



HUNT ROUNSAVALL

POLITICAL PARTY: REPUBLICAN

POLITICAL RACE: KENTUCKY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

WEBSITE: WWW.HUNTFORKYHOUSE.COM

What is your position on establishing liability protections for employers from frivolous lawsuits related to COVID-19?

I strongly support passing legislation to protect employers under these circumstances - if businesses are enacting measures to ensure the safety of their employees as encouraged by local, state and federal government, we should take all steps necessary to prevent them from being targets of baseless lawsuits.

What are your top budget priorities for the 2021 session?

My first priority would be allocating as much as possible to jump start our economy and get our citizens back to work. I plan on being one of the most vocal advocates for businesses in the Commonwealth, and we need to take aggressive steps towards getting this economy back on track. One of the pillars of a strong state economy is the quality of that state's educational system, and so another priority would be to fund measures that not only get our kids (and teachers) back in school safely, but also to increase teacher's salaries across the state and allocate funds to improve the actual facilities themselves.

What criminal justice reforms would you support and/or oppose in the 2021 session?

The protests over the past several months have brought a litany of issues to light that must be addressed by our community. We must do a better job of bridging the gap between our law enforcement officials and our citizens by trying to find ways to bring transparency to our criminal justice system. I would also find ways to reduce the sheer number of individuals currently incarcerated in our state's prisons by taking steps to update the criminal code, and I'd want to streamline the way in which reformed individuals can seek an expungement of their records.

What are your transportation and infrastructure priorities for 2021?

First, we must review and update the revenue streams that fund our state's roadways, such as our gas tax. I would also want to make capital investments in our state's water and sewer infrastructure - obviously, we are not like Flint, MI, but we need to be proactive and make sure our citizens always have unfettered access to these utilities in a quality manner. We also need to find ways to bring high-speed internet access to every citizen of our Commonwealth - one of the things that this pandemic has showed us is that ease of access to the internet is vital, and it will only strengthen our economy.



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What steps do you think the General Assembly should take to lower the unemployment rate and get Kentuckians back to work?

This starts with our local businesses - we must develop a far more competitive state tax code that incentivizes existing business to grow and expand, as well as attracts new businesses to relocate to our state, both of which will create hundreds, if not thousands, of new jobs. We also have to increase spending for job training to those who have found their jobs and careers eliminated by the pandemic.

How can the General Assembly most effectively support K-12 schools and higher education institutions in the 2021 session?

For our youngest children, we need to fully fund key childhood education programs such as need-based Pre-K programs - the earlier our state's children can begin down the road of a quality education, the better off we will all be. We need to provide essential funds the infrastructure of our public schools and make them the cathedrals of learning they all should be - develop our schools to a point that they become beacons of pride for all communities. Finally, we must increase funding to postsecondary educational institutions to keep student costs down - take any and all measures necessary to open up this level of education to all Kentuckians who want it, as this is the level that will most directly affect our state's economy.

- Establish a tax credit to incentivize individuals and businesses to contribute to scholarship-granting organizations that focus on low-income families

What changes to Kentucky's tax code would you support to improve Kentucky's business competitiveness?

The first thing I would do is pass casino gaming and sports betting legislation as a new source of tax revenue - there are over 20 states in the country (including five that border ours) that have passed such legislation and we will be bleeding that revenue out for years to come if we don't pass it here. I would also take steps such as repealing the LLET, and simplify the manner in which sales tax is applied. Finally, I would increase the cigarette tax and try to find ways to implement taxes on e-cigarettes.



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What measures would you support in the 2021 session to support Kentucky's economic recovery?

It starts and stops with our economy - I want to provide incentives to existing businesses to grow and expand, provide incentives to existing, out-of-state businesses to relocate to Kentucky, and I want to provide incentives to new businesses to start. We must get our citizens back to work, and our children back to school safely. Finally, I would want to pass legislation legalizing sports and casino wagering.