

GLI 2019 Statewide Candidate Survey

Governor

1. What is your strategy for attracting new businesses and jobs to regions like Greater Louisville and encouraging current Kentucky businesses to grow and expand?

One of the top priorities of any governor must be attracting new jobs and generating economic development, and I will commit to both of those objectives. State government plays a critical role in attracting new businesses and jobs and helping current businesses grow and expand. As governor, I will use tax incentives to attract jobs that pay a living wage because when working families succeed, the health of our overall economy improves. I'll specifically invest in agritech jobs, which can revitalize rural communities, and my administration will also boost our advanced manufacturing sector, which provides good-paying jobs across Kentucky. I'll expand our tourism and hospitality industry to capitalize on our potential for growth in horses, bourbon, sports, adventure tourism, and more. And I'll prioritize workforce development by funding public education, making community college and technical schools more accessible, and investing in skills training programs for workers.

2. What is your plan for addressing Kentucky's public pension crisis?

A pension is a promise. We have to make our pension system solvent to keep promises to state employees and retain and attract new workers for professions such as teaching and law enforcement. We should do this by creating new, dedicated revenue to fund pensions. We can do this by taking common-sense steps such as the legalization of expanded gaming and sports betting.

3. What is your vision for comprehensive tax reform in Kentucky?

Kentucky needs comprehensive tax reform that doesn't place new burdens on working families. Tax incentives should attract good-paying jobs, not be given to companies that create low wage jobs. Our tax code should also support small businesses and local farms, not punish them.

4. Would you support a constitutional amendment allowing local governments to levy a sales tax?

I will work with the legislature to increase revenue and that starts with expanded gaming and legalization of medical marijuana.

5. Do you support or oppose expanded gaming in the Commonwealth, including sports betting and casino gaming?

I fully support expanded gaming. Kentucky taxpayers are traveling to other states to enjoy gaming opportunities, and our state government loses millions of dollars in revenue every year as a result. I believe that it is past time for Kentucky to expand gaming, allow sports betting, and prepare for online poker.

6. Do you support an increase to the state gas to provide more funding for infrastructure projects?

Kentucky's infrastructure is in dire need of repair. Our roads and bridges have been rated as some of the most unsafe in the country, and failing water systems in places like Martin County are creating serious safety hazards for our people. Meanwhile, many rural families and businesses still lack broadband internet access. I'll invest in repairing and creating new roads and bridges, including the I-69 bridge, which will open up whole new regions for economic development and create jobs. I'll update our infrastructure to keep Kentuckians safe and expand rural broadband, which will support business growth, especially in rural areas.

7. As Governor, would you seek to preserve or end the Medicaid expansion in Kentucky?

My administration will preserve the Medicaid expansion in Kentucky. With some of the worst health rates in the country, Kentuckians have benefited enormously from expanded Medicaid coverage. The expansion has also helped keep rural hospitals open and generated economic growth in rural communities. We have to continue the Medicaid expansion to protect health care access for Kentuckians.

8. What steps would your administration take to improve Kentucky's legal liability climate for employers?

As the top law enforcement officer in the state, getting justice is very important to me. That means those who are harmed should have access to courts. Those courts should conduct proceedings that are fair to all parties. As governor, I will enforce the laws on the books, and work with the legislature to change laws that are unfair to Kentucky families.

9. What steps would you take as Governor to improve education, including early childhood, K-12, and higher-education?

I'm so committed to making public education a top priority as governor that I selected a teacher to be my running mate. Jacqueline Coleman is a lifelong educator and basketball coach, and she knows how critical Kentucky's public schools are in preparing our children for the future and equipping them with the skills they need to be successful. I'll

put public school funding first, including for higher education, which has seen years of cuts and has become increasingly out of reach for many students. I'll also appoint a state Board of Education and Education Commissioner who support public education and will work collaboratively with teachers instead of targeting and insulting them. And I'll push for a teacher pay raise, which will attract and retain Kentucky teachers, and to expand early childhood education opportunities.

10. What strategies would you pursue to close skills gaps in Kentucky and increase the Commonwealth's workforce participation rate?

A skilled workforce is essential to a healthy economy. We can close skills gaps in Kentucky by expanding career readiness curriculum in public schools, increasing access to community college and technical schools, and investing in skills training programs for workers that would provide them with the resources they need to find jobs that support their families. I'll focus on creating new jobs in areas such as agritech and advanced manufacturing that create economic opportunities in communities across Kentucky.

11. What do you view as a solution to Kentucky's rising incarceration rates and corrections costs?

I will continue to work to ensure that people suffering from addiction are sent to treatment instead of jail, while ensuring that drug traffickers receive appropriate punishment. Lowering our incarceration rates is fiscally responsible and helps reduce recidivism rates. We should prioritize rehabilitation programs for non-violent offenders and expand drug treatment programs for people suffering from substance abuse issues. Our criminal justice system should keep our communities safe and support families struggling with challenges such as the opioid epidemic.