

## GLI 2019 Statewide Candidate Survey

### Sheri Donahue for Auditor

**1. As Auditor, what would be your office's top legislative priorities in Frankfort?**

One of my priorities is to modernize and professionalize the IT Security Audits. Much of this can be done administratively through effective reorganizing of the Auditor's Office and prioritizing the hiring of qualified people to fill key roles related to cyber-security.

Legislation may be needed down the road to address funding to help the Commonwealth Office of Technology (COT) and the counties enact needed changes to protect the data of the people of Kentucky and Kentucky businesses.

The state has over 70 billion dollars in state and federal tax dollars pass in and out of its accounts every year. This is the 21st Century. When someone is audited, it is not about ledger books and piles of paper. Most of the thousands of transactions that the government does and all the record-keeping is done on computers.

We MUST do more to protect Kentucky computer networks because it's not a question of if we will be attacked but a question of when and will we be prepared.

**2. What key steps do you believe the Commonwealth needs to take to prevent fraud and waste in state government?**

One of my proudest professional achievements was after 9-11 I developed the system that the FBI now uses to coordinate domestic intelligence information. All of the information needed to prevent the 9-11 attacks was in the hands of the different law enforcement and intelligence agencies, but there was no way to share the information.

I think Kentucky government needs a similar system; and, under my leadership, the Auditor's Office will develop a similar system for all of state government.

**3. How would your office improve engagement with Kentucky business owners when it comes to reporting fraud and abuse by public agencies?**

I think the system that I described in #2 would be a great first step.

I also believe that business would be excited with the improvements in the state's cyber security. They are very well aware that the state has a lot of information on them, their customers, and their employees.



I would also push the Auditor's Office to do a proactive outreach to the business community so they are aware that we are open to their input.

**4. How would you prioritize audits and examinations of public entities that are not annual or statutorily required audits?**

First and foremost, the Auditor's Office must be responsive to circumstance as they develop. I am sure that when former Auditor Adam Edelen was elected, he did not expect that the first thing he would need to do is audit former Agriculture Commissioner Richie Famer.

Areas that I would like to look into include: the state pension systems, RiverLink, electronic voting machines, and the Martin County Water System.

