives.

"Our state has a financial hole of critical proportions. It is jeopardizing the retirement payments of every state employee except the legislators themselves! Under the Democrats' watch the hole has grown to \$36 billion. Financial 'holes' without any indication of action to fill them have consequences."

**Melinda Hill**

*Republican candidate for the 23rd District seat in the Kentucky House of Representatives*

"I am concerned that the working poor and our most vulnerable populations may face a loss of coverage. I am also concerned that Governor Bevin's new system is one that the state's budget can afford. ... I would encourage state and federal authorities to work to together to reach a morally and fiscally responsible solution."

**Rep. Jody Richards**

*Democratic candidate for the 23rd District seat in the Kentucky House of Representatives*

## U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES – 1ST DISTRICT

### JAMES COMER (REPUBLICAN)

**Office sought:** 1st District U.S. House of Representatives (35 counties including Logan, Simpson, Allen, Monroe and Metcalfe)

**Relevant experience:** Lifelong farmer and small business owner; six-term Kentucky state representative; Kentucky commissioner of agriculture

**Social media:** Twitter (@KYComer), Facebook (www.facebook.com/kycomerforcongress)

**Our country has been at war for more than 15 years with a growing roster of injured veterans, yet our VA health care system has been fraught with problems. What would you do to try to solve problems within the health care delivery system for our veterans?**

What has been happening at the VA is a slap in the face to the very people who we should be looking out for the most. The long wait times, inaccessibility, and blatant disregard for our veterans highlight the need for urgent reform. Many problems stem from the top of the department, where there's a high level of incompetence and a troubling lack of transparency and accountability. We need to make it easier for the VA to get rid of bad employees, and shake up the entrenched network that fails to adequately provide care for our veterans. Much of the VA's failed bureaucracy can be reformed in multiple ways, including by giving our veterans more choices, and putting them in charge of their own healthcare decisions. Just like in every other area, opening up the VA marketplace will help bring down prices, and provide much better care for our nation's heroes.

**Opioid addiction has reached epidemic proportion in the country, what do you see as the role of Congress in addressing this issue? Be specific.**

The bill that was just signed into law, the Comprehensive Addiction Recovery Act (CARA), is a good first step in combatting the opioid epidemic across America. While this issue has been negatively affecting families nationwide, it has hit especially hard here in the Commonwealth. The tragic stories coming in from across Kentucky highlight the need for even more urgent action. While law enforcement certainly has a role to play in halting the surge of heroin, it is also crucial that we recognize the importance of effective treatment and rehabilitation to combat this epidemic. When I get to Congress, I look forward to working with treatment facilities, law enforcement, and community health centers across the 1st Congressional District. We will work hard to prioritize our spending so that we can better treat this problem, and promote preventative measures that can better keep our families



and children safe.

**There has been much heated discussion on both sides of the aisle with regard to immigration. What are your thoughts on immigration and how can the country more thoroughly vet those seeking to live permanently here?**

As we have seen firsthand in this part of the state, the steady influx of illegal immigration is a serious issue, and it puts our national security and sovereignty at risk. The very first thing that needs to be done is for us to secure the southern border and crack down on sanctuary cities, which create a magnet for further law-breaking. A nation without control of its borders is a nation that cannot effectively keep our families safe, especially in the age of the global war on terror. It is also critical for Congress to take steps to strengthen the vetting process for new immigrants and refugees coming into the country. This is vital if we want to prevent those with ties to Al-Qaeda and other terrorist networks from coming into Bowling Green and radicalizing others towards their cause. After we accomplish these things, we also need to reform and simplify our visa and migrant worker programs, so that, farmers for example, are better able to secure laborers who unfortunately are in short supply.

**One in six Americans lack consistent access to food. Kentucky is one of 14 states that ranks statistically higher than other states for households with food insecurity. How should Congress address this issue?**

The epidemic of hunger, not only here in the Commonwealth but across America, warrants serious attention. Too many of our citizens go hungry, including many children, who are disproportionately affected. Luckily, many organizations on both the state and local level are putting forth a great deal of effort into solving this problem, and providing more food security to more people. Congress can help contribute further on hunger issues by working with state and local officials, including private organizations like the Kentucky Association of Food Banks, to find ways to redirect food that will likely go to waste. Whether it's from farms or restaurants, there's enough food around to feed more of our families, and it is vital that agriculture play an important role in that. As Congressman, taking from my deep experience in agriculture and public service, I will promote increased cooperation between farmers and food banks, and work with charities to eradicate this issue.

### SAM GASKINS (DEMOCRAT)

**Office sought:** 1st District U.S. House of Representatives (35 counties including Logan, Simpson, Allen, Monroe and Metcalfe)

**Relevant experience:** Five-year veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and eight-year veteran of the U.S. Army, trained Marine officers in Quantico, Va., 13 years military infantry with diplomatic experience in working with the 2nd Iraqi Division General as a liaison for combat operation in Diyala Province in the Battle for Baqubah, Iraq.

**Social media:** Twitter: (@samgaskins2016 and @dontbuildwalls), Facebook (www.facebook.com/samgaskinsforcongress), website: samgaskinsforcongress.com

**Our country has been at war for more than 15 years with a growing roster of injured veterans, yet our VA health care system has been fraught with problems. What would you do to try to solve problems within the health care delivery system for our veterans?**

The major problem with the VA system is that it is too heavy, meaning there are too many decision makers and not enough workers. Once the decision makers let the workers do their jobs, the workers will fix the issues.

**Opioid addiction has reached epidemic proportion in the country, what do you see as the role of Congress in addressing this issue? Be specific.**

The war on drugs was waged against the wrong



enemy. I have been informed that dealers are sent to the same rehabs as the addicts. Congress needs to listen to law enforcement instead of big pharmaceutical companies.

**There has been much heated discussion on both sides of the aisle with regard to immigration. What are your thoughts on immigration and how can the country more thoroughly vet those seeking to live permanently here?**

The immigration system is broken, everyone agrees with that. The vetting system needs to overhauled to lower the risk of dangerous men and women from entering. We won't catch them all, I am not so gullible to believe we will. We need to give those that want to make a better life for themselves and their families a true path to citizenship.

**One in six Americans lack consistent access to food. Kentucky is one of 14 states that ranks statistically higher than other states for households with food insecurity. How should Congress address this issue?**

Kentucky has a history of poverty, and it continues to be a problem. Congress has tried to make it easier for access to benefits without giving any hope for a real way to live. Congress should be working to create work for our citizens.

**FACT: INSOLVENT PENSION PLANS FOR TEACHERS AND STATE EMPLOYEES**

**FACT: \$41 BILLION IN STATE DEBT**

**FACT: SIX-AND-SEVEN-FIGURE PUBLICLY FUNDED, BUT SECRETLY MAINTAINED, PENSIONS FOR CAREER POLITICIANS**

**40 YEARS OF JODY IS ENOUGH**

**ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!**

### MELINDA HILL'S RECORD

ON THE BOWLING GREEN CITY COMMISSION:

- ✓ Balanced the Budget and Created a Surplus
- ✓ Increased the City's Rainy Day Fund
- ✓ All Without Raising Taxes!

ON NOVEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> VOTE TO CHANGE FRANKFORT!

**VOTE MELINDA HILL FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE**

MELINDA *Hill*  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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## STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES – 19TH DISTRICT

**MICHAEL LEE MEREDITH (REPUBLICAN, INCUMBENT)**

**Office sought:** 19th District state representative (Edmonson County, part of Warren)

**Social media:** Website (Meredithforkentucky.com), Twitter (@Kyrepmeredith), Facebook (http://tinyurl.com/h4j8z4l)

**Much has been said about the state's pension system and its continued underfunding. What needs to happen in the upcoming session to fix that?**

During the budget process this year, the legislature put nearly \$1.3 billion additional dollars into the pension systems. This was a step in the right direction and we should work to put as much extra money as possible into the systems during future budget sessions. However, in the next session, we need to look at ways to increase transparency in the management and expenses of the systems. I am particularly concerned about fees being paid to fund managers and placement agents. Regardless of whether the rate of return on the systems investments is low or high, these fees are significant costs to the system and the retirees and current employees that are depending on the retirement systems providing benefits that were promised to them. The pension crisis was not created overnight and it will not be solved overnight. However, we must add additional funding whenever possible, create more transparency in the way the systems are managed and focus on ways to decrease the cost and increase the return on the systems investments, while maintaining the benefits that were promised to employees and retirees.

