

## GLI 2019 Statewide Candidate Survey

### Mike Harmon for Auditor

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

We will continue to push for increased transparency, particularly on pension investments and government spending. Under my leadership, the Auditor's office has advanced legislation to help government at all levels be more efficient, effective, and ethical. Examples include legislation to improve area development district (ADD) transparency, strengthen city audit requirements, and reduce audit costs for county officials. We will also continue to work with local officials to address concerns, as we did by supporting legislation to allow jail canteen funds to be used for enhanced safety and security that protects both inmates and jail staff.

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

It is critical to have accountability and oversight in government to prevent fraud and waste, and we must continue looking for ways to improve accountability. Audits are an important way to provide oversight and ensure a culture of accountability. In addition, it is important to run our office in a non-partisan and independent way. When I came into this office, I told all our auditors, we don't target anyone and we don't give anyone a pass, we simply follow the data. We should find the data, confirm the data, and then report the data. This is the only way to establish, restore, and maintain trust in our government.

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

I have an open-door policy to anyone who has concerns or ideas, and my office maintains a strong working relationship with the business community. For example, we worked closely with Chamber of Commerce organizations to bring more transparency to workforce development funds and ADDs with 2017 House Bill 189. We also have a toll-free tip line at 1-800-KY-ALERT as well as on auditor.ky.gov to allow for reporting of any concerns relating to waste, fraud, and abuse. We encourage anyone with concerns to pass those along to our office.

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

My administration has prioritized audits and examinations of entities that have never been audited before, such as the Administrative Office of the Courts and the Kentucky Law Enforcement Foundation Program Fund (KLEFPF). In another example, we recently discovered that a regional jail had not been audited since it was established a decade ago, and our staff will be conducting an audit of that entity. We assess all concerns that are presented to our office and prioritize

looking into credible allegations of waste, fraud, or abuse. In allocating limited audit resources, we also consider factors such as the amount of funds involved, timeliness, and potential impact of an audit or examination.