**What do you think of Gov. Matt Bevin's plans for Medicaid that were expanded under Gov. Steve Beshear?**

I appreciate the fact that Governor Bevin has brought a bold plan to handle the Medicaid system in Kentucky. Make no mistake, once the state has to start picking up the tab for expansion, there is no way for it to be sustainable long-term without reform, major tax increases or cuts to other important state government services. The Governor's plan calls for protecting the most vulnerable in our population including children, pregnant women and the disabled.



The plan also promotes personal responsibility and seeks better health outcomes. It requires able bodied adults to engage in employment, volunteer work, employment training or job search activities to maintain their enrollment. It also requires them to pay a premium between \$1 and \$15 a month, anyone

who has to pay for health insurance knows this is a small price to pay. It also promotes better health outcomes and proper utilization of the healthcare delivery system by providing exposure to copays and therefore an incentive for those who use the health care system appropriately. Ultimately the federal government will approve or deny the waiver, but we must find ways to promote a healthier Kentucky and find ways to decrease costs in the Medicaid program.

**What makes you qualified for this post?**

I have served as a Representative for the last six years and have a proven record of working with colleagues on both sides of the aisle and in both the Senate and the House to get results for the people of our district and Kentucky as a whole. During this time, I have been a part of improving numerous bills as they traveled through the legislative process and I've had success in passing very complex legislation. Personally, I am very grounded in the district that I have been blessed to represent and I know and understand the issues and challenges that are important to citizens in our area. I take these concerns very seriously and I fight to find solutions to them each day. Right now many of the issues we face, like the pension system, are financial issues and I have spent my entire career in the financial sector. My experience as a community banker provides me with the knowledge and skills necessary to fix these difficult problems. As the Representative of the 19th District, I will continue to work to ensure the bad decisions of the past do not saddle the next generation with tremendous amounts of debt.

"I appreciate the fact that Governor Bevin has brought a bold plan to handle the Medicaid system in Kentucky. Make no mistake, once the state has to start picking up the tab for expansion, there is no way for it to be sustainable long-term without reform, major tax increases or cuts to other important state government services."

**Rep. Michael Meredith**

*Republican candidate for the 19th District seat in the Kentucky House of Representatives*

**JOHN WAYNE SMITH (DEMOCRAT)**

**Office sought:** 19th District state representative (Edmonson County, part of Warren)

**Social media:** Facebook (www.facebook.com/johnwayne.smith.581), website (Johnwaynesmith.org)

**Much has been said about the state's pension system and its continued underfunding. What needs to happen in the upcoming session to fix that?**

There is no single session fix for Kentucky Pension System woes! Kentucky's reported 2015 holdings in the 6 state and 28 local pension plans was \$29.9 billion. Total pension disbursements for 2015 were over \$3.8 billion, and total employee and government contributions were just over \$1.7 billion. Anyone can calculate the time required to bankrupt all pension systems when this \$2.1 billion shortfall remains. Our first legislative effort should be to combine all the six state pension plans under a single system. Each member of state government should share a common risk or a common reward related to their pension plan. Why should Teachers, State Troopers, and valued state employees be forced to deal with huge deficits, while the state legislative and judicial plans are fully funded? Kentucky had a pension plan surplus 14 years ago. What processes have caused us to be less than 53% funded today? I will support a common risk proposal for pensions! I will support a review of legislation to correct processes that disproportionately increases one individual's pension benefit over that of another. The majority of Kentucky's state employees work for wages below their counterparts in the civilian sector.

**What do you think of Gov. Matt Bevin's plans for Medicaid that were expanded under Gov. Steve Beshear?**

Governor Beshear added 425,000 Kentuckians to Medicaid. According to a state audit, Governor Beshear entered office with a \$389,000,000 Medicaid shortfall. Governor Bevin indicated the current Medicaid shortfall is \$128,000,000. Therefore, Governor Beshear reduced the shortfall by \$261,000,000 while adding 425,000 of Kentucky's most vulnerable citizens to the roles. Every element of Governor Bevin's proposal must be approved by the Federal Department of



Health and Human Services. Some of the key elements are routinely rejected by HHS. Entire segments of health care treatments are eliminated from coverage. Increased premiums and penalties cut huge holes in a minimal safety net. Health care costs must be reduced for all Kentuckians, not just on the backs of Medicaid recipi-

ents and those who treat them. Health care fraud, often associated with SSI qualification, may be the single largest opportunity to reduce Medicaid expense in the Commonwealth. Kentucky needs a legislative body willing to address the larger disease and not just the symptoms. Wellness must be a component of learning, working and success. Eliminating a wellness component from Medicaid will only precipitate a reduction in the available workforce in Kentucky – something our economy cannot survive.

**What makes you qualified for this post?**

To honorably fill the position of Representative of the people, one should have demonstrated a servant character. I have done this throughout my life in the community, in church, and in public service to our Commonwealth and Country. As Chief of Staff of the Kentucky National Guard, I managed the day-to-day functions of the Army National Guard to include the budget, facilities maintenance, personnel training and the full time support personnel within the Commonwealth. During this period, and with the help of COL Mel Shelly and Mr. Frank Willey, we established the program that would become the single individual soldier clothing and equipment distributor for much of the Armed Forces. I am proud of the jobs and resources it has brought to Kentucky. This job, my role as Commandant of the Kentucky Military Academy, and my duties as Director of Kentucky Youth ChalleNGe required my constant coordination with state and national legislators. This experience to make positive things happen is just what District 19 needs at this time. The District 19 legislation blight lasted from 2004 through 2015. In these 11 years not a single bill authored by a District 19 Representative was signed into law!

"There is no single session fix for Kentucky Pension System woes! ... Our first legislative effort should be to combine all the six state pension plans under a single system. Each member of state government should share a common risk or common reward related to their pension plan."

**John Wayne Smith**

*Democratic candidate for the 19th District seat in the Kentucky House of Representatives*

## STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES – 23RD DISTRICT

**DANNY J. BASIL (DEMOCRAT)**

**Office sought:** 23rd District state representative (Barren County, part of Warren)

**Social media:** Email (dbasil16@icloud.com), website (dannymbasil.com) and Facebook (facebook.com/dbasilkystrep)

**Much has been said about the state's pension system and its continued underfunding. What needs to happen in the upcoming session to fix that?**

We cannot completely fix the pension system underfunding problem in the 2017 session without a tax increase. I am strongly opposed to a tax increase as are all or most of my district. One of the main reasons our pension systems are so underfunded is that the income earned on invested funds has been way below the projected rate of return for the long period back to at least 2008.

Some of our retirement money is invested in Hedge Funds, which can produce a high rate of return, but for the past few years their rate of return has been near zero. The 2017 Legislature needs to carefully look at past investments and see what changes need to be made for the future.

I do believe our economy is improving and as a result we will have some additional state revenue, a portion of which can and should be dedicated to the pension funds in addition to the statutory contributions that are required by law. We must restore fiscal responsibility to Kentucky government and it will take cooperation between Republicans and Democrats to do that.

**What do you think of Gov. Matt Bevin's plans for Medicaid that was expanded under Gov. Steve Beshear?**

First and foremost, I do acknowledge that the state is faced with a very difficult situation. I applaud Gov. Bevin's enthusiasm and his efforts to reduce the cost to the taxpayers of the Medicaid Program. I believe that requiring recipients of some benefits to pay a little or make sacrifices of some sort is a positive step, but only if the recipient is able to do so. Some are not.

I do believe that the Medicaid expansion under Gov. Beshear has helped some people avoid catastrophic problems through preventative medical care (i.e., it is cheaper to prevent some problems [stroke, cancer, etc.] than to provide Medicaid care after it happens). I am afraid the waiver



request will be a setback for many of those preventative programs.

The desire for better health care is held by both parties, and I do not want to see us go backwards. I think Democrats and Republicans must roll up their sleeves and go to work to provide reasonable healthcare for Kentuckians at a cost we

can live with.

**What makes you qualified for this post?**

If elected as State Representative, I will vote on new laws, changes to existing laws and the Kentucky budget.

I am a husband, father, grandfather, veteran of the Air Force during wartime, and a lifelong resident of the 23rd District.

I served on the staff of House Speaker Bill Kenton during the entire 1980 Legislative Session analyzing every floor amendment and every committee amendment before I left Frankfort for the evening so Speaker Kenton would have them the next morning.

I am a UK law school graduate who has practiced every kind of law in the 23rd District for over 30 years. I have appeared in Frankfort, and other places, for hearings before the Public Service Commission, Transportation Division, Division of Water, Division of Unemployment and others. My law practice included civil and criminal litigation, oil and gas law, timber law, juvenile law, adoptions, divorce law, unemployment law, and several other areas. I am very familiar with Kentucky laws.

In 1978 I received an MBA degree from WKU, which will help me to be effective understanding Kentucky budgetary matters and Kentucky laws that affect businesses.

I grew up on a farm and have had farming interests my entire life, including dairy and beef. My bachelor's degree is in forestry, which will help me to understand Kentucky's wildlife and natural resources issues.

I will be an independent voice that will stand up for the people of the 23rd District and do what is right for Kentucky.

"I am afraid the waiver request will be a setback for many of those preventative programs. The desire for better health care is held by both parties, and I do not want to see us go backwards. I think Republicans and Democrats must roll up their sleeves and go to work."

**Danny J. Basil**

*Democratic candidate for the 23rd District seat in the Kentucky House of Representatives*

**STEVE RILEY (REPUBLICAN)**

**Office sought:** 23rd District state representative (Barren County, part of Warren)

**Social media:** Facebook (facebook.com/RileyforRep), website (rileyforkentucky.com)

**Much has been said about the state's pension system and its continued underfunding. What needs to happen in the upcoming session to fix that?**

According to a recent survey with S&P Global Ratings, Kentucky has the lowest ratio of all states of money needed to make payouts to current and future retirees. We need to cut spending where possible and devote those savings to paying down our pension obligations. I think we owe it to our retirees to fully fund the pension system. I am in favor of Gov. Bevin's path to fix this problem.

The House Democrats' proposal to borrow \$3.3 billion for the teachers' pension would have left us in a worse hole. They assumed a higher return on investment than interest-rate paid, but in reality, investments actually lost money last year. I do not want to pass on this cost to our future children and grandchildren. It's a problem we must face today.

**What do you think of Gov. Matt Bevin's plans for Medicaid that were expanded under Gov. Steve Beshear?**

Medicaid is an issue we must face with all seriousness because of the impact on so many people. We need to make sure we are diligent as it affects the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The Medicaid system, as it exists, is unsustainable. Something has to give.



Gov. Bevin has proposed reforms to the system that would allow us to maintain the expansion of eligibility that Gov. Beshear instituted. No one is kicked off their benefits by the waiver. The waiver would allow us to maintain it as a system. I look forward to the opportunity to attack this problem in a way that will benefit the state of Kentucky.

**What makes you qualified for this post?**

I believe that my life and work experiences have given me many of the qualifications needed to be state representative for the 23rd district. After graduation from Western Kentucky University with degrees in History and Political Science, I worked for three years at Lindsey Wilson College teaching History and Political Science and coaching both men's and women's basketball and baseball. After marrying my wife Lisa, a Registered Nurse, we moved to Glasgow, where I worked for the Barren County school system in various roles at Barren County High School including teacher, boys' basketball coach, Assistant Principal and Principal.

In working with over 9,000 students in 31 years, I had the opportunity to impact the lives of young people from various backgrounds in Barren County. I have also been privileged to work with the many wonderful parents, grandparents and other family members of our students. I worked with great teachers, administrators and many other employees who valued students.

"The House Democrats' proposal to borrow \$3.3 billion for the teachers' pension would have left us in a worse hole. ... I do not want to pass on this cost to our future children and grandchildren."

**Steve Riley**

*Republican candidate for the 23rd District seat in the Kentucky House of Representatives*

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## STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES – 16TH DISTRICT

**MARTHA JANE KING (DEMOCRAT, INCUMBENT)**

**Office sought:** 16th District state representative (Logan and Todd counties, part of Warren)  
**Social media:** Twitter: (@MarthaJaneKing); Website: (marthajaneking.com), Facebook (facebook.com/RepresentativeMarthaJaneKing)

**Much has been said about the state's pension system and its continued underfunding. What needs to happen in the upcoming session to fix that?**

I believe it is morally wrong to deny Kentucky employee retirees the benefits they have worked for and depend on. In the upcoming session I remain committed to funding the plan and keeping it solvent. I took office in 2009, immediately after the mortgage meltdown and the worst economic times since the Great Depression. The Kentucky Retirement Plan had been underfunded since the 1990s through many legislative sessions, under Democratic and Republican governors and House and Senate chambers.

In the 2013 session I voted for Senate Bill 2, which created a Hybrid Plan for new employees and carried less risk to the state. It also required the state pay the Actuarially Required Contribution to help stabilize the plan over the next 30 years.

During the 2016 session I voted for House Bill 303, which paid the Actuarially Required Contribution plus an additional \$1.2 billion and \$125 million for Permanent Pension Fund. I believe each year will bring continued challenges. I will vote for bills which offer cost savings and transparency in our retirement plans, as long as those bills don't contain language which will bring changes not relevant to funding and the health of the retirement plans.

**What do you think of Gov. Matt Bevin's plan for Medicaid that was expanded under Gov. Steve Beshear?**

Obamacare was voted on in Washington, D.C., and it is sad the elected officials could not or would not work together to craft a health care policy that would be affordable and helpful for individuals and business. Gov. Matt Bevin has had three different opinions on Obamacare. He prom-



ised to end Kentucky's participation in Medicaid expansion before he was elected, after elected he decided to keep it, and now he wants to modify it with a waiver program. It is up to the federal government to approve his plans.

Here in Kentucky over 425,000 more Kentuckians have had a chance to become insured. Many constituents with pre-existing conditions, sick or disabled children and adult family members who had no insurance were grateful for coverage. I voted to keep the Medicaid expansion because I believe everyone should have affordable healthcare, period. I am glad the governor has decided to keep the expansion and I also believe everyone should have skin in the game. But I am concerned as to how the government will decide who is able bodied, how the waivers requirements would be monitor, and how not to add additional red tape and confusion for Kentucky.

**What makes you qualified for this post?**

My greatest strengths are my work ethics and my ability to bring people together and work as a team. I am very proud to have grown up on a farm where we learned life lesson each day. As a business woman for 41 years, a mother and grandmother I bring real world objectivity, common sense and respect to the General Assembly. I am a self taught techie and am proud to be the Chair of the first Technology Committee in the Kentucky General Assembly As your state representative, I have not forgotten that I work for you. I realize how important it is to stay current and involved with elected officials at home, business leaders, schools, and community organizations.

Civic involvement is very important to me and I am an avid supporter of our police, firemen and first responders. I am a proud Double Eagle Mom, Kiwanian, Logan County Chamber of Commerce member and Secretary Treasurer of the Red River Church Meeting House and Cemetery. My husband Stephen and I have been married for 43 years.

"I voted to keep the Medicaid expansion because I believe everyone should have affordable healthcare, period."

**Martha Jane King**

*Democratic candidate for the 16th District seat in the Kentucky House of Representatives*

**JASON PETRIE (REPUBLICAN)**

**Office sought:** 16th District state representative (Logan and Todd counties, part of Warren)  
**Social media:** Website (www.jasonpetrie.com) Facebook (www.facebook.com/jasonpetrieforstaterrepresentative)

**Much has been said about the state's pension system and its continued underfunding. What needs to happen in the upcoming session to fix that?**

First, the pension system must be made transparent and decisions regarding investments scrutinized for accountability. Decisions made behind "closed doors" are not in the best interest of our commonwealth. Second, persons within state government making ill-advised decisions regarding risky investments or excessive fees should be replaced. In real life, poor decisions have real-life consequences, whether at work or at home. Decisions within our government should be treated no differently. Third, the legislature must resolve to make difficult budget decisions and allocate appropriate funding to the pension system. Having the worst-funded public pension system in the nation is unacceptable.

**What do you think of Gov. Matt Bevin's plan for Medicaid that was expanded under Gov. Steve Beshear?**

Gov. Bevin's waiver requests will help make the Medicaid expansion financially sustainable, engage expansion enrollees in their coverage, reward good health decisions and place the insurance coverage for expansion enrollees on equal footing with average private health insurance. Understand that the governor's plan affects only the new enrollees within the expansion and does not affect benefits for children, pregnant women, medically frail adults or adults eligible for Medicaid before expansion. Able-bodied



adults will be required to "contribute" by time or otherwise to assist in some minimal way to give back to the taxpayers' funding the expansion benefits. Good health decisions will be rewarded, and Medicaid expansion is treated as assistance rather than permanent insurance. Enrollment

periods are defined so that administrative costs can be reduced. Each action should result in greater sustainability of the expansion; without the plan the current expansion is not sustainable financially especially in light of our public pension crisis.

**What makes you qualified for this post?**

First, I am a husband and father who wants simply to improve our district and commonwealth by serving people and solving problems. I want to change the status quo and correct the course of the commonwealth for our children and future generations. Second, my educational background in economics, philosophy and law provides practical insight into current legal and economic issues. My daily practice of law draws upon these areas and enables me to understand and address the day-to-day struggles of people in this district. Third, 18 years as a courtroom attorney has strengthened my ability and resolve to stand firm and take lead. I will lead regarding the right to life, right to religious freedom and right to bear arms. I will lead regarding elimination of personal income tax and passage of right-to-work legislation. Political correctness and status quo are for politicians; I want to correct our course and serve the people of Logan, Todd and Warren counties.

"In real life, poor decisions have real-life consequences, whether at work or at home. Decisions within our government should be treated no differently. ... (T)he legislature must resolve to make difficult budget decisions and allocate appropriate funding to the pension system."

**Jason Petrie**

*Republican candidate for the 16th District seat in the Kentucky House of Representatives*

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## 43RD DISTRICT JUDGE

### JOHN GABRIEL 'GABE' PENDLETON (APPOINTED INCUMBENT)

**Office sought:** District judge, 43rd Judicial District (Barren and Metcalfe counties)

**Relevant experience:** I've been 43rd District Judge since March. I was an Assistant Barren County Attorney for 11 years, and I spent all 11 of those years actively in District Court. I am the most experienced candidate in the race.

**Social media:** Website ([www.pendletonforjudge.com](http://www.pendletonforjudge.com)), Facebook ([www.facebook.com/gabeforjudge](http://www.facebook.com/gabeforjudge)), Twitter (@GabePendleton)



but fair, and I truly care about what I'm doing. I've never had a bar complaint against me. I'm an honest, genuine person, and I won't misrepresent myself to gain a vote. With me, what you see is what you get. I believe that trust is very important and I will never be the type of judge who says one thing, then does

another.

#### Why are you running for the 43rd District judgeship?

I am passionate about serving as District Judge, and I would like to continue serving my community in this role. I was appointed on March 18th, after a bi-partisan group interviewed each of the candidates and chose three names to send to the Governor. My opponent's name was not one of those. I have more District Court experience than any other candidate, I've been in public service my entire legal career, and I want to work hard to make a positive impact on Barren and Metcalfe counties.

#### What professional qualities do you feel make you the best candidate for the position?

If you research my six months as District Judge, you'll find that I'm efficient, I'm tough

#### What would be your chief priority as judge if you were to be elected?

My chief priority has always been to serve my community by working hard every day and by listening to every case that comes before me with an open mind. In my six months as District Judge, I've instituted a dress code in District Court, and there are other changes that I'd like to implement upon election, regarding DUI's, domestic violence and the court schedule. My priority is to ensure that people who come to court respect the process, are treated fairly, and don't spend all day waiting for their case to be called. I have based my entire career on fairness, respect, and common sense. I will preside over the 43rd District Court with those principles in mind.

### KATHRYN M. THOMAS

**Office sought:** District judge, 43rd Judicial District (Barren and Metcalfe counties)

**Relevant experience:** Kentucky Supreme Court, Law Clerk to Chief Justice Joseph E. Lambert (2003); Michael K. Bishop & Associates, Associate Attorney (2004-2006); Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney for Barren & Metcalfe Counties (2006-2009); Private Practitioner operating under the names of Thomas & Gardner; Thomas, Gardner & Wood; and Thomas Law Office (2009-present)

**Social media:** Facebook ([www.facebook.com/kathrynthomasfordistrictjudge/](http://www.facebook.com/kathrynthomasfordistrictjudge/))



all circumstances.

Finally, and simply put, I work hard. In private practice, I have had active cases in as many as 19 counties at one time. I spend a significant amount of time in court and traveling to/from court, and therefore, I regularly spend late nights at the office meeting with clients long after the typical 8-5 work day. I attribute this work ethic to my parents' example and my upbringing on a farm. Whether in a courtroom or the tobacco patch, the principles of hard work are universal.

#### What would be your chief priority as judge if you were to be elected?

While serving Barren and Metcalfe counties as both a prosecutor and a private practitioner, I have routinely handled cases involving persons with drug addictions. These cases not only include possession, trafficking and manufacturing, but also many cases stemming from the drug epidemic such as theft, assault, burglaries and others.

Many of the individuals I have encountered in felony court have long been in the system and often began their criminal behavior by some misdemeanor, or entry-level crime, in district court. As such, district court is the venue to reach criminal offenders early.

Much like parenting a young child, if we discipline early, there is a greater possibility for change. Yes, I believe in mercy, when warranted, but just as a parent loves their child enough to discipline them and to right their wrongs, we can have both compassion and consequences for criminal offenders. As judge, reaching a responsible balance between the two will be my top priority.

No. 8

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## BOWLING GREEN MAYOR

### DON LANGLEY

**Office sought:** Bowling Green mayor  
**Relevant experience:** Don Langley has over 30 years business experience in real estate, as being a landlord and investor.

#### What prompted you to run for the seat?

The fairness ordinance prompted me to run for mayor. Citizens who represent and support the fairness ordinance are hard working, law abiding, tax paying citizens. At present, without a fairness ordinance in the city of Bowling Green, the LGBT citizen could go to a public park or restaurant and be asked to leave because of their sexual orientation. A landlord could refuse to rent to or evict an LGBT citizen because of their sexual orientation. The present mayor and city commission have refused to pass a fairness ordinance or appreciate the LGBT community. I will have a fairness ordinance on the agenda and voted on within the first 90 days of office, if elected.

#### What will be your priorities as mayor?

Passing a fairness ordinance, quickly. Enough talk, we want action. Passing a Landlord/Tenant Act (URLTA), so there would be one lease for all tenants/landlords, not a lot of different leases made in favor of the landlord. Total transparency in city government, no closed door or secret meetings as evidenced by the closing of Robinson Avenue by the CSX Railroad. Racial equality for all minorities. No age discrimination in hiring practices. Funding for charities, nonprofits and arts council. Build a homeless shelter, so no one is sleeping under the bridge, especially families. City commission meetings moved back to 6 or 7 p.m. so more citizens can attend in person. No more overspending such as parking garage, downtown wrap and Hitcents development which accounted in \$9.5 million in over

### BRUCE WILKERSON (INCUMBENT)

**Office sought:** Bowling Green mayor  
**Relevant experience:** mayor 2011-present, Bowling Green Board of Commissioners 2007-'11.  
**Social media:** Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/bruce.wilkerson.14>), email ([bruce.wilkerson@bgy.org](mailto:bruce.wilkerson@bgy.org)).

#### What prompted you to run for the seat?

After serving on the Board of Commissioners for five years and seeing what was involved in helping the citizens of our community prosper, I thought my skills and abilities would be useful in working as a team to advance that priority. I also believe my demeanor, handling of problems, and direct dialogue with everyone has contributed to a fellowship of common cause. Of course, we all have our own opinions and may disagree on how to handle an issue, but the person offering an opinion is respected and included in the decision-making process.

#### What will be your priorities as mayor?

My priorities have not changed since first elected: using sound business management skills and seeking accountability in city finances. My goal is to offer the most effective, efficient and inexpensive municipal services possible; while understanding that good customer service is every city employee's responsibility.

#### What do you see as the biggest challenges facing the city, and what are the solutions?



spending (This project is still under investigation for overspending and mismanagement). Jobs and workforce development will be a high priority for everyone and especially for veterans, low income wage earners and students in school. A lot of work needs to be done on the city's debt of \$112 million. We have towns around Bowling Green, such as Cave City and Scottsville, with no debt. If elected mayor, let the work begin on building a better Bowling Green for everyone.

#### What do you see as the biggest challenges facing the city, and what are the solutions?

One hundred twelve million dollars in debt is a big challenge and I will be working on: no more over spending as evidenced by parking garage, and other projects. I will work hard bringing more jobs and development to Bowling Green to get rid of this debt and other income producing projects. The city's occupational tax from employees and property development (residential and commercial) is what fuels the city's economy. Think of all the progress, possibilities and good the city can do if we have no debt. A significant amount of low income housing needs to be built. The city has land for such development. Let's get the wheels turning. Lets make Bowling Green homeless free. The city leaders talk about how good Bowling Green is doing, then why do we still have homelessness, not enough low income housing, racial inequality, charities, nonprofits and arts council are still struggling. If you are ready for positive change, action now, then elect a mayor that can get it done. Elect a full time mayor, Write in candidate Don Langley.



A growing community faces many challenges. Those will always include traffic and neighborhood improvement.

Regarding traffic, our Public Works Department has been building, repairing, and re-surfacing roads and sidewalks at a record pace in recent years. The Metropolitan Planning Organization, on which I serve,

seeks to map out the way forward on transportation issues.

Regarding neighborhoods, our Neighborhood and Community Services Department engages neighborhood leaders and encourages community input for making their area of town a better place to live and raise a family.

The biggest challenge the city faces is finding qualified workers for the jobs our community is recruiting. With over 600 job openings in our 33 targeted industries, it is critical that workers be found and the proper training provided. Repeating a phrase from previous campaigns – the best social program is a good paying job.

But those are challenges we can meet. If our community stops growing, then challenges become problems, some of which are insurmountable. Sustained, manageable growth will continue to make Bowling Green a healthy and prosperous community.

## BOWLING GREEN CITY COMMISSION

### MARK BRADFORD

**Office sought:** Bowling Green City Commission

**Relevant experience:** I have a lot of experience dealing with the issues facing Bowling Green and Warren County, particularly development issues.

#### What prompted you to run for the seat?

A primary reason is that I think the city and county can do a better job with planning and growth. The airpark is a prime example. As most know the city and county once had plans for an airpark that would be located next to the Transpark. These plans were shelved almost certainly due to a lack of financing. Judging by what has been done on the north end of town, BGWC officials must have a very pessimistic view of BGWC ever growing enough anytime in the next century to where it would be feasible to build the airpark there.

The city and county seem to be trying to place as many obstacles as they can in the way of building the airpark. The main runway at BGWC airport is 6,500 feet. An airport with a runway 7,500 feet long can handle 747s. 747s are the workhorses of the air freight industry. An airport with this long of a runway could only be built at the Transpark. A 747-capable airport could open the door to distribution possibilities not just regional as well as to high caliber industries.

A thriving airpark would be more likely to occur if there is quality development in the vicinity of it and the Transpark. City and county officials seem more interested in driving off development to the north rather than promoting it.

#### What will be your priorities as a commissioner?

Better planning will be a high priority. Growth to the south has been good and should be pursued. But the north should not be allowed to wither away. A question should be what would be the best plan to make the airpark a reality in the near future. I think widening Cemetery Road for several miles past the Drakes Creek Bridge would be a key step. Cemetery Road is not a safe road and it strains to handle the amount of traffic that currently travels on it. A bridge across Barren River connecting Cemetery Road and Porter Pike with a road extending towards I-65 and the transpark/airpark would be beneficial in getting the airpark and any related or spinoff



businesses off the ground. This bridge across Barren River would almost certainly put more traffic on Cemetery Road. Thus it would be necessary to improve Cemetery Road. A priority of mine will be to not only make sure that such prospects are not taken completely off the drawing board but that actions aren't taken that would make them almost impossible.

#### What do you see as the biggest challenges facing the city, and what are the solutions?

Warren County has a high rental rate and a low home ownership rate. This indicates that the economy needs to grow and not just to the south. A monumental error was made at Exit 28 in building the Motorsports Park there. A reason for this was too much of a focus on the south. I was in favor of extending Highway 446, which connects 31-W and Exit 28, through I-65 and over to Porter Pike and then making Exit 28 a regular diamond interchange. This extended Highway 446 would have met Porter Pike close to where a bridge connecting Porter Pike and Cemetery Road would likely be located. Quality development such as a Wal-Mart and Lowes could have been located on this extended Highway 446. The airpark would need this in the vicinity of it for it and spinoff businesses to thrive.

An airpark capable of handling 747s would have great potential for southcentral Kentucky. The biggest benefit could be leaving the present 500 or so acre airport property – very prime real estate – open to development. The present runways particularly the short runway could be turned into a Campbell Lane type expressway. This would improve and alleviate the traffic situation on Scottsville Road and allow Lovers Lane, Cemetery Road, etc., to avoid Scottsville Road during peak hours. I think the city should work with private developers willing to devote about 100 acres of this property to parks, ball fields and a fairground and who have a vision that combining hotels and restaurants on the property with these could turn the airport property into a tourist attraction. Access could be given to this from both Briarwood and Wilkinson Trace improving these neighborhoods as well as the entire surrounding area.



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**BOWLING GREEN DAILY NEWS**

## BOWLING GREEN CITY COMMISSION

### RYAN GENE FULKERSON

**Office sought:** Bowling Green City Commission

**Relevant experience:** I was born and raised in Bowling Green and know our community well. I studied history and writing at Western Kentucky University, international relations at The City College of New York and law at Notre Dame Law School. Through my experience as a public defender and family court attorney, I have gained experience in problem solving, negotiating and dealing with stressful situations. Through volunteering for organizations like the International Center and St. Vincent De Paul I have gained experience working with and hearing the challenges of many sectors of our city.

**Social media:** Facebook (facebook.com/ryangenefulkersonbgcommission).



who support equality have been engaging the city commission in an attempt to pass a fairness ordinance ending legal discrimination against LGBT individuals; the current commission has totally ignored their concerns. At every city commission meeting a member of our community has told the commission why ending legal discrimination based on sexual orientation is important to them; these concerns are so unimportant to our city commissioners that they do not even bother to issue a response. This shameful disregard for the concerns of our community will never occur if I am elected city commissioner. I have a sincere desire to help build a better Bowling Green for everyone in our city, not just those who hold influence. If I am elected on November 8th, I will fight to make life better for everyone in our community.

**What will be your priorities as commissioner?**

I have three broad priorities; these are to end discrimination and further equality, to promote policies that would benefit middle and working class residents and to promote responsible and intelligent growth. To accomplish these priorities I will pursue a number of initiatives. I would immediately seek to pass a fairness ordinance. A fairness ordinance would extend the same protections already offered in regards to race, religion and ethnicity to sexual orientation and gender identity. Currently in Bowling Green it is legal to fire or evict an individual simply because they are gay. This is morally wrong and a horrible policy. None of the current commissioners support

tioner?

I will continue to be one that will put my name on every document that will bring jobs into Bowling Green and the expansion of present jobs. Other priorities will be to make sure that the city provides great services to our citizens.

**What do you see as the biggest challenges facing the city and what are the solutions?**

The biggest challenges over and above is the efforts of being in front of other cities in attracting major corporations to look at our city for jobs. We already have a great community and we need all to assist in attracting new people. As a commissioner it is my responsibility to encourage the use of our incentive packages with every employer I can.

ending this legal discrimination; if I am elected this will change. This is not a complex issue: you are either on the side of equality or the side of discrimination. I am clear as to where I stand. I will also seek to diversify city employment in the police department, fire department and all city agencies. Bowling Green is a diverse community and it is important that our city employees reflect the diversity of our city. I will fight to raise the minimum wage to a living wage of \$10.10 an hour. This would help workers to be able to meet their basic needs and have greater expendable income thus boosting our entire economy. I support URLTA, a landlord tenant act which offers basic protections for landlords and tenants irrespective of the terms of the lease. To promote responsible growth I would seek to promote downtown development, while maintaining the historic character of the area, and also only supporting projects where there is transparency and accountability. Lastly, I will support commercial air service at the BG airport ensuring those from elsewhere can get to Bowling Green and our residents can access the outside world.

**What do you see as the biggest challenges facing the city and what are the solutions?**

I see the biggest challenge in Bowling Green as continuing to grow our city while also making sure the benefits of growth reach all of our residents. I think it is extremely important that we promote growth and not become stagnant. In order

to promote growth we must work to bring well paying, diversified and innovative industries to Bowling Green. To do so we must make Bowling Green an attractive locale for these industries and companies. For Bowling Green to attract top jobs we need to have top-notch infrastructure and services. This would include expanding public transportation so that people can easily access jobs, services and support and seek to expand commercial air service at the BG airport so that we are well connected to the rest of the world, and encourage developing downtown into a central business and entertainment district that would be attractive to our residents and new residents alike. We must also end legal discrimination in our city through a fairness ordinance because modern, successful companies are not interested in relocating to areas that allow discrimination. However, while growing we need to make sure we are not leaving anyone behind and that the benefits of growth reach all members of the community. We need to raise the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour, putting Bowling Green on par with Lexington and Louisville and ensuring that no one who is working full-time is unable to pay the bills and put food on the table. We need to encourage affordable housing and pass the landlord tenant act URLTA ensuring that renters as well as landlords are provided basic protection. If we seek to ensure the benefits reach all members of our community we will truly build a better Bowling Green.

### JOE W. DENNING (INCUMBENT)

**Office sought:** Bowling Green City Commission

**Relevant experience:** Graduate of Kentucky State Police Academy; former Bowling Green Independent School Board member (18 years) and incumbent commissioner (22 years).

**Social media:** email: joe.denning@bgky.org.



**What prompted you to run for the seat?**

I'm running because with my experience I hope that our citizens feel that I can still represent them at city hall.

**What will be your priorities as a commis-**



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## BOWLING GREEN CITY COMMISSION

### ANDREW MANLEY

**Office sought:** Bowling Green City Commission

**Relevant experience:** Educationally I've attained my masters of public administration, bachelor of arts in psychology, minor criminology. As a student, I studied through internships with the BG Police Department and Kentucky Department of Public Advocacy. My professional experience includes nine plus years working for a large corporate organization within an international business capacity. I have served on the City's Board of Administrative Appeals since 2009. Born and raised in Kentucky and calling Bowling Green my home since 2004, I am proud to have a love and dedication for our state and community. Being an active volunteer and father I'm connected with our community. I understand life in modern Bowling Green by having an understanding of day to day life in both the joys and the struggles. I aim to support the growth and prosperity of all our neighbors.

**Social media:** Facebook ([www.facebook.com/andrew.manley.370?ref=ts](http://www.facebook.com/andrew.manley.370?ref=ts)), Twitter (@AndrewManley), Instagram (AndrewManley4BG).

#### What prompted you to run for the seat?

I have an enthusiasm to serve and to see our community prosper. In consideration of the current state of need for progress in our community, I aim to utilize the full extent of my education, experience and vigor to see it through. The policies I support demonstrate my values and dedication to work for the prosperity of all of those who



call Bowling Green, KY home. Being a father of two young boys, I share the common interest to support policy and decisions that will enable our youth to have an opportunity to live in a future Bowling Green that will sustain them and their families. My goal is to champion the policies and decisions that matter to our community.

#### What will be your priorities as a commissioner?

Above all, my priority is to be the accountable, available, and transparent in matters concerning local governance.

In terms of Public Policy, my overarching goal is to promote the growth and strength of our local middle class. I aim to do this by working to adopt URLTA, Increasing the minimum wage, passing the Fairness Ordinance, and promoting the increase in available affordable housing while avoiding gentrification.

In terms of Administration, I want see the city increase investment within its organization by including in the budget personnel expenses for Process Engineers who can focus on operational improvements and cost savings that can benefit our taxpayers. Such savings can allow for the reallocation of expenses to other projects such as infrastructure. I want to our city's management and staff empowered with the structural resources

to achieve optimal performance. With a focus on improvement and sustainability we can ensure our taxpayers that the City of Bowling Green is optimizing its resources.

Economically, we're doing a good job at attracting jobs and promoting small business. We need to continue to adopt ways to diversify our local economy and attracting and retaining talent. The number of job vacancies in our City demonstrates we a dire need for talent. In order to continue to attract new business and grow existing business, we need to promote policy that supports the talent that's going to support such growth. We demonstrate that we can support national brands as well as be the foundation for new, emerging companies. We also serve as home to one of the nation's top rated high schools - Carol Martin Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky. We also have strong support for education and training in 21st Century manufacturing technology. We have tremendous potential but we need to focus on efforts to support a talented workforce that's going to take Bowling Green in the latter half of the century.

#### What do you see as the biggest challenges facing the city, and what are the solutions?

There is opportunity for improvement within our city in regards to the below key aspects:

Income Inequality/Distribution of Income.

**Solutions:** As a first step, we need to adopt policy that increases the local minimum wage. I want to see policy that sees an increase by 2018, sched-

uled increases every two years as well as indexed for inflation. To further ensure minimum wage is sustainable, I want to see a review for increase mandated every five years by the city council. Second, we need to alleviate the Occupational License Fee for those earning at or less than the poverty line. We need to promote policy that promotes quality affordable housing in new construction. As our City grows in capital and population, it will be important to recognize the need for affordable housing as a means of resolve for income inequality and reduction of poverty.

**Affordable Housing:**

**Solution:** In order to grow our middle class and alleviate income inequality, we need to make sure that households have the ability to afford safe, adequate housing. Doing so will allow households to save, invest in growing in social mobility and become empowered citizens engaged with the community. When you look at the work other cities have done in the US to address the problem there are models that can be adopted within our own community.

**Fairness Ordinance:**

**Solution:** Passing a Fairness Ordinance to protect our LGBTQ community from discrimination is morally the right thing to do. Not adopting such a protection through public policy sets precedence that it's acceptable to discriminate- which is wrong. The City Commission has the ability to promote the commonwealth of the community and all its citizens, we need leaders that recognize this. I certainly do.

### JENNIFER MORLAN

Bowling Green City Commission candidate Jennifer Morlan did not submit responses to the Daily News' questions.

### NATHAN 'NATE' MORGUELAN

**Office sought:** Bowling Green City Commission

**Relevant experience:** I am a co-owner of Yellowberri Creative Studios. Over the past seven years, I've worked with Yellowberri (after graduating from WKU) to help local businesses become more successful through the use of marketing. My job keeps me in touch with almost every type of business there is in Bowling Green, and I believe that this makes me a quality candidate to be a commissioner.

I also fully believe that a city's board of commissioners should accurately represent the demographics of said city. Within Bowling Green, over 25 percent of our population is 18-35. We need to have a commissioner on the board who can look after this demographic and make sure everyone in our city is served equally.

**Social media:** Facebook ([www.facebook.com/nm4bg/](http://www.facebook.com/nm4bg/)), website ([www.nathanmorguelan.com](http://www.nathanmorguelan.com)).

#### What prompted you to run for the seat?

To be completely honest, I'm surprised there aren't more people running. I have to say that as a citizen of this town, I feel that the current commission doesn't reflect the beliefs and ideals that an amazing city like Bowling Green should have. I'm tired of hearing about scandals, and lost money. I'm tired of our commissioners avoiding the issues. Truly, I am tired and frustrated about many things as a citizen. However, I have taken these qualms and turned them into my drive to make this city the best that it can be.

#### What will be your priorities as a commissioner?

I want city hall to be completely transparent. There should be nothing to hide from our citizens. I want to overhaul our public transportation. I want to get video surveillance to make our parks even safer. I want more bike lanes and greenways in Bowling Green. I want to sponsor and vote for both The Fairness Ordinance and URLTA. I want to make sure our citizens are looked after equally. I want to fix our city's trash problem and clean it up. I



want to, and will, donate every single paycheck I get from being commissioner back to a BG charity or effort. But, most importantly, I want your vote.

#### What do you see as the biggest challenges facing the city, and what are the solutions?

The biggest challenge this city faces is the fact that we have a board of commissioners that is reactive instead of proactive. We have a board of commissioners that I feel doesn't truly listen

to their citizens, instead waiting for their turn to talk and provide a "politicians answer." We have a board of commissioners that I feel do not inspire and energize our citizens to help be the best that we can be. Our board of commissioners is in favor of the status quo.

I, however, will be proactive, and progressive. I will listen to, and truly engage our citizens. I will answer them with more than words. I will answer with actions, honesty, and an open mind and ears. I will bring energy and respect to our city. Most importantly, I will never, settle for the status quo. If you want to see how we're already making a difference, get on Facebook and search the hashtag #NM4BG, and check out the Nathan Morguelan for City Commissioner page. There you can see all of my plan, and vision, for Bowling Green.

What is the solution? VOTE. That's the solution. If you aren't happy with the direction of our local government, then now is the time to change it! Get out and vote! Tell everyone you know to get informed and vote as well! We have the opportunity to create positive change. We have the opportunity to make a difference, together.

I humbly ask for your vote on November 8th. Help give me the opportunity to lead Bowling Green in the right direction. Let's do this.

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## BOWLING GREEN CITY COMMISSION

### BRIAN 'SLIM' NASH

**Office sought:** Bowling Green City Commission  
**Relevant experience:** I do not support big government or small government; I support EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT that meets the needs of the citizens while also balancing the budget and providing essential services of protection, roads and parks.

Because of my work in the non-profit social services sector I routinely work with people on the highest and lowest ends of the socio-economic ladder. This work has provided me a unique perspective that allows me to work for the betterment of all people and not just a chosen few.

Bowling Green City Commissioner 2005-2012; Uspiritus-Bellewood Home for Children – Director of Western Kentucky 2013-Present, Associate Director of Western Kentucky 2007-2013; Small Business Owner and Operator – Fountain Square Lawn Care.

Western Kentucky University – 1993 Graduate with BA in Sociology and minor in Criminology; BGMU Board of Directors since 2007-2012; Bowling Green Kiwanis Club – “Kiwanian of the Year,” “George F. Hixson Fellow” – Chairman, ThunderFest Independence Day Fireworks Celebration.

**Social media:** Facebook: ([www.facebook.com/slim.nash.7](http://www.facebook.com/slim.nash.7)), Twitter (@BrianSlimNash), Instagram (brianslim)



nash), LinkedIn ([www.linkedin.com/pub/slim-nash/57/536/2a2](http://www.linkedin.com/pub/slim-nash/57/536/2a2)), website: [www.slimnash.com](http://www.slimnash.com).

#### What prompted you to run for the seat?

I am committed to doing what is in the best interest of ALL the citizens of Bowling Green, and this is why I

would like your support in my campaign to be your Bowling Green City Commissioner.

My track record shows me to be a proven voice for Bowling Green who will not “go along with the crowd” for fear of being ostracized, nor will I fight against beneficial projects or issues simply because I have an “ax to grind.”

I am a unifier, a political bridge builder. My campaign will bring effective leadership that is bold, yet balanced, to our city.

#### What will be your priorities as a commissioner?

I commit to every resident of Bowling Green the following four-point pledge:

1. To offer a transparent, truthful and representative government;
2. To provide supreme government services at

the lowest appropriate cost;

3. To ensure that OUR CITY can compete effectively in an ever-expanding local, state, national and international economy;

4. To improve the quality of life for ALL who call Bowling Green home.

#### What do you see as the biggest challenges facing the city, and what are the solutions?

1. Jobs. Jobs. Jobs. Given that the services that the city is able to provide, whether they be essential services or quality of life services, is based upon the amount of economic development that occurs within the city I believe that economic development will always be the most pressing issue facing Bowling Green, whether we are talking about yesterday, today, tomorrow and well into the future.

If elected I will work closely with the Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce who acts as the city's economic development branch. In addition to the Chamber, I will work with the Warren County Downtown Economic Development Authority to ensure that downtown redevelopment continues to prosper. I will support the City's Job Development Incentive Program (JDIP) that works in conjunction with Frankfort to: (1) incentivize existing businesses, whether they are small or large to expand their local operations to employ

local residents and (2) incentivize non-local businesses to locate their operations inside the city limits of Bowling Green which provides local residents with more opportunities for stable employment. This employment tends to be more stable because the JDIP obligates both the City and the employer to incentives and employment opportunities for a pre-determined number of years which allows the employee to have a more certain expectation of stable employment.

2. Balanced budget. Ensuring a balanced budget with as little tax revenue as needed is MANDATORY. I am proud to say that the city had a balanced budget – with no tax increases and even a tax decrease – during my previous tenure on the City Commission.

The balanced budget must include: public safety; economic development, including downtown redevelopment; infrastructure, roads and transportation; parks and recreation; strong neighborhoods.

3. Improved traffic patterns and flow. It is essential that the city work closely with the county and the state to ensure that we maintain quality streets that are safe and less prone to accidents.

I want to join forces with interested citizens and city staff on addressing these issues and allocating financial resources as necessary.

### SUE PARRIGIN (INCUMBENT)

**Office sought:** Bowling Green City Commission

**Relevant experience:** My greatest asset is my passion for Bowling Green, and my track record of involvement, service and leadership experience. My husband Lyle and I have chosen to live and raise our family in Bowling Green. I have served on many boards and committees and have a proven record of success and ability to contribute positively to the mission of these organizations. I currently serve as a BG City Commissioner (2014-present). As a sitting commissioner, along with my colleagues, we have moved the city forward in many important ways. We have provided funding for the BG police to fully implement a body camera program for the safety of both the citizens of Bowling Green as well as our officers. We have also initiated the beginning of the city parks comprehensive master plan with upgrades to Lovers Lane Soccer Park and Lampkin Park. We, once again, balanced the city budget while not raising taxes. We have allocated unprecedented resources for sidewalk and overlay projects across the community. Additionally, we have expanded the greenways hiking and biking trails. While there is much work to do, we have certainly made a positive impact over the last couple years and I would like to continue with this valuable and rewarding work.

**Social media:** Facebook: ([www.facebook.com/sueforcommissioner](http://www.facebook.com/sueforcommissioner)), Twitter (@Sueparrigin), Website: <http://sueforcommissioner.strikingly.com>.

#### What prompted you to run for the seat?

Back in 2014, my original run for the seat of commissioner, the reason was many BG residents, friends and colleagues suggested that my lead-



ership, along with experience, would make a good fit for the City Commission office. I took this invite seriously and worked to get elected. Now I am working to get re-elected to finish the important work we are currently engaged in as a commissioner. We are working through a comprehensive parks master plan with a guided and deliberate plan to improve the parks managed by the City of BG. We have worked very hard to remain financially solid, while expanding services to the community. Our focus still remains on economic development initiatives, bringing more and better jobs to our community is critical work that will ensure our future growth and development. We work very closely with county government, the BG Chamber of Commerce and WKU leadership to continue to grow our community. My guiding principles as a commissioner remain the same as when I was first seeking the office, “Community Growth and Financial Responsibility.” I will continue to use this vision statement as we are faced with the many difficult decisions on behalf of the citizens of BG.

#### What will be your priorities as a commissioner?

Economic development and job creation remain the number one issue for BG and surrounding areas. Having jobs available with a living wage as well as qualified workers who have the needed skills to take them is critical for our continued growth as a community. In addition to this, affordable housing is another very big issue. We need more home owners and more entry level homes

on the market. While developing downtown is a wonderful thing, we are driving our home prices up in this area to prices that the entry level home buyer cannot afford. We need to continue to look for areas of both the city and county to develop neighborhoods for first time home buyers. Finally, keeping our infrastructure moving ahead, as the community changes along with technology at a rapid pace. We are doing more with greenways, sidewalks, shared use roadways and our Go BG transit system. As our community continues to grow, moving the population around is a greater challenge than ever. We are currently widening Smallhouse Road, with monies that have been saved over time, which will allow relief in that area of our community. We will continue to save and earmark funds for future community projects to help improve our roadways and infrastructure. Finally, and perhaps most important, I would like to contribute to the continued growth and innovations for our community, while keeping our budget balanced and taxes low.

#### What do you see as the biggest challenges facing the city and what are the solutions?

Many of this was addressed in the previous questions, however again the biggest challenge is to continue to grow jobs and provide for a better quality of life for our citizens. Better jobs have

better pay, with better pay we can increase our quality of life with regard to housing, recreation, transportation and culture. Additionally, keeping our infrastructure in pace with our growth continues to be a challenge. We must continue to support and enhance our public transportation capabilities and continue to support growth and expansion of alternative transportation means through our greenways. Finally, I would like for us to form a committee to identify ways to enhance senior living. The committee should involve the Aging and Independent Living Agency, private service providers and local citizens. The committee's purpose would be to identify ways to enhance the quality of services for our seniors, and how to finance such services for our community. With baby boomers aging and needing more options for access to health care, transportation, education, entertainment, specialized living and day use facilities, we need to be much more proactive in meeting the needs of this growing segment of our population. Better services will mean a better, more productive quality of life for these folks, and the benefits to us as a community will far outweigh the costs.

I am most appreciative of the opportunity to serve this wonderful, vibrant and growing community and would be proud to continue this service with your vote.



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# BOWLING GREEN CITY COMMISSION

## DEREK LEE REEDER

**Office sought:** Bowling Green City Commission

**Relevant experience:** I am a natural born leader. I obtained both my bachelor and master's degree in nursing. I have had a variety of job experiences throughout my lifetime. I started out working at Kroger for seven years and I worked as a registered nurse for over 10 years. For the past two years I have practiced as a nurse practitioner. I have had many notable leadership positions in my career and have taken several business classes. This is my first time seeking office and I am looking forward to the opportunity of serving you as a city commissioner.

**Social media:** Website (derekreeder.com), Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/derekleereeder2016).



port and help it grow. Our Citizens deserve a city that will continue to grow as we continue to expand.

We also need to consider the health of our community. We need to continue to invest in our parks and make them safe. I believe that we should expand the community garden program and help provide fresh produce to our citizens. We need to partner with our organizations to improve the health of our citizens by teaching healthy choices. We need to attract more healthcare specialist so that we can minimize trips to Louisville and Nashville.

As Bowling Green continues to grow we need to provide safety and security for all of our citizens. Hiring more police and firefighters and providing them with the best equipment is ideal for our growing city. Our Schools are our future. With WKU being one of the leaders in educational degrees we have the advantage of having some of the best teachers in the state. We need to maintain and attract devoted teachers to ensure that all of our schools are top notch!

### What do you see as the biggest challenges facing the city, and what are the solutions?

Bowling Green is a rapidly growing city. With growth comes problems unless you take a proactive approach. It is important to continue to attract new businesses but you must also attract people to Bowling Green to fill those positions. In order to do that we need to make sure that we provide all our citizens with safe neighborhoods, encourage a healthy lifestyle, and a strong local economy.

We need our children to grow up in a positive environment. We can foster this by having safe neighborhoods. We need to hire more police to patrol neighborhoods with higher crime. We need to promote community projects such as block parties (which are put on by the Bowling Green Collation of Active Neighborhoods). I am also an avid supporter of community gardens and believe that they are a great way to bring communities together. We need to increase support of our schools and must make sure that they are top notch!

We must keep our community healthy. Upgrading our parks and making them accessible for all will help to achieve this. We can make our parks safer by installing better lighting, surveillance cameras, and emergency help stations. It is important for the city to partner with our city organizations and volunteers to provide health screening and care for our low income or uninsured residents.

We must also ensure that we have a strong local economy. We must support our small businesses. We must continue to have a vibrant downtown district because that is the heart of our community. Instead of having our citizens drive to Nashville let's seek out and attract those types of businesses to come to Bowling Green. Let's keep our citizens shopping in Bowling Green!

## DAN RUDLOFF

**Office sought:** Bowling Green City Commission  
**Relevant experience:** Former County Magistrate 2011-15, current chairman BG Board of Ethics, board member Human Rights Commission, board member Bowling Green Coalition of Active Neighborhood, board member Down Syndrome of Southern Kentucky, school mentor Warren County Schools

**Social media:** Facebook (facebook.com/DanRudloffCityCommission), Twitter (@DanRudloffCityCommission).



### What prompted you to run for the seat?

The catalyst for my decision to seek election is rooted in a deep and abiding commitment to this community. I have had the privilege to call Bowling Green home for my entire life. Growing up here and then returning to begin my career and raise my family in downtown BG gives me a unique perspective on the important aspects of living, working and contributing to our community. This is a complex world in which we live, and through my background in economics and 22 years of practicing law, I have developed a skill set that uniquely qualifies me for service with the Bowling Green City Commission. Further, I have gained valuable experience by proudly serving in a volunteer role on several community boards. Additionally, I want to be a part of making Bowling Green a better place for future generations through smart development and frugal management of limited resources. My experience with Warren County government and the development and implementation of the 30-year plan for Warren County may prove beneficial as it relates to progressive goals for our entire community. Ultimately, I have a heart for serving the people of our community, and the experience and skills to contribute to the leadership of Bowling Green.

### What will be your priorities as a commissioner?

My priorities if elected are two-fold: to be accessible and transparent. An elected leader should represent the needs, priorities and concerns of all citizens in his/her jurisdiction. Therefore, it is imperative that the

## MATT STEPHENS

**Office sought:** Bowling Green City Commission  
**Relevant experience:** The most important experiences and skills that I possess as your candidate for city commissioner are my ability and willingness to listen to everyone before making any informed decisions on all issues that will concern the citizens of this fine city. I'm a long time resident of Bowling Green, Ky, where I came to study at Western Kentucky University. Afterwards I was very fortunate to be hired at WBKO, where I just completed 10 years of service. I also spent eight years with Atmos Energy Corporation, helping to provide natural gas to many homes and industries amongst South Central Kentucky. I've now formed my own energy consulting group, in which I help industries and small businesses identify cost-savings opportunities and energy conservation strategies. I also hold a real estate license and I'm a proud member of the Southern Kentucky Association of Realtors. I belong to the Chamber of Commerce, Bowling Green JayCee's and I'm a strong supporter of BG Parks and Rec.

### What prompted you to run for the seat?

City Commission is an opportunity for me to serve a community that's given me so very much. I think it's time for Bowling Green to have a new, fresh face and

people of our community are able to reach me to discuss relevant issues. But it also important that elected officials are A PART of Bowling Green, being in touch with others by having a 'finger on the pulse' of the community. I BELIEVE AM THAT PERSON. I am fully vested in Bowling Green, and I am ready to study issues, listen to and research factors that impact our citizenry, and make informed decisions that are in the best interest of the community. I also pledge to be transparent in my conduct, communication and representation of the people of this community. Transparency in governmental leadership would include open dialogue with and between all members of the community as well as any and all issues and decisions being published for the public's information on the city of Bowling Green's website at bgky.org.

### What do you see as the biggest challenges facing the city, and what are the solutions?

Bowling Green's challenges include sustaining the rate of economic growth while not compromising basic services to meet needs of all our citizens. An important aspect of continued economic growth is to help shape Bowling Green into the best choice for new or expanding industry, changing health care needs, and specialized educational options. It will require Bowling Green to have visionary representation to engage leaders in industry, health care and education to move our community forward. But it is also critical that those same visionary representatives bear responsibility for delivering services and providing for the needs of the people that work, live and contribute to our community. It comes back to people serving people, which is the heartbeat of our democratic way of life. I want Bowling Green to be the best it can be for each person who calls it home, and I humbly ask for the opportunity to serve my part in making that happen.



voice representing it's concerns and interests.

### What will be your priorities as a commissioner?

One of my top priorities when elected will be to promote and develop economic development and growth, job retention and work hand in hand with other elected officials, WKU and other technical colleges to ensure that our growth is properly managed.

### What do you see as the biggest challenges facing the city, and what are the solutions?

Over the next five years, Bowling Green will experience some growing pains. Be it our employment base, affordable housing shortages, public transportation or language barriers, our city with my leadership ability can overcome these issues by working with our university and technical colleges, ELSI programs and Southern Kentucky Community Action to aid and remedy these challenges. There is no way we can fail, if we all work together as a team. This is why I'm asking for your vote and support on November 8th. Your friend and neighbor, Matt Stephens.

## BOWLING GREEN CITY COMMISSION

### RICK WILLIAMS (INCUMBENT)

**Office sought:** Bowling Green City Commission

**Relevant experience:** I'm a two-term incumbent in this position. I've managed successful businesses for over 40 years and have been able to apply that experience when considering how best to spend taxpayers' money and protect them from unnecessary and potentially harmful debt obligations. I've been active in public service to this community my whole life; I'm past president of the BG/WC Jaycees, secretary of the BG Noon Rotary Club, past board president of Big Brothers & Sisters of BG/WC, a Leadership Bowling Green alumnus, past board member and past chairman of Friends of L&N Depot and past board member of the BG Area Chamber of Commerce. All this and the knowledge gained from serving during my first two terms has provided me valuable management experience that I hope to continue to share with the citizens of Bowling Green as a member of the Bowling Green City Commission.

**Social media:** Twitter (@RickWilliamsBG), website (www.ElectRickWilliams.com).

**What prompted you to run for the seat?**

I've always had a deep appreciation and caring for this community. I wanted to use my experience and knowledge to help continue its growth and prosperity and hopefully make it easier for future generations to enjoy and keep it functioning as the best place on earth to live. I've enjoyed my time as a commissioner so far and hope that I've made a positive difference for the members of our community.

**What will be your priorities as a commissioner?**

To maintain focus on our budgetary responsibilities and long-term fiscal health. To keep us



all from facing the challenges that occur from heavier taxation and government over-spending. We cannot spend more money than we take-in and we must strive to make sure that the basic needs of our citizens are sound and funded first – police and fire protection, adequate utilities, storm-water management, proper sanitation, clean and safe water, and good streets are all things that come immediately to mind. And while some of these things are currently provided by contracted companies or utilities, it is still the responsibility of the city government to make sure that we are getting the best we can for what we're paying.

**What do you see as the biggest challenges facing the city, and what are the solutions?**

Making sure that growth is managed appropriately. We need to have adequate infrastructure in place to handle the requirements that continued growth is going to place upon it. This refers to both physical and utility-oriented needs like streets, traffic, transportation, water supplies, sewers and such – as well as humanistic needs like being able to deal with language barriers and cultural issues stemming from our growing international community. I would encourage our city staff and departments to always look at growth projects with a longer-range view in mind when planning. We need to stay prepared for what's coming next and not just deal with what's happening right now. Advance preparation will help prevent many expensive and unnecessary "fire drills" that always end up costing more than a well-planned and scheduled project.

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